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Every Affected Family in J&K Will Have a Roof Over Their Heads: LG Sinha

Launches Massive Housing Initiative for Families Hit by Natural Calamities, 530 Homes in Ramban, Udhampur to be Rebuilt Free of Cost

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 29: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday launched one of Jammu & Kashmir's largest rehabilitation missions, laying the foundation stone for new houses for families whose homes were destroyed in recent natural calamities in Ramban and Udhampur. Reassuring full government support, the LG declared, "I will personally ensure that every poor affected family has a roof over their heads."

Under the initiative, 189 damaged homes in Ramban and 341 in Udhampur will be reconstructed as modern, three-bedroom prefabricated Smart Homes, with the entire Rs 52 crore cost to be borne by HRDS India. This forms part of a broader first-phase plan to construct 1,500 homes across Jammu & Kashmir for families affected by floods and by unprovoked Pakistani shelling during Operation Sindoor. Construction is tar-



geted for completion within six months. Expressing gratitude to HRDS India

for what he described as a "noble, historic intervention", the LG directed the

administration to ensure that all

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OP SINDOOR Showcases India's Brilliant Civil-Military Synergy : Rajnath Singh

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 29: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday hailed Operation Sindoor as a "brilliant example" of civil-military fusion, crediting seamless Coordination between India's administrative machinery and the armed forces for effective communication, public reassurance and a calibrated response to cross-border hostilities.

Speaking at the valedictory ceremony of the 100th Common Foundation Course at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie, Singh urged young civil servants to embrace their pivotal responsibility in safeguarding national interests and supporting the nation during crises just as "brave soldiers" do on the front lines.

"Operation Sindoor is a brilliant example of civil-military fusion where the administrative machinery worked seamlessly with the armed forces to communicate vital information and build public confidence," Singh told the officer trainees.

He said that during the operation, the armed forces demolished terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as part of a "balanced and non-escalatory response," asserting that it was Pakistan's continued "misbehaviour" that prevented normalcy along the border.

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CS Pushes 30,000 PM Vishwakarma Credit Linkages by Mar'26

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 29: Chairing a high-level review meeting of PM Vishwakarma Scheme today, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo directed the concerned departments and banking institutions to give a major strategic push for improving credit uptake under this scheme here.

He stressed that credit linkage is a significant pillar of the programme and must progress in tandem with training, toolkit distribution, and capacity-building components.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce (I&C), Vikramjit Singh; Secretary, Labour & Employment, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan; Managing Director, J&K Bank; Director, L&E; Directors, I&C Jammu/Kashmir, and senior officers of these Departments.

The Chief Secretary called for focused interventions to bridge the growing gap between sanctioned loans and actual disbursements. He directed banks to streamline procedures, minimize delays, and ensure that sanctioned beneficiaries receive funds quickly so that the scheme's benefits saturate at the grassroots.

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CS Chairs 17th J&K UTLBC Meeting

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 29: J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today chaired the 17th meeting of the UT-Level Bankers' Committee (UTLBC) in Jammu to review the performance of Banks and Financial Institutions in providing credit and other banking services during the first quarter and first half of the current financial year 2025-26.

He said that despite the ups and downs caused by the Pahalgam terror attack followed by cross-border tensions and floods that engulfed the J&K UT, lending to the priority sector has remained satisfactory. Agriculture, he stated, is a major opportunity, and the banking sector needs to provide appropriate credit to the sector for the economic upliftment of J&K.

He urged banks to come

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Tourism Must Be Responsible and Sustainable If It Is to Last: Omar Abdullah

CM launches SKÅL Kashmir Chapter to Strengthen Global Outreach, Promote Community-Driven Tourism

■ SHEIKH MUSHTAQ

SRINAGAR, NOV 29: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday inaugurated the SKÅL International Club - Kashmir Chapter in Srinagar, calling it a major step toward enhancing Jammu & Kashmir's global tourism connectivity and deepening international collaboration.

Addressing SKÅL representatives, industry stakeholders and senior officials, Abdullah said the organisation's guiding principles resonate strongly with Kashmir's tourism ethos. "The word SKÅL



translates into good health, friendship, long life and happiness—values that go beyond profit and reflect the most basic human aspirations," he said.

The Chief Minister observed that SKÅL's philosophy of 'business with friends' mirrors the camaraderie within Kashmir's tourism fraternity. "Many in the industry may be competitors, yet they remain friends. They sit together, dine together and respect each other—that is exactly what SKÅL talks about," he remarked.

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BSF Remains Alert 24x7, Whatever the Weather: IG Anand

BSF Restores Flood-Hit Border Grid, Vows 'Zero Infiltration' Along Jammu Frontier

■ MUKARAM ALI

JAMMU, NOV 29: The Border Security Force is fully committed to maintaining round-the-clock vigilance along the Jammu frontier and ensuring "zero infiltration" despite weather extremities or recent natural calamities, Inspector

General Shashank Anand said on Sunday, as he confirmed that flood-hit border infrastructure had been restored and strengthened within a month.

Addressing the annual press conference of the Jammu Frontier, Anand said the force had not only rebuilt the anti-

infiltration grid damaged during the August-September floods but also reinforced it considerably. He recalled that a Union minister had reviewed the situation on August 31 and September 1 and was assured that the damaged structures would be restored within a month. "We achieved that

target and strengthened the grid two or three times more. The damage became an opportunity for us to improve the system," he said.

Anand stressed that the BSF's readiness is unwavering. "In this sensitive border region, the BSF remains alert 365

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Red Fort Blast: 3 Doctors, Preacher Sent to 10-Day Custody

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, NOV 29: A Delhi court on Saturday sent three doctors and a preacher, who were arrested in connection with the Red Fort blast, to 10 days' judicial custody.

All four accused, Muzammil Ganaie, Adeel Rather and Shaheena Saeed as well as Maulvi Irfan Ahmed Wagay, were produced before Principal and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna, who sent them to 10-day judicial custody.

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Article 370 removal completed India's integration project: JP Nadda

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 29: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president and Union Minister J P Nadda on Saturday said the decision to scrap Article 370 "completed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of a fully integrated India", asserting that the constitutional provision had long remained an impediment to national unity and particularly to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), addressing the 'Sardar@150 Unity March' in Vado-dara, he said the removal of Article 370 in August 2020 enabled J&K to be placed "on the same constitutional footing as the rest of the country".

Nadda said Sardar Patel had succeeded in securing the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India, but the subsequent "political call" taken by independent India's leadership pre-

vented the state from being integrated at par with the rest of the Union.

"Patel had already built the groundwork. The complication came later," he said, adding that the current government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah "settled the issue that history had left incomplete".

The BJP chief accused the Congress of "systematically minimising"

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BSF Boosts Drone Warfare Capability

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 29: The Border Security Force on Saturday said that drone technology and aerial dimensions have become decisive elements of modern warfare, noting that conflicts worldwide — from Russia-Ukraine to Israel-Palestine — show how adversaries are increasingly exploiting the airspace.

India witnessed a similar tactic during Operation Sindoor in May, when Pakistan attempted to utilise aerial platforms for cross-border activities, Shashank Anand, BSF Inspector General, Jammu Frontier, told mediapersons, flanked by BSF DIGs Vikram Kunwar and Kulwant Rai Sharma. "The BSF and other agencies are tackling the challenge of drones. We are increasing our capabilities, and we hope to be even more successful in the next year," IG Anand said.

He said drone and anti-drone innovations are in a continuous process of research and development, with the BSF working closely with its industry partners.

"The future conflicts or cross-border firing incidents will inevitably have a strong aerial component, making counter-drone preparedness a top priority," he said.

The BSF has been dealing with

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Kashmir Night Temps Rise Slightly

■ HT NEW NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 29: The cold conditions in Kashmir eased a bit as the night temperatures improved at most places owing to cloudy skies but remained below the freezing point, meteorological department officials said on Saturday.

A layer of fog engulfed most parts of the valley, especially areas around water bodies.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.1 degrees Celsius on Friday night, up from minus 4.5 degrees

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Frozen Road Triggers Dal Lake 3-Vehicle Pile-Up

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 29: A multi-vehicle collision occurred on Saturday morning near Ghat No. 25 on the Nishat-Dalgate road axis in Srinagar after freezing water on the roadway created extremely slippery conditions, officials said.

A police official told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that three vehicles heading from Nishat toward Dalgate collided with one another after losing control on an icy stretch near the lakeside ghat. The vehicles involved in the incident included a military

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Sakeena Itoo lays foundation stones for multiple flood mitigation projects across Kulgam district

Says Govt. prioritising flood management & mitigation to safeguard vulnerable communities, infrastructure

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, NOV 29: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today laid foundation stones of multiple flood mitigation projects in several areas of Kulgam district.

The initiative is part of Government's major push towards strengthening flood mitigation infrastructure in areas like Arrigutnoo, Gudder, Nehama and Laisoo along the Veshow Nallah as well as on Nallah

Gujerpora across Kulgam district.

The projects, sanctioned at an overall estimated costs of around 1.50 crores under the CDF (District Capex) for the year 2025-26, aims to safeguard habitations and agricultural land along the vulnerable stretches of Veshow Nallah, thereby reducing the risk of flood damage during high-flow of water. It also marks a major step towards safeguarding vulnerable communities and reinforcing critical infrastructure in a region frequently impacted by seasonal



flooding.

Addressing the locals at various locations, the Minister emphasized on the government's commitment to protecting lives, livelihoods, and essential services. She noted that the new projects, ranging from channelization works and embankment strengthening, are designed to address long-standing challenges faced by residents during periods of heavy rainfall and other natural calamities. "These projects are not merely infrastructure upgrades, they are investments

in security, stability, and well-being of our people," the Minister stated.

She added that by prioritizing flood management, Government ensures that communities in Kulgam have stronger protection against natural calamities and uninterrupted access to essential health and public services.

Minister further highlighted the Government's continued commitment to enhancing flood protection measures and ensuring the safety of communities living along riverbanks and Nallahs.

Sakeena Itoo emphasized that such projects are vital for long-term resilience building and protection of public assets.

The locals, while interacting with the Minister at various locations, expressed gratitude to the Minister and Government for addressing long-pending demand aimed at protecting the area from recurrent flood threats, adding that these improved flood protection will bring a greater sense of safety and significantly reduce damage to homes, farmland, and key infrastructure.

Ayush Department Shopian conducts multi-activity Health Outreach Drives in District

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 29: Ayush Department Shopian today organised a series of health-oriented activities across the district aimed at strengthening public awareness, promoting healthy lifestyles and



enhancing the capacity of frontline health workers.

A training session for Multipurpose Health Workers (MPHWs) was held on Public Health Programmes under the guidance of Dr. Javid Ahmad Wani, District Nodal Officer Ayush Shopian. The session focused on improving community-level health delivery and equipping the workers with knowledge on preventive healthcare.

Simultaneously, the team of Ayushman Arogya Mandir Turkwagam Shopian conducted a Free Awareness Camp on diarrheal diseases in children, highlighting early symptoms, preventive measures, and the importance of timely medical intervention.

In line with the national vision of fostering a drug-free society, a Yoga session under the theme "Nasha Mukht Bharat" was organised at Ayushman Arogya Mandir (Ayush) Keegam. The session was led by a Yoga Instructor, who demonstrated various asanas and breathing techniques beneficial for mental and physical well-being.

DDC Shopian calls for saturation of social security schemes Stresses 100 percent farmer coverage under PMFBY

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, NOV 29: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today convened an important review meeting to assess the implementation, progress and challenges related to Crop Insurance and various Social Security Schemes being implemented across the district here at Mini-Secretariat.

During the meeting, the DDC took a department-wise review of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima

Yojana (PMFBY), farmer coverage status, awareness activities and steps taken to ensure that farmers are brought under insurance cover ahead of the cropping seasons. He stressed on ensuring timely enrollment and transparency in service delivery.

The DDC directed the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to work in close coordination with financial institutions and CSCs for field-level verification, proper documentation and regular monitoring of insurance cases.



He emphasized that no eligible farmer should remain uncovered

and that the district must achieve saturation under the scheme.

The DDC also reviewed the progress of new enrollments under the social security schemes and exhorted upon departments to strengthen coverage and monitoring mechanisms and ensure 100 percent coverage of beneficiaries under social security schemes.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ACR, Shakoor Ahmad Dar; SDM, Bilal Ahmad; CAO, CHO, District Manager, CSC and other concerned were present in the meeting.

Agriculture Department Jammu pays homage to Saint-Farmer Shri Bawa Jitto at Krishi Bhawan

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOV 29: An impressive function was organized today in the premises of Directorate of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo to pay homage to Shri Bawa Jitto (Baba Jit Mal Dev Ji Maharaj) — a legendary saint-farmer who made the supreme sacrifice nearly 650 years ago in the fight for farmers' rights and justice.

The Department of Agriculture Jammu paid rich tributes to this epitome of courage, honouring his stand against exploitation and suppression by landlords of that era.

The programme was jointly organized by the All J&K Agriculture Employees Association, Drivers Union, and staff of the Directorate of Agriculture, as part of the annual tradition observed after the Jhiri Mela.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture Production & Farmers' Welfare Jammu, Anil Gupta, said that Bawa Jitto's life continues to be a beacon of inspiration for all. He urged everyone to follow his ideals and contribute selflessly towards the



upliftment of the farming community. He recalled the historic sacrifice of the revered saint-farmer, which remains a symbol of justice and dignity for agricultural workers.

Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Sanjay Anand, highlighted Bawa Jitto's message of honesty, dedication and standing firm against injustice should guide the departmental workforce in their service to the farmers.

He stated that the best tribute to Baba Jitto would be to ensure timely delivery of schemes, services and support to the farming community across the region.

Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs),

Dr. Ashwani Sharma, also shared his thoughts, emphasizing that the values embodied by Bawa Jitto resonate strongly with the department's mission of empowering farmers through technology, innovation and transparency.

Senior officers of the Directorate of Agriculture, members of the Drivers Union and staff of the department participated in the solemn programme.

A special adoration and worship ceremony were performed, followed by the distribution of Prasad and Bhandara, marking the conclusion of the event with devotion and community spirit.

DM Reasi chairs NCORD Meeting; Stresses Coordinated Action to Curb Drug Menace

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

REASI, NOVEMBER 29: District Magistrate Reasi, Nidhi Malik, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review the implementation and enforcement measures aimed at curbing the drug menace in the district. The meeting was attended by SSP Paramvir Singh; ADC Rakesh Kumar; ASP Iftikhar, ACD and other concerned officers.

The District Magistrate reviewed the status of cases registered under the NDPS Act, including those under investigation and those disposed of. She directed the Police Department to fast-track pending cases to ensure timely disposal and strengthen deterrence.

Calling for enhanced synergy among enforcement agencies, Malik instructed the Police and other law-enforcement departments to improve information sharing and adopt a coordinated strategy to identify and dismantle the networks involved in illegal trafficking. She also emphasized special focus on drug-prone hotspots and strengthening ground-level surveillance across the district.



Reviewing the ongoing activities under the Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign, the District Magistrate directed all Block Development Officers to ensure that pending awareness events are completed on time with proper documentation. She stressed close coordination with all stakeholders to consolidate anti-drug awareness efforts at the grassroots level.

The DM also assessed the status of anti-drug awareness camps in schools and colleges, directing the Education Department to continue organizing extracurricular and thematic events to sensitize students about the harmful effects of drug abuse. During the review of inspections of pharmacies, the District Magistrate instructed the Assistant Drug Controller to intensify and continue random checks of pharmaceutical outlets throughout the month as per a structured schedule, ensuring all outlets are properly monitored.

DM Malik also took stock of counseling and rehabilitation efforts being carried out by the Health Department. She directed officials to maintain comprehensive profiles of persons with substance-use disorders, to be shared with the Police and other stakeholders for coordinated action. She further instructed that drug-testing kits be distributed among relevant field functionaries for timely use.

Reiterating the administration's firm commitment to tackling the drug problem, the District Magistrate called for sustained and collective efforts to safeguard the youth and ensure a drug-free Reasi.

Handicrafts & Handloom Dept unveils exquisite Table Book on GI crafts of Kashmir

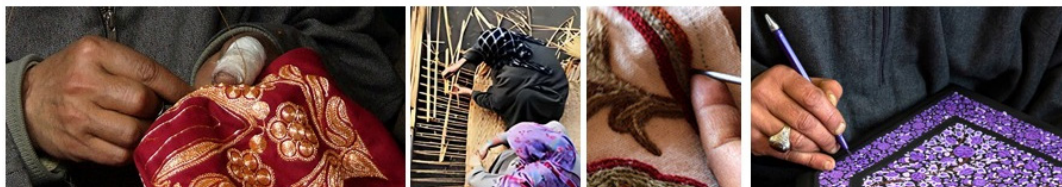
Brings art and the artisan on the same pedestal

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOV 29: In a landmark initiative to celebrate and safeguard Kashmir's rich craft heritage, the Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, launched an elegant hard-cover Table Book dedicated to Geographical Indication (GI)-registered crafts and the master artisans who keep them alive.

In a press statement issued here today, a spokesman of the department, emphasized that securing GI status is critical to protecting authenticity, cultural value and economic potential of Kashmir's iconic crafts. "The Craft Table Book beautifully weaves together the stories of these GI-registered treasures and the golden hands of the maestros behind them, serving both as a visual delight and an authoritative reference," he stated.

The initiative forms an integral part of Craft Safari - Kashmir's flagship programme under the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in which Srinagar has been



designated a Creative City of Crafts & Folk Art in 2021 and extends the highly appreciated 'Know Your Artisan' series launched under the broader Soulful Kashmir brand promotion campaign.

Kashmir has presently 15 GI-

registered crafts like hand-knotted carpet, Sozni and Kani Shawl, Papier Mache, Walnut Wood Carving, Khatamband, Wagguv, Gabba & Numda and is presently preparing dossiers for 6 more crafts like copper and

silverware, which shall be presented in GI Registry, Chennai, soon.

Designed with aesthetic sophistication by Department's Resource Cell team and printed in premium hard-cover format,

Discover
KASHMIR
G.I Crafts
Edition-2025

Embark on an unforgettable journey of Kashmir G.I Craft Safari 2.0 to explore Kashmir's rich craft and heritage.

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the Table Book is poised to become a collector's item and an ambassador of Kashmir's craft legacy. "In the coming weeks, complimentary copies will be distributed to all major Government departments, universities, colleges, schools, leading business associations, hoteliers, restaurants, and key stakeholders across J&K and beyond," he said, adding a link for downloading soft copy is also available at <https://dohh.jk.gov.in/pdf/CraftTablebook.pdf>

The spokesman hoped that the publication will spark deeper appreciation of the untapped potential of Kashmiri handicrafts in global niche markets and reinforce collective commitment toward preserving these irreplaceable living traditions for future generations.

The Directorate extended its deep gratitude to the Jammu & Kashmir Government and all partners who have supported this endeavour to place Kashmir's crafts and craftsmen on the pedestal they truly deserve.

J&K Judicial Academy organizes workshop on Family Court Matters

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOV 29: Under the patronage of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), guidance of Chairperson and members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy today organized a one day workshop on "Family Court Matters, including provisions under the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, Guardian and Wards Act, Resolution of Disputes, Execution of Orders and Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005" at Janipur, Jammu.

The workshop was inaugurated by Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Member, Governing Committee, J&K Judicial Academy. In his inaugural address, Justice Wani noted that the growing complexity of family disputes has increased the judiciary's responsibility to deliver timely, sensitive and legally sound interventions. He stressed the need for judicial officers and practitioners to stay updated with the evolving laws and to adopt a humanistic approach in matters of matrimonial conflict, child custody, and domestic violence.

Justice Wani highlighted that the Family Courts legislation aims not only to adjudicate disputes but to help reunite families. He observed that matrimonial conflicts often develop into serious human rights concerns affecting the emotional and psychological well-being of all family members, especially children. He emphasized that Family Courts must prioritise reconciliation, enabling parties to rebuild trust and relationships.



He further noted that the judges handling family matters often act as mediators and counsellors, guiding parties toward amicable settlement.

Referring to the reconciliation-driven mandate of the Family Courts Act, He stressed that meaningful efforts at settlement should precede adjudication, as this approach strengthens family bonds and promotes social harmony.

The programme commenced with the welcome address by Naseer Ahmad, Director, J&K Judicial Academy. He highlighted the significance of continuous judicial education in improving the administration of justice, particularly in matters relating to families, children and vulnerable groups. He emphasized the need

for strengthening the adjudicatory skills and sensitisation towards litigants appearing before Family Courts. He discussed that the Family Courts require more than legal knowledge, they demand patience, balance, empathy and sound judicial discretion. He added that a judge in these matters must maintain firmness with compassion, sensitivity with objectivity, and speed with fairness.

These are not cases to be treated routinely; each case represents a family in distress.

In the first session, Bala Jyoti, Former Senior District & Sessions Judge (Super Time Scale), delivered an insightful session on Family Court matters. She emphasised that marriage is a foundational social institution and should not

be treated as irretrievably broken merely because spouses live separately, as reiterated in recent Supreme Court rulings.

Highlighting the reconciliation-oriented mandate of the Family Courts Act, she stressed that courts must first make sincere efforts to assist parties toward settlement before proceeding with adjudication. She discussed dissolution of marriage, mutual consent and contested divorce, restitution of conjugal rights under Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act and key features of the Special Marriage Act. She also referred to landmark judgments such as Shilpa Saisesh V. Varun Sreenivasan on irretrievable breakdown of marriage.

The second session of the day

was conducted by Mandeep Reen, Advocate, High Court of J&K and Ladakh. She deliberated on the Guardian and Wards Act, protection of children's rights and the execution of orders in guardianship matters. She emphasized the growing importance of child-centric jurisprudence, stressing that the welfare of the minor must remain the paramount consideration in every custody or guardianship determination.

Mandeep Reen highlighted the responsibility of courts to ensure not just the legal protection, but also the emotional, educational and holistic development of children involved in family disputes, and underscored the need for sensitivity and timely enforcement of orders to safeguard the best interests of the child.

In the concluding session, M.S. Parihar, Former District & Sessions Judge delivered an insightful talk on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, focusing on its purpose, scope and practical implementation. He elaborated on the crucial roles played by the Protection Officers, Magistrates, service providers, police authorities and support agencies in ensuring timely assistance, protection and relief to victims of domestic violence.

Parihar emphasized the need for coordinated institutional response, sensitivity in handling complaints and effective enforcement of protection orders to safeguard the rights and dignity of women facing domestic abuse.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion, where the participants shared practical difficulties with the Learned Resource Persons and explored solutions.

Awareness Camps on PM Vishwakarma & PMEGP Schemes organised in Ramban

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 29: In line with the directions of Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Alyas Khan and Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu, Arun Manhas, the District Industries Centre (DIC) Ramban organized a series of awareness camps across the district to educate youth and aspiring entrepreneurs about various self-employment and industrial schemes.



Awareness programs were earlier conducted at Government ITI, Gool and BDO Office Sangaldan. Continuing the outreach, another awareness camp was held today at CSC Batote under the supervision of General Manager, DIC Ramban, Ravinder Kumar.

The camps aimed to generate awareness about PM Vishwakarma, PMEGP, NCNIS, and other incentives provided under the J&K Industrial Policy 2021-30.

During the sessions, Functional Manager Swaroop Kotwal and Project Manager Kuldeep Singh interacted with participants and highlighted departmental initiatives designed to encourage local youth to become job creators rather than job seekers.

Educated unemployed youth were sensitized about multiple benefits, including subsidies, financial assistance under PMEGP for manufacturing and service enterprises, and other Central and UT-sponsored schemes.

Participants were also informed about PM Vishwakarma, a holistic scheme aimed at upgrading traditional skills through modern training and technical support.

The outreach witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and aspiring entrepreneurs, who expressed their willingness to avail benefits under PM Vishwakarma and the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) implemented by the District Industries Centre, Ramban.

DC Doda Chairs NCORD Meeting

Directs strong Anti-Drug Measures across District

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, NOVEMBER 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Harvinder Singh, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sandeep Kumar Mehta, today chaired a meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review the implementation and enforcement measures aimed at curbing the drug menace in the district.

The DM directed the SDMs to ensure timely submission of geotagged photographs of the destruction of the cannabis (bung) weed in their respective jurisdictions. He stressed the need for proactive action under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and instructed concerned officers to intensify awareness activities across all schools.

Emphasizing the identification and mapping of drug-related hotspots, he directed ADCs and SDMs to prepare detailed area-specific reports where drug abuse or peddling activities have been observed. "There is a need for coordinated strategy to strengthen ground-level surveillance," he stressed.

The School Education Department was instructed to enforce CCTV coverage in all coaching centers and to initiate phased installation of CCTV cameras in government schools through CSR support. Schools and colleges were also asked to conduct regular counseling sessions to ensure early identification of vulnerable students.

The Youth Services & Sports Department was directed to enhance youth engagement



by organising sports activities and distributing sports equipment to encourage constructive participation and promote a healthy lifestyle.

To strengthen IEC activities in rural areas, the DC Doda called for coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to amplify awareness campaigns at the grassroots level.

The Transport Department was instructed to conduct mandatory medical examinations of drivers involved in rash or negligent driving and to take strict action, including cancellation of driving licences in cases of drunk driving.

The Assistant Drug Controller was asked to intensify random inspections of pharmaceutical outlets and ensure 100% compliance with CCTV and Computerized Billing System (CBS) requirements.

The meeting was attended by the SDMs, ACR, Officers from Civil and Police Administration and Other ADCs, Tehsildars through virtual mode.

SCERT Jammu hosts One-Day Seminar on 'Strengthening School Libraries in Learning-Teaching Process'

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 29: To revitalise school libraries and enhance their effectiveness in the Teaching-Learning process, the Library & Documentation Wing of SCERT J&K, Divisional Office Jammu, organised a One-Day Seminar on "The Role of Heads of Institutions of High Schools in Making Libraries an Integral Part of the Learning-Teaching Process."

The programme was conducted under the visionary mentorship of Shantmanu, Financial Commissioner and Director SCERT J&K and the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director, SCERT Jammu Division, and witnessed the participation of forty Heads of Institutions representing ten districts of Jammu Division.

The seminar commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest Prof. Sangita Gupta, Dean, Planning & Development; Head, Department of Library & Information Science; and Head, Department of Psychology, University of Jammu, along with Joint Director, SCERT Jammu Division and all Unit Heads and Coordinator of the program.

A cordial welcome address was presented by Ruchi Mohan, Associate Coordinator, followed by a concept note from Dr. Bhuv



Coordinator, outlining the aims, objectives and expected outcomes of the program.

Subsequently, the Chief Guest, Prof. Sangita Gupta delivered the keynote address, elucidating that today's libraries must evolve into dynamic centres of learning, collaboration and innovation. She urged Heads of Institutions to champion technology-enabled access and learner-centered library environments to meet the educational aspirations of the 21st

century.

In her address, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director, SCERT Jammu Division, stressed the need to transform school libraries into vibrant learning hubs aligned with NEP 2020. She underscored the pivotal role of Heads of Institutions in integrating library resources into classroom learning and assured continued support from SCERT in strengthening library systems across the division.

The seminar featured technical

sessions conducted by Vidya Lal, Chief Librarian, GDC Jindrah, who highlighted the leadership role of Heads of Institutions in ensuring effective integration of library resources with classroom learning to cultivate vibrant academic spaces.

Mansha Khajuria, Librarian, GDC Kathua elaborated on the significance of digital platforms and e-repositories in bridging learning gaps and enhancing access to information.

The smooth conduct of the event was ensured through the meticulous supervision of Sanjeev Suri, Head AU-I, and Parveen Akhter, Wing Head, supported by the organising team: Rakesh Chobber (Technical Coordinator), Bikram Singh, Rukhsana Gulbadan, Shamim Nazki, Arsh Kour and Pratibha Jamwal.

A significant component of the day was the observance of the 150th anniversary of the national song "Vande Mataram," articulated through inspiring video presentations underscoring its historical and cultural legacy. The event culminated in a valedictory session where certificates of participation were distributed to all Heads of Institutions and the programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks extended by Ruchi Mohan, Associate Coordinator.

DC Kathua reviews progress under District Capex Plan

Directs departments to remove bottlenecks, ensure quality asset creation

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KATHUA, NOV 29: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of works under the current financial year District Capex Budget plan.

The DC held a detailed sector-wise review of the pace of execution under PRI, BDC, DDC, APDP and ABDP components, covering key sectors such as

Health, Education, RDD, PHE, PDD and PWD. He also assessed the status of ongoing works carried forward from the previous fiscal, directing officers to fast-track pending projects.

Emphasising the need to remove bottlenecks at the earliest, the DC instructed field officers to visit sites personally in case of any hindrances, coordinate with stakeholders and ensure smooth progress on ground. He noted that proactive intervention at field level is essential for



meeting developmental targets.

The DC laid special focus on accelerating works in hilly and remote areas, stating that these regions will soon become snowbound and therefore require swift execution to avoid seasonal delays. He urged departments to mobilise adequate manpower and resources to complete works within the available working window.

The DC called upon all executing departments to adhere strictly to project timelines and

ensure creation of durable, quality assets across the district. He underlined that delays in execution will not be entertained, reiterating that any unutilised funds are liable for cut after 31st December 2025, making timely completion critical.

Among others, ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma, CPO Ranjit Thakur, ACD Akhil Sadotra, district and sectoral officers from all executing agencies and concerned departments were also present.

For God's sake! Stop fiddling with habitat of wild animals

On Friday evening some of the videos went viral on social media in which a bear could be seen running on the main road near the University of Kashmir. In the video it could be seen that the bear crossed the boundary wall and entered the campus of the university near the girl's hostel. The entry of the bear led to panic among the hostel boarders and the university authorities too were shocked about this development.

It is not for the first time that a wild animal has been spotted in an area of the Srinagar city. Some years back a bear was spotted in the Lal Mandi area of Srinagar in the vicinity of the complexes housing the different government departments. Over the years snow leopards have been spotted in many areas of the summer capital of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. In some of the cases human casualties came to the fore with the people becoming scared.

The presence of wild animals in the human habitation in Srinagar and other districts has been going on for a long period of time now. The basic reason for the same is that the habitat of the wild animals has been disturbed and people have come up with houses, hotels, guest houses and commercial establishments in the forest areas. Once the habitat of an animal is disturbed it is quite natural that the animal would find some other place to live.

Over the past few years numerous incidents of human-wild animal conflict have come forward in the Kashmir valley and some people especially children got killed in such incidents. Once the things are analyzed in a proper manner it has been noticed that the human casualties occurred due to the negligence of people and not the wild animals. Once a wild animal is spotted in a residential area the residents tend to take law into their own hands. They make use of sticks and other things and carry out an assault on the wild animal.

It must be kept in mind by the people that the wildlife department should be contacted once a wild animal is found in a residential area. Since the wildlife department officials are trained to capture a wild animal they should be allowed to carry out their job without any interference. Maximum possible efforts should be taken to capture the wild animal rather than causing any harm to the animal.

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Outsourcing the Human Mind



ABID HUSSAIN RATHER

We proudly believe that we are living in the most enlightened era of human history—an age of artificial intelligence, instant information and boundless digital creativity. We tell ourselves that machines are making us smarter, faster and more efficient. But beneath this comforting illusion lies an uncomfortable question: Are we actually becoming wiser or are we merely reproducing copies of copies until the original meaning fades away? We are living in what may best be described as the age of photocopy. Like a document repeatedly copied from an already faded page, our ideas, thoughts and expressions are slowly losing clarity. At first glance, everything seems abundant—articles, videos, opinions, artistic content flooding our screens every second. Yet abundance should not be confused with depth. The more we duplicate, the more diluted originality becomes.

The logic is simple and unsettling. Take a sheet of paper with some beautiful image on it and photocopy it. The first copy is nearly perfect. Copy that again and the image begins to blur. Repeat the process several times and the page becomes dark, smudged and the image on it becomes unrecognizable. This is not a technological fault; it is a natural consequence of replication. What happens to paper also happens to ideas. Artificial intelligence tools, after all, do not create knowledge out of thin air. They feed on human-produced material—books, essays, research, poetry, lived experiences. The problem arises when the digital world becomes dominated by machine generated content, which then becomes the training material for future machines. In such a loop, intelligence begins to feed on itself. The result is not progress but intellectual decay.

Experts have started warning about this phenomenon, often referred to as “model collapse” or “knowledge degeneration.” In plain language, it means that when machines keep learning from other machines, nuance and insight disappears. Emotional depth erodes. Mistakes—the very soil from which innovation grows—are ironed out. What remains is polished but hollow content which is technically sound, statistically average but emotionally empty. Another alarming cost of this process is the slow death of diversity. Artificial intelligence thrives on patterns and probabilities. It prefers what is common, popular and frequently repeated. Rare ideas, unconventional perspectives, minority voices and uncomfortable questions are quietly sidelined because they fall outside the algorithmic “norm.” In statistical terms, the machine worships the middle of the bell curve and neglects the edges. History, however, is written at the edges. Genius has never been average. Revolutionary poets, philosophers, scientists and thinkers were rarely standard or safe. Their ideas initially appeared strange, unreasonable and even threatening. In an ecosystem where only the “most likely” ideas survive, such creative madness would struggle to exist. We are already seeing signs of this uniformity. Music follows formulas, articles echo the same viewpoints, films feel familiar before they even begin. Everything is optimized—but nothing surprises us. When creativity becomes predictable, culture stagnates.

The real danger lies not in artificial intelligence itself, but in human surrender. When we stop thinking critically because a machine can summarize faster, when we stop writing because software can generate words instantly, when we stop struggling with ideas because algorithms offer ready-made answers—we gradually outsource our intellect. Resultantly, convenience becomes addiction and dependency becomes normal. Yet this moment is not only a warning; it is also an opportunity. Paradoxically, as machines become better at imitation and copying, human experience becomes more valuable. Machines can rearrange information, but they can't live through grief, failure, love, moral conflict or spiritual doubt. They can't feel the weight of regret or the quiet joy of understanding something

after years of confusion. Insight is born not from data alone but from experience filtered through consciousness. In the coming years, originality will be the new premium. The most valuable voices will not be the loudest or the fastest, but the most authentic. People who think deeply, question inherited assumptions and speak from lived reality will stand out in a sea of mechanical noise. This is why artificial intelligence must remain a tool, not a teacher. A calculator never replaced mathematical thinking; it only supported it. Similarly, artificial intelligence should assist human reasoning but it should not replace it. When that boundary blurs, we risk becoming intellectual consumers rather than intellectual creators.

Education systems, research centres, media platforms and individuals all share responsibility here. We must protect critical thinking, encourage slow reading, value reflection over reaction and reward originality over virality. Writing a flawed but sincere paragraph should matter more than generating a perfect but soulless one. We may indeed be the last generation to clearly remember what an “original print” feels like. This fact should not depress us but it should awaken us. Because if copies dominate the world, authenticity will shine even brighter. The future of knowledge will not belong to the most advanced machine, but to the human humans who refuse to think mechanically. In an era of photocopies, it is not technology that will save us but it is the courage to remain original. At the end, I must say that much has already been written regarding this concern and I am fully aware that no shortage of opinions exists on this subject. Yet, watching the rapidly growing culture of creating through AI and copying from it, I felt compelled to add my voice. When technology begins to replace thinking rather than assisting it and creativity is outsourced instead of cultivated, silence itself becomes a form of surrender. This piece, therefore, emerges not from novelty but from concern over how this trend is quietly paralyzing our capacity to think, imagine and create on our own.

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Army Conducts Landmark ‘Op Drishti’



BY M S NAZKI

Chalte Chalte, Mere Yeh Geet Yaad Rakhta, Kabhi Alvida Na Kahna, Kabhi Alvida Na Kahna.....The friendship between the Indian army and the people of J&K is eternal!

Light After Shells: How Indian Army Doctors Gave New Vision to Civilians Caught in Pakistan's Fury, Post Operation Sindoore.....was the topic of the story!

Jis din se nazar me aaye ho tum, kuch aur nazar to aaye naa, ise pyaar kahe ya paagalpan, ho ise pyaar kahe ya paagalpan, dil chain kahin bhi paaye naa!

Seeing Hope anew – How Op Drishti Restored Vision For Thousands in J&K!

During Op Drishti, over 2,000 people were screened and 400+ advanced eye surgeries performed in J&K, marking a landmark healthcare outreach by the Indian Army.

In a landmark healthcare initiative, the Indian Army conducted ‘Op Drishti’, a first-of-its-kind advanced surgical eye camp at the Command Hospital, Northern Command, Udhampur, from 18 to 22 November 2025.

Designed to deliver critical eye care services in remote and underserved areas of Jammu & Kashmir, this camp marked a turning point in civil-military healthcare collaboration. Over 2,000 individuals were screened, and more than 400 advanced eye surgeries were performed, including procedures for cataracts, glaucoma, and retinal disorders.

Why Op Drishti Matters: Access to specialist medical care, especially ophthalmological surgeries, is limited in mountainous and conflict-prone regions.

Through Op Drishti, the Indian Army bridged this gap by bringing top-tier surgical care directly to the doorsteps of people often overlooked in mainstream healthcare systems.

This effort is a significant example of how military resources can support public health—not just during emer-

gencies, but also through proactive, life-changing medical outreach programs.

The Surgical Powerhouse Behind the Camp:

At the heart of Op Drishti was a team of elite ophthalmic surgeons led by Brigadier SK Mishra, Head of the Department of Ophthalmology at Army Hospital (Research & Referral), New Delhi.

Brig Mishra, known for having performed eye surgeries on two Presidents of India, led a clinical mission that met the highest standards of precision and compassion.

His team worked with the staff of the Command Hospital, Northern Command, to provide comprehensive surgical and post-operative care for patients arriving from across the region.

Human Stories That Define the Mission:

The real impact of Op Drishti can be felt in the transformative stories of its beneficiaries.

Surinder Singh, a 72-year-old from Poonch, had been living with blindness for over two years. Once a victim of cross-border shelling during Operation Sindoore, he not only regained his sight but emerged as a local mobiliser, encouraging others to seek treatment.

Abdullah Shafeeq, a 56-year-old retired soldier from Mendhar, played a key role in organizing transportation and logistics for villagers needing eye care.

Rajkumari Devi, 96 years old, gained the ability to see again after years of visual impairment—one of the oldest beneficiaries of the camp.

These narratives illustrate how restoring vision restores dignity, independence, and a renewed sense of purpose.

High-Level Recognition and Support

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the closing ceremony virtually, applauding the Armed Forces for their dual role in both national security and humanitarian service.

The Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, also addressing the event, highlighted how Op Drishti exemplifies the Armed Forces Medical Services' commitment to the people of J&K.

Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha, attended the closing ceremony

in person, and Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh visited the camp on 20 November, personally interacting with patients and inspecting the advanced medical facilities at the ophthalmology department.

Long-Term Benefits and Strategic Significance:

Op Drishti delivered more than clinical services—it strengthened civil-military relations, restored community trust, and reaffirmed the Armed Forces' role in nation-building beyond warfare.

By addressing a pressing healthcare need, the camp:

Boosted regional medical infrastructure

Brought specialist services to hard-to-reach populations

Created a blueprint for future military-led public health initiatives

Static Facts

People Screened: Over 2,000

Surgeries Performed: Over 400

Lead Surgeon: Brigadier SK Mishra

Key Medical Conditions Treated:

Cataracts, Glaucoma, Retinal Disorders

Mere khayalo me, rehane lage ho tum, banke hasin nazaare, socha karun main, ye rishta hain apna kya, tum kaun ho hamare, ek tum hi pasand ho meri sanam, koi dusara to bhaaye naa, ise pyaar kahe ya paagalpan.....

Its for the people to decide!

For countless souls across the rugged, remote borderlands of Jammu and Kashmir, life had become an exercise in enduring the silent tyranny of darkness, their world reduced to indistinct shapes and memory. Into this pressing need, the Advanced Surgical Eye Camp at Command Hospital Northern Command, Udhampur, roared into existence, representing a monumental and compassionate healthcare offensive.

This advanced surgical eye camp, successfully screened a total of 1500 individuals, including serving personnel, dependents, Veer Naris (war widows), and local civilians.

The initial comprehensive screening, skillfully conducted by a diverse team of ophthalmologists stationed across the operational area of Jammu and Kashmir, was instrumental in mobilizing patients from remote, far-flung border regions under the leadership of Maj Gen Sanjay Sharma, Commandant Command Hospital Udhampur.

Individuals journeyed from places like Poonch, Jammu, Rajouri, Ramban, Kishtwar, Doda, and Udhampur, overcoming significant geographical barriers to seek care.

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

The camp delivered life-changing results, perhaps best exemplified by Rajkumari Devi, 96 yrs, having received the gift of clear sight, now has the precious ability to witness the world in full clarity.

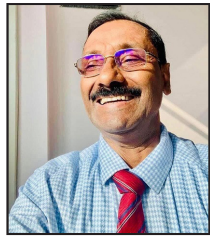
The genesis of this impactful medical mission lay in a shared vision of service, conceptualized by the Honorable Defense Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, following a request from the Honorable Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha. Responding swiftly to this call for vital healthcare outreach, Shri Rajnath Singh personally instructed the Army Chief, General Upendra Dwivedi, to ensure the immediate and successful conduct of this specialized camp within the operational area of Udhampur.

The critical responsibility for executing and overseeing the camp's successful completion was entrusted to Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, the Northern Command Army Commander, underscoring the mission's dual purpose: to provide expert medical care while showcasing the compassionate, human face of the Indian Army.

Rooted in its commitment to the nation, the Army has consistently been a forefront pillar in delivering essential medical facilities under the banner of Operation Sadbhavna, driven by an unwavering spirit of nationalism and patriotism. To guarantee clinical excellence, the Army Chief further directed the highest echelons of military medicine—DGAFMS Surg Vice Admiral Aarti Sarin and DGMS Army Lieutenant General C G Muralidharan—to meticulously plan and execute the camp's operations.

The final lines: Pyar Karte Karte, Hum Tum Kahin Kho Jayenge, Inhi Baharon Ke, Aanchal Mein thak Ke So Jayenge, Sapno ko fir bhi Tum Yunhi sajate rehna, Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna.....awaam Ki Awaaz!

Albert Camus: Conscience of His Generation



DR RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

I have one coincidental similarity with Albert Camus. I was born in the year 1957 when Albert Camus won the Nobel Prize. Like him I too respect my school teachers who lit the lamp of learning for the first time in my life. The first thing that Albert Camus too did after getting Nobel Prize in 1957 was to write a letter of gratitude to his school teacher. When Camus was less than a year old, his father was killed on the battlefield of WWI. He and his older brother were raised by their illiterate, nearly deaf mother and a despotic grandmother, with hardly any prospects for a bright future. In a testament to what happens when education lives up to its highest potential to ennoble the human spirit, a teacher named Louis Germaine saw in young Albert something special and undertook the task of conjuring cohesion and purpose out of the boy — the task of any great mentor. Under his teacher's wing, Camus came to transcend the dismal cards he had been dealt and began blossoming into his future genius.

Three decades later, Camus became the second youngest person to receive the Nobel Prize, awarded to him for the "clear-sighted earnestness" of his work, which "illuminates the problems of the human conscience." Camus recognized the impact of his former teacher with such "clear-sighted earnestness" in a spectacular letter, included in the last pages of Camus's *The First Man* translated by David Hapgood. I cannot resist the temptation of giving the letter of Camus in full in this article. Camus wrote to Monsieur Germaine,

"I let the commotion around me these days subside a bit before speaking to you from the bottom of my heart. I have just been given far too great an honor, one I neither sought nor solicited. But when I heard the news, my first thought, after my mother, was of you. Without you, without the affectionate hand you extended to the small poor child that I was, without your teaching and example, none of all this would have happened. I don't make too much of this sort of honor. But at least it gives me the opportunity to tell you what you have been and still are for me, and to assure you that your efforts, your work, and the generous heart you put into it still live in one of your little schoolboys who, despite the years, has never stopped being your grateful pupil. I embrace you with all my heart"

This letter was found in the bag that he was carrying during the car accident in 1960 which took his life. The awarding of

the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1957 recognized not only Camus' artistic achievement but also his moral seriousness. In his Nobel acceptance speech, he emphasized the writer's responsibility to serve truth and freedom, aligning art with ethical engagement rather than ideological propaganda. For Camus, literature was not a tool for preaching doctrines but a means of illuminating human experience, particularly suffering and injustice. His vision of the writer as a guardian of human values remains profoundly relevant in an era when public discourse is often dominated by extremes and simplifications.

Albert Camus remains one of the most compelling moral voices of the twentieth century, a writer whose relevance has not dimmed with time but has, in many ways, grown sharper in an age marked by uncertainty, political anxiety, and ethical confusion. To call him "the conscience of his generation" is not a rhetorical flourish; it is a recognition of how deeply his thought, his literary works, and his public positions articulated the moral dilemmas faced by individuals living amid war, occupation, ideological extremism, and spiritual dislocation. Camus did not offer comfort through easy answers, nor did he align himself blindly with grand systems of belief. Instead, he insisted on clarity, honesty, and responsibility, even when the world appeared absurd and indifferent. His works collectively form a sustained meditation on how human beings can live with dignity in a universe that offers no transcendent guarantees.

Born in 1913 in Mondovio, French Algeria, Camus grew up in poverty, raised largely by his silent, illiterate mother and strict grandmother after his father was killed in the First World War. This early experience of loss, hardship, and colonial marginality shaped his sensibility. Unlike many French intellectuals of his time, Camus did not come from a privileged metropolitan background. His attachment to sunlight, sea, and physical life in Algeria remained central to his worldview. Even in his darkest philosophical reflections, there runs a countercurrent of sensual affirmation, a love of the tangible world that resists nihilism. This tension between lucidity and love, between the recognition of suffering and the refusal to surrender joy, forms the emotional core of his writing. Camus' early essays, particularly those collected in works such as *The Wrong Side and the Right Side* and later *Nuptials*, already reveal a mind grappling with the silence of the universe. These lyrical texts do not yet articulate the philosophy of the absurd in formal terms, but they establish the fundamental intuition that life is both beautiful and unjust, luminous and fragile. For Camus, awareness does not destroy beauty; it deepens it. The Algerian landscape, flooded with light, becomes a metaphor for a truth that is harsh but clear, offering no illusions and demanding no submission except to reality itself. In these early writings, the seeds are planted for



the central questions that would dominate his mature work: how to live without appeal to false hope, and how to remain faithful to human solidarity in a world that offers no divine justification.

The concept of the absurd found its most systematic expression in Camus' philosophical essay *The Myth of Sisyphus*. Here, Camus defines the absurd as the confrontation between the human longing for meaning and the unreasonable silence of the world. This confrontation does not lead him to despair or suicide, which he famously rejects as a form of escape. Instead, Camus proposes revolt, freedom, and passion as responses to the absurd condition. Revolt, in this sense, is not political rebellion alone but a permanent state of consciousness — a refusal to lie to oneself, a decision to live fully despite the lack of ultimate meaning. Sisyphus, condemned to roll his stone endlessly up a hill, becomes a figure of tragic dignity, finding meaning not in the result but in the struggle itself. This image resonated powerfully with a generation that had witnessed the collapse of traditional certainties under the weight of war and genocide.

Camus' philosophical ideas find their most vivid and enduring expression in his fiction. *The Stranger* stands as one of the most influential novels of the twentieth century, precisely because of its stark simplicity and moral unease. Meursault, the novel's protagonist, is often misunderstood as a symbol of emotional emptiness or moral indifference. Yet Camus presents him not as a monster, but as a man who refuses to feign emotions he does not feel. His crime is less the murder he commits than his failure to conform to society's expected rituals of grief and remorse. Through Meursault's trial, Camus exposes the mechanisms by which society punishes those who do not play along with its comforting illusions. The novel becomes an indictment of a moral order more concerned with appearances than with truth, and it compels readers to confront uncomfortable questions about authenticity, justice, and social conformity.

While *The Stranger* captures the loneliness of the absurd individual, *The Plague* broadens Camus' vision to encompass collective responsibility. Written in the

aftermath of the Second World War and deeply informed by Camus' experience in the French Resistance, the novel portrays the outbreak of a deadly epidemic in the Algerian city of Oran. On one level, the plague is an allegory for fascism and totalitarianism, which spread invisibly and dehumanize ordinary life. On another level, it is a timeless meditation on suffering, solidarity, and moral choice. The characters in the novel — doctors, journalists, bureaucrats, priests — are not heroes in a traditional sense, but ordinary individuals who choose to resist suffering by doing their jobs honestly and refusing indifference. Dr. Rieux, the novel's moral center, insists that the only way to fight the plague is with decency. This quiet insistence on ethical commitment, devoid of grandiose rhetoric, reflects Camus' belief that moral action is grounded not in ideology, but in human compassion.

Camus' journalism and essays demonstrate that his moral concerns were not confined to literature. As an editor of the underground newspaper *Combat* during the Nazi occupation, he called for justice without vengeance and warned against the corrosive effects of hatred. His later writings on capital punishment, colonialism, and freedom of expression reflect a consistent commitment to human dignity. Nowhere is this commitment more painfully evident than in his stance on the Algerian conflict. As a French Algerian, Camus found himself caught between competing loyalties. He condemned colonial injustice and advocated civil rights for Arabs, yet he also rejected terrorism and feared the suffering of civilians on all sides. His call for a civilian truce was met with hostility from both camps, leaving him politically isolated. This isolation underscores his role as a conscience rather than a partisan. Camus refused to simplify a tragic reality into slogans, choosing instead to bear witness to its complexity.

The Plague marks a crucial development in Camus' thought, moving from the solitary revolt of the absurd individual toward a shared ethics of resistance. It affirms that even in a world without ultimate meaning, human suffering is real and demands response. Camus does not promise salvation or historical triumph; he offers instead a modest but unwavering ethic of solidarity. This approach set him apart from many of his contemporaries who placed their faith in revolutionary ideologies, often excusing violence in the name of a future utopia. The question of violence occupies a central place in Camus' later works, particularly in his philosophical essay *'The Rebel'*. Here, Camus undertakes a sweeping critique of revolutionary thought, from metaphysical rebellion against God to political revolutions that justify terror and murder. He distinguishes between rebellion, which affirms shared human limits, and revolution, which often seeks absolute power and total transformation. Camus argues that when rebellion forgets its origins in human solidarity and becomes

an ideology, it turns into its opposite, reproducing the injustices it claims to abolish. Writing at the height of Cold War polarization, Camus' refusal to condone state violence, even in the name of justice, placed him at odds with influential figures on the left, most notably Jean-Paul Sartre. This public rupture was not merely a personal quarrel; it symbolized a deeper moral divide between those willing to sacrifice present lives for historical necessity and those who insisted that no future ideal could justify murder.

Camus' plays further explore these tensions between power, morality, and responsibility. In *Caligula*, he dramatizes the consequences of absolute freedom divorced from ethical limits. The Roman emperor, confronting the absurdity of existence, decides to exercise his power without restraint, exposing the destructive nature of unchecked logic when it lacks empathy. The play functions as a warning against totalitarian reasoning that claims consistency at the expense of human life. The *Just Assassins*, inspired by a real historical event in Russia, examines the moral dilemmas faced by revolutionaries who contemplate political assassination. Camus gives voice to competing perspectives, allowing the anguish and doubt of those involved to emerge fully. The play does not offer an easy resolution, but it insists on the moral cost of violence, even when undertaken for ostensibly noble causes.

Camus' sudden death in the car accident in 1960, at the age of forty-six, cut short a life of intense creative and moral engagement. Yet the body of work he left behind continues to speak with remarkable clarity. In a world still plagued by violence, fanaticism, and existential anxiety, Camus' insistence on measure, compassion, and lucidity offers a form of guidance that resists both despair and dogmatism. He teaches us that acknowledging absurdity does not mean surrendering to nihilism, and that moral responsibility does not require belief in absolute truths. Instead, it demands attentiveness to human suffering and fidelity to shared limits. To read Camus today is to encounter a writer who refuses to flatter his readers or console them with illusions. He challenges us to live without lies, to reject cruelty even when it is justified by noble causes, and to find meaning in acts of solidarity rather than in grand narratives of historical destiny. In this sense, Albert Camus truly stands as the conscience of his generation — and perhaps of ours as well — reminding us that morality begins not in certainty, but in compassion tempered by clear-eyed awareness.

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Young people are growing tired of the illusion of being 'always online'



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

The blind competition for digital identity has put mental health, social life and real experiences in jeopardy. The growing influence of social media is having a profound impact on the mental balance and lifestyle of young people. The competition for likes, views, and followers has pushed them under an invisible pressure, where digital recognition is becoming the basis of self-confidence. Scrolling for hours, staying online all the time, and comparing oneself to others are giving rise to stress, insomnia, anxiety, and loneliness. Real relationships, conversations, and experiences are being left behind the screen. The solution lies in digital discipline, limited use, notification control, and prioritizing the real world. Balance is the foundation of mental peace.

Today's Indian society is going through a transition where technology is both offering opportunities and creating crises. The rapidly expanding reach of social media is the biggest symbol of this transition. Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, X, and other platforms have given ordinary people a platform unimaginable a few decades ago. But as much as this empowerment brought hope, it has also created psychological and social complications. The younger generation, entangled in the superficial pursuit of likes, views, followers, and becoming a digital celebrity, is becoming trapped in a vortex of mental fatigue and social isolation that is invisible but deeply weakening. The number of social

media users in India has surpassed 500 million—one of the largest digital communities in the world. The pressure it has placed on young people is even greater than this vast number. The habit of picking up the phone as soon as one wakes up in the morning and scrolling through the screen until closing one's eyes seems normal today, but this very normality has become the biggest threat. The desire to gain recognition through likes and views is gradually cutting off the youth from real life.

The most alluring and dangerous aspect of social media is that it creates a parallel world—a world where you can craft your own image, project a personality different from your reality, and frame your life within a dazzling frame. But the price of acceptance in this world is steep. To gain even a few seconds of attention, you have to constantly produce new posts, new photos, new reels, and new expressions. Young people are increasingly pressured to believe that if their posts don't receive enough likes or views, they've fallen short in some invisible competition. It's a competition for digital identity with no clear goal, no end, and no real winner. Every young person compares their own image to others. Someone else's smile, lifestyle, body, vacations, career, relationships—everything becomes a basis for comparison. This comparison undermines self-esteem, and gradually young people begin to feel that what they have in real life isn't enough.

Several surveys show that 59% of young people aged 18–34 admit that social media is affecting their mental balance. Problems like anxiety, stress, insomnia, overthinking, excessive excitement, and self-doubt are rapidly increasing. Two questions constantly linger in young people's minds: How many likes did this post get? What might people be thinking about me? The burden of these questions has become so overwhelming that even real achievements often feel incomplete without digital feedback. Self-confidence is no longer based on self-worth,

but on the digital approval of others.

Most worryingly, depression and loneliness have risen sharply among young people who spend excessive time on social media. They appear "connected" on the outside, but deep inside, they feel deeply disconnected. The decline in real interactions has also weakened emotional expression. It's a common sight in many families today to see everyone at the dinner table hunched over mobile screens. Parents can't understand why children are taking so long to create a post, or why a single photo requires multiple takes to get the perfect angle. The younger generation's emotions, communication styles, and preferences are rapidly shifting to digital formats, while older generations still value real communication and relationships. This generational gap has driven families emotionally apart.

Hanging out with friends is no longer an experience, but an opportunity to create content. Finding a "postable" photo everywhere has become a near-constant task. Relationships are gradually shifting from reality to a medium of performance. Many young people admit to being influenced by the "perfect relationships" they see on social media and harboring unreasonable expectations about their relationships, which later lead to disappointment.

The biggest problem with social media is the pressure to always be available. The constant barrage of notifications, the habit of responding to messages immediately, the fear of missing out on new trends, and the constant desire to appear updated are slowly draining the mental energy of young people. Digital fatigue has become a real problem today. Many young people are unable to sleep late at night because they fear they will miss something. Their concentration during the day is disrupted because their minds are constantly drawn to the screen. This cycle is endless, and the fatigue deepens as time passes.

The platforms' objective is simple—the longer the

user is kept on the screen, the greater the profit. Algorithms are designed to keep the user from scrolling. Videos play back-to-back, notifications are constantly tempting, and content is curated to make the user feel like "just a little more." This strategy has the greatest impact on young minds, who are still maturing emotionally and intellectually. They don't understand that this world of social media is constantly consuming their time, energy, and self-esteem.

As big as the problem is, its solution is equally practical—digital discipline. Young people should set aside a specific time every day—this will control habits and reduce fatigue. Turning off unnecessary notifications reduces mental stress. It's important to stop comparing yourself to others' "highlight reels." Focusing on family, friends, books, nature, sports, and creative activities provides positive energy. Adding courses on digital behavior and mental health in schools and colleges is the need of the hour. Parents should also maintain a restrained and sensitive watch on children's mobile usage habits.

Young people need to understand that their true talents, emotions, creativity, and hard work are more valuable than the statistics displayed on a screen. Life's meaning is not built on digital applause, but on real experiences, relationships, and self-development. Social media has certainly made the world smaller, but if its use is not restrained, it also shrinks the scope of our own lives. It's time for young people to awaken from this illusion, distance themselves from the screen, and return to their true identities. Because this race for likes and views is endless—and it is sure to tire. But the paths in the race of life are endless, meaningful, and true.

The author is a Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist, 333, Fairy Garden, Kaushalya Bhawan, Barwa (Siwani) Bhiwani, Haryana - 127045

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SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Today we have various fitness equipment available outdoors—like in gym centres, public parks, and even in our homes. In previous years, exercise was considered useless, but now it has become people's favourite and one of the most important practices.

In today's era, people face severe health issues like obesity, gastrointestinal problems, fatty liver, heart-related issues, orthopaedic problems, and several other risks.

Our body performs countless functions; every function is under the control of nature, like the processes of digestion, blood circulation, and excretion of waste material.

When we keenly observe our body's functions, it clearly seems that someone is in control, and no human creature can perform such miracles. Alhamdulillah! Every creature believes there is a divine power behind all these phenomena, and this power controls even invisible particles like cells and atoms.

Cell:

It is the fundamental, structural, and functional unit of life. Almost every living organism is made up of cells, whether multicellular or unicellular. There are about 25 trillion living cells in an adult human. Different organelles present in a cell include:

Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER):

A network of membranes involved in the synthesis of proteins and lipids.

Golgi Apparatus (Golgi Complex):

Modifies, sorts, and packages proteins and lipids for secretion or delivery to other organelles.

Ribosomes:

Sites of protein synthesis.

Lysosomes:

Sac-like structures containing enzymes that digest waste material and cellular debris.

Vacuoles:

Membrane-bound sacs that store water, nutrients, and waste products.

KEEP HEALTHY AND SAFE

Peroxisomes:

Break down fatty acids and detoxify harmful substances.

Cytoskeleton:

A network of protein filaments that provides structural support and aids in cell movement.

Centrioles:

Involved in cell division in animal cells.

Chloroplasts (in plant cells):

Sites of photosynthesis that convert light energy into chemical energy.

Atom: Every non-living thing is made up of atoms. They are so tiny that we cannot see them with the naked eye. The structure of an atom consists of shells and a central nucleus.

I have mentioned this to remind us that Almighty is a superpower. We humans only study and research things that already exist in the universe. So say Alhamdulillah! and hope for the best. We have been gifted a great mind that can bring revolution, and that mind itself is bestowed by our Creator.

It is very unfortunate that today, in the age of cutting-edge technology, we still lack proper treatment for certain dreadful diseases like cancer, AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome), and several chromosomal disorders.

I have tried a little to understand the mercies of the Almighty upon us and why we are going astray. Why do we claim we are something? We chant, "This country is powerful; that country is helpless." Always keep in mind that every creature is important and every bit is important.

Today, in this article, I am sharing my opinion on how regular exercise is important for our good health and how it keeps us happy, fit, and healthy.

First of all, we must understand what is more important in our lives—health, money, buildings, fame, etc.

Everyone prioritises health first and then other needs. But in today's era, we motivate people to achieve milestones, yet we hardly motivate them to prioritise health first and then move ahead with full fitness and a smile on their face.

Some people are lucky because their profession involves physical work, like labourers and workers, but unfortunately, they earn very little—an income that cannot support their livelihood. Labourers deserve immense applause and beneficial schemes like a minimum monthly remuneration of 10,000 rupees so they do not feel insecure.

Sportsmen are also lucky; they gain fitness, charm, fame, and money through



regular physical activity.

Some people complain that they do not have time for regular exercise. I suggest setting up a home gym.

What is a home gym?

A home gym means keeping a separate room, if available, or keeping some basic equipment so that all parts of your body can be exercised daily. If you have a separate room, keep adding equipment whenever you are financially stable, and request your relatives to bring gym equipment instead of extravagant gifts on special occasions.

Benefits of Bodybuilding

I was in the 8th class when I started doing gym exercises; within Kashmir, bodybuilding is commonly known as the iron game. I met great and kind people there, including teachers, business personalities, sports personalities, and government employees who helped me and built my interest.

After facing odds and evens, I gained joyful feelings, and many unhealthy issues disappeared, like fatigue. I got a glow on my face and felt hydrated and fresh the whole day.

So, based on my experience, I suggest my beloved friends join a gym to enhance their personality, stay away from drugs,

build interest in sports, and remain gentle and kind.

Before setting up a home gym, consult a good trainer who will guide you on how to cover your whole body regularly, what equipment is necessary, and how to engage your siblings and parents. I hope you will enjoy your life.

We can also set up mini gym centres at school level, which may raise awareness among students. They will learn the importance of exercise and get involved in this beneficial activity.

I think at the college level we have gym centres, but students don't get a chance to use them because the administration keeps them locked so the equipment stays fresh. It is better to keep them open and allow interested students to use them so they feel relaxed and reduce anxiety.

In villages, youngsters are getting involved in drugs, smoking, and other unnecessary activities. It is our duty to eradicate these evils and introduce healthy activities in society.

Gym centres can keep our youth away from anxiety and depression and improve their health.

Exercise truly keeps us happy, healthy, and rejuvenated.

sahilmanzoora411990@gmail.com



SURINDERPAL SINGH

Garlic (*Allium sativum*) has been a cornerstone of traditional medicine for thousands of years, widely used in ancient Egyptian, Greek, Indian and Chinese healing systems. Today, modern scientific research supports many of the medicinal claims historically linked to garlic—especially its antimicrobial, cardioprotective and antioxidant effects. In an era increasingly marked by chronic diseases, pollution and fast-paced lifestyles, garlic stands out as an accessible functional food with notable health benefits.

Why Garlic Matters in Daily Life

Garlic contains more than 200 bioactive compounds that influence multiple physiological systems. Its daily consumption supports:

- **Cardiovascular health by lowering cholesterol and blood pressure.**
- **Stronger immunity, enhancing the body's defense mechanisms.**
- **Antimicrobial protection against bacteria, viruses and fungi.**
- **Improved metabolism, including better insulin sensitivity.**
- **Antioxidant action, reducing cellular damage and slowing ageing.**

Affordable and easy to incorporate into meals, garlic remains a practical public health tool for promoting wellness.

Can Garlic Prevent Cancer? – A Scientific Review

Garlic has been widely studied for its cancer-preventive potential. While it cannot be considered a cure, research suggests several biological mechanisms that may reduce cancer risk.

How Garlic Helps Lower Cancer Risk

- **Allicin & Organosulfur**



Compounds

- Trigger cancer cell death
- Block DNA mutations
- Slow tumor growth
- **Antioxidant Action**
- Reduces oxidative stress, a key cause of cancer development
- **Anti-inflammatory Properties**
- Lowers chronic inflammation, a major cancer driver
- **Enhanced Detoxification**
- Boosts enzymes that neutralize carcinogens

Research Highlights

- **Large population studies from China, Europe and the U.S. show reduced stomach, colorectal and prostate cancer risk among regular garlic consumers.**
- **Laboratory studies demonstrate garlic's ability to inhibit cancer cells in breast, lung, liver and colon tissues.**

Scientists emphasize that garlic supports prevention, but does not replace medical treatment or screening.

Does Garlic Make Water Alkaline?

Scientific evidence shows garlic does not make water alkaline.

While garlic contains alkaline minerals, they do not dissolve sufficiently to change water's pH.

However, garlic-infused water may still provide benefits such as:

- **Mild antimicrobial effects**
 - **Antioxidants**
 - **Improved digestion**
- But it is not alkaline water.

Medical Benefits of Garlic: Evidence-Based Overview

- **Cardiovascular Benefits**
- Lowers LDL and triglycerides
- Raises HDL
- Reduces arterial stiffness
- Lowers blood pressure

Antimicrobial Properties

Effective against:

- Bacteria (*E. coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*)
- Fungi
- Several viruses

- **Immune System Support**
- Stimulates macrophages, natural killer cells and lymphocytes.

- **Antioxidant & Anti-inflammatory Effects**
- Reduces free radicals and inflammatory markers, protecting against chronic diseases.

- **Metabolic Health**
- Improves insulin sensitivity
- Helps regulate blood sugar
- Improves lipid metabolism

Pros and Cons of Using Garlic

- **Scientifically validated health benefits**
- **Supports heart health**
- **Boosts immunity**
- **Natural antimicrobial agent**
- **Strong antioxidant properties**
- **Affordable and accessible**
- **Many forms usable—raw, cooked, aged or supplements**

Cons

- **Digestive discomfort in some individuals**
- **Mild blood-thinning effects**
- **Rare allergic reactions**
- **Strong breath and body odor**
- **Possible interaction with blood thinners and certain medications**
- **Raw garlic may irritate the digestive tract**

Conclusion

Garlic remains one of nature's most powerful medicinal foods, blending ancient wisdom with modern scientific validation. Its cardiovascular, antimicrobial, immune-boosting and antioxidant benefits make it highly valuable in everyday diets. Growing research points to garlic's role in reducing cancer risk, though it is not a replacement for medical care. Claims about garlic alkalizing water are scientifically inaccurate, although garlic water may still offer other health advantages.

As chronic diseases rise globally, incorporating garlic responsibly into daily meals offers a simple and effective way to support long-term health.

The Author is a Faculty, Science Department Sri Amritsar Sahib, Punjab

Dr Tasaduk inducted into prestigious UK Faculty of Public Health

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



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

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

Last Working Day at Middle School Level Marks a Resonant Finish: Massive Enrollment Drive Held at GUPS Kukroosa and Waisa



JAVAID BHAT

KUPWARA, NOV 29: In a remarkable show of commitment and community outreach, the staff observing their last working day at the Middle School level concluded their session with an inspiring and impactful event. A mega Enrollment Drive Campaign was organised at GUPS Kukroosa and GUPS Waisa, drawing an impressive gathering of parents, students, civil society members, and education officials. The event, charged with enthusiasm and purpose, symbolised both a closure and a new beginning. While it marked the end of the staff's journey at the Middle School level, it also demonstrated their unwavering dedication to strengthening the education system at the grassroots. Teachers, even on their concluding day, participated actively in mobilising the community, visiting households, motivating parents, and ensuring maximum awareness regarding the importance of school enrollment.

Colorful banners, motivational placards, and student-led slogans added vibrancy to the event, making the campaign not only effective but emotionally enriching for all participants.

The campaign was significantly bolstered by the presence of the Cluster Head Kukroosa and the ZEPO Vilgam, both of whom addressed the gathering and applauded the efforts

of the teachers and field functionaries.

The Cluster Head, Farooq Ahmad Bhat in his address, noted:

"It is heartening to see such commitment from educators who are wrapping up their Middle School tenure today. Their dedication to the mission of 'Every Child in School' is a lesson for all. Enrollment drives are not just events—they are pathways to shaping a brighter future."

ZEPO Javed ul Hassan Peer, while appreciating the massive turnout, remarked:

"GUPS Kukroosa and its surrounding schools have set an example of how collective spirit can translate into real change. The enthusiasm shown by the faculty, parents, and the community is commendable. Even on their final day at this level, the teachers have delivered a strong message of service and responsibility."

Parents and local residents responded wholeheartedly to the campaign. Many expressed their appreciation for the schools' efforts in not just teaching children but in consistently reaching out to ensure that no child remains out of the schooling fold. The participation of community elders added further credibility to the movement, reassuring parents about the standards and evolving facilities in government schools.

The essence of the program revolved around encouraging parents to prefer government schools for

foundational learning, given the robust infrastructure, trained staff, NEP-aligned curriculum, and student-centric initiatives already in place. Teachers elaborated on various incentives including free textbooks, uniforms, scholarships, midday meals, and the availability of qualified subject-specific teachers, making government schools a credible and accessible choice.

For the staff concluding their Middle School assignments, the day held deep emotional significance. Their relationships with the community, and contributions to shaping young minds were fondly remembered during interactions. Many teachers expressed that being part of such a meaningful event on their final day was both fulfilling and symbolic of the larger mission they have always upheld. As the campaign culminated, fresh admissions were recorded on the spot, reflecting the success of the joint efforts. The teachers, officials, and community members dispersed with a renewed sense of purpose and optimism for the academic future of the children.

The massive Enrollment Drive at GUPS Kukroosa and Waisa stood as a powerful reminder that the strength of the education system lies in collaboration. Even as careers transition and roles evolve, the commitment to the cause of education continues unabated.

Public Notice

We have lost C Form of Ashraf Joinery Works vide No. 06V-091984 to 06V-091993 some where. If anybody have found these C Forms please return them to the below mentioned address.

**MOHAMMAD ASHRAF BHAT
S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD BHATR/O
BILALABAD, KRALPORA BUDGAM**

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 MUSHTAQ
R/O KREERI BARAMULLA**

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 MUSHTAQ
R/O KREERI BARAMULLA**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Public Notice

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

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

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 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

I have lost my passport bearing no W5555755 now I am applying for it's duplicate in this regard if anybody having any objection may file the same to government Pass port office srinagar within 7 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

**SHIEKH IMRAN ALI, DOB 05/06/1989
S/O ALI MOHD SHIEKH, M/O SAJAMA BEGUM
W/O YASMEENA BANO
R/O KHARAMABAD VODHPORA
TEHSIL HANDWARA
DISTRICT KUPWARA**

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, R&B DIVISION, URI Extension Notice

Subject: Elementary Building less School (Primary) at PS Pashawari.

Ref: e-NIT No. 74 (sr No.1) of 2025-26 issued under endrst No. 2025-26/ 6418-24 dated: 17-11-2025.

In view of poor response, the bid submission for above mentioned work is hereby extended upto 04-12-2025 upto 01:00 PM and opening of Bid online shall be 04-12-2025 at 02:00 PM. All other terms and conditions will remain the same.

No: 2025/6922-26 | Dated: 28-11-2025

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,
R&B Division, Uri**

DIPK: 8555/25 | Dated: 29-11-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, SRINAGAR

Near Petrol Pump Baghi Ali Mardan Khan, Srinagar -190011

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S LE-DELICE I/E Khunmoh, Srinagar stands formally registered with this office under No. 01/003/09617/PMT/MSME dated 16.09.2025, for the activity of "Manufacturing of Bakery and Confectionery by Mechanical Process", as a Proprietor Mr. Mir Najmus Saqib S/o Mr. Salik Mansoor R/o Chinar Bagh Gagribal, Srinagar with its location at Industrial Estate Khunmoh, Srinagar.

Now, the Promoter of the unit has approached this office with the request to transfer the lease hold rights of the unit to a Private limited Company under name and style M/s LE-DELICE Private Limited I/E Khunmoh.

Any person having any objection with regard to the above proposed change shall report to the office of General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

**Sd/- General Manager
District Industries Centre Srinagar**

DIPK: 8552/25 | Dated: 29-11-2025

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.

Ground Water Division Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar

E- mail: phevwd@yahoo.com | Tel./ Fax No: 0194-2411285

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

GIST of Detailed e- NIT No: 64/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26

For and on behalf of Government of UT of J&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Firms/Companies/drilling agencies/Joint Ventures etc for "registered Contractors of Civil Contractors " (CIVIL)" having similar type of experience of Civil Works" as per details given below. The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S.No	Name of work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Earnest money	T.D Cost	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Major Head /Sub-Head	Tender Call
1.	Repair and renovation of Divisional Office by way of Face Lifting to the Divisional Office Building of Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground water Division Srinagar Under M&R.	Rs. 2.46 Lacs	Rs. 7,500/-	Rs.100/-	07 days	Civil	M & R	1 st

Position of Funds: Available

1. Authorization conveyed by the Chief Engineer Kashmir (Jal Shakti) PHE Deptt. Srinagar vide letter No: CE/PHE/DB/9394-95, dated: 10-07-2024.
2. Superintending Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Circle North Srinagar's letter No: PHE/MCN/238/1357-58, dated: 30-07-2024

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: <https://www.jktenders.gov.in>

From 28.11.2025 (10:00 AM) UPTO 09-12-2025 (03:00 PM)

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: <https://www.jktenders.gov.in>

As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below

Table-II

1.	Publishing Date	28-11-2025 (10:00 A.M)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	28-11-2025 (10:00 A.M) upto 09-12-2025 (03:00 P.M)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	28-11-2025 (10:00 A.M) upto 09-12-2025 (03:00 P.M)
4.	Date of opening of Tender.	10-12-2025 (01:00 P.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011	
6.	Cost of Tender Document : Non-Refundable should be in form of DD /TR/e-challan/ via online deposited to Account Head 0215 or in the below mentioned account Number in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar(at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)	
	Name of Bank	Jammu & Kashmir Bank
	Name of Branch	Residency Road, Lal Chowk-190001
	Name of Account	Executive Engineer PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar.
	Account Type	Current Accounts Government.
	Account Number	0005 0405 0004 7709
	IFSC Code	JAKA0CHINAR
	MICR Code	190051056
NOTE: In case the firm/agency/contractor submits/uploaded scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of of DD /TR/ e-challan/ via online, the hard copies shall have be submitted in the divisional office before opening of cover 2 nd (Financial Cover) of e-NIT		
7.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.Jktenders.gov.in	

Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR and (The date of CDR/FDR etc must not be prior to 03 months from the date of issuance of this e-Nit and Treasury Receipt (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the NIT) as cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 10.12.2025 at 01:00 pm. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

**No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp/ 13802-10
Dated: 27-11-2025**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar**

DIPK: 8531/25 | Dated: 29-11-2025

Public Notice

I Ali Mohd Sofi am holding 1000 of shares in J&K Bank under Folio JKB013938 where my name has been inadvertently recorded as Ali Mohammad Sofi which is incorrect, whereas my actual name is Ali Mohd Sofi. In this regard I am applying for correction of name under my Folio. If anybody has any objection, may contact J&K Bank Corporate Headquarters within seven days from the publication of this notice after which no objection shall be entertained.



Div Com Kashmir reviews traffic decongestion plan for Srinagar City

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 29: To address persistent traffic congestion at critical junctions and routes across Srinagar, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting of the Multi-Disciplinary Committee to review the implementation and impact of various interventions being implemented by the Regional Traffic Authority (RTA) and Smart City.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; Commissioner SMC/CEO SSCL, Faz Lul Haseeb; SSP Traffic City, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat; ADC Srinagar, RTO Kashmir, Chief Engineer PWD, and officers from Srinagar Smart City Limited.

The Div Com reviewed the effectiveness of the recently introduced one-way traffic system in Downtown Srinagar, and instructed SSP Traffic to explore similar measures in other congested routes of the city.

To minimise disruption caused by public transport, the Div Com directed the identification and establishment of designated bus stops in the city to prevent frequent, unregulated halts that contribute to traffic jams.

He further issued instructions to implement colour-coded vehicle zoning for eastern and western corridors to ensure that Mini buses



operate strictly within permitted routes.

Meanwhile, he directed CEO SSCL for completion of traffic light installation at all junctions by December 10 and ensure functionality of all ITMS cameras by December 30.

Garg also called for completion of work of e-bus charging station at Zoonimar at the earliest, and also directed immediate commencement of work on charging stations at Hazratbal and Batamaloo.

Further, PWD officials were instructed to begin the process of

removing road bottlenecks, and to initiate rehabilitation of shopkeepers and families affected by land acquisition for road widening projects.

RTO Kashmir was asked to identify and regulate illegally operating maxi-cab stands and share the report with the stakeholder departments.

Also, the Div Com called for the identification of black spots and unsafe median cuts requiring urgent corrective measures, in consultation with all stakeholder agencies.

Later, the Divisional

Commissioner undertook an extensive city tour along with the DC Srinagar, Commissioner SMC/CEO SSCL, SSP Traffic City, ADC Srinagar, Joint Commissioner SMC, and other officers to assess on ground traffic issues and issued on spot directions for corrective measures and modifications.

At Jahangir Chowk, he issued directions for road realignment to streamline traffic taking the Rambagh Flyover and advised SSCL to utilise optimum space under the flyover for vehicular movement.

He instructed the Smart City team for development of a plan for a roundabout near the Exchange Junction on MA Road and closure of unnecessary median cuts.

At Sangarmal Junction, the Div Com called for road widening for improvement of traffic flow besides instructed for slight changes of Sangarmal bus stop for aesthetic purpose and durability.

At Rajouri Kadal, he directed SSP Traffic to devise the most effective strategies for decongestion, streamlining at the cross road and ensure adequate deployment of traffic personnel at the site.

While inspecting Jama Masjid Nowhatta, the Div Com inspected the proposed area for the development of a parking facility after ascertaining feasibility in coordination with all stakeholders.

DSEJ assess working of schools in Reasi District Felicitates meritorious students

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

REASI, NOVEMBER 29: In a day marked by vigilance, vision, and an unwavering commitment to educational upliftment, Director School Education Jammu Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, undertook an extensive tour of District Reasi, inspecting institutions, interacting with students and staff, and felicitating meritorious achievers of Classes 10th and 12th.

The Director commenced the tour by felicitating the district toppers of Classes 10th and 12th—young scholars whose brilliance reflects the potential and promise of Reasi's academic landscape. Their achievements, he noted, stand as quiet beacons reminding the system of its sacred duty: to nurture minds, not merely manage buildings. At Government Girls Higher Secondary School Reasi, the Director undertook a comprehensive inspection of facilities including the Computer Lab, ICT Lab, Vocational Lab, and various curricular spaces. Interacting with staff and students, the Director underscored the need for clear-cut academic vision, structured planning, and collective responsibility for the enrichment of students and for the strengthening of the educational fabric of the district. He further ordered that a Financial and Administrative audit of the institution for the last three years be carried out, ensuring transparency and accountability in every sphere. On the spot, several instructions were issued for the upliftment of the school's functioning, infrastructure, and student support mechanisms.

The Director later visited Government Higher Secondary School Boys Reasi, where he interacted extensively with both students and staff.

He inspected the Biology, Physics, and



Chemistry Laboratories, along with other academic and co-curricular sections of the school. Attention was drawn to issues concerning campus maintenance, including the presence and removal of wild weed and other neglected areas requiring immediate redressal. He issued explicit instructions to the school administration to initiate corrective measures without delay. Acknowledging the school's strategic relevance, he instructed the administration to prepare a detailed action plan and enumerate the infrastructural and academic requirements so that the feasibility of converting the institution into a Composite School can be duly examined.

In his message to Staff and Students, the Director said "A school is not brick and mortar; it is a living oath—an oath to knowledge, character, and the quiet dignity of learning. To the teachers, I say: walk ahead of your timetable; let your integrity be the first lesson your students learn each morning. To the students: remain curious, remain courageous. The world does not change in leaps; it changes through your small, persistent steps. Together, let us lift our schools, not as buildings, but as beacons."

DC Kulgam chairs District-Level NCORD Committee meeting

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 29: A meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee was today held at the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan to review measures for curbing drug abuse and strengthening enforcement



mechanisms in the district. During the meeting, the DC reviewed the district's progress on anti-drug measures and law-enforcement action. The Deputy Commissioner directed all line departments to ensure that no poppy cultivation is allowed anywhere in the district and emphasized the early destruction of wild bung before it reaches the seeding stage. He further called for rigorous training of resource persons for IEC Campaign Phase-II, enhanced vigil on pharmacies, and regular monitoring of CCTV feeds. The DC also stressed the need to bring all drug-prone hotspots under CCTV surveillance to strengthen deterrence and support enforcement efforts.

DC Budgam chairs mega Block Diwas at Pakherpora Engages with Public for On-Spot Grievance Redressal

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 29: A Mega Block Divas programme was today held at Government Higher Secondary School Pakherpora, where the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, presided over a public grievances redressal camp aimed at ensuring doorstep delivery of services and direct interaction with local communities of Block Pakherpora.

The event witnessed active participation of residents, senior citizens, youth delegations and representatives from several adjoining villages.

A number of delegations from Futlipora, Tilsara, Kanidajan, Malpora, Charipora, Shankerpora and other neighbouring areas met the DC and submitted their demands, concerns and developmental requirements pertaining to their respective villages. The public raised several pressing issues requiring administrative attention and intervention from the departments concerned.

Among the major demands projected by the locals included fencing of the primary school, upgradation of the Family and Welfare Centre, dredging and clearing of irrigation canals, improvement and widening of roads, development of a playground for youth, creation of a dedicated parking facility at Pakherpora Ziyarat Sharif, and construction of a water reservoir for Charipora village to address drinking water scarcity.

After patiently hearing the delegations, the DC on-the-spot redressed several public grievances and assured that all other genuine and pending demands will be taken up promptly for early resolution.

The DC emphasised that speedy disposal of public matters remains a top priority for the district administration, and every department has been instructed to adopt a proactive and responsive approach in grievance handling.

The DC reiterated that public outreach programmes such as Block Divas act as vital platforms for bridging the gap between



people and administration, enabling the government to understand grassroots challenges and deliver services effectively. He stressed that departments must stay committed to ensuring better service delivery and redressal of citizen concerns without delays.

While addressing the gathering, the DC also laid strong emphasis

on maintaining cleanliness and sanitation in rural areas. He urged the locals to strictly avoid dumping garbage on roadsides, drains or open areas, and cooperate with the Rural Development Department to ensure proper utilisation of dustbins, segregation of waste and scientific disposal practices.

The DC noted that cleanliness is a collective responsibility and

community participation is essential for keeping the surroundings healthy and hygienic.

The programme also featured interaction between the public and officers of various departments, enabling villagers to raise individual issues related to power supply, water availability, revenue matters, RDD works, education, health, irrigation and more. Field officers provided on-the-spot responses and guidance for multiple service-related queries. Concerned officers closely noted the demands raised by the public and assured necessary follow-up action as directed by the DC.

The DC said that District administration is committed towards ensuring transparent governance, citizen-focused service delivery, and consistent outreach to remote and rural pockets of Budgam.

The Block Divas was attended by JD Planning, Javaid Ahmad; SDM Chadoora, Executive Engineers of all engineering wings, Tehsildar, BDO, District and Sectoral Officers, field officials and representatives from various departments.

DC Bandipora reviews stray dog management

Calls for strict compliance, infrastructure upgrade, coordinated action

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 29: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the Supreme Court directions on stray dog management and to assess the district-level response to the growing menace.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner described the stray dog issue as a "big and serious problem" that restricts the freedom of citizens, and stressed the need for a coordinated, sustained and responsible response. She reiterated that the district must "start with the resources available" while simultaneously working toward long-term infrastructure strengthening.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner issued a series of directions to all departments. She directed the District Level Committee (DLC) to meet frequently to ensure continuous monitoring and timely execution of tasks. She directed officers to identify an isolated building or suitable space for establishing holding facilities, and emphasised the need for trained handlers, catchers and proper hospital support from the Animal



Husbandry Department.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed all departments to appoint nodal officers for ensuring compliance in their respective jurisdictions. She directed the Municipal Council to conduct regular inspections in institutional areas and fix responsibility in case of any lapses.

The DC further directed the ACP to create awareness regarding designated feeding centres and to ensure that feeding takes place only at authorised locations.

On the occasion, the DC also called

for extensive awareness sessions in educational institutions, including training for students on preventive behaviour, first-aid kits, and immediate reporting protocols. She directed departments to map playgrounds, schools, hospitals and other public spaces in line with Supreme Court instructions to prevent stray dogs ingress.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the Animal Husbandry Department to submit a report detailing actions taken over the last three years, including procurement of medicines, OT utilisation and sterilisation support, while the Municipal Council was directed to furnish its three-year performance report on stray dog management.

The DC emphasised that coordinated action, accurate reporting and strict enforcement are essential for safeguarding public safety and complying with the directions of the Supreme Court.

The meeting was attended by officers from the Municipal Council Bandipora, Animal Husbandry Department, Rural Development Department, Education Department, Health Department and other concerned line departments.

DC Budgam Visits Charari Sharief, Chadoora areas; Conducts review of HADP Agri Projects, Shrine Development Works Inaugurates Ignite Space Library-cum-Study Room at Chadoora

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today carried out an extensive field visit to Charari-Sharief and Chadoora areas of Sub-Division Chadoora, during which multiple developmental, agricultural and heritage-conservation works being executed under various departments were reviewed in detail.

The visit encompassed a thorough assessment of ongoing initiatives under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP 2024-25), inspection of the Shrine and Bada Talab development project at Charari-i-Sharief, and inauguration of a new library-cum-study space for students at Chadoora.

During his visit to Charari-i-Sharief, the Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Zone Charari Sharief, presented an overview of its ongoing activities, programme implementation status and infrastructure upgrades currently underway.

The DC was briefed about major interventions being executed under

HADP with the aim of strengthening protected agriculture, diversifying vegetable production and supporting high-value crops across Budgam district.

Under the HADP 2024-25, the DC inspected the Hi-Tech Poly House established for beneficiary of Nagam of Sub-Division Chadoora. The project has been sanctioned under the component "Promotion of Exotic Vegetables under Open & Hi-Tech Systems" with a total estimated cost of 22 lakh. The Agriculture Department has extended 95% financial assistance amounting to 20.58 lakh to support the establishment of the structure.

The Concerned Officers explained that the project is aimed at promoting exotic vegetable cultivation through modern protected-agriculture techniques to enable higher productivity, season extension and enhanced income generation for farmers.

During the inspection to Hi-tech poly houses, the DC said that these interventions are expected to significantly improve the district's capacity for cultivating high-value exotic vegetables and to boost the

adoption of climate-resilient production systems. He observed that the promotion of Hi-Tech Poly Houses will help bring diversification into the agriculture sector and will provide farmers with access to modern, sustainable and market-driven technologies.

The DC emphasised that timely completion, adherence to quality standards and continued beneficiary handholding must be ensured by the department to achieve maximum impact on the ground.

During the visit to Charari-i-Sharief area, the DC also reviewed the progress of the prestigious "Development of Shrine and Bada Talab at Charari-i-Sharief" project, which is being executed under the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Kashmir. The project carries an Administrative Approval of 487.10 lakh and includes a series of key components such as construction of an ornamental canopy, development of stone pathways, installation of boundary fencing, construction of toilet blocks and guard rooms, and placement of Signage boards aimed at enhancing the overall cultural and infrastructural environment of the revered shrine area.



Delhi Air Quality shows slight improvement, but remains in ‘Severe’ Category

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 29 : Delhi recorded a slight improvement in air quality on Saturday, though pollution levels remain firmly in the ‘severe’ category.

At 11:28 am, the city’s Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 204, a notable drop from AQI 315 which was recorded around 11 am yesterday.

While the air quality still exists in the severe category, the decline indicates marginal relief from the heavier smog load witnessed a day earlier.

The NCR continues to operate under GRAP Stage II restrictions, measures implemented when pollution levels start worsening and require immediate short-term interventions.

According to the latest readings, PM2.5 levels were at



128 µg/m³, and PM10 at 166 µg/m³, both far above safe limits. A layer of mist, a temperature of

20 degrees Celsius, humidity at 49 percent, and wind speeds of 9 km/h contributed to visibility and dispersion conditions across the capital.

Dwarka, ITO, and Jahangirpuri recorded AQIs of 370, 345, and 365, respectively, as per data from CPCB. While industrial areas have had higher AQI than Saturday’s average.

Bawana recorded 364, Narela recorded 387, and Okhla Phase 2 recorded 340 AQI.

The AQI scale categorises air quality as good (0–50), satisfactory (51–100), moderately polluted (101–200), poor (201–300), very poor (301–400), and severe (401–500).

Authorities have advised continued caution as air quality remains hazardous for sensitive groups and unhealthy for the general population.UNI

Govt appoints Vivek Chaturvedi as Chairman of CBIC

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 29 : The government on Saturday appointed Vivek Chaturvedi, currently a Member of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), as the new Chairman of the board.

The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet in an order issued by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT).

Chaturvedi, a 1990 batch Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Indirect Taxes) officer, succeeds Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, who retired on 28 November 2025



after completing his tenure.

Before serving as CBIC Member, a post he assumed in September, Chaturvedi held key roles including Principal Director General of Vigilance and Chief Vigilance Officer within the CBIC, bringing more than three decades of experience in tax administration, vigilance, and compliance to the top post.

The CBIC, the apex body under the Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance, is responsible for administering indirect taxes, including Goods and Services Tax (GST), customs duties, and central excise, as well as overseeing trade facilitation, enforcement, and prevention of smuggling. The Chairman of the CBIC holds the rank of Secretary to the Government of India and is the cadre controlling authority for the Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Indirect Taxes).

Chaturvedi’s appointment comes amid a series of leadership transitions at the CBIC, with several senior officials completing their tenures around the same time. His term as Chairman is set to begin on 1 December 2025.UNI

Australian PM Anthony Albanese gets married, marries Jodie Haydon

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 29 : Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese married his fiancé Jodie Haydon in a private ceremony at his official residence in Canberra on Saturday, becoming the first Prime Minister of the country to marry while in office.

The details were not disclosed since their engagement on Valentine’s Day last year.



The ceremony was attended by close friends and family members, Australian media reported.

“We are absolutely delighted to share our love and commitment to spending our future lives together, in front of our family and closest friends,” Albanese and Haydon said in a statement. The wedding was the first for Haydon, 47, Albanese, 62, was previously married to former NSW deputy premier Carmel Tebbutt for 19 years. They have a son, Nathan, but separated in 2019, according to the Sydney Morning Herald.

Haydon’s parents Bill and Pauline Haydon, walked her down the aisle. Her five-year-old niece, Ella, was the flower girl. The Prime Minister’s dog, Toto, was the ringbearer. Opposition Leader Sussan Ley congratulated the newly married couple. “Congratulations to Anthony and Jodie. I wish them every happiness as they continue building their lives together,” she said in a statement.

Haydon’s brother Patrick was the witness while the couple made their vows. Albanese’s cousin, Helen Golden, walked the couple down the aisle. Haydon wore a flowing white dress with long sleeves by Sydney designer Romance was Born, while the Prime Minister wore a suit from Australian menswear store MJ Bale. The wedding rings were supplied by Cerrone Jewellers in Leichhardt, Sydney, where Albanese had an engagement ring designed for Haydon, Sydney Morning Herald said.UNI

Karnataka leadership battle: Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar’s breakfast meet signals calm before storm?

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 29 : Amid mounting speculation and political tension in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar shared a rare moment of calm on Saturday morning with a breakfast meeting at the CM’s Cauvery residence.

The meeting, held over idli and sambar, comes as the Congress High Command prepares to decide the state’s leadership future following a reported “rotational CM” agreement.

Sources reveal that despite the cordial exchange, the dialogue hit a “bit of an impasse,” with Siddaramaiah reportedly urging Shivakumar to take over as Chief Minister only after completing his current term ending in 2028. The meeting follows party calls for restraint, as both leaders publicly committed to abide by whatever decision the Congress central leadership



makes.

“A productive discussion on Karnataka’s priorities and the road ahead,” Shivakumar posted on social media platform X, while Siddaramaiah echoed the sentiment, noting their mutual agreement to follow the high command’s guidance.

The internal power tussle escalated after Siddaramaiah resumed the CM role in 2023 under a purported power-sharing deal with Shivakumar, who now commands a significant faction of the party. Amid this backdrop, the Congress leadership, headed by

Mallikarjun Kharge, is scheduled to convene a strategy meeting on November 30 to chart the state’s political course.

Meanwhile, Shivakumar is expected to visit Delhi soon to meet with Congress President Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, signaling ongoing negotiations behind the scenes.

Political rivals are closely watching the developments. BJP’s Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, Chavadi Narayanaswamy, dismissed the leadership drama as irrelevant to the people, accusing the Congress government of neglecting governance and development.

As Karnataka’s political saga unfolds, the breakfast meet offers a brief respite but also highlights the delicate balancing act ahead for the Congress party. The outcome will shape not only the state’s governance but also the party’s prospects in a fiercely competitive political landscape.UNI

India re-elected to IMO Council (Category B) for 2026–27 with highest vote tally

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 29 : India has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), London, comprising 10 countries with the largest interest in international seaborne trade, securing 154 out of 169 valid votes in the elections on Friday at the 34th Session of the IMO Assembly.

Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal described it a “proud moment” for India’s maritime sector. “A proud moment for India’s maritime sector! India has been re-elected to the IMO Council for the 2026–27 biennium with the highest tally of votes in the category of countries with the largest interest in international seaborne trade, Sonowal, said.

The IMO Council is the executive



body of the IMO, located in London, responsible for supervising the organization’s work between sessions of the Assembly. The Council is composed of 40 member states, elected by the Assembly for two-year terms. It operates

under the authority of the Assembly. The IMO, a United Nations agency headquartered in London, works to ensure shipping is safe, secure, and environmentally sound.

An official spokesman said India’s highest vote tally reflects

the international community’s strong confidence in India’s constructive leadership in global shipping and reaffirms the success of India’s maritime growth agenda. The result further validates the Government of India’s sustained

reforms and forward-looking initiatives to strengthen the maritime sector.

The achievement comes soon after the successful organisation of India Maritime Week 2025, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. More than 100 countries participated in the conference.

The IMO Council consists of 40 elected members across three categories and functions as the executive body of the IMO between sessions of the Assembly.

On the sidelines of the Assembly, the Indian delegation engaged with several countries, international organisations and IMO officials on cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

This is the second consecutive biennium in which India has secured the highest tally in Category B.UNI

Homelessness: The Silent Emergency Unfolding Across Every City, Demanding Urgent Attention and Collective Action

NARAYANAN KIZHUMUNDAYUR

NEW DELHI, NOV 29 : Urbanisation, often celebrated as the hallmark of progress, carries within it a paradox that modern societies are struggling to resolve. As cities grow into centres of economic power, cultural vibrancy, and technological innovation, they simultaneously become landscapes where inequality is etched into everyday life. Amid the towering apartments, gleaming malls, and illuminated flyovers lives a population that has no roof to call its own. Urban homelessness – once viewed as a marginal issue – has now transformed into a silent emergency that shadows the march of development. It is not simply a logistical failure; it is a moral challenge that questions the very soul of our cities.

The roots of this crisis lie in the deep and persistent imbalance between the dream of urban prosperity and the reality of urban planning. Every year, millions leave their villages and small towns, drawn by the promise of jobs, education, and opportunity. But the cities they arrive in suffer from a different crisis: an acute shortage of affordable housing. While high-rise apartments multiply and real-estate prices soar beyond imagination, the poor often

find no legal or safe space to live. The mismatch is stark – the engines of the urban economy depend heavily on migrant labourers, domestic workers, street vendors, construction workers, delivery personnel, and security staff, yet these very contributors cannot afford even the most basic shelter.

Real-estate speculation only worsens the problem. Housing stock is increasingly locked up as investment rather than lived-in spaces. Property prices rise far beyond the real income levels of ordinary citizens. Middle-class families stretch their finances to breaking point to secure small apartments, while the urban poor slide further into precarity. Gentrification, now a common urban phenomenon, transforms old, affordable neighbourhoods into glossy enclaves for the wealthy. As buildings are demolished and land is acquired for commercial use, generations-old communities are uprooted. Cultural memory and social cohesion suffer irreparable damage, and the displaced join the swelling ranks of the homeless.

Homelessness, however, is not merely the absence of four walls. It is the erosion of dignity, identity, and agency. Without an address, a person becomes invisible in the administrative map of a city. Identity documents cannot be



obtained or renewed. Children are unable to access schooling. Healthcare systems remain out of reach. Welfare schemes, no matter how well designed, exclude those who cannot prove their residence. A homeless person lives at the crossroads of multiple vulnerabilities – economic,

social, psychological, and health-related. Each day becomes a struggle for survival, not just existence.

The tragedy is that homelessness is often a preventable condition. A sudden job loss, medical emergency, family breakdown, or natural disaster can push an already vulnerable person below the line of stability. Without social security measures – rental support, emergency shelters, counselling, and food assistance – people who were once self-sufficient can quickly slip into chronic homelessness. This is not a failure of individuals; it is a structural failure of the system meant to protect them.

Addressing the crisis demands a compassionate and multi-layered response. Governments must recognise affordable housing not as a charitable act but as a fundamental human right. Urban planners need to shift from a market-driven approach to a people-centred one. Cities must invest in large-scale rental housing specifically designed for low-income and migrant populations. Inclusionary zoning laws can ensure that private developers allocate a portion of every housing project to economically weaker sections. Slum redevelopment should focus on in-situ upgrading – improving water, sanitation, and electricity

– rather than displacing residents to far-off resettlement colonies where livelihoods are lost.

Additionally, cities must establish a network of dignified night shelters, community kitchens, mobile healthcare units, and employment-matching centres. Technological tools can be used to identify homeless populations, track their needs, and connect them to government schemes. Civil society organisations and volunteers can help bridge the trust deficit that often keeps the homeless away from institutional support.

Ultimately, the measure of a city’s greatness lies not in its architecture or GDP but in its compassion towards its most vulnerable residents. A truly developed city is one where the poorest citizen can sleep without fear, where no one is forced to call a pavement home, and where the promise of urban life includes dignity, safety, and shelter for all.

Urban homelessness is a reminder that progress without inclusion is merely an illusion. As we build smarter, cleaner, and technologically advanced cities, we must also build kinder ones – cities where every individual, irrespective of class or income, has the basic right to a place to call home.UNI

Kohli and Dhoni catch up, and Ranchi gets rolling

There was nothing but hype and paparazzi all around

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Visakhapatnam: What happens when two of India's biggest superstar cricketers meet? There's nothing but hype and paparazzi all around. Cameras don't stop flashing, and hopes of a response from the heroes find no end. That's what happened when Virat Kohli arrived at MS Dhoni's house in Ranchi, where the Indian team will be playing the first ODI against South Africa on Sunday.

Fans scrambled to get a glimpse of Kohli, who obliged by mildly waving back at them. That must have been enough to make their day.

Dhoni and Kohli had plenty of memorable partnerships on the field, including being at the crease when India beat England in an ODI at the JSCA Stadium in Ranchi in 2013. This time, they attracted all the attention off the field. Dhoni was spotted driving Kohli, reportedly to the team hotel back from his house, where Dhoni hosted a few other Indian players on Thursday night.



Cummins set to miss Brisbane Test against England as Australia name unchanged 14

ANDREW MCGLASHAN

PERTH: Pat Cummins has not been included in what is an unchanged Australia squad for the day-night Test against England at the Gabba, but there remains a slim chance he could be parachuted into a comeback appearance if things go well during training in Brisbane.

For now, the selectors have retained the 14 players who were on duty in Perth, with Josh In-



glis, Michael Neser and Beau Webster among those who did not make the XI.

Cummins, who had an extensive training session at the SCG on Friday, when he bowled to stand-in captain Steven Smith, will travel to Brisbane to continue his return to bowling.

He is next due to bowl on Monday and, while there is nothing stopping the selectors adding him to the squad nearer the game, the likely outcome is a return for the third Test in Adelaide which gives him another two weeks to prepare and build his loads. However, ESPNcricinfo understands he has not been completely ruled out of the pink-ball Test.

During his rehab, Cummins has yet to bowl on back-to-back days and had a three day gap between each of his sessions this after returning from Perth.

Speaking to broadcasters during the Perth Test, Cummins had given himself "half a chance" of being ready for Brisbane and had bowled with the pink ball since returning to Sydney after the two-day finish. "It looked like a player that was nearing the completion of his rehabilitation," coach Andrew McDonald said after Perth. "The intensity was there, the ball speed was there. There's a lot of positives, but now it's just really building that resilience within the soft tissue and making sure that we're not putting him in harm's way in terms of accelerating it too much."

Meanwhile, Usman Khawaja has retained his place in the squad after back spasms in Perth limited his role, leaving him unable to open the batting in either innings. Travis Head's success in the position during Australia's chase, where he hammered 123 off 83 balls, has prompted debate about whether it should be made a permanent move.

ESPNcricinfo

Baramulla TT Championship 2025 Concludes

Former Manager J&K Sports Council Baramulla Sheikh Mushtaq was Awarded Sheikh Tulal Award, 2025

AASHIQ HUSSAIN

BARAMULLA, NOV 29: The two-day District Baramulla Table Tennis Championship concludes at indoor Stadium Baramulla. The event was organised Distict Table Tennis Association Baramulla in collaboration with J&K Table Tennis Association under the aegis J&K Sports Council. Dr Tahir Ramzan Bhat HOD physical education department and Sports GDC Baramulla graced the occasion as the chief guest.

The championship witnessed strong participation across various categories in senior, junior, & sub-junior for both boys & girls. Players displayed remarkable skill, discipline & sportsmanship throughout the competition. Among others Pir Siraj ud din former member J&K Sports council, Sheikh Mushtaq former Manager j&k sports council Baramulla, Hakeem Ab Aziz Deputy director My bharat Govt of India, Haji

Ab Majeed dar former manager j&k sports council, Altaf Hussain sr TT player Sopore, Showket Hussain Shah Manger j&k sports council Baramulla unit, Pirzada irshad Ahmad incharge GBR Stadium janbazzira Baramulla, Peerzada Ab Qayoom President District Table Tennis Association Baramulla and Khazir Mohammad Ganaie General Secretary District Table Tennis Association Baramulla.

Sheikh Mushtaq former Manager j&k sports council Baramulla was awarded as Sheikh Tulal Award 2025.

President District Table Tennis Association Baramulla Haji Ab Qayoom appreciated all participants, coaches, officials & parents for their contribution in making the event successful. The championship concluded with medal distribution & words of encouragement for the young TT players to continue striving for excellence.



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