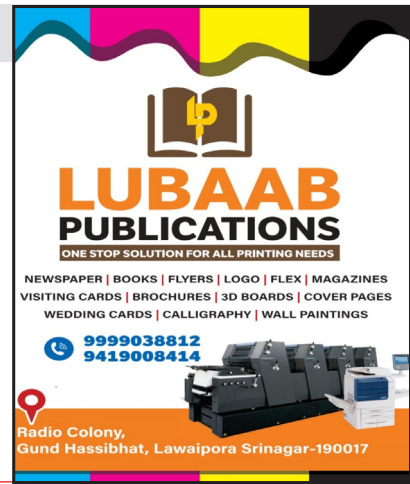


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Voice To The Voiceless



History of J&K Would Have Been Different if Sardar Patel Handled Its Integration': LG Manoj Sinha

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 01: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday joined the Sardar@150 National Unity Padyatra in Vadodara, Gujarat—an 11-day, 190-km march from Karamsad to the Statue of Unity marking the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

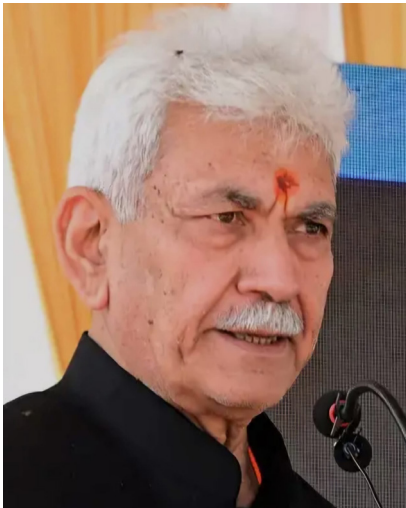
Addressing a gathering on the theme “Kashmir, Hyderabad and Sardar,” the LG said Sardar Patel’s decisive leadership, clarity of purpose and commitment to national integration continue to shape India’s progress even today.

“History of Jammu & Kashmir would have been different if Sardar Patel had been given full responsibility for its

integration in 1947,” LG Sinha said, adding that although Patel was not directly in charge of the matter, he ensured that J&K remained an inseparable part of India.

He noted that Patel firmly opposed taking the Kashmir issue to the United Nations and categorically rejected any concession to Pakistan. “His firm resolve and clear stand on complete integration would have altered the course of history,” he remarked.

Calling Sardar Patel the architect of modern India, Sinha said the Iron Man’s ideals of unity, equality and social justice continue to guide the nation’s collective journey. “His values of integrity, decisiveness and selfless service inspire us to



build a strong, self-reliant and developed India,” he said.

The LG lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling Patel’s vision of a united nation, citing transformative initiatives such as the abrogation of Article 370, One Nation One Tax, One Nation One Ration Card, One Nation One Health Card, One Nation One Grid, the National Education Policy, PM Gati Shakti and cultural link programmes like Kashi-Tamil Sangamam.

“These reforms have strengthened national unity and woven India together in a single thread,” Sinha said.

Urging the youth to carry forward the legacy of unity, the LG highlighted

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India has proven that democracy can deliver: PM Modi

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, DEC 01: The Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the media before the start of the Winter Session of 2025 at the Parliament premises Monday.

The Prime Minister emphasized that the session is not merely a ritual, but an important source of renewed energy for the nation’s ongoing journey toward rapid progress. “It is my firm belief that this session will infuse new energy into the efforts that are currently underway to accelerate the nation’s progress”, Modi added.



The Prime Minister stated that India has consistently demonstrated the vibrancy and spirit of its democratic traditions. Citing the recent Bihar elections, he applauded the record voter turnout as a powerful affirmation of the nation’s democratic strength.

He also highlighted the growing participation of women voters as a remarkable and encouraging trend

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Technology Will Define Tomorrow’s Borders: IG BSF

Ashok Yadav unveils AI-driven surveillance push, drone warfare upgrades for Kashmir Frontier

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 01:

Border security along the Line of Control (LoC) is entering a new era as the Border Security Force (BSF) ramps up AI-led surveillance, drone warfare capabilities and digital transformation across the Kashmir Frontier, IG Ashok Yadav (IPS) said on Monday.



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Infiltration Down, Narco-Terror & Radicalisation Key Worries: IG BSF

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Monday said infiltration along the Line of Control (LoC) has “declined sharply” this year owing to tighter coordination and

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CBI Nabs 35-Year Fugitive in Rubaiya Sayeed Kidnapping Case; Accused Linked to Yasin Malik

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: In a major breakthrough in the decades-old Rubaiya Sayeed kidnapping case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday arrested Shafat Ahmed Shangloo an accused who had been on the run for 35 years.

According to the agency, Shangloo had conspired with Yasin Malik and others in the 1989 abduction

of Dr. Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of then Union Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and sister of PDP president Mehbooba Mufti. He had been declared an absconder and carried a reward of ₹10 lakh.

The CBI said the arrest was made in connection with offences registered under the Ranbir Penal Code and the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA). Shangloo will be produced before

the TADA Court in Jammu within the legally mandated timeframe.

The case dates back to December 8, 1989, when 23-year-old Rubaiya was abducted by militants affiliated with the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) while returning home from a Srinagar hospital barely days after her father assumed charge as India’s Home Minister. The incident triggered

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Red Fort Blast Probe Widens: NIA Raids 9 Locations Across Kashmir, UP

Digital devices, cash and “incriminating” material seized as agency hunts ‘white-collar’ module

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: In a major escalation of its probe into the November 10 Red Fort blast, the

National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday carried out searches at nine locations across Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh, intensifying its hunt for

what officials describe as a “white-collar” terror module linked to the attack.

According to officials, eight locations were raided in the Kash-

mir Valley spanning Shopian, Kulgam, Pulwama and Awantipora while one premises was searched in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Houses belonging to

Moulvi Irfan Ahmad Wagay, Dr Adeel, Dr Muzamil and Amir Rashid were among those searched. Digital devices and

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Dry Weather To Continue In J&K Till Dec 5: MeT

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 30: Weather across Jammu and Kashmir is expected to remain largely dry till December 5, with no major precipitation forecast for most parts of the region, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said on Sunday.

The MeT said that, generally, dry conditions will prevail

till December 3. “December 4 and 5 are likely to remain mostly cloudy, particularly from the evening of December 4, with the possibility of a brief spell of light snowfall at isolated higher reaches.”

The department said that from December 6 to December 10, the weather will remain partly to generally cloudy across the Union Territory.

Cloudy conditions are also likely to continue on December 11 and 12.

The MeT further said shallow to moderate fog is likely to persist at many places in the Kashmir division and at isolated locations in the Jammu division, particularly during the nighttime and early morning hours. Locals have been advised to exercise caution

while travelling in areas prone to poor visibility.

The weather office said cold and dry conditions are expected to continue till December 4, after which a slight improvement in minimum temperatures is likely. A rise of around 1 to 2 degrees Celsius in night temperatures is expected after December 4, it said.

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Senior scientist chargesheeted: ACB

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau on Monday filed a charge-sheet against Dr Bilquees Ara Siddique, then in-charge Scientist-Cat the Pollution Control Committee, Srinagar, in connection with a trap case registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Officials said the charge-sheet was presented before the court of the Additional Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, in FIR No. 02/2024 registered under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

According to the case details, the FIR was registered on Jan 08, 2024 on a written complaint alleging that the accused demanded a bribe of Rs 20,000 for issuing Consent to Operate clearance for a bakery unit located at the Industrial Estate Khunmoh.

Following the complaint, a trap was laid by ACB officials during which the accused was allegedly caught red-

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Rising Road Fatalities in Umarabad—Zainakote Trigger Alarming Public Outcry

Residents Launch Nawabad Welfare Organisation; Demand urgent overhaul of NH Crossing Management

■ ABU HASNAIN

SRINAGAR DEC 01 : The increasing frequency of deadly road accidents in the Umarabad–Zainakote belt of Srinagar has pushed local residents to the brink, forcing them to organise formally and raise collective alarm. Over the past several months, the National Highway crossing that cuts through these densely populated neighbourhoods has turned into a corridor of constant danger—mismanaged, chaotic, and devoid of essential traffic-calming infrastructure.

The latest incident on Monday, in which a young boy lost his life after being hit by a Tavera vehicle, has further deepened public anguish. Residents say such tragedies have become “painfully routine,” with the same pattern repeating itself: speeding vehicles, poor signage, no enforcement, and pedestrians left vulnerable.

A hotspot of avoidable tragedies Umarabad, Zainakote and adjoining habitations—now rapidly expanding residential zones—intersect directly with the high-speed



movement of the Srinagar–Baramulla National Highway. What was once a relatively quieter stretch has transformed into a heavy-traffic corridor without proportional safety measures.

Locals argue that the traffic management system here has collapsed entirely, turning basic acts like crossing the road, sending children to school, or stepping out for work

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J&K highest earthquake danger zone in India’s new seismic map

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: Jammu and Kashmir has been entirely placed in the newly created highest-risk Zone VI under India’s updated seismic zonation map, marking one of the most significant changes in the country’s earthquake hazard assessment in decades.

The map, released as part of the 2025 Earthquake Design Code by the Bureau

of Indian Standards (BIS), a few days back, classifies the entire Himalayan arc, including all districts of J&K and Ladakh, in the top danger category.

The new zonation is based on internationally accepted probabilistic seismic hazard assessment (PSHA) methods, which use detailed information on active faults, maximum rupture potential, ground-shaking behaviour and

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CS Chairs MDC Meet on Traffic Mobility in Twin Capitals

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 01: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today presided over a meeting of the Multi-Disciplinary Committee (MDC) on Traffic Management Systems for Jammu and Srinagar, to take a comprehensive look at the measures already undertaken and those proposed for easing congestion, strengthening road safety, and improving overall urban mobility in both cities.

The meeting witnessed participation of senior administrative and police officials, including ACS, PWD, Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; IGP, Traffic;

Secretary, Transport; DIG, Traffic, Jammu/Kashmir; SSPs Traffic, Srinagar/Jammu; Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu/Srinagar; VC, LCMA; Vice-Chairman, JDA/SDA, besides officers from other concerned departments.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary underscored that Jammu and Srinagar, being the face of the UT and receiving a continuous flow of tourists and visitors, require swift and focused interventions to enhance commuter experience.

He stressed the need for timely execution of traffic management plans and called for the early

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CS Reviews New Roadmap to Boost J&K Dairy Sector

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 01: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a detailed review meeting of the Agriculture Production Department (APD) to examine the modalities of a comprehensive plan aimed at significantly enhancing milk production, processing, and value-addition across Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, APD; Principal Secretary,

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

History of J&K.....

three pillars essential for a strong and united India—shared values, shared identity and a common national purpose.

He called upon young citizens to uphold these principles for sustained progress and collective development.

India has.....

that brings new hope and new confidence to the democratic process. He noted that as India's democratic institutions grew stronger, the world is closely observing how this democratic framework is also reinforcing the nation's economic capabilities.

"India has proven that Democracy can deliver," the Prime Minister affirmed. "The pace at which India's economic conditions are reaching new heights inspires confidence and gives us new strength as we move toward the goal of a developed India", Modi underscored.

The Prime Minister urged all political parties to centre the session on national interest, constructive debate, and policy-driven outcomes. He emphasised that Parliament must remain focused on what it envisions for the nation and what it is committed to delivering. Calling upon the Opposition to fulfil its democratic responsibility, the Prime Minister encouraged them to raise meaningful and substantive issues.

He cautioned parties not to allow frustration over electoral defeats to overshadow parliamentary proceedings. Underscoring that the session should not display arrogance arising from electoral victories, Modi said, "The Winter Session must reflect balance, responsibility and the dignity expected from public representatives".

The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of the informed debate, urging members to improve what is working well and offer constructive, accurate critique where needed, so that citizens are better informed. "This work is demanding, but it is essential for the nation," he noted.

Expressing concern for first-time and younger MPs, he said many across party lines feel they are not receiving adequate opportunities to represent their constituencies or contribute to national development discussions. He urged all parties to ensure these MPs are given the platform they deserve. "The House, and the nation, must benefit from the insights and energy of the new generation," he stated.

The Prime Minister also stressed that Parliament is a place for policy and delivery, not drama or slogan-shouting. "There is no shortage of places elsewhere for theatrics or slogans. In Parliament, our focus must be on policy, and our intent must be clear," he said.

The Prime Minister highlighted the special significance of this session, marking the beginning of the new Chairman's guidance of the Upper House. Extending his congratulations, he expressed confidence that the Chairman's leadership would further strengthen parliamentary functioning.

The Prime Minister noted that GST reforms have created a strong atmosphere of trust among citizens, positioning them as next-generation reforms. He said the Winter Session is set to advance several important initiatives in this direction.

Expressing concern over recent parliamentary trends, Modi said that in recent times, our Parliament is being used either as a warm-up ground for elections or as a place to vent frustration after electoral defeat. "The country has not accepted these methods. It is time for them to change their approach and strategy. I am even ready to offer them tips on how to perform better", Modi added.

"I hope we all move forward with these responsibilities in mind. And I assure the nation that the country has embarked on the path of progress", Modi reiterated.

Affirming the nation's determined march toward progress, he said, "The country is moving toward new heights, and this House will play a vital role in infusing new energy and strength into that journey."

CBI Nabs 35-Year.....

unprecedented pressure on the government at a time of spiralling tension in Kashmir.

The militants demanded the release of five jailed associates. After five tense days marked by protests and negotiations, the government agreed, freeing the five militants in exchange for Rubaiya's safe release on December 13, 1989. It was the first instance of the Indian government releasing militants for a hostage, a decision many experts later called a watershed moment that deepened the trajectory of militancy in Kashmir.

The CBI subsequently took over the investigation, naming Yasin Malik and several others as accused. Rubaiya herself appeared in court in 2022 and identified Malik as one of her abductors. Proceedings in the case continue before the TADA court in Jammu.

Shangloo's arrest is being seen as a significant development in the long-pending trial.

Technology Will.....

Addressing the BSF's Annual Press Meet 2024–25 at Humhama on the force's 61st Foundation Day, IG Yadav said technology has become central to India's border-defence doctrine.

"The future of border security will be decided by technology. Drone warfare, AI integration and night-surveillance superiority are our top priorities," he declared.

Yadav said the newly operational BSF Drone Warfare School at Gwalior is training personnel in drone design, weaponisation, anti-drone jamming, AI-based analytics and reconnaissance tactics. Drone forensics labs in Delhi and Amritsar, he added, are now key hubs for rapid analysis of drone parts used in cross-border smuggling and surveillance.

"We are developing offensive and defensive drone capabilities simultaneously. Our teams are equipped to intercept hostile drones, jam frequen-

cies and deploy drones in tactical missions," he said.

Despite continued drone sightings across the LoC, Yadav confirmed there have been no incursions into Indian territory in recent months. "Most drones seen across the border are reconnaissance platforms. We track every movement with upgraded night-vision and radar-integrated systems," he said.

The IG said enhanced night-operations gear, AI-enabled thermal imagers and new surveillance devices have strengthened the force's ability to detect infiltration or aerial activity even in challenging terrain and weather.

Yadav also highlighted a wider digital transformation within the BSF, including cyber-threat response training under NIELIT and DRDO partnerships, and induction of new high-altitude weapons and optical systems.

Under the BSF's "Bhumi" innovation programme, the force is collaborating with Indian startups to build indigenous tools for tunnel detection, anti-drone systems and communication jammers. "We are moving towards a self-reliant, smart-border grid where every jawan has access to data, sensors and AI-powered surveillance," he said.

He also announced the deployment of Mahila Praharis at forward locations to counter the rising use of women as couriers in narco-smuggling networks and to strengthen community confidence in border villages.

"Modernisation is not just about machines — it is about mindset, professionalism and inclusion," Yadav said, adding that the BSF remains "battle-ready and technologically forward" for the decade ahead.

Infiltration Down.....

proactive intelligence sharing with the Indian Army. He, however, added that narco-terrorism and "white-collar" radicalisation emerge as new fronts in internal security challenges.

Speaking at the Annual Press Meet 2024–25 at the BSF Frontier Headquarters in Humhama, IG Kashmir Frontier Ashok Yadav (IPS) said the frontier's counter-infiltration grid and joint operations have ensured a near-record low in cross-border intrusions.

"Only four infiltration attempts were reported this year. Thirteen infiltrators were involved, eight were neutralised, and five pushed back," Yadav said, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). He added that the drop reflects "better synergy, quicker intelligence response and ground-level coordination".

Over 'White-Collar' radicalisation and the silent challenge, the IG said a new pattern of radicalisation has emerged, where educated youths with clean records are being lured into ideological and logistical support roles. "These individuals don't appear on our radar or in security databases. It's silent recruitment, harder to detect and therefore more dangerous," he said.

He said all security agencies have intensified efforts to trace such modules and identify institutions or social circuits used for indoctrination. "It's a serious internal threat, and we are working closely with J&K Police and intelligence agencies to dismantle such networks," he said.

Calling narco-terrorism "a hybrid threat that targets both the mind and the system," Yadav said attempts to smuggle narcotics into Kashmir have increased, particularly along the Tangdhar and Keran sectors. "Drugs are being used to fund terrorism and to weaken Kashmiri youth. Every such attempt is tracked and neutralised through layered surveillance and local coordination," he said.

The IG said that "female couriers" have been intercepted along LoC roads, and Mahila Praharis have been strategically deployed at choke points to counter this emerging tactic.

He said that last year, BSF carried out 22 joint operations with the Army, RR, JKP and CRPF, recovering large quantities of arms, ammunition and explosives. The frontier, he added, has also supported 13 companies in the hinterland for anti-terror and anti-radicalisation roles.

Yadav said BSF continues to "dominate the LoC effectively in coordination with the Army", adding that border vigilance and internal intelligence sharing are the backbone of Kashmir Frontier's success.

Beyond operations, the IG underlined the BSF's civic action programmes under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, Bharat Darshan tours for border students, and pre-recruitment training for local youth. "We believe in making border communities our partners in peace and national security," he said.

Yadav added that BSF played a vital role in ensuring an incident-free Amarnath Yatra 2025, deploying 128 companies across four districts with special rescue and medical teams—(KNO)

Red Fort Blast.....

"other incriminating materials" were seized during the operation, an official told KNO, adding that searches were still under way in several villages including Nadigam (Shopian), Koil, Chandgam, Malangpora and Samboora (Pulwama).

The raids are part of the ongoing investigation into the high-intensity blast that tore through a car near Delhi's historic Red Fort on November 10, killing 11 people and injuring several others. The NIA has so far arrested seven individuals in the case.

The agency also recalled that earlier searches on November 26 and 27 at the premises of prime accused Dr Muzammil Shakeel Ganie and Dr Shaheen Saeed inside Faridabad's Al Falah University complex had led to the recovery of a large amount of cash, foreign currency, gold and various materials now under forensic scrutiny.

"The seized items are being minutely examined to unravel the conspiracy that culminated in the bombing," the NIA said in a statement, adding that interrogation of arrested suspects and pursuit of new leads are continuing.

"The NIA is working closely with state police forces to track down every member of the terrorist

module behind the attack," the agency said.

Dry Weather To.....

The MeT Centre said no major weather disturbance is expected during the forecast period and that overall conditions will remain stable across most parts of the Valley and Jammu region. (KNT)

Senior scientist.....

handed while accepting Rs 5,000 as part payment from the complainant. The bribe amount was recovered on the spot.

Officials further said chemical tests later confirmed the presence of phenolphthalein powder on the accused's hands, strengthening the prosecution case.

After completion of investigation and obtaining prosecution sanction from the government, the charge-sheet was submitted in court for judicial determination, officials said.

The court has listed the matter for consideration on Feb 12, 2025.

ACB said the investigation has established commission of offence under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act against the accused and reiterated its commitment to taking strict action against corruption in public offices.

J&K highest.....

underlying geology. These scientific inputs replace older approaches that relied heavily on historical earthquake data, soil classifications and past damage records.

The BIS says the updated framework offers a clearer picture of the peak ground accelerations that future earthquakes may generate, ensuring that safety standards reflect the current understanding of seismic behaviour rather than outdated assumptions.

Experts say the revision corrects long-standing inconsistencies in earlier maps, which divided the Himalayan belt between Zones IV and V despite uniform tectonic risks.

Dr. Vineet Gahalaut, director of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, said that the new classification finally recognises the threat posed by long-unruptured, stress-accumulating fault segments, particularly in the central Himalaya. He said the previous zonation had underestimated the potential of these locked segments, many of which have not produced major surface-rupturing events in nearly two centuries.

The updated code requires buildings in J&K, especially those located near active faults, to be designed for severe pulse-like ground motions associated with near-fault earthquakes. It also strengthens limits on displacement, ductility and energy dissipation to prevent catastrophic failures. Non-structural components such as parapets, ceilings, overhead tanks, façade panels, electrical lines and suspended fixtures must now be securely anchored and braced, as these elements frequently cause injuries during earthquakes even when main structural frames remain intact.

The norms also demand closer attention to liquefaction risks, soil flexibility and site-specific ground-response behaviour, making geological assessments essential for new construction in vulnerable districts. Critical infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, bridges and public buildings, must be designed to remain fully functional after a major earthquake to ensure continuity of emergency services.

A new "exposure window" has also been introduced in the 2025 map, incorporating population density, infrastructure concentration and socioeconomic vulnerability into hazard classification. This makes the update particularly relevant for rapidly expanding urban areas such as Srinagar, Jammu, Anantnag and Baramulla, where even moderate shaking could result in significant disruption.

While the Himalayan region has undergone sweeping reclassification, the tectonically stable southern peninsula has seen only minor refinements. With 61% of India now falling under moderate to high hazard zones, officials have urged engineers, planners and civic bodies in J&K to adopt the new code immediately. Experts emphasise that the updated map is not a prediction of an imminent event but a scientific warning, and an opportunity for Jammu and Kashmir to build resilience before any eventuality strikes. (GNS)

Rising Road.....

into life-risking decisions.

"This stretch has been abandoned by every concerned agency. When a National Highway runs through a residential pocket, the administration is duty-bound to provide proper crossings, traffic personnel, dividers and speed-control mechanisms. None of that exists here, and people are paying with their lives," said SGM Andrabi, Convener of the newly formed Nawabad Welfare Organisation (NWO).

Citizens organise after years of inaction

In response to a long-ignored and worsening crisis, senior and respectable citizens from the locality have formed the Nawabad Welfare Organisation (NWO)—a civil body aiming to advocate for residents' safety and welfare.

At its very first meeting, the organisation placed the increasing road accidents at the top of its agenda, calling it "a humanitarian emergency that cannot be normalised."

Chairman Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat termed the situation "intolerable and deeply tragic," adding:

"Every few weeks, we are burying our young boys, elders, and pedestrians because the highway crossing is a death trap. We are not demanding luxuries—only basic safety that every citizen deserves. The government must intervene before more lives are lost."

The NWO has decided to compile a detailed report of recurring accident zones, missing signage,

blind turns, speeding hotspots, and locations where footpaths vanish abruptly—issues they say have been repeatedly flagged but never acted upon.

A systemic failure, not isolated mishaps
Traffic experts note that repeated fatalities on the same stretch cannot be dismissed as accidents—they are indicators of a systemic failure.

Key deficiencies identified include:

* Absence of traffic personnel during peak hours

* No pedestrian crossing zones or foot-bridges despite high footfall

* Lack of rumble strips, speed breakers or warning signage before residential entry points

* Encroached road edges narrowing the visual field for both drivers and walkers

* Over-speeding, particularly by commercial vehicles and private cabs

Residents say even small interventions like road reflectors, early-warning boards, lane marking, and strict monitoring of vehicle speeds could have prevented many deaths.

A call for urgent corrective measures

The Nawabad Welfare Organisation has urged the Traffic Department, PWD, NHAI, and local administration to immediately undertake a safety audit of the stretch. They emphasise that the area is no longer a bypass but a dense residential cluster with schools, shops, mosques and thousands of daily commuters.

"We cannot afford to wait for another tragedy. People are living in fear every single day," Andrabi added, warning that frustration among locals is reaching a dangerous point.

Bhat echoed this urgency:

"If authorities fail to act now, they will be responsible for every life lost hereafter. Our community has united, and we will pursue this issue until meaningful action is taken."

A community hoping for change

With yet another young life lost, the people of Umarabad and Zainakote are demanding not sympathy but structural change. For them, the question is no longer if another accident will happen, but when—unless the government steps in with seriousness and sensitivity.

The newly formed NWO has vowed to continue its engagement, petitioning authorities, seeking meetings with senior officials, and raising awareness until the deadly pattern is broken.

CS Chairs MDC.....

operationalisation of Intelligent Traffic Management Systems (ITMS) and Integrated Traffic Light Systems (ITLS). He directed the Divisional Commissioners to monitor the implementation rigorously. He also stressed on resolving other bottlenecks after incorporating feedback from citizens and stakeholders.

Briefing the meeting on the current status of traffic improvement initiatives, the Divisional Commissioners outlined the steps taken in both cities, such as introducing diversions where required, setting up new roundabouts, installing traffic signals at strategic points, augmenting parking facilities, identifying no-parking stretches, earmarking dedicated bus stops, enforcing one-way traffic on congested routes and adjusting school and college timings. They further informed that dedicated corridors for eastern and western minibuses have been planned, honking zones are being regulated, and additional charging points for Smart City electric buses are also going to be established here.

Expressing concern over traffic violations, particularly those related to lane discipline, the Chief Secretary called for strict enforcement. He reviewed action taken against the 9,204 repeat offenders identified so far through e-challans. The Transport Commissioner informed that 600 driving licences had already been suspended and that the remaining cases were being examined for appropriate action based on the seriousness of the violations.

The IG Traffic appraised the meeting about the efforts made to decongest city roads, including zoning of e-rickshaws, implementation of one-way traffic regimes in selected areas, and installation of road dividers wherever necessary.

The Commissioners of the Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporations briefed the Chief Secretary about steps taken to streamline urban spaces, which include establishing designated hawkker zones, relocating street vendors, rehabilitating them through kiosk allotment, and ensuring that commercial establishments develop adequate parking facilities. The Chief Secretary instructed all departments to furnish detailed, location-specific accounts of measures implemented on the ground. Emphasising traffic management in areas with heavy tourist movement, the meeting discussed the necessity of designated parking areas and the use of small-capacity vehicles to prevent congestion caused by larger buses.

Departments also presented updates on initiatives aimed at expanding road capacity through elevated corridors and flyovers, constructing multi-level parking structures, and removing encroachments that obstruct smooth traffic flow.

Road safety measures were also reviewed, including the establishment of no-honking and no-parking zones, construction of medians and dividers, closure of unsafe openings, and rectification of identified black spots in coordination with construction agencies.

The Chief Secretary also enquired about the operational status of the newly procured bus fleet intended to enhance the city's public transportation network. The Vice-Chairmen of JDA and SDA, along with representatives from Urban Local Bodies, detailed the infrastructural and planning initiatives in progress.

Other aspects discussed in the meeting included procurement of enforcement equipment by traffic police such as alcohol meters, breath analysers, speed detection devices and body cameras. The manpower-related concerns within traffic police; safety audits of school buses; improvements in parking and transport planning in urban centres; better management of shikara and water transport; and clearing footpaths and roadways of encroachments were discussed in detail in the meeting.

Secretary Transport informed the Chief Secretary about capacity-building efforts initiated with the support of national-level institutions to train various stakeholders involved in urban mobility and transport management.

Reiterating the importance of coordinated functioning among all departments, the Chief Secretary observed that improved logistics and mobility planning is essential for sustainable urban development.

He reviewed progress being tracked through the e-Samiksha portal and urged all departments to maintain focus on implementing citizen-centric solutions that can bring about visible and lasting improvements in traffic conditions in both the cities of Jammu and Srinagar.

CS Reviews New.....

Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives; Secretary, RDD; Managing Director, HADP; Representative from NABARD and other senior officers of the Department.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took an in-depth appraisal of the proposed roadmap prepared by the Department to give a major boost to dairy development in the UT. He stressed the need to study the outcomes of dairy sector interventions already being implemented under HADP and build upon their strengths while designing the new plan.

He observed that a well-structured strategy, supported by robust infrastructure and efficient value chains, would help achieve substantial progress in the sector and ensure maximum benefits to dairy farmers across J&K.

The Chief Secretary also directed the Department to study successful models from other states to identify best practices suitable for local conditions. He further emphasised close coordination with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to integrate its expertise and ongoing programmes for optimised results in J&K's dairy ecosystem.

Highlighting the scope of growth in the sector, ACS APD, Shailendra Kumar informed that J&K presently ranks 8th in the country in milk production, with per capita availability standing at 577 grams per day. Despite producing around 80 lakh litres per day (LLPD), only about 4 LLPD is currently being processed, he noted.

He added that dairy development is among the most promising sectors in J&K, capable of achieving surplus production in the coming years. Citing a projected growth rate of 6.55% CAGR, he stated that milk production is expected to reach approximately 50.74 MT by 2031-32. He also briefed the meeting about the ongoing interventions to boost production, processing, and value-addition.

Providing details of the newly proposed initiative, the MD HADP, Sandeep Kumar informed that the plan is designed for implementation over a seven-year period from 2026-27 to 2033-34. The scheme aims to integrate more than five lakh dairy farmers through an organised, technology-driven value chain.

The plan focuses on two major, mutually reinforcing components comprising of the establishment of modern, automated milk processing plants across production zones; and creation of an extensive, decentralized network of milk collection, chilling, and allied infrastructure to support the processing facilities.

It was further Informed that the scheme adopts a farmer-centric model aimed at decentralising power and profits. It was elucidated that the implementation will be carried out primarily through farmer-owned organisations, including Cooperatives, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs/FPCs), and Self-Help Group (SHG) cluster federations. Technical and administrative support will be provided by NDDB and the Animal Husbandry Department of J&K.

Officials also apprised that the plan ensures balanced geographical development by proposing a milk processing plant in every major production area. Each plant will be established with significant initial processing capacity, expandable up to 1 lakh litres per day (LLPD), based on future growth and coverage of at least 20% of the production through this network here.

The project also envisions the formation and strengthening of Dairy Cooperative Societies to build a direct link between dairy farmers and the newly proposed processing facilities, thereby ensuring better remuneration, transparency, and long-term sustainability for the dairy sector in J&K.

DC Srinagar, SMC Commissioner inspect initiation of work on Nawab Bazar- Darish Kadal corridor for decongestion of traffic

Project to ensure streamlining of traffic around SMHS, Super Specialty Hospital

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Faz Lul Haseeb, SSP Traffic City Ajiz , Principal GMC Srinagar Dr Iffat on Monday conducted an on-site inspection of the initiation of work on NawaBazar- Darish Kadal alternate route for traffic decongestion and management measures in the critical medical zone surrounding Shri Maharaja Hari Singh(SMHS) Hospital, Super Specialty Hospital and Dental College.

The project is a part of the broader mobility improvement and traffic regulation plan along the Nawab Bazar-

Kaksaraie-Darish Kadal Corridor aimed at streamlining vehicular movement by distributing traffic through the Suner Kul route.

During the visit, the DC and SMC Commissioner along with senior Officers and engineers, carried out an onsite assessment of the works initiated to develop this alternate road for improving mobility and decongesting the critical Medical Area around Super Specialty Hospital, SMHS and Dental College. The project shall allow for alternate vehicular movement through a specialised route.

An on-site assessment of establishing a dedicated parking facility around the high-priority hospital zone encompassing SMHS Hospital, Dental



Hospital and the Super Specialty Hospital to prevent roadside congestion and facilitate smooth access for patients, attendants and emergency vehicles was also deliberated upon.

The Nawab Bazar-Kaksaraie-Darish Kadal corridor

via the Suner Kul bund link, is aimed at ensuring smooth mobility and decongested vehicular movement.

The DC directed the concerned executing agencies to ensure that the pace of work on the approved decongestion project is maintained at a fast

rate so as to ensure timely completion of the project, emphasizing the need to prioritize interventions that guarantee swift patient movement and timely ambulance access, while minimizing inconvenience to local residents, traders, and commuters.

He noted that the proposed corridor would help redistribute traffic load, reduce bottlenecks in densely populated market stretches and streamline the approach roads leading to the major hospitals of Srinagar City.

The DC further highlighted that all measures are being implemented in close coordination with SMC, Traffic Police, local stakeholders, and health authorities to ensure smooth execution with minimal disruption. He also interacted with local residents during the visit and assured them that the District Administration is committed to improving amenities and easing traffic pressure, particularly along the heavy-load Nawab Bazar-Kaksaraie corridor.

Furthermore, the DC stated that Srinagar is moving towards scientifically planned, sustainable, and citizen-friendly traffic solutions, and that mobility-focused interventions across congested pockets will continue to be refined based on technical assessments and public feedback.

Administrative Officer, GMC Srinagar, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; DSP Traffic Police, Suhail Ahmad; Medical Superintendent, SMHS Hospital, Dr Andleeb; Medical Superintendent, Super Specialty Hospital, Dr Rubina; Executive Engineer R&B, Abdul Qayoom; Tehsildar South and other Officers and engineers accompanied the DC during the visit.

AMK Hails Rajiya Sabha Member Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan for Taking Oath in Kashmiri Language

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: Adbi Markaz Kamraz (AMK), Jammu & Kashmir, convened an important and urgent meeting under the chairmanship of its President, Mohammad Amin Bhat, to appreciate the recent historic step taken by newly elected Rajya Sabha Member, Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan, who took oath in the Kashmiri language in the Parliament of India.

President AMK, while expressing his gratitude, said that Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan's decision marks a significant milestone in the history of the Kashmiri language. "His choice to take the oath in his mother tongue demonstrates his deep love, commitment, and concern for the survival, promotion, and dignity of Kashmiri. It is a proud moment for all Kashmiri-speaking people and a step towards strengthening our cultural identity," he said.

He further added that national-level acknowledgment and respect for the Kashmiri language has opened new avenues of hope for the younger generations, while also reinforcing the collective cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir.

Adbee Markaz Kamraz, on behalf of all Kashmiri writers, poets, scholars, and lovers of the language, extended heartfelt thanks to Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan for his remarkable initiative.

The statement, further said that by taking the oath in Kashmiri inside the Parliament, Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan has proven himself to be a true guardian of Kashmiri language and culture.

Kulgam Police Solve Fatal Hit-and-Run Case Within Two Hours

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, DEC 01: Kulgam Police have swiftly cracked a fatal hit-and-run case within just two hours of the incident, showcasing prompt action and effective investigation.

Earlier in the day, an elderly man, Ab. Ahad Khanday, son of Ab. Khaliq Khanday, 87, a resident of Nipora Mirbazar, was struck by an unknown vehicle while crossing the road at Nipora, Mirbazar. He was immediately shifted to GMC Anantnag, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Acting with urgency, Kulgam Police obtained and analysed CCTV footage from the vicinity. The investigation led to the identification of the vehicle involved — a white Mahindra Bolero, bearing registration number JK03L-9171. The vehicle was traced and subsequently seized. The driver has been identified as Sheikh Burhan Tariq, 21, son of Tariq Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Qazigund. He has been arrested, and further legal proceedings under the relevant sections of law are currently underway.

Kulgam Police reiterated their commitment to ensuring public safety, enforcing traffic discipline, and upholding the rule of law.

Investigation is ongoing.

Prof. G.M. Bhat Takes Charge as New Head of KVK Kupwara, Promises Stronger Farmer-Oriented Initiatives

■ DR. AB QAYOOM

KUPWARA, DEC 01: In a significant development aimed at strengthening the agricultural landscape of Kupwara district, Prof. G.M. Bhat, son of the soil, formally took charge as the new Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kupwara on Monday. He was accorded a warm welcome by the scientific and non-scientific staff of the Kendra. Addressing the staff after assuming charge, Prof. Bhat reaffirmed his commitment to the farming community of the district, stating that "we will jointly work for the welfare of the farmers of Kupwara."

He expressed hope that KVK Kupwara would emerge as the leading KVK under SKUAST-K in the coming year. Prof. Bhat acknowledged the visionary leadership of SKUAST-K Vice Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Director Extension Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, and other officials who have contributed immensely to the upliftment of farmers. He emphasized that their guidance has played a pivotal role in shaping dynamic agricultural interventions across the region. Immediately after taking over, Prof. Bhat held an introductory meeting with the scientific and non-scientific staff to review their



assignments, field responsibilities, and ongoing projects. He later inspected various agricultural plots, demonstration fields, and research sections to assess current progress on the ground. He encouraged the staff to work with renewed dedication and called for immediate improvements in demonstration plots and agricultural fields. He assured full support to all employees for strengthening KVK Kupwara. Prof. Bhat also appealed to the district administration to extend cooperation for green revolution initiatives not only around the KVK campus but across government offices in the district.

JKPICCA Holds AGM, Applauds Transformative Reforms in J&K's Horticulture and Cold Chain Sector

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 1: The Jammu & Kashmir Fruits & Vegetable Processing & Integrated Cold Chain Association (JKPICCA) on Monday successfully conducted its Annual General Meeting (AGM), bringing together members from across the Union Territory to review sectoral progress and chart future strategies for the horticulture and cold chain ecosystem.

The hybrid-mode meeting saw robust participation, with members joining both physically and virtually, reflecting the Association's emphasis on inclusive and collaborative decision-making. Key issues discussed during the session included advancements in fruit and vegetable processing, strengthening of integrated cold chain infrastructure, adoption of modern technologies, policy improvements, and measures to enhance the horticulture value chain.

Members approved several important resolutions aimed at improving efficiency, sustainability, and market competitiveness in Jammu & Kashmir's rapidly evolving horticulture sector.

The Association expressed deep appreciation for the visionary leadership



ship guiding J&K's agricultural transformation. Special acknowledgment was extended to Hon'ble Lt. Governor Shri Manoj Sinha for formulating the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) and for establishing the Mangla Rai Committee—widely regarded as a watershed step that laid a scientific roadmap for sector-wide reforms.

JKPICCA also praised the strategic leadership of Chief Secretary Atal Dullo for ensuring coordinated and time-bound implementation of HADP across agriculture, horticulture, and allied sectors. The contributions of former Hon'ble Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Jenab Javed Dar, and Additional Chief Secretary Shailendra Kumar were also recognized for their efforts in strengthening the horticulture

ture economy.

Highlighting the sector's progress, the Association noted that initiatives such as high-density apple plantations, modern cold storage facilities, scientific orchard management practices, and global technology integration have transformed J&K's fruit industry into a modern, innovation-driven enterprise capable of year-round production and better market access.

Concluding the meeting, JKPICCA extended a vote of thanks to the executive committee, office bearers, members, and the technical support team for ensuring a smooth and productive AGM. The Association reaffirmed its commitment to driving further growth and strengthening the horticulture and integrated cold chain ecosystem in the years ahead.

Kulgam Police Organise Folk Drama Nights on the Life and Legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, DEC 01: As part of a year-long series of events dedicated to commemorating the life, vision, and extraordinary contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Kulgam Police, in collaboration with Al Hilal Residential Educational Institute Chawalgam Kulgam, organised Folk Drama Nights showcasing significant episodes from the life and achievements of the Iron Man of India. The event was held at the premises of Al Hilal Residential Educational Institute, Chawalgam Kulgam. The cultural presentations vividly highlighted Sardar Patel's pivotal role in the integration of over 560 princely states, his unwavering commitment to national unity, and his lasting contribution to building a strong and united India. Local artists and students enthusiastically participated, presenting traditional folk performances infused with patriotic themes that captivated and inspired the audience. SHO Police Station Kulgam Sabzar Ahmad, the Principal, staff members, students of the institution, and local residents attended the event. They appreciated the performers for their impactful portrayals that brought Sardar Patel's legacy to life in an engaging, meaningful, and culturally rich manner.

Mock Drill Conducted at Sadoora Railway Station to Strengthen Security Preparedness

■ FAROOQ RATHER

ANANTNAG, DEC 01: As part of the ongoing security review of railway tracks and key installations, a comprehensive mock drill was conducted at Sadoora Railway Station to assess and enhance the preparedness, coordination, and operational efficiency of

security forces during emergency situations. The exercise was jointly carried out by District Police Anantnag, the Government Railway Police (GRP), and the Railway Protection Force (RPF). Multiple emergency scenarios were simulated to evaluate the effectiveness of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and to ensure quick, coordi-

nated, and efficient responses among all participating agencies during real-time incidents. District Police Anantnag, in close coordination with the GRP authorities, reiterated their commitment to maintaining a safe and secure environment for passengers and safeguarding critical railway infrastructure.



Secretary Health chairs World AIDS Day with call for transformative action

Emphasises collective responsibility, stigma-free access, accelerated progress towards ending AIDS by 2030

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 01: Secretary Health & Medical Education, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today presided over the Union Territory level function held to mark World AIDS Day 2025.

The event was organised by the J&K AIDS Control Society (JKACS) at the Convention Centre, Canal Road, Jammu.

In his address, the Secretary spoke about the profound impact HIV/AIDS has on the lives and mental well-being of affected individuals. He highlighted the collective responsibility required to address such public health challenges. He emphasized the need for

transformative solutions to improve the patient access to HIV services, eliminate stigma and discrimination while ensuring protection of their rights.

Dr. Abid Rasheed appreciated the efforts of JKACS and commended community members for openly sharing their experiences. He assured all possible support from the department to ensure that people living with HIV receive the necessary assistance to lead healthy and productive lives. He also underscored the importance of engaging diverse stakeholders to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of ending AIDS as a global health threat by 2030.



This year's theme, "Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response," focuses on addressing disruptions in HIV prevention and treatment services and calls for a transformed, resilient response driven by political commitment, international cooperation and human-rights-centered approaches.

Following the formal proceedings, the dignitaries visited various awareness booths set up by different wings of the Health Department in the foyer area. The stalls featured IEC material on HIV/AIDS, free HIV testing, TB awareness, AYUSH medicines, Anemia Mukh Bharat services, Tele-MANAS services, yoga demonstrations

and distribution of medicines by NHM with support from the Directorate of Health Services Jammu.

The dignitaries also inspected the posters and canvas paintings prepared by the students from various Red Ribbon Clubs of different educational institutions.

Earlier, Project Director, J&K AIDS Control Society, Dr. Jehangir Bakshi, delivered the welcome address and outlined the overall functioning and initiatives of the Society.

The event also featured cultural performances, including dance presentations by students from various institutions, aimed at spreading awareness among the audience.

Shantmanu inaugurates "Art of Living - Educators Development Program"

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 01: A three-day "Art of Living - Educators Development Program" was today inaugurated by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education and Director SCERT, Shantmanu, at Bhartiya Yog Sansthan (BYS), Jammu.

The program is being organised in collaboration with JKSCERT and DIET Jammu, with the aim of addressing stress and promoting holistic well-being among the educators through Sudarshan Kriya Breathwork, mindfulness practices and emotional regulation techniques.

In his inaugural address, Shantmanu highlighted the growing need for incorporating wellness, emotional resilience and stress-management strategies into the professional development landscape for teachers. He noted that the educators today manage diverse learner needs and increased expectations, making it essential to nurture their inner balance and overall well-being.

The ACS emphasized that such



initiatives strengthen emotional stability, enhance professional effectiveness and help the teachers cultivate empathetic, supportive and engaging learning environments.

Appreciating the collaborative efforts of SCERT J&K, DIET Jammu, and Bhartiya Yog Sansthan, he reiterated the commitment towards building a mindful, motivated and future-ready

teaching community.

Joint Director, SCERT Jammu, Professor Sindhu Kapoor, also addressed the gathering, commending the enthusiasm of the participating teacher educators. She emphasized the importance of integrating mindfulness, reflective practices and emotional regulation into teacher education, noting that the vision of NEP 2020 calls for educators who are not only academically proficient but also emotionally a rounded and resilient.

She remarked that programs like this equip teachers to handle classroom challenges with composure, strengthen interpersonal relationships and foster deeper self-awareness.

Dr. Kapoor reaffirmed SCERT Jammu's dedication towards advancing transformative and learner-centric professional development initiatives that contribute meaningfully to educators' well-being.

The event was graced by Arunima Sinha, Senior Faculty of the Art of Living, Lifestyle

Consultant and Meditation Facilitator, who attended as the Guest of Honour and will serve as the lead resource person for the three-day training.

A total of 30 Teacher Educators-15 from DIET Jammu and 15 from SCERT Jammu division are participating in the intensive program. The module includes experiential practices, evidence-based well-being tools, emotional regulation sessions and practical strategies aimed at enhancing personal harmony and professional efficiency.

Distinguished dignitaries from Bhartiya Yog Sansthan, Jammu, including Satpal Sharma (President) and Jia Lal Sharma (General Secretary), were present on the occasion.

Dr. Romesh Kumar, HOD DIET Jammu, Coordinator, presented an overview of the initiative and outlined its objectives.

The program was managed by Dr. Sanjeevani Sharma, Assistant Professor, Coordinator SCERT; Yogesh Kumar, Associate Coordinator, SCERT and Dr. Romesh Kumar, HOD DIET Jammu.

Sham Lal Sharma chairs PAC meeting to examine CAG's audit paras

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 01: A meeting of Committee on Public Accounts (PAC) was held under the Chairmanship of MLA, Sham Lal Sharma, at Assembly Secretariat Jammu to discuss and examine the CAG's audit paras pertaining to Revenue and Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R) Departments.

Members, Balwant Singh Mankotia; Altaf Ahmed Wani (Kuloo) and Dr. Devinder Kumar Manval were present in the meeting. They gave valuable suggestions to make the committee more fruitful and vibrant.

Threadbare discussions were held on CAG's Audit Paras 3.23 & 3.24 (2014-15) and 2.2 & 2.3 (2018-19) PMDP pertaining to Revenue and Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Departments respectively.

The Committee discussed various other issues pointed out in the CAG's reports and action taken thereof.

The Chairman highlighted the mandate of Public Accounts Committee has to examine the observations made by the CAG and sought replies thereto from the concerned departments.

The Chairman directed the concerned officers of DMRR&R to furnish a comprehensive reports on the audit paras under examination within a period of ten days positively so that the maximum audit paras could be dropped.

The Chairman directed the senior officers of DMRR&R department to complete the verification of left over migrants and provide them the relief and assistance on the analogy of other migrants of Jammu and Kashmir.

Accountant General, Tsewang Tharchin, briefed the Committee and pointed out the present status of CAG's audit paras pertaining to Revenue and DMRR&R Departments.

Principal Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction, Chandraker Bharti, also briefed the Committee regarding the rehabilitation of migrants and assured the Committee for submitting action taken reports on the audit paras within stipulated time frame.

Secretary, JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandit besides senior officers of Revenue, DMRR&R departments and Assembly Secretariat attended the meeting.

Cluster University of Jammu Leadership Felicitates DSW Team for Spectacular Success of Yuvtrang 2025

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 1 : In a heart-warming ceremony marked by appreciation and celebration, the Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu Prof. K S Chandrasekar, and the Director Colleges, Higher Education Department J&K Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, felicitated the dedicated Team of the Department of Students Welfare (DSW) in presence of Ms. Ankur Mahajan (KAS) registrar CIUJ for their exemplary contribution in making Yuvtrang 2025 the University's annual literary and cultural fest an overwhelming success.

The felicitation honoured the Dean, DSW Prof. D. S. Manhas, Associate and Assistant Deans, Cultural Conveners, Presidium and Members of the Student Cultural Council, along with the entire DSW staff, whose tireless efforts turned the mega fest into a vibrant celebration of creativity, youth talent and cultural diversity.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director Colleges praised the team's synergy and dedication, stating that the Yuvtrang has emerged as a benchmark of excellence.

The flawless execution, discipline, and spirit of teamwork displayed by DSW truly reflect the evolving cultural vibrancy of our institutions. Echoing the sentiment, the Vice Chancellor commended the team for elevating the university's cultural identity: "The grand success of Yuvtrang stands as a testament to the commitment and passion of the DSW team and our talented students. Their collective effort has brought pride to the University."

The proceedings of the programme were conducted in a rhythmic and engaging style by Dr. Revika Arora, Cultural Convener, who added charm and seamless flow to the event.

The ceremony concluded with a formal Vote of thanks presented by Prof. D. S. Manhas, Dean DSW, who expressed gratitude to the University leadership for their constant support and encouragement.

The event celebrated teamwork, leadership and the spirit of youth marking yet another proud moment for Cluster University of Jammu.

Devyani Rana Thanks Union Railway Minister for Restoring DMU Service, fulfilling pending public demand

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

NAGROTA, DECEMBER 1 : MLA Nagrota, Ms. Devyani Rana, today expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Union Minister, Mr. Ashwani Vaishnav for Railways for the restoration of DMU 74907 and 74906, which had

remained suspended have now been resumed for public service.

Rana stated that the resumption of these crucial DMU services comes as a major relief for thousands of daily commuters, students, office-goers, and traders of the Nagrota Assembly Constituency.

She said the resumption of these services marks not just the return of a train, but the restoration of a critical lifeline that directly impacts livelihoods and daily routines.

She further noted that the restoration has been made possible due to the timely intervention.

Central University of Jammu Observes Constitution Day

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 1 : The Department of Public Policy and Public Administration, Central University of Jammu, in collaboration with NCC 4th J&K Battalion NCC (Army Wing), CU Jammu, successfully organised a special programme to mark Constitution Day on 1st December 2025 at the Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium (DDE Building), Main Campus, Rahya-Suchani (Bagla), District Samba.

The programme revolved around the theme "Constitution in Action: Rights, Duties and Judicial Review in Jammu & Kashmir", and focused on the working of the Constitution in the Union Territory, particularly the interface between citizens' rights, their duties, and the role of judicial review in safeguarding democratic governance. Justice (Retd.) Sh. Mohan Lal Manhas, Former Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker. In his keynote address, he traced the evolution of constitutional governance in Jammu & Kashmir and underscored the centrality



of fundamental rights, fundamental duties and judicial review in protecting the rule of law. He also urged students and young citizens to internalise constitutional values in their personal, social and professional lives.

The programme was organised under the patronage of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu. The event commenced with the arrival of the Chief Guest and a formal welcome, followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. Prof. Santap Sanhari Misra, Head, Department of Public Policy and Public Administration, delivered the welcome address, emphasising the significance of

Constitution Day as an occasion to revisit the spirit of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity embodied in the Preamble.

As part of the formal proceedings, Dr. Jai Bhawani Singh (Department of Public Policy and Public Administration & CT-SD, 4th NCC BN, Jammu) led the collective reading of the Preamble of the Constitution of India. Students, research scholars, faculty members and NCC cadets participated enthusiastically, reaffirming their commitment to constitutional values. In his remarks, Prof. Aswini Kumar Nanda, Dean, reflected on the contemporary relevance of the Indian Constitution in the context of socio-economic change and

public policy in Jammu & Kashmir. He highlighted the role of universities in nurturing informed, responsible and constitutionally aware citizens, and appreciated the Department's initiative in organising such academically rich programmes. Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, Central University of Jammu, delivered the Presidential Address. He underlined the importance of constitutional literacy for all stakeholders in higher education and stressed that a sound understanding of rights, duties and institutional checks and balances is essential for good governance. He also commended the active participation of students, research scholars and

NCC cadets in the programme and encouraged them to translate constitutional ideals into everyday practice.

The event concluded with the presentation of a memento to Justice (Retd.) Mohan Lal Manhas as a token of gratitude from the University. This was followed by a formal Vote of Thanks, acknowledging the support of the University administration, faculty, staff, NCC unit and student volunteers, and the singing of the National Anthem.

The programme was followed by high tea at the Committee Room, which provided an opportunity for informal interaction between the Chief Guest, University officials, faculty members and students. The Constitution Day celebration witnessed vibrant participation from students, research scholars, NCC cadets and faculty across departments.

The programme not only commemorated the adoption of the Constitution of India, but also deepened understanding of its living character in the specific context of rights, duties and judicial review in Jammu & Kashmir.



Rana visits Nishat Water Treatment Plant

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today visited the Nishat Water Treatment Plant to review its functioning and evaluate the treatment processes.

The Minister was accompanied by legislators Showkat Ganai, Ali Mohammad Dar and Ghulam Mohiuddin.

The Minister accompanied by concerned officers conducted a comprehensive inspection of the plant's filtration, treatment and distribution mechanisms. They closely observed the operational efficiency of different units, ongoing maintenance works and the protocols in place to safeguard water quality standards.

During the review, the delegation assessed the technical functioning of the machinery, performance of treatment beds and upkeep of essential infrastructure.

The Minister emphasised evaluation the current maintenance



practices and identifying areas requiring immediate attention to ensure seamless service delivery.

As part of the visit, the Minister also reviewed the ongoing works under Smart City Limited and AMRUT 2.0, which are aimed at upgrading Srinagar's water supply

infrastructure. He inspected the 3 MGD Rapid Sand Filtration Plant being developed under Smart City Limited, which will enhance the existing Water Treatment Plant capacity from 19 MGD to 22 MGD.

This augmentation will significantly strengthen the water

supply to tail-end areas including Khanyar, Rainawari, Lal Chowk and their adjoining localities, benefitting an additional 87,000 residents.

Rana further reviewed the 7 MGD Activated Carbon Chamber being constructed under AMRUT

2.0 to improve the quality of treated water supplied from WTP Nishat.

The project addresses the long-standing colour and odour issues arising from raw water, a concern repeatedly raised by MLAs of the Estimates Committee. Once operational, the upgraded system will ensure improved water quality for nearly 6 lakh residents of Srinagar.

Addressing the officers and field staff, Rana highlighted the critical importance of uninterrupted potable water supply for the public. He directed the concerned officials to promptly address any existing gaps and ensure that all systems operate at optimal capacity.

The Minister reiterated Omar Abdullah government's commitment towards strengthening the water infrastructure across J&K. He emphasised that providing safe, reliable and high-quality drinking water remains a top priority. He assured that necessary support would be extended to enhance the efficiency and resilience of such vital public utilities.

JKRTC organises grand Investors Meet on monetization of assets in Jammu

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 01: Jammu & Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) organized grand Investors Meet in Jammu here today to showcase its extensive asset portfolio and explore new avenues for their monetization under infrastructure modernization and revenue-augmentation initiatives of the agency.

Secretary Transport, Avny Lavasa; Managing Director, JKRTC, Abdul Rashid War; senior officers of Transport department and JKRTC, besides a diverse group of participants including prominent investors, infrastructure developers, representatives from financial institutions, real-estate experts and industry leaders were present on the occasion.

The meet served as a dynamic platform for JKRTC to present wide range of assets that hold significant potential for commercial development, public-utility enhancement, and long-term investment before the investors and participants and collaborate with JKRTC to unlock the value of its under-utilized assets.

Addressing the participants, Secretary Transport said that the Investors Meet is strategically important for the corporation to make it economically viable. She noted that JKRTC possesses a wide portfolio of strategically located assets at prominent and commercially viable locations that can be leveraged through PPP models, commercial development, and long-term leasing arrangements.

In his address, MD JKRTC, Abdul Rashid War presented a brief outline about the basic objective of this grand Investors Meet. He underlined the Corporation's ongoing transformation efforts, emphasizing that asset monetization will not only strengthen JKRTC's operational sustainability but also support the broader vision of economic growth and improved public transport services and create new revenue streams.

"Today's Investor Meet is a decisive step towards bringing private-sector expertise and investment into initiatives that will not only benefit JKRTC but also boost economic activity, employment, and connectivity across Jammu & Kashmir," the MD said.

During the meet, the Transactional Advisor of JKRTC gave a detailed presentation showcasing key land parcels across J&K that can be monetized for infrastructure modernization and revenue-augmentation of JKRTC.

Investors were briefed on potential models such as public-private partnerships, lease-based development, joint ventures, and revenue-sharing frameworks, ensuring mutually beneficial opportunities. Participants also engaged in an interactive session to seek clarifications on policy frameworks and future expansion plans.

The meet witnessed an encouraging response, with several investors expressing keen interest in collaborating with JKRTC to unlock the value of its under-utilized assets.

Shopian's Block Diwas sets new benchmark in accountable, people-centric governance

Public grievances, Dev. demands resolved through time-bound action

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 01: Block Diwas, a weekly public outreach initiative in Shopian has emerged as a powerful instrument of citizen-centric governance in the district, becoming a dependable platform for bridging public expectations with administrative action, reinforcing a governance model rooted in responsiveness, transparency, and community participation.

During the Block Diwas held at Zainapora, Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta presented a detailed Action Taken Report before the public, showcasing how major demands raised by residents in previous two Block Diwas and grievance redressal camps have been addressed in a time bound manner.

Several important developmental works flagged by residents have been completed or taken up for execution. It was informed that, at Safanagri, long-pending irrigation concerns were resolved after funds were released



and the lift irrigation scheme resumed, with commissioning scheduled before the coming working season.

Similarly, work on the development of the playfield at Tilwanwader Cheermarg has also begun through the J&K Sports Council, responding to community requests for youth recreation facilities.

The Bijbehara-Zainapora road stretch underwent necessary macadamisation and pothole repairs, while the dilapidated Aglar-Shopian road received immediate macadamisation attention through PMGSY.

Likewise, in the subsequent grievance redressal camp, major issues relating to desilting and repair of

irrigation canals at Zainapora and Babapora were promptly addressed. Desilting was carried out at key spots, with remaining stretches scheduled ahead of the working season. Farmers expressed relief as long-standing canal obstructions affecting irrigation flow were resolved by the concerned departments.

These developments mark a significant shift in administrative functioning, where Block Diwas has become a structured, accountable system of governance. The practice introduced by the Deputy Commissioner, wherein a complete Action Taken Report is publicly shared during every Block Diwas, has created an unprecedented culture of transparency and accountability.

The District Administration reiterated that minor issues continue to be redressed on the spot during these camps, while larger works are taken up systematically based on availability of funds and administrative competence.

4th Bi-Monthly structured Meeting of DDMs of NABARD held at FVSc & AH Shuhama

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 01: The 4th Bi-Monthly Structured Meeting of District Development Managers (DDMs) of NABARD for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh was held today at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry (FVSc & AH), Shuhama, under Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K).

The inaugural session was graced by Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, who presided as the Chief Guest.

Senior officers from NABARD including Vikas Mittal, General Manager, J&K and Ladakh Regional Office; Surinder Singh, Deputy General Manager, NABARD Srinagar, and Manohar Lal, Deputy

General Manager, NABARD Jammu, were present on the occasion. University officers including Prof. Azmat Alam Khan, Registrar, SKUAST-K, and Prof. Riaz A. Shah, Dean FVSc & AH, also participated alongside all DDMs from both UTs.

In his inaugural address, the Vice Chancellor commended the pivotal role played by NABARD in shaping the nation's development through rural infrastructure building, financial support, and capacity-enhancement initiatives. He underscored the immense potential of agriculture and allied sectors in the country's journey toward becoming a developed nation.

Prof. Ganai highlighted the successful joint initiatives undertaken by SKUAST-K and NABARD in recent years. He



expressed confidence that future collaborations would produce multiplier effects, transforming the agricultural landscape of the region through technology transfer, innovation, and policy support.

Addressing the gathering, GM NABARD, outlined the key functional areas of NABARD and emphasized the critical role of

universities like SKUAST-K in strengthening these efforts. He highlighted NABARD's commitment to rural prosperity through innovation-driven interventions and stressed the importance of popularizing field-level technologies, particularly in crucial areas such as feed and fodder development and climate-resilient

agricultural practices.

Earlier, Registrar SKUAST-K, shared his experiences of working with NABARD and expressed hope for deeper collaboration in upcoming projects.

Prof. Riaz A. Shah, Dean FVSc & AH, elaborated on the role of NABARD in advancing research and development through financial assistance, policy support, and innovation-led strategies in agriculture and allied sectors.

DGM NABARD Srinagar, highlighted the importance of such structured meetings in keeping DDMs abreast of scientific and technological advancements in agriculture and allied fields.

Later, participants undertook a planned visit to various faculty laboratories and facilities at FVSc & AH that have been developed with NABARD's support.

JKEDI begins EDPs under Mission YUVA in 12 districts

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU/SRINAGAR DECEMBER 01: The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Monday launched new batches of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) under Mission Yuva across 12 districts of the Union Territory.

The initiative aims to equip the youth with essential entrepreneurial skills and support them in establishing sustainable business ventures.

The programme is being implemented with the support of JKEDI as one of the key training institutes, entrusted with delivering high-quality capacity-building sessions in a hybrid mode.



The inaugural sessions were conducted today in the district centres of JKEDI at Kathua, Reasi, Jammu, Udhampur, Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, Bandipora, Budgam, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Baramulla, under the overall supervision of Director JKEDI.

The EDPs launched today will provide the participants with comprehensive training in business planning, financial literacy, enterprise management, market linkages and access to government support schemes. Conducting these programs simultaneously in 12 districts ensures broader outreach, enabling the aspiring entrepreneurs from various areas to benefit from structured skill development.

The commencement of the training programs mark the beginning of a comprehensive, multi-phase learning programme. The initiative is expected to significantly improve the on-ground preparedness, entrepreneurial confidence, and youth engagement, thereby strengthening the overall impact of Mission YUVA.

The participants expressed enthusiasm about the initiative and acknowledged JKEDI's role in driving entrepreneurship-led growth at the grassroots level. The institute will be rolling out additional batches in more districts in the coming weeks to meet the rising demand for entrepreneurship training under Mission YUVA.

Mission Director JJM urges Chief Engineers for creating ID's related to RPWSS

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: A review meeting regarding the creation of Out-Village infrastructure for Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes (RPWSS) was held today under the chairmanship of the Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineers, Jal Shakti Department, Superintending Engineers (Hydraulic) of all circles, Technical Officers with Chief Engineer, PHE Jammu/Kashmir and officers of Mission Directorate, Jal Jeevan Mission.

The meeting focused on accelerating the preparation and uploading of infrastructure details required for the Out-Village component of RPWSS, as mandated under the Jal Jeevan Mission digital framework.

During the meeting, the Mission Director emphasized the need for timely and accurate configuration of scheme architecture, ensuring complete mapping of existing and proposed water infrastructure, including sources, reservoirs, treatment systems, pumping systems, and transmission networks.

To streamline the process, the technical team presented

step-by-step guidance for RPWSS creation, based on an illustrated flow framework which included identification and merging or demerging of schemes for RPWSS ID creation, Selection of villages benefiting from the scheme and associated habitations, Mapping of water sources, including newly added sources where required, Incorporation of raw water reservoirs followed by Raw water transmission mains, Valves and hydraulic control components, Entry of Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) associated with the scheme, Addition of Clear Water Transmission (CWT) mains and valves, Mapping of pump houses



(non-gravity systems), Integration of MBR/ZBR units and Overhead Tanks (OHTs), Entry of Feeder Mains up to distribution point.

The Mission Director reiterated that all divisions must ensure complete, verified, and field-reflective documentation before uploading the final structure into the system to avoid discrepancies during validation and implementation.

He urged the circles to provide information of these mother-child schemes so that single ID's are created for these schemes as directed by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, National Jal Jeevan Mission. The MD directed the

Superintending Engineers to complete the process on war footing basis which will ensure assured funding in future for these schemes. The meeting was informed that technical sessions regarding creation of RPWSS ID's will be held with divisions in coming days for handholding of divisional staff, so that the whole process is completed within the set timelines.

The MD also reviewed the circle-wise mapping of the pipeline laid under PM Gati Shakti. He directed the concerned SE's to speed up the process of pipeline mapping and uploading on the PM Gati Shakti.



HT EDITORIAL

Revolutionary step as traditional charkhas get replaced by modern charkhas

In a revolutionary step the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has replaced 213 traditional charkhas with modern charkhas at its 16 Pashmina spinning training centres with an intake capacity of 20 trainees in each centre. The step has been taken so as to secure the indigenous process of hand-spinning of world-famous Pashmina wool. These training centres are functional in Srinagar, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Anantnag and Bandipora districts.

The modern spinning charkhas designed by SKUAST, Kashmir provide a healthy posture to the spinners, who earlier had to sit on haunches to hand-spin the Pashmina wool, an arduous task known only to the famed artisans of Kashmir. The modern charkha also increases daily yield at least three times, thereby increasing the financial income of the artisans. In other words it can be said that the modern charkhas are all set to transform the lives of artisans. The paddle-driven charkhas contribute to enhancing uniformity in the Pashmina yarn count.

The modern charkha is easy to operate and offers a comfort zone to the spinners, contrary to the much tiring experience of the traditional charkhas earlier. Over the years the artisans have been complaining of discomfort due to the traditional charkhas and demanded that innovation needs to be carried out in this regard. As the modern charkhas are available now one can hope that the things would change for better and there would be progress as well as prosperity.

For a long time the doctors have impressed upon the need to replace the traditional charkhas due to the health implications associated with the same. Given the fact that the modern charkhas are artisan friendly there would be no more health related complications to these people. As a result of this the artisans would not have to shell out money on account of medicines and some of the investigations. This means that a lot of money would be saved and the same would be utilized for productive activities.

The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom has taken the first step towards the betterment of artisans and it is imperative that other welfare measures are taken. Over the years the golden hands of artisans have produced masterpieces and it is important that such golden hands are given due protection. Once this is done then one can hope that the artisans would deliver in a better and professional manner and produce master pieces and that too regularly.

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A Beacon of Humanity: Kuldeep Sharma's Gift of Land to Journalist Arfaz Daing Inspires the Region



■ ER ISHFAQ KHALIQ

In a time when headlines are often dominated by conflict, institutions, and power struggles, a story from Jammu has emerged to remind us that compassion is still alive quietly shaping lives in the most unexpected ways. A few weeks ago, the life of Arfaz Daing, a Jammu-based journalist, was thrown into turmoil when his house was demolished by the Jammu Development Authority (JDA). For any family, the demolition of a home is more than a legal action it is a tearing apart of memories, stability, and the emotional foundation on which life is built. Arfaz suddenly found himself without a roof, without security, and without the certainty of tomorrow. But amid this darkness, a remarkable act of humanity illuminated the path ahead. Kuldeep Sharma, a resident known for his simplicity and integrity, stepped forward with an unprecedented gesture he offered five Marla's of his own land to the displaced journalist. In a society where land is inherited, guarded, and valued beyond measure, giving away a portion of it is not a casual act it is an act of deep empathy, courage, and moral conviction. Sharma's

gesture has struck a powerful chord across Jammu and beyond. It demonstrates that support for justice need not always come from institutions or authorities. Sometimes, it comes from ordinary people who rise above fear and indifference, guided only by conscience.

■ A Gesture That Goes Beyond Land

To Arfaz Daing and his family, the land is not just soil it is restoration. It is dignity returned after humiliation, stability restored after uncertainty, and hope revived after despair. At a moment when he felt abandoned, an unexpected hand reached out and reminded him that society still values fairness, compassion, and solidarity. For journalists across the region, Sharma's action has become a symbol of support an assurance that their work and struggles do not go unnoticed.

■ A Message for the Times

The incident carries a larger message. In a world where people often turn away from others' suffering, Kuldeep Sharma chose to stand beside a man who was wronged. His action reminds us that courage is not always loud; sometimes, it is a silent decision to help someone who has lost everything. It also raises an important question If one individual can bring such change through compassion, what could an entire society achieve if kindness became the norm?

■ A Story That Will Be Remembered

Though the news cycle may move on, the story of these two men one displaced, one moved by

empathy will remain etched in public memory. It is a story of humanity triumphing over fear, of solidarity rising above silence, and of one man's generosity restoring another man's life. In an age of uncertainty, Kuldeep Sharma's gesture stands as a beacon of hope, reminding us that goodness still exists, often in the hearts of the simplest among us. And sometimes, one act of kindness is enough to rebuild not just a home, but faith itself. In the quiet corners of society, where pain often goes unnoticed, this act of kindness has become a warm light. When Arfaz stood before the ruins of his demolished home, he saw the end of his world but through Kuldeep Sharma's compassion, he also saw a new beginning. Sometimes, life tests a person not through enemies, but through silence and helplessness. And sometimes, it heals through the unexpected embrace of a stranger. What Kuldeep Sharma offered was not just land it was dignity restored, a hand extended, and a reminder that even in the harshest moments, humanity does not die. His gesture tells every broken heart: you are not alone; goodness still walks among us.

It is about the power of a single human heart. When everything collapsed around Arfaz Daing, it was not an institution that stood by him, but an ordinary man with extraordinary compassion. Kuldeep Sharma's gesture reminds us that even in a world hardened by struggle, kindness still has the strength to rebuild what was broken. His act will echo far beyond the five Marla's he gave; it will live on as a testament that hope survives, that goodness rises, and that humanity when awakened can change someone's entire world.

Ramzaan College Fresher's Day Showcases Culture, Unity & Nursing Excellence



■ MOHAMMAD ARFAT WANI

The day of 27 November 2025 at Ramzaan College of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, Galander Pampore, arrived as a festival wrapped in colours, warmth, and youthful joy. It was as if the entire campus had woken up to a morning full of celebration and promises never to be forgotten. While walking through the gates, the soft rising wave of excitement from all directions gripped us, and the moment we stepped into the decorated auditorium, glowing from corner to corner with light, flowers, and vibrant colors, it knew without a doubt that this day was going to be etched in the history of our college as a treasured memory. Every chair seemed to carry a silent invitation to happiness, every face radiated expectation, and every moment felt like it whispered that something beautiful was about to unfold.

Soon, our respected teachers stepped into the auditorium hall, filling it with grace, and the program began with remarkable charm, discipline, and an atmosphere reflecting both unity and celebration. Aqeel opened the event with a brilliant welcome, his words flowed with elegance, immediately setting a mark of grace for the day and soon he was joined by Faizan whose charm added a spark of liveliness to the stage. A melodious welcome song followed and its soothing rhythm spread through the hall like a gentle breeze, creating a festive aura that perfectly introduced the much awaited Freshers Party, reminding everyone that this event was not only about fun but also about culture, creativity, and togetherness.

The first performance today was the Rouff dance which was presented by our talented girls under the guidance of Shabnam, along with participants Rawa Shahzad (Hawa), Mehnor, Hazika, Misba, Sayana, Shabnam, Toiba, Ishrat, and Sahiba, who moved so gracefully and purely that every step seemed to be telling some story, the revival of Kashmiri heritage, a soft echo of the beauty of our homeland.

Their performance of traditional songs like "Tosh Tosh Bulbulo," "Machar Aav Aabi Sharan," and "Hukus Bukus Teli Wan Cxe Kus" infused the auditorium with the fragrance of culture, reminding all that traditions live with those who breathe them into reality with pride.

This was followed by a soulful performance that eventually gave way to Aamina's welcome address which came across with due respect and warmth, setting the audience up for the wisdom to follow. Next, Principal Maam Jamsheeda Zaroo took to the stage and her inspirational words raised every student's spirit, talking about the dignity of the nursing profession, the compassion it demands and the responsibility it places on every heart that chooses this noble path. The inspiration continued with the motivational address by the Chief Guest, Mr Sajad Ahmad Wani, which left an indelible mark on everyone present. Ahtisham's soulful speech added yet another layer of depth to this momentous occasion a speaking reflection of sincerity, dedication and the spirit of hard work.

Soon after, I was invited to present poetry in Kashmiri and English, and standing on that stage felt like standing at the bridge of culture and emotion. Poetry is a vessel through which language breathes, and in that moment every verse felt alive, connecting hearts, reminding us of our identity, our heritage and the beauty of expressing emotions through words.

The musical segment took the atmosphere to another level, as three talented girls named anusha, tanzeela and hadiya were performing along with Aqeel on guitar and Tajamul leading the vocals. Their melodious performance completely captivated the hall, and the harmony of their voice created a memory that will last long for the students of this institution. Then a short tea break; discussions, laughter, and soft smiles occupied the corners of the campus. Then came the program with renewed vigor, Aakash surprised everybody with a rap performance full of rhythm, confidence and creativity.

Then, Aqib Sir sang "Tera Mera Rishta Purana," accompanied by Aqeel and Faizan, and their performance created a musical moment that echoed warmly in every corner of the hall. This was followed by the Task Session, which was beautifully hosted by Sadaf and Basharat Amin. The lively interac-

tion, interesting questions, and playful atmosphere brought laughter and curiosity amongst the students. One student's poised answers, along with her intelligent counter-questions, reminded everyone that true learning gets reflected not just by knowledge but by confidence, communication, and courage. Rayees Sir added a gentle reminder about respecting seniors, expressed with humour and affection bringing both discipline and warmth to the mood.

This was followed by lunch that included fried chicken, which added delight to the afternoon and gave everyone a chance for some relaxation, bonding, and enjoyment.

The performances started again with renewed enthusiasm after lunch. Later on, Tajamul Islam, accompanied by Ikhlaas Lateef, Basharat Amin, Ahtisham, Sheikh Abid, Burhan Yousuf, and Tahir Ameen, sang "Paar Channa De" and "Huwa Faisla" on Ramsha Maam's request. The combination of emotion and melody made the hall vibrate to the very brim. Speeches by Aqib Mushtaq Sir and Rayees Sir added guidance, warmth, discipline, and love. It reminded the students that education is not confined to classrooms but also it is in experiences like these.

The final part of the programme was a blend of humor, music, drama, and meaningful depth. Aqeel presented a humorous rendition of "Lakdi Ki Kaathi," filling the hall with laughter, and soon after he sang an original soulful song that touched hearts. Then came a powerful drama by the Third Semester students that carried a strong message about the nursing profession. It reminded one that though less acknowledged by society, nurses play a sacred, irreplaceable, and equally important role as compared to the role of a doctor. Basharat, Ahtisham, Sadaf, Ikhlaas, Pakiza, Shoaib, and Sheikh Abid performed with such intensity and emotion that the audience was moved, reflecting on the truth that dedication, service, and compassion define real strength and real respect.

Towards the end of the program, Miss Fresher Madhiya and Mister Fresher Hamaad were selected amid a lot of cheers and applause, and Darshan gracefully and sincerely concluded the event with a vote of thanks.

This was followed by a personal moment that I will forever cherish, My coordinator Professor Ajaz Sir and Principal Maam jamsheeda zaroo

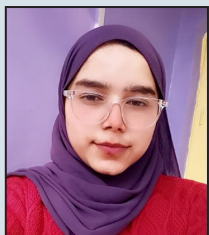
coming onto the stage to honor me with a gift in recognition of my writing, which touched my heart with pride, gratitude and renewed motivation to keep on writing and contributing.

Behind this day, a lot of students were engaged day and night to make this event a success. Basharat Ameen, Aakash Bashir, Faizan Turey, Shaista, Tajamul, and the DJ Team under Faizan Javaid shaped the event with careful planning, while others like Muskan, Amina, Insha, Sadaf, Faizan, Fazila, Shakir, Uzma, and Kafeela dedicated endless hours to decoration and arrangements. The students had to practice continuously, even by skipping classes, putting in all their efforts to make it perfect. And two days ago there is one moment which must be mentioned during the lunch break, when everybody was enjoying his food or was outside resting, I went to the staffroom to offer prayer and found senior student Muskan working all alone, arranging items with full focus and sincerity. Her dedication touched my heart, reminding me that true commitment is seen in moments when no one is watching. At the end of the day, I met Rabiya Maam, who kindly told me that I truly deserved the recognition I received. I am grateful for her words. I also met my Class Coordinator, Professor Ajaz Sir, who appreciated my poetry and many others across the college expressed the same, which deeply encouraged me.

In the end, Freshers Party was not just a celebration, it was a living portrait of talent, unity, culture, creativity and emotion. Each performance had a story and conveyed a message be it dance, poetry, speech, song, rap, or drama. The event signaled that a beginning holds within it the potential for development and success, silent and unseen hard work leaves long-lasting impressions, and moments shared with everyone stay in the heart forever. This day will be remembered as an unforgettable chapter in the journey of Ramzaan College, echoing its spirit of culture, respect, dedication, and unity for years to come.

The author is a passionate writer, social activist, and nursing student from Kuchmulla Tral, is also a B.Sc. Nursing student at Ramzaan College of Nursing & Paramedical Sciences, Galander Pampore, Email: wania6817@gmail.com

Empowering Women: Breaking Barriers and Building a Brighter Future



■ IQRA MOHIUDIN

Women have always played a vital role in shaping families, communities, and societies. Throughout history, they have contributed as leaders, innovators, caregivers, and change-makers, often overcoming barriers to claim their rightful place in the world. Today, women continue to excel in education, business, science, politics, and the arts, proving that talent and determination know no gender. Their voices drive social progress, championing equality, justice, and human rights. Despite significant achievements, many women still face challenges such as discrimination, limited opportunities, and cultural expectations. Addressing these issues requires collective effort, supportive policies, and a commitment to empowering every girl and woman. When women are given equal opportunities, entire societies benefit. They bring diverse perspectives, empathy, and resilience that strengthen communities and inspire future generations. Celebrating women is not just about acknowledging their accomplishments—it's about recognizing their potential and ensuring a world where they can thrive without limitations. In modern times, movements for women's rights encourage equal pay, education, safety, and freedom of choice, yet, there is still work to be done. Every person has a responsibility to support women's rights and challenge stereotypes. Women are not only mothers, daughters, sisters, and wives; they are individuals with dreams, talents, and ambitions. Celebrating women means recognizing their contributions and giving them the support they deserve. A world that respects and uplifts women is a world that becomes more peaceful, balanced, and successful.

The writer is reading in class 11th from Sharigund Payeen



Education: The Most Powerful Weapon for Change



■ BY M S NAZKI

Education gives us power by bringing out our latent talents and giving us the information and skills we need to face challenges. It is a force that changes things and goes beyond limits, letting us break free and fly toward our dreams.15 Corps Srinagar !

Through these words, we can show how education can change the course of a person's growth and success.

Education is the most powerful weapon on which you can use to change the world. The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.Students of Army Goodwill schools!

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. An investment in knowledge pays the best interest and finally education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.MD!

Army Goodwill Schools (AGS): To facilitate provision of quality education to the population affected by terrorism in J&K was identified as a "Key Result Area" by India Army in late 1990's.

The focus of Operation Sadbhavana in J&K accordingly encompassed improving the overall core social indices through Quality Education, Women and Youth

Empowerment, Infrastructure Development and Health and Veterinary Care. A major thrust is to provide education to underprivileged sections of J&K in regions eluded by development.

Indian Army over the years has established 43 Army Goodwill Schools and rendered assistance to number of State Government run schools in remote areas through renovation, construction of additional class rooms, libraries, toilets, playgrounds, sports facilities, provisioning of furniture, computers, educational software packages, stationary, and books.

Approximately one lakh fifty thousand

plus students have benefitted in the last 22 years wherein they have obtained middle and higher secondary level education.

The popularity of Army Goodwill Schools can be measured by the fact that there is a growing clamor by the local population for opening more such schools and approximately 14500 students are currently obtaining quality education in primary/ higher secondary levels.

Approximately 1500 students from economically weaker sections are receiving scholarships, the total value of which is a little above five crores for studies in schools within and outside the State.

Most of the students benefiting from these scholarship schemes have also been assisted in obtaining admissions in institutes outside of Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides imparting quality education the Goodwill Schools are also providing employment to qualified youth of the State. As on date nearly 1000 teaching and non teaching staff is employed in various Goodwill schools.

Over the years, the Army has expanded the scope of this operation and has made tremendous efforts to help these students exploit opportunities to pursue higher education.

The 'Kashmir Super 50 (Engg)' project is one such initiative, modeled after the well-known and popular!

'Super 30 (Med)' programme. The army partnered with the Centre for Social Responsibility and Leadership, and launched this project in the academic year 2013-2014.

A total of 208 students have undergone coaching till 2019 in the institution with 182 getting selected in various engineering colleges across India

Encouraged by the positive result, another education initiative was started under "Kashmir Super 30 (Med)" in 2018 wherein Army partnered with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) & National Integrity & Education Development Organisation (NIEDO) for prep students for NEET.

35 students appeared for NEET in May 2019 and 30 students cleared the exams (09 students selected in MBBS & three in BDS in J & K colleges and 09 students took admission in other professional colleges outside J & K).

Initiatives like these are reassuring not



only because of the positive numbers and results, but also because in these initiatives exists a possibility of socially uplifting a section of the society which not only suffers socioeconomically but also lives under a constant threat of geopolitical instability. Education is a tool that might prove to be very effective in encouraging social mobility. The initiatives undertaken through Operation Sadbhavana-- from large-scale schooling efforts of Army Goodwill Schools to the 'Kashmir Super 50' and "Kashmir Super 30" project- may as well be testimony to the fact.

They offer modern infrastructure, facilities like science labs, and a curriculum that emphasizes discipline, values, and academic excellence to help shape the future of students in these regions. The program is an initiative for nation-building and includes support for children with special needs and nomadic groups.

Beyond academics: The schools aim to instill discipline, values, and a sense of community, and many also contribute to local employment for qualified youth.

Many may not be knowing this story but we do:

Fazdha Mustaq, a student from Army Goodwill School Hajinar in Kupwara, developed a practical Carbon Monoxide (CO) detection system that won praise at a national science exhibition. Her project highlights the potential for students in remote areas to excel in science and contribute to community safety through innovative solutions.

Other stories showcase student achievement in academics, like a class XII student scoring 97%, and a thriving Robotics club at Hanzik AGS.

Fazdha Mustaq (AGS Hajinar): A student from the remote Kupwara district, Fazdha developed an innovative CO detection system that alarms when toxic gas levels are present. Her project was displayed at a science exhibition at Plaksha University, Mohali, and recognized for its practicality and relevance to community safety.

Academic Success (AGS Chandigam): A student from this school achieved a 97% score in their Class XII exams, ranking 10th in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Innovation and Robotics (AGS Hanzik): The school has established a successful Robotics club, where students learn programming and design, and have the opportunity to compete in regional and national competitions.

Gold Medals (AGS Wuzur): Students from this school won gold medals for two innovations at the national level, demonstrating high-level critical thinking and creativity.

Education in remote areas: The primary goal was to establish schools in remote and inaccessible regions where children lacked access to quality education due to security challenges and a lack of infrastructure.

Countering terrorism: The initiative was a response to the widespread destruction of schools by terrorists in the 1990s,

which was seen as a deliberate attempt to deny education and lure youth into terrorism. The schools provide an alternative, peaceful environment for children.

Nation-building: By providing a national curriculum and fostering discipline and values, the schools are intended to promote national integration and a sense of unity.

Over the past three years, AGS institutions have consistently demonstrated strong academic performance and all-round development. Students have excelled in board examinations, competitive entrance test, as well as sports and cultural activities. With an emphasis on holistic growth, AGS promotes academic excellence, discipline, sportsmanship, cultural awareness, and ethical values. In many communities where civil schooling infrastructure remains limited, Army Goodwill Schools have come to represent stability, hope, and a pathway to a brighter future for the younger generation.

Education has remained a central pillar of Op Sadbhavana since its initiation in 1998, aimed at empowering the youth of J&K with knowledge, values and constructive opportunities. The establishment of Army Goodwill Schools, along with other education-focused initiatives, has played a crucial role in restoring confidence among local communities, countering radicalization narratives, and providing sustained access to quality education in remote and conflict-affected areas of the region.

Presently 11,500 students studying across AGSs. Every year nearly 800 students pass out from the AGS. In the last three years approx 20% of those who have studied from AGS have secured admissions in professional colleges to include med, engineering, paramedical, agriculture, and management colleges across the country. The other students also are pursuing higher education in a wide range of academic disciplines in reputed colleges, demonstrating the strong educational foundation provided by AGS.

I read it somewhere: You cannot change what you refuse to confront. Sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together. God's call comes before your qualifications, you can't wear your old identity and walk in your new one and finally no matter how many mistakes you make or how slow you progress, you are still way ahead of everyone who isn't trying!.....MD!

Food Stuffs Which Keep You Warmer

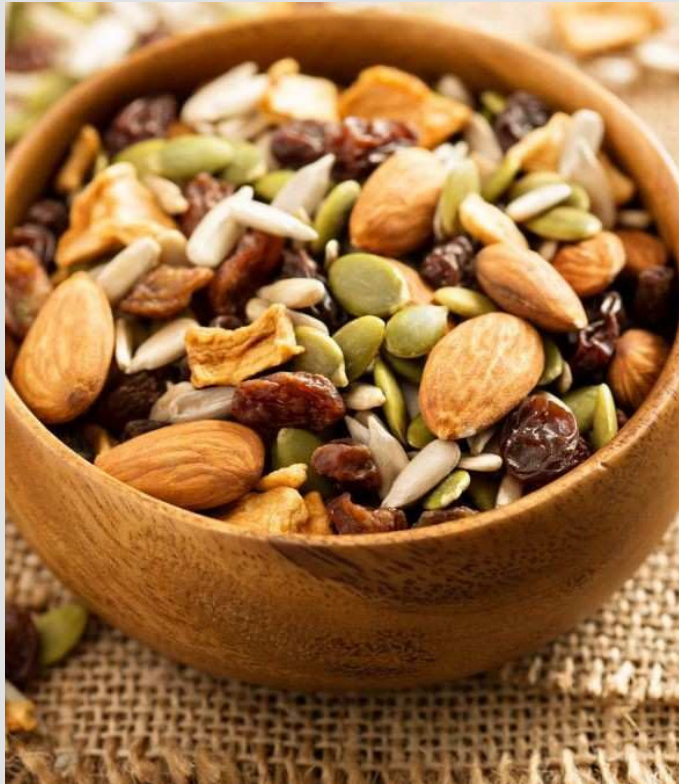


■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

With the dip in night temperature during winters, it becomes hard to survive without warm clothes, electricity, wooden ovens, and other essential services. We people of Kashmir live in the extreme northern region, and that is why we experience severe cold during winters. Due to the shortage of essential commodities, we face immense problems and spend our time with very limited resources during these months.

The Almighty has bestowed human beings with infinite, unique, and rare blessings. Humans accept any kind of new challenge with the passage of time. But it is also a fact that our body needs energy for day-to-day tasks. We have to stay ready and fit for the nation's development and progress, and for everything that is beneficial for the people of the country. At the same time, we must prepare ourselves for different challenges.

Today, I am going to explore how to keep warm during winters. The seasons occur due to the revolution of the Earth — the process in which the Earth completes one revolution around the Sun in



365 days and 6 hours. This revolution causes different seasons, which we experience and enjoy throughout the year. These are natural phenomena happening in this universe for a long time.

There are a few food items that help us stay warm and healthy during these harsh winter days. The helpful food stuffs are as follows:

The food you eat affects your body

when the temperature drops. Eating food that can help raise your body temperature makes you feel warm. In general, foods that take longer to digest can help increase your body temperature. The medical term for this process is thermogenesis, which means heat production in the body during food metabolism. Look for foods that are high in healthy fats, proteins, and carbohydrates. These foods take longer to digest.



Ginger Tea: Hot ginger tea can make you feel warm inside on a cold day. Ginger is good for digestive health and can stimulate thermogenesis. It is also a diaphoretic, which means it helps your body warm from the inside out.

Bananas: Bananas contain vitamin B and magnesium, which are important for the proper functioning of your thyroid and adrenal glands. These glands help regulate body temperature. Bananas can

also boost your mood and support memory.

Oats: Start your day with a hot bowl of oats. Oats are a great source of whole grains and fiber. Fiber improves cholesterol levels and keeps you full. Oats also provide many nutrients and help your body stay warm.

Coffee: One benefit of drinking coffee is caffeine. Caffeine increases metabolism, which raises body temperature. Iced coffee may have more caffeine, but a hot cup of coffee also provides warmth and energy.

Red Meat: Eating red meat, such as beef, is a good source of iron. Iron helps carry oxygen throughout the body. Low iron levels may cause cold hands and feet. Red meat also provides vitamin B12, which supports healthy nerves and a strong immune system.

Sweet Potatoes: Sweet potatoes and other root vegetables require more energy to digest, which raises body temperature. They are high in vitamin A, vitamin C, and potassium. Research shows that sweet potatoes are good for eye health as well.

Water: Drinking water is one of the simplest ways to help your body stay warm. Water keeps your body functioning properly and helps regulate internal temperature. Dehydration lowers your core temperature and may lead to hypothermia. People often drink less water in winter because they don't feel thirsty, so carrying a water bottle can help remind you to stay hydrated.

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World AIDS Day Observed at GMC Baramulla

■ UMAR RASHID

BARAMULLA, DEC 01: The Department of Microbiology, GMC Baramulla in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir State AIDS Control Society, observed World AIDS Day under the theme "Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response."

The program commenced with a red ribbon tying ceremony involving staff and students, symbolizing solidarity and commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS. This was followed by a walkathon, which began from the Administrative Building of GMC Baramulla, proceeded to the Deputy Commissioner's Office, and returned to the GMC campus.

The walkathon was flagged



off by the esteemed Principal, Prof. Dr. Majid Jahangir accompanied by Medical Superintendent of the Associated Hospital, Dr. Parvaiz Masoodi, Head of the Department of Microbiology, Dr. Junaid Ahmad, Prof. Dr. Syed Khurshed, along with other distinguished faculty members.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty, staff, students, and NGOs, making it a resounding success. Such initiatives serve as powerful reminders that continuous sensitization and awareness are essential for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS.

GDC Kulgam Marks World AIDS Day with Campus and Community Outreach Activities

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM: Government Degree College (GDC) Kulgam, in collaboration with the Red Ribbon Club, observed World AIDS Day by organising a series of events both on campus and within the community. The programme aimed to raise awareness among students and the general public about HIV/AIDS, associated stigma, and the importance of adopting safe practices.

The event was conducted under the guidance and encouragement of the J&K AIDS Control Society and the Higher Education Department. This year's global theme, "Ending the HIV Epidemic: Changing the AIDS Response," was reflected through a range of strategic activities and educational initiatives. The theme underscored the collective responsibility to eliminate stigma, strengthen prevention efforts, and ensure that no vulnerable group is left behind. The campus activities were led by Dr. Ijaz Ahmad Wachkoo (Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology) and the dedicated volunteers of the Red Ribbon



Club. These activities focused on both campus-based awareness and community engagement. On-campus events included a poster-making competition in which students highlighted key messages on HIV prevention, stigma reduction, and safe practices—effectively echoing this year's theme. This was followed by the formation of a Human Chain, symbolising unity, empathy, and collective responsibility in combating HIV/AIDS. The programme also emphasised important strategic actions such as community and self-testing, same-day initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART),

adoption of new prevention tools, equitable access to services, health system resilience, and empowering communities while upholding human rights. As part of the outreach component, the college organised a door-to-door awareness campaign in its adopted village, Waltingoo-Nag. To ensure effective communication in locally understood languages, Mr. Mohammad Amin Mir (Department of Kashmiri) and Dr. Hilal Ahmad Shah (Department of Urdu) joined the campaign. Using Kashmiri and Urdu, they engaged local youth and community members, addressed misconceptions, explained prevention strategies, and raised awareness about available testing and healthcare services.

The initiative significantly enhanced public understanding, encouraged open discussions around stigma, and strengthened community awareness about HIV/AIDS. The observance highlighted the institution's ongoing commitment to public health education and its active role in promoting an informed, responsible, and compassionate society.

The Medical and Scientific Importance of Staying Hydrated in Winters

■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

Winter dehydration is an often-overlooked public health concern, despite its significant impact on bodily functions. Reduced thirst perception, increased indoor heating, and altered fluid dynamics contribute to a seasonal decline in water intake. This can impair metabolic, cardiovascular, thermoregulatory, and immune functions.

Hydration is typically associated with the summer months, when heat and perspiration create a visible need for fluids. However, research shows that winter poses equal—if not greater—risks of dehydration. Cold temperatures dull the hypothalamic thirst response, causing individuals to underestimate their need for water. Additionally, dry winter air increases fluid loss through respiration, while indoor heating accelerates dehydration. Together, these factors create unique challenges in maintaining adequate hydration during cold months.

The Physiological Importance of Water in Winters

1. Thermoregulation in Cold Weather

Water is essential for the body's thermoregulation system. Adequate hydration maintains proper blood volume, which helps preserve core temperature. In cold conditions, the body constricts peripheral vessels to conserve heat. Dehydration thickens blood and increases cardiovascular strain, reducing the body's ability to regulate tem-

perature and increasing the risk of cold-related conditions such as hypothermia and chilblains.

2. Immune Function and Disease Prevention

Hydration supports the mucosal membranes lining the respiratory tract. These membranes produce mucus that traps pathogens. Dry winter air combined with low hydration thickens mucus and weakens this first line of defence. Individuals who stay well-hydrated maintain stronger mucosal immunity and are less susceptible to colds, influenza, and other respiratory infections.

3. Metabolic and Digestive Efficiency

Winter increases metabolic demand as the body generates heat. Water is vital for enzymatic reactions, nutrient transport, and cellular energy production. Since winter diets are often richer in fats and carbohydrates, adequate hydration is necessary for smooth digestion, preventing constipation, indigestion, and slow gastric emptying.

4. Skin Health and Barrier Protection

Cold weather accelerates transepidermal water loss, resulting in dryness, flaking, and reduced skin elasticity. Proper hydration supports the skin's barrier function, enhances wound healing, and maintains overall skin health—an important component of the immune system.

Pros of Drinking Sufficient Water in Winters

Enhanced Immunity

Keeps respiratory passages moist, enabling effective immune cell activity and early removal of pathogens.

Improved Cardiovascular Efficiency
Maintains optimal blood viscosity and smooth circulation, reducing winter-induced hypertension and cardiovascular stress.

Cognitive Clarity and Mental Well-being
Dehydration affects neurotransmitter balance, leading to headaches, fatigue, and poor concentration. Sedentary indoor winter routines make hydration especially important for brain function.

Skin and Joint Health
Water prevents winter dermatitis, cracked skin, and maintains synovial fluid lubrication in joints.

Better Metabolic and Digestive Performance

Supports increased winter metabolism and improves digestion of heavy festive foods.

Potential Cons of Excessive Water Intake in Winters

While hydration is essential, excessive consumption poses risks:

Hyponatremia (Water Intoxication)
Dilution of sodium levels can cause nausea, confusion, and in severe cases, seizures.

Frequent Urination and Electrolyte Imbalance

Cold diuresis naturally increases urine production. Overhydration may strain the kidneys and disturb electrolyte balance.

Worsening of Heart or Kidney Conditions
Individuals with renal disease or heart failure must follow physician-guided fluid intake limits.

These drawbacks generally affect those who exceed physiologically necessary water intake.

Can a Well-Hydrated Body Be Disease-Free in Winters?

Hydration alone cannot guarantee immunity, but it plays a vital supportive role in winter health.

Strengthens First-Line Defence

Well-hydrated mucosal surfaces reduce the chance of viruses entering the body.

Improves Immune Cell Communication
Proper hydration ensures efficient circulation of white blood cells and antibodies.

Enhances Detoxification
Water optimizes kidney filtration, enabling removal of toxins, metabolic waste, and inflammatory substances.

Supports Sleep and Stress Tolerance
Hydration helps regulate cortisol and melatonin. Quality sleep and reduced stress, in turn, boost immunity.

Thus, hydration is a foundational pillar of disease prevention, complementing nutrition, physical activity, hygiene, and vaccination.

Public Health Recommendations and Need for Awareness

Despite its importance, winter hydration receives inadequate attention in public

health efforts. To address this gap, educational institutions, healthcare programs, and media platforms should:

Promote winter-specific hydration guidelines.

Encourage the intake of warm hydrating beverages such as herbal teas, soups, and infused warm water.

Highlight signs of winter dehydration—dry lips, dizziness, fatigue, constipation, and reduced skin elasticity.

Educate vulnerable groups including children, the elderly, outdoor workers, and those with chronic diseases.

Hydration remains a fundamental physiological necessity, becoming even more important during winter. Although cold weather reduces the sensation of thirst, the body continues to depend on water for thermoregulation, immune strength, metabolism, cardiovascular stability, and skin protection. While adequate hydration alone cannot ensure a disease-free winter, it significantly enhances resilience and overall well-being.

Recognizing winter dehydration as a public health priority and integrating hydration awareness into health education can greatly improve community health outcomes. Water—the simplest yet most indispensable molecule—remains central to winter wellness.

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

GMC Srinagar Marks World AIDS Day With Call for Stronger Awareness, Collective Action

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar today observed World AIDS Day with a special program at its auditorium, organised by the Department of Community Medicine in collaboration with the J&K AIDS Control Society (JKACS).

Inaugurating the event, Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar, Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan Shah, underscored the need for wider public awareness and stronger inter-sectoral coordination in line with this year's global theme, "Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response." She lauded the Department of Community Medicine for consistently driving health education initiatives.

Addressing the gathering, Imtiyaz Khan, Assistant Director JKACS, presented an overview of the HIV/AIDS situation in Jammu & Kashmir and highlighted the ongoing efforts of the society to enhance prevention, testing, and treatment services across the UT.

The program also featured a health education skit and a poster-making competition by GMC medical students, aimed at promoting behavioural awareness and reducing stigma. Certificates and mementoes were awarded to participants and winners, appreciating their contributions to spreading vital public health messages.



Emotional Farewell Marks Departure of Ghulam Hassan Malla from Middle School Shathgund Payeen

■ HT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, DEC 01: A grand farewell ceremony was organized at Middle School Shathgund Payeen in honour of senior teacher Ghulam Hassan Malla by the teachers associated with PCO Batagund. The event witnessed the participation of a large number of teachers, members of civil society, and former teachers including Haji Mohammad Ramzan Reshi, Abdul Rehman Mir, former Senior Assistant Mohammad Abdullah Reshi, and Atif Qayoom, President of Handwara Media Association. The programme was presided over by renowned educationist Bashir Ahmad Qureshi. On this occasion, students presented a poetic farewell to Ghulam Hassan Malla.

Speakers including Abdul Hameed Teli, Abdul Ghani Peer, Raja Shams-ul-Islam, Khurshid Reshi, Khurshid Ahmad Wani, Nazeer Ibn Shahbaz, Headmaster HS Rajpora Mohammad Ameen Lone, Head Assistant ZEO Office Mawer Mohammad Ishaq Mir, Faiq Maqbool, and Deputy Chief Education Officer Kupwara Rafiq Ahmad Mir highlighted the educational services of Ghulam Hassan Malla and congratulated him on his successful career. The speakers described him as a cheerful, soft-spoken, sociable, hospitable, dutiful, and responsible teacher.



On the occasion, Ghulam Hassan Malla shared the sweet and bitter experiences of his service life, explaining the circumstances in which he continued to keep the flame of education alive. He expressed gratitude to all the teachers who organized the farewell in his honour.

In his presidential address, Bashir Ahmad Qureshi offered valuable advice to the teachers about the teaching-learning process and recalled how teachers in earlier times kept students engaged through various activities. He congratulated Ghulam Hassan Malla on his honourable retirement and thanked all participants.

Teachers associated with PCO Bategund presented various gifts to express their affection for him. Khurshid Ahmad Wani and Imtiyaz Ahmad Malla also presented individual gifts to their beloved teacher, while Mst. Mahmooda Ji, who worked closely with him, also offered a gift. The programme was conducted by the talented teacher Javed Ahmad Wani of Middle School Batagund.

At the end of the ceremony, all guests and teachers accompanied Ghulam Hassan Malla to his residence at Shahbaz Colony Shathgund Payeen, where intellectuals of Mawer, retired teachers, and his relatives congratulated him, honoured him, and warmly welcomed all attendees.

One-Day Theatre Workshop by Yamberzal Youth Club at a Private School in Hazratbal

STUDENTS BEING PREPARED TO PROMOTE MODERN THEATRE

■ GULFAM BARJI

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: To promote modern theatre and attract the younger generation toward this art form, theatre workshops are being organized in various government and private schools across the Valley, where students are being trained in modern theatre. Continuing this initiative, the Yamberzal Youth Club Brain Nishat con-



ducted a one-day theatre workshop at Gulistan-e-Atfaal School, Zakura Crossing, Batpora, Hazratbal. During the workshop, students of the school were introduced to modern theatre and were also given practical training.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the participating students performed a short play titled "Payes Payi Tou". The students showcased their talent impressively, indicating that the future of modern theatre looks promising in their hands.

The principal of the school, Zahid Sofi, thanked the Yamberzal Youth Club for organizing the theatre workshop and said that such workshops will continue to be held in the future so that students remain engaged not only in academics and sports but also in cultural activities.

از عدالت سب جج/پیش موہائل مجسٹریٹ بارہمولہ

باجلاس - عمران حنیف خان

عنوان مقوم باشندگان موضع دلہ بارہمولہ بدرج

1. امتیاز الحق رائٹر ولدمر حرم محمد اسماعیل رائٹر ساکنہ دلہ بارہمولہ
2. افتخار گل رائٹر رائٹر خوار الدین رائٹر رائٹر ساکنہ دلہ بارہمولہ (سایر اہل)

بشمار

- Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Through Commissioner / Secretary to Government, Jal Shakti/Irrigation and Flood Control Department, J&K, Civil Secretariat Jammu/Srinagar;
- Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Department at Srinagar;
- Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Baramulla/Bandipora H.Q Sopore.
- Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Sopore.
- Assistant Executive Engineer Irrigation Sub-Division Sangrama.
- Deputy Commissioner Baramulla;
- Tehsildar Baramulla.
- Block Development Officer Baramulla

اشتہار برآؤ آگاسی ہر خاص و عام باشندگان موضع دلہ بارہمولہ

معاہد مندر جہ عنوان الصدر میں باشندگان دلہ بارہمولہ کو بدرج اشتہار مطلق و آگاہ کیا جاتا ہے۔ کہ۔۔ صدر عدالت ہذا میں بلوان بالا دائر ہوا ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص یا فرد کو دعوہ ہذا کی نسبت کوئی غلط فہمی ہو تو وہ تاریخ آئندہ مورخہ 2025-12-22 سے کل پندرہ عدالت ہذا میں پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے عیاد کوئی بھی غلط فہمی یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔ پیش موہائل مجسٹریٹ بارہمولہ

Public Notice

I, Syed Rafi ud Din, S/o Syed Najam ud Din hereby inform the general public that I am applying for correction of my name in my Salary Account maintained with J&K Bank Limited. My correct name should be read as Syed Rafi ud Din Bukhari S/O Syed Najam ud Din, in accordance with the records maintained on My Service Book. Anyone having any objection to this correction may contact the undersigned or the concerned branch of J&K Bank Limited within 7 days of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Syed Rafi ud Din Bukhari
Contact: -9419003753

Laptop Care House

Wholesale Dealer Of New And Pre Used Laptops

DEALS IN ALL KINDS OF LAPTOPS AND ACCESSORIES

REPAIRING OF: ALL TYPES OF LAPTOPS & DESKTOPS



PUBLIC NOTICE

We the following persons propose to register a non-profitable society under the name & style Valley Carrom Association in Jammu & Kashmir with the registrar of societies J&K under the societies registration Act, 1860.

S.No	Name of the member with address, Phone No. & Email (if any)	Occupation	Designation in the Society
01	Mr. Nayeem Ahmad Zargar R/o: Mirza Bagh Saderbal, Hazratbal Srinagar, 7006033453	Businessman	President
02	Mr. Tasif Ahmad Khan R/o: Firdous Abad Batamalo, Srinagar, J&K-190009, 7780276869	National Player	Secretary
03	Miss. Bisma Farooq R/o: Ikhrapora, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, J&K, 9149754691	Sports Instructor (F)	Treasurer
04	Mr. Bilal Ahmad Reshie R/o: Repora, Lar Ganderbal, J&K, 7006260889	Sports Coach	Sr. Vice President
05	Mubashir Latif R/o: Tengpora Bypass, Srinagar, J&K, 6006822935	Businessman	Vice President
06	Tanzeela Firdous R/o: Chanapora, Srinagar, J&K	Sports Person	Jt. Secretary
07	Mr. Asrar Bashir Malik R/o: Kawoosa, Budgam, J&K, 7780946370	Athlete	Executive Member

Any objection may be reported to the office of Registrar of societies, J&K within the period of 21 days. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

Sd/- General Secretary
Valley Carrom Association of J&K

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER | CIVIL WORKS

e-Fresh NIT No: 73/EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl of 2025-26 under Endorsement No.:8203-08 | Dated: 29-11-2025

For and behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	T.D Cost	E/M	Time	Class
01	Improvement/Upgradation of road and drain and protection wall from Baba Canal to Molvi Naseer near Shahbaz nallah Chountiwalwar under Road Sector Capex Budget 2025-26.	Rs.29.26 Lacs	Rs.1100/=	Rs.58,520/=	120-Days	BEE/AAY

Major Head: UT Road Sector (UT Capex Budget 2025-26)

Position of AA: Accorded

Position of TS: Accorded

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	29-11-2025
2.	Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents	29-11-2025
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	29-11-2025 from 04:00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	04-12-2025 upto 04:00 PM
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids (Online)	05-12-2025 at 11:00 AM in the Office of PW(R&B) Division Ganderbal

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal.

NOTE: The Date of Treasury Challan and CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-Responsive.

- The Bidders shall upload earnest money equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of tendering pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal.
- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Allotted Cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal within 03 days before Fixation of contract and shall be released after completion of DLP and the 2% EMD shall be released in favour of successful bidder only after the receipt of 5% Performance Security.
- Unbalanced Bid: As per the Circular Instructions of Finance Department Vide No. (Principal Secretary to Government Finance Department's circular issued under endorsement No: FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:- 08.08.2025), which is reproduced as:-
 - Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
 - Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
 - The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.
 - The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security.

In case bid of the bidder is unbalanced. The lowest bidder (L-1) has to provide additional performance security, immediately after issuance of LOA/LOI. The successful bidder shall submit the additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 03 days after the issuance of LOA/LOI and in case of the delay in submission of additional performance security, the tender shall be re-advertised without any notice at the cost, risk and responsibility of the L-1 or penalty shall be imposed as per the rules.

No: 8203-08 | Dated: 29-11-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Ganderbal

DIPK: 8587/25 | Dated: 01-12-2025

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the General Manager District Industries Centre, Srinagar

Near Petrol Pump Baghi Ali Mardan Khan, Srinagar - 190011

Public Notice

M/s EMI Enterprises Industrial Estate Zakura, Srinagar stands formally registered with this office under No.: 07/09/03216/PMT/SSI dated: 16.10.1987 for the activity of "Manufacture of writing Ink only" as a proprietorship concern of Mr. Imtiyaz Ahmad Siraj S/o Sh. Gh. Mohd. Siraj R/o Nowhatta Srinagar.

Now, the promoter of the unit intends to transfer the lease hold rights to a Private. Limited company namely M/s Miraco and Jala Restaurant with its Directors namely (1) Mr. Mohammad Tariq Mir S/o Noor Din Mir R/o Lane 3 Near Rah Lane Umdar Colony Lal Bazar Srinagar and (2) Manzoor Ahmad Dar S/o Ghulam Nabi Dar R/o Naseem Bagh Hazratbal. The incoming company further intends to establish a new unit for the activity of "Manufacture of bread, Baked biscuits, confectioneries, ready to eat sweets, namkeens and other bakery items by mechanized process" under the name of M/s Miraco and Jala Restaurant Pvt. Ltd. as well as due de-registration of existing unit.

Any person having any objection with regard to the above proposed changes in favour of the unit, 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: 8605/25 | Dated: 01-12-2025

Div Com Kashmir Reviews Physical, Financial Progress of SMDA Projects

Emphasizes Timely Completion of Ongoing Works

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today conducted a comprehensive review of the physical and financial progress of various development projects being executed under the Srinagar Metropolitan Development Authority (SMDA).

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Budgam, and Ganderbal; Commissioner SMC; Vice Chairman SDA; CEO Wullar Manasbal Development Authority; Town Planning Officer; CPO Bandipora and other concerned officials.

During the review, the Divisional



Commissioner assessed the status of works on key projects including the development of Transport Nagar Parimpora, construction of community facility centres across multiple city locations, development of Bairam Hills in Budgam, construction of marriage halls, ongoing works at Mansbal Lake, and establishment of public parks in Sumbal.

Addressing the officers, the Div Com stressed the importance of completing all ongoing works within the stipulated timelines. He further directed them to submit revised expenditure details for extended works and ensure timely submission of bills for clearance of liabilities.

Two-Day Seminar on Encouraging Women in Science, Technology & Entrepreneurship Begins at FVSc & AH Shuhama

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 01: The inaugural session of "Empower HER 2025", a two-day seminar aimed at inspiring and equipping women in the fields of Science, Technology, and Entrepreneurship (STE), was today held at FVSc & AH, Shuhama campus of SKUAST-Kashmir.

The event seeks to address the under-representation of women in these domains and provide a platform for mentorship, collaboration, and empowerment.

The programme is being organized by the Division of Animal Biotechnology, featuring interactive sessions and inspiring talks by women leaders, aimed at building confidence, encouraging innovation, and fostering inclusion.

Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function, while Prof. Yasmeen Syed Ashai, Director, Rinchan Center of West Himalayan Cultures at IUST, was the Guest of Honour.

Prof. Rihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, Prof. Azmat Alam Khan, Registrar SKUAST-K, and Prof. Riaz A. Shah, Dean FVSc & AH were also present on the occasion.

In his inaugural address, the Vice Chancellor complimented the organizers of the programme for hosting an event dedicated to celebrating women empowerment, constituting half of the population. He appreciated the significant role played by women in diverse fields of science and technology, particularly the women working in the University with zeal and enthusiasm. He highlighted the major challenges faced by women in the 21st century's technologically driven era and expressed hope for the development of leadership qualities among the female workforce to address these emerging needs.

He emphasized the importance of improving human development indices, including gender equity and inclusiveness, as essential components of India's journey towards becoming a developed nation. He further affirmed the University's resolve to provide an ecosystem with diversified goals and equitable opportunities aligned



with SKUAST-K's commitment to enhancing Quality of Life.

Prof. Ganai suggested that the organizers generate data on women working in science and leadership roles within the University and hoped that the two-day sessions would equip participants to express their views in public forums such as newspapers through articles, as well as contribute to awareness literature on existing women empowerment schemes.

In her address, Prof. Yasmeen Syed Ashai touched upon various aspects of women empowerment, with particular emphasis on government-led initiatives and the need to ensure equal opportunities. She highlighted the importance of challenging societal stereotypes and promoting inclusiveness. She placed strong focus on involving more women in STEM fields to bring fresh perspectives and diversity.

Prof. Rihana Habib Kanth, in her address, highlighted the major issues and challenges faced by women in science and technology. She elaborated on the different dimensions of women empowerment and the growing challenges anticipated in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology, and Climate Smart Farming in the coming times. She further emphasized issues related to participation, visibility, and advancement of women in science, technology, and entrepreneurship, outlining the roadmap toward achieving excellence.

She reflected that the world today is changing at an extraordinary pace, with knowledge, innovation, and technology shaping the future, and stressed that women must remain aligned with these global shifts.

Registrar SKUAST-K, in his brief address, highlighted the gender equality within SKUAST-Kashmir, where key positions across campuses are occupied by women in various capacities, setting a positive example for other organizations.

Director Agriculture Kashmir visits SM Farm Gangbug Srinagar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah today visited vegetable Seed Multiplication (SM) Farm Gangbug Srinagar and took stock of different agriculture activities there.

He inspected the recently installed machinery and equipments for packaging of seeds and other concerned activities. He visited different sections of the Farm and reviewed the various interventions adopted there.



Speaking on the occasion Director Agriculture said that the departmental farms are the assets with the department and have an inevitable role to play amid the changing global agriculture scenario. Our immediate goal is to achieve the maximum output (in terms of seed production of different agricultural crop) from our departmental seed multiplication farms, he added.

The Director asked the concerned officers, technical experts to work on a mission mode so that all the set targets viz-a-viz assured availability of quality seeds of different vegetable, agriculture crops to the farming community could be reached successfully.

He was accompanied by SPO and some senior officers of the department.

DLSA Srinagar observes World AIDS Day

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar observed World HIV/AIDS Day, today, at the Government Boys Higher Secondary School Hazratbal, Srinagar.

The event was held under the aegis of the J&K Legal Services Authority and was conducted under the supervision of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, DLSA) Srinagar, and Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority.

During the programme, Legal Aid Defence Counsels of DLSA Srinagar, Tasneem Kausar and Sehar Nazir, sensitized the participants about the significance of World HIV/AIDS Day, its causes, modes of transmission, preventive measures, and the importance of creating awareness to eradicate stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS.

The programme witnessed active participation of students and staff and concluded with an interactive session.



KPDCL commits to strengthen Power Infra, Accelerate implementation of RDSS works across Gurez

Commissions 33/11 KV Kanzalwan Receiving Station

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has achieved a major milestone in strengthening the power infrastructure of the remote Gurez region with the commissioning of the 33/11 KV, 6.3 MVA Kanzalwan Receiving Station. According to the statement, the achievement follows the directives issued during a recent review visit to Gurez by the Managing Director, KPDCL, alongside the Chief Engineer Distribution and senior

officials. The visit, aimed at assessing winter preparedness, resulted in firm instructions to prioritize the commissioning of the Kanzalwan Receiving Station, complete grid connectivity for all habitations, ensure adequate High-Speed Diesel (HSD) dumping, and expedite Smart Metering for improved load management.

These measures were considered essential for maintaining uninterrupted power, especially when the region switches to standalone mode due to intermittent snapping of grid connectivity with Grid Station

Bandipora.

Acting swiftly and efficiently within the limited working season, the Executive Engineer ED Bandipora and Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal mobilized resources on a war footing and completed target works in record time. As a result, 100% grid connectivity has now been provided to the habitations of Bagtore, Refugee Mohalla, Dasi Bagtore, Tarbal, Banjran, Kanzalwan, Nai Basti Kanzalwan, Izmarg, Jalindora, Chuntiwari, and Korangbal. The new grid-based system replaces the earlier

7-hour diesel-driven power supply, enabling the decommissioning of DG Sets at Tarbal (200 kVA), Bagtore (100 kVA), Korangbal (62.5 kVA), and Kanzalwan (320 kVA).

To further secure uninterrupted power availability through the harsh winter, KPDCL has stocked 4,68,000 liters of HSD, sufficient to meet regional requirements until May 2026.

In parallel, under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), KPDCL is concurrently progressing with advanced infrastructure and

technological upgrades across Gurez. As part of the initial phase, 300 Smart Meters have been installed on the Dawar and Wanpora feeders, significantly enhancing operational efficiency, improving consumer-side load management, and reducing Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses. KPDCL reiterates its commitment to strengthening power infrastructure, accelerating RDSS implementation, and ensuring a resilient and reliable electricity supply across the remote and challenging terrains of Gurez.

DC Kupwara reviews functioning of revenue department

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, DECEMBER 1: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today chaired a meeting of revenue officers to review key matters pertaining to the Revenue Department.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; ADC Handwara, Javid Naseem Masoodi; ACR Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad; SDM Lolab, Mudassir Ahmad; all Tehsildars of the district, and other concerned officers.

At the outset, the DC reviewed the rehabilitation process for terror victims, directing Tehsildars to expedite verification of genuine cases to ensure timely benefits under SRO-43. He also assessed progress made on removal of encroachments on the properties of terror victims.

While reviewing the preparation and revision of Market Value Guidelines/Rules 2011 for the Calendar Year 2026, the DC emphasized the need for strict adherence to established criteria for rate fixation. He instructed officers to carry out a comprehensive



and structured review, including classification of areas for accurate and fair determination of stamp duty rates.

The DC also took a detailed review of the status of online public grievances, stressing the need for time-bound disposal to ensure that citizens do not face unnecessary delays. Officers were directed to ensure public service delivery as mandated under PSGA and monitor performance of field functionaries.

He also stressed on regular administrative inspections of field offices to improve service delivery.

In addition, the meeting reviewed the progress of mutation cases pertaining to defence establishments, BEACON, and other projects involving acquired or transferred land.

The DC called for close coordination among departments to ensure accurate and up-to-date land records. Discussion also held regarding progress made on removal of hindrances with respect to NH701 and BSNL 4G saturation, timely validation and reconciliation of Jal Shakti assets.

The DC urged all officers to work proactively to ensure improved public service delivery by field functionaries.

World AIDS Day 2025 Observed at GCOE Srinagar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: Government College of Education (GCOE) M.A. Road, Srinagar observed World AIDS Day 2025, an event organized by the Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges, in collaboration with the J&K AIDS Control Society.

The programme aimed to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and highlight the role of youth as crucial contributors to transforming the AIDS response.

On the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Nodal Principal of Kashmir Division Colleges, apprised the gathering about the significance of the observance and emphasized sustained awareness, proactive youth engagement, and collective responsibility in combating HIV/AIDS.

A poster-making competition, based on the theme "Transforming the AIDS Response: Youth as Change Makers", was held at the Government College of Education.

A speech competition on the theme "Overcoming Disruption: Transforming



the AIDS Response" was conducted in the Conference Hall.

During the valedictory session, Syed Altaf Ahmad, Co-convenor of the Red Ribbon Club, presented the backdrop and overview of the day's events.

The programme also featured the screening of short films on AIDS awareness. A human chain formation saw enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, symbolizing unity and commitment

toward eradicating stigma and promoting awareness.

Meanwhile, an awareness rally was carried out from the college campus, passing through M.A. Road and Polo View Market before returning to the campus. Participants raised slogans and disseminated key messages to promote HIV/AIDS awareness among the public. The event concluded with the distributing of certificates and medals to all winners and participants.

PM Modi Highlights India's Rising Honey Revolution, Cultural Pride & Natural Farming in 'Mann Ki Baat'

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 01: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the latest episode of his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat, spotlighted India's booming honey industry, celebrated the country's cultural heritage, and encouraged a nationwide embrace of natural farming and linguistic unity.

The Prime Minister narrated inspiring stories of traditional honey collectors—from indigenous groups in Karnataka to the cliff-honey hunters of Nagaland's Khamni-Yangan tribe—whose unique practices are not only preserving age-old traditions but also generating significant

income for rural families.

Modi noted that India's honey production has doubled from 76,000 metric tonnes to over 1.5 lakh metric tonnes in the last 11 years. Honey exports, too, have tripled in recent years, he said, crediting initiatives like Khadi Gramodyog's Honey Mission, which has distributed more than 2.25 lakh bee boxes, generating employment for thousands.

Switching to cultural themes, the Prime Minister spoke with enthusiasm about his recent visit to Kurukshetra, where the Mahabharata Experience Centre uses cutting-edge 3D, sound, and light technology to immerse visitors in the epic battle. Modi also recalled the vibrant Interna-



tional Gita Mahotsav, which saw participation from Europe, Central Asia, and even a public Gita performance for the first time in Saudi Arabia.

In a heartfelt recollection, he paid tribute to Jam Saheb Maharaja Digvijay Singh of Nawanagar, who provided refuge to Polish Jewish children during World War II—an act now honoured with a newly unveiled statue in southern Israel. "His compassion remains an inspiration for the world," Modi said.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the growing movement around natural farming, sharing insights from his recent visit to Coimbatore for a major conference. He praised the growing

number of young professionals entering the field, calling natural farming "a duty towards Mother Earth."

Modi further invited citizens to take part in the upcoming 4th Kashi Tamil Sangamam, beginning December 2 at Namo Ghat in Varanasi. This year's theme, Learn Tamil – Tamil Karkalam, underscores efforts to promote linguistic harmony and strengthen the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

"As Kashi prepares to welcome its Tamil brothers and sisters, these cultural exchanges continue to enrich our national fabric," he said, urging people across the country to participate in such initiatives.

S. Korean president's approval rating rises to 71.1 percent: poll

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SEOUL, DEC 1 : South Korean President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rose 2.1 percentage points from a week earlier to 71.1 percent last week, a weekly poll showed on Monday.

The negative assessment of Lee's conduct of state affairs declined 1.9 percentage points to 27.9 percent,



according to computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) by local pollster Flower Research.

The ruling liberal Democratic Party's support advanced 1.6 percentage points to 56.2 percent, while the conservative opposition People Power Party's approval score decreased 4.5 percentage points to 24.5 percent.

Support rate for both the minor left-leaning Rebuilding Korea Party and the minor rightist New Reform Party logged 2.8 percent last week.

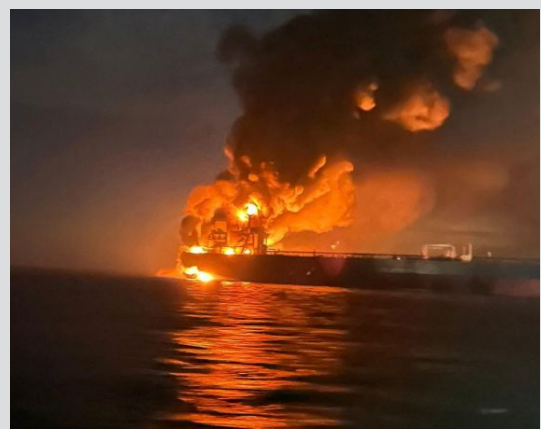
The pollster's separate survey of the automated response system (ARS) showed that Lee's approval rating edged down 0.2 percentage points to 61.9 percent last week compared to the previous week.

The CATI and the ARS surveyed 1,002 and 1,007 voters each from Friday to Saturday. The polls had a plus and minus 3.1 percentage points in margin of error with a confidence level of 95 percent.UNI

Russia condemns Ukraine's attacks on oil tankers, port in Black Sea

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MOSCOW, DEC 1 : Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova condemned recent Ukrainian attacks on two oil tankers and a port in the Black Sea, denouncing those who planned and carried out the strikes.



According to a statement released by the ministry, Zakharova said the two tankers sailing under the Gambian flag and en route to the Russian port of Novorossiysk were attacked by unmanned surface vessels on Friday and Saturday. The port of Novorossiysk also came under attack on Saturday.

She added that Ukrainian intelligence services had claimed responsibility for the attacks.

"We must emphasize that the targeted civilian energy infrastructure plays a vital role in ensuring global energy security and has never been subject to any international restrictions or sanctions," the spokesperson said, adding that these attacks jeopardized the safety of navigation in this vital waterway.

Russia also calls on the international community to condemn these attacks and give a proper assessment of the destructive actions, Zakharova said.UNI

Explosion sparks major fire at Nippon steel's factory in Japan's Hokkaido

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

TOKYO, DEC. 1 : An explosion occurred at a factory in the city of Muroran in Hokkaido, northernmost Japan, early Monday, triggering a large fire and scattering concrete debris across the site.

According to the local fire department, residents near the North Japan Works of Nippon Steel in Muroran called emergency services at around 12:55 a.m. local time (1555 GMT), reporting shaking in their homes and a possible fire at the facility. Firefighters arriving on scene confirmed that a hot blast stove had exploded, sparking a major blaze inside the plant.



The fire department said that about 10 workers who were on site at the time had already evacuated, and no injuries have been reported. However, the fire remained intense, and extinguishing efforts continued for

several hours. The company has halted furnace operations and is assessing equipment damage as well as the potential impact on its supply chain and logistics. The cause of the explosion is still under investigation.UNI

Syria to reopen embassy in Ankara amid renewed diplomatic moves

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

ANKARA, DEC 1 : Syria is preparing to reopen its embassy in Ankara and its consulate general in Gaziantep in the near future, the pro-government Turkish daily Milliyet reported Monday, citing diplomatic sources.

According to the report, the reopening of the Syrian Consulate General in Gaziantep has already been placed on the official agenda, and preparations are actively underway to restore operations at the Syrian Embassy in Ankara.

As part of the broader normalization efforts, Turkey has appointed Deputy Foreign Minister Nuh Yilmaz as ambassador to Damascus, its first such appointment in 13 years. Following

the reopening of Turkey's embassy in the Syrian capital, the Turkish Consulate General in Aleppo has also resumed its activities.

These diplomatic developments come amid heightened tensions in southern Syria. After the change of power in Damascus in December 2024, the Israeli army began conducting regular raids in the provinces of Daraa and Quneitra, establishing checkpoints and detaining local residents. The Syrian government has repeatedly urged the international community to pressure Israel to end the operations, warning that the escalation threatens regional stability.

Damascus has repeatedly called on the international community to pressure Israel to halt the aggression, saying that it threatens



the stability of the entire region. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that the 1974 Disengagement Agreement governing the Golan Heights was no longer valid, arguing that Syrian forces had abandoned their positions.

Syria is also set to join the US-led coalition against the Islamic State group, a move that marks a major shift in Washington's Middle East policy, according to a senior Trump administration official. The announcement followed Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa's

historic visit to the White House—the first by any Syrian head of state. In an interview on Special Report with Fox News, al-Sharaa called the meeting with President Donald Trump the beginning of a "new era," signaling Syria's readiness to work closely with the United States on regional security and counterterrorism efforts.

President Trump publicly expressed strong support for al-Sharaa, despite the Syrian leader having been designated a terrorist by the U.S. government until recently. The two leaders emphasized that cooperation against ISIS would serve as the foundation for a broader diplomatic thaw, underscoring a dramatic reorientation in both countries' strategic priorities.UNI

Sri Lanka races against time to aid Ditwah-hit, as toll mounts to 355

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

COLOMBO, DEC 1 : Rescue workers in Sri Lanka are struggling to reach communities devastated by Cyclone Ditwah, as the official death toll climbed to 355 and a further 366 people remained missing on Dec 1. Authorities say more than half a million people require immediate assistance, with the scale of destruction continuing to grow.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that 998,918 people across all 25 districts have now been affected by the flooding and landslides triggered by the cyclone landfall on November 28 before moving back over the Bay of Bengal.

Cyclone Ditwah brought the island's worst flooding in a decade, unleashing torrential rain and setting off deadly landslides in the central highlands. Badulla district has suffered the highest casualties. Along the Kelani river, which is flowing at a critical 8.45 feet, families were seen retrieving belongings from submerged homes as multiple low-lying areas remained under severe flood warnings.

The authorities urged residents in high-risk zones — including Kadawatha, Kelaniya, Ambatala,



Malabe and several villages in the Kelaniya Divisional Secretariat — to move immediately to designated shelters. Many, however, remain stranded.

Officials have also warned the public to stay away from the Kelani flood control bund, now at full capacity, saying that "sightseeing" poses serious danger.

Transport links have been badly hit. While some train and flight services have resumed, schools remain closed and major roads are still impassable. Bridges such as the Moragahakanda-Laggala crossing have been washed away, and towns near the Maha Oya and Kala Oya rivers remain inundated.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake earlier described the disaster as the "largest and most challenging" in Sri Lanka's history, noting that this is the first time all

25 districts have been simultaneously affected.

While international assistance has now begun arriving from both the neighbourhood and beyond, the humanitarian situation is looking exceedingly grim.

The Department of Meteorology said the system is expected to move northwards and weaken, but officials warn that the danger is far from over. As floodwaters begin to recede, new risks are emerging, particularly waterborne diseases, contaminated wells, and structural collapse.

Jayatissa Munasinghe, Assistant Secretary of the National Disaster Relief Services Centre, urged the public to remain vigilant, warning that "infectious and vector-borne diseases rise sharply after floods".

Engineers have cautioned that flood-damaged infrastructure may appear intact on the surface while

the soil beneath has been washed away, with major bridges and routes requiring detailed inspection before use. Power outages are growing, and authorities warn that returning residents must not switch on electricity until the national grid operator has conducted safety checks, noting that electrocutions are common during major floods.

The country is most susceptible to damage, with officials singling out areas such as Rambuk-ela, Hasalaka, Badulla and Bulathkohupitiya as extremely dangerous, having already reported multiple fatal slides, while Kandy — which recorded about 180 mm of rainfall — remains under a major landslide alert.

Officials within the weather and irrigation departments warned that fresh landslides may strike without warning and in the absence of new rainfall, as saturated slopes continue to give way. With the rivers still swollen and the ground highly unstable, authorities warned that the coming days will be of critical importance, and urged vigilance, even as rescue and relief agencies in the country are working around the clock, as the full extent of the damage continues to unravel. UNI

Iraqi PM, US Syria envoy discuss regional stability

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BAGHDAD, DEC 1 : Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani held discussions with US Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack on the regional stability and efforts to prevent further escalation.

The two sides stressed the need to avoid any further escalation and to advance a diplomatic path to resolve disputes, "placing the region on a trajectory of cooperation, economic growth, and long-term stability," according to a statement from al-Sudani's media office.

Al-Sudani and Barrack also discussed ways in which "Iraq can continue supporting Syria's stability, security, prosperity, and economic revival in ways that also reinforce Iraq's own stability and prosperity."

For his part, Barrack highlighted the "constructive and essential" role Iraq can play in achieving these shared objectives.

The visit comes amid post-election political wrangling to form a new Iraqi government as a coalition led by Iraqi Prime Minister al-Sudani has emerged as winner in Iraq's parliamentary election, according to electoral authorities.

The Independent High Electoral Commission said on Wednesday that al-Sudani's Reconstruction and Change coalition received 1.3 million votes in Tuesday's election, about 370,000 more than the next



closest competitor.

Baghdad has for years been balancing its ties to Tehran and Washington.

The meeting "reviewed mutual perspectives on preventing any further escalation in the region" by "supporting the diplomatic track to resolve disputes, and setting the region on a path of cooperation, economic growth, and long-term stability," a statement by Al-Sudani's said.

Barrack emphasised the "constructive and essential role" that Iraq plays in achieving the "shared objectives," it added.

The visit comes days after an attack on the Khor Mor gasfield in the Kurdistan Region halted production and saw blackouts across Kurdish cities. The US embassy called on Baghdad to hold the perpetrators accountable and said Washington was "prepared to lend support to efforts to protect this critical infrastructure," as per the local media reports.UNI



Root Questions Need for Pink-Ball Ashes Test

Head swats aside criticism: "Pink ball, white ball, red ball. . . Who really cares?"

■ **MATT ROLLER**

PERTH: Joe Root has questioned whether the Ashes should include a pink-ball Test ahead of Thursday's day-night fixture in Brisbane.

The first pink-ball Test was staged a decade ago and the format was initially devised to boost attendances. The second Test of the 2025-26 Ashes between Australia and England at the Gabba this week will be the 25th played with a pink ball and the fourth in an Ashes series, and tickets have sold out for the first three days.

But amid huge demand for tickets across the tour, Root queried whether the day-night element was necessary. "I don't think you need it in Ashes series. Absolutely not," he said before training at the Gabba on Sunday.

"I don't mind [pink-ball cricket]. I mean, I don't think it's as good as traditional Test cricket. But it's in the schedule: we've got to play it, and just got to make sure we're better than them at it... It's clearly something that works here for Australia, and they enjoy it." He added: "It does add to things. It's obviously very successful and popular here, and obviously Australia have got a very good record here as well. You can see why we're playing one of those games and ultimately, you know from two years out [that] it is going to be there... A series like this, does it need it? I don't think so, but it doesn't mean it shouldn't be here either."

Both Cricket Australia and the ECB were happy to play the game as a pink-ball Test, since home boards need the agreement of their opponents before the ICC grant approval for Test matches to be played as day-night games. The 2pm start time in Brisbane means that the final session will be played in primetime for domestic TV audiences, and in daylight

hours in the UK.

Travis Head, who scored 123 off 83 balls in the series opener in Perth to put Australia 1-0 up, dismissed Root's comments. "We've embraced it," he said. "We've been able to put out a good product, and been able to play really, really well with it. Pink ball, white ball, red ball... Who really cares?"

"It's a great spectacle. We're going to have huge crowds again. [We'll] look forward to the week and, look, if you win, you think it's great, and if you lose, maybe not. Both teams might have differing opinions by the end of it... It still works the same way. It's still five days, it's just with a slightly different ball."

Root has played in each of England's seven previous day-night Tests, captaining in six of them, and said that England must be aware of "how quickly the game can change" under floodlights. "At different phases of the day, it can feel quite placid and you can feel out of the game with the ball, and things can turn around," he said.

"Similarly, with the bat, [it is about] recognising those moments and utilising them as best you can: when to put the foot down and maximise the good batting conditions; similarly, being able to maximise it when it changes and how quickly it changes."

The sun will set during the second session of play in Brisbane this week, which Root highlighted as a difference to England's recent day-night Tests.

"It looks like we'll have half of a day under floodlights. The twilight phase is in the middle session, when usually that comes around the back end of the second session and the start of the last session."

"There will be different elements to contend with, but that is all part of the fun, right? Can we be skilful enough and brave enough to be better than Australia in those big moments?"

ESPNCricinfo

Andre Russell retires from IPL, to join KKR as 'power coach'

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

VISAKHAPATNAM: Andre Russell, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) legend, has decided to call time on his IPL career after not being retained by the franchise ahead of the 2026 season, and announced that he would be joining the team's support staff as its "power coach".

"I've made a decision to retire from the IPL. I'll still be active playing in various leagues all around the world and all the other KKR franchises," Russell said in a video message. "I had some amazing time and great memories. Hitting sixes, winning games, MVP and all of those things. But sometimes you just have to know when to hang up the boots. When I made this decision, I just felt like 'yes, this is the best decision'. I don't want to fade out. I want to leave a legacy and it's best to retire when fans ask 'why, you still have some more in you, you still could go for a bit longer' than say, 'yeah, you should have done it years back'."

"We are part of the Instagram world, so when you're going through your feed, you keep seeing yourself in different jerseys and, you know, friends, team-mates sending you stuff and, like, 'you're looking good in this jersey, what do you think?' and I'm like, 'hmmm, I look weird in that jersey'. And it's just those thoughts that's been going through my head. I had a few sleepless nights. There have been a lot of conversations, between me and Mr Venky Mysore, and also Mr Shah Rukh Khan, about another chapter in my IPL journey, and they have shown me respect and love and they appreciate whatever I have been doing in the field and to be in a set-up where I'm familiar, that matters to me a lot."

Russell, who was part of KKR's title-winning teams in 2014 and 2024, was also the IPL's Most Valuable Player in 2019. Russell won 16 Player-of-the-Match awards at KKR, only behind Sunil Narine's mark. And that long association has been strengthened with a position in the team's support staff as "power coach".

"So Kolkata, I'll be back. I'm here now just to say that I'll be a part of the KKR support staff," he said. "When I heard that name, you know, coming from Mr Venky, I said, you know, 'power coach, hmmm'. That describes Dre Russ. That describes Andre Russell, because the power that I possess when I bat, the energy that I show in the field, with the ball in hand, I can help in any department." Russell made the news public on Sunday, which also is the last day for players to register for the next IPL auction, which will be held in Abu Dhabi on December 16.

At KKR, Russell will be part of a new-look back room, to be headed by new coach Abhishek Nayar, who has replaced Chandrakant Pandit. Tim Southee has been appointed bowling coach, Shane Watson has joined as assistant coach, and Dwayne Bravo remains in his capacity as team mentor. As for releasing him ahead of the latest auction, the franchise had deliberated the move ahead of the 2025 mega auction too, before deciding to stall that call. Russell had retired from international cricket in July, having only played the T20 format after the 2019 World Cup. Ahead of the 2025 mega auction, Russell was among the five players retained by KKR, for INR 12 crore. But as per the IPL's retention formula, INR 18 crore was added to KKR's purse for the 2026 auction once they released Russell.

Steven Smith bats with 'eye blacks' ahead of pink-ball challenge

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

BRISBANE: Steven Smith looks set to emulate former West Indies batter Shivnarine Chanderpaul by wearing 'eye blacks' on his cheeks during the second Ashes Test at the Gabba. He trialed the anti-glare strips while batting in the nets during Australia's floodlit training session on Sunday evening ahead of Thursday's day-night, pink-ball fixture in Brisbane.

Smith has played 13 of Australia's 14 previous pink-ball Tests but has not taken to the format in the same way as red-ball cricket: he has only scored one hundred in 24 innings in day-night Tests, averaging 37.04. His record in

daytime Tests is far superior, with 35 centuries in 190 innings and an average of 58.31.

"The pink ball in general is just a completely different game," Smith had said during Australia's most recent day-night Test match, a 176-run win over West Indies in Jamaica in July. "Personally, I find it quite tricky just picking the ball up at certain times of the day and things like that, and the way it behaves is completely different to a red one."

"I think people like the spectacle. But as a player, particularly as a batter, it's very challenging. The game can so quickly, and things change really quickly, which you probably don't



get so much with a red ball. But yeah, people like watching it, I suppose, so I guess it's here to stay." The 'eye blacks' - small, black, adhesive strips worn on the cheekbone - that Smith wore in training are commonplace in several

American sports, and are designed to reduce the glare from floodlights by absorbing the light that would otherwise reflect off the skin.

Chanderpaul is the most prominent cricketer to have used them previously. "I always used it whenever it was very glary," he told Gulf News in a 2018 interview. "I stick them on and it does help take 60-70 percent of the glare off my eyes, and that was good for me." Alastair Cook, who played three day-night Tests for England, has identified focusing on the pink ball's black seam as the biggest challenge for batters due to glare. "When the floodlights shine off the pink leather, it distracts from focusing on the black seam - and

if you can't see the seam as a batsman, you're in big trouble," Cook wrote in his Sunday Times column.

"Whatever type of cricket you are playing, the seam is your clue as to how the ball will behave... At least you have a chance with a red ball. If it's a pink one under lights, it's nigh-on impossible to pick up the seam and, therefore, decide with confidence which way the ball might move."

Smith's innovation came on the same day that Joe Root questioned whether the Ashes should feature a pink-ball Test, comments which Travis Head dismissed.

Australia lead the five-Test series 1-0 after beating England inside two days in Perth.

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