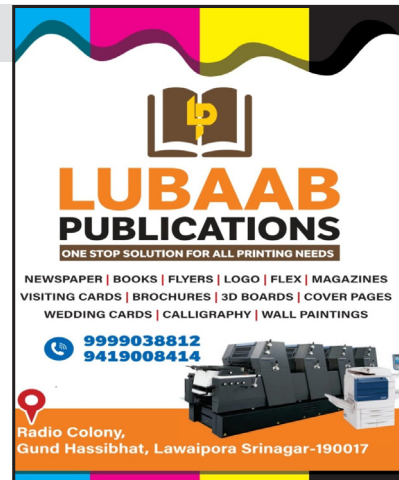


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HEADLINES TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



Operation Sindoor Proved India Can Act Firmly Against Terror': President Murmu

Success of mission hailed as defining moment in nation's counter-terror strategy at Chanakya Defence Dialogue-2025

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR NOV 27: President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday declared that Operation Sindoor had demonstrated India's ability to respond to terrorism with decisive force and moral clarity, asserting that the world now recognizes the country's strengthened counter-terror capabilities. She was speaking at the inaugural session of the third edition of the Indian Army's 'Chanakya Defence Dialogue-2025' in the national capital.

Calling the operation a "defining moment" for India's deterrence strategy, the President said it showcased not only military preparedness but also the nation's commitment to act responsibly while ensuring peace. "The success of Operation Sindoor represented a defining moment in India's counter-terror and deterrence strategy. It demonstrated the nation's military strength as well as its moral



clarity in acting firmly yet responsibly to maintain peace," she said.

President Murmu praised the armed forces for their professionalism across conventional warfare, counter-insurgency operations, and humanitarian missions, noting that they have consistently shown remarkable adaptability and resolve. She

also highlighted the Army's contributions to national development, from improving border infrastructure and connectivity to supporting tourism and education in remote regions.

Pointing to the rapid evolution of global security dynamics—driven by technological advancements, shifting alliances, and emerging domains such as cyber and space—the President said India's strategic conduct remains rooted in its civilisational ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. This approach, she stressed, balances strategic autonomy with global responsibility.

Murmu lauded the Army's sweeping reforms under its 'Decade of Transformation' initiative, aimed at modernising structures and capabilities to remain future-ready. These efforts, she said, strengthen the nation's defence self-reliance and mission readiness.

● Turn on Page 2

PM Modi highlights Govt's 'historic' space reforms

■ HT NEWS DESK

HYDERABAD, NOV 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday virtually inaugurated Indian space startup Skyroot's Infinity Campus, here, and highlighted the government's 'historic' space reforms.

He also unveiled the company's first orbital rocket, Vikram-I which has capability to launch satellites to orbit.

In his address, the PM pointed out at the government's 'historic' space reforms and said that opening up the space sector to private players has resulted in Skyroot and others coming up with such innovations.

The PM said that today in India's space ecosystem, private sector was emerging with flying colours. Over 300 space startups were giving new hopes to the sector.

"The Infinity Campus is a reflection of India's new thought, innovation and the the bigger youth power. Youth's innovation, risk taking ability and entrepreneurship are touching new heights," the PM noted.

Today, the country's space sector was becoming attractive for global investors. India's private space talent was making its own identity across the globe.

He traced the journey of the Indian space



programme from its nascent stages—where rocket parts were moved in a bicycle, to building the "most trusted launch vehicle." The journey might have started with limited resources but the growth proved determination decides dreams, Modi said.

In these changing times, space sector is expanding so much, covering the areas of communication, weather prediction, urban planning and national security, among others.

"So that is why we have made historic reforms in space sector, opened it up to the private sector, made new space policy.

● Turn on Page 2

CS advocates robust lifelong skilling ecosystem for J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 27: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today convened a high-level meeting of concerned officers and academicians to deliberate upon the proposed action plan of the Skill Development Department (SDD) for initiating a comprehensive mega skilling programme for the population of Jammu & Kashmir in the productive age group of 18–39 years.

The meeting, held to chart out a structured roadmap for transforming J&K into a skilled and employment-ready workforce hub, was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Principal Secretary, Finance; Managing Director, J&K Bank; Vice Chancellor, BGSBU; Secretary, Skill Development; Secretary, School Education; Managing Director, Skill Development Mission; Director, SDD; senior faculty members and Deans from universities, IIT Jammu, and other eminent academic and technical institutions, besides senior officers of the administration.

Speaking in the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the critical importance of creating a robust and sustainable platform for skilling the youth of J&K, describing skilling as a

● Turn on Page 2

CS reviews Food Safety performance across J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 27: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting to comprehensively review the performance of the Food Safety Organization and deliberate upon future strategies aimed at curbing the supply of adulterated food items and ensuring safe, hygienic and quality food for consumers across all districts of the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; Secretary, Health; Secretary, Law; Commissioners, JMC and SMC; Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration;

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PM Modi's 5s approach will guide India towards Viksit Bharat: Army Chief

Says we are living in turbulent times; outlines roadmap to transform the force

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, NOV 27: Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Thursday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 5Ss approach — 'Samman, Samvad, Sayog, Samridhi, and Suraksha', as a roadmap to guide India through the 'Amrit Kal' towards a Viksit Bharat.

Addressing the inaugural session of the third edition of Chanakya Defence Dialogue, a key conclave hosted by the Army here, General Dwivedi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)



said, "The world has moved from the Cold War's bipolarity through a brief unipolar moment into an uncertain and fractured order."

He underlined that the long piece is declining and comprehensive conflicts are on the rise.

The Army Chief outlined a "set of springboards" that would drive the years of transformation ahead for the force, so as to remain decisive and future-ready in this rapidly-evolving global landscape.

"We are living in an increasingly

● Turn on Page 2

J&K Warns of Pension Suspension as Thousands Miss Life Certificate Deadline

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 27: The Jammu and Kashmir Finance Department has announced a final extension for pensioners and family pensioners to submit their annual Life Certificate or Digital Life Certificate, setting December 15, 2025 as the last date to fulfil the mandatory requirement.

As per the Treasury Code, pensioners

● Turn on Page 2

Valley-Wide Raids Target Jel-Linked Network as Police Intensify Crackdown

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, NOV 27: Jammu & Kashmir Police on Thursday launched a large-scale crackdown across the Valley, conducting coordinated searches at dozens of residential, commercial and institutional premises allegedly linked with the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel). Officials said the operation was part of an intensified effort to curb radicalisation and

prevent attempts to revive the proscribed organisation's network.

In Srinagar, police teams searched the residences and business establishments of several individuals believed to have associations with Jel. These included locations linked to Umar Sultan Guru of Chanpora; Mohd Abdullah Wani of Budgam, currently living at Baghat; Gh. Mohd Bhat of Bemina; Haji Mohammad Ramzan

● Turn on Page 2

PM Modi, Amit Shah and NSA Doval to Attend DGP-IGP Conference in Raipur

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, NOV 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Ministers of State for Home Affairs, Directors General of Police of States and Union Territories, and heads of central police organisations will attend the 60th All India Conference of DGPs and IGP's in Raipur on Saturday.

According to details accessed by the Kashmir News

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J&K Govt Blacklists LMES IT LLP, Key Stakeholder After Probe Exposes Recruitment Scam

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 27: In a major crackdown on recruitment malpractice, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has blacklisted LMES IT LLP and its principal stakeholder, Maharaj Krishan Wali, debaring them from all future recruitment-related tenders in the Union

Territory. The action follows extensive inquiries that exposed irregularities in the controversial 2020 Fire & Emergency Services recruitment process.

The probe began with a committee set up on December 12, 2022, to examine allegations in the selection of Firemen and Firemen Drivers. After the committee submitted its report on

February 10, 2024, the matter was escalated—on approval of the competent authority to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for a detailed investigation.

The ACB subsequently registered FIR No. 01/2025 at its Central Jammu Police Station, naming LMES IT LLP

● Turn on Page 2

Kashmir parts record coldest Nov temp since 2007; mercury falls

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 27: Kashmir witnessed a severe drop in night temperatures on Thursday, with Srinagar, Qazigund and Kupwara registering their coldest November minimum temperatures in more than a decade, signalling an early peak of winter conditions in the Valley.

Meteorological data shared with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) by weather

expert Faizan Arif shows that several stations recorded their lowest November night temperatures since 2007 and 2009, accompanied by widespread sub-zero readings across the region.

According to the figures, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of -4.4°C , marking its coldest November night since 2007, when -4.8°C was recorded on November 28. The lowest ever November minimum in Srinagar remains -7.8°C , regis-

tered on November 29, 1934.

Qazigund also recorded its coldest November temperature since 2007, touching -4.0°C . The town last saw a similar minimum of -5.5°C on November 28, 2007. Its lowest-ever November reading stands at -8.2°C , recorded on November 24, 1962.

Kupwara dipped to -4.4°C , the lowest November minimum in the district since 2009, when -4.6°C was recorded on November 19. The all-time lowest

● Turn on Page 2

CEC Kumar to assume Chairship of Int'l IDEA

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, NOV 27: The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Gyanesh Kumar is all set to assume the Chairship of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) for the year 2026.

The Chief Election Commissioner will take over the Chairship of IDEA on December 03, 2025 in the meeting of the Council of Member States of International IDEA to be held in Stockholm, Sweden. As Chair, he will be presiding over all Council meetings during the year 2026.

International IDEA, established in 1995, is an inter-governmental organisation committed to strengthening democratic



institutions and processes across the world. With a current membership of 35 countries and the United States and Japan as Observers, the organization promotes inclusive, resilient, and accountable democracies.

● Turn on Page 2

Dr Jitendra Reviews 'Mission Mausam', Calls for Faster Execution

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, NOV 27: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Minister of State for Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh, on Thursday chaired a high-level review meeting at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to assess the progress of procurement and installation works under the ambitious 'Mission Mausam'.

The Minister urged officials to expedite all pending timelines, noting that the initiative was a flagship programme announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself.

Senior officials, including the Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr M. Ravichandran, and scientists from IMD, briefed the Minister on procurement status, infrastructure readiness and accelerated installation schedules for the countrywide rollout of new observational and radar systems.

Dr Singh said Mission Mausam represents a major technological leap in India's weather forecasting and climate monitoring capabilities. Timely execution,

● Turn on Page 2



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Operation Sindoor.....

The President also commended ongoing initiatives to empower youth and expand opportunities for women in the armed forces, including the growth of the NCC and enhanced participation of women officers and soldiers.

As the Chanakya Defence Dialogue-2025 brings together strategic thinkers, experts, and policymakers, President Murmu expressed confidence that the discussions would offer valuable insights to guide India's security preparedness and its vision of becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

PM Modi.....

Startups and industry were linked with innovation, set up In-Space," he said.

He further said plans were there to open up the nuclear sector also to private players.

Skyroot's state-of-the-art facility will have around two lakh sq.ft. workspace for designing, developing, integrating and testing multiple launch vehicles, with a capacity to build one orbital rocket every month.

Skyroot is India's leading private space company, founded by Pawan Chandana and Bharath Dhaka, both IIT alumni and former scientists of ISRO.

In November 2022, Skyroot launched its sub-orbital rocket, Vikram-S, becoming the first Indian private company to do so.

The rapid rise of private space enterprises is a testament to the success of the transformative reforms carried out by the NDA Government in the last few years, reinforcing India's leadership as a confident and capable global space power, an official release had earlier said. (Agencies)

CS advocates.....

continuous and evolving process that cannot be achieved in a short span of time.

He maintained that establishing a strong foundational ecosystem would provide the necessary momentum and allow gradual expansion and strengthening of skilling initiatives in future.

He emphasized the urgent need for a well-defined and targeted action plan to skill lakhs of individuals in the 18-39 age group, enabling them to enhance their employability and secure sustainable livelihoods.

Drawing parallels with sectors such as medicine and engineering, he highlighted how the creation of dedicated regulatory frameworks like NMC and AICTE, along with premier institutions such as AIIMS, IITs and NITs, led to the systematic development of trained manpower and attracted private sector participation.

The Chief Secretary called for emulating a similar model in the skill development sector, stressing its alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He underlined the necessity of defining clear roles for schools, colleges, universities, institutions of excellence like IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, and technical institutions such as ITIs and Polytechnics.

He further stressed that the success of this model should be measured through tangible outcomes, with strong linkage to employment whether through self-employment or private sector placements.

Participants from academic institutions and stakeholder departments shared valuable insights and assured their full cooperation by contributing resources, expertise and manpower to ensure the effective implementation and success of the proposed action plan in accordance with its core objectives.

Secretary, Skill Development Department, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, elaborated on the roadmap, stating that the proposed framework envisions skilling as a lifelong process beginning right from school education. He outlined a structured approach whereby students from Classes 6th to 9th would be imparted foundational vocational skills, followed by elective courses in Artificial Intelligence and Entrepreneurship from Classes 9th to 12th. This initiative aims to equip every learner with essential competencies required to thrive in the rapidly evolving global economy.

He further explained that at the collegiate level, a 'Career Launchpad' model would be introduced, offering minor skilling courses in digital and technology skills, business, finance, entrepreneurship, green energy, creative and design fields, complemented by soft skills, workplace readiness and structured placement support.

Director, Skill Development, Shahzad Alam, informed that technical institutions would be transformed into industry-ready skilling hubs in collaboration with MSMEs. This would involve curriculum revision, capacity building of trainers and infrastructure upgradation, with Polytechnics being strengthened and eventually developed into a dedicated Skill University for J&K.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of integrating short-term skilling programmes, mid-career upgradation courses and competitive examination packages to institutionalize lifelong learning as a social and economic norm. This would encourage individuals to continuously invest in enhancing their professional competencies throughout their careers.

Among the key ecosystem enablers dis-

cussed were effective placement coordination mechanisms, skill financing solutions, introduction of 'Skill Passports' reflecting individual skill scores, and establishment of a comprehensive institutional framework for continuous monitoring and evaluation of skilling initiatives across J&K.

CS reviews Food.....

DG, Budget and other senior officers concerned.

The Chief Secretary underscored the critical importance of continuous monitoring and stringent enforcement of the legal framework to protect public health. He stressed that food safety is a non-negotiable aspect of public welfare, as food is consumed daily and has a direct and lasting impact on the health of citizens.

He called for a robust, technology-driven and proactive enforcement mechanism to eliminate adulteration and ensure compliance with prescribed quality standards.

The meeting assessed the department's overall activities carried out under the mandates of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), highlighting significant progress in surveillance, inspections and legal action against violators.

Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration, Smetha Sethi informed the meeting that the department has substantially intensified its surveillance operations. Against an annual target of 7,080 samples, the department has already lifted 10,620 surveillance samples, achieving over 150% of the target, reflecting a strong commitment toward consumer safety.

In terms of enforcement, Food Safety Officers conducted 1,423 Risk-Based Inspections and 13,944 Routine Inspections across the Union Territory. To ensure infrastructure and hygiene compliance, 943 Improvement Notices were issued to Food Business Operators (FBOs) under Section 32 of the FSS Act, surpassing the target of 625 notices.

The Chief Secretary was apprised that strict legal action is being taken against violators. Under the civil adjudication process (Section 30), a total of 718 prosecutions have been launched, of which 671 cases have already been decided, resulting in penalties amounting to Rs 84.33 lakhs. Additionally, 21 criminal cases pertaining to unsafe food have been filed, with convictions secured in 10 cases involving fines and imprisonment.

The meeting also reviewed the outcomes of special enforcement drives conducted during November. A dedicated drive on Ghee led to the seizure of 80.78 kg of stock. Of the 41 samples tested, 12 failed to meet quality standards. Consequently, Prohibition Orders have been issued against the manufacturers of the failed products and the information has been shared with FSSAI and concerned States including Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat for action at the source.

Similarly, a drive on Poly Pack Milk saw 95 samples tested, out of which only 2 failed, indicating high compliance levels. Meanwhile, 32 samples of Packaged Drinking Water were collected and their test reports are awaited.

The meeting further reviewed the department's roadmap for strengthening the food safety ecosystem in the UT. Key strategic decisions included upgrading laboratory infrastructure to enhance testing capabilities. The FSSAI-NABL integrated assessment for the State Food Testing Laboratory (SFTL), Jammu is scheduled within one month, while the upgradation of laboratories in Jammu and Srinagar for advanced antibiotic and microbiological testing is targeted for completion within three months.

Regarding expansion of infrastructure, proposals have been submitted for establishing two additional state-of-the-art food testing laboratories and procuring 10 more 'Food Safety on Wheels' mobile vans to enhance outreach and surveillance in remote and rural areas.

To enhance consumer awareness and promote responsible food practices, the department will roll out "Eat Right Initiatives" and structured training programmes for street food vendors across all districts within the next quarter.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned officers to maintain strict vigil on the market, especially with regard to high-risk commodities, and expedite rationalisation and strengthening of enforcement staff to bridge manpower gaps. He emphasized that sustained vigilance, strong enforcement and public participation are essential to ensuring a safe and healthy food ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

PM Modi's 5s.....

multipolar world, where major powers are continuously jostling and competing. The world has moved from the Cold War's bipolarity through a brief unipolar moment, into an uncertain and fractured order. The long piece is declining, and comprehensive conflicts are on the rise," Gen Dwivedi said.

He underlined that with over 50 ongoing conflicts world over, to say "we live in turbulent times, may actually be an understatement".

So, if the globe is swivelling towards national security, deterrence and war-fighting, it inevitably "raises a fundamental question for us — how

must the Indian military transform to remain decisive and ready in this rapidly-evolving global landscape," the Army chief said.

"The starting point to this question lies in the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 5Ss approach — 'Samman, Samvad, Sayog, Samridhi, and Suraksha', meaning respect, dialogue, cooperation, prosperity and security, the general officer said.

It guides how the whole-of-nation ecosystem must deliberate, coordinate and act through the 'Amrit Kal' towards a Viksit Bharat," he said.

He said the theme of Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2025 is 'Reform to Transform: Sashakt and Aur Surakshit Bharat'.

Gen Dwivedi recalled the 'Decade of Transformation' vision earlier announced by the Army for the period 2023-2032, and outlined a three-phase plan to make it a future-ready force.

The phase one, 'hop', set the agenda for the journey of the force by 2032.

Phase two, for 2037 vision, is a five-year consolidated period, drawing on the gains from phase one, and phase three, 'jump', with a 2047 vision, to graduate to the next level of "integrated future-ready force design", Gen Dwivedi said.

This trajectory has been further strengthened by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh earlier designating 2025 as the 'Year of Reforms' and it proved its merit in Operation Sindoor, where years of reforms and readiness, translated into "decisive outcomes".

"So, as we carry this sovereign strategic success forward for future operations, and the larger aspirations of a Sashakt, Surakshit and Viksit Bharat, the real question before us is what must propel our next leap," the Army Chief said.

He outlined a set of springboards that will drive the years of transformation ahead.

The first one is 'atmanirbharta', the self-reliance and empowerment through indigenisation.

The second one is accelerated innovation, he said, adding, "we must now move on from experimentation to enterprise-scale impact at a much faster pace in AI, cyber, quantum, autonomous systems, space and advanced materials."

The other two springboards are adaptation and military-civil fusion.

Gen Dwivedi said he was confident that this conclave will deliver "actionable items".

Senior officials of the Indian armed forces, and defence and strategic affairs experts from India and abroad, have gathered in Delhi for this two-day conclave hosted at the Maneksahw Centre in Delhi Cantonment—(KNO)

J&K Warns of.....

receiving retirement benefits through banks or treasuries must submit their Life Certificate every November to ensure uninterrupted pension disbursement.

A special campaign launched jointly by the Finance Department and J&K Bank this year facilitated easier submission of Digital Life Certificates. Officials said that out of nearly 2.5 lakh pensioners in J&K, around 1.80 lakh have already complied.

However, close to 70,000 pensioners have yet to complete the process, making them vulnerable to stoppage of pension payments beginning November 2025 if they fail to meet the requirement.

To avoid inconvenience, the department has granted a final extension up to December 15, 2025, stressing that no additional relaxation will be granted. Pensioners have been advised to submit their certificates—preferably through digital mode—at their respective banks or treasuries before the deadline.

A circular issued by the Director General, Accounts and Treasuries on November 26, 2025, cautions that pension disbursement will be withheld from December 2025 onwards for those who do not comply.

Authorities have appealed to all pending pensioners to complete the process immediately to ensure continuity of their monthly pension.

Valley-Wide Raids.....

Lone of Soura associated with the Ramzana Memorial Educational Institute; Shahid Zahgeer of Buchpora connected with Ramzana Memorial School; Mohd Ramzan Naik alias Faheem of Lalbazar; Bashir Ahmad Lone of Harwan; Peer Giyas-ud-Din of Nowgam linked to the Falah Research Ramzan Centre; and Manzoor Ahmad of Nowgam Chowk. Searches were also carried out at institutions reported to be aligned with Jel ideology, including Jamiat-ul-Banaat at Kashmir University, Rahat Manzil (JK Yateem Khana) in Chattabal, Chinara Publication Trust at Maisuma and Al-Kousar Book Shop in Maisuma.

Police said all searches were conducted in accordance with legal procedures and in the presence of independent witnesses. Incriminating documents and electronic devices seized from multiple sites have been taken into custody for detailed examination.

Similar operations were conducted in other districts. In Awantipora, police searched several houses belonging to individuals identified as Jel members, recovering digital material and questioning multiple persons who were later bound down under preventive laws. In Handwara, a raid at Jamia Islamia

Institute in Waripora led to the seizure of electronic devices now being analysed for suspected links with Jel. Anantnag police teams searched multiple premises associated with Jel-linked individuals as part of efforts to disrupt suspected support mechanisms. In Budgam, raids in Chadoora, Soibugh and Beerwah resulted in the recovery of documents and electronic gadgets. Kulgam police also seized gadgets, literature and documents during coordinated searches across the district.

In Pulwama, early-morning searches were carried out in the presence of an Executive Magistrate, though no incriminating material was found. Shopian witnessed wide-ranging raids targeting persons with past or present affiliations to Jel, with police recovering electronic gadgets and documents which have been sent for forensic and technical analysis.

Officials said the Valley-wide exercise forms part of sustained preventive action aimed at countering any revival of the banned outfit and checking radicalisation. Further investigations are underway, and legal action will follow based on the findings. Authorities urged the public to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and report activities that could threaten public order. KNO

PM Modi, Amit.....

Observer (KNO), the three-day conference, scheduled from November 28 to 30, will assess the progress made on key policing challenges and chart a forward-looking roadmap for building a "Surakshit Bharat," aligned with the national vision of "Viksit Bharat."

An official said that, to infuse fresh and innovative perspectives, Heads of Home Departments of States and UTs, along with selected cutting-edge police officers in the ranks of DIG and SP, will also participate physically this year.

Since 2014, the format of the conference has undergone continuous upgrades under the Prime Minister's guidance, including holding it at diverse locations across the country. In previous years, the event has taken place in Guwahati, the Rann of Kachchh, Hyderabad, Tekanpur, the Statue of Unity at Kevadiya, Pune, Lucknow, New Delhi, Jaipur and Bhubaneswar.

This year's conference, themed "Viksit Bharat: Security Dimensions," will hold detailed deliberations on critical security issues such as left-wing extremism, counter-terrorism, disaster management, women's safety, and the use of forensic science and artificial intelligence in policing.

The Prime Minister will also confer the President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service during the event.

J&K Govt Blacklists.....

and scrutinising Wali's role in the tendering and selection process.

Investigators found that LMES was ineligible on multiple fronts under the mandatory conditions laid out in the e-NIT. Despite quoting 179 per candidate and standing as the L-2 bidder, the firm was awarded the contract, while the L-1 bidder, M/s UMC Technology Pvt. Ltd., which quoted a significantly lower rate of 107.50, was neither called for negotiations nor formally accepted or rejected.

The ACB further noted that LMES lacked mandatory experience in conducting recruitment for at least two State or UT police forces or central paramilitary organisations. Financial scrutiny revealed additional gaps: the company, incorporated only in November 2017, failed to provide three years of its own balance sheets and IT returns, instead submitting documents belonging to another entity, M/s Energy & Software Pvt. Ltd.

The inquiry also pointed to a conflict of interest. Wali, holding 99% shareholding in LMES, had previously served as a resource person for M/s Timing Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (TTPL), whose recruitment process for the Fire & Emergency Services Department in 2018 was scrapped with explicit instructions to replace the agency. Despite this, LMES owned by the same individual was awarded the fresh contract, a move the ACB said gave him "undue leverage" supported by departmental officials.

Based on these findings, the Home Department recommended blacklisting under Rule 151 of the General Financial

Rules (GFR) 2017, supported by communications dated June 27 and September 16, 2025. After reviewing all reports, the competent authority approved the decision.

The government has now formally barred LMES IT LLP, with offices in Jammu and Gurgaon, along with Maharaj Krishan Wali, from participating in any recruitment-related tenders across Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Jitendra.....

he stressed, was vital to strengthen early warning systems, improve disaster preparedness, and deliver more accurate, localised forecasts.

He directed officials of IMD and MoES to ensure transparent and efficient procurement aligned with global standards, while fast-tracking installations in priority regions. The Minister also pushed for advanced monitoring mechanisms to track on-ground progress.

Expressing confidence in coordinated efforts between IMD and the Ministry, Dr Singh said the targets set under Mission Mausam would be achieved well within the planned timeline.

Kashmir parts.....

November temperature for Kupwara remains -5.5°C, measured on November 29, 2007.

The cold wave extended across South and North Kashmir, with most stations witnessing sharp falls in night temperatures.

Pahalgam recorded -5.0°C, Pampore -5.5°C, Budgam -4.6°C, Bandipora -4.5°C, Awantipora -4.0°C, while Anantnag and Pulwama registered -5.7°C and -5.8°C respectively. Shopian remained the coldest in the Valley at -6.5°C. Gulmarg settled at -1.0°C, and Zojila Pass reported the lowest overall reading at -16.0°C.

In the Jammu region, night temperatures also declined but largely stayed above freezing. Jammu recorded 8.7°C, Katra 8.5°C, Batote 4.0°C, Baderwah 0.4°C, Rajouri 2.0°C, and Udhampur 4.6°C. Jammu Airport registered 10.1°C, the highest minimum across both regions.

In Ladakh, the cold spell was more intense, with Leh recording -8.6°C, Kargil -9.5°C, and Nubra -7.7°C.

Faizan forecast mostly dry weather across Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh over the next 10 days.

He said that a weak Western Disturbance around 30 November may bring isolated snowfall over the upper reaches, followed by another weak system expected from December 5—(KNO)

CEC Kumar to.....

The Chairship marks a significant milestone, reflecting global recognition of the Election Commission of India as one of the world's most credible and innovative Election Management Bodies (EMBs). India, a founding member of IIDEA, has consistently contributed to the organisation's governance, democratic discourse and institutional initiatives.

As Chair, Gyanesh Kumar will leverage the country's unmatched experience of conducting the world's largest elections to shape IIDEA's global agenda. The collaboration will strengthen knowledge-sharing, reinforce professional networks among EMBs, and support evidence-based global electoral reforms.

Being the world's largest electorate of nearly a billion electors and with well laid down and documented transparent electoral processes, India will endeavour to share its best practices with the EMBs across the world during the year.

Joint programmes, workshops, and research collaborations between ECI's training institute-India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) and IIDEA will further enhance global readiness to respond to challenges such as disinformation, electoral violence and erosion of voter trust.

Since its inception, IIIDEM has been training election officials not only within the country but also across the world. Till date, IIIDEM has signed MoUs with 28 countries and has also trained 3169 officials from nearly 142 countries.

Under CEC's leadership, IIDEA and ECI will work closely to document and disseminate ECI's technological and administrative innovations and best practices internationally.

Public Notice

This is to certify that the name of my son Aariz Hussain Lone S/O Masrat Hussain Lone R/O Wanigam Bala has been wrongly mentioned as Aariz Ahmad Lone S/O Masrat Ahmad Lone in school records instead of Aariz Hussain Lone S/O Masrat Hussain Lone presently reading in public High school wanigam payeen. If anybody has any kind of objection regarding the same, He/ She may kindly contact the Principal Public High school wanigam payeen with in week's time. After seven days no objection shall be entertained.

**Aariz Hussain Lone, S/O Masrat Hussain Lone
R/O Wanigam Bala, Contact number: 9103749859.**



Twin glory for Kashmir, 2 master craftsmen win National Award

Manzoor A. Khan & Khawaja Nazir Ali honoured in carpet weaving, sozni embroidery; 2 others get special mention

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 27: Adding yet another badge of honour on its already coveted robe, 02 master craftsmen have brought glory to Kashmir by winning the prestigious National Award in the handicrafts category, recently announced by the Union Ministry of Textiles.

Manzoor Ahmad Khan, from Rainawari and Khawaja Nazir Ali, from Alamgiri Bazar, Srinagar, shall be conferred with the National Award by the Hon'ble President of India for excellence in the field of hand-

knotted carpet weaving and sozni embroidery at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on December 09, next month.

In a press release issued here today, a spokesman of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, thanked the Ministry of Textiles for bestowing the honour and congratulated the two master craftsmen for bringing laurels to Kashmir Handicrafts, which are famous for its intricate designs and vibrant colours all over the world. "We are elated on their recognition for their immense contribution in taking



crafts like sozni and carpet weaving to the next level," he

added.

Quoting Field Officer, in the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Sheikh Rafiq, the spokesman stated that the awards come with a citation and a cash prize of 2.00 lakh cheque. "Apart from the winners, two more craftsmen, Mashkoora Hameed from Budgam in sozni embroidery and Mir Arshad Hussain from Srinagar, in papier mache, have won special mention and have been invited to the function at Vigyan Bhawan," he added.

Manzoor Ahmad Khan, a

renowned weaver of hand-knotted carpet, was recently conferred first prize in UT Awards for the year 2024, at SKICC on Tuesday. "He also participated in the first edition of Know Your Artisan at Jhelum Riverfront and will also be actively engaged in Guru-Shishya Hastashilp Prashikshan Programme for Kupwara by Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Srinagar," he added.

Khawaja Nazir Ali has also distinguished himself in the field of sozni embroidery in recognition of which he has been honoured with the pres-

tigious National Award.

Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam, also showered praise on the awardees and added that this recognition will provide traction to the famed handicrafts and handlooms of Kashmir and help in targeting newer niche markets, especially in South East Asia.

The Department shall shortly organize a function to felicitate the awardees and also those who have special mention by the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles.

Ingenious School Administration Meets Parents Association - A Productive Interaction

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 27: A constructive and insightful meeting was held today between the Ingenious School Administration and the Parents Association, Ingenious School. The Parents Association delegation was led by Chairman Er. Faheem Ahmad, Vice President Mudassar Shah, General Secretary Peerzada Irshad, Dr. Zameer (Core Member), and Mrs. Shabanam Qureshi.

The meeting was chaired by Parents Association Chairman Faheem Ahmad and attended by the complete School Administration, including the Principal, all Heads of Department (HODs), several teachers, and the Worthy School Chairman Mr. Asif Murtaza.

Key Highlights of the Meeting

1. Focus on Academics & Pupil-Teacher Ratio

The core agenda revolved around academic development and maintaining the government-mandated pupil-teacher ratio. Both sides engaged in a constructive discussion, aimed at ensuring quality learning and individual attention for every student.

The School Administration presented a comprehensive report on the academic progress achieved over the past year, including the adoption of modern teaching methodologies and improved educational strategies.

2. Discussion on School Fees

Although not originally part of the agenda, the issue of school fees was raised by the Parents Association. In response, the Worthy Chairman Mr. Murtaza assured the Association that there will be no increase in school fees or annual charges until March. Any future considerations will be taken up



in consultation with the Parents Association.

The School Administration further requested all parents to remain patient and await the official notification from the accounts section regarding the updated fee structure. The school app is currently under revision and will take some time to be fully updated.

3. Upgradation & NEP 2020 Implementation

The School Administration reaffirmed its commitment to upgrading classrooms to smart classes and maintaining the required pupil-teacher ratio. Various components of NEP 2020 were discussed, with both parties aligning on the need for its complete and effective implementation.

Conclusion

The meeting ended on a positive and collaborative note, with both the School Administration and the Parents Association reaffirming their shared commitment to the holistic development, academic excellence, and overall welfare of the students.

One day Literary Seminar on Shams-ud-Din Shamim

Organized by the JKAACL in Collaboration with Daily Gadyal

JAMEEL ANSARI

SRINAGAR, NOV 27: A one-day literary seminar in memory of renowned fiction writer, playwright, and journalist Shams-ud-Din Shamim was organised at the auditorium of Shehanshah Palace, Srinagar, by the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) in collaboration with the Daily Ghadyaal, Srinagar. The inaugural session was presided over by Prof. Farooq Fayaz, while Shabir Mujahid, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, with well-known playwright Wahshi Saeed as Guest of Honour and Ideel Saleem, Additional Secretary JKAACL, also present in the presidium. At the outset, Ideel Saleem welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted Shamim's contributions to Kashmiri fiction and cultural journalism, appreciating his fearless voice and commitment to society's collective conscience. The keynote address was delivered by Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq, who described Shamim's fiction as an archive of lived experiences, rooted in realism rather than rhetorical decoration, portraying Kashmiri society caught between political anxieties, social transitions, and moral dilemmas. He emphasized Shamim's ability to convert internal conflicts into compelling dialogues as a playwright, while his journalistic writings stood as testaments of integrity and cultural responsibility, remarking that Shamim is "a foundation on which the contemporary Kashmiri narrative must continue to build." Tributes were also paid by dignitaries including Shabir Mujahid and Wahshi Saeed, who described Shamim as a multi-dimensional literary and journal-



istic figure with rare clarity and human depth. In the presidential address, Prof. Farooq Fayaz said that Shamim "resisted silence" and narrated the unspeakable, stressing that celebrating his writings is not merely a literary act but a cultural responsibility, urging institutions to ensure research and publication of Shamim's unpublished works. The vote of thanks for the inaugural session was presented by Arshid Rasool, Chief Editor Daily Ghadyaal, who appreciated JKAACL for honouring an uncompromising

literary voice and assured continued collaboration to preserve Kashmir's intellectual heritage. The first session was presided over by Prof. Gulshan Majeed, with Prof. Rattan Lal Talashi and Jawaid Iqbal (Editor Kashmiri, JKAACL) in the presidium, while research papers were presented by Rahim Rehbar, Shafiq Qureshi, Prof. Mehfooza Jan, Prof. R. L. Talashi, Nisar Naseem, and others on themes including sociological realism, marginal voices in Shamim's fiction, structural precision in drama, journalistic integrity

in public discourse, comparative analysis of Kashmiri fiction, and scope for academic research on his lesser-known works. Esteemed literary and media personalities such as Nasir Mirza, Dildar Ashraf Shah, Saleem Salik, Shakeel-ur-Rahman, Farooq Wani, and Jb. Ahsan Chishti (CEO Manasbal) shared personal memories emphasizing Shamim's ethical discipline, wit, ideological clarity, and mentorship of young writers, recalling that he never compromised truth and continuously groomed new storytellers.

The concluding vote of thanks was presented by Jawaaid Iqbal, Editor (Kashmiri), JKAACL, who expressed gratitude to scholars, media representatives, partners, staff, and attendees, stating that literature survives when society chooses to engage with its thinkers and that Shamim's legacy is "a living dialogue that must continue," while appreciating the Daily Ghadyaal for its collaboration. Both sessions of the seminar were conducted by Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather, Assistant Editor (Kashmiri), JKAACL.

Residents of Abu-Bakar Colony Seek Urgent Intervention Over Dilapidated Power Infrastructure

DR. AB QAYOOM

LANGATE, NOV 27: Residents of Abu-Bakar Colony, Watayan Hanjishat in Langate have appealed to the district administration for immediate intervention, citing the alarming condition of electricity poles and transmission lines in the area. Locals said that for nearly seven years they have been waiting for proper upgradation of the power infrastructure, despite repeatedly approaching PDD Sub-Division Langate as well as the district administration. "Our children are at constant risk as they cannot move freely due to the dead and dangling electricity lines. We have been living in darkness for many years," the residents said, adding that the locality com-



prises around 30 households. They further alleged that despite knocking on the doors of elected representatives particularly MLA Langate Khurshed Ahmed Sheikh no relief has been provided. "After the elections, we never saw him visit the colony," the locals claimed. The residents have now appealed to Deputy Commissioner Kupwara to personally intervene so that the damaged and

unsafe electricity wires and poles are replaced without further delay. Meanwhile, AEE Langate told Headlines Today that the department had received the representation a month ago. "Our team visited the site, and the estimate has already been submitted to the Division. We hope it will be approved soon, and Inshallah, the work will start at the earliest," the officer said.

Government Boys Higher Secondary School Batwina Hosts Mega Financial Literacy Event

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, NOV 27: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in collaboration with the Lead District Office Ganderbal, FLCC Ganderbal, and CFL Safapora, organized a Mega Awareness Programme on Social Security Schemes and Financial Literacy at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Batwina, Block Wakura.

The event was graced by Mr. Subin Kundal, LDO RBI, as the Chief Guest, accompanied by LDM Ganderbal Mr. Gazanfar Hussain, Chief Education Officer Ganderbal as Guest of Honour, Branch Head J&K Bank Batwina Mr. Masroor Chetti Sb, FLCC Ganderbal Malik Zahoor, CFL Safapora Centre Manager Riyaz Ahmad, and other bank officials. The distinguished presence of Principal Mr. Showkat Ah Malik along with the entire faculty

added to the vibrancy of the program.

The programme commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran followed by Naath Sharif, and a welcome song presented by students. The welcome address was delivered by LDM Ganderbal.

Key speakers included Mr. Subin Kundal (LDO RBI), Mr. Gazanfar Sahib (LDM Ganderbal), Malik Zahoor (FLCC Ganderbal), Riyaz Ahmad (CFL Safapora), Bilal Bhat Coordinator CFL Safapora (Campaigner & Social Reformer), and Mr. Ishfaq Majeed Parah.

The Chief Guest highlighted the role of RBI in financial inclusion and apprised students about banking services and financial literacy. He said about the clean note policy of Reserve Bank of India. He stressed on saving schemes of all financial institutions.

In his address participants were seen very much active while acknowledging the speech of Chief Guest.

Mr. Malik Zahoor Sahib FLCC Ganderbal educated the participants about Social Security Schemes including PMSBY, PMJJBY, and APY.

Bilal Bhat spoke about different Centrally sponsored schemes of Govt of J&K. IEC distributed on the spot, and sensitized the gathering on digital frauds and gambling apps.

Riyaz Ahmad (CFL Safapora) highlighted the importance of opening accounts and types.

On the occasion, Mr. Subin Kundal (LDO RBI), LDM Ganderbal, and Principal jointly launched the IEC (Information, Education & Communication) material on various Social Security Schemes for the purpose of awareness and enrollment.

JKTPO successfully concludes IITF-2025, receives exceptional response

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

NEW DELHI, NOV 27: The Jammu and Kashmir Pavilion at the 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 concluded on a highly successful note, registering on-the-spot sales amounting approximately Rs. 13.50 crore and generating 6000+ business leads for the participating exhibitors.

These results underscore the strong market response to Jammu and Kashmir's diverse product range, including world-renowned handicrafts, handlooms, agricultural and horticultural products, as well as the growing confidence of buyers and trade visitors in the quality, authenticity and competitiveness of products from the region.

Resounding the success of previous editions, this year's Pavilion was strengthened with enhanced branding and extensive

publicity of J&K's unique, ODOP and GI-certified products, with promotional displays placed not only across the venue but also at prominent external locations, significantly amplifying the visibility and drawing an even larger and more diverse crowd throughout the fair. This heightened attention transformed the Pavilion into a vibrant hub of culture, creativity and commerce, consistently attracting the domestic and international visitors.

The steady engagement facilitated meaningful business interactions for artisans, women entrepreneurs, startups, FPOs, SHGs and cooperative societies. The substantial sales turnover and sizeable pipeline of business leads generated are expected to convert into repeat orders, long-term buyer, seller relationships and expanded market access, ultimately contributing to income



generation, employment creation, and inclusive economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Senior officials lauded the coordinated efforts of

participating departments, corporations and partner agencies in curating a vibrant and business-oriented showcase that effectively blended culture with commerce.

The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) reaffirmed its commitment towards extending sustained handholding support to exhibitors

for follow-up on leads, participation in future trade fairs and integration with broader export promotion and market linkage initiatives. This will further consolidate Jammu and Kashmir's position as a reliable sourcing destination for high-quality products.

The strong sales and lead generation at the Jammu and Kashmir Pavilion have also validated the strategic approach of onboarding a diverse mix of exhibitors, including artisans, women-led enterprises, startup ventures, FPOs, SHGs and cooperative societies, who together presented a comprehensive basket of products to the buyers from across India and abroad. The encouraging response from the retail visitors, bulk buyers, e-commerce platforms and institutional purchasers is expected to translate into repeat orders, new

market tie-ups and wider brand recall for Jammu and Kashmir's authentic handicrafts, handlooms, agro and food products in the months ahead.

Looking ahead to IITF 2026, JKTPO plans to further scale up participation from Jammu and Kashmir by onboarding a larger and more diversified pool of exhibitors, deepening sectoral representation and introducing new product lines aligned with emerging market trends. Efforts will focus on enhanced buyer outreach, more structured B2B meetings, digital and e-commerce integration, and stronger branding of Jammu and Kashmir's unique value propositions, ensuring that the Pavilion not only sustains but surpasses the current year's performance while creating wider and more durable market opportunities for stakeholders from the Union Territory.

Awareness Camp promotes SW Schemes, anti-drug campaign at Bhaderwah

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BHADERWAH, NOVEMBER 27: An impactful Awareness Camp was today organised at the Tehsil Social Welfare Office (TSWO), Bhaderwah to educate local people about the Pension Schemes.

The officials provided comprehensive information on a range of pension schemes, including Old Age Pension, Women in Distress Pension and Disability Pension.



The participants were guided on the eligibility criteria, entitled financial assistance and the list of mandatory documents required to be uploaded on the Jansugam Portal.

Special emphasis was laid on timely processing of applications and assisting citizens in overcoming documentation challenges.

The camp also addressed the pressing issue of drug abuse, shedding light on its severe social and health consequences. Attendees were sensitized about the government's ongoing initiatives under Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan, community-based interventions and the role of families, schools and local institutions in prevention and rehabilitation efforts. The awareness session highlighted the importance of community vigilance and collective responsibility in safeguarding the youth.

The event concluded with participants taking an anti-drug pledge, reaffirming their commitment to rejecting drug abuse and promoting a healthier, responsible and drug-free society. Officials urged the public to spread awareness, support vulnerable individuals and contribute to the broader mission of fostering social welfare, empowerment and community well-being across the region.

Shailendra Kumar chairs Pre-Budget review meeting for Agriculture & Horticulture

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOV 27: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar, today chaired a Pre-Budget meeting to review and discuss the Revised Estimates (RE) 2025-26 and Budget Estimates (BE) 2026-27 for the Agriculture and Horticulture sectors of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting focused on a detailed review of expenditure and proposed allocations under CAPEX, HADP, SASCI, CSS and NABARD.

Present in the meeting were Secretary in APD, Director Finance APD., Director (Planning) APD, Managing Director JKAGROS; Secretary Kisan Advisory Board; Director Agriculture, Director Horticulture, Director CAD Jammu; Director Sericulture; representatives of SKUAST-J & SKUAST-K; Joint Directors of

Agriculture and allied sectors; Deputy Director Agriculture (Planning); Chief Agriculture and Horticulture Officers of Jammu Division, scientists and senior officers of the department while officers from the Kashmir Division participated virtually.

During the meeting, the ACS emphasized that special attention is being given to ensure expenditure under HADP, CSS and CAPEX aligns with long-term infrastructure development goals of the agriculture and horticulture sectors. He conducted an extensive review of CSS components under Krishonnati Yojana, highlighting flagship schemes including PMKSY, PDMC, SMAM, RAD, RKVY, PKVY, ATMA, NFSM, and others aimed at promoting rural prosperity and farm sustainability.

He issued clear instructions to all the departments under the APD to integrate awareness on stray animal management during every



extension activity, noting that this is also in compliance with directions of the Supreme Court. He stressed that stray animals must not be seen within office premises and directed that Nodal Officers be appointed in each department to monitor and manage stray animal-

related responsibilities.

Reviewing the PDMC component, he stressed strengthening of the micro-irrigation initiatives. He directed the officers to enhance farmer awareness regarding micro-irrigation facilities and associated

subsidies. He added that the greatest benefits must reach the farmers who have adequate water availability for irrigation expansion.

He further instructed that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) be circulated to all departments, ensuring that no work is executed outside approved project guidelines. He directed all the departments to submit Utilization Certificates (UCs) and ensure financial achievements are reported within one month.

ACS also reviewed the progress on JKCIIP, discussed existing bottlenecks and directed that year-wise targets be communicated to all Chief Officers for effective and timely implementation.

The meeting concluded with a call for coordinated efforts across all wings of the Agriculture Production Department to ensure efficient budgeting, timely project execution and strengthened farmer-centric service delivery.

Tourism Department brings Heritage to Canvas; Hosts Painting Competition for students

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, NOV 27: In a unique fusion of history, art and education, the Department of Tourism, Rajouri-Poonch organised an innovative Heritage Week Painting Competition at Government Boys Model Higher Secondary School Rajouri.

The event transformed the school grounds into a live open-air art studio, set against the majestic backdrop of Danidhar Fort — one of Rajouri's most iconic heritage monuments.

The competition aimed not just to test artistic ability, but to awaken historical consciousness among students and inspire them to see heritage as a living legacy.

As many as 33 students drawn from the host school, PM SHRI Government Higher Secondary School- Fatehpur; Government Higher Secondary School (Girls), Rajouri and Government Girls Middle School- Danidhar participated



in the competition.

Each student was provided with painting kits, certificates, refreshments and mementos — making the competition a warm and inclusive celebration of talent.

Students beautifully portrayed heritage sites of the Jammu Division, reflecting a deep appreciation for culture, architecture and history. Their

canvases came alive with forts, temples, shrines and traditional symbols of Jammu's glorious past.

Government Boys Model Higher Secondary School Rajouri clinched 1st Prize, 2nd prize went to PM SHRI Government Higher Secondary School- Fatehpur, while Government Higher Secondary School (Girls), Rajouri bagged 3rd position.

The programme was organised by the Directorate of Tourism Jammu under the guidance of Director Tourism, Vikas Gupta and coordinated by Assistant Director Tourism, Mumtaz Ahmad and the host School Principal, Muslim Wani.

To promote Heritage & Cultural Tourism, the department also released and distributed the latest edition of Rajouri Tourism Brochures, highlighting the unexplored treasures of the Peer Panjal region. Students were encouraged to become "Heritage Ambassadors" of their district.

DC Samba reviews progress of developmental initiatives under District Capex Plan

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 27: Deputy Commissioner Samba, Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting to review the progress of developmental works being executed under the District Capex Plan.

The comprehensive review examined projects currently being implemented by the Public Works Department (PWD) across School Education, Health, and other key sectors. The officers presented detailed briefings on the status of ongoing works, ground-level challenges, and remedial measures being undertaken to overcome operational hurdles.

Ms. Sudan emphasized strict adherence to approved timelines and quality standards, instructing executing



agencies to promptly resolve all pending issues, systematically remove bottlenecks and significantly accelerate the pace of execution to ensure that developmental interventions translate into tangible public benefits without delay. Highlighting the critical importance of coordinated inter-departmental functioning, the Deputy Commissioner called for optimum utilization of allocated funds, seamless cooperation among stakeholders and a collective focus on delivering durable infrastructure and efficient public services within stipulated timeframes.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Champa Devi Thakur, Chief Planning Officer, Kasturi Lal, ACD, CEO, CMO, Executive Engineers, BDOs and other senior officers from concerned departments.

DC asks Enforcement Agencies to step up anti-drug measures, intensify IEC campaign

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, NOV 27: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired the District-Level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) meeting to review anti-narcotic measures and reinforce coordination to curb substance abuse in the district.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta; ACD Sheraz Ahmed; Public Prosecutor, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief

Horticulture Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, and officers from various enforcement departments, while SDMs, Tehsildars and BDOs joined through video conferencing.

The Deputy Commissioner issued specific department-wise directions to intensify the anti-drug drive. He directed the BDOs to organise awareness and IEC programmes in every Panchayat twice a week with involvement of field officials from all stakeholder agencies, engaging civil society members, religious leaders and



youth.

The DC instructed the Drug Control Organisation to keep strict

vigil on all chemist shops, monitor stock purchase, sale records and ensure that no unauthorized drug distribution or misuse takes place.

Reviewing the functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital, the DC directed the CMO to provide proper medical assistance, counseling and follow-up care to individuals undergoing treatment to facilitate their reintegration into society. He also asked enforcement agencies to continue joint inspections of courier centres, medical establishments and rehabilitation

facilities along with sustained vigilance on suspicious deliveries to prevent trafficking of banned psychotropic substances through parcel services.

Reaffirming the district administration's commitment to making Ramban a drug-free district, the DC said "Preventive awareness, enforcement measures and rehabilitation support must move in tandem." He called for sustained coordination among all departments, PRIs, youth clubs and civil society to eradicate the drug menace.

DC Srinagar visits Degree College Eidgah to oversee progress of infrastructure upgradation

Directs Initiation of Boundary Wall, Landscaping, Approach Road & Allied Works

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR NOV 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today visited Hamidi Kashmiri Memorial Government Degree College at Eidgah to review the progress of ongoing infrastructure upgradation works being executed under various developmental initiatives.

During the visit, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Principal GDC Eidgah, Prof. Deeba Sarmad, Executive Engineer Water Works



Divisions, Aijaz Ahmad Executive Engineer R&B Core, Arif Rehman Hazari, Tehsildar Eidgah,

Mohammad Iqbal Zargar and other Officers and Engineers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner.

On the occasion, the DC inspected the works executed under phase first on the Rs 13 crore project for the construction of Academic-cum-Administrative Block of the College.

He assessed the quality and pace of execution and emphasized the importance of making the new facilities functional at the earliest for the benefit of students and staff.

The DC also reviewed the preparations for the second phase of infrastructure development, which includes the construction of a boundary wall, landscaping,

development of the approach road and other allied works. He directed the executing agency to initiate these works immediately, ensuring timely completion in line with the approved plan.

Further, the DC instructed the concerned officers to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for water and power supply connections to the newly created blocks of the College.

He stressed that essential utilities must be completed promptly so that all new facilities can be made operational at the earliest.

DC Kulgam Reviews RDD sector; Stresses Timely Completion of Works & Quality Monitoring

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR) at the Mini Secretariat to assess the functioning, progress, and implementation status of various schemes



across the district.

During the meeting, the DC took a detailed review of progress under major programmes and schemes including District Capex, CDF, MGNREGA, PMAY-G, SBM, RGSA, and other initiatives.

The chair was informed that under MGNREGA, 22,683,032 person-days have been generated so far.

He instructed concerned officers to complete the eKYC of workers and improve coverage under social security schemes.

Reviewing the progress under PMAY-G, the DC was apprised that out of 5,867 sanctioned units, 5,515 units have been completed.

While reviewing the District Capex budget, the DC instructed officers to ensure timely completion of all works and expedite pending estimates.

He also reviewed progress in solid waste management, including door-to-door waste collection.

Underscoring the importance of field monitoring, the DC stressed maximum onsite inspections to ensure quality standards.

He further directed officers to expedite the construction of Panchayat Ghars and remove bottlenecks hindering timely completion.

The DC urged all officers to scale up execution, ensure time-bound completion, and maintain high quality of works.

The meeting was attended by JD Planning, Malik Suhail; ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; Executive Engineer REW, all BDOs, AEEs and other officers.

DSEK conducts extensive tour of Baramulla, Kupwara to review Academics, Infrastructure

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 27: Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani, today undertook an extensive tour of Baramulla and Kupwara districts to review academic activities, interact with students and teachers, and assess infrastructural and examination arrangements in government schools.



During the visit, the Director attended classroom teaching in various schools and actively interacted with the students and the concerned teacher during the lecture.

While interacting with teachers and students during the visit, the Director emphasised that students remain the central focus of the department. He stressed the need for greater attention towards foundational education in lower classes.

In continuation of the tour, the Director also inspected ongoing examination centres. During his visit to the Examination Centre at Boys Higher Secondary School, Sopore, he conducted a detailed inspection of the school premises and reviewed basic infrastructure and facilities to ensure smooth conduct of examinations.

The visit reflects the Directorate's continued commitment to strengthening classroom teaching, improving learning outcomes, and ensuring quality infrastructure in all the schools across Kashmir division.

Rana reviews implementation roadmap of newly launched development projects in Mendhar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

MENDHAR, NOVEMBER 27: A day after unveiling and laying foundation stones for developmental projects worth 80 crore in Mankote Block, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today convened a comprehensive review meeting at Mendhar to assess the implementation roadmap for the same.

The Minister also assessed progress on several ongoing works across the division.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, PWD, PMGSY, REW and PDD, Deputy Chief Education Officer and the Block Development Officers of Mendhar, Balakote and Mankote who briefed the Minister on the status of various projects initiated under their respective departments.

The Minister emphasized that it is imperative that all the departments work in close coordination to ensure time-bound, transparent and quality-oriented execution of the sanctioned works.

He underscored that projects related



to road connectivity, drinking water supply, education infrastructure, public utilities and sports facilities carry immense importance for the socio-economic advancement of the people living in the remote and border belts of Mendhar subdivision. Any delays, he said, would directly impact public welfare.

Rana directed the officers to promptly identify and address bottlenecks, streamline tendering and administrative processes and maintain regular field supervision so that works progress efficiently on the ground. He also called for periodic joint reviews between the departments to tackle interlinked issues, especially those concerning land clearance, electricity shifting, water pipelines and road alignments.

To ensure accountability, the Minister instructed the officers to establish a strengthened monitoring mechanism involving weekly progress reports, on-site inspections and

adherence to technical standards. He reiterated the government's commitment towards maintaining the highest levels of transparency and quality in public works.

Rana reaffirmed that the developmental roadmap rolled out for Mendhar is part of a broader vision of the government led by Omar Abdullah, aimed at transforming the underserved and geographically challenging regions into vibrant and self-sustaining zones of growth. He added that the projects inaugurated and launched earlier represent only the first phase and further interventions would follow in a systematic manner to ensure that each village receives equitable attention in terms of infrastructure, services and opportunities.

Appreciating the dedication of field officers, the Minister asked them to remain accessible to the public and respond promptly to local needs and grievances.

DC Kupwara Inaugurates mobile Passport Seva camp at D.C Office Complex

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, NOV 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today inaugurated a mobile Passport Seva camp at D. C Office Complex Kupwara, ensuring convenient access to essential citizen services.

ACR Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad and Regional Passport Officer (RPO), B.S Rawat were present on the occasion.

The camp has been organized in coordination with the Regional Passport Office (RPO) Srinagar with the objective of providing hassle-free passport application and verification services to residents of Kupwara district.



This initiative aims to reduce the burden on applicants who otherwise had to travel long distances for passport-related processes.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the administration's commitment to improving citizen-centric services and bringing governance to people's doorsteps. He noted that the Passport Seva Camp will particularly benefit students, job seekers, and individuals needing timely passport issuance for travel, education, employment, and other urgent needs.

Regional Passport Officer said that the aim of mobile Passport Seva camp is to reach

out to the far flung areas like Kupwara where passport office is not available to facilitate the passport registration of the applicants.

He said all formalities including Biometric and documentation is done at the spot adding that the applicant registered through Passport Mobile Seva does not require to visit the Passport Office physically.

Meanwhile, the applicants from different areas of Kupwara district have expressed their satisfaction over the Mobile Passport Van facility for saving their time and efforts with onspot registration process.

DC Budgam inspects Newly Established Drug De-addiction Centre

Calls for holistic rehabilitation services to ensure effective treatment

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOV 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today conducted a detailed visit to the newly established Drug De-addiction Centre in Budgam to assess the facilities, infrastructure, and overall preparedness of the institution.

During the inspection, the DC was briefed about the ongoing arrangements, availability of medical care, and initiatives being taken to establish a safe and supportive environment for individuals undergoing treatment for substance dependence. A thorough review of infrastructure, patient wards, counselling rooms, and medical support systems was carried out.

While interacting with the concerned officers and staff, it was emphasised by the DC that trained and professional personnel are essential for effectively managing patients battling addiction. It was stressed that the staff must be



properly skilled, sensitised, and equipped to handle patients with compassion, patience, and discipline. The DC instructed the concerned authorities to ensure the availability

of all basic amenities, essential medicines, clinical support, and a hygienic atmosphere within the centre. It was directed that the centre function proactively so that every

patient receives uninterrupted care, counselling, and medical attention.

Highlighting the importance of holistic treatment, the DC also called for the provision of adequate recreational, motivational, and therapeutic facilities for patients undergoing rehabilitation.

It was conveyed to the DC that such facilities significantly aid psychological recovery and help create a positive mindset for long-term healing.

The DC noted that the newly established Drug De-addiction Centre is poised to become an important pillar in the district's efforts to combat substance abuse. He further added that the administration remains committed to strengthening de-addiction, counselling, and rehabilitation mechanisms to safeguard youth and promote a healthy, drug-free society.

SDM Beerwah, ACD Budgam, DSWO, CMO Budgam and other concerned officials accompanied the DC.

DC Kupwara Flags Off Girls Trekking Camp to Nowgam

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today flagged off a Girls Trekking Camp to Nowgam, Handwara from the DC Office Kupwara.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by ACR Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, ASP Kupwara, Javaid Ahmad, along with officials from the District Youth Services & Sports Office.

The trekking camp has been organized by the Youth Service & Sports department Kupwara with the objective of encouraging young girls to explore adventure sports, build confidence, and develop a healthy connection with nature. The participants will trek through the picturesque landscapes of Nowgam, Bangus, known for its serene environment and rich biodiversity.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Kupwara highlighted the importance of such outdoor camps in shaping the personality of young participants, stating that adventure activities play a key role in promoting discipline, teamwork, and resilience among youth. He also appreciated the efforts of the Youth



Services & Sports Department for consistently organizing meaningful and youth-centric programs.

This initiative is part of the Youth Services & Sports Department's annual activity calendar for 2025, which includes a series of programs aimed at enhancing youth participation in sports, adventure, and cultural activities across the district.

HT EDITORIAL

Be ready the winter is here

There is an old saying that public memory is short lived and when it comes to Kashmir it is more than the desired level. People of the Kashmir valley tend to forget things easily. This gets reflected every now and then. Since the winter season has set in, most of the people could be seen talking about the impact of the cold on the people and their daily chores.

It is quite obvious that once winter arrives people would talk about cold and the things associated with the same. There are many people who opine that this time around the winter has arrived early as compared to the previous year. Since the minimum temperature has dipped to almost minus five degrees in Srinagar the people are somewhat panicky and they say that this time around the winter would be cruel. The people opine that there would be regular snowfall during this winter and the chill would intensify.

In 2024 when there was very good snowfall on December 27 across the valley most of the people believed that more spells of snowfall would be recorded in Kashmir. However, to the surprise of one and all there was no further spell of snow in Srinagar and other plains of Kashmir. Although some of the higher reaches of the valley received some spells of snow it was almost negligible. The results of the same were devastating since people suffered due to the shortage of clean and potable drinking water.

Talking about the past, the people of the Kashmir valley were ready for winter and the vagaries of the same from the first week of November itself. People would stock up dried vegetables, pulses and other food stuff before the onset of winter. Since green grocery was not available to the people in the past, masses would cook dried vegetables, pulses, dried fish, smoked fish and other food stuff during winter. Pickles were also a hit among the people with different varieties available in the market.

Since climate change has made an impact across the globe how can Kashmir valley remain aloof from the same? It is due to this reason that there is very less snowfall in the higher reaches of the valley and when it comes to the plains the snowfall is almost negligible. It is due to this reason that most of the people believe that the winter season has left for good which is not a reality.

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Importance of Marriage



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Alhumdulillah! Almighty blessed me with my beloved wife, and this day became one of the most special days of my whole life. It is being thousands of years that a contract between two couple is made on the basis of their choice for each other. Marriage is not only a custom or some ritual, but marriage ceremony is mandatory for every men and every women who are living on this earth. No one can deny to get married because it is also having strong compulsions in religion and it is encouraged by every community.

Every religion of the world supports marriage and supports that human beings should live for each other, help each other and produce population. Different countries also have different laws, rules and norms about marriages. Every country in one or other way favours marriage with dignity and full respect. Marriage is actually a blessing from Almighty Allah and without this blessing the life of a person feels incomplete.

This world is nothing without human, this world is useless, this world is boring, this world has no correct meaning until the existence of human beings who bring life into it. Reproduction is very important and genuine for population growth. Natality and mortality should be balanced properly so that there should be no disturbance in the population, economy and in the development of the country.

Every living organism on this earth, from unicellular organisms (single celled organisms) to multicellular organisms, shows reproduction through different modes. Asexual reproduction takes place in some organisms while sexual reproduction takes place in mammals. Humans also show sexual mode of reproduction and due to this natural process population growth takes place around the whole world.

Population growth is genuine and in some religions like Islam, parents who are blessed with more children are appreciated. There is no restriction or barrier in giving more births in Islam religion. In Islam religion it is clearly mentioned that Almighty Allah feeds every living organism. Whatever is written at the birth of any organism, he or she should get it. Almighty knows and plans everything in better ways. So we should not be too worried about food or other things because it is Almighty who arrange every requirement for our survival, keeps us safe and helps us to stay alive inside the mother's womb.

Our mothers go through gestation period (a nine month period) and in those days we live inside the placenta where we survive without any open envi-



ronment. It is only Allah who keeps the baby alive inside the womb. We have no control, no air from outside, no food from outside and still Allah manages everything for us.

When to get married: Religion explains every bit of marriage clearly. When a girl or boy reaches adolescence age and their sexual hormones activates, a girl is ready to get married when her menstrual cycle starts. So getting married has no fixed age from religious point of view. As per science the age of the girl should be 18 plus and male should be two or same age to her so that child marriage should be stopped and barred. As per the constitution there are special laws made for both couples under different circumstances about how they can live their happy life and how can they be matured in their life cycle.

In this article I am sharing my own experience about how we feel when we get married and why this day is so special in the life of any person. This is your special day, this day comes only once in your life, and on this day you feel like you are not less than a prime minister. This day changes your complete life. This day brings happiness, responsibilities, hopes and future plans in your life. Really this day has great importance and remains unforgettable.

This day comes only once for those who got only one marriage and 90 above percent people gets married only once. Whether someone is VIP or a normal individual, marriage is really a great day and the most important event in anyone's life. Most of us capture our memories by taking photographs, mostly by professional camera man who catch our special memories and make them lifetime treasure for us.

In Kashmir valley, special wazwan is cooked on

marriage ceremony and there are about 20 varieties cooked with delicious flavours. There are number of other rituals also done on this day which make the whole event more beautiful and memorable. Family members, friends, neighbours and relatives gather together and share joy and happiness.

I have been knitted in this beautiful relationship on 25th of August 2025. There was a huge gathering of my friends, my kith and kins and all well-wishers. It was really a great and special day in my life. I felt blessed, emotional and thankful to Allah for giving me this beautiful life partner. My parents were happy, my relatives were smiling and the whole environment was full of blessings.

I still remember the moment when the nikah was done, and I felt a new responsibility on my shoulders. A person feels like stepping into a new world where he has to care for someone, share life with someone and live with someone who is now part of his soul. Marriage teaches patience, understanding, sacrifice, love and commitment. With marriage you start a new chapter that continues till your last breath if Almighty wills.

That day I kept thanking Allah for every blessing, for giving me strength and for writing this beautiful day in my destiny. Many people congratulated me, hugged me and prayed for my bright future. I too prayed for my wife that Allah gives her good health, happiness and a beautiful life ahead.

Finally and Alhumdulillah, I got married. Please keep praying for both of us and may Allah shower His countless blessings on the whole Ummah. Ameen.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

From Paper to Pixels: Protecting Nature in a Digital Age

■ MOOL RAJ

Even in today's digital world, paper continues to dominate our daily routines. From academic institutions to government offices and private organizations, paper is still used for exams, notices, reports, and countless other tasks. But this habit comes at a cost one that we often ignore. Paper is not just a tool for writing; it is made from natural resources like bamboo, wood pulp, and cellulose fibres. These materials come from forests, farms, and ecosystems that are already under pressure. When we use paper carelessly and throw it away without reuse, we are not just wasting a product, we are harming the environment.

The irony is clear, we live in a time when digital tools are more accessible than ever. We have smartphones, computers, cloud storage, and instant communication. Yet, we continue to depend on paper as if we are still in the 20th century. This contradiction raises an important question why are we still stuck in old habits when better, cleaner options are available?

The Environmental Cost of Paper
Producing paper requires cutting down trees, consuming large amounts of water, and using chemicals that pollute air and water. Even bamboo, which grows faster than trees, needs land, labour, and energy to process. Once paper is used, it often ends up in dustbins, landfills, or is burned adding to pollution and climate stress. In many places, especially in developing countries, paper waste is not

recycled properly. It piles up in dumping yards, clogs drain, and releases harmful gases when burned.

Academic institutions are among the biggest users of paper. Exams are printed in bulk, answer sheets are collected physically, and administrative work is done on printed forms. Government offices issue orders, maintain records, and circulate memos all on paper. Private companies print invoices, reports, and promotional material. Much of this paper is used once and thrown away. It is rarely reused, and even less often recycled. This daily cycle of use and waste is quietly damaging our planet.

We must also consider the long-term impact. As demand for paper grows, more forests are cleared, more water is consumed, and more pollution is created. If this continues, we may reach a point where natural fibres like bamboo and pulp become rare. They may be displayed in museums as reminders of what we once had. This is not just an environmental issue, it is a cultural and ethical one. We are using up resources that belong to future generations.

Digital Tools as a Sustainable Solution

Digitalization offers a powerful way to reduce paper use. Online exams, e-certificates, digital records, and cloud-based communication can replace most paper-based systems. These tools are faster, more efficient, and far more sustainable. They save time, reduce costs, and protect the

environment. Yet, many institutions are slow to adopt them. The reasons vary lack of infrastructure, resistance to change, or simply habit. But the consequences of delay are serious.

Academic institutions should lead the way. They are centres of learning and innovation. By conducting exams online, issuing digital certificates, and maintaining e-records, they can set an example for others. Government offices can digitize orders, reports, and communication. Private companies can adopt e-signatures, online billing, and cloud storage. These changes are not just technical upgrades, they are environmental commitments.

Digitalization also improves accessibility. Students in remote areas can take exams online. Citizens can access government services without traveling. Businesses can operate more efficiently. This is especially important in countries like India, where rural communities often lack access to traditional infrastructure. With mobile technology and affordable internet, even the most remote villages can join the digital revolution.

But digital transformation must be inclusive. It should not leave behind those who lack access or skills. Training, awareness, and support are essential. Governments and institutions must invest in digital literacy and infrastructure. Communities must be empowered to adopt new tools. Only then can we truly reduce paper use and protect our natural resources.

A Vision for the Future

Imagine a future where exams are conducted online, certificates are stored digitally, and government orders are issued with a click. No printing, no waste, no pollution. This is not a distant dream, it is a reachable reality. By reducing our dependence on paper, we lighten the burden on forests, rivers, and air. We preserve biodiversity, reduce carbon emissions, and create a cleaner world for future generations.

This vision is not just about technology, it is about values. It is about respecting nature, using resources wisely, and thinking beyond convenience. It is about building systems that are efficient and ethical. Every sheet of paper saved is a step toward environmental healing. Every digital adoption is a promise to the planet.

As someone deeply engaged in academic research and sustainability, I believe this shift is not just necessary, it is urgent. We must rethink our habits, challenge outdated systems, and embrace digital tools with courage and commitment. The future of our environment depends on the choices we make today. Let us move from paper to pixels, not just for convenience, but for conscience. Let us build a future where technology and nature work together, where progress does not come at the cost of the planet. Let us turn this vision into reality, from remote villages to global institutions. The time to act is now.

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TN: From Sangam To Silicon – 1

Unraveling a civilisation: Past, present, prospects



By TR JAWAHAR

I have always thought and wrote of my home state, Tamilnadu as a forbidden land: Forbidden to the India that is Bharath beyond the Vindhya, the allusion being to the infamous North-South divide. This is said in every context, from geography to geology, religion and race, culture and history, ethnicity and language, from kingdoms of yore to the politics of the present, over millennia to every millisecond that ceaselessly passes under the relentless march of time. Indeed, Tamilnadu, ancient and immediate, defies easy explanations.

The virtual Tropic of Cancer is often considered as a simple straight line bisecting the nation and separating the peninsular South from North; but there are more visible markers than a mere imaginary latitude. Reliefs like the Deccan plateau consisting of many mountain ranges and the Narmada and Godavari rivers flowing through the middle of India into seas East and West act as natural boundaries.

These demarcating physical features also have a matching rift in the psyche of the South, especially in Tamilnadu, our prime focus. The barrier was mirrored in the mind too, a carry-over from pre-history to the present with the South and North perennially set in diametrically different and diffident paths and polemics. There were of course common grounds, in terms of overlapping territory as also

exchanges and consequent influences in the realms of culture and religion between the two regions. Separate in some and seamless in some.

A cursory dip into history would be of relevance here while a deeper dive can be taken later. The largest and the most powerful empire of India, Mauryas of 4th century BCE, that ruled the entire North and much beyond, could not make any inroads in the south, particularly Tamilnadu. Repeated attempts by Bindusara and Ashoka were repulsed by the ever-warring triumvirate of Cholas, Pandyas and Cheras who however united to fight off the invaders many times. These failed incursions remain a blot on Maurya empire's otherwise relentless run. Ditto with other major dynasties like Guptas.

The non-Tamil presence happened after two thousand years - of the Vijayanagar empire, Marathas who were not exactly North and a few others at different times, all from the South. The Islamic invaders came often, saw much, plundered a lot and left with the loot. This was followed by the imperial Europeans. But India's North was never in the reckoning as a political project. Tamil Nadu remained exempt from that expansionism.

But the same cannot be said of religion and culture, Jainism, Buddhism and Vedic Hinduism riding on Sanskrit achieved what emperors could not. Monks of the former two and the priestly classes of the latter inundated this land and blended into the daily lives of the people here, but the primordial Tamil held its fort, accepting and assimilating into its welcoming fold all the 'alien' offerings. But this was not always a melting pot of milk and honey. With Buddhism and Jainism going out of circulation in the first millennium CE, Sanathana and Sanskrit remained to hover over and haunt the land well into modern times.

The North-South divide, though having many manifestations from time immemorial, is still only a euphemism for a deeper debate: The Aryan-Dravidian conflict. Aryan is synonymous with Brahminism and Sanskrit. Dravidian, it follows, is about anti-Brahminism and Tamil. These simplistic definitions come embedded with many contradictions. For one, Aryan and Dravidian are not watertight compartments, given archaeological, anthropological and evolutionary realities. This deliberate distortion driven by the British imperial zeal to divide and rule India was dutifully adopted by politicians in this part of the country who nurtured a similar divisive agenda.

On balance, it must be said that a theory that lacked scientific sanction however secured legitimacy from the skewed social and educational set up that obtained here: The disdain for Brahminism and Sanskrit carried the day because not just the proponents, but the people at large too found some basis for it. And to the State's credit, it must be acknowledged that even at the height of the anti-Brahmin movement in early and mid-20th century, barring some petty, puerile displays, I am unable to recall any major acts of violence against this numerically miniscule and physically weak minority. Even Periyar's frequent calls to annihilate Brahmins remained on paper, like many of his other exhortations. Again, TN of today is one of the last bastions of religious harmony and peace, thanks to a tradition of inclusive hospitality. This is in sharp contrast to the polarisation witnessed in the North.

To quote, or rather, misquote, a bard, 'consistency is the virtue of fools'; what is implied is that opinions should be altered or updated in tune with fresh information or findings. In that vein, here too, many a discourse have changed course in the last

century itself, to suit prevailing exigencies and situations, compulsions of realpolitik and whims of various leaders. Dravidianadu is now just Tamilnadu. Hindi has replaced Sanskrit as the new ratha of the Aryan invaders. Distant Delhi is the most preferred destination for power, profit and pelf. Indeed, many ideals have been shredded, new ideas have been added and most ideologies traded.

But one tendency remains threaded: the Tamilnadu cauldron is always simmering with some discontent. Why is this State always in a, well, state of disconnect with the rest of the country? Is there any justification in the Dravidian leaders' constant claim that TN is more sinned against than sinning? Is the State's isolation self-inflicted or imposed? Is the local outfits' inbuilt impulse cause for the alienation or is it because of the Northern netas deliberate negligence? Will TN always tread a lonely trail, or will it at all get into lockstep with the rest of India? With all national parties abdicating from and abandoning it, is TN perennially stuck with the Kazhagams, old and new? Will a BJP, riding piggy-back on pliable proxies, throw pebbles into the pristine communal waters here and fish for trouble?

And there are these visible conundrums: A pious people voting for atheists; a reasonably well-educated populace following film stars to doom; a welfare state selling liquor; among the top in growth indices, yet a debt ridden exchequer and an almost bankrupt treasury; land with a great past staring at a grim future; abolitionists of castes names obsessed with caste identities; The list is long and is lingering in the minds of observers, within and without.

There are also a host of current issues: Relevance of social justice and sundry Dravidian jargon, Demography and Delimitation, Autonomy and Federalism, Climate and Civic problems, Economic Ambitions

and Technology, Transitions and Tensions etc all with a particular peculiarity here.

One starting point is to accept the fact that TN is indeed unique in many aspects, as a continuous civilisation and a distinct geo-political entity of the present. This part of the country did not exactly sign up for the kind of Constitution that came into force... by force, many here still aver. Even when secession was given a burial two decades later, the leaders and their cadre believed that they were doing a favour to the Union, a warranted compromise in lieu of guaranteed concessions. This streak has not disappeared but remains dormant and can be invoked and ignited any time: A tinder box accompanied by lighted matchsticks galore.

In the coming weeks I intend to embark on a verbal journey across time and themes, covering politics and personalities, parties and policies, pan-Indian issues that resonate here and local ones that have national relevance. I will delve into whatever is in my comfort zone and shelve what is not. Instead of a linear narrative, I will criss-cross and cut across topics, move back and forth at will; and why not, this being 'Tippler Nadu'.

The point and purpose of these articles are to primarily present Tamilnadu's point of view, for better understanding of all, mainly the clueless and clouded northern mind, and many others to whom it remains opaque. As also to proclaim the glories, articulate the grievances and think aloud about the goings on in this secluded State. The motive is not to belittle the problems elsewhere which anyway get adequate bandwidth but to widen the arch light on the narrow stretches here.

Welcome to my forbidden land and read on as it unfolds.

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Where Road Dust Settles: India's Challenge in Cleaning Its Air



DR. VIJAY GARG

Why Road Dust Matters for Air Quality

Road dust is not a minor pollutant—it is one of the largest contributors to particulate matter in many Indian cities. Studies, including those from IIT Kanpur, show that in Delhi it is a leading source of PM10 and PM2.5 pollution.

Road dust originates from multiple sources: construction material, degrading road surfaces, soil on unpaved shoulders, and the wear and tear of vehicle tires. Even more importantly, dust that settles on the road is not static. When vehicles pass—especially on damaged or poorly maintained roads—this dust gets lifted back into the air, repeatedly contributing to particulate pollution.

Where Road Dust Physically Settles

Understanding where dust settles helps in identifying how it keeps re-entering the atmosphere.

a) On Road Surfaces and Shoulders

Unpaved Shoulders: Many Indian roads have paved main sections but unpaved edges that collect significant soil and silt.

Damaged Roads: Cracks and potholes trap loose particles, increasing dust accumulation.

Construction Activity: Materials such as gravel and soil from construction sites often spill onto adjacent roads, increasing the dust load.

b) In the Air (Ambient Environment)

Frequent Resuspension: Traffic activity constantly pushes settled dust into the air.

Local Urban Dust: In cities like Delhi, much of the dust is "in situ"—originating from within the city rather than being blown in from deserts.

Deposition: Dust settles on buildings, plants, and pavements but is quickly kicked up again, creating a cycle of lifting and re-settling.

Health and Environmental Impacts

Road dust contributes significantly to PM10 and PM2.5 levels, which penetrate deep into the lungs and worsen asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory conditions. It also reduces visibility and disrupts urban microclimates by trapping heat.

India's Efforts to Reduce Road Dust

India has initiated several approaches to control road dust, though challenges remain.



Mechanical Sweeping and Water Sprinkling

Cities are increasingly adopting mechanical or electric sweepers. Water sprinklers and misting systems are used to suppress dust—Mumbai's civic body, for example, deploys misting vehicles to settle dust on major roads.

Paving and Better Road Design

Paving unpaved shoulders and repairing damaged roads reduce resuspension.

In the Delhi-NCR region, agencies such as CAQM,

CSIR-CRRI, and SPA are jointly redesigning roads with improved surfacing and greenery.

Greening and Vegetation Barriers

Trees, grass strips, and green walls along roads act as natural dust filters and significantly reduce dust movement.

Regulating Construction Activity

Authorities mandate dust suppressants at construction sites and require wheel-washing systems so vehicles do not carry soil onto roads.

Institutional Mechanisms

The CAQM-CRRI-SPA partnership includes a Project Monitoring Cell to track dust-control implementation. Under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), cities are required to adopt systematic dust-management practices.

Challenges That Still Persist

High Water Consumption: Using sprinklers and misting systems strains water resources in already water-stressed regions.

Maintenance Gaps: Even paved roads deteriorate without regular upkeep, reintroducing dust.

Limited Resources: Not all municipal bodies can afford mechanical sweepers or large-scale greening.

Poor Road Design: Narrow shoulders and lack of green buffers make dust control difficult.

Need for Continuous Monitoring: Long-term reduction requires data-driven tracking and accountability.

Case Studies Across Indian Cities

Mumbai: NEERI reports that road dust accounts for 71% of the city's total PM emissions.

Kolkata: TERI studies show road dust contributes around 35% of PM10 and 16% of PM2.5—exceeding vehicle emissions in some areas.

Punjab (Ludhiana, Jalandhar): PPCB studies highlight road dust as a major source, leading to proposals for mechanical sweeping, paving shoulders, and vacuum cleaning.

Why "Settling" Road Dust Is Crucial

Controlling road dust means addressing both new emissions and resuspended dust.

If dust is allowed to accumulate, every passing vehicle becomes a "dust generator," continuously polluting the air. Eliminating this cycle requires:

- Better road design
- Regular cleaning
- Green buffers
- Strong enforcement at construction sites

Conclusion

Road dust is a major but often overlooked contributor to India's urban air pollution. It continuously settles, lifts, and re-lifts into the atmosphere, making it a persistent source of PM pollution. India's approach combines engineering solutions, nature-based strategies, and maintenance efforts, but challenges like water scarcity, funding limitations, and policy enforcement remain.

If these initiatives are effectively scaled and monitored, controlling road dust could significantly improve air quality across Indian cities.

The author is a Retired Principal Educational Columnist Eminent Educationist Street Kour Chand, MHR Malout, Punjab



5 SIGNS THAT YOU ARE NOT GETTING ENOUGH PROTEIN

With the food market constantly advertising adding protein to everything, you may want an abundance of these key micronutrients in your diet. But unknowingly an inadequate amount of protein may be ruining your effort in the gym.

While your protein need is based on your body weight and activity levels, researchers agree that an adequate amount of protein keeps the body lean and preserves muscles strength as we age. But if you are unsure about the amount of protein you are getting and are wondering if it's enough to fuel your fitness goals, here are a few ways to know.

Workout doesn't entail results

Protein is crucial for building new muscle mass and also important in sustaining energy and motivation. A low protein diet may make you suffer muscle atrophy which is a condition when your body starts cannibalising the tissues for fuel. If you don't serve your muscle composition with adequate protein, no matter how much you work out, the result will always be less.

Unexpected Anxiety

Do often lash out at your Co worker or anyone for a minor mistake? Serotonin, a hormone regulates calmness and protein plays an important role by helping the brain synthesize serotonin. Also, regulating the spikes of insulin that occurs as a result of eating carbs, protein keeps your mood stable. So, if you are unable to tame your temper, it could be a sign of protein deficiency.

Your hair starts thinning

If you don't nourish your body with adequate protein, then it looks for some non essential body parts like hair to pull protein from. Once your hair is deprived of the nutrient it needs, it starts thinning or falling out.



Constant injury

Apart from muscle loss, lack of protein in diet precipitates several perils including bone loss and osteoporosis. The body also faces difficulty in absorbing calcium which is likely to make you prone to injuries. So if you are constantly injured, you may need a protein pick me up.

Craving for snacks

If you can't keep yourself gorging on chips frequently, it may be the time for you to look at your diet. If you don't supply enough protein to your body it causes spikes and crashes in insulin, resulting in craving for heavy carb foods. Make sure the meals you eat have reasonable amounts of all the three micronutrients, namely proteins, carbs, and healthy fats.

Courtesy Healthline

Here's how dementia patients can live a better life

PHILADELPHIA: Patients with lung cancer have high levels of cytoskeleton-associated protein 4 (CKAP4) in their blood compared to healthy individuals, suggests a recent research. In the study, investigators found that CKAP4 levels are already elevated in the blood of patients with stage I disease, making it a potential noninvasive diagnostic marker that could change current practices in the diagnosis and treatment of some types of lung cancer, including non-small-cell lung cancer and squamous cell carcinoma, and improve patient outcomes.

Lung cancer is associated with a poor prognosis because most of the times it is diagnosed at an advanced stage.

"The identification of patients at an early stage of cancer when it can be treated surgically is extremely important to improve prognosis. We need better biomarkers for early diagnosis," explained Yuichi Sato, a professor. Current biomarkers for lung cancer include carcinoma embryonic antigen (CEA), sialyl Lewis X antigen (SLX), squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) antigen, and cytokeratin fragment (CYFRA) 21-1, but these are not sensitive enough to detect tumors early, according to another professor Ryo Nagashio.

"The results of our study provide evidence that the CKAP4 protein may be a novel early sero-diagnostic marker for lung cancer," Nagashio said.

Researchers performed reverse-phase protein array analysis using a monoclonal antibody designated as KU-Lu-1 antibody on the blood of 271 lung cancer patients and 100 healthy individuals.

London [U.K.], May 09 (ANI): Good relationships, social engagement, better everyday functioning, good physical and mental health, and high-quality care have been identified as some crucial factors linked to better quality of life for people with dementia, according to a study.

"While many investigations focus on prevention and better treatments, it's equally vital that we understand how we can optimise quality of life for the 50 million people worldwide who have dementia," said professor Linda Clare.

Courtesy Healthline

8 Amazing Health Benefits of Cauliflower



If you are considering which vegetable to include in your diet, cauliflowers are vegetables you should not fail to include. Packed with tons of vitamins and minerals, you can never go wrong with cauliflowers. Used in salads and other dishes, it comes in great quantities of health boosters.

Antioxidants and Phytonutrients Galore

Cauliflower is the mother lode of phytonutrients and antioxidants. Packed with kaempferol, quercetin, rutin, cinnamic acid, beta-carotene, vitamin C and much more, cauliflowers are sure to help your body resist aging due to numbers of stressors and pollutants.

Digestive Benefits

Dietary fiber is another health factor taken from cauliflowers. According to some research, cauliflowers promote healthy linings of the stomach. It also increases the protection against bacterial growth.

Detoxification Support

Along with sulfur-containing nutrients, cauliflowers are a great help in phase 1 and phase two detoxification. Glucosinolates activate various detoxification enzymes.

Boost Your Brain Health

Vitamin B, Choline, is sourced from cauliflower. Choline is known for its active participation in brain health. It boosts the cognitive function of the brain which results to the improvement of the memory and learning capabilities of a person.

It's Rich in Vitamins and Minerals

A serving of cauliflower has at least 77 percent of the needed vitamin C. It is also a great source of Vitamin K, thiamin, riboflavin, fiber, phosphorus, Vitamin B6, folate, protein, manganese, potassium, and many other health boosters.

It's Anti-Inflammatory

Although the body depends on some processes that involve inflammation to stay healthy, inflammation has the tendency to become worse and produce adverse effects, some even leading to cancer. Indole-3-carbinol or I3C is a compound that prevents responses to inflammatory agents. I3C is sourced from cauliflowers.

Boost Heart Health

Sulforaphane and other vegetables in the cruciferous class improve kidney function and the levels of blood pressure. Improved DNA methylation is one great benefit of sulforaphane. They help in keeping the cells function properly.

Courtesy Healthline

EAT TOMATOES TO FIGHT LIVER CANCER, INFLAMMATION

Higher consumption of tomatoes could be associated with a decreased risk of liver cancer caused by high-fat diets, a study has found.

The study, conducted on mice, showed that tomatoes are rich in lycopene — a strong antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and anti-

phenolic compounds and dietary fibres.

In addition, feeding mice tomato powder increased the richness and diversity of beneficial micro biota and prevented the over-growth of some bacteria related to inflammation, said the study, published in the journal Cancer Prevention Research.



cancer agent — which helps in effectively reducing fatty liver disease, inflammation and liver cancer development.

"Consuming whole foods like tomatoes and processed tomatoes from sauces, tomato paste, canned whole tomato products, ketchup and juice, provides the best source of lycopene," said Xiang-Dong Wang, Professor at Tufts University in the US.

Interestingly, we observed that tomato powder is more effective than the same dose of purified lycopene supplementation to prevent liver cancer development, said Wang.

This could be due to the potential beneficial effects of other nutrients in a whole tomato, such as vitamin E, vitamin C, folate, minerals,

For the study, infant mice were infected with a liver carcinogen and then fed an unhealthy high-fat diet similar to a Western diet, with or without tomato powder containing lycopene.

Other foods including guava, watermelon, grapefruit, papaya, and sweet red pepper also contain lycopene, but in much lower concentrations compared to tomatoes.

Eating tomatoes and tomato products such as tomato sauce rich in lycopene is also associated with a lower risk of cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and certain cancers, including prostate, lung, breast and colon cancer, the study showed.

Courtesy Healthline

Smoking raises lifetime risk of irregular heart rate

Smoking and alcohol consumption increase lifetime risk of a rapid and irregular heart rate, called atrial fibrillation, which can lead to a stroke, dementia, heart failure and other complications, a new study says. The results, published in the journal The BMJ, showed that that among individuals aged 55 years or older, the overall lifetime risk of atrial fibrillation (AF) was 37 per cent and was influenced by the burden of lifestyle risk factors such smoking and drinking alcohol. "We examined the lifetime risk of atrial fibrillation, which measures the cumulative risk of developing a disease

during the remainder of an individual's life," said study co-author Ludovic Trinquant, Assistant Professor at Boston University School of Public Health in Massachusetts, US.

"It is essential to look at lifetime risks in addition to short-term risks, because it may enable early identification of individuals at higher long-term risk and facilitate lifestyle change counseling,"

Trinquant said. In the study involving more than 5,000 participants, the researchers identified smoking, alcohol consumption, body mass index, blood pressure, diabetes, and history of myocardial infarction or heart failure as risk factors.

"Studying atrial fibrillation is important because it is emerging as a global epidemic; it also imposes considerable socioeconomic burden. Atrial fibrillation hospitalisations follow an exponential increase and have surpassed heart failure admissions," Trinquant said.

Courtesy Healthline





Public Notice

I WANT TO TRANSFER MY VEHICLE BEARING REGISTRATION NO. L A 0 1 3 3 7 7 TO IFTIKHAR HUSSAIN S/O MOHD ALI R/O TITIEHUMIK BUROO . ANYBODY HAVING ANY OBJECTION MAY CONTACT ARTO WITHIN THE PERIOD OF SEVEN DAYS
NAME: SAMSTAN LUNDUP S/O STEWANG CHOTAR R/O SANIPADUM ZANSKAR

Public Notice

I, Imtiyaz Ahmad Malik, S/O Mohammad Assad Ullah Malik, R/O Sozeith Goripora, Narbal, Budgam – 190017, hereby state that my passport bearing No. R1197236, issued on 12/06/2017 at Srinagar, has been lost/misplaced while travelling from Lawaypora to Lal Chowk, Srinagar on 26/11/2025.

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 R/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 shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my Name has been wrongly mentioned in adhar And Pan card regards bearing aadhar no 653892932417 Pan card no DLGPB0841E as Haseena Begum instead of Haseena Bano as for All regards now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this regards may file the same to the office of aadhar seva/ concerned authority within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

**HASEENA BANO DOB 01/01/1980
D/O GHULAM NABI MIR W/O LATE NASEER AHMAD SHAH, R/O RANEN TEHSIL QAZIABAD DISTRICT KUPWARA**

Public Notice

IT is hereby notified that I have applying for Death certificate My Husband namely Abdul Samad Dar Date of Death 29/10/2025 R/o Pohrupeth Tehsil Langate District: Kupwara .if anybody having any objection in this regards he/she may file his /her objection in the concerned authority within 07 days .After that no objection shall be entertained

**SHAHMALI BEGUM W/O LATE ABDUL SAMAD DAR
DATE OF DEATH 29/10/2025, R/o POHRUPETH TEHSIL LANGATE DISTRICT KUPWARA**

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 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

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 and Kashmir

Office of the Executive Officer
Municipal Committee Khrew

Subject: Auction of Entry Fee Collection contract for the year 2025-26 & 2026- 2026-27 w.e.f. 01.01.2026 to 31.03.2027 (15 Months).

AUCTION NOTICE.

E - NIT No: MC/KH/101 of 2025 | Dated: 26/11/2025.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, term e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons/parties for Auction of Entry Fee Collection of Municipal Committee Khrew, for 15 Months for the year 2025-26 & 2026-27 w.e.f. 01.01.2026 to 31.03.2027. The Minimum reserved bid is fixed as Rs 29,06,800/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lacs Six Thousand Eight Hundred Only). The Tax Schedule of the vehicles is given as under and the successful highest bidder is bound to recover Entry Fees per following Rate Schedule:-

S. No	Name of Vehicle	Rates per day	S.No	Name of Vehicle	Rates per day
01	Govt. Vehicles / Security Forces Vehicles	Exempted	10	Tractor (Loaded/unloaded)	Loaded Rs. 20/- per day Unloaded Rs 10/- per day
02	All Private Light vehicles	Exempted	11	Sumo / Scorpios / Tavera / Toyota etc (commercial)	Rs. 10/- per day
03	Mini Tippers loaded / Unloaded	Loaded Rs. 20/- per day Unloaded Rs 10/- per day	12	Passenger Tempo / Auto	Rs. 10/- per day
04	Trucks 6 Tyres (Loaded/unloaded)	Loaded Rs. 30/- per day Unloaded Rs 10/- per day	12	Passenger Tempo	Rs. 30/- per day
05	Tippers (Loaded or Un-loaded)	Loaded Rs. 30/- per day Unloaded Rs 10/- per day	14	JCB/Crane/Roller	Rs. 30/- per day
06	Trucks/ Trolley (10 Tyre) (Loaded/unloaded)	Loaded Rs. 100/- per day Unloaded Rs 20/- per day	15	Mini Load Carriers / Auto Load carriers	Rs. 10/- per day
07	Truck/Trolley above 12 Tyre (Loaded/unloaded)	Loaded Rs. 100/- per day Unloaded Rs 20/- per day	16	Private School Buses	Rs. 10/- per day
08	Truck Trolley above 14 Tyres (Loaded/unloaded)	Loaded Rs. 100/- per day Unloaded Rs 20/- per day	17	Tata 407/207 ferrying Grass/other items (Loaded/unloaded)	Loaded Rs. 20/- per day Unloaded Rs 10/- per day
09	Matadors / Tata Mini Buses	Rs. 10/- per day	18	Dumper (Loaded/unloaded)	Loaded Rs. 50/- per day Unloaded Rs 30/- per day

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website www.gem.gov.in, as per the schedule of dates given below:

1	PQ Submission Start Date and Time (Documents)	27.11.2025 From 02:00 PM
2	PQ Submission End Date and Time (Documents)	08.12.2025 up to 05:00 PM
3	PQ Assessment Start Date & Time	09.12.2025 from 11.00 AM
4	PQ Assessment End Date & Time	10.12.2025 up to 5.00 PM
5	EMD Payment Start Date & Time	12.12.2025 from 10:00 AM
	EMD Payment End Date & Time	15.12.2025 up to 05:00 PM
	Auction Start Date & Time	16.12.2025 from 10:00 AM
	Auction End Date & Time	18.12.2025 up to 05:00 PM
6	Submission of Call Deposit Receipt (CDR)	The bidders have to deposit CDR @ 10% amounting to Rs. 2,91,000/- (Two Lac, Ninety One Thousand Only) after the qualifying of the bidder in PQ Assessment
7	Mode of Payment	10% of the highest bid as token amount on spot. 65% of the highest bid to be deposited before taking over the possession. 25% of the highest bid within three months of taking possession.

1. Bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender document in shape of Bank Challan / Receipt (Credited to A/c No. 0037040100008059 maintained with Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. Branch: Khrew in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Khrew amounting to Rs. 1000/- (One Thousand Only) and Bid securing declaration as per format Annexure –1, below on stamp paper duly attested by Notary in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Khrew, failing which tender will be rejected.
2. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.gem.gov.in. The bids of the responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Khrew.
3. The bids for the tender shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
4. BID SECURITY.
 - a) Bid Security Declaration: If the successful bidder fails to sign the contract or to submit the performance security before the deadline defined in the request for the bid documents, the bidder will be suspended for the participation in the tendering process for the works / tenders for a period of one year from the bid due date of this Auction. The bid security declaration shall be submitted as per the Format appended – I (format for the bid security declaration).
 - b) Any bid not accompanied by the BID security declaration shall be summarily rejected by the Authority as non-responsive.

No: MC/KH/2025-26/1687-91 | Dated: 26/11/2025

Sd/- Executive Officer Municipal Committee, Khrew

DIPK: NB-2590/25 | Dated: 27-11-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN

NOTICE INVITING TENDER | CIVIL WORKS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)

NIT No: 59/6468-77/RnB/ SPN /e-Tendering/2025-26 | Dated: 27-11-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Item rate/Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	EM	Class	Time of Completion	Est. Cost (Rs.)	AAA No. Date	TS No. Date
1	Upgradation of Tehsildar Office Shopian.	3054 Administrative Charges	4.745	9490/-	DEE	20 days	200/-	DCS/ACTT/25-26/25-32 Dated:-03-11-2025	80/TS/RnB/Spn of 2025-26 Dated:- 27-11-2025.
2	C/o tile lane from house of Gulzar Ah Shiekh to Ho Ghulam Nabi Zazroo at Gada Mohalla Hergam Shopian	Constituency Development Scheme	1.977	3954/-	DEE	15 days	200/-	168-DDCS of 2025 Dated:-25-11-2025.	80/TS/RnB/Spn of 2025-26 Dated:- 27-11-2025
3	C/O P Bund from house of Mohammad Shafi Dalal to House of Bilal Ahmad Dar at Batapora Shopian.	Constituency Development Scheme	0.97	1940/-	DEE	15 days	200/-	168-DDCS of 2025 Dated:-25-11-2025.	80/TS/RnB/Spn of 2025-26 Dated:- 27-11-2025
4	C/o P Bund at different spots at Salfiya Masjid Guglaroo Road (KM-II)Phase I	Constituency Development Scheme	9.846	19692/-	DEE/ CEE	30 days	600/-	168-DDCS of 2025 Dated:-25-11-2025.	80/TS/RnB/Spn of 2025-26 Dated:- 27-11-2025
5	Ornamental Grill work for graveyard opposite Jamia Masjid at Gagren	Constituency Development Scheme	6.55	13100/-	DEE/ CEE	20 days	300/-	168-DDCS of 2025 Dated:-25-11-2025.	80/TS/RnB/Spn of 2025-26 Dated:- 27-11-2025
6	C/o tile lane from house of Gulzar Ah Shiekh to Ho Fayaz Ahmad Shiekh at Gada Mohalla Hergam Shopian	Constituency Development Scheme	1.387	2774/-	DEE	15 days	200	168-DDCS of 2025 Dated:-25-11-2025.	80/TS/RnB/Spn of 2025-26 Dated:- 27-11-2025

Position of funds:- Committed

Project Authority= District Development Commissioner Shopian.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-11-2025
2	Document downloading Start Date.	28-11-2025
3	Document Downloading End Date.	05-12-2025
4	Bid submission Start Date.	28-11-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date.	05-12-2025
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	06-12-2025

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of e-Challan/treasury challan /Demand Draft deposited in **M.H. 0059** in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian.
Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. **Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.**

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

3. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited IF:-

- a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No: NIT/6468-77 | Dated: 27-11-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Shopian

DIPK: 8484/25 | Dated: 27-11-2025

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office of the Additional District Development Commissioner Anantnag

Email: Dc-anantnagjk@gov.in | Phone/Fax: 01932-224514

Subject: Appointment Order for Contractual Engagement for the positions of SBDU/BHDs under Mission YUVA.

ORDER

In pursuance of Mission YUVA Operational Guidelines issued vide No. ED/Pan/Mission YUVA/233/368-414 dated 18-07-2025, and on the basis of the notification issued vide No. ADDCANG/2025-26/478-80 dated 23-7-2025 regarding temporary engagement of personnel for SBDU and BHD positions under Mission YUVA, it is hereby notified as follows:

A total of 292 applications were received through the Online Mission YUVA Portal against 21 No. of Vacancies/ posts, out of which 75 candidates were provisionally shortlisted through the Automatic Scrutiny System. Accordingly, this office issued a Public Notice vide No. ADDC/Ang/2025-26/811-14, dated 18-09-2025, directing the provisionally shortlisted candidates to present their original documents before the Oversight Committee and to submit the required documents in the office of the Deputy Director Employment, Anantnag, for cross-verification of their merit.

After detailed verification of credentials, 46 candidates were shortlisted by the District Selection Oversight Committee for interview. Subsequently, this office issued an Interview Notification vide No. ADDC/Ang/2025-26/1034-1035 dated 18-10-2025, and interviews were conducted on 25-10-2025 at the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Anantnag. Out of the shortlisted candidates, 43 candidates appeared before the Interview Committee.

Further, the Merit List of interviewed candidates was put in Public Domain vide No, ADDC/ANG/2025-26,/1103-05, Dated 07-11-2025, calling for objections, if any. A total of 13 representations/objections were received within the stipulated time and the same were placed before Oversight Committee on 21/11/2025 for the final decision. After thoroughly examining the grievances received the grievance of one applicant namely, Aaliya Jan was found genuine & hence addressed by the committee.

It is pertinent to mention here that as per the guidelines only 12 candidates securing 40 points excluding Interview Points (Qualifying Criteria) have qualified for Final Selection. Furthermore, 9 posts are still vacant & have been re-advertised vide No: ADDC/ANG/2025-26/1201-04.

Now, based on the recommendations of the District Selection Oversight Committee, Anantnag, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of the following candidates for contractual engagement under Mission YUVA against SBDU and BHD positions as indicated below:

List of Selected Candidates

S.No	Name	Father's Full Name	Address	Marks Obtained	Place of Posting	Post Selected for
1	Musharrarf Farooq	Mohamamd Amin Narchoor	114, Mohalla Sadak, Jangiat Mandi Anantnag	66.78	Anantnag	SBDU Lead
2	Majid Hussain Sheikh	Ab Rashid Sheikh	Trail Srigufwara Anantnag 192401	56.74	Pahalgam	BHD Lead
3	Sheikh Aatif	Tariq Ahamd Sheikh	Nusso Badragund	54.66	Dooru	BHD Lead
4	Jaspreet Singh	Darbari Singh	Bhai Mohalla Near Gurdawara	51.67	Kokernag	BHD Lead
5	Iqra Jan	Abdul Satar Gujri	Bemina	50.14	Anantnag	BHD Lead
6	Faisal Gulzar Mir	Gulzar Ahmad Mir	Dangerpora Nanil Anantnag	46.68	Bijbehara	BHD Lead
7	Aaliya Jan	Ghulam Mohamad Shan	Nowpora Dooru	46.53	Dooru	BHD Coordinator
8	Auquib Gulzar	Gulzar Ahamd Sofi	Lalan	45.84	Kokernag	BHD Coordinator
9	Mohammad Obeid Malik	Zahoor Ahmad Malik	Hanji Danter Anantnag	45.12	Pahalgam	BHD Coordinator
10	Subreena Musthaq	Mushtaq Ahamd Wani	Iqbalabad KP Road Pehroo Anantnag	45.08	Anantnag	BHD Coordinator
11	Samreen Farooq	Farooq Ahmad Shah	Near Government Middle School	43.37	Anantnag	BHD Coordinator
12	Kowsar Khan	Gh. Nabi Khan	Shirpora Bala Anantnag	43.08	Anantnag	BHD Coordinator

1. Nature of Engagement

The engagement shall be purely contractual and governed by Mission YUVA Operational Guidelines. The appointment shall not confer any right to permanent absorption or continuation beyond the approved project period.

2. Duration of Contract and Renewal

The initial engagement period shall be 11 months from the date of joining.

Performance shall be reviewed as per predefined KPIs of Mission YUVA.

Renewal for an additional 11 months may be granted based on satisfactory performance and approval of the competent authority, subject to the project life cycle.

3. Roles and Reporting

The selected personnel shall perform duties and report as prescribed in the Mission YUVA Operational Guidelines.

4. Terms and Conditions

1. The selected candidates shall report to the Assistant Director Employment, DE&CC Anantnag (Member Secretary Mission YUVA) within 07 days of issuance of this order, along with the following original documents for verification and completion of joining formalities:

- Domicile Certificate
- Date of Birth Certificate
- All Qualification Certificates
- Experience Certificates
- Undertaking
- Character Certificate issued by competent authority
- Cross Verification of Salaries Drawn from respective companies

2. Failure to report within the stipulated time shall be treated as unwillingness to join, and the next eligible candidate from the waiting list shall be considered.

3. The selectee shall execute a contractual agreement outlining:

Terms of engagement and service conditions

Roles, responsibilities, and deliverables

Performance evaluation parameters

Compensation and payment terms

Disciplinary and termination clauses

4. Monthly consolidated remuneration shall be paid as per Mission YUVA norms, subject to verification of all documents.

5. Engagement shall be subject to verification of character, antecedents, and document authenticity.

6. The appointee shall maintain utmost integrity, discipline, and confidentiality in official duties.

5. Termination of Contract

The contract may be terminated at any time under the following circumstances:

Poor performance or failure to meet KPIs

Misconduct, indiscipline, or violation of code of conduct

Submission of false or misleading documents

Unauthorized absence exceeding seven consecutive working days

Activities inconsistent with the objectives of Mission YUVA or involving political affiliations

The CEO Mission YUVA / Director Employment / SPV, on the recommendation of the District Nodal Officer, may terminate the services of any SBDU/BHD personnel at any time during the contract period, with appropriate notice as per the contractual agreement.

All other terms and conditions shall remain governed strictly under Mission YUVA Operational Guidelines for SBDU and BHD engagements.

No: ADDC/Ang/2025-26/1217-22 | Dated: 25-11-2025

Sd/- District Development Commissioner Anantnag

DIPK: 8456/25 | Dated: 27-11-2025



DM Bandipora chairs NCORD Committee Meeting

Calls for stronger monitoring, focused awareness drives

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOV 27: District Magistrate (DM) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib today chaired a meeting of the District-Level NCORD Committee to review action taken against drug abuse and illegal activities in the district here at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

At the outset, the committee was briefed about the directions of the Chief Secretary, J&K UT, with focus on tackling drug hotspots and strengthening monitoring. The DM stressed that commercial-level cases need more attention and urged departments to ensure strict enforcement.

During the meeting, Senior Superintendent of Police, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar gave a presentation on their recent actions, including PIT NDPS detentions, decline in FIRs in hotspots, and registration of new cases.

The DM urged the SSP to submit a list of vulnerable areas so that CCTV installation can be increased there.

On the occasion, the Excise Department informed about destruction of poppy and wild cannabis, daily nakas, inspections, and awareness programmes like nukad natak, painting and essay



competitions. The DM directed the department to further intensify awareness activities.

The Drug Control Department briefed about inspections, installation of CCTV and computer billing systems, issued notices, suspended licences, and checks on courier services.

During the meeting, Deputy Director Prosecution presented details of pending NDPS trials, acquittals, and bail cases.

The ARTO Bandipora informed about suspension of driving licences, show-cause notices, and ongoing

awareness camps.

On the occasion, representative from the Addiction Treatment Facility Bandipora shared details of registrations. The DM directed the CMO Bandipora to start making the Addiction Treatment Facility function as an IPD unit and to provide a list of all doctors with their names and designations.

During the meeting, the Social Welfare Department briefed about NMBA activities including street plays, yoga camps, painting competitions, and awareness drives. The Education Department and GDCs

also shared updates regarding the activities conducted under NMBA.

Speaking on the occasion, the DM stressed that CCTV installation at hotspots, monthly NCORD meetings, and strong coordination among departments are essential for effective control and awareness. She directed all officers to continue working actively and responsibly to keep Bandipora drug-free.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora; Deputy Chief Education Officer Bandipora; District Information Officer Bandipora; Assistant Drug Controller Bandipora; and other concerned officers.

While the Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar; Secretary, District Legal Services Authority Bandipora; Deputy Director Prosecution Bandipora; Sub Divisional Magistrate Sumbal/Gurez; Chief Medical Officer Bandipora; Principals of GDC Bandipora, Sumbal, Ajas, Hajin, Gurez and Tulail; Medical Superintendent District Hospital Bandipora; District Social Welfare Officer Bandipora and other concerned officers attended the meeting through virtual mode.

DC Ganderbal visits Control ROOM of Mechanical Engineering Department, takes appraisal of snow clearance readiness



■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 27: To take spot appraisal of readiness of machinery to ensure timely snow clearance operations in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today paid a visit to the Mechanical Engineering Department Control Room in Ganderbal.

During the visit, DC took stock of the availability of machinery, and overall readiness to tackle potential challenges posed by heavy snowfall. The inspection aimed to ensure uninterrupted road connectivity and timely response to snowfall emergencies in the district.

DC reviewed the availability and operational efficiency of 12 snow clearance machines available, including Trucks, Tractors, Backhoe Loader and Snow Cutter, which will be tasked with clearing snow from an extensive road network spanning approximately 586 kms.

Officials from Mechanical & Hospital

Engineering Sub-Division Ganderbal provided a comprehensive briefing on their preparedness plan, including deployment strategies for snow-clearing machinery in critical areas to ensure uninterrupted operations during snow emergencies.

DC issued specific directions to ensure that all snow clearance machines remain in a state of readiness and are deployed promptly during snowfall to avoid disruptions.

He instructed the round the clock functioning of the 24x7 control room to monitor snow clearance operations and address public grievances in real time.

He also emphasized robust coordination with other departments to manage emergencies effectively, prioritizing the clearance of critical routes such as highways, hospitals, and educational institutions.

DC reiterated the administration's commitment to ensuring public safety and convenience, urging the department to work in close coordination with other allied agencies for efficient winter management.

Microbiology Deptt, GMC Srinagar celebrates AMR Awareness Week

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 27: The Department of Microbiology, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, celebrated Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week under the theme "Act Now: Protect Our Present, Secure Our Future."

The programme, organised under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan, Principal and Dean, GMC Srinagar, featured a series of academic and awareness oriented activities aimed at promoting responsible antimicrobial use.

Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan appreciated the Microbiology department for its initiative and stressed the need for strong antimicrobial policies in hospitals. She called for routine antibiogram updates, strict monitoring of prescription patterns, and the establishment of structured stewardship teams in every clinical unit, urging students to integrate laboratory data into clinical decisions and reduce unnecessary antibiotic exposure.

Head of the Department, Prof. Dr. Asifa Nazir, highlighted the urgent need for correct antimicrobial use, accurate diagnostics, strict infection control, and rational prescribing. She emphasized responsible laboratory practices, regular surveillance of resistance patterns, and urged students to understand MIC values, follow hospital guidelines, and identify high risk organisms early.

The week included sessions on antimicrobial stewardship, infection prevention tools, rapid diagnostics, emerging resistance trends, and quality assurance.

Students participated in poster presentations, a quiz competition for UG and MD students, and case based discussions on multidrug resistant pathogens, antibiogram interpretation, and point of care diagnostic tools.

The Department of Microbiology reaffirmed its commitment to disciplined training, precise laboratory work, and responsible antimicrobial practices.

JKIMPARD's 2-month SATC concludes at Srinagar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 27: The intensive two-month Secretariat Assistants Training Course (SATC) for Senior and Junior Assistants, held at the J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (JKIMPARD) campus in Srinagar, concluded today.

Ninety trainees deputed from various departments attended the said training course.

The programme, which commenced in September 2025, was designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of government assistants in various official procedures and e-governance.

The objective of the training was to familiarize participants with the J&K Manual of Secretariat Procedures, Civil Services Regulations, GFR, Budget Manual, Classification Control and Appeal Rules, and J&K Employees Conduct Rules, IT, alongside imparting

essential computer skills for effective public service delivery. The course also prepared trainees to confidently appear in the departmental examination conducted by the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission for career progression.

The valedictory function was presided over by the Director Trainings, Kashmir Dr. Jahan Ara Jabeen, who emphasized on the critical role of such training programs play in upgrading

administrative efficiency and ensuring quality governance.

Highlighting the significance of continuous learning, she urged the participants to apply the acquired skills diligently in their respective departments.

Associate Professor and Course Director, Dr. B.A. Kumar, provided an overview of the rigorous training modules and acknowledged the trainees for their dedication throughout the course. Certificates of successful

completion were awarded to all participants, who were then directed to rejoin their departments with renewed commitment and enhanced expertise.

The valedictory event was attended by the entire faculty of J&K IMPARD, marking the successful completion of a pivotal capacity-building initiative aimed at strengthening the administrative framework of the Union Territory.

JKBOSE hosts maiden first leg of UT Level National Role Play & Folk Dance Competition

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) today organised the first leg of UT level National Role Play & Folk Song/Dance Competitions here at Government Boys' Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Gandhinagar.

The event was held as part of the National Population Education Programme/ Adolescence Education Programme being implemented by NCERT, New Delhi to raise awareness among young school going adolescents regarding themes like growing up healthy, nutritious food and well-being, personal safety (physical, mental, emotional and sexual), safe use of internet, gadgets and media literacy, substance abuse and its causes and prevention. Equal opportunity for boys and girls, role of joint family in child's development, protection of environment (refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle), prevention of substance abuse, healthy



relationships during adolescence.

Teams from all ten districts of Jammu Division participated in the event and presented entertaining, informative and thought-provoking artistic pieces that were received with appreciation and applause from the two-hundred fifty strong audience. The audience also interacted with the participants regarding the content and presentation of the role plays and Folk Song/Dance items.

The programme was inaugurated by Secretary, JKBOSE, Ghulam Hassan

Sheikh in presence of Honorary Director, Dr. Sanjeev Goswami.

The Director Academics, JKBOSE, who is the UT Project Director, NPEP delivered the keynote address.

Bhupinder Singh Jamwal, Cultural Officer, JKAAC, Mohd Shafi Wani, Sr. Lecturer and Promila Manhas, Sr Lecturer were the judges to evaluate the performances of the teams in the event.

The judges, the audience and the escort teachers lauded the dynamic leadership of Secretary, JKBOSE Ghulam Hassan Sheikh in conducting awareness activities regarding adolescence related issues and need of promoting skills among adolescents.

Earlier, Deputy Director, Academics Dr Yasir Hamid Sirwal presented welcome address.

Ms. Sugandh, Academic Officer and Syed Kashif Hashmi, Academic Officer managed the proceedings of the event. Chander Kumar, Academic Officer presented formal Vote of thanks.

DC Reasi reviews performance of Revenue Department

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

REASI, NOVEMBER 27: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired a meeting to review performance of the Revenue department in the district. The meeting focused on strengthening the functioning of the revenue administration and ensuring timely redressal of public issues.

The DC took a detailed assessment of key areas including land acquisition cases, digitization of Jamabandies, geo-referencing of cadastral maps, and revenue court cases. ADC Rakesh Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, SDMs, all Tehsildars and other officers were present in the meeting.

Reviewing the ongoing digitization of Jamabandies, the DC assessed the Tehsil-wise progress of Geo-referencing of Cadastral Maps. She directed the concerned officers to expedite the remaining work and ensure early completion. She emphasized that timely digitization would enhance transparency, improve land record accessibility and provide significant benefits to the public. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of eviction of encroachments from State land. She instructed revenue officers to intensify anti-encroachment drives, submit updated reports and take strict action as per norms to safeguard government land. Additionally, the DC reviewed the status of pending Revenue Court cases, stressing the need for their timely disposal. She urged officers to prioritize old cases, adhere to prescribed timelines, and ensure regular hearings for quick resolution. She also reviewed Tehsil-wise progress under the SVAMITVA Scheme, emphasizing the importance of completing property card preparation and verification at the earliest to extend scheme's benefits. The DC further reviewed the progress of land acquisition cases and directed officials to expedite processing, remove bottlenecks and ensure timely release of funds. She also reviewed the status of complaints received on the SATARK NAGRIK Portal and JK SAMADHAN, underscoring the need for prompt, transparent and time-bound disposal to strengthen citizen-centric governance. DC Malik also assessed the status of SDRF cases and reviewed the extent of agricultural land damage caused by recent rains. The DC directed officers to ensure timely verification, processing, and disbursement of relief to the affected beneficiaries. She further reviewed the status of SRO-43 cases, instructing officers to process all pending cases promptly and ensure that eligible families receive benefits without delay. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the sanctioned strength and vacancy position in the department. She directed that all vacant posts be filled at the earliest and asked officers to take up the matter with higher authorities to ensure timely recruitment and strengthen manpower availability in revenue offices.

DC Kishtwar reviews drug control measures at District-Level NCORD Meet

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 27: The District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) meeting was today convened under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma to review the ongoing measures to combat drug abuse, strengthen the de-addiction framework, and the progress of the Information, Education & Communication (IEC) campaign under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Parvez Qazi apprised the meeting about the Action Taken Report on the decisions of the previous meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner conducted a comprehensive review of the prevailing drug abuse scenario in the district and sought detailed inputs regarding vulnerable areas, affected age groups and identified hotspots.

He also assessed the preventive and enforcement actions being taken by the stakeholder departments.

Emphasizing the crucial role of community participation, the DC called for active involvement of all stakeholders in the IEC Campaign 2.0. He stressed on wider outreach and effective public awareness on drug abuse prevention by proactively utilizing the services of the resource persons nominated by the line departments. The Heads



of Departments were asked to ensure proactive role of nominated resource persons. "Non-compliance or absenteeism will be viewed seriously" the DC cautioned.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the progress reported by the Excise and Taxation Department, the DC directed the department to station enforcement team at Paddar to curb the sale of illicit liquor.

He also directed all Sub-Registrars to share lists of properties

belonging to persons involved in NDPS cases to initiate attachment proceedings.

The NRLM authorities were directed to furnish block-wise list of Self Help Groups (SHGs) for their capacity building. The DC also ordered declaration of the educational institutions as tobacco-free zones, strictly in accordance with the prescribed SOPs and testing protocols.

Further, the DC directed for random testing of drivers by the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) and joint initiation of wall paintings by the Municipal Council, Kishtwar, and the Excise and Taxation Department to spread awareness on drug abuse. He further directed to display toll-free helpline numbers

at prominent locations.

Stress was laid on intensifying awareness drives by organizing sensitization camps and Nukkad Natak across all 13 wards of the Municipal Council with active involvement of youth, parents and civil society members.

The Chair took serious note of the absence of the Drug Inspector and issued a strict warning to ensure his presence in all future meetings.

The meeting was attended by SSP Naresh Singh; ACR Idrees Lone; ACD Manoj Kumar; DSWO Tariq Parvez Qazi; ALC Manta Sudarshan; CMO Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal along with other officers and officials of the stakeholder departments.



India's dharma-rooted democracy offers a beacon of hope in turbulent times

MUSKAN BHATIA

NEW DELHI, 23 NOV : India needs to send a message of oneness, democracy, and inclusiveness to the world—the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — especially in today's turbulent times.

Seshadri Chari, a well known RSS ideologue and foreign policy analyst, addressed a gathering at Delhi's India International Centre said Indian democracy serves as a beacon of hope in an unstable neighbourhood.

He was delivering the III Memorial Lecture on the birth anniversary of GVG Krishnamurthy, former Election Commissioner of India.

Chari recalled the ideals taught by luminaries such as GVG Krishnamurthy, Murli Manohar Joshi, and others.

India, he said, has never faced a conflict between nationalism and internationalism because its civilisational thinking did not rest on geographical or political boundaries.

"We had no boundaries," he said. "Democracy has no boundaries, with our roots emanating from dharma."

In today's increasingly intolerant world, he felt compelled to clarify that dharma refers to "a set of laws," not religion.

Acknowledging that India is surrounded by countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal, that are grappling with conflict, he linked the region's tensions to a drift away from dharma.

He noted that, unlike many neighbouring countries governed



by the Western concept of theocracy, rule in the name of God or religion, India "never had a religion." A state, he argued, cannot and should not have one.

"We had what we call darshan, shastra—ideas, philosophies, and non-conflicting traditions," he said. "No two philosophers ever agreed on the same thing. That is why we have Dwaita, Advaita, and Vishishta Advaita."

Chari added that Indians even revered Charvaka, who held a worldview directly opposing the Vedas, as a great thinker. "Discuss, debate, and arrive at a conclusion," he said.

"Your point may not be right; my point may not be wrong, or it could be the other way around. But the willingness to come

together and talk is the essence of democracy. Vade vade jayate tattva bodha — through debate, truth emerges. Keep discussing. Keep debating."

Calling this tradition of discussion and debate the very essence of democracy for Indians, he said this mindset has been ingrained in people for ages and represents the highest form of secularism.

"For us, the king or ruler is not a representative of God. He is not meant to implement God's orders. No. Even the gods are not above the rashtra. Gods are not above democracy in this concept."

"This," Chari said, "is the origin of our democratic ethos, and the reason it survives today." Anyone who believes India's democratic

institutions are strong should look to history, he argued. "You will see that whenever someone has stepped outside the bounds of dharma, which is unchangeable, conflict has followed."

Circling back to the roots of Indian democracy, he noted that when people speak of democratic strength, they often say, "We have a Constitution that protects our democracy."

However, he argued, "the Constitution alone does not protect democracy." He quoted B.R. Ambedkar's address to the Constituent Assembly: "It is not the Constitution which is going to save democracy. It is the people who have to put that Constitution into practice."

Expanding on Ambedkar's

point, Chari said the Constitution is effective only as long as the people responsible for upholding it are themselves responsible. "If the people are bad, however good the Constitution may be, democracy will not survive. If the people are good, however bad the Constitution may be, democracy will survive."

Democracy's survival, he said, rests on society, on each individual. He argued that India's long tradition of democratic and inclusive thinking has endured largely because of the ethos of the Hindu society, which he described as inherently secular and inclusive.

According to Chari, neither the king nor the state holds society together. "The king does not control the state or the people.

The king does not make the law. The king does not keep society united or protect it. Governments don't protect society. Law-enforcing agencies, the police, the courts, don't protect society."

"It is the people who protect one another," he said. "And not on the basis of politics, fear of punishment, or law and justice, but on the basis of dharma."

Citing the Sanskrit saying na r j na r jasi na da ena cha gh tan —dharma eiva praj sarv rak anti sma parasparam ("Not the king, not the state, not punishment, it is dharma through which people protect one another"), he stressed that the duty of every individual is to safeguard dharma. "Dharmo rak atrak ita , if you protect dharma, dharma will protect you," he concluded. UNI

'Long peace is declining': COAS flags global turmoil, calls for rapid military reform

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 27 : Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Wednesday called for an accelerated transformation of the Indian Army to meet the challenges of an increasingly volatile global security environment.

Speaking at the opening day of the Chanakya Defence Dialogue (CDD) 2025, General Dwivedi said the world is transitioning through a turbulent phase where major powers are "continuously jostling and competing."

"The world has moved from the Cold War's bipolarity,



through a brief unipolar moment, into an uncertain and fractured order," he said. "With over 50 ongoing conflicts, to say we live in turbulent times may actually be an understatement."

As global geopolitics shifts toward deterrence, national security and warfighting preparedness, he said that India must confront a fundamental question: How should the Indian military transform to remain decisive and ready?

The Army Chief detailed a long-term transformation blueprint designed to build an integrated and technologically advanced force.

He identified four key "springboards" that will propel the Indian Army's next phase of transformation including Deepening Self-Reliance, Accelerated Innovation, Adaptation and Ecosystem Reform, and Military-Civil Fusion.

Highlighting the need for "deep cross-domain synergy," he said warfighting capability development must be a multi-agency and multimodal effort.

"The military is shedding inhibitions, opening ranges, funding start-ups and joining national technology missions," he said.

He stressed that academia, industry and the military must collaborate to build long-term global partnerships.

Based on the theme "Reform to Transform: Sashakt, Surakshit aur Viksit Bharat," the CDD is being organised by the Indian Army, in collaboration with the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS).

Speaking about the conclave, the COAS said that CDD's first edition was instituted in 2023 by his predecessor General Manoj Pandey after he declared the year of transformation for the Indian Army.

"It underscored that genuine transformation cannot be driven in isolation as it demands great understanding and cooperation with all stakeholders across the technology spectrum. Since then, this forum has grown in scale, depth and influence drawing some of the finest strategic minds from India and abroad," he added. UNI

Wealthy Indian states lag in digital adoption

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 27 : India's wealthiest regions are adopting digital payments at significantly lower rates than poorer states, according to new research which also highlights a sharp age and gender divide in the country's much-celebrated fintech revolution.

The study, published in the Journal of Emerging Market Finance by economists Nilanjan Banik and Pranjali Chandrakar, finds that older Indians and women are markedly less likely to use digital payments, even after accounting for access to bank accounts, smartphones, and internet connectivity.

Meanwhile, prosperous states such as Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Chandigarh show unexpectedly weak uptake compared with states like Telangana and Tamil Nadu. Drawing on a nationally representative survey of more than 40,000 households across 23 states, the researchers present one of the most granular analyses to date of who uses digital payments in India—and who does not. Their findings challenge the narrative of uniform digital adoption in a country that now handles nearly half of the world's real-time payment transactions through UPI. Despite this global leadership, the study notes that only 18 percent of respondents in the sample actually use digital payments. Age emerges as a decisive factor. Banik and Chandrakar find that the probability of using digital payments peaks among younger adults and declines sharply thereafter, with older individuals significantly less willing—or able—to shift away from cash. The gender divide is equally striking: women are seven percent less likely than men to use digital payments, a gap that persists across income groups and regions. The authors attribute this to lower digital and financial literacy among women, as well as entrenched social norms that limit women's control over household finances. Perhaps the most counterintuitive finding is the relatively low adoption in India's economically advanced states. After controlling for education, income and infrastructure, the study shows that richer regions are less likely to embrace digital payments.

The research argues that the dominance of high-value transactions in these economies, often exceeding UPI's daily transaction limit, pushes users back towards cash. They also point to the incentive to avoid tax scrutiny: digital payments leave a trail, and merchants and professionals in wealthier states may prefer the opacity of cash. UNI

Operation Sindoor showcased India's military strength and moral clarity: President Murmu

PARWINDER SANDHU

NEW DELHI, NOV 27 : Calling Operation Sindoor a watershed in India's counter-terror and deterrence strategy, President Droupadi Murmu said that it made the world take note not only of India's military capability but also of India's moral clarity to act firmly yet responsibly in the pursuit of peace.

The President was speaking at the Chanakya Defence Dialogue (CDD) 2025. Based on the theme "Reform to Transform: Sashakt, Surakshit aur Viksit Bharat," the two-day dialogue is being organized by the Indian Army in collaboration with the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) in the national capital today.

"The Indian Armed Forces have

exemplified professionalism and patriotism in safeguarding India's sovereignty during every security challenge—whether conventional, counterinsurgency, or humanitarian. They have displayed remarkable adaptability and resilience," the President said. She noted that the Indian defence forces have gone beyond their operational goals and remain a pillar of national development. "Apart from strengthening our frontiers, they have also contributed to border area development, from infrastructure and connectivity to education," she added.

Drawing attention to the geopolitical landscape, Murmu said it is changing rapidly. "The international system is being rewritten by contrasting power centers, technological disruptions, and

shifting alliances. New domains of computation, cyber, space, information, and cognitive warfare are blurring the lines between domains and competencies," she said.

Highlighting that the country has demonstrated that strategic autonomy can coexist with global responsibility, the President said that India's diplomacy, economy, and armed forces together project that the nation seeks peace but is prepared to protect its borders and citizens with strength and conviction. She further commended the Indian Army, stating that the force is transforming itself during this decade of change. "It is reforming structures, reorienting doctrines, and redefining capabilities to become future-ready and capable across all domains. UNI

ED arrests WinZO games directors, Rs 505 cr seized amid money-laundering probe

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI (NOVEMBER 27 : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday night arrested Soumya Singh Rathore and Pawan Nanda, directors of WinZO Games Private Ltd, and produced them before the residence of a Bengaluru judge. The court has remanded both the directors to ED custody and ordered that the accused be produced again on Thursday at 11:30 AM for a hearing on the arguments regarding the remand application filed by the agency. The arrests follow a series of recent searches conducted by the ED.

The ED's Bengaluru zonal team carried out raids at four locations

in Delhi and Gurugram between November 18 and 22, 2025, in connection with a money-laundering case linked to the WinZO Games app. The action was conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. During the investigation, the ED froze suspected proceeds of crime amounting to approximately Rs 505 crore, held in bank accounts, bonds, fixed deposits, and mutual funds linked to WinZO Games Pvt. Ltd.

The investigation began after multiple FIRs alleged serious offences by WinZO and others, including cheating, blocking user accounts, creating fake identities, misusing PAN cards, and



tampering with KYC records. Several complainants reported

that their KYC details were misused to conduct transactions in their names, resulting in significant financial loss.

The probe revealed that WinZO was operating its real money games (RMGs) in countries like Brazil, the USA, and Germany using its app from within India. It also emerged that despite a ban on RMGs by the central government from August 22, 2025, the company did not return approximately 43 crore to its users, and this money remained with the company.

A major revelation from the ED's investigation was that WinZO forced its users to play against software and algorithms instead of real players, while customers

were told they were playing against real people. The company had blocked many users from withdrawing money from their wallets, causing them losses. The company made illegal profits from the money deposited and lost by customers.

Furthermore, the ED's investigation revealed that WinZO was running its global operations from India and had sent large amounts to the USA and Singapore in the name of overseas investment. Nearly 489.90 crore (55 million USD) was parked in the account of a shell company named WinZO US Inc. in the USA, while all operations of that company were being conducted from India. UNI

Congress calls for Judicial review of Supreme Court's Aravalli definition

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 27 : Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday issued an urgent warning, calling for an immediate review of a Supreme Court-accepted definition for the Aravalli Hills. He cautioned that the new criterion could strip legal protection from approximately 90 percent of the vital hill range, opening vast tracts to unregulated mining and construction.

The controversy centers on

a definition recommended by the union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and formally adopted by the Supreme Court in a November 20 judgment. This new uniform definition classifies "Aravalli Hills" only as landforms in designated districts with an elevation of at least 100 meters above their local relief.

Ramesh, in a post on X, claimed the Ministry recommended the "100-metre-above-local-relief" definition

"ostensibly to restrict mining," but argued that the threshold would effectively exclude most of the Aravalli Hills from being legally classified as such.

Experts and environmental bodies have also voiced grave concerns over the court's acceptance of this high-altitude cutoff. The Forest Survey of India had previously warned that the 100-meter limit would protect only a few "guard posts" while surrendering the "fences below." The Aravalli range extends



from Delhi through Haryana and Rajasthan to Gujarat. Its lower hills are considered crucial for curbing desertification and air-quality deterioration in the

National Capital Region (NCR). Ramesh wrote that the revised definition "will have very grave environmental and public-health consequences," calling the court's

acceptance of the criteria "bizarre" and a case of "the road to hell paved with good intentions." Environment Secretary Tanmay Kumar defended the government's stance, stating that the Supreme Court had "commended the work of the committee" and "appreciated its recommendations aimed at preventing illegal mining and permitting only sustainable mining in the Aravalli Hills and Ranges." Despite the acceptance of the definition, the Supreme

Court's order temporarily halted the grant of fresh mining leases until the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) prepares a comprehensive Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) for the entire Aravalli stretch. The Congress party has now formally requested a judicial review of the definition, urging the apex court to reconsider the criteria before the MPSM is finalized. The matter remains pending before the Supreme Court. UNI





Bavuma's SA left 'no stone unturned' to conquer India after 25 long years

■ **FIRDOSE MOONDA**

GUWAHATI: At the start of 2025, South Africa coach Shukri Conrad encouraged his team to "just dream a bit" because "some of the best things happen in dreams" and they ran with it. They had already qualified for the World Test Championship final and dreamt of winning it. But even after that, even in their wildest dreams, they didn't go as far as thinking they would sweep a series in India, nevermind subject them to their worst home defeat. That was something they only believed when it became reality.

"Coming here, I would never have thought 2-0 would be the result of the series," Temba Bavuma, South Africa's still-undefeated captain, said at the post-match press conference. "What makes it sweeter is the fact that we've been on the other side of the result, so we know how dark it can be. It's an incredible achievement for the group of players. Again, we've gone on to paint ourselves in history and we are creating some memorable moments."

The last time South Africa won a Test series in



India was a quarter of a century ago, when Bavuma was a boy and two of his squad - both of whom made series-swaying contributions - Marco Jansen and Tristan Stubbs were not even born. To say that South Africa went into the India series with players who had mostly bad baggage or others who carried none at all is accurate.

Those things combined to deepen their resolve to give as good an account of themselves as they could, especially as mace holders with a reputation to upkeep. Under Conrad, and with their first-choice side available, South Africa have not lost a series (their only defeat was to New Zealand in 2024 with an understrength squad) and Bavuma holds the record for the most Test wins as captain before a loss (ten before Guwahati, 11 in 12 Tests after). Against an Indian side in transition, South Africa fancied their chances but they didn't fancy them this much. "I would have never confidently thought we'd walk away with a 2-0 series win and maybe that apprehension would have forced us to bring a higher level of intensity in our play," Bavuma said. "But also in our preparation, we made sure that no stone went unturned."

Apart from a helpful FTP, which saw South Africa tour Pakistan the month before heading to India, they also sent an A team, which Bavuma was part of, as an advance party for this series. That team played two four-day matches, albeit on benign surfaces in Bengaluru but against some of the Indian first-choice attack. The spoils were shared 1-1 and included South Africa A successfully chasing 417 in the second match, a sign that anything is possible. Bavuma scored 59 runs in the chase, which he described as the start of his uplevelling to meet the squad's standards.

"The boys were in Pakistan and they got a proper taste and sense of what's to come in sub-continental conditions, so the guys came in ready," Bavuma said. "For me, it was a case of getting up to speed with the guys having been out with injury. But coming back into the team, I felt as if the guys were at a higher level and the onus was more on me to up my game."

Bavuma missed both South Africa's previous Test tours to the subcontinent through injury. He had an elbow injury last year when they beat Bangladesh 2-0 and a calf niggle sustained in a white-ball series in England kept him out of the Pakistan Tests. Despite those absences, there has never been any doubt that it is his South African team, with Conrad calling him both their best batter and their leader. And it's clear that he is received that way. Bavuma received a standing ovation at Eden Gardens and was well celebrated in Guwahati and appears to have taken ownership of the job fully. He called his ascendancy "a process of discovery" that has come from being "a lot more assured of myself as a person and as a captain and of what I'm trying to do out there".

Two and a half years into the job of Test captain, and with the experience of the white-ball leadership under his belt, Bavuma's biggest lesson is the ability to delegate so that he does not carry all the responsibility on his own. "We have a lot of leaders within the team and it's understanding where certain guys provide value and allowing them to flourish within that space," he said. "I've got your Keshav [Maharaj], I've got Aiden [Markram], I've got your KG [Rabada] even though he wasn't there this time. From a tactical point of view, those are the guys, I can always bounce ideas around. I set that vision clear, but there's other guys who help me make sure that we're all on the same page."

ESPNCricinfo



Food charities benefit from Perth Test catering surplus

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

PERTH: Australia's two-day victory in the first Ashes Test at Perth has led to a record donation of surplus catering supplies to Western Australia's leading food rescue service. More than 51,000 spectators had attended the opening day of the series, and according to The Guardian, 20 pallets of fruit and vegetables, four pallets of sandwiches and salads, two pallets of bread and four pallets of milk and dairy, totalling hundreds of kilos, were donated to OZHarvest after the match, making it the single biggest single donation ever received in Western Australia.

"Every effort has been made to maximise food recovery," Mike McKenna, Optus Stadium's chief executive, said. "Our chefs are busy turning about 450kg of sliced tomatoes into passata, some of the excess milk will become white sauce and lemon wedges preserved for future use. Being able to support those in need is really a silver lining for the stadium team."

WA's deputy premier, Rita Saffioti, said the move was "community spirit at its best", adding that the redistribution of the supplies would aid charities, schools, women's refugees and individuals in need across Perth.

England's capitulation on the

second day, following a ten-wicket haul for Mitchell Starc and a stunning 69-ball hundred from Travis Head, left Cricket Australia with a \$4 million shortfall for the Test, even allowing for the cost savings in not having to open the stadium for the final three days.

The England squad left Perth on Wednesday. The majority of the squad is heading direct to Brisbane - the venue for the day-night second Test on December 4 - while three players, Josh Tongue, Jacob Bethell and Matthew Potts, have been drafted into the Lions' day-night fixture against Australia A in Canberra, starting on Friday.

You can't take cricket for granted, we need to get better: Pant

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

GUWAHATI: Stand-in skipper Rishabh Pant on Wednesday conceded that India needed to get better as a Test team, and said results cannot be taken for granted just because of playing in home conditions.

South Africa towelled India by 408 runs in the second Test here to complete a 2-0 series sweep, the first such instance for the visitors since their triumph under Hansie Cronje in the 1999-2000 series.

"It's a little disappointing. As a team, we need to get better. We need to give credit to the opposition. They dominated the

series, but at the same time, you can't take cricket for granted (because of playing at home)," said Pant in the post-match presentation.

Pant said India will have to learn from the series and get better in future. "We need to take the learning and stick as a team. We needed to be clear with our mindset. In the future, we need to learn from it and get better."

The wicketkeeper-batter admitted that South Africa played better cricket throughout the series.

"They played better cricket; cricket demands that you need to capitalise as a team. And we did not do that and that cost us

the whole series. The positive will be focussing on our own plan and that's what we will take from this series," he added.

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma was delighted to sweep the series. "It's massive. For me personally, I've been out of the game for a couple of months with an injury. Not every day you can come to India and walk away with a 2-0 series win. What's special is that we had dark days as a group and it's a credit to them. There's a big shift in our mindsets in terms of what we want to do. I think our preparation is something -- guys go out there looking to contribute," he said.

Bavuma lauded spinners Si-

mon Harmer and Keshav Maharaj for their consistency in the series.

Simon has the experience of playing here in India in 2015; he complements Keshav quite well. Bit more guile with the ball, it's a struggle to take the ball out of their hands. Simon was the man for us in this series, he said.

Off-spinner Harmer was adjudged the player of the series, and he said he will leave these shores with fond memories.

"Like I said in the last Test, it's been a long road. 10 years later, a completely different feeling. Will leave with a lot more fond memories from then. To beat a very good Indian team is a hell of an

effort. I was just watching our second innings, after 40 overs, the ball got softer and it became easier. But there was the odd-ball, the ball that Rishabh got. Nice to contribute, nice to get wickets and nice to get a fiver in India," said Harmer.

India captain Rishabh Pant addresses the media ahead of the second test match between India and South Africa in Guwahati, India, Friday. Marco Jansen was the player of the match for his all-round performance here, 93 runs in the first innings, and a match haul of seven wickets. Winning any game is a nice feeling and winning in India is special.

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