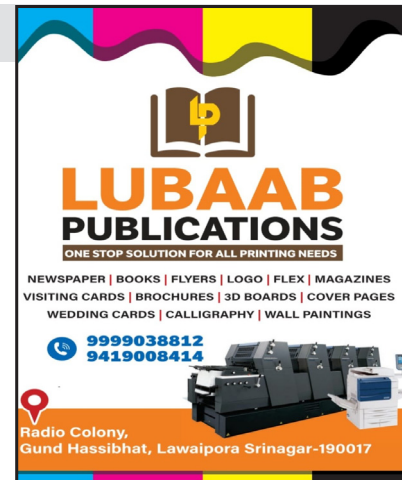


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HEADLINES
TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



AI-Driven Diagnostics Key to Future Healthcare: LG Sinha at APCON 2025

Calls For Precision Medicine, Digital Integration and Remote Diagnostic Support to Reduce Treatment Delays

■ MUKARAM ALI

JAMMU, DEC 04: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today underscored the urgent need for Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data analytics and precision medicine in India's healthcare system while delivering the keynote address at the inaugural session of APCON 2025, the 73rd Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Pathologists & Microbiologists (IAPM) and the Indian Division of the International Academy of Pathologists (IAP-ID) held at Government Medical College, Jammu.

The five-day conference, themed "Emerging Trends in Pathology: From Morphology to Molecular Insights," has brought together leading pathologists, microbiologists, researchers and medical professionals from across the country to discuss the latest innovations in diagnostics and laboratory sciences.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor stressed that future-ready diagnostics must combine modern technology with medical science for accuracy, efficiency and faster treatment delivery. "Healthcare must focus on enhancing



diagnostic accuracy and reducing time to treatment. Mainstreaming precision medicine through advanced diagnostic testing is crucial. Laboratories should build modern infrastructure capable of converting data into clinical insights," he said.

Calling the conference significant for charting the future roadmap in pathology, the LG proposed three key priorities: Empowering pathology with cutting-edge research and standardized treatment protocols

Bridging gaps in academic training
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No Foreign Mediation in Ceasefire with Pakistan: Centre Clarifies in Rajya Sabha

MoS, K V Singh Informed That Washington Played no Role in Post-Operation Sindoor Negotiations

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, DEC 04: The Government of India on Thursday firmly denied any role of the United States or its President Donald Trump in securing the ceasefire agreement with Pakistan following Operation Sindoor earlier this year. The clarification came during the Winter Session of Parliament in response to growing speculation over foreign diplomatic involvement in the de-escalation process.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, in a written response in the Rajya Sabha, said the ceasefire understanding reached in May was the result of direct

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J&K Tops Country in Power Losses at 48% - Triple the National Average

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 04: Jammu & Kashmir continues to record the highest power transmission and distribution (T&D) losses in the country, touching 48.08 percent in the fiscal year 2023-24, the Government of India informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Minister of State for Power, Shripad Naik, said the national average stands at 17.63 percent, placing J&K far above all States and Union Territories in electricity loss.

A review by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) showed that while the northern region, including J&K, registered transmission losses of around 3.15 percent, the sharp rise in overall T&D losses in J&K stems from "technical shortcomings, large-scale power theft, ageing infrastructure and distribution inefficiencies."

The Minister said efforts are underway to reverse the trend through network upgrades, SCADA and EMS technology integration, higher-voltage systems, grid modernization, and

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Omar Abdullah Reviews Development, Calls For Strong Winter Preparedness

Focus on Coordinated Snow Clearance, Fund Utilization

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, DEC 04: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive district review meeting in Budgam, directing the administration to ensure robust winter preparedness and seamless service delivery during the harsh months ahead. He emphasised uninterrupted electricity, adequate ration supplies, and swift snow clearance across the district.

The Chief Minister said last year's winter management drew wide public appreciation due to minimal power curtailment and expected a similar performance this season. However, expressing concern over last winter's snow clearance challenges, he noted that lack of coordination among agencies—particularly on stretches shared between PMGSY, R&B and other departments—left several connected roads



only partially cleared.

He instructed the administration to formulate a coordinated mechanism, including the appointment

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CM Omar inaugurates projects worth ₹75 Cr in Budgam

■ HT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, DEC 04: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated and laid e-foundation

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Omar Abdullah Attends Agniveer POP in Srinagar

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 04: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today attended the Passing Out parade

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Centre's Massive Push Transforms J&K Road Network

₹37,978 Cr Spent on Highways in Five Years

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 04: In a major infrastructure boost to Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Government has pumped ₹37,978 crore into the development, expansion and maintenance of National Highways over the last five years — a sustained investment that officials say is reshaping mobility and connectivity across the Union Territory.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday that the funding has steadily increased year after year, reflecting the Centre's focused development strategy. The allocation includes ₹2,932 crore in 2020-21, ₹6,817 crore in 2021-22, ₹7,370 crore in 2022-23, ₹10,528 crore in 2023-24 and ₹10,331 crore in 2024-25.

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Winter Arrives Early But Power Relief Still Patchy Across Kashmir

Despite Visible Improvement in Overall Supply, Several Srinagar Pockets and Rural Belts Remain Trapped in Outages as Delay in Cabling Fuel Frustration

■ ABU HASNAIN

SRINAGAR, DEC 04: Temperatures dipped sharply across Kashmir earlier than usual this year, the region's power scenario presents a mixed picture: improved availability on paper, yet inconsistent supply on the

ground. While authorities claim better performance compared to previous winters, many residents, especially in Srinagar's older pockets and rural districts, say they continue to face frequent outages.

Official figures indicate progress power availability has

increased by nearly two hours daily in many areas compared to last winter, and smart metering along with grid strengthening is gradually reshaping the system. However, residents argue that the benefits remain uneven.

In Srinagar's Zainakote local-

ity, particularly Rehmat Lane, Shah Naqshband Colony, Shah Wilayat Colony, Gul Colony in Umarabad, locals allege that the delay in laying underground cables has pushed them into repeated power cuts despite being within municipal

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Passport Verification Now on DigiLocker

■ MOHAMMAD HANIF KHAN

SRINAGAR, DEC 04: The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), has announced a major enhancement to citizen services through the enablement of the Passport Verification Record (PVR) on the DigiLocker platform. DigiLocker is a secure, cloud-based platform under the Digital India programme that enables issuance, storage, sharing, and verification of digital documents and certificates.

This initiative marks a significant step in advancing the vision of Digital India by simplifying document management for citizens and reducing reliance on physical records. With this integration, Passport Verification Records can now be securely accessed, stored, shared, and digitally verified within the DigiLocker ecosystem, promoting paperless, contactless, and citizen-centric service delivery.

Upon successful verification, citizens will be able to

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SAD DEMISE



With deep sorrow and heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Fatima W/o Late Mohd Subhan Mir Resident of Baranpather Batamalo, Srinagar, who has departed for heavenly abode on 04 December 2025. she was a kind, loving soul whose warmth and presence will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her. May Allah grant her the highest place in Jannah and give strength, patience to her family to bear this irreparable loss. Fateha Khawani will be held on 06 December 2025 at 11: AM in their ancestral Graveyard Mominabad Batamalo, Near Court Complex, Srinagar.

Bereaved family
ABDUL MAJEED MIR (SON)
Mobile No-9697776655

دایره ادب دینہ بارہمولہ

چھ

ادبی مرکز کمر از چہ سرپرستی منور

جموں و کشمیر کلچرل اکیڈمی ہنڈ اٹھواسہ

اکہ ادبی تقریبہ ہنڈ سنز کران۔ سنجھ منور ادا رک سالانہ ادبی میگزین

”پرتو“ شمارہ 35

تہہ اجراء پیہہ کرہہ۔ امیر علاؤ سپد محفل مشاعرہ تہہ منعقد

تاریخ: 7 دسمبر 2025ء (آٹھوار)

وق: 1:00 بجے

جائے: صدر دفتر، ادبی مرکز کمر از، کانپور و رٹل

توہہہ جہہ تقریبہ منور شرکت کرہہ و ژہہ وائجہ دعوت

چشم بہارہ

محمد افضل افضل، شامد دلنوی

ضنیر انصاری، جمیل انصاری

اخلاص مند

قاضی پرویز

(جزل بکری)

Satish Sharma visits Chamb constituency; inspects govt infrastructure, public services

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 04: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today visited various areas of Chamb constituency and adjoining areas to inspect the government infrastructure and review public services in the region.

The areas visited inter alia included Chowki Choura, Sunderbani, Neeli Nallah, Mallah Barote, Nathal, Dori, Degar and peripheral areas.

The Minister inspected the school buildings, government offices and public services. He reviewed the status of educational facilities, staff availability, sanitation and basic amenities in these government entities.

While interacting with the locals, the Minister said that the major focus of the government is addressing deplorable road conditions, scarcity of safe drinking water and public grievances related to other civic facilities.

The Minister had a detailed feedback from the local residents regarding their development issues and needs as well. He assured immediate departmental action and assistance in resolving the critical public issues.

Satish Sharma reviewed the



commissioning of solar power plants in the region, emphasising the government's push towards clean energy, sustainable infrastructure and reliable electricity supply for remote and rural habitations.

The Minister directed the accompanying officers to compile action-oriented reports, expedite ongoing works and ensure that development projects in these areas proceed without delay.

He reiterated that equitable development, improved connectivity,

enhanced service delivery and preservation of cultural heritage remain high priorities for the present government.

The Minister also directed for undertaking urgent works under CDF like providing of ambulances, construction of community halls, cremation sheds and water tanks, installation of water pipes and transformers across the constituency.

He instructed the accompanying officers and officials to provide on-spot response to the public issues and take immediate action,

wherever required.

Later, the Minister also distributed daily essential items among the poor and needy families.

Meanwhile, the Minister had an exhaustive inspection of several Devsathan sites in these areas. These included Ladyaal Biradri Devsathan, Neeli Nallah, Baba Maimal ji Devsathan, Mallah Top (Mallah Barote) Baba Maimal ji Devsathan, Nathal, Baba Maimal ji Devsathan, Dager Rakhmalal Baba Bhadwag Singh ji Devsathan and Rakh Malal Devsathan.

Commissioner Secretary YSS convenes meeting to discuss Budget proposals

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 04: Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports (YSS), Yasha Mudgal, today convened a meeting to discuss the Budget proposals, comprising the Revised Estimates (RE) 2025-26 and Budget Estimates (BE) 2026-27 for both Revenue (Revex) and Capital (Capex) components.

The exercise was undertaken with due consideration to expenditure trends, departmental priorities and the government's emphasis on fiscal prudence, efficient public spending and improved service delivery.

The meeting was attended by the Director General, Youth Service and Sports Department; Director NCC; Director Finance, YSS and Secretary, J&K Sports Council.

During the deliberations, the Director Finance presented the consolidated budgetary requirements of all Heads of Departments, supported by performance indicators, physical achievements and projected needs for the ensuing financial year.

Yasha Mudgal underscored the imperative of maintaining strict fiscal discipline, ensuring realistic assessment of departmental requirements and aligning all budget proposals with government priorities and welfare-oriented initiatives. She emphasized that inflated projections must be avoided and that every demand should be substantiated with verifiable data and sound justification.

The meeting focused extensively on augmentation of revenue through optimal utilization of departmental facilities, improved digital integration, adoption of

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models, tourism and event-based collaborations, increased Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) participation and progressive user fee rationalization across departmental assets.

Heads of the Departments were directed to ensure timely disposal and auction of unserviceable items lying in various offices to ensure transparency, space optimization and enhance revenue realization.

The Commissioner Secretary stressed the need for intensified efforts to attract CSR funding to support the departmental programmes and youth-centric initiatives across the Union Territory.

To boost tourism-linked engagements, the Commissioner Secretary highlighted the importance of strengthening the tourism potential of youth hostels and allied departmental assets. She laid emphasis on improved visibility, service standards and partnership opportunities with the tourism stakeholders.

Further directions were issued to all district and sectoral officers to submit justified proposals under M&S, M&E, M&R and outsourcing heads to ensure efficient utilization of funds and operational preparedness.

The meeting also underscored the importance of enhancing the department's overall spending capacity for timely and effective use of budgetary allocations. The officers were instructed to maintain close coordination with the Finance Department for timely clearance of pending treasury bills, ensuring smooth financial operations and uninterrupted implementation of ongoing activities.

MLA Lolab Conducts Extensive Tour of Chraligund-Tekipora; Reviews Developmental Works

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, DECEMBER 04: Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Lolab, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, today conducted an extensive tour of Chraligund, Tekipora to review the progress of ongoing developmental works in the area.

The MLA was accompanied by Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Kupwara, Er. Shakeel-ur-Rehman; Executive Engineer R&B, Hilal Abbasi, and other senior officers and field staff.

During the visit, the MLA addressed a significant issue between the Irrigation Department and R&B Department regarding the construction of the Chraligund-Tekipora road. The matter was taken up on priority in the presence of the concerned engineers and was amicably resolved on the spot. This timely intervention ensured that the execution of the road project will continue smoothly, without further hindrance or delay.



The MLA directed the engineers to expedite all ongoing developmental works across the Lolab Constituency, stressing that the working season is limited and harsh winter conditions are fast approaching. He urged the departments to maintain the highest standards of efficiency and ensure the timely completion of all pending projects. Reaffirming the Government's commitment to the welfare of the people, MLA Lolab emphasized the need for swift and steady progress on all public infrastructure initiatives, ensuring that the benefits of development reach the local population at the earliest.

Only Congress opens doors to common people to join media _ Hari Shanker

AICC launches media talent hunt in J&K invites youth to come forward

■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, DECEMBER 04: AICC Coordinator for Media Talent Hunt campaign Shri Hari Shanker Gupta, former MLA Delhi has said that Congress party as per vision & desire of LOP Shri Rahul Gandhi has offered an open platform to all like minded public spirited individuals especially the young turks to come forward to join the Media Talent Hunt campaign to be part of the grand old party.

Addressing a press conference here today at PCC HQ Jammu, Shri Hari Shanker Gupta said that it is the congress party which provides opportunities and platform to the hidden talent through such open offer to file their requests online for screening and taking part in



the process and get selected right from District, PCC and even upto

national level, if they deserve and qualify.

He was flanked by Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Chief Whip of the in the Legislative Assembly Nizamuddin Bhat, Ex MLC Naresh Gupta, Namrata Sharma, Suhail Bukhari, Umar Jan, Neeraj Gupta, Bhavishya Sudan, Adv Ajay Salalia, & other members of Coordination committee for talent hunt campaign.

Shri Gupta said that this campaign is being conducted nationwide in phases and likewise in Jammu and Kashmir which has been divided into six zones for the purpose of this. Campaign.

He exhorted the people especially youths to avail this opportunity and become part of the process without any fee or charge. Anyone can download the QR code, already circulated in social

media platforms. They can seek help and guidance from any senior leaders especially media team and Coordinators appointed for the purpose.

He said that Congress is getting tremendous response to this campaign and hope more and more people would come forward in coming days although time limit.

He said that he would visit frequently into more areas and interact with leadership for the purpose.

Earlier, a meeting of J&K Talent Hunt campaign was chaired by JKPCC President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra and discussed the performance of the campaign. He asked all Congress leaders and workers to come forward to highlight the hidden talent in the party at the earliest.

DC Kupwara tours Trehgam Block

Reviews Development Works Also listens to Public Demands

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, DECEMBER 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today undertook a tour of Trehgam block of district Kupwara to inspect ongoing development works, assess public infrastructure and engage directly with officials and members of the community.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Development Kupwara, Arshid Qadir Bhat; BDO Trehgam, Tehsilidar and other concerned officials accompanied the DC.

At BDO Office Trehgam, the DC chaired a meeting of concerned officers, officials from RDD and reviewed the latest progress under different schemes including MGNREGA, ADF, SBM,



construction of panchayat Ghar etc.

He directed the concerned officers to speed up the execution of works and ensure completion of works within given timeframe. He directed the BDO to focus on cleanliness in the block especially around the roadsides. He also reviewed renovation work for public library and directed to complete the work by January 2026.

At Tehsil Office Trehgam, the DC also interacted with general public, who apprised him about their developmental issues pertaining to healthcare, education and infrastructure. The DC assured to resolve their genuine issues in a time bound manner and issued necessary directions to concerned departments.

He also visited sports ground near tehsil office to explore possibility of upgradation of facilities for local youths.

During the visit, the DC reviewed progress across multiple sectors including roads, rural development projects, health facilities, education infrastructure, and public service delivery. He emphasized adherence to quality standards, timely completion of works, and transparent execution of government schemes.

One-Day Training Programme on Implementation of IHIP Held at Shopian

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 04: A training programme, organised by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), Surveillance Unit Shopian was held at Shopian on the Implementation of the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) here at Mini-Secretariat. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Shopian, Dr. Arshid Hussain Tak chaired the training program, aimed to enhance the capacity of health officials and field functionaries on accurate, real-time disease surveillance and reporting through the IHIP digital platform. The resource persons highlighted key modules of IHIP, reporting protocols, data quality standards and the importance of timely notification for effective public health response.



CMO in his address stressed the significance of strengthening surveillance mechanisms to ensure early detection and rapid response to communicable diseases and urged all participants to adopt the updated digital tools with commitment and maintain highest standards of data accuracy. The participants clarified operational aspects and shared suggestions for smooth implementation at the grassroots level. The meeting was attended by medical officers and officers/officials of the health department.

Sant Kabir's Message in Verse Relevant to Forge Unity: Devyani Rana

■ HT NEWS DESK

NAGROTA, DECEMBER 4 : Emphasising that Sant Kabir's timeless philosophy continues to serve as a moral compass for society, MLA Nagrota Devyani Rana on Thursday said that his verses remain powerful tools to overcome hatred, animosity and social discord.

Speaking at a programme organised at Kabir Ashram, Narian in Katal Batal Panchayat, Rana described Sant Kabir ji as an epitome of righteousness whose teachings of peace, love and compassion offer a universal path toward harmony.

Those who imbibe Kabir Sahib's

teachings can never commit injustice. His message inspires the creation of an equal, just and humane society," she said.

Sant Sudershan Ji Maharaj also graced the occasion.

Rana said that the most meaningful way to honour the great Bhakti saint is to commit oneself to the values he championed—unity, dignity, and equality for all, irrespective of caste, creed or colour. "Kabirji showed us a path where humanity stands above all divisions. His teachings must continue to illuminate our collective journey, especially in times when harmony needs strengthening," she added.



She noted that saints and sages have, across ages, steered society from ignorance to enlightenment through messages of peace, compassion and social justice. Calling for the adoption of Sant Kabir's teachings in letter and spirit, she cautioned that the secular ethos of the region must be safeguarded with collective responsibility.

Rana appreciated the organisers for holding a meaningful event in honour of Sant Kabir and especially lauded Sant Sudershan Ji Maharaj for his selfless work towards strengthening social harmony. "Kabirji's philosophy helps

society shed hatred and intolerance. It will continue to inspire future generations. Preserving this spirit of brotherhood is the true tribute to the saint," she said.

In his discourse, Sant Sudershan Ji Maharaj highlighted the life and immense contribution of Sant Kabir towards fostering social unity. He urged people to walk on the path shown by great gurus and contribute to building a society rooted in shared values. He also stressed the importance of imparting strong moral foundations to the younger generation to counter emerging social evils.

ARI & Trainings Deptt. organises workshop-cum-training programme on online portal for updation of RRs

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 04: ARI & Trainings department organized a highly impressive Workshop-cum-Training programme on online portal for updation of Recruitment Rules (RRs), a major reform initiative aimed at bringing transparency, efficiency, and uniformity in the process of framing, amending and approval of RRs across all Ministries and departments at Convention Centre here today.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education, Shantmanu was the chief guest on the occasion.

ACS, PW(R&B), A.K. Singh; Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings, Shabnam Kamili; various Administrative Secretaries, senior officers of different departments, General Managers of Government Press, designated Nodal Officers from all the departments, representatives of BISAG and other concerned officers were present during the workshop.

Addressing the gathering, ACS Shantmanu acknowledged the efforts of the ARI & Trainings department, adding that this initiative marks a significant step towards modernizing governance. He highlighted that the Single Window System for RRs will not only save time but also bring



clarity, accountability, and consistency in government recruitment process.

ACS, A.K. Singh while speaking on the occasion said that this new system is expected to cut approval

time by over 75% and every stage of the process shall be digitally traceable and also supports the Government's Digital India initiative.

In her welcome address,

Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings, Shabnam Kamili acknowledged the fact that the RRs are the foundation of government service management, determining eligibility, promotion

norms, and service structure for various posts. She added that until now, the process of framing and amending these rules involved multiple layers of approval, leading to delays and procedural complexities.

The Commissioner Secretary further said that to address procedural delays, the Government has in collaboration with BISAG-N developed a digital single-window platform that integrates all stakeholders like administrative departments, Finance, Law, JKPS and GAD into one streamlined system. She added that the system will be made hassle free and secured from security point of view in consultation with IT/NIC.

During the workshop, the Bisag-N representatives imparted training to the Nodal officers followed by Question Answer session as an important part of the workshop.

In his concluding remarks of the workshop, Special Secretary ARI & Trainings, Tassaduq Hussain said that Government is committed to making public administration simpler, faster, and more transparent, adding that this reform is another step in the ongoing efforts to strengthen good governance and service delivery mechanisms.

IT Secretary chairs review meet on budgetary requirements of JaKeGA for 2026-27

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 04: The Information Technology Department today convened a budget review meeting chaired by its Secretary Dr. Piyush Singla to assess the ongoing initiatives and budgetary requirements of the Jammu & Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA) for 2026-27 fiscal.

CEO JaKeGA, Mahima Madan, presented key proposals including establishment of Disaster Recovery Centres, augmentation of the State Data Centre and scaling up of e-Office 2.0 to district and block levels. Besides, updates were also shared on IT infrastructure such as WiFi strengthening, cyber-security enhancements, digitization initiatives and the upcoming



Internship Programme.

The Secretary IT encouraged the JaKeGA to engage with other States/UTs under peer-learning and best-practice exchange frameworks to study successful IT implementations for potential replication in J&K. He further underscored the strategic importance of the J&K Data Exchange, directing the JaKeGA to finalize the proposal to ensure maximum benefit to the UT Government. Besides, plans for establishing an AI and Emerging Technologies Facility were also discussed to enable advanced digital use cases across departments.

Other major areas reviewed included WiFi and LAN up-gradation for the Civil Secretariat.

The Secretary emphasized the need for timely budget approvals to ensure seamless execution of critical digital governance initiatives aimed at strengthening IT infrastructure and enhancing public service delivery across Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the IT Department and JaKeGA.

ADC reviews enforcement of NGT guidelines in Baderwah

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BHADERWAH, DECEMBER 4: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Sunil Bhutyal today reviewed the compliance of National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines and environmental protection efforts in the Baderwah region.

The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officer Baderwah Development Authority (BDA), Block Development Officer, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B), Naib Tehsildar, officials from the Municipal Committee, Forest Department and other concerned officers.

The ADC discussed the environmental challenges having emerged due to increased tourist influx, unregulated construction and other unauthorised activities. He stressed on the need for effective waste management, strengthening of monitoring in the eco-sensitive areas and issued strict instructions for the enforcement of NGT guidelines. He directed the enforcement authorities to act firmly against illegal constructions, encroachments, unauthorized earth-cutting, unplanned land use and violation of environmental norms. The Municipal Committee was asked to intensify door-to-door waste collection, proper segregation and disposal of the same. The meeting decided to conduct weekly cleanliness drives, especially in Udrana, Sartingal, Jai Valley and Padri. Reviewing the condition of Neeru River and its tributaries, the ADC instructed the stakeholder departments to prevent illegal mining, and dumping of debris on banks of streams. He also emphasized regulation of vehicular movement in tourist destinations of Jai, Guldanda and Thanalla to reduce environmental stress, directing BDA and Traffic authorities to explore eco-friendly transport options and improve parking management.

The status of ongoing developmental works being carried out by PWD, RDD, and other executing agencies was reviewed in detail, with clear directions to ensure that all activities strictly adhere to environmental norms, maintain debris-free work sites, prevent blockage of natural drainage and obtain necessary environmental clearances before commencing any new projects. ADC Bhutyal further instructed all departments to intensify public awareness programmes involving locals, hotel associations, traders and tourism operators to encourage community participation in environmental conservation. He directed officers to submit monthly progress and compliance reports, conduct routine inspections and take immediate corrective action wherever violations are noticed.

DC flags off Women SHG members for One-Day Training in Mushroom Cultivation

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 04: A group of members of Women Self Help Groups on Thursday set out for a one day intra-state training programme sponsored by the Department of Agriculture under HADP Project No. 10.

Designed as a capacity-building initiative, the training aims to enhance the skills of women SHG members, introduce them to sustainable income-generation practices and promote mushroom farming as a profitable and scalable agricultural venture in the district.

Deputy Commissioner, Pankaj Sharma flagged off the group of SHG



members. He advised the visiting women to take full advantage of the training as such initiatives have been aptly designed to boost self-reliance and improve socio-economic status of rural women.

GCOE Jammu, CUJ host National workshop on "Panchpadi Approach"

Shantmanu advocates spiritual approach to work; favours finding bliss in every task

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 4: The Government College of Education, Jammu and School of Teacher Education, Cluster University of Jammu jointly organized a one day National Workshop on "Panchpadi Approach in the Light of NEP 2020 and NCF 2023: Towards Holistic and Experiential Learning."

The workshop was aimed to provide practical exposure and training to the teacher educators, school teachers and student-teachers in implementing the Panchpadi Approach within the pedagogical framework of NEP 2020 and NCF 2023.

Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education, Shantmanu, was

the chief guest on the occasion.

In his address, the ACS motivated the students to work hard and give their best in whichever field they want to achieve success. He said, "We should do our karma without 'kamna', when we adopt a spiritual attitude towards our karma it becomes a joyful deed rather than a burden." He exhorted upon the academicians to promote IKS through such workshops and seminars and give their best to make Bharat a Vishwaguru again.

During the workshop, a MoU was exchanged between Dr Jyoti Parihar, Principal GCOE Jammu and Dr Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director JKSCERT, in presence of Additional Chief Secretary.

The ACS also released a college Newsletter during the workshop.



The program was convened by Dr Jyoti Parihar, Principal GCOE Jammu and Dr Zubair Kales, Dean, School of Teacher Education Cluster University of Jammu.

The program was attended by a galaxy of intellectuals, administrators, policy makers, University Professors, college faculty members, scholars and

students while the participants from Nagaland, Orissa, Bhuwaneshwar, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand and UP joined the workshop virtually.

Dr J N Baliya from Central University of Jammu was the key resource person while Dr Subash Mishra, (BR Ambedkar University Lucknow) Dr Varun Sharma and

Dr Pardeep Singh conducted various sessions.

Professor Madhusudan, from University of Hyderabad, also conducted a session through online mode.

Prominent high officials from Cluster University of Jammu, Ankur Mahajan, Registrar, Dr Twinkle Suri, DAA and Dr Ranvijay Singh Controller Examination besides Director Finance, Abdul Majid Bhat, Nodal officer Jammu Division Colleges, Dr Ravindra Tickoo and were present on the occasion.

RG Dogra, Principal DIET, chaired the first technical session.

Dr Shalini Rana, IQAC Convener conducted the proceedings of the workshop while Dr Rakesh Bharti presented the rationale of the workshop.

DC Kishtwar reviews performance of banks at DLRC meeting

Stresses priority sector growth, stronger financial inclusion measures

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 04: The District Level Review Committee (DLRC) met today to assess the performance of banks operating in the Kishtwar district. Deputy Commissioner, Pankaj Kumar Sharma chaired the meeting held to review achievements for the quarter ending September.

The review covered key parameters including priority and non-priority sector lending, the Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio and progress achieved under flagship schemes such as PM Vishwakarma, PMFME, Mission YUVA, Mudra Loans and various

Social Security Schemes.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed concern over the shortfall in priority sector lending, stressing the need for immediate improvement by major banks, particularly SBI and PNB, to meet mandated targets within stipulated timelines. He directed all banks to intensify their efforts toward promoting financial inclusion and ensuring enhanced enrolment under schemes that remain under continuous monitoring.

The DC also instructed banks to share updated lists of NPAs and stressed accounts with the district administration to facilitate



coordinated and timely recovery interventions. The RBI LDO reiterated the importance of conducting

Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF) camps as per the schedule issued by the Lead District Manager

(LDM).

J&K Bank was specifically advised to expedite the resolution of pending DEAF

cases by proactively tracing account holders and settling eligible claims.

Banks were further directed

to enhance public awareness regarding the UDGM portal, an initiative enabling citizens to easily trace unclaimed deposits across banks. Additionally, the RBI emphasized the need for strict monitoring of Banking Correspondents (BCs), with a focus on reviewing transaction data and login activity to effectively address cases of inactivity. The meeting was attended by CPO Akhil Thakur; LDO RBI Amandeep Singh; DSWO Tariq Parveez Qazi; ALC Mamta Sudarshan; CAO Kushal Chandel; LDM Harsh Rawal; Inspector Fisheries, besides representatives from the Banks and other financial institutions.

HT EDITORIAL

A Moment of Hope: J&K Awaits a Balanced Decision on Reservation Policy

The recent cabinet meeting of the Jammu & Kashmir government has led to significant movement on the long-discussed reservation policy. While the full details are yet to be officially released, reports suggest that certain adjustments may be made—potentially reducing the quota for the economically weaker sections while offering more space for the general category.

At this stage, nothing is final. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's careful response—that the matter will only be shared after the file is formally reviewed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha—indicates that the process remains open and under consideration. With the file now headed to Raj Bhavan, the responsibility for the final decision rests with the office of the LG.

For many years, the reservation structure in Jammu & Kashmir has evolved, with new categories added and percentages adjusted based on social realities. Naturally, change of any kind stirs emotions. Young people from the general category feel their share in opportunities has reduced over time, while other groups believe reservation safeguards must remain to ensure equal access and representation. Both sides carry genuine concerns, shaped by personal experience and aspiration.

Voices like that of MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi have drawn attention to the need for a thoughtful reassessment—not to divide society, but to ensure fairness, transparency and balance. The public debate reflects a collective desire for a system that feels just and inclusive to all communities.

It is in this delicate and significant moment that the people now look toward the Lieutenant Governor. Known for his calm approach and emphasis on dialogue and equity, there is hope that LG Manoj Sinha will guide the decision with sensitivity, patience, and an understanding of the emotions connected to it.

This is not merely a policy file—it is about the future of thousands of young people who dream of contributing to their society with dignity and opportunity.

As Jammu & Kashmir waits, there is a quiet optimism that the final decision will reflect fairness—where no group feels ignored, and every section feels seen. A balanced approach can strengthen faith in the system and reinforce the idea that governance listens, understands, and acts with compassion.

The people now wait with hope trusting that the decision ahead will be thoughtful, inclusive, and guided by wisdom.

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The Twelve Imams(a.s): The Divine Guides of Humanity



■ **SYED SAHRAAN HUSSAIN BUKHARI NAQVI**

Introduction

In the light of Islam, guidance is the most precious blessing bestowed by Allah(swt), after the seal of prophets, Prophet Muhammad(s.a.w), Allah ensured that divine guidance would continue through a chain of pure and infallible successors – the twelve imams(a.s). These holy imams, chosen by Allah and appointed by the prophet himself, are the protectors of faith, interpreters of the Qur'an, and guardians of the messages of Islam through all ages. Lets discuss our pure Imams One by One.

Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib(a.s)

The first Imam, the cousin and son-in-law of the prophet(s.a.w), known for his bravery, wisdom, and justice. His sayings are compiled in Nahj al-Balagha. He was martyred in kufa while in prayer.

Imam Hasan ibn Ali(a.s)

Known as Al-Mujtaba, he is the symbol of patience and peace. His life reflects the struggle to preserve Islam through diplomacy rather than war.

Imam Hussain ibn Ali(a.s)

The master of Martyrs, his stand at Karbala against tyranny became the eternal symbol of truth and sacrifice. His martyrdom revived Islam.

Ali ibn Hussain (Zain-ul-Abideen) (a.s)

Known for his devotion and supplications, his book Sahifa Sajjadiya remains a source of spiritual enlightenment.

Imam Muhammad al-Baqir(a.s) Renowned for spreading deep knowledge of Islam and unveiling the inner meanings of the Qur'an. He laid the foundations of Islamic sciences.

Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq(a.s)

The teacher of many great scholars, including Imam Abu Hanifah and Imam Malik. He founded the Ja'fari school of thought and emphasized reason and knowledge in faith.

Imam Musa al-Kazim(a.s)

Known for his patience and endurance under imprisonment, he was titled Al-Kazim(the one who suppresses anger). His shrine in Baghdad is a center of devotion.

Imam Ali al-Ridha(a.s)

Invited by the Abbasid ruler al-Ma'mun to khorasan, he is remembered for his deep debates with scholars of various faiths. His shrine in Mashhad, Iran, is a place of immense spiritual value.

Imam Muhammad al-Taqi(al-Jawad)(a.s)

Known for his generosity and wisdom even at a young age, he proved that leadership is based on divine knowledge, not age.

Imam Ali al-Hadi(an-Naqi)(a.s)

A symbol of purity and humility, he guided his followers during times of political oppression and upheld the values of faith through spirituality.

Imam Hasan al-Askari(a.s)

Lived under close surveillance in Samarra. Despite restrictions, he spread the message of Islam through letters and trusted companions.

Imam Muhammad al-Mahdi(a.jtf)

The awaited savior, Al-Hujjat ibn al-Hasan, who is in occultation by Allah's command. He will reappear to establish justice and peace throughout the world, fulfilling the promise of divine leadership. The Role and Legacy of Imams Each Imam faced unique challenges – from wars and martyrdom to imprisonment and political suppression – yet all stood firm in preserving the

true teachings of Islam. They emphasized justice, morality, knowledge, patience, and love for humanity. The Imams are the living embodiments of the Qur'an – they lived what they preached.

Their teachings remind us that Islam is not just a religion but a complete way of life built on compassion, truth, and divine wisdom.

Imamat and the Path to Salvation

The Prophet(s.a.w) declared in the famous Hadith al-Thaqalayn:

"I leave behind two weighty things: the Book of Allah and my Ahlul Bayt. If you hold fast to them both, you will never go astray."

This hadith is the foundation of the belief in Imamat – that true guidance remains within the lineage of the Ahlul Bayt(a.s). Following the Imams is following the Prophet himself, for they carry his light and wisdom.

Conclusion

The Twelve Imams(a.s) are not just historical figures but eternal beacons of light. Their lives are timeless lessons in faith, justice, and devotion to Allah. Every generation that connects to their teachings finds spiritual awakening and the truth path of Islam.

As the awaited Imam Mahdi(a.jtf) continues his occultation, believers remain steadfast, awaiting his reappearance – a day when truth will prevail, and the world will be filled with justice and peace.

"Peace be upon the pure Imams, the inheritors of the knowledge of the Prophet, the lanterns of guidance, and the ships of salvation."

This article is written with the intention of spreading awareness about the Twelve Imams(a.s) and their timeless guidance. Through this humble effort, I aim to inspire reflection, love, and understanding of their message among readers.

Prof. Irfan Alam A Distinguished Scholar Enriching the Intellectual Landscape of Kashmir



■ **DR. MOHIUDIN ZORE KASHMIRI**

Kashmir—my cherished homeland—is a region blessed with extraordinary natural beauty, a pleasant climate, vibrant cultural traditions, and a rich heritage of knowledge and literature. This snow-capped and fertile land has, for centuries, nurtured countless Sufi saints, scholars, and luminaries. Among its many regions, the historic and culturally vibrant district of Bandipora holds a special place. Surrounded by lush green mountains and home to Wular Lake—one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes—Bandipora has served as the cradle of many intellectual giants, including eminent scholars such as Hussan Shah Kuhuami.

It is this same intellectually fertile soil that gave birth, in 1977, to Prof. Irfan Alam, a distinguished academician, researcher, and literary figure of contemporary Kashmir

Early Life and Education

Prof. Irfan Alam received his early education from local schools in Bandipora, where his academic brilliance began to emerge. He went on to pursue higher studies in Urdu at the University of Kashmir, completing both his Master's degree and Ph.D. from the same institution. His doctoral research, titled "Iqbal aur Jaded Zehan" (Iqbal and the Modern Mind), positioned him early on as a perceptive scholar of Iqbaliyat

Academic Journey and Professional Growth

Prof. Alam began his professional career as a school teacher, demonstrating dedication to education at the foundational level. In 2012, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Urdu at the Directorate of Distance Education, University of Kashmir. His commitment, efficiency, and scholarship led him to serve the university in multiple capacities.

Later, he joined the Central University of Kashmir as an Associate Professor in the Department of Urdu, where he held several prestigious administrative positions, including:

Head of the Department (Urdu)

Dean, Students' Welfare

Member of various academic and administrative committees



He continued to rise in stature and was promoted to Professor, serving the Central University for five fruitful years. Recently, he returned to the University of Kashmir as a Professor in the Department of Urdu and has assumed charge as the Head of the Department.

Literary Contributions and Research Excellence

Prof. Irfan Alam has contributed significantly to Urdu literature and scholarship. His work spans multiple genres and academic domains, including:

Short stories

Research papers

Book chapters

Academic study material

Editing of literary magazines

Organising and presenting papers at national and international seminars

Participation in numerous orientation, refresher, and professional development programs

Supervision of several research scholars

Completion of UGC-sponsored and HRD projects

A notable aspect of his work is his emphasis on integrating Urdu with modern technology and evolving contemporary methods of Urdu teaching and pedagogy.

Major Scholarly Work in Iqbaliyat

Prof. Alam's specialization in Iqbaliyat is widely acknowledged. His acclaimed book,

"Iqbal: Maroozi Tajziyai aur Sciency Mohabis" (Iqbal: Objective Analysis and Scientific Discourse), published by Educational Publishing House, New

Delhi, stands out as an important contribution to modern Iqbal studies.

In this book, he examines Allama Iqbal's philosophical vision through a scientific and analytical lens—an approach rarely adopted in existing literature. Although Iqbal lived in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Prof. Alam highlights the relevance of Iqbal's ideas in the 21st century, particularly in relation to scientific thought, modern consciousness, and contemporary global challenges.

Administrative Acumen and Personal Influence

Beyond his academic achievements, Prof. Alam is admired for his administrative capability, balanced leadership, and refined personality. Students and scholars consistently praise his humility, guidance, and commitment to academic excellence. His presence brings renewed hope to institutions striving to revive the glory of Urdu scholarship.

A Hope for the Future of Urdu in Jammu and Kashmir

Although Urdu is both the official and widely spoken language of Jammu and Kashmir, many of its associated departments and institutions face significant challenges. At times, internal issues have even hindered the progress of Urdu studies in the region.

With Prof. Irfan Alam now leading the Department of Urdu at the University of Kashmir—a department once headed by celebrated scholars like Prof. Abdul Qadir Sarwari, Prof. Shakeel-ul-Rehman, and Prof. Hamdi Kashmiri—there is renewed optimism. The department has, in recent years, faced criticism and difficulties, but there is growing belief that Prof. Alam, with his vision and integrity, can help restore its lost prestige and guide it toward a brighter, more productive future.

Conclusion

Prof. Irfan Alam stands today as one of the most promising and influential figures in contemporary Urdu scholarship in Kashmir. Rooted in the cultural richness of Bandipora and nourished by the intellectual heritage of Kashmir, he continues to elevate Urdu language and literature through teaching, research, administration, and innovation. The Urdu fraternity looks to him with hope, expecting that his leadership will strengthen not only the Department of Urdu but also the broader academic and literary landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

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A Beacon of Knowledge: Professor Syed Muhammad Yunus Gilani and His Enduring Legacy in Islamic Scholarship



DR NAZIR ZARGAR

As Kashmir continues to evolve in its academic and religious discourse, the legacy of one towering scholar continues to illuminate its intellectual journey—Professor Syed Muhammad Yunus Gilani. To many, he is not merely a teacher or an administrator; he is the very architect of the modern framework of Islamic Studies in Jammu and Kashmir.

For those who walked the corridors of the Shah-i-Hamdan Institute of Islamic Studies at the University of Kashmir, the foundations felt familiar yet profound—because they were shaped by a man whose vision extended far beyond the walls of the institution. Even before many students met him, his name circulated with reverence. Seniors spoke of him with admiration, and teachers referenced his work with respect, creating in young minds a sense of anticipation to encounter the man behind such academic excellence.

A Builder of Ideas and Institutions

Professor Gilani's contribution transcends administrative milestones. As one

of the founding pillars of the Shah-i-Hamdan Institute, he transformed an academic programme into a strong intellectual tradition—one that continues to produce scholars, researchers, and educators shaping contemporary Islamic thought in the region.

During his tenure as Director (2002–2006), he strengthened the Institute at a formative stage, instilling standards of scholarship and discipline that continue to define it today. His peers lovingly describe him as "Ustadhal-Ustadha"—the teacher of teachers—a title earned not by position but by profound influence.

A Classroom of Silence, Precision, and Depth

Professor Gilani's teaching style exemplified composure and academic elegance. He did not need volume to command attention; clarity and structure did the work.

His lectures on West Asia at the post-graduate level remain unforgettable experiences for those who attended them. With calm articulation and rare analytical depth, he unpacked complex socio-political histories and interconnected religious developments, allowing students to draw meaning with confidence rather than confusion.

He encouraged critical thinking grounded in methodology, evidence, and context—training students to engage, question, verify, and eventually synthesize with maturity.



Mentorship that Shaped Minds and Souls

As a research supervisor, Professor Gilani embodied the delicate balance between intellectual freedom and scholarly discipline. Whether guiding work on Da'wah methodology, or shaping complex research on Islamic ethics, peace, and justice, he encouraged originality—while insisting on rigorous engagement with primary sources.

His belief was simple yet profound: "Islamic Studies must shape lives—not just degrees."

Education, to him, was a moral and lifelong process. His office carried a symbolic reminder of his values—next to his nameplate was placed a small but powerful sign:

"No Ghibat Zone."

It set the ethical tone before the academic one.

A Scholar Beyond Borders

Professor Gilani's scholarship has travelled far beyond Kashmir. His research interests span the methodology of Islamic studies, interfaith relations, conflict resolution, Islamic knowledge systems, and unity in plural societies. His papers have been published internationally, and his participation in global academic forums has earned him recognition as one of the distinguished voices in contemporary Islamic thought.

His appointment as Professor at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) allowed him to share his vision with the wider Muslim world—expanding his influence while continuing to represent Kashmiri scholarship on a global stage.

A Legacy Still Growing

Though his physical presence shifted from Kashmir to Kuala Lumpur, his academic fingerprints remain deeply embedded in the region. Generations of students, many now scholars themselves, continue to carry forward his vision—with reverence and gratitude.

Professor Syed Muhammad Yunus Gilani is more than a chapter in the history of Islamic Studies in Kashmir—he is a guiding light whose influence continues to shape minds, soften hearts, and refine scholarship.

And as each Friday prayer reminds believers of knowledge, humility, and service, his life stands as a living example of all three.

NEWSPAPER READING KEEPS US UPDATED



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

It has been centuries since the first newspaper was printed in the year 1605. In India, the first newspaper was published in 1779 by James Augustus. The Times of India is the leading newspaper today throughout the world, and there are a number of leading newspapers published on a daily basis in different countries of the globe. Newspaper reading adds new words to our vocabulary and provides us with current general knowledge about our surroundings.

Today everyone should have a gallery of knowledge to tackle difficult situations in day-to-day life. Every individual needs to be capable of facing different kinds of hardships and achieving success in life. Today's world is fully laced with advanced technology, and the world needs technical, energetic, and active people who have good communication skills to deal with clients properly and in a humble and kind way.

Language is just a medium through which we communicate with each other and express our ideas and thoughts. At the same time, we are living in an advanced world where we must have skills, motivation, and good communication abilities. One should have a gallery of knowledge to express his thoughts to the outside world.

During vacations, several coaching institutes offer English-speaking courses, personality-development training, and language-learning classes for employment. Nowadays the competency level is very high among learners and job-seeking youths, but at the same time, we lack many things. Education is mandatory to get a reputed job and earn a handsome income. Being educated enhances your morale, develops your personality, and increases



your dignity.

There are many other sources that we should utilize to develop our overall personality. The time is not far when our nation will witness a revolution. A nation develops when its youth come out with full zeal and enthusiasm, carrying dreams for the nation and for themselves. When we start to develop our thoughts, have big goals, and come forward with eminent dreams, then no one can beat us.

In today's article, I am going to explore the benefits of newspaper reading and how it helps us get educated unintentionally. These days social media plays a major role in bringing good things out, but at the same time, there is a negative perspective of social media as well. Due to the influence of social media, most of us take part in different physical activities, which are very beneficial for us and for strengthening our thoughts.

Several Android apps display happenings on your mobile phone within a short time, and Google plays a vital role in keeping us updated in day-to-day life. But the newspaper is quite a different learning medium for learners and for the people living in our society. Newspaper reading helps us learn new words with proper pronunciation, provides us a gallery of knowledge within a short period, adds new

words to our vocabulary, and keeps us updated.

Newspaper reading helps us know what is happening throughout the world, the country, and the state, and even provides us with the entire day's happenings. It gives us general knowledge, makes us aware of the latest updates, and provides information about weather, national highways, job advertisements, and renowned places worth visiting. Newspapers allow us to know what is happening in the country the position of the share market, the state of the economy, and other important updates. Most importantly, newspaper reading enhances our vocabulary as editors use new and trending words in news columns. Other interesting features are also published, including poetry, recipes, advertisements, religious facts, jokes, and so on.

Newspapers in our country are published in many languages such as English, Urdu, and Hindi. Readers enjoy their favourite columns and stay updated, acquiring the latest facts and knowing what is happening in the country and the world. So, if you want to update your knowledge and add more information, newspaper reading is the best way to get it all and that too free of cost.

sahilmanzoor0401@gmail.com

Letter to my younger brother on his birthday

RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

Whenever my phone rings and the screen flashes your name. I know, you have got into a mess of which you have failed to come out of by your own. Because I know they only hope you have when things get out of your control is me. Your hope in me makes me confident and also makes me put efforts to helping you get out of the mess. As I receive your call and you start speaking using your punch line "Raquf bhaya apko pata hai kya huva" gives me the sense of the mess you have got in. Lower your tone, the bigger mess. And when you know, Raquf will yell at me your message is enough to send shivers down my body. "Raquf bhaya matter hogya" is what has become your way of telling me "I have got into a big mess and it's only you who can save me". I can't explain what your confidence in me make me feel. Whenever I feel low or feel as if I can do it. I recall your hope in me and then start doing it. I always end up successfully completing what I have started. Your trust in me makes things for me easier.

Getting on my nerves is one of your favourite things to do. And now it has become your pass time. You enjoy it, knowing I have a soft corner and I don't have to worry about the consequences. Being very frank, I can be strict with anyone and I can say "No" to anyone. But when it comes to you, I fall weak. I don't know what happens to me when it's about you. Leave alone hitting you. I even feel bad even when I am loud to you. It's a different kind of regret I have when I am rude to you. Seeing you sad is the worst thing to see and seeing you worried makes me feel worried. You have a very special place in my life, which none can take.

I still remember when we spoke for the first time on Instagram, regarding something. Not knowing that we'll come to this time where you won't just call me your elder brother by your tongue but will have respect and regard for me the same way one has for his elder brother. I always wanted to have a younger brother and I always had a thing in my heart for a having a younger brother. But that lasted only Till I met you. Now I have a full fledged younger brother. Who ensures that he's make me feel that I have a younger brother. Not a single day passes when you don't remind me that I have a younger brother now and I no more have to ask Allah for a brother.

I shouldn't be giving the whole credit to myself. You fully deserve all the credit for be the best person who have met till now. The way you give me respect and make sure others also recognize



me as your elder brother is unmatched. I can never thank you enough for all the efforts you are putting to make sure I don't feel that I have to put all the efforts from my side and you are just using the soft corner that I have for you.

When you are asked about what relationship do I share with you. The way you say "Ye chu ma boud boi" (he's my elder brother) is something that I remember and feel very proud about.

In today's world when people are suffering from trust deficit. I am proud to have you, who from a random Instagram follower turned out to be my younger brother and a secret keeper.

Your eagerness to prove your worth to people who have underestimated you is something I appreciate. The way you are working to make your dreams come true is what I should take as a lesson.

On your birthday let me tell you, I am proud to have you as my younger brother. I wish you happy, healthy, successful, wonderful and blessed life. I shall always be there for you.



SALT IS A WHITE POISON ; HERE IS WHY



We have been consuming common salt since ages .Studies have shown that high salt consumption is a major cause of high blood pressure. There is a strong link between high salt consumption and risk of stroke, left ventricular hypertrophy, renal disease, obesity, renal stones and stomach cancer. What does excessive salt do to our body ?

It has been shown to reduce the activity of superoxide dismutase which is a very powerful antioxidant enzyme working tirelessly to detoxify a million free radicals per second. Once we cripple our very own antioxidant machinery our arterial functions get crippled. Further, excessive salt intake leads to stiffness of arteries and its consequent effects .

It has been observed that people

consuming high salt their blood pressure never gets controlled despite multiple drugs and the nasty game of hypertension is set free.

Salt intake is especially deleterious for the heart, kidney and liver disease patients. High Sodium intake has been shown to reduce nitric oxide release known to relax blood vessels .Thus by consuming one salty meal not only does our blood pressure go up, but our arteries literally stiffen.

Can reduction in salt intake help us ?

If we would cut our salt intake by a half teaspoon a day we might prevent 22% of strokes and 16 % of fatal heart attacks.

Your kitchen master could help you more than pharmacy.

Do we really need salt ?

Yes, we do need salt in our body and it should come naturally from food (fruit and vegetables)

Stop adding table salt, avoid salty preparations from the market .We don't need more than 2.3gm/day (1/4 tea spoon) of Sodium per day which is equivalent to 5gms of common salt per day

We should reduce salt in cooking and avoid hidden sources of salt like that found in Bread, Pizza, Burgers bakery, processed foods, fast foods, potato chips. Salted nuts etc

Sounds strange!

There are no deleterious effects associated with reducing salt consumption and it is also very cost-effective.

It has been observed that our taste buds get acclimatized to NO SALT within 2 -3 weeks and you won't have salt cravings later at all.

Our Pink tea contains a lot of sodium (Baking soda, common salt) our morning bread (Lawasa) is loaded with salt.

How to have salt alternatives for our naughty taste buds ?

Be creative and season your foods with spices, lemon ginger garlic. Vinegar

To conclude common salt is a white poison World over 4 million deaths are linked to high salt intake.

Gradually stop salt intake from today. Train your taste buds SALT FREE FOODS, it needs just 3 WEEKS to adapt and live a healthy Life.

Courtesy Healthline

SURGERY, ANAESTHESIA MAY AFFECT MEMORY

WASHINGTON: Turns out, surgery and anaesthesia can slightly affect memory of patients.

According to a new study, patients may score slightly lower on certain memory tests after having surgery and anaesthesia.

In the study of 312 participants who had surgery and 652 participants who had not (with an average age in the 50s), surgery between tests was associated with a decline in immediate memory by one point out of a possible maximum test score of 30 points.

Memory became abnormal in 77 out of 670 participants with initially normal memory comprising 18 percent of those who had had surgery compared with 10 percent of those who had not.

No differences in other measures of memory and executive function were observed between participants having and not having surgery.

Reduced immediate memory scores at the second visit were significantly associated with the number of operations in the preceding nine years. Working memory decline was associated with longer cumulative operations.

Dr Kirk Hogan, the senior author said, "The cognitive changes we report are highly statistically significant in view of the internal normative standards we employ, and the large sample size of the control, or non-surgery, population. But the cognitive changes after surgery are small--most probably asymptomatic and beneath a person's awareness".

"The results await confirmation both in follow-up investigations in our own population sample after more surgeries in ageing participants, and by other investigators with other population samples", Dr Hogan further explained.

Dr Hogan noted that it is too early to recommend any changes in clinical practice regarding prevention, diagnosis, management, and prognosis of cognitive changes after surgery.

The findings from the study are published in the journal Anaesthesia.

Courtesy Healthline

VITAMIN D LEVELS CAN NOW BE MEASURED WITH YOUR HAIR



Researchers have found that vitamin D can now be measured by human hair, paving the way for improved diagnosis of deficiency of the sunshine vitamin.

With over a billion people estimated to be affected, vitamin D deficiency — a risk factor for depression, cardiovascular disease, inflammation, diabetes and cancer — has reached epidemic proportions worldwide.

While traditional blood analysis captures the levels at a single time point, in contrast, hair, which grows at approximately one centimetre per month, could reflect vitamin D status over several months, capturing the large seasonal differences in the levels.

"The study presents the idea that vitamin D is being deposited continuously in the hair as it grows, more might be deposited at times when vitamin D concentration in the blood is high, and less when it's low," said lead author Lina Zgaga, Associate Professor at Trinity College Dublin. "Therefore, a test based on the hair sample might

be able to give doctors a measure of vitamin D status over time — if hair is long enough, this even might be over a few years," Zgaga added.

The findings were published in the journal Nutrients. However, further research is needed to establish the exact relationship between vitamin D concentration in the blood and in hair over time.

There is also a need to investigate different factors that might affect vitamin D levels in hair, the most obvious ones being hair colour and thickness, or use of hair products such as hair dye, Zgaga said.

The discovery could also have other applications as hair (along with teeth) are some of the longest lasting surviving biological materials after death and thus it could be possible to assess the vitamin D status of historical populations — Elizabethans, Vikings, Celts, Romans, ancient Chinese, Egyptians, the researchers said.

Courtesy Healthline

LOSE WEIGHT FOR LIFE, THIS surprising workout can melt fat forever

When it comes to health and wellness, weight loss is a common goal. From going keto to intermittent fasting and breaking a sweat — there is a lot that people do. However, more than this, there are many who struggle to find out the best way to lose weight and then sustain the results in the long run; because dropping kilos is one thing, and then retaining it is another. Although weight loss is not that tricky or hard to achieve, maintaining the same is a truly herculean task — but to your surprise, there is a workout form that could be key to sustaining the progress and experts support this conclusion.

High-intensity interval training or HIIT is recommended by fitness experts for quick weight loss and the effect is attributed to the way this routine works — from fluctuating intensity of the exercises, duration, and mix and match of various techniques of training. And if you aim at sustaining this progress, in the long run, there is a way of doing so — being consistent.

How does HIIT help burn fat fast and sustain it?

HIIT is a special workout form created to fetch the best results in a short period of time — this involves training with maximum effort in short intervals and then relying on longer recovery or rest periods. In order to maximise its effectiveness, experts recommend working on the routine at 90

per cent of your maximum stamina and strength which trains the body to operate on anaerobic mode which helps maximise the efficiency by producing and burning energy along with fat which then starts melting at an accelerating rate.

Also known as one of the most efficient ways of losing weight, HIIT lasts for 10 to 30 minutes, and in this period, it offers twice as many benefits that people obtain from a moderate-intensity workout spanning a longer duration. Additionally, one does not need any equipment to perform HIIT — this can involve sprinting, bodyweight exercises like push-ups and planks, biking, and jumping rope.

When using a stationary bike, HIIT is done by cycling for 30 seconds as fast as possible on high resistance followed by multiple minutes of easy, slow-paced, and low-resistance peddling — this is one round of HIIT, and to get benefits from this routine, 4-6 repetition in a single workout are recommended.

Working out rigorously over a short period of time boosts the heart rate, optimises your oxygen intake, improves blood sugar balance, and many other health benefits in a single routine. And that is not where the benefits of HIIT end, this routine not only speeds up weight loss, but when practiced consistently in the long run, it could be the key to sustaining a healthier body mass index in the long run.

Courtesy Healthline



NCDC Calls for Urgent Action to Improve Sleep Habits in Children and Youth

HT HEALTH DESK

SRINAGAR DEC 4: The National Child Development Council (NCDC) has raised concern over growing sleep deprivation among children and young adults, urging families, schools, and communities to take collective responsibility in promoting healthy sleep habits.

During a recent core committee meeting, educators and child development experts discussed the rising trend of irregular sleep schedules among children and teenagers—largely attributed to late-night screen time and excessive gadget use.

Committee members observed

that many children now stay awake well past midnight, leading to day-time fatigue, difficulty concentrating in class, and declining academic performance. "Youngsters are sleeping at very odd hours—sometimes 2 or 3 AM—and waking late. This routine affects not only physical health but mental well-being," noted one participant.

Parents were identified as key enforcers of healthy routines. With digital learning and smartphones becoming part of daily schooling, unsupervised device use has contributed to widespread sleep disruption. "Parents must ensure a proper schedule for studying, sleeping, and device usage. Even if busy,



monitoring sleep must remain a priority," a member stressed.

Experts also expressed concern that children sleeping in separate

rooms may find it easier to misuse devices at night.

Medical specialists highlighted several health consequences linked to inadequate sleep, including weakened immunity, hormonal imbalance, emotional instability, stress, irritability, and long-term health risks. They emphasized that sleep plays a crucial role in growth, brain development, learning, and memory formation.

The council also recommended classroom-based awareness, including reinforcing early bedtime habits and encouraging rest periods during long school hours, particularly in younger age groups.

In addition to structured sleep

patterns, the committee advised adopting healthy lifestyle practices such as avoiding caffeine, maintaining regular meals, exercising, reducing stress, and following a consistent sleep-wake cycle.

Quoting the well-known proverb, a member reiterated: "Early to bed and early to rise makes a person healthy, wealthy, and wise."

The NCDC concluded that fostering healthy sleep habits requires a united effort from parents, teachers, and society. The council plans to introduce awareness campaigns and educational materials to support families in building better sleep routines for children and youth.



Tanvir Sadiq lays foundation stone for Rs 21.52 lakh illuminated landmark at Alamgari Bazar

■ MOHAMMAD HANIF KHAN

SRINAGAR, DEC 04: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Chief Spokesperson and MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq Thursday laid the foundation stone for a major beautification and illumination project at Alamgari Bazar, marking a significant step toward upgrading civic aesthetics and enhancing the cultural character of the historic locality.

The project, sanctioned at a cost of Rs 21.52 lakh, includes the creation of an illuminated landmark attraction along with comprehensive beautification works, foundation strengthening, and artistic calligraphy reflective of the area's heritage.

Speaking on the occasion, Tanvir Sadiq said that the initiative is part of his broader vision to rejuvenate old Srinagar's public spaces and restore their traditional charm while ensuring modern amenities. He emphasized that such developmental works are essential not only for beautifying neighbourhoods but also for fostering people's historical and cultural pride and improving the lived experience of residents.



He highlighted that Alamgari Bazar, with its deep cultural and historical significance, deserves focused developmental attention. The upcoming landmark designed with aesthetic lighting and heritage-inspired calligraphy will serve as both a visual enhancement and a symbol of the area's rich cultural identity.

Local residents and party workers who were present on the occasion expressed gratitude to Tanvir Sadiq for addressing long-pending developmental needs. They appreciated

his continued efforts to bring tangible improvements to the constituency through quality infrastructure and people-centric projects.

Reiterating his commitment to holistic urban development, Sadiq assured that more initiatives aimed at improving roads, drainage, public spaces, and civic amenities in Zaidal constituency are in the pipeline. He reaffirmed that he will continue working tirelessly to ensure that every neighbourhood receives the attention and development it deserves.

Shrine Board Set to Handover Six Renovated Govt. Schools Completed Under Social Support Initiative

■ HT NEWS DESK

KATRA, DEC 4: The Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya today directed officials to expedite the execution of all ongoing development works of the Shrine Board. He issued these instructions while chairing a review meeting on the Board's developmental works held at the Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra, with special focus on works being executed under its social support initiative in and around Katra.

During the meeting, the CEO undertook a comprehensive review of the development works being implemented by the Board in the surrounding areas, along the tracks leading to the Holy Shrine and within the Shrine premises, aimed at further strengthening and upgrading facilities for the pilgrims and the public at large.

As part of the deliberations, the CEO also reviewed the progress of repair and renovation works in twelve Government Schools in Reasi district and one in Udhampur district, taken up by the Shrine Board under its social support initiative. These schools include Government High School, Sirla Bhaga; Government Middle Schools at Chack Bhagtha,



Panthal, Parthal, Manoon and Kun Kanyala; and Government Primary Schools at Hansali, Kalara Chanjute, Upper Sirla, Geeta Nagar, Purana Daroor and Chumbra in Reasi district, besides Government Primary School, Dhanno in Udhampur district.

The CEO instructed that the six schools where repair and renovation works have been completed be formally handed over to the concerned authorities at the earliest. The completed works comprise construction of new classrooms, repair of damaged roofs with waterproofing, plastering and painting, structural strengthening, repair of doors and windows, and provision of electrification and flooring wherever required.

He emphasized that the timely handover of these institutions will enable local children to benefit from upgraded academic infrastructure and a significantly improved learning environment created through these initiatives.

The CEO was also apprised that the Shrine Board has successfully completed the construction of drains and road works at Sirah Colony, Kakryal, at a cost of ₹1.38 crore under its social support programme, reflecting the Board's contribution to public welfare in the region in addition to providing services to pilgrims.

It is noteworthy that in recent years, the Shrine Board has supported several such initiatives, including scholarships for meritorious students, upgradation of health facilities and development of community infrastructure in the surrounding areas.

Among those present in the meeting were Senior Officers, Area Heads and Engineers of the Shrine Board.

Renovation and Face-Lift of CEO Kokernag Development Authority Office Completed

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KOKERNAG, DEC 04: The renovation and face-lift of the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Kokernag Development Authority (KDA), was successfully completed today after two months of continuous hard work and dedication led by Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Rouf Rehman (JKAS) along with the KDA staff.

The newly refurbished building now presents a grand and impressive look, with officials describing it as the "Embassy of the Tourism Circuit" covering Kokernag, Achabal, Chatapal, Daksum, Margan, and Simthan Top. The upgraded infrastructure is expected to significantly enhance administrative functioning as well as the visitor experience.

KDA officials further informed that several beautification and development projects are in the pipeline. These include the construction of a Clock Tower in Achabal Town and the macadamisation of the new Bus Adda at Achabal, aimed at improving public amenities and strengthening the region's tourism infrastructure.

Kulgam Police Act Against Stunt Biking and Eve-Teasing Juveniles Counselling, Parents Booked

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, DEC 04: Kulgam Police initiated swift action after a video showing stunt biking and eve-teasing by a group of juvenile boys went viral on social media.

Police Station Qaimoh promptly identified the juveniles involved and seized the motorcycles used in the act. The boys were subsequently counselled in the presence of their families. Their parents were booked and legally bound down for allowing minors to ride motorcycles in violation of law and for enabling behaviour that endangered public safety.

Sharing the details, SSP Kulgam Anayat Ali Chowdhary (IPS) said:



"Parents must understand their responsibility and ensure that no minor is ever handed a motorcycle or any vehicle. When parents allow such behaviour, they put their own child's life in danger and also risk the lives of other citizens. These acts of stunt riding and eve-teasing are unacceptable and will be dealt with firmly. Kulgam Police will take strict action against anyone who violates the law, and we seek full cooperation from the community in promoting discipline, safety, and respect in public spaces."

Kulgam Police reiterated its commitment to continue strict action against stunt biking, eve-teasing, rash driving, and all forms of behaviour that threaten the safety and dignity of the public, especially women and students.

Public Notice

I have cleared my loan from SBI Kargil for the vehicle bearing registration number JK07 5559. Anybody having any objection may contact SBI Kargil, within the period of 7 days from the publication of this notice.

**Name- Mohd Sadiq
S/O- Abdul Rehman
R/O- Pashu Colony Kargil**

Public Notice

I, Intiyaz Ahmad Malik, S/O Mohammad Assad Ullah Malik, R/O Sozeith Goripora, Narbal, Budgam – 190017, hereby state that my passport bearing No. R1197236, issued on 12/06/2017 at Srinagar, has been lost while travelling from SOZEITH GORIPORA TO NOORA HOSPITAL ON 26/11/2025 7006866038

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh Pesticide License under the name MOHD IRFAN DAR In this regard if anybody is having any objection may file the same to PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within the time period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Name..... MOHD IRFAN DAR
S/O AB RASHID DAR
R/O ...PUTHAR AUTHOORA BARAMULLA**

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Government of Jammu and Kashmir (UT)

Office of the Zonal Education Officer Chadoora

E-mail: chadoorazeo@gmail.com

Auction Notice-III (Final)

In continuation to this office No: ZEO/CHD/PLG/25/396-98, Dated: 22/10/2025 & ZEO/CHD/PLG/25/473, Dated: 19-11-2025. Due to poor response from first auction bid held on 01-11-2025 and Second bid auction on 28-11-2025, It is for the information again the general public ii that Zonal Education Officer Chadoora District Budgam is hereby inviting bids / auction on behalf of the higher ups of the School Education Department vide reference CEOB/Auction/P1g/23326-311 Dated: 13/10/2025 from the interested parties for demolition and disposal of two School dilapidated -unsafe structure / buildings in the premises of Govt Middle School Kathaigund Zone Chadoora disposal serviceable / unserviceable materials , loading, cleaning away materials from the site and also clearing the site in all respects as directed by concerned in-charge.

- The auction minimum bidding amount has been fixed as per valuation / assessment report given jointly by the technical wing of R&B department Chadoora which is Rs.523758 /- (Rupees five lac twenty-three thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty-Eight) vide No-EE/R&B/CHD/3300-3302, Dated: 27-09-2025.
- The auction fee (CDR) 2% of bid amount/= (refundable) in the form of DD/Cheque in favour of Zonal Education officer Chadoora shall be submitted by the bidder in advance within 4 days after issuance of this notice.
- CDR Not allowed on auction day.
- NOC of Commercial Taxes.
- 20 % of the amount of the highest bid will be deposited in cash with the cashier of this office
- The highest / successful bidder will have to deposit the full balance amount by cheque / within (02) days from the issue of letter of acceptance of this bid.
- The School Education department and the administration are not responsible for any loss or devaluation in the quality of article and materials during dismantling and it will be the total responsibility of successful bidder.
- Any type of accident or casualties during dismantling of the structure will be the responsibility of successful bidder no claim shall be made by the bidder.
- During the auction if any dispute creates the committee decision will be treated final no claim whatsoever will be entertained by any one.
- No extra remuneration claim shall be made by the bidder.
- The successful bidder shall complete the dismantling process and clean the site within 10 days positively after depositing full payment of bid.
- The dismantling building committee reserve the rights to accept or reject the bid keep the highest bid pending for open negotiation without assigning any reason thereof.
- The auction date will be 09-Dec-2025, in the School premises of Middle School Kathaigund Chadoora at 11:30 AM.

No: ZEO/CHD/PLG/25/500 | Dated: 02/12/2025

Sd/- Zonal Education Officer Chadoora

DIPK: 8708/25 | Dated: 04-12-2025

Office of the District Development Commissioner Anantnag

Auction Notice

Whereas, in pursuance of Rule 213, 217, 218, 219, 220 and 221 of the General Financial Rules (GFR)-2017, and based on the recommendations of the duly constituted Committee dated 21/11/2025, various surplus and unserviceable items belonging to the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, have been declared fit for disposal through public auction.

Now, therefore, it is hereby notified for the information of the general public that a public auction of the said surplus/unserviceable items shall be conducted in the premises of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Anantnag on 12/12/2025 at 12:00 PM

Interested persons/registered bidders may participate in the auction subject to the following conditions:

- The detailed list of items and their respective reserve prices shall be available for inspection with the designated Auction Committee in its office during official working hours.
- The auction shall be conducted in the presence and supervision of the designated Committee.
- Participation in the auction shall be deemed as acceptance of all terms and conditions specified in the notice.
- The bidders shall inspect the items prior to the auction. No complaint regarding the condition, quality, quantity or specifications of the items shall be entertained after the auction.
- The highest bid shall be subject to approval by the competent authority.
- Successful bidders shall have to deposit the bid amount on the same day and lift the auctioned items within the stipulated period at their own cost, risk and responsibility; no transportation, labour or handling assistance shall be provided by this office.
- The successful bidders must lift the auctioned items at their own cost, risk and responsibility within the prescribed timeframe, and no transportation, labour or handling assistance shall be provided by this office.
- The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason.

No: 697-98/AC | Dated: 02-12-2025

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag

DIPK: 8717/25 | Dated: 04-12-2025

SDRF Kashmir conducts Disaster Management Mock Drill at GMC Srinagar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DEC 4: A dedicated team from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Bhagat Barzulla, conducted an extensive demonstration-cum-mock drill on disaster preparedness and emergency management at the Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar on Thursday under direction of Director SDRF Kashmir, Intiyaz Hussain Mir.

The activity was specifically organised for the MBBS Batch 2025, aiming to enhance their awareness, technical abilities, and confidence while responding to critical incidents and public health emergencies.

The mock drill featured a series of realistic demonstrations covering a wide range of emergency situations that commonly arise during disasters.

The SDRF team presented structured modules on earthquake preparedness,

outlining the immediate actions required to minimise injuries, maintain safety, and assist victims until medical teams arrive. Fire emergency training included demonstrations on identifying hazards, safe evacuation techniques, and systematic fire response strategies. Students were also introduced to drowning rescue procedures, including safe retrieval and first-aid steps essential for stabilising patients until they receive advanced care.

One of the key components of the programme was the training in airway obstruction management in both paediatric and adult populations. The SDRF experts demonstrated the Heimlich maneuver and shared clinical insights on recognising choking, differentiating partial from complete obstruction, and applying age-appropriate interventions.

Additionally, students received hands-on practice in cardiopulmonary resuscitation



(CPR), including chest compressions, rescue breaths, and automated external defibrillator (AED) awareness, aligning with internationally recognised emergency care guidelines.

The session also included practical guidance on the proper use of fire extinguishers, where students were encouraged to operate the equipment themselves under supervision.

This activity helped participants build familiarity with the PASS method, which is considered an essential skill during fire outbreaks.

Officials from the SDRF emphasised that the exercise was designed to familiarise future doctors with first-responder responsibilities, particularly during large-scale emergencies where medical teams collaborate with rescue units to manage mass casualty situations.

The participants were introduced to key principles of

triage, prioritisation of victims, and rapid situational assessment, skills that remain critical during disasters.

Faculty members at GMC Srinagar appreciated the efforts and professionalism of the SDRF team, acknowledging that such programmes significantly strengthen emergency preparedness in the healthcare sector.

Students expressed positive feedback and acknowledged that the session enhanced their understanding of disaster medicine, risk communication, and crisis response. The training created awareness regarding the importance of preparedness at individual, institutional, and community levels.

The programme concluded with a pledge to conduct similar hands-on training sessions regularly as part of a broader initiative to improve resilience, response capacity, and disaster risk reduction in the region.

Financial Literacy awareness programme held at SBI RSETI Ramban

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, DECEMBER 4: SBI RSETI Ramban today organised an awareness programme on Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy for the trainees. The session was conducted by Manager Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Anil Kumar, who visited the institute along with a team from Financial Literacy Centre (FLC), Ramban.

The Manager apprised the trainees about the functioning of the Reserve Bank of India, its regulatory role and the services provided to the citizens of the country.

He explained the conceptual difference between needs and wants and helped the trainees understand the prioritisation criteria in the financial decision-making process.

He further informed the participants about unclaimed deposits and the awareness campaigns undertaken by the RBI to help citizens retrieve their money.

He also highlighted important financial and social security schemes like PMSBY, PMJJBY, APY, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, besides explaining the importance of maintaining a savings account and the benefits of zero balance accounts.

Senior Faculty, Amrik Singh Raju spoke on critical issues related to digital frauds, online scams, fake calls, fraudulent messages and harmful apk files circulated through WhatsApp and guided the participants on safe digital practices to protect themselves from emerging cyber threats.

The program ended with a highly interactive question-and-answer session, during which several queries were raised by the trainees regarding banking and digital safety.

The Manager, RBI, provided on-the-spot clarifications and solutions for better understanding and awareness. The session was successfully conducted under the supervision and guidance of the Director, SBI RSETI Ramban, who emphasized the significance of such programs in strengthening financial awareness at the grassroots level.

DC Ganderbal chairs monthly Revenue meeting, takes stock of progress in key revenue matters

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to take stock of the functioning of the Revenue department in the district.

The DC reviewed in detail the progress achieved under DILRMP, SVAMITA, ULPIN and digitization of revenue records.

He also sought the status of migrant land alienation cases,

online services under Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA), Fard, Revenue extracts, Mutations, certificates issued under Jan Sugam portal, grievances on Samadhan portal, rectification of revenue records under Section 27, status of departmental enquiries other key revenue matters in the district.

During the meeting, the DC stressed the need for speeding up the disposal of pending cases to ensure timely delivery of services to the public. He instructed the concerned officers to ensure prompt



delivery of various services within the timeline stipulated under the Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA).

He also reviewed the status of Revenue Court Cases in RCCM and directed to ensure timely disposal of revenue cases.

The DC also directed concerned officers to expeditiously clear pendencies of rectification under Section-27.

He urged Revenue department officials to work with renewed commitment to uphold transparency, responsiveness, and citizen-centric governance in the district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Tehsildars and allied officers.

DC Baramulla reviews SBM-G Activities

Calls for 100% Target achievement within Stipulated Timeframe

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 04: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting on various activities being carried out under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) at the Main meeting Hall, DC Office Baramulla.

During the meeting, concerned officers presented updates on ongoing works and projects being executed across the district.

The DC took a detailed review of the works which have already been tendered out or allotted, directing officers to ensure that these projects are initiated on the ground within the coming week.

Stressing the importance of timely execution, the DC emphasized achieving 100% targets within the stipulated



time frame, adding that delays will not be tolerated in projects aimed at improving cleanliness and sanitation in rural areas.

He called for close monitoring, regular field visits, and strict adherence to quality parameters to ensure

successful implementation of SBM-G initiatives across the district.

Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Block Development Officers and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

NHM team reviews progress of Health programs in Reasi District

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

REASI, DECEMBER 04: The Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired an important review meeting with a team from the National Health Mission (NHM) and the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu. The NHM team led by Dr. Jitendra Mishra discussed in detail the progress of key national health schemes being implemented in the district.

Detailed deliberations were held on the progress of major health programmes including National Programme for Prevention & Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD), National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme and the overall functionality of ASHAs.

The NHM team highlighted several priority areas that require immediate action including the shortfall of ASHAs which must be addressed within one week, meeting Nikshay Mitra requirements within one month and the need to onboard all doctors as Nikshay Mitras to strengthen TB patient support. The team also stressed the importance of ensuring strong follow-up and adherence mechanisms under the NCD programme.



The Deputy Commissioner directed the Chief Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent, District Programme Manager and all concerned officials of the Health Department to take timely corrective steps and achieve all the targets outlined by the NHM team. She emphasized the need for robust field monitoring, accountability at every level and data-driven assessment to ensure efficient implementation of these health schemes.

Further, the DC instructed the department to conduct regular review meetings, intensify community awareness activities on TB, NCDs, Hepatitis & other key health issues and ensure timely data reporting on national portals.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to improving healthcare services in Reasi, the Deputy Commissioner assured that all necessary measures will be taken to meet NHM targets and ensure accessible, efficient and quality health services for the people of the district.

JKEDI hosts orientation program for GCW Parade students

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 04: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Thursday organized an Entrepreneurship Orientation Program (EOP) for the students of Government College for Women, Parade.

A group of 29 college students participated in the programme, coordinated by the Centre of New Enterprise Creation (CNEC), JKEDI under the overall supervision of Director JKEDI.

The students interacted with the faculty and experts, who briefed them about the evolving startup landscape in the U.T of Jammu and Kashmir.

The participating students were acquainted with business plan modeling, Detailed Project Report (DPR) formulation, besides modules for capacity building and provision of financial and market linkage including handholding and mentorship support for the aspiring

entrepreneurs. The students were briefed about various program verticals of the institute and their functions.

The scope of entrepreneurship as a career choice was also discussed. The students brainstormed on the innovation driven startup ideas along with their viability to be turned into successful business ventures.

Later, the students participated in the question and answer session and put forth their understanding of various topics related to startups and entrepreneurship.

Speaking at the event, Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department and Director, JKEDI Khalid Jahangir highlighted the scope of entrepreneurship as a viable career choice in today's dynamic world. He encouraged students to acquire skills and innovate to stay ahead in the competition.

Joint Director JKEDI, Chand Kishor Sharma briefed the participating students about



entrepreneurship as a career choice and the vast opportunities it offers in today's world. He urged them to orient their career choices accordingly.

Faculty from different verticals shared the role of the institute in creating an enabling ecosystem for entrepreneurship while detailing various interventions it is carrying out to do the same.

Earlier, In-charge, Centre of New Enterprise Creation (CNEC), Dr. Vinod Kumar welcomed the participants and described how different verticals of the institute have come into being in line with the institute's vision, mission and the strategic goals.

The programme concluded with brief on the inspiring journey of some successful entrepreneurs. The account of the challenges they faced in their entrepreneurial journey and how they have achieved their milestones further strengthened the conviction and motivation which the preceding sessions had pitched in.



Health and National Security Cess Bill 2025 poised for Lok Sabha passage today

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

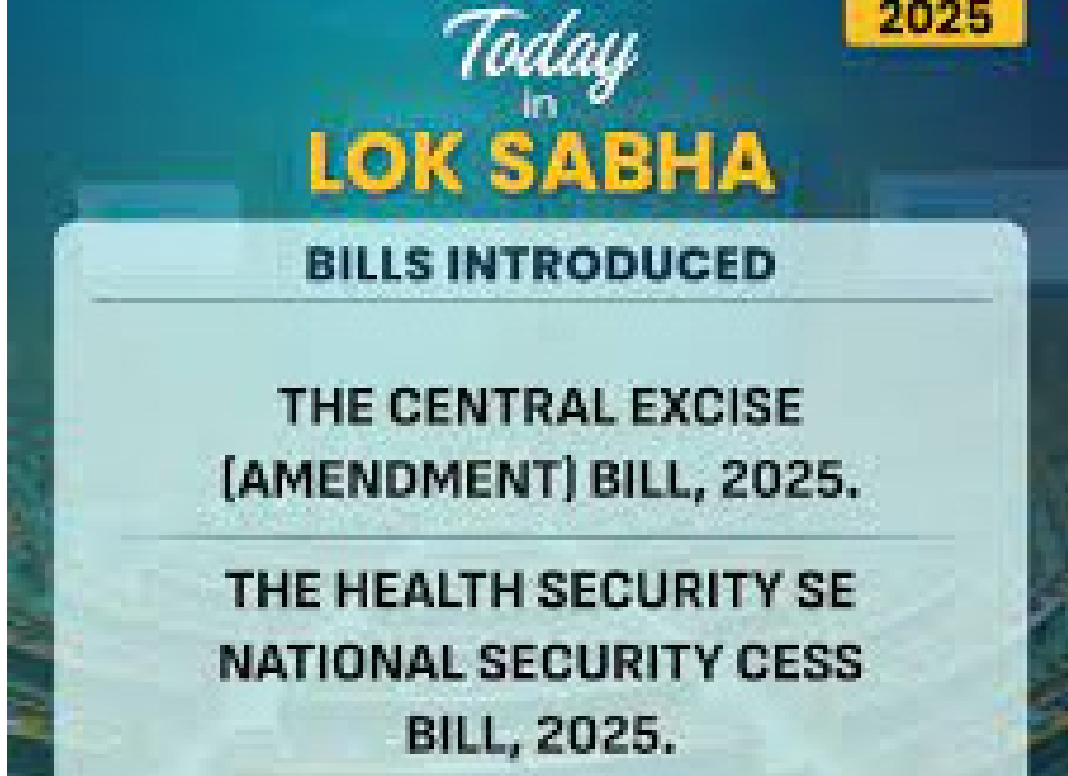
NEW DELHI, DEC 4 : Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is slated to introduce the Health and National Security Cess Bill, 2025 in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, aiming to levy a cess on the production of specific goods, including pan masala. The move seeks to generate dedicated funds for strengthening public health initiatives and national security measures.

The Bill, initially introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 1, 2025, proposes a cess on machines or manual processes used in manufacturing pan masala and any other goods notified by the central government.

"It is proposed to levy the Health Security and National Security Cess to contribute towards twin purposes of enabling targeted utilisation for public health, as well as national security," Sitharaman explained in the Bill's Object and Reasons.

Under the Bill, the cess will be payable monthly by those owning or controlling machines or processes involved in producing the specified goods. The cess will be calculated based on machine capacity or manual production units, with self-assessment and return filing mandated for compliance. Interest will accrue on any delayed cess payments.

For machine-based production,



Manual production factories will face a fixed monthly cess of Rs 11 lakh. The government reserves the right to double these rates in public interest for specified durations.

To ensure proper compliance, officers of Commissioner rank or higher will conduct audits and can initiate recovery proceedings for unpaid or underpaid cess, including interest and penalties.

The Bill outlines penalties for violations such as operating machines without declaration, non-payment of cess, failure to register, and tampering with seized goods. Penalties range from Rs 10,000 or the evaded cess amount—whichever is higher—to up to Rs one lakh for aiding offenses.

Criminal prosecution with imprisonment from one to five years applies in cases involving fraud or evasion exceeding Rupees one crore.

one crore.

The Bill also establishes a three-tier appeal system, allowing aggrieved parties to challenge orders first before an appellate authority, then the Customs, Excise, and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal, and finally the High Court for significant legal questions.

Further, officers of Joint Commissioner rank or above are empowered to inspect production sites, and search and seize goods, machines, documents, or records where evasion is suspected.

Sitharaman emphasized the Bill's focus on transparency and compliance: "The cess is linked to the production capacity of machines or other processes rather than the quantity actually produced of such specified goods."

The Bill provides for taxable persons to self-declare all machines or processes for each factory or premises, and the cess would be calculated in the aggregate for each such location.

The Bill also provides that proper officer may verify and recalibrate these declarations through prescribed mechanisms. Compliance is proposed to be ensured through technological and inspection-based monitoring."

This initiative is expected to bolster funds for critical health and national security sectors, reflecting the government's dual-pronged approach to public welfare and safety. UNI

Peace in Ukraine: A Hobson's Choice

■ KRISHNAN SRINIVASAN

NEW DELHI, DEC 4 : It is no coincidence that a tsunami of pro-Ukrainian propaganda, including an op-ed by leading European pro-NATO ambassadors who advocate pursuing the war until the last Ukrainian, has hit our mainstream media just prior to Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India. For these Europeans, evidently, security and sovereignty are paramount for all countries other than Russia; they raise no objection to the exercise of the Monroe Doctrine when it comes to the USA.

Meanwhile, the Ukraine corruption investigation is proceeding in a manner that suggests a campaign aimed at political outcomes representing a scandal that is a blow to Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, who is emerging as a lame duck because he cannot reject Washington's mediation since it drastically limits his scope for defiance. The prospect of a US President Trump-inspired peace is more realistic now because a scapegoat has emerged for Ukraine's looming defeat, namely Zelenskyy himself. Significantly, the negotiation process for peace has been taking place energetically for weeks between the Europeans led by the UK, France, and Germany, with the US, rather than with Russia, while Moscow repeats that it has not yet been shown any plan.

The talks initiated by Trump earlier this year did not progress because nobody wished to be responsible for an outcome that contrasted with the expectations Western war zealots had promoted, namely, that Russia could be coerced into accepting Western diktats. That presumption underpinned Western policy throughout the conflict, and was why Kyiv refused an end to the war in April 2022 on terms that it can only dream about today.

Ukraine would have retained its formal sovereignty over the Donbas region, only a part of which would have achieved Russian-influenced autonomy, and Ukraine would have lost the Crimean Peninsula, which, in any case, Russia occupied and annexed in 2014. The opportunity in 2022 having been rejected, NATO members supplied Ukraine military support and funding, along with nineteen packages of economic sanctions against Moscow, but have failed to stop the advances by the Russian army, which has grown stronger and more technologically advanced than it was at the start of the conflict. Meanwhile, Ukraine's population has dropped from 50 million at independence to about 31 million in territory controlled by Kyiv as of early 2025.

The Kiev government has failed to motivate or mobilise the country; in fact, the opposite. Ukraine is struggling with draft dodging, territorial and human losses; 255,000 cases of unauthorised absence and more than 56,000 for desertion since 2022. In the first 10 months of 2025 alone, 162,500 AWOL cases and 21,600 desertion cases have been registered. Desertion from the army last October was the highest monthly figure so far.

Ukraine could run out of Western funding by April 2026, and its close allies, Poland and Germany, have indicated they are unwilling to keep subsidising the large numbers of Ukrainian refugees they are currently hosting. NATO decided to support Ukraine with weapons and training while avoiding steps that could trigger any direct NATO-Russia war, which remains its position, and Ukraine is effectively fighting Russia alone, even as the Kremlin demands major territorial concessions and withdrawal of Ukrainian forces. Without this and other preconditions, Russia says it will not halt its advance.

Ukraine, for its part, maintains that it will not surrender territory. This year, Ukraine abandoned its entirely unrealistic demands for a full Russian withdrawal and reparations in favour of a comprehensive ceasefire along the current front lines, though this still reflects the absence of any plan that could improve Ukraine's negotiating position.

Trump has no leverage here; he can threaten weaker states, but he exercises no influence over Putin. Presently, the Ukrainian army is under-supplied. The USA has all but halted arms deliveries to Ukraine; military assistance has dwindled to a trickle, consisting mostly of supplies approved by the USA under Joe Biden, and Europe has not filled the gap.

The European Union's defence industry and joint-procurement schemes have produced promises but few results, and while a few billion euros have been formally committed, far less has been delivered. Member states prefer to rearm themselves first and Ukraine later, although their own programmes are moving slowly.

The EU is divided between governments willing to take greater risks to support Kyiv and others that fear provoking Russia or depleting their own budgets. Brussels is now pushing for a plan to use frozen Russian assets to back a loan of up to USD162 bn for Ukraine, which could support Kyiv's budget and defence spending over the next two years.

Ukraine will continue launching precision drone strikes on Russian oil infrastructure in the hope of grinding down the Kremlin's economy and waiting for Putin to concede, but this is an illusion.

A radical change in approach is needed immediately, before Ukraine's strategic options narrow further. Ukraine faces a vast budget deficit and public debt that is likely to exceed 100 per cent of GDP. Europe has failed to assemble the necessary funds, while economic growth across the continent remains weak.

Any significant increase in support for Ukraine would require political courage at a time when voters are acutely sensitive to the recent surge in inflation. Being blamed for an Ukraine defeat is no big risk for Trump, who has long dismissed this conflict as 'Biden's war', accusing his predecessor of having started it. But it is much harder for European NATO leaders and Zelenskyy to accept it, given how invested they have been in the belief that Russia could be defeated on the battlefield and the invasion turned back. The war and foreign funding have helped Zelenskyy to survive thus far.

The crucial question now is whether Trump is losing patience with the negotiation process and proposes to bear down on Zelenskyy to accept US terms for an agreement with Russia. If so, Zelenskyy faces a Hobson's choice: between survival through accepting US terms for a peace, or a strategic and military collapse.

(The writer is India's former foreign secretary. Views are personal.)

In arrangement with The Statesman UNI

First-ever ED raids in Tura over Rs 28.66 cr GHADC fund misuse

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI DEC 4 : The Enforcement Directorate's (ED) Shillong Sub-zone on Thursday said that it conducted its first-ever search operation in Tura, West Garo Hills, targeting a case of alleged misappropriation of funds from the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC). Raids were carried out at five premises linked to the accused individuals.



The official said that the main accused are Boston Ch. Marak, Ismail Marak, and contractors Kubon Sangma and Nikseng Sangma. The investigation revolves around the alleged diversion of Rs 28.66 crore, which was allocated for developmental works in the Asanang Constituency under the GHADC. Officials stated that the funds were not utilized for the intended projects.

The ED probe has found that, in contravention of rules, approximately 60% of the sanctioned amount was released as an irregular advance to the two contractors. According to the agency, this was done on the directions of Ismail Marak, with multiple cheques being issued. It is alleged that Kubon Sangma withdrew the entire amount and handed it over to Ismail Marak, while Nikseng Sangma transferred his share directly to a specified bank account. UNI

Parliament Panel on simultaneous polls to seek advice from experts on Dec 10, 17

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 4 : The Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, is scheduled to hold two separate meetings on December 10 and December 17 to seek expert advices.

In the December 10 session, the committee will seek opinion from prominent legal experts, including Kapil Sibal, Member of Rajya Sabha and Senior Advocate, as well as representatives from the Election Commission of India. A week later, on December 17, the committee will seek advice from economic advisors Sanjeev Sanyal, Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune; Gita Gopinath, First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund; and Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, former Chief Justice of India, for further expert insights.

Chaired by P P Chaudhary, the committee is tasked with a detailed examination of the two Bills, which were introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17, 2024, and referred to the committee on December 20, 2024. These Bills are central to the government's flagship "One Nation, One Election" initiative, which seeks to synchronize elections for the



Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Chairperson

national parliament and all state assemblies.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, aims to empower the Election Commission to conduct simultaneous elections by amending the Constitution. It provides for the commencement of simultaneous polls through a presidential notification issued on the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after a general election. Following this, the terms of all State Assemblies will align with the Lok Sabha's five-year tenure to facilitate joint elections.

The Bill also addresses early dissolution scenarios of the Lok Sabha or any State Assembly, specifying that elections conducted in such cases

will cover the remainder of the five-year term to restore synchronization. Additionally, it grants the Election Commission authority to recommend deferring a state election if simultaneous conduct is impractical, with the President empowered to issue an order accordingly. The deferred assembly's term would then coincide with the Lok Sabha elected in the simultaneous cycle.

Complementing this, the union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, proposes necessary changes to laws governing union Territories, including the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

The Joint Committee's terms of reference include assessing constitutional and legislative implications, operational and logistical feasibility, and the potential impact on governance, the economy, and voter participation. The committee's report will play a crucial role in guiding Parliament on these landmark electoral reforms.

The deadline for the Joint Committee to submit its report to is the first day of the last week of the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament.

These expert consultations highlight the panel's commitment for a thorough and consultative process before finalizing its report on one of the most significant changes in India's electoral system. UNI

DGCA seeks explanation from IndiGo over 1,200 flight cancellations

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 4 : The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Thursday sought a detailed explanation from IndiGo for the cancellation of over 1,200 flights, which caused significant inconvenience to passengers, and demanded corrective measures to stabilize the airline's services.

IndiGo's flight operations were severely disrupted this week due to a combination of crew shortages, Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) rules, air traffic control (ATC) system failures, and other operational issues.

According to a press note issued by the aviation regulator, IndiGo cancelled 1,232 flights, attributing 755 of them to crew and Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) constraints. Another 92 flights were cancelled due to ATC system failures, while 258 were affected

by airport or airspace restrictions. The remaining 127 cancellations were linked to miscellaneous operational issues.

The DGCA noted that a significant portion of cancellations stemmed from crew scheduling challenges and airspace-related factors, many of which were beyond the airline's direct control.

IndiGo's on-time performance (OTP) also saw a sharp decline, dropping to 67.70 percent in November from 84.1 percent in October. Key contributors to delays included ATC restrictions (16 percent), crew-related issues (6 percent), airport facility constraints (3 percent), and other operational factors (8 percent).

The regulator said it has clarified procedures related to the revised FDTL norms and directed IndiGo to streamline crew rostering and strengthen coordination with ATC and airport authorities.



DGCA seeks explanation from IndiGo over 1,200 flight cancellations

IndiGo has informed DGCA that it is taking several steps to stabilise operations, including: Strengthening crew planning and rostering, enhancing coordination with ATC and airports, improving turnaround and disruption-management processes

Passengers have been advised to check flight status through official channels before travelling.

In a separate statement, IndiGo said, "We acknowledge that IndiGo's

operations have been significantly disrupted across the network for the past two days, and we sincerely apologize to our customers for the inconvenience caused."

The airline cited "unforeseen operational challenges" such as minor technology glitches, winter season schedule shifts, adverse weather, congestion in the aviation system, and the impact of updated FDTL rules. These factors, it said, had compounded operational pressures in a manner that was not anticipated.

To restore stability, IndiGo has implemented calibrated adjustments to schedules for the next 48 hours. The airline said its teams are working around the clock to ease passenger discomfort and that alternate travel arrangements or refunds are being offered where applicable.

Crew shortage was also cited by the airlines as the reason behind

their grappling with the disruptions. "Implementation of updated crew rostering rules (Flight Duty Time Limitations) had a negative compounding impact on our operations in a way that was not feasible to be anticipated," said an IndiGo spokesperson in a statement.

Along with crew-related challenges, IndiGo also pointed to other operational factors that together snowballed into the current disruption.

"Minor technology glitches, schedule changes linked to the winter season, adverse weather conditions, increased congestion in the aviation system, and the implementation of updated crew rostering rules (Flight Duty Time Limitations) had a negative compounding impact on our operations in a way that was not feasible to be anticipated," an IndiGo spokesperson said in a statement. UNI



IPL auction: Green could be biggest buy, but can't cross INR 18 crore mark

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: IPL mini auctions have had record paydays for overseas players in the past, and Cameron Green could take that trend forward come December 16.

Green has been tipped to become the most expensive buy at the upcoming IPL auction because both Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK), who have the highest purses (INR 64.3 crore and INR 43.4 crore respectively), are expected to put in strong bids for the allrounder.

In 2023, Mitchell Starc was bought by KKR for INR 24.75 crore, minutes after Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) acquired Pat Cummins for 20.5 crore, making him the first player to breach the INR 20-crore mark at an IPL auction. Those overshadowed the INR 18.5 crore Punjab Kings (PBKS) had bid for Sam Curran in the previous mini auction in 2023.

At the 2023 auction, Green became the second-most expensive buy when Mumbai Indians (MI) had bought him at INR 17.5 crore. MI went on to trade Green to Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)

a year later for the same price. In his two IPL seasons so far, in 2023 and 2024, Green has played 29 matches, scoring 707 runs at a strike rate of 153.70. He has listed himself at the maximum base price of INR 2 crore for the latest auction.

While he could become a millionaire again, it won't cross INR 20 crore, since the maximum fee cannot exceed INR 18 crore. This will apply even if the bid is higher than that number.

That is because of the new "maximum fee" rule that the IPL brought in last year to address the collective concern of franchises that some overseas players were registering exclusively at mini auctions to exploit the supply-demand imbalance. Consequently, the IPL put in the maximum-fee rule where the overseas player cannot be paid more than INR 18 crore, which was the highest slab for franchises retaining players ahead of the 2025 mega auction.

If the bid exceeded the INR 18-crore mark, the additional money, the IPL said, would be utilised by the BCCI for player welfare. In a note to franchises last year, the IPL said: "Any overseas player's

auction fee at small auction will be lower than the highest retention price [of INR 18 crore] and the highest auction price at the big auction. In case the highest auction price at the big auction is INR 20 crore, then INR 18 crore will be the cap. If the highest auction price at big auction is INR 16 crore, then the cap will be INR 16 crore."

The rule in place going forward is that the auction for the player will continue as normal till the player is sold, and the final auction amount will be charged to the auction purse. "The incremental amount over INR 16 or 18 crore, as the case may be, will be deposited with BCCI. The incremental amount deposited with BCCI will be utilised towards players' welfare."

The maximum-fee rule, though, will not be applicable to Indian players, who will get the actual bid money, which will be deducted from franchise purse.

A total of 77 slots are available to be filled at the auction including 31 for overseas players. There are 16 capped Indian players in the longest, which will be pruned once franchises submit their final wishlist to the IPL by December 5.



Hardik back in India's T20I squad, Gill to play subject to fitness

Rinku Singh and Nitish Kumar Reddy were dropped from the T20I side

■ ESPNCRICINFO

AHMEDABAD: Hardik Pandya has been named in India's 15-member squad for the T20Is against South Africa after an injury layoff kept him out of international cricket for over two months.

India's T20I vice-captain Shubman Gill, who sustained a neck injury in the first Test in Kolkata and has been out of action since, was also named in the squad, but his participation will depend on his fitness clearance from the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (COE). Suryakumar Yadav will lead the squad for the five-match series



starting on December 9.

There was no place in the side for Rinku Singh and allrounder Nitish Kumar Reddy who had toured Australia recently for the T20I series. Those were the only two omissions from India's last T20I assignment.

Rinku didn't bat at all on the Australia tour and was picked in the XI only for the last T20I of the series, in Brisbane, which was washed out after 4.5 overs. That was his only international outing since hitting the winning runs in the Asia Cup final against Pakistan and he is currently playing in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy for Uttar Pradesh.

The five matches will be played on December 9, 11, 14, 17 and 19 in Cuttack, New Chandigarh, Dharamsala, Lucknow and Ahmedabad respectively. South Africa won the two-Test series 2-0 and India led the ODI series 1-0 when the T20I squad was announced during the second ODI in Raipur on Wednesday.

Rana reprimanded, handed demerit point, for Dewald Brevis send off

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Harshit Rana has been pulled up and has had a demerit point added to his disciplinary record for his gesture at Dewald Brevis after dismissing the batter, which was a breach of the ICC's code of conduct, in the first India vs South Africa ODI in Ranchi on Sunday.

In a statement on Wednesday, the day of the second ODI, ICC said Rana's gesture "breached Article 2.5" of the code, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter". It was Rana's first offence in a 24-month period.

A level 1 breach such as this carries a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum



penalty of 50% of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.

The incident took place in the 22nd over of South Africa's

chase of India's 349, when Rana dismissed Brevis caught at deep

point by Ruturaj Gaikwad and pointed in the direction of the dressing room.

Brevis fell at a crucial juncture in the game when South Africa were 130 in the 22nd over and he was in a strong-looking partnership with Matthew Breetzke, who was South Africa's top-scorer with 72. Rana had earlier sent back Ryan Rickelton and Quinton de Kock and finished with 3 for 65. Virat Kohli had earlier scored 135 in 120 balls - a record 52nd ODI century for him - to headline India's batting effort after South Africa had won the toss and inserted them.

Rana admitted to the offence after the charge was levelled by on-field umpires Jayaraman Madanagopal and Sam Nogajski, third umpire Rod Tucker and fourth umpire Rohan Pandit.

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