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Vande Mataram; Voice That Couldn't Be Silenced: PM Modi

Recalls Its Revolutionary Role, The Dark Shadow of Emergency When Its Centenary Passed Uncelebrated

■ HT NEWS DESK / UNI

SRINAGAR DEC 08: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that Vande Mataram remained a symbol of unwavering courage and unity despite facing bans, censorship, and colonial oppression. Initiating a day-long discussion in the Lok Sabha to commemorate 150 years of the national song, Modi described it as a mantra that infused strength into India's freedom struggle.

The prime minister lamented that when Vande Mataram completed 100 years, India was under the Emergency, a time he described as a "dark chapter" marked by suppression of constitutional values.

"When Vande Mataram completed 100 years, the nation was chained by the Emergency. The



Constitution was throttled, and those who lived and died for patriotism were forced behind bars," he recalled.

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We Are Committed to Transform Lives of The Poor, Needy: LG Sinha

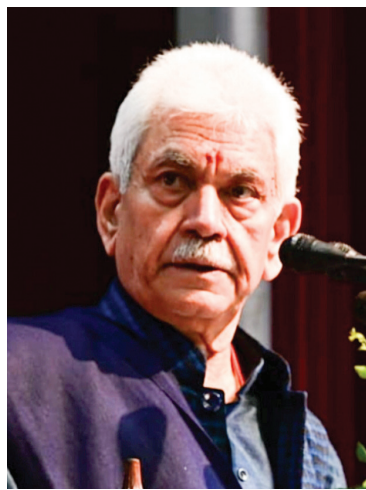
Lays Foundation for 350 Smart Homes in Jammu As Part of Rehabilitation Move

■ MUKARAM ALI

JAMMU, DEC 08: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday laid the foundation stone for the construction of 350 modern Smart Houses for families affected by natural calamities and unprovoked Pakistani shelling during Operation Sindoor in Jammu district, reaffirming his administration's focus on welfare, resilience and inclusive development.

The three-bedroom pre-fabricated houses, estimated to cost ₹35 crore, will be constructed free of cost for beneficiaries, fully funded by High-range Rural Development Society (HRDS) India, with no expenditure from the government exchequer.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor hailed HRDS India for its humanitarian commit-



ment and called the project a turning point for affected households. "I am committed to transforming the lives of the poor. These homes are not just buildings but a promise

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LG interacts with veterans of Armed Forces

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 08: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Monday interacted with veterans of Armed Forces at Lok Bhavan Jammu.

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Resilience of KPs commendable: LG Sinha

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 8: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Monday called upon the players and youth to dream big and define

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Tourist or Spy? Mystery Deepens as Detained Chinese Man's Phone Sent for Forensic Scan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 08: A Chinese national detained in Srinagar for violating visa rules has become the centre of a security investigation after authorities uncovered his unexplained visits to sensitive military-linked locations in Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir, along with suspicious online searches related to troop deployments and Article 370. His phone has now been sent for a detailed forensic examination, officials confirmed on Monday.

The traveller, identified as 29-year-old Hu Congtai, continues to remain in custody as investigators say his responses during questioning have been vague and inconsistent. His movement first drew attention after an Army unit reportedly flagged unusual online activity associated with his device.

Officials revealed that Hu's browsing history showed searches connected to CRPF deployment patterns, sensitive army zones and political developments linked to Article 370, raising concerns about his intentions behind visiting the region.

Hu entered India on a tourist visa that limited his travel to Buddhist pilgrimage

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Terror Has No Borders, No Justification": India-US Denounce Pahalgam, Delhi Blasts at Counter-Terror Talks

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, DEC 08: India and the United States on Monday jointly condemned the recent terror attacks in Kashmir's Pahalgam and the blast in New Delhi, calling the incidents "heinous and unacceptable" during the 21st India-US Counter-Terrorism Working Group meeting held in New Delhi.

MEA spokesperson Randhir

Jaiswal, addressing media after the dialogue, said both countries reaffirmed their commitment to intensifying cooperation to combat terrorism in all its forms. The Pahalgam attack on April 22 claimed 26 tourist lives, while the Delhi blast killed 13 people.

"This partnership is rooted in shared democratic values and a shared understanding that terrorism anywhere is a threat to peace

everywhere," Jaiswal noted, emphasising that counter-terrorism remained a "central pillar" of the India-US global strategic partnership.

Both sides reviewed ongoing joint efforts and discussed expanding intelligence sharing, operational coordination and cooperation through platforms such as the United Nations, the Quad, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

and other global mechanisms.

Jaiswal said the Counter-Terrorism Working Group had a long-standing institutional framework and would continue as an essential dialogue mechanism.

Geopolitical Issues Raised During Briefing

Responding to questions, the MEA spokesperson took up several global concerns:

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Ensure transparency in real estate sector: CS

Takes stock of implementation of RERA Act across J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 08: Chief Secretary today reviewed the implementation status of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 in Jammu & Kashmir during a detailed meeting of Jammu & Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA).

The meeting was attended by Chairperson, J&K RERA, Satish Chandra; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Commissioners of JMC/SMC; Inspector General of Registrations; Vice Chairpersons of Jammu Development

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CS Orders Fast-Tracking of JNVs & KVs Across J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 08: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress and preparedness for establishment of Central educational institutions—Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) and Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs)—

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Panel to Clear 260-MW Dulhasti-II Project

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 08: The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)'s Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) is set to decide on the environmental clearance of the 260-MW Dulhasti Stage-II hydroelectric project later this month.

The run-of-the-river project will be reviewed by the panel during its meeting scheduled for December 19, 2025, in New Delhi.

As per the agenda of the 45th EAC meeting accessed by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the project will be taken up as agenda item 45.2 between 12:00 PM and 01:30 PM for

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Sub-zero nights grip Kashmir, dry spell likely to continue

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 08: With the Meteorological Department forecasting dry weather over the next ten days, minimum temperatures continued to dip across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Monday, with several places in the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh recording sub-zero readings, officials said.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in the Kashmir region, Shopian recorded the coldest night at minus 4.2°C, followed by Srinagar Airport at minus 3.2°C, Budgam,

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Inquiry on IndiGo; Strict Action Likely: Naidu

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, DEC 8: Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said in the Rajya Sabha on Monday that the government has initiated an inquiry into IndiGo's mass flight cancellations and will take strict action against the operator to set an example for other airlines.

Blaming the airlines for its failure

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BOTTOM

A Small Spark Can Take Away a Home: Officials Urge Residents to Stay Safe

As Temperatures Drop, Heaters Switch on, Fire and Emergency Services Remind Families That Prevention, Not Pani Can Save lives

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, DEC 08: With winter settling over Srinagar and households turning to heaters, LPG bukharis, geysers and electric blankets for warmth, the Fire and Emergency Services Department has issued a heartfelt appeal: stay cautious, stay alert, and don't let a moment of carelessness turn warmth into tragedy.

Speaking to Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr. Aqib Hussain Mir, Assistant Director F&ES Kashmir, confirmed that the city has witnessed a significant decline in fire incidents this year. "Last year, Srinagar recorded around 720 fire incidents, whereas this year the number stands at 468 so far. Monthly averages have reduced from 60 to 42," he said. The numbers, he acknowledged, reflect

the success of awareness drives and better preparedness — but the danger still lingers.

Winter, he emphasized, remains the most unpredictable and fire-prone season. As families seal windows and rely heavily on heating gadgets, hazards quietly increase. "Most winter fires are caused by electrical short circuits or LPG leaks. Faulty wiring, overloaded sockets, non-standard

circuit breakers and poorly maintained appliances are among the biggest triggers," Mir said.

For many households, heaters and gas appliances are pulled out after months of storage — often used without checking for cracked rubber pipes, damaged wires or loose fittings. Mir urged residents to pause and inspect before switching everything on. "A few minutes of caution can prevent

disasters."

He also stressed the importance of ventilation while using LPG-based heaters. In tightly closed rooms, a minor leak can turn a warm space into a deadly trap — whether through suffocation or explosion.

Simple safety measures, he noted, can dramatically change outcomes. Something as basic

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Sakeena Itoo meets various Legislators, public delegations at Srinagar

Reaffirms Government’s commitment to accessible, responsive administration

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 08: As per the official roster for Ministers at Civil Secretariat Srinagar, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today interacted with scores of public delegations and individuals, including MLAs of various Assembly Constituencies here to assess genuine issues and developmental concerns of their respective areas.

During the interaction, public delegations from Anantnag, Baramulla, Kupwara, Kulgam and other areas, while interacting



with the Minister, raised several issues of public importance. They flagged issues related to health, school education, roads, drinking



water, availability of ration and other concerns in view of the winter season.

The Minister assured the del-

egations that their genuine issues will be redressed on priority. She highlighted that this initiative underscores the government’s

commitment to accessible and responsive administration.

She added that the Omar Abdullah-led Government remains steadfast in its commitment to public welfare and responsive governance for addressing the concerns of the people in a timely and effective manner.

Meanwhile, MLA Pampore, Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi; MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar and MLA Zainapora, Showkat Ahmad Ganie also interacted with the Minister and raised several issues and developmental concerns of their respective Assembly Constituencies.

Editor-in-Chief of Daily Headlines Today, Jehangir Bukhari, Condoles the Demise of Journalist Riffat Abdullah’s Father

HT NEWS DESK

KREERI, DEC 07: The Editor-in-Chief of Daily Headlines Today, Jehangir Bukhari, has expressed deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences over the demise of the father of well-known journalist Riffat Abdullah.

In his condolence message, Jehangir Bukhari described the departed soul as a humble, dignified, and respected individual whose passing has created an irreplaceable void for both the family and the community.

"During this painful moment of grief, I stand in full solidarity with Riffat Abdullah and his family," Bukhari said in the statement. "May Almighty Allah grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannatul-Firdous and grant strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss."

Forest Department Pays Homage to Fallen Forest Guard

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 08: The Forest Department today convened a condolence meeting at the Forest Head-



quarters in Sheikh Bagh, Srinagar, to mourn the tragic and sad demise of Gh. Mohammad Shah, a dedicated Forest Guard from Anantnag Forest Division.

Gh. Mohammad Shah was martyred while bravely fighting a fierce forest fire in the Kokernag Range of Anantnag Forest Division.

The gathering observed a two-minute silence in deep respect for the departed soul, during which attendees reflected on the significant contributions and memory of Gh. Mohammad Shah's selfless service.

Following the silence, a special prayer meeting was conducted. All participants joined in offering heartfelt prayers for eternal peace for the departed soul and solace and strength for the bereaved family during this difficult time. Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, Irfan Rasool Wani, Conservator of Forests, South Circle, Syed Nadeem Hussain along with other officers of the Department visited and offered heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Srinagar Police Attaches Property of Notorious Drug Peddler Worth ₹75 Lakhs

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 8: In a major action against drug trafficking and its supporting infrastructure, Srinagar Police has attached immovable property worth approximately ₹75 lakhs belonging to a notorious drug peddler under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The attached property comprises a residential house along with 6 marlas of land situated at Pamposh Colony, Noorbagh. The asset is registered in the name of Mohammad Irfan Sheikh, son of Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh, who is involved in FIR No. 48/2025 U/S 8/22 NDPS Act at Police Station Sangam.

During investigation, it was conclusively established that the said property had been raised using illicit proceeds generated through the narcotics trade. Following these findings, the competent authority issued an attachment order under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act.

The attachment was executed in the presence of an Executive Magistrate, strictly adhering to all legal formalities. As per the order, the owner is restrained from selling, transferring, altering, or creating any third-party interest in the said property. Srinagar Police remains firmly committed to zero tolerance against narcotics, and will continue to identify, pursue, and legally dismantle networks and assets linked to the drug trade.

UTLMC Reviews PMEGP Progress in J&K; Stresses Timely Pendency Clearance and Stronger Coordination

FAROOQ RATHER

SRINAGAR, DEC 8: The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), State Office Jammu, on Monday convened a meeting of the Union Territory Level Monitoring Committee (UTLMC) to review the implementation of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was held at the Conference Hall, JLN Udyog Bhawan, Jammu, at 1:30 PM. Commissioner/Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, J&K, Shri Vikramjit Singh presided over the meeting as the chief guest and led an in-depth assessment of PMEGP's overall performance, challenges, and future action plan.

State Director KVIC, J&K & Ladakh, Dr. Akhtar Hussain, welcomed all stakeholders and presented a brief overview of the PMEGP scheme, highlighting its crucial role in promoting entrepreneurship and generating employment opportunities in the Union Territory.

A comprehensive presentation was delivered by the Nodal Offi-

cer PMEGP, detailing the scheme's implementation strategy, achievements, district-wise progress, financial disbursements, and emerging field-level challenges.

Key Issues Reviewed
The committee held detailed deliberations on the following areas:

PMEGP achievements during 2024-25 and targets for 2025-26
District-wise performance and success indicators

Progress of implementing agencies—KVIC, KVIB, and DIC
Bank-wise response trends and strategies to reduce pendency

Backlog of pending applications with banks and implementing agencies

Release of Margin Money, especially for SC/ST and special category beneficiaries

Status of physical verification by departments

SC/ST claims requiring priority attention

NPA cases, unit functionality, and findings from dip-stick surveys

Field-level issues, including unauthorized trading and non-compliance with project norms



The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Industries & Commerce Department, KVIC, J&K Bank, SBI, PNB, Ellaquai Dehati Bank, Grameen Bank, SC/ST Corporation, Rural Development Department, State Women's Development Corporation, SIDBI,

and NABARD.

Directions Issued

Commissioner/Secretary Vikramjit Singh emphasized the need to strengthen monitoring mechanisms, ensure transparent implementation, and improve coordination among all stake-

holders to achieve meaningful and sustainable employment generation under PMEGP. He directed all implementing agencies—KVIC, KVIB, and DIC—as well as all banks to clear pendency dating back to 2021-22 within one week and submit action-taken reports without delay.

J&K Bank, as the lead bank, was instructed to closely monitor the progress of all participating banks to ensure timely sanctioning and disbursement of PMEGP cases.

User IDs and passwords were also issued to district- and state-level officers to facilitate real-time monitoring of PMEGP applications and performance metrics on the official portal.

Issues flagged by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee (DPPSCI) were also discussed during the meeting.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Anil Kumar Sharma, acknowledging the support of all departments and reiterating KVIC's commitment to strengthening the PMEGP ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir.

Two-day workshop on INFLIBNET resources & services begins at KU

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 08: The University of Kashmir (KU) on Monday inaugurated a two-day workshop titled "INFLIBNET: Resources, Services and Facilities for Universities", organised by the Allama Iqbal Library in collaboration with UGC-INFLIBNET.

The workshop aims to enhance digital literacy, promote ICT-enabled academic engagement, and introduce participants to the latest INFLIBNET-based research support tools.

The workshop has been specially designed for newly recruited faculty members and library professionals to familiarize them with advanced digital platforms, modern-day academic resources, and research facilitation mechanisms available through INFLIBNET, thereby strengthening teaching-learning outcomes across higher educational institutions. In her message, Vice Chancellor KU Prof Nilofer Khan, impressed upon the newly recruited teachers to take advantage of digital tools, e-resources, and academic platforms offered by INFLIBNET.

She said "Such tools have become crucial for today's academic ecosystem and faculty members should integrate them meaningfully to enhance their teaching, research and professional competencies so that students and scholars derive maximum benefit."

Prof Nilofer Khan further reiterated the University's commitment towards empowering its newly inducted human



resource by ensuring that they remain academically updated, technologically competent, and well-versed with the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

In his remarks Dean Academic Affairs, KU Prof Shariefuddin Pirzada, expressed confidence that the workshop would contribute significantly to raising awareness among young teachers about the digital tools and software offered by INFLIBNET, especially at a time when attracting students to classrooms amid abundant digital content remains a major challenge for educators. Registrar KU, Prof Naseer Iqbal, highlighted the paradigm shift brought about by technology in the overall teaching-learning pedagogy and emphasized that while information is readily available to students today however it is the mentorship and academic handholding provided by teachers that ultimately makes a transformational difference.

Mr Swapnil Patel, Scientist-D, INFLIBNET, gave an overview of the origin and evolution of INFLIBNET and

its growing role in supporting universities across the country.

He elaborated on the various initiatives and flagship projects of INFLIBNET—including library automation, data management systems, Shodh-Ganga repository, e-PG Patshala Project, SWAYAM, and SWAYAM PRABHA—underscoring their importance in strengthening institutional academic frameworks. Earlier in his welcome address University Librarian, Dr Fayaz Ahmad Lone, said that the workshop has been curated to equip participants with necessary digital competencies and to help them meaningfully integrate these resources into their teaching and research endeavours. Around 120 participants from various universities and colleges are attending the event. Resource persons and experts from INFLIBNET will interact with the participants during multiple technical sessions, offering hands-on exposure to advanced digital platforms, research facilitation tools, and modern academic services provided by INFLIBNET.

Fayaz Quraishi Bereaved: Team HT Expresses Solidarity

Maimoona Qureishi Left For Heavenly Abode

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 08: With profound grief and deep sorrow, Team Headlines Today Expressed heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Mrs. Maimoona Qureishi, beloved wife of Mr. Fayaz Qureishi.

Late Maimoona Qureishi was known for her compassion, humility, and dedication toward social service. Her meaningful contributions to society, her kindness, and her unwavering commitment to helping others will always be remembered with honour and respect. Her passing is not only a personal loss to the family but also a loss to the community she served selflessly.

In this moment of pain and irreparable loss, we stand in full solidarity with Mr. Fayaz Qureishi and his family. May Allah grant them patience, strength, and courage to endure this difficult time.

May the departed soul be blessed with the highest place in Jannah, and may her legacy continue to inspire all those who knew her.

Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un.





Satish Sharma visits Balgran Channi Rama; reviews facilities, announces sports upgrades

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 8: Minister for FCS&CA, Youth Services and Sports, IT, ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today conducted an extensive visit to Balgran Channi Rama (Destitute Children Home) to review the facilities, interact with the children and assess on-ground requirements for further strengthening of the institution.

During the visit, the Minister inspected the lodging facilities, essential amenities, educational support, healthcare arrangements and recreational infrastructure being provided to the inmates.

He also reviewed implementation of various Social Welfare schemes aimed at supporting the destitute and vulnerable children.

Satish Sharma interacted with the inmates and assured them that



the government is working hard towards ensuring a nurturing and empowering environment for their

overall development.

Sharma conducted a detailed inspection of the cricket ground

and volleyball ground within the Balgram campus.

He emphasized the importance of sports in shaping confidence, discipline and physical fitness among the children.

To enhance recreational facilities, the Minister announced installation of solar lights across the sports areas and campus surroundings, ensuring proper illumination, safety and extended activity hours for the children.

The Minister directed the officials to take prompt action on all issues highlighted during the inspection and submit a follow-up compliance report at the earliest.

Joint Controller Legal Metrology, Manoj Prabhakar, was also present on the occasion. He assessed the availability and quality of essential services being extended to the inmates there.

MY Tarigami chairs Environment Committee meeting

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 08: A meeting of the Committee on Environment, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, was held on Monday to discuss malignant Brain Tumors linked with the Pesticides exposure among the Orchard workers and farmers in Kashmir Valley.

The meeting presided over by the Chairman of Environment Committee, MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami and attended by members Dr. Sajjad Shafi; Peerzada Feroze Ahmad; Zafar Ali Khatana; Mushtaq Guroo and Darshan Kumar.

The meeting had detailed discussion on the alarming rise of primary malignant brain tumors among the orchard workers and farmers in Kashmir Valley, reportedly linked to pesticide exposure.

The SKIMS data (2005-2008) highlighted the issue, sparking concerns about the health and well-being of those living and working in the region's orchards. Key questions were raised about annual screening programs for neurological illnesses and cholinesterase levels, and the proposed steps for initiating mass health surveillance.

Other issues discussed included issuance of departmental advisory to the public regarding safe pesticide use and health hazards, steps being taken to introduce safe pesticide alternatives and biological agents, conduct of awareness programs for the farmers, existing rehabilitation or medical assistance schemes for the pesticide-affected families and orchard workers besides status of mechanism for periodic reassessment of pesticide safety on neurological health.

Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Dr Abid Rasheed Shah, Director SKIMS, Srinagar and other senior health authorities briefed the Committee about the issues highlighted in the meeting. They assured



that every possible step would be taken up to sort out all these issues on priority.

Chairman, Pollution Control Board J&K, Vasu Yadav; Principal GMC Jammu; Director Health Jammu; Director Horticulture (K); Director Agriculture (K) and Director Law & Enforcement JK also apprised the Committee of the issues highlighted in the meeting.

The Chairman directed the concerned officers to evolve an effective mechanism for prompt redressal of the issues highlighted in the meeting. He also directed them to constitute a task force involving experts of the field to look into the main cause behind this cancerous disease.

The Chairman asked the Horticulture and Agriculture authorities to adopt a mechanism to check quality of pesticides and their uses. He also asked to educate the farmers and orchard workers regarding safety and prevention measures.

The Chairman directed the health authorities to take measures to conduct fresh study in the matter to ascertain the factual position so that the risk of cancer (malignant brain tumor) cases could be reduced.

Saurabh Bhagat reviews functioning of FCS&CA Directorate, Kashmir

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 8: Commissioner Secretary Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Saurabh Bhagat, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting regarding functioning of the Directorate of FCS&CA, Kashmir, in the wake of extreme winter season in the valley.

The Commissioner Secretary was informed that 100 percent storing of ration for the upcoming winter season in all border districts has been achieved, following past practices. This critical stocking has also been completed in the Gurez area of Bandipora district, ensuring food security to the beneficiaries.

Presenting a detailed PowerPoint Presentation, the Director Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Kashmir, apprised that significant progress on Technology Reforms (SMART-PDS) has been registered, positioning the Public Distribution System (PDS) for greater efficiency and transparency.

He informed that the performance of the department under Rightful Targeting, Integrated Adhaar enabled Supply Chain Management System (IAeSCMS), e-KYC and implementation of e-Office is up to the mark.

Providing the details of implementation of the supply chain management system, the Director informed that a monthly saving of around Rs 10 lakh per month is expected in the valley with implementation of this ambitious system.

The Commissioner Secretary issued firm directives, demanding strict and time bound implementation of all initiatives of Central government across the Union Territory.

Saurabh Bhagat underscored that these schemes must be executed in letter and spirit and adhere to prescribed timelines. He further emphasized that a rigorous approach is paramount to ensure that the benefits of the Public Distribution System (PDS) reach every single beneficiary as per their entitlement.

DLSA Reasi assesses working of Legal Aid Clinics; host awareness programs

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 08: District Legal Services Authority Reasi under the visionary leadership of its Chairman, Khalil Ahmed Choudhary (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge), convened a meeting with Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs) to assess the frequency and quality of jail visits and the functioning of legal aid clinics. The meeting was chaired by DLSA Secretary, Pooja Gupta. She reviewed the progress of activities undertaken by the Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs) in ensuring effective legal assistance to beneficiaries. Additionally, awareness

programs on Prohibition of Child Marriage and upcoming National Lok Adalat were organised by PLVs at Pouni and Mahore, respectively. The general masses were made aware of Child's Right to Education as the fundamental right. The DLSA staff also explained the process of bringing cases before the Lok Adalat and the types of matters that can be settled. The people were encouraged to take advantage of the upcoming National Lok Adalat to settle cases through mediation. The Secretary and DLSA staff also attended the training program on working of LADCs Dashboard and MIS Portal hosted by NALSA.

Forest Minister encourages students to embrace innovation, overcome challenges Attends MIER College annual day celebration

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 08: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today attended the annual prize distribution ceremony of MIER College of Education.

The event was organized to celebrate the remarkable talent, dedication and accomplishments of the students across multiple domains.

The Minister extended heartfelt congratulations to all the awardees who excelled in academics, research, co-curricular activities, sports and community services. He applauded their

perseverance, passion and commitment, noting that their achievements serve as a powerful inspiration for other students.

Rana encouraged the students to continue pushing boundaries while being curious learners. He urged them to bring forth innovative ideas, work through challenges with resilience and strive for excellence in every sphere of life.

Emphasising the transformative power of education, the Minister encouraged the students to become agents of positive change in society. He highlighted the role of young people in nation-building and underscored the importance of channeling their knowledge and skills toward societal development.



Reiterating the significance of youth empowerment, Rana stressed the need to provide students with the right opportunities, mentorship and exposure. Such support, he noted, is essential for enabling them to compete confidently at national and international platforms.

The Minister lauded MIER College for cultivating a nurturing and forward-looking educational atmosphere. He acknowledged the dedication of the faculty and staff towards ensuring holistic development of students academically, personally and ethically.

Rana appreciated the institution's focus on shaping future-ready leaders. He also commended the college's modern infrastructure and effective integration of educational technology. He highlighted how faculty and students are leveraging digital tools to enhance teaching and learning outcomes.

The Minister distributed prizes in categories such as academic toppers, community campaigners, sporting excellence, eco-warriors and several others.

Earlier, Professor Adit Gupta, Principal of MCE, highlighted the college's accomplishments and its wide range of activities across different spheres.

Poonch observes Armed Forces Flag Day with patriotic spirit DC leads solemn tributes to Valiant Soldiers

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

POONCH, DECEMBER 08: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today led the district-level observance of Armed Forces Flag Day, commemorated nationwide since 1949 to honour the martyrs and the valiant men in uniform who have safeguarded the nation's sovereignty and dignity. The day stands as a solemn reminder of the supreme sacrifices made by our soldiers, for which no tribute can be enough.

To mark the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner handed over Armed Forces Flag Day (AFFD) flags and contribution boxes to four specially constituted teams—each comprising two NCC Cadets, three NSS Volunteers, four Ex-Servicemen (ESM) and one official from the Zila Sainik Welfare Office.

These teams have been tasked with spreading awareness among the general



public, shopkeepers and government offices across the district about the significance of the day and the importance of contributing voluntarily towards the welfare of war widows, disabled soldiers and their dependents.

Addressing the NCC Cadets, NSS Volunteers, Ex-Servicemen and officials present at the event, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the noble spirit behind Armed Forces Flag Day and emphasised the responsibility of

every citizen to acknowledge and support the families of those who laid down their lives for the nation. He urged the teams to conduct the awareness campaign with dedication, respect and sincerity.

The Zila Sainik Welfare Officer also briefed the teams about the historical importance of AFFD and the importance of public contribution in supporting the welfare programmes for the Armed Forces.

District Administration Reasi, Zila Sainik Welfare Board observe Armed Forces Flag Day

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

REASI, DECEMBER 8: The District Administration Reasi in collaboration with the Zila Sainik Welfare Board today observed Armed Forces Flag Day with solemnity and patriotic fervor.

The event was led by Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik and marked by the participation of officials from the Zila Sainik Welfare Board, NCC cadets and Ex-Servicemen from across the district.

Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik interacted with Ex-Servicemen, NCC cadets and officers of the Zila Sainik Board, expressing gratitude for their service and acknowledging their invaluable contributions to the nation. As part of the ceremony, a commemorative Armed Forces Flag Day badge was pinned on the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Deputy Commissioner.



Paying tributes to the soldiers who laid their lives for the nation, the Deputy Commissioner said "Our collective gratitude must reflect the depth and magnitude of the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces. Our soldiers stand on the frontlines often in the harshest terrains and most hostile environments so that every citizen can live in peace and security. While symbolic gestures like the Armed Forces Flag Day carry immense emotional value, true respect must be shown through our actions. This includes consistent support for

veterans, timely resolution of welfare matters and sustained recognition of the families of martyrs."

She further remarked, "Both civil services and the Armed Forces serve the nation, but the lifelong bond shared within the forces especially with ex-servicemen and the families of martyrs is unique and deeply meaningful. Strengthening this bond is our shared responsibility and such observances help deepen the connection between the administration and the defence fraternity."

Reaffirming her commitment to the cause, the Deputy Commissioner also contributed to the donation box set up by the Zila Sainik Board Reasi. Funds collected during the Flag Day campaign go toward the rehabilitation of battle casualties, welfare of serving personnel and their families and the resettlement and support of ex-servicemen and their dependents.

Over ₹12 lakh revenue generated in 2 days of Trainee Products' Sale

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 08: In a heartwarming celebration of skill and rehabilitation, the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, organised an impressive Two-Day Trainee Products' Sale at the famous Numaish Gah, here.

The event turned into a resounding success with visitors

thronging the venue in large numbers, generating an impressive revenue of 12.13 lakh in just 12 hours, over only two days.

In a press statement issued here today, a spokesman of the department stated that as many as 11 stalls showcasing exquisite hand-crafted products made by trainee artisans from across 432 training centres under the

department and the Massive Carpet Scheme (MSC) were the highlight of the event, which was organized in the backdrop of the earlier successful event organized in August last. "From Kashmiri crewel embroidery, hand-knotted woollen carpets, papier-mâché, willow wicker basketry, copperware Kandakari to Sozni and Kani shawls, along with vintage craft products like Namda



and Gabba rugs were on display," he added.

Giving details, the spokesman

said while District Srinagar led with sale proceeds of 4.27 lakh, woollen carpets under MSC recorded revenue of 3.00 lakh. "The other districts also recorded satisfactory sales with Bandipora at 46,000, Ganderbal, 1.20 lakh, Baramulla 35,000, Anantnag 55,000, Budgam 1.10 lakh, Shopian 36,600, Pulwama 55,000, Kupwara 7,350 & Kulgam 21,000," he

added.

The spokesman further added that the revenue generated reflects a perfect example of how funds released by the Government are recycled back into the system and utilized for development activities related to promotion of the craft sector.

The spokesman further stated that the sale expo was not just about revenue, but also giving

much-needed impetus and confidence to the trainees who hold key to the sustenance of Kashmir Handicrafts in future. "The overwhelming response from visitors exudes confidence that Kashmiri craftsmanship is in safe hands," he said, adding the huge footfall reflected strong public support for skill development and rehabilitation initiatives.



DC Kulgam Chairs DLC meeting to assess implementation of Supreme Court Directions on Stray Animals

Directs compliance with court directions in letter and spirit

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, DECEMBER 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan, today convened a detailed review meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC), to assess the implementation of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 5 of 2025 titled "City Hounded by Stray Dogs, Kids Pay Price vs. State of Andhra Pradesh," along with connected matters.

During the meeting, held at Mini Secretariat Kulgam, the DC instructed that compliance with the Supreme Court's directions must be ensured in letter and spirit. The DC directed CEO to ensure that no stray dogs enter or remain within school campuses

and must coordinate with local authorities wherever interventions are required.

During the meeting, the DC also issued a series of specific instructions to further strengthen the district-wide response to stray dog management.

He directed the Municipal Committees for separate shelter sheds and quarantine centres for dogs and instructed immediate identification of suitable land parcels within one week, ensuring that the locations remain away from populated areas and ACP was also instructed to ensure separate shelter sheds in Panchayats as well.

He discussed in detail the modus operandi to be followed strictly as per the Animal Welfare Rules, 2023.

He further directed



implementation of Standard Operating Procedures for shelter sheds and ABC measures in rural areas through cluster formation. The DC also directed

formulation of an inventory of public places, including schools, colleges, and hospitals, to ensure perimeter strengthening so that no stray dogs are present within

these campuses, as such presence can pose a threat to children.

He further directed the CMO to ensure availability of Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) and

immunoglobulins in all 24x7 health setups.

The DC directed Chief Education Officer and Heads of Colleges to chalk out detailed awareness programmes related to dog menace, including Dos and Don'ts concerning dog bites and protocol management.

The DC stressed that schools must organise awareness activities for students, teachers, and non-teaching staff on safe behaviour, preventive actions, and ways to avoid stray dog encounters.

He also highlighted the need for strengthened preventive mechanisms, including proper waste management, boundary inspections, and routine monitoring of vulnerable areas within school premises.

He further instructed that

all stakeholders to work towards eliminating all risk factors around educational institutions and that the collective efforts of all departments would ensure visible and measurable results on the ground. The DC directed all stakeholders to maintain close inter-departmental coordination, conduct regular inspections, promptly plug any existing gaps, and ensure time-bound implementation of Hon'ble Supreme Court directions.

He instructed that updated compliance and Action Taken Reports be submitted within the stipulated timeline for further review at district level.

The meeting was attended by ACD, Riyaz Ahmad Shah; CMO, Dr. Showkat Ahmad; CEO, Shabir Ahmad; CAHO, CEO, EOs and other officers.

ARTO Bandipora intensifies Traffic Enforcement to curb violations

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 08: Acting on the directions of the Transport Commissioner, J&K, the ARTO Bandipora team conducted an extensive traffic enforcement drive across the district today, aimed at curbing traffic violations and strengthening road safety measures.



During the day-long drive, the enforcement team inspected around 170 vehicles at multiple locations in Bandipora. The checks focused on detecting violations related to driving without documents, overloading, rash driving, and other offences posing risks to public safety.

As part of the enforcement action, the team issued over 50 e-challans to erring motorists for various violations. A fine amount of 50,000 was collected on the spot.

Additionally, in cases of serious and repeated offences, the ARTO office recommended suspension of six driving licenses as per the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Armed Forces Flag Day Celebrated in Kupwara DC Assures Continued Support for Welfare of Ex-Servicemen

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, DECEMBER 08: Armed Forces Flag Day was observed with patriotic fervor in Kupwara today with Deputy Commissioner (DC), Shrikant Suse presiding over a well-organized function at the Zila Sainik Welfare Office (ZSWO).

On the occasion, the DC inaugurated a renovation work funded by the District Administration which was completed recently at ZSWO office.

The event was attended by Zila Sainik Welfare Officer Kupwara, Col Shaiq Shafi Raja

(Retd.), Sub Judge ADR Kupwara, Javid Ahmad Parry, officials from various departments, ex-servicemen, and war widows.

Addressing the gathering, the DC highlighted the significance of Armed Forces Flag Day. He said that the day serves as a tribute to the supreme sacrifices of the nation's brave soldiers. He reiterated the district administration's commitment to extending all possible support for the welfare of ex-servicemen, their families, and dependents.

He also stressed the importance of creating awareness about various government schemes aimed at the upliftment



and well-being of retired army personnel.

Lt. Col. (Retd.) S.S. Raja, in his remarks, expressed gratitude to the district administration for its continued and unconditional support, particularly for the recently completed renovation of the Sainik Welfare Office building.

On the occasion, a two-minute silence was also observed in honour of the martyrs who have laid down their lives for the sake of nation.

The event concluded with the distribution of certificates of appreciation among distinguished ex-servicemen of the district.

Seminar on "Importance of the Indian Constitution in Nation Building" held at GDC Bandipora

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 08: The NSS Units of HKM Degree College Bandipora, in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, successfully organized a seminar on the theme "Importance of the Indian Constitution in Nation Building" on Monday.

The programme was held to strengthen constitutional awareness among students and highlight the foundational role of the Constitution in guiding national progress.

The event commenced with introductory remarks by the Officiating Principal, Dr. Mubashir Hamid Mir, who emphasized the relevance of constitutional literacy for youth and the importance of understanding democratic values for responsible citizenship. A faculty member from the Department of Political Science



delivered the keynote lecture, who deliberated on the significance, core values, and transformative role of the Indian Constitution in shaping the nation's political, social, and legal framework.

The seminar was marked by thoughtful discussions and meaningful student involvement, reflecting the college's commitment to promoting constitutional values and informed citizenship.

NAPS Mela organized at ITI Shopian

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 08: The Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Shopian organized a National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) Mela here at Shopian today which witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, trainees and various reputed firms.

A large number of students and representatives from different firms attended the programme, making it an interactive and impactful platform for promoting apprenticeship opportunities.

During the event, ITI students delivered detailed presentations on the NAPS scheme, highlighting its objectives, importance and the wide range of benefits it offers to both trainees and establishments. The presentations aimed to raise awareness about how apprenticeships enhance employability, skill development and industry exposure.

The Mela was attended by Industry and firms dealing with food processing, automotive, logistics



and horticulture sectors. The event generated an overwhelming response, with around 100 students registering for various apprenticeship opportunities offered by the participating firms. These registrations reflect the growing interest among youth in gaining hands-on industry experience through structured apprenticeship programmes.

ITI Shopian reiterated its commitment to continuously promoting skill development, industry linkage and career opportunities for the youth of the district.

DC Pulwama chairs meeting to review Winter Preparedness

Stresses 24x7 service delivery, swift snow clearance & Coordinated response during winter

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

PULWAMA, DECEMBER 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a comprehensive meeting at the District Administrative Complex Pulwama to review the winter preparedness arrangements put in place by various departments across the district.

The DC took a detailed assessment of the power supply scenario, stock and availability of essentials including ration, LPG and fuel, functioning of healthcare facilities, status of essential drugs, and the arrangements put in place for timely snow clearance to ensure smooth movement of vehicles, ambulances and other essential services during snowfall.

The meeting deliberated on the winter action plan focusing on mitigating risks arising from primary winter hazards such as



heavy snowfall, cold waves, icy roads and snow avalanches. Discussions were held on snow

clearance priority matrix, shelter and evacuation management, resource inventory and deployment,

activation protocols and community mobilisation strategies.

The DC directed officers to prioritise key public routes, particularly those connecting hospitals, ration depots, and government institutions, so that accessibility remains uninterrupted even during heavy snowfall.

While stressing on the need to take preventive and precautionary measures well in advance, the DC directed all departments to ensure that routine functioning at essential installations is not affected during harsh weather.

He emphasised that uninterrupted services related to trade, transport, essential supplies, health and public utilities must be maintained throughout the winter season. He added that the District Emergency Operation Centre must remain fully proactive and responsive to public concerns and should function as the district's 24x7 nerve centre for coordination,

monitoring and timely response.

The DC instructed the health authorities to ensure 24x7 medical care across all health institutions and maintain adequate stock of essential drugs and emergency supplies.

He also directed the concerned enforcement teams to intensify market checking drives across the district to curb hoarding, overpricing, black-marketing and sale of substandard items. He stressed that strict action must be taken against violators to ensure availability of essential commodities at government-approved rates during the winter months.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Awantipora and Tral, and officers from Police, Revenue, Rural Development, Jal Shakti, KPDCL, R&B, PMGSY, Mechanical Engineering, Transport, Health, Education, Municipalities, FCS&CA and other essential departments.

HT EDITORIAL

Announce winter vacations for preparatory schools, creches too

The winter vacations for the classes up to the standard eighth have already started and the same for the higher classes will commence in a few days. At the same time there is no winter vacation for the kids enrolled in the different preparatory schools and creches. At a time when most of the people experience difficulties in moving out the blooming buds are forced to come out and board the vans so as to reach their respective preparatory schools and creches.

The Kashmir valley is reeling under a severe winter crisis with the night temperatures already plummeting many notches below the freezing point. Although the days are somewhat better but still then the chill is there and it is going to intensify in the coming days. One fails to understand the logic behind keeping the preparatory schools and creches and pushing the little children to the wall. It seems the education department has surrendered before the owners of these preparatory schools and creches.

The doctors have already issued advisories asking the elderly people and children to avoid going out in the morning and evening hours. In such a scenario one wonders about the wisdom applied in keeping open the preparatory schools and creches. The parents of such children need to keep it in mind that the health and safety of their dear ones is paramount. It would be prudent for such parents to avoid sending the kids to preparatory schools and creches.

The department of school education also needs to step in and ensure that the preparatory schools and creches also observe winter vacations like the other educational institutions. This would ensure that the little children are absolved of the tension of getting up early in the morning and then heading towards their respective educational institutes. It is imperative that the children are entitled to sound sleep more so when the temperature is many notches below the freezing point. The kids are also entitled to warmth and the same is possible at their respective homes.

No one should be allowed to play with laid down rules and regulations and in the same breath no one should be permitted to give trouble to the toddlers who are enrolled in preparatory schools and creches. Once action is taken in this regard against a preparatory school or a creche then the others are expected to fall in line and as such they would announce winter vacations.

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RNI No: Jkeng/2011/39231
dailyheadlinestoday@gmail.com
headlinestoday2024@gmail.com

Winters and Students



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

The winter vacations have started from 1st December for students up to 8th standard.

We know the Kashmir Valley experiences a harsh cold wave with the arrival of November every year. So, it is not possible to accommodate students in schools during winter. For this reason, the schools in the Kashmir Valley have remained closed during winter up to the end of February for a long time.

Parents can play a better role in grooming their children during winter and provide them with everything they need to enhance their educational goals. They may also provide a free and comfortable environment so that children feel motivated and encouraged to achieve great things for their future.

Students have ample time to improve what they are lacking.

Children are the future of any nation. Children are the future teachers, doctors, scientists, engineers, politicians, leaders, businesspeople, stars, and celebrities. Children are so kind, gentle, smart, intelligent, cute, loving, and sometimes stubborn. A child's life has no religious boundaries; they never care whether they are rich or poor. Children never care what they actually are. They think everything is in their control, and everything is possible for them. They have their own world, their own rules, their own power, and their own lifestyle. Most children like to live in their own world.

I too miss my childhood because I know it will never come again. If it were possible, I would start my journey seriously from the beginning. But fate is in the hands of our Creator. Never regret what you have not achieved or what you have lost so far. Our presence is enough; whatever remains is happening, and nothing is in our control.

Childhood is a crucial period that no one can forget till their last breath. Childhood memories are always funny, and whenever you recall them, you feel shy and excited, and sometimes it hurts when we remember that the past cannot be caught again. Every little moment we lived remains in our minds and pricks us at times. The fact is that time passes, and it will pass; no one has control over it. Smart and intelligent are those who care for time and use every bit of it in a useful manner.

We have 24 hours in a day, but it is not possible to earn our livelihood, study, play, and sleep for the whole day. Every activity has its own time, and we are sharing time for our day-to-day tasks. When we feel exhausted, we rest and sleep; when we feel fresh, we focus on studies or whatever we are related to.

Today, in this article, I am going to share how our school-going children can spend their time without getting bored and how they can learn new things in an effective and useful way.



As we know, the final examination session has been shifted from October–November to the March session as per the New Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020). A new classification starts after the completion of exams. School administration should start learning processes as soon as possible. Students complete their syllabus before winter vacation in school, so they do not need to go here and there for tuition because their syllabus is already completed. They can revise at home. If they face difficulties, they can contact their subject teachers through WhatsApp groups, take classes online, or follow the methods already discussed to fill the learning gap. By going for tuition, they will waste their precious time traveling from home to the tuition center and back.

Students can make a timetable. If they cannot follow it strictly, they should divide their time and perform all activities within the given time. Give more time to what you are lacking. Develop an interest in things that have great scope. Learn drawing, art, etc.

Offering Salah (Namaz) five times a day is mandatory and keeps you mentally fit and satisfied.

Learning the Quran during winter can improve your grasping power and make you confident in front of others. If you are well-versed in Quranic knowledge, you will never go astray; you will stay away from drugs and respect your elders, parents, and teachers. Moral knowledge is very important for every individual.

Students can also learn and develop their vocabulary during winter.

As our school continues, students can learn and read books. This will develop their vocabulary and

make them habitual readers. Books like short stories and general knowledge books can boost their confidence and knowledge. Every day, learn new things, learn new words, learn new thoughts, develop new thoughts, and learn to respect yourself and your friends.

Encourage your children if they show interest in sports.

Have seen parents who think that keeping their children engaged with books 24 hours a day makes them intelligent. This perception is wrong, and we need to rethink it. Those who are academically strong can perform any task in life, but taking part in sports improves health and keeps children mentally and physically fit and happy.

What to Do During Inclement and Bad Weather.

Today, the world is equipped with advanced technology. Every day, we witness new inventions. We should engage our children with electronic gadgets for a limited time so they do not get addicted. Watching news channels can improve and develop many things in their minds, such as awareness of current affairs.

Students in higher grades can join gyms and play indoor games during winter, provided they have no serious health issues or join after doctor consultation. Gym centers are available everywhere. Gyms are an effective way to keep children away from drugs because when they gain interest in building their bodies, they stay away from unnecessary food items like cold drinks and junk food. Develop your overall personality from the very beginning. Say sorry when needed, and say goodbye to stress and anxiety.

Know your Artisan A people friendly initiative



■ RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, launched a three-day Know Your Artisan campaign on 20 November 2025 at the historic Sher-e-Kashmir Park in Srinagar. This much-needed initiative brought together thirty master artisans from diverse crafts, who showcased their skills in a beautifully curated manner, captivating both visitors and potential buyers. Live demos of iconic crafts like Sozni and Crewe embroidery, Pashmina and Kani weaving, Papier-mâché, copperware Kandkari, willow work, and tweed was kept on display. Kashmir's crafts are not just products, but centuries-old stories woven by the golden hands. This carnival is our tribute to the artisans who keep these traditions alive and an invitation to all craft lovers to discover the real soul of Kashmir. It is pertinent to mention that the renowned Sufi saint, Mir

Syed Ali Hamadani, visited this valley three times during his lifetime to spread Islamic teachings. Accompanying him were nearly 700 disciples, each skilled in various crafts. In addition to imparting spiritual guidance across the valley, these companions introduced local people to diverse crafts that were indigenous to their own homelands. While purifying hearts and souls, they were equally concerned about the economic well-being of the people, thereby playing a significant role in strengthening our local economy. This rich and invaluable legacy gifted to us by Mir Syed Ali Hamadani is timeless and deserves to be preserved at all costs. The most meaningful tribute we can offer to this great Sufi saint is to safeguard and promote these traditional crafts by teaching and encouraging our youth to embrace them. These Initiatives like 'Know Your Artisan' are essential to bring our master artisans to the forefront, providing them a deserving platform to showcase Kashmir's rich craft and heritage to both locals and global audiences. In Ganderbal also, Under the aegis of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, a three-day Craft Demonstration-cum-Awareness Program was inaugurated

at Government Boys High School Anderwan. Assistant Director, Handicrafts, Ganderbal, Mr. Pawan, formally launched the workshop and briefed the participants about various schemes and initiatives of the department that local artisans can benefit from. During the program, three major handicrafts were demonstrated before the students: Sozni Work, Willow Work, and Tilla Embroidery. In the Sozni Work segment, Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat, a national awardee from Beerwah, highlighted the significance of the craft and its potential in providing livelihood to hundreds of registered artisans. A globally recognized master craftsman, he has represented India in BRICS nations and was honoured with the State Award in 2011 and the National Award in 2012. Bashir Ahmad Dar, a master craftsman from Peerpora Ganderbal, showcased Willow Work. With 36 years of experience, he underscored the importance of eco-friendly and economical products crafted by local artisans. He is also a recipient of the National Award (2013). In the Tilla Embroidery segment, Nazir Ahmad Malik from Wakoora demonstrated the intricate art of designing Tilla work on traditional Kashmiri robes (pherans), impressing the students

with his craftsmanship. Refreshments for the students were arranged by the department. The enthusiasm among students remained high throughout, as the master craftsmen engaged them with hands-on demonstrations and skill sharing. As the unemployment rate among educated youth in Kashmir reaches an alarming high, it has become imperative to explore and embrace alternative sectors that can offer sustainable and dignified livelihoods. Today, we frequently witness highly qualified individuals — including those with research degrees — selling dry fruits, vegetables, or working in restaurants just to survive amid rising inflation and shrinking economic opportunities. In such circumstances, returning to our roots, preserving the rich legacy of our ancestors, and paying a befitting tribute to Mir Syed Ali Hamadani (RA) becomes all the more essential. By familiarizing our younger generations with the traditional crafts introduced and nurtured by him, we can empower them with skills that ensure both economic resilience and cultural continuity.

Writer is a columnist based in Gazigund Kashmir



A Lamp for Shamim: Remembering a Voice That Still Speaks to Kashmir



■ JAWAID IQBAL

There are ordinary mornings, and then there are mornings when memory walks beside you.

On 27 November 2025, Srinagar woke to the latter. The late autumn sun hung low, softened by a quiet stillness that felt deliberate—as if the city instinctively understood it was preparing to honour one of its most influential literary voices: Shams-ud-Din Shamim.

That sense of gentle reverence accompanied me as I approached Shehanshah Palace, where the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, in collaboration with Daily Ghadyaal, had organised



“Shamim walked toward the pain of others—not away from it.”

His pauses, and the silence that followed them, spoke as eloquently as his words.

Tributes also came from leading cultural voices including Nasir Mirza, Dildar Ashraf Shah, Saleem Saalik, Shakeel-ur-Rehman, Farooq Wani, and Ehsan Chishti.

Prof. Gulshan Majeed, in his concluding remarks, reminded the audience that remembering writers is not nostalgia—it is cultural continuity.

➤ A Legacy That Continues to Glow

In my closing remarks, I expressed gratitude and emphasised that the seminar was not simply an academic event—it was a reaffirmation of the Academy's commitment to preserving Kashmir's cultural and literary heritage. Such gatherings are bridges between generations, ensuring that the voices that shaped us continue to shape those who will come after.

A warm luncheon followed—conversations flowed, ideas sparked, memories deepened.

As people eventually dispersed, one could feel that something had shifted—not just in memory, but in



chair of the session, Prof. Farooq Fayaz, who after a pause said quietly:

“Shamim was not simply my contemporary—he was my childhood friend.”

What followed was not a speech but a memory offered to history. Fayaz described Shamim as a writer who entered human suffering, not merely described it. His call to collect and publish Shamim's unpublished works felt less like a suggestion and more like a duty owed.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Arshad Rasool, who called the collaboration of the Academy and Ghadyaal a form of cultural accountability.

➤ Scholarship, Memory, and the Craft of Literature

The seminar's technical session, chaired by Prof. Gulshan Majeed, brought analytical depth.

Rahim Rehbar opened with Shamim: My Contemporary, portraying him as a chronicler of unspoken truths.

Due to illness, Nisar Naseem was absent, but his paper—read aloud to the hall—delivered one line that resonated deeply:

“If Shamim had written only Guel, it would still place him among the foremost playwrights of Kash-

responsibility.

It felt as though we had lit a lamp in Shamim's name.

A lamp that now belongs to all of us—and one that will continue to illuminate Kashmir's literary horizon for years to come.

The author is a Editor, Kashmiri, JKAACL



a one-day seminar dedicated to Shamim's life, writings, and enduring legacy.

➤ A Cultural Gathering with Purpose

Long before the programme officially began, the hall filled slowly—writers, scholars, theatre practitioners, young researchers, and silent admirers of Shamim's pen. The atmosphere settled into a dignified calm, softened by the aroma of tea and the clinking of cups—small gestures that quietly set the tone: this was a day for thoughtful remembrance.

Once everyone was seated, Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather, dignified in tone and posture, began conducting the proceedings. His moderation lent discipline, rhythm, and grace to the event.

➤ A Life Placed in Context

The inaugural session brought together distinguished personalities including:

Prof. Farooq Fayaz (Chair), Shabir Mujahid (Guest of Honour), Wahshi Saeed, Ideel Saleem, and Arshad Rasool.

In his welcome address, Ideel Saleem set the opening note, describing Shamim as a writer who could carve beauty out of the coarse textures of lived reality. His remarks framed the day with clarity: Shamim was a writer who saw deeply—and wrote without compromise.

The keynote address came from Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq, and though it was scholarly, it felt deeply human. He traced Shamim's journey—his modest beginnings, his literary awakening, and the moral courage that marked his work. His words unfolded slowly, like turning the pages of a life rather than delivering an academic paper.

➤ A Playwright Remembered by the Stage



It was Shabir Mujahid, a theatre expert, who gave the room its first emotional tremor:

“Shamim's dialogues don't merely get spoken,” he said.

“They inhabit the body of the character.”

He spoke not as a guest but as someone who had lived inside Shamim's characters. His testimony underscored why Shamim stands among Kashmir's most powerful dramatic voices.

➤ The Friend Who Still Listens

But the most intimate reflection came from the

miri literature.”

Next, Prof. Ratan Lal Talashi examined narrative structure in Shamim's fiction, describing his style as a technique where silence itself becomes dialogue.

This was followed by Prof. Mahfooza Jan, who analysed the psychological and aesthetic layers of Shamim's work—revealing how simplicity in his writing often concealed remarkable sophistication.

But the emotional centre of the day belonged to Shafiq Qureshi, Shamim's brother-in-law. Voice trembling, he offered a memory shaped by affection and grief:

The Lost Hour

■ MEHAK MOHI-UD- DIN

*From my window, I behold a
troubled sight,
A mother's wail, a heart
wrenching plight
Her cries echo through the air
As sorrows dark veil draws near.*

*When suddenly, a solemn
procession came
The lifeless form, in mournful
frame
The dead body spoke, in
haunting tone
Take care of my mother, now
Alone
Her sister's words a heartfelt plea
How can I adorn my hand with
henna's glee....
When death's dark shadow
looms near
I'll follow you, my love, and
banish all fear.*

*All I could see, a world astray
Innocence shattered, faded
away.
I behold the remnants, of a
childhood past
A bittersweet reminder to last.*

The author from Yaseen Colony
Arampora Sopore





LESS SUGAR MAY ASSIST IN MUSCLE REPAIR: STUDY

A diet low on sugar may help keep our muscles healthier for longer, suggests a study.

Healthy muscles are an important part of a healthy life. With the wear and tear of everyday use, our muscles continuously repair themselves to keep them in top condition.

Researchers from Tokyo Metropolitan University in Japan found that skeletal muscle satellite cells, key for muscle

repair, rapidly increases in low glucose environments.

They produced pure cultures of skeletal muscle satellite cells in ultra-low glucose environments.

This is contrary to the conventional wisdom that says mammalian cells fare better when there is more sugar to fuel their activities.

The findings, published in the *Frontiers in Cell and*

THIS IS CONTRARY TO THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM THAT SAYS MAMMALIAN CELLS FARE BETTER WHEN THERE IS MORE SUGAR TO FUEL THEIR ACTIVITIES. The findings, published in the *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology*, has the potential to boost biomedical research on muscle repair. For the study, skeletal muscle satellite cells were multiplied in Petri dishes

Developmental Biology, has the potential to boost biomedical research on muscle repair.

For the study, skeletal muscle satellite cells were multiplied in Petri dishes.

While higher levels of glucose had an adverse effect on the cells, lower glucose led to a larger number of cells.

This seemed counter intuitive as glucose is considered to be essential for cellular

growth, the researchers said. It is converted into ATP, the fuel that drives a lot of cellular activity.

The team added glucose oxidase, a glucose digesting enzyme, to get to even lower levels of glucose, and grew the satellite cells in this glucose-depleted medium.

Shockingly, the cells seemed to fare just fine, and proliferated normally, the researchers said. **Courtesy Healthline**

GENES PREDICTING HEALTHY AGEING IDENTIFIED

A team of researchers has identified a set of genes that can tell whether people are heading towards healthy ageing or not.

Accumulation of unrepaired DNA damage has been one of the main causes of ageing. These can also lead to neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

The study, published in the journal *Ageing*, targeted the SIRT6 gene -- known to play an instrumental



role in DNA repair.

The SIRT6 gene was found to have an effect in pathological ageing, but not in normal ageing, said Debra Toiber, from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel.

The team also determined which genes are better candidates for targeted therapies and whose damage can be reversed by interventions such as calorie restriction.

"My research for the last several years has focused on unlocking the secrets of SIRT6, which we discovered, plays a number of prominent roles in ageing," Toiber said.

Previous studies show that SIRT6 plays an instrumental role in DNA repair.

Its levels were found to decrease in the ageing brain. It serves as a first responder in DNA double strand breaks, immediately going to work but also signalling to other proteins to come help repair the damage.

Since there are many changes in ageing and in these pathologies, the researchers compared SIRT6-impaired mice to regular mice, both the same age and compared to older mice.

They were able to identify these changes and also find the genes that could predict whether a brain is moving towards healthy ageing or pathological ageing. **Courtesy Healthline**

Smartphone camera can help doctors measure pulse, breathing rate

Researchers have developed a method that uses the camera on a person's smartphone or computer to take their pulse and respiration signal from a real-time video of their face. The development comes at a time when telehealth has become a critical way for doctors to provide health care while minimising in-person contact during Covid-19.

The University of Washington-led team's system uses machine learning to capture subtle changes in how light reflects off a person's face, which is correlated with changing blood flow. Then it converts these changes into both pulse and respiration rate. The researchers presented the system in December at the Neural Information Processing Systems

conference. Now the team is proposing a better system to measure these physiological signals. This system is less likely to be tripped up by different cameras, lighting conditions or facial features, such as skin colour, according to the researchers who will present these findings on April 8 at the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Conference on Health, Interference, and Learning. "Every person is different," said lead study author Xin Liu, a UW doctoral student.

"So this system needs to be able to quickly adapt to each person's unique physiological signature, and separate this from other variations, such as what they look like and what environment they are in." The



first version of this system was trained with a dataset that contained both videos of people's faces and "ground truth" information: each person's pulse and respiration rate measured by standard instruments in the field.

The system then used spatial and temporal information from the videos to calculate both vital signs. While the system worked well on some datasets, it still struggled with others that contained different people,

backgrounds and lighting. This is a common problem known as "overfitting," the team said. The researchers improved the system by having it produce a personalised machine learning model for each individual.

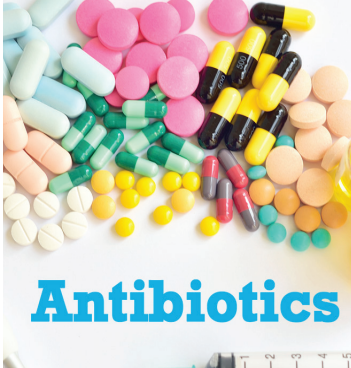
Specifically, it helps look for important areas in a video frame that likely contain physiological features correlated with changing blood flow in a face under different contexts, such as different skin tones, lighting conditions and environments. From there, it can focus on that area and measure the pulse and respiration rate. While the new system outperforms its predecessor when given more challenging datasets, especially for people with darker skin tones, there is still more work to do, the team said. **Courtesy Healthline**

Why antibiotics may not be good for infants

Exposure to antibiotics in utero and infancy can lead to an irreversible loss of regulatory T-cells in the colon, a valuable component of the immune system's response toward allergens in later life, after only six months, finds a new research.

T cell is a type of white blood cell that is of key importance to the immune system and is at the core of adaptive immunity, the system that tailors the body's immune response to specific pathogens.

According to the study, published in the journal *mBio*, it is already known that the use of antibiotics early in life disrupts the intestinal microbiota, the trillions of beneficial microorganisms that live in and on our bodies, that play a crucial role in the healthy maturation of the immune system and the prevention of diseases, such as



Antibiotics

obesity and inflammatory bowel disease.

However, less is known about how disruption of the microbiota, which produce short chain fatty acids that regulate T-cells, effects T-cells in the colon.

"By studying the exposure to newborns through lactating mothers, we see how the offspring acquire their mothers' antibiotic-

impacted microbiota, which compromises their ability to generate a pool of CD41 T cells in the colon, resulting in long-term damage," said researcher Martin Blaser from the Rutgers University. "The consequences persist into adulthood, compromising the body's ability to turn off allergic responses," Blaser added.

For the study, based on a mouse model, the team looked at fetal and newborn exposure to antibiotics through the mother in the weeks immediately preceding and after birth, the time when microbial communities assemble and are prone to disruptions, to investigate how this reduction in beneficial bacteria affects neonatal immune system development. These effects were specific to the colon and not observed in the lungs, upper gastrointestinal tract or spleen, the researchers said. **Courtesy Healthline**

Early TV time not linked to attention problems in kids: Study

The new research, published in the journal *Psychological Science*, re-examined previous work that claimed to show a direct link between early screen time and attention problems in children.

"The findings from the original study, upon further scrutiny, are not borne out. We found that there is still no evidence that TV, by itself, causes ADHD or any kind of attention problems in young children," study co-author Wallace Dixon, Professor of Psychology at East Tennessee State University in the US, said. "Our research also tells us that it's important to be skeptical of earth-shattering findings



that come in the form of 'something that everybody is doing harms our children'."

The newly-reported research involved looking at the same data as the 2004 study and using multiverse analyses -- a technique that involves asking a research question hundreds of different ways to determine if the answers are similar each time.

This method was used to create 848 analyses to find out if early TV viewing causes later attention problems. A vast majority of results showed no link between the two. The few that did, the authors believe, reflect some oddities in the data set that are not likely to represent the real world.

"What excites us about the research is that we can ease up on blaming parents or making them feel guilty for letting their children watch television when they are very young," said Dixon. **Courtesy Healthline**

This is how chronic stress leads to hair loss

If you have been wondering if pandemic hairfall is real, rest assured that it is. Harvard University researchers have identified the biological mechanism by which chronic stress impairs hair follicle stem cells, confirming long-standing observations that stress might lead to hair loss.

In a study on mice published in *Nature*, the researchers found that a major stress hormone puts hair follicle stem cells into an extended resting phase, without regenerating the follicle or the hair. The researchers identified

the specific cell type and molecule responsible for relaying the stress signal to the stem cells, and showed that this pathway can be potentially targeted to restore hair growth, writes Jessica Lau in the *Harvard Gazette*.

"My lab is interested in understanding how stress affects stem cell biology and tissue biology, spurred in part by the fact that everyone has a story to share about what happens to their skin and hair when they are stressed. I realized that as a skin stem cell biologist, I could not provide a satisfying answer

regarding if stress indeed has an impact -- and more importantly, if yes, what are the mechanisms," said Ya-Chieh Hsu, the Alvin and Esta Star Associate Professor of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology at Harvard and senior author of the study. "The skin offers a tractable and accessible system to study this important problem in depth, and in this work, we found that stress does actually delay stem-cell activation and fundamentally changes how frequently hair follicle stem cells regenerate tissues."

The researchers studied a

mouse model of chronic stress and found that hair follicle stem cells stayed in a resting phase for a very long time without regenerating tissues. A major stress hormone produced by the adrenal glands, corticosterone, was upregulated by chronic stress; giving mice corticosterone reproduced the stress effect on the stem cells. The equivalent hormone in humans is cortisol, which is also upregulated under stress and is often referred to as the "stress hormone."

"This result suggests that elevated stress hormones indeed

have a negative effect on hair follicle stem cells," Hsu said. "But the real surprise came when we took out the source of the stress hormones." Under normal conditions, hair follicle regeneration slows over time -- the resting phase becomes longer as the animals age. But when the researchers removed the stress hormones, the stem cells' resting phase became extremely short and the mice constantly entered the growth phase to regenerate hair follicles throughout their life, even when they were old. **Courtesy Healthline**

Srinagar Police Books Hotels, Homestays & Houseboats; 5 FIRs Filed

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 8: In view of strengthening security measures in the city, Srinagar Police has taken stringent legal action against several hotels and a homestay for violating mandatory Form-C reporting norms required under the Immigration & Foreigners Act.

During routine checking and scrutiny of hotels, homestays and houseboats, the following were found to be in violation of the rules under Immigration & Foreigners Act :

1. In Rajbagh area, it was found that Hotel Blossoms, Hotel Grand MS, and Hotel Golden Forest had allowed foreign nationals to check in without submitting Form-C to the Foreigners Registration Office (FRO). Accordingly, FIR No. 65/2025 U/S 8 & 23-B of the Immigration & Foreigners Act was registered at Police Station Rajbagh.

2. In Khanyar area, Hotel Khyber, located in Khayam, was also found violating Form-C reporting requirements. Despite repeated instructions, the management failed to produce any proof of Form-C submission. As a result, FIR No. 57/2025 was registered under relevant sections of law at Police Station Khanyar.

3. In LalBazar area, IMY HomeStay, Nowabagh Bagwanpora, owned by Mohammad Aslam Baktoo S/o Late Habibullah Baktoo, was found operating without Form-C compliance for Mr. Starobinsky Lior, a foreign national from Israel, along with others. The management had deliberately concealed the stay of the foreign guest and failed to submit mandatory online



Form-C reporting. Accordingly, FIR No. 60/2025 U/S 8 and 23(b) of the Immigration & Foreigners Act was registered at Police Station Lal Bazar.

4. In Nishat area, house owner namely Mohammad Ashraf Zargar S/o Mohammad Ramzan Zargar R/o Vakeel Colony, Brein was found in non-compliance of the mandatory reporting of Form C to FRO. In this connection, FIR No. 101/2025 U/S 8-23(b) of Immigration and Foreigners Act was registered in Police Station Nishat.

5. In RamMunshi Bagh area, House Boats - Floating Castle owned by Farooq Ahmad Guroo S/o Late Gh Nabi Guroo R/o Ghat No 15 Nehru Park, boarded by Ms Lee Ya Hui of Taiwan, Best View Houseboat owned by Farooq Ahmad Kutroo S/o Ali Mohd Kutroo R/o Ghat No 09 Da Lake, boarded by Mr. Maistruik Sergel of Russia, House Boat Crystal Palace, owned by Gh Hassan Karnai S/o Haji Gh Mohammad R/o Abi Karpura Dal lake, boarded by Mr. Naum Silviu of Romania and Houseboat Lake

Palace, owned by Mohammad Altaf Gunna S/o Habibullah Gunna R/o Abi Karpura Dal Lake, boarded by Mr. Eduardo Tejerina Gonzalee of Spain, were found in violation of the norms for mandatory reporting rules. In this connection, FIR no. 94/2025 U/S 7,14, and 16 of the Immigration and Foreigner Act was registered in Police Station RM Bagh.

Further investigation into the cases is underway to uncover forward and backward linkages.

Srinagar Police reiterates that all hotels, guest houses, houseboats and homestay operators must strictly comply with Form-C submission norms when accommodating foreign nationals. Non-compliance of the same is a serious offence and will invite strict legal action.

Srinagar Police remains committed to safeguarding the security and integrity of the Nation and protecting its citizens from activities prejudicial to peace and public order.

India goes electric with Maruti Suzuki, One India, One EV charging platform

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 8: Maruti Suzuki India Limited (Maruti Suzuki) has announced a historic signing of collaboration agreements with 13 charge point operators (CPOs) and aggregators. A spokesperson of the company in a press release said that Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO and Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, from Maruti Suzuki India Limited, and other senior dignitaries from CPOs took part in a function held in this respect.

Commenting on the occasion, Hisashi Takeuchi said, “At Maruti Suzuki, we strive to extend a delightful ownership experience to our customers to build lasting trust. Today, we are taking a historic step, as we enter the domain of electric mobility with full readiness to address EV charging concerns and boost customer confidence. We have established a robust network of over 2,000 Maruti Suzuki exclusive charging points across our sales and service network, spanning more than 1,100 cities. Further, we have collaborated with 13 Charge Point Operators to offer access to a vast charging infrastructure across the country. Aligned with Suzuki’s global vision, we plan to introduce multiple EVs and to support this, our aim is to enable a network of over 1 lakh charging points across India by 2030, along with our Dealer and CPO partners.”

Showcasing the robust EV ecosystem, Partho Banerjee said, “Today is the dawn of a new era for electric mobility in India. It gives me immense pleasure to say that Maruti Suzuki is EV ready and will be ‘By Your Side’ with our comprehensive new platform that addresses key concerns around EV charging infrastructure. Leveraging India’s largest dealer network and our charging partners’ network, we are ensuring there are EV charging points at an average distance of 5-10 kilometres at key locations in the top 100 cities of India. DC fast chargers are also located at regular intervals along key highways to enable nationwide driving freedom for our prospective EV customers. To further enhance peace of mind, we have deployed a 1.5 lakh-strong specially-trained EV workforce to cater to every need of our customers. We have also activated 1500+ EV-ready service workshops across 1100 cities for meeting after-sales requirements to support EV ownership in every part of the country.” “Words aside, we are showcasing the prowess of this platform by flagging off a radical ‘e drive’ that will demonstrate the real-world efficacy of Maruti Suzuki’s comprehensive EV charging network. With the ‘e drive’, we aim to boost user confidence and execute faster EV adoption, working alongside the nation’s sustainability goals for net zero,” said Banerjee.

The Maruti Suzuki ‘e for me’ EV charging mobile app enables end-to-end usage of EV charging points from partner-operated charging points and Maruti Suzuki’s own EV charging network on a single platform, offering a uniform customer journey for EV charging and payment through UPI or exclusive ‘Maruti Suzuki Money’, powered by Razorpay. From the time of booking an e VITARA, the ‘e for me’ app will serve as a single platform for setting up the vehicle home-charger and ensuring optimal usage, locating public charging points and using them, alongside many other features on the platform.

The company has also implemented a robust EV ecosystem which has enabled the Maruti Suzuki showroom network and over 1500 service workshops by making them EV-ready, providing the best EV ownership experience in India, supported by a 1.5 lakh-strong EV-ready workforce.

To validate the remarkable EV charging network readiness, the company is flagging off the pan-India ‘e drive’. As a part of the drive, four e VITARA Born EVs have driven out of Gurugram to all four corners of the country. From Srinagar up North to the coastal tip of Kanyakumari in the South, to Dibrugarh in the East, and Bhuj at the western edge of India in Gujarat, the drive will demonstrate the real-world feasibility of pan-India EV charging and ownership; cementing the robust operational network of nationwide ‘e for me’ charging points.

معروف سماجی کارکن محترم میمنہ قریشی الہیہ فیاض احمد قریشی

آفت غالب آباد شائینگ سہی نگر کا انتقال پر ملال

(انائلہ وانا الیہ راجعون)

زمانہ گئی تھی تیر ی بہت سب سے تانہ دور
خوب تر تھا کج سے تیرا سہرا

آسمان تیری مدد پر ختم اٹھائی کرے
بہرہ ور سدا اس شہر کی گنجائی کرے

یہ صحراناکہ غمخوڑاں پر لائے ہوئے انتہائی درد کو بھربھرا
سے کہ نماز سہرائی گاؤں محمود قریشی زویہ فیاض احمد قریشی

سازند غالب آباد فائینگ سرنگ ٹو مل حالات کے بعد 08 دسمبر 2025 کو اپنی جان بچان آؤ رہیں گے حوالے
کرکین سرحدی شخصیت کو ب دہا لجال نے انتہائی تک اذیت سے مزین کیا تھا جس کے نتیجے میں طاق بھر
کے اندر لوگ آئیں محبت دا احترام سے ماقرائی جنوں سے نوازتے تھے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ سے دُعا ہے کہ رومہ کے
حیات کو شرف قبولیت بخشے ہوئے اُنکں کو رت ذبت نصیب کرے

محل ایوان سدر مرقہ فروزاں ہونیرا
نور سے مصمور یہ خاکی شبستان ہو تیرا

سو گواراں

فیاض احمد قریشی (خوہر) ایڈیٹور خالد قریشی (پسر) اہلکار فیروز قریشی (خوہر)
مستور احمد قریشی (راور سٹی) منظور احمد قریشی (راور سٹی)

فون نمبر - 9419000524

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that Mr. Faroz Ahmad Muchi, S/o Assadullah Muchi, R/o Chatrasoo Budroo, Sallar Pahalgam, has applied for issuance of Date of Birth Certificate from Block Srigufwara.

As per the applicant, his Date of Birth is 24-02-1991. Anybody having any objection to the issuance of the said Date of Birth Certificate may contact the concerned authority at Block Srigufwara within 07 days of publication of this notice. After the expiry of this period, no objection shall be entertained.

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that the name of the student studying in Montaqui Memorial Higher Secondary School, Awantipora, recorded earlier as Furqam Ahmad Pamdit, has been found incorrect.

The correct name of the student is:
Furqan Ahmad Pamdith,
S/o Mamzoor Ahmad Pamdith,
R/o Booh Awantipora.

If anyone has any objection regarding this correction, they may contact the concerned authorities within 07 days of the publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

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Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Office of the Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE, Mechanical Rural Division, Sgr.

GIST of e-Tender | E-N.I.T. No: PHE/MRD/TS/ 52 of 12/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar invites e-tenders on item rate basis in two cover system from approved and eligible Contractors having GST registration/registered with J&K Govt., Railways and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work: -

Sr.	Nature of Work	Location	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money Rs.	Cost of Tender Doc. Rs.	Time of Completion	Programme
A	Providing of basic facilities at left-over WSS's	Sub-Division Srinagar	0.63	1260/-	50/=	05 days	M&R

Critical Dates/Information.	
1.	Publishing Date 08-12-2025 (5:00 PM)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids 08-12-2025 (5:00 PM) to 15-12-2025 (11:30 AM)
3.	Period of Submission of bids 08-12-2025 (5:00 PM) to 15 -12-2025 (11:30 AM)
4.	Date of opening of Tender/Timing 15-12-2025 at (12:00 P.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar
6.	Document Cost: Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the e-NIT No. & name of work for which applied)
7.	Bid Validity Period: 90 Days
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www. Jktenders.gov.in
9.	Earnest Money Deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/ bank guarantee from any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank pledged to the Executive Engineer Jal shakti PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar

Note: The tenderer who is declared as L1 after opening of price bid will deposit 5% of the Estimated cost of the work in shape of CDR/FDR as “performance security” before allotment is issued in his favour.

No: PHE/MRD/TS/3090-94 | Dated: 08-12-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar.

DIPK: 8839/25 | Dated: 08-12-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WATER WORKS DIVISION SRINAGAR

Corrigendum

Reference: This Office e-NIT No. 32/WWD/Sgr/CC of 2025-26 Dated: 18.11.2025 issued under No: WWD/Sgr/CC/5094-5105 Dated:- 18.11.2025.

Following changes are deemed to be made in the e-NIT mentioned under reference.

- A)** Please add the following paragraph to ‘Definition of similar nature of work shall mean’ (Refer Page No. 6);
For Type 02 i.e., Composite Civil and Electro Mechanical Works:
Hydraulic structures like Overhead tanks of minimum capacity of 0.20 lac gallons & staging height of minimum 10 M or Rapid Sand Filtration Plant of 0.10 MGD or above or Sewage treatment plants/ Industrial effluent treatment plants of minimum 0.10 MLD capacity or Service Reservoirs of minimum 0.50 lac gallons capacity or RCC / Steel bridges / Composite / grade separators / fly-overs Nallahs / water bodies Span not less than 10 mts or multistory framed structures of minimum 300 sqm on plan or Pump Stations area not less than 100 Sqm (framed structure / RCC) along with intake sump and channel.” Since the work is a composite Tender and includes execution of Civil and Electro Mechanical Components as well as such the prospective agency should have requisite and relevant experience of executing Electrical and Mechanical works as well along with the civil experience as described above. For evaluation of Electrical and Mechanical works the similar works should be read as SITC of pumping units or power transformer of at least 70% capacity of tendered equipment with allied electro-mechanical equipment’s like Electric Switch gears, starters, control valves, rising mains etc.” For arriving at the cost of similar work, the value of work executed shall be brought to current costing level by enhancing the actual value of work at simple rate of 07% per annum, calculated from the date of completion to the date of bid opening. For a period less than a year but more than six months weightage/escalation for a full year shall be loaded. Similarly, for a period less than six month, no weightage shall be given.
- B)** Instead of the Point No. 3 (Refer Page No. 6) please treat the following as valid:-
3. Scanned copy of Annual Turnover certificate for the last three financial years, issued by a registered Chartered Accountant under his seal and signature, with a minimum value of 30% of the advertised cost for average of the three years. (Form 7).
- C)** Instead of the heading under bulleted list written as ‘Electro Mechanical Components and allied works’ (Refer Page No. 28), please read the same as, ‘Construction of Intake and allied works’
- D)** Page 48 of the NIT is treated as deleted
- E)** Instead of the Payment schedule given (Refer to Page No. 48, please treat the following as valid:-
Payment Schedule:

The Payment schedule for the EPC/Turn Key based work will be regulated as under:-

S. No	Component	Percentage
CC Bill 1	Submission of conceptual vetted drawings and design	3%
CC Bill 2	Construction of RSFP	
	a) Foundation with Ground Floor	10%
	b) Completion of all Civil Works upto working level floor	5%
	c) Working level floor to Truss work	5%
	d) Electro-Mechanical works of RSFP	10%
CC Bill 3	a) Construction of Clear Water Sump	5%
	b) Construction of Zero Discharge Sump	6%
	c) Electro-Mechanical works at WTP	1%
CC Bill 4	a) Construction of intake	6%
	b) Electromechanical works at intake	5%
	c) Rising main etc.	5%
	d) Sluice chamber	1%
CC Bill 5	a) Dismantling of structures	3%
	b) Construction of flash mixer	1%
	c) Construction of Tube Settlers	11%
CC Bill 6	a) Construction of Staff Quarter	10%
	b) Construction of walling etc.	3%
CC Bill 7	Testing and commissioning	10%

- F)** Instead of ‘Time Line for Deliverables’ given in the SBD (Refer to Page No. 49, please treat the following as valid:-
Time Line for Deliverables

The Time Schedule for Deliverables shall be as under

S. No	Component	Days
1	Submission of Conceptual Drawing	10 Days from the date of Issuance of the Allotment Order
2	Submission of vetted design from DIQC/IIT and mobilization of Men & Machinery including clearance of site	25 Days from the date of Finalizing of Conceptual Drawing
3	Completion upto RSFP Raft Top Level and Temporary Walling	30 Days after receiving of good for construction drawing from DIQC/IIT
4	Completion of Working Floor Level up to Back Wash Tank Level	30 Days after Completion of Raft Top Level
5	Electro Mechanical Works of RSFP and L/F of Inflow and outflow Pipe Lines and Truss Work	30 Days after Completion of Back Wash Tank Level
6	Completion of Clear Water Sump, Zero Discharge Sump, Chambers etc. and allied works	45 Days after Completion of Electro Mechanical Works and L/F of Inflow and outflow Pipe Lines
7	Construction of intake, rising main, sluice chamber, electro mechanical work	90 Days after Completion of all Washout Mechanism/ Chambers etc. and allied works
8	Dismantling of Existing structures, construction of tube settlers, flash mixer, staff quarter, Walling and landscaping and other miscellaneous works	105 Days after Completion of all Washout Mechanism/ Chambers etc. and allied works
9	Successful Testing & Completion of DLP & Trial Run	For defined time frame
10	O&M	For defined time frame

- G)** Instead of Point No. 1 ‘Consignee/Paying Authority’ given (Page No. 51) please treat the following as valid:-
The concerned Executive Engineer Civil shall be overall paying authority for all bills however, in case of electromechanical work bill, the same shall be verified by the concerned Executive Engineer (Mechanical) / Asstt. Executive Engineer (Mechanical), before processing for payment.
- H)** Please add the following Line to Point No. 3 ‘Abnormally Low Rates’ given (Refer Page No. 51):-
The requirement of Additional Performance Security shall be governed as per the Finance Department Srinagar/Jammu’s Circular issued under No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated 08.08.2025.
- I)** Instead of “Before dispatch from the works of the OEM, the electro-mechanical equipment as well as other material like Pipes etc...Certificates” under Point No. 8 ‘Inspection and Testing’ (Refer Page 52), please read “Before dispatch from the works of OEM, the electro-mechanical equipment (viz; Pumps DG sets and Voltage stabilizers) as well as other material like Pipes etc...Certificates”
- J)** The Map shown on Page 58 is treated as deleted.
- K)** In view of the recent Circular Instructions issued by the Principal Secretary to Government Finance Department Civil Secretariat Jammu/Srinagar vide No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated 08.07.2025 issued vide his endorsement No. FD-ST/75/2025-03 Dated 08.07.2025, the following Condition is incorporated in the aforementioned e-NIT:-
Every participating Bidder has to upload the Certificate issued by the Concerned Branch Manager certifying the below details mentioned at ‘Annexure Z’ with this Corrigendum
- L)** Besides to give sufficient time for the interest bidders to comprehend the Points mentioned in the Corrigendum, the Critical Dates are hereby extended and refixed as under:-

Bid Submission end date 15.12.2025 upto 4:00 PM

Date & time of opening Bids (Technical Cover) 16.12.2025 2:00 PM

All Other Terms and Conditions Shall remain same.

No: WWD/Sgr/CC/5517-27 | Dated: 04-12-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Water Works Division Srinagar

DIPK: 8833/25 | Dated: 08-12-2025

Deputy CM reviews development works in Poonch; emphasizes quality, timely completion

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

POONCH, DECEMBER 8: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today visited Poonch and chaired an extensive review meeting held with the district and sectoral officers regarding development projects being executed in the district.

Senior officials from PWD (R&B), Industries & Commerce, Labour and Employment, Skill Development and Mining Departments besides other stakeholders attended the meeting.

The Deputy Chief Minister conducted a detailed assessment of the ongoing schemes and developmental works including roads and bridges. He emphasized the need to enhance public service delivery and called for intensified awareness camps for youth and the general public on welfare schemes.

The status of ITI and Polytechnic institutions was also reviewed in detail.

During the meeting, Surinder Choudhary reviewed major ongoing projects including construction of Mini Secretariat Mendhar.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure early completion of the remaining works. He also



instructed the PWD Engineers to expedite the construction activities at the Jammu University Campus.

The Dy CM reviewed progress on Model Residential School at Village Behra, Mendhar and issued strict directions to accelerate the pace of progress while maintaining high-quality standards.

He also reviewed various road and motorable bridge projects and reiterated the need for completing works within stipulated timelines without compromising on quality.

Taking stock of PMGSY projects, he examined their tendering status and expenditures.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the OC GREF to conduct on-ground inspection of ongoing works, ensure quality checks and remove potholes to facilitate smooth travel for the public.

Surinder Choudhary asked the concerned departments to maintain close coordination with DDCs, MLAs and other stakeholders to ensure better monitoring and efficient execution of developmental works.

The meeting was attended by DDC Chairperson Tazim Akhter and MLA Surankote Ch Mohammad Akram.

J&K Pavilion shines at PITEX 2025 in Amritsar

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 8: The Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) participated in the 19th edition of the Punjab International Trade Expo (PITEX), held at Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar, from December 4 to 8, 2025.



The JKTPO sponsored 36 artisans, exporters, FPOs and women entrepreneurs from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, who showcased region's rich artistry and cultural heritage. The display included Pashmina shawls, Sozni and Crewel embroidery, leather and woollen products, stoles, Tilla work, Basohli Pashmina and world-renowned GI-tagged Kashmiri saffron, dry fruits, dried vegetables, honey and Rajmash from the Jammu region. The pavilion received overwhelming participation from over five lakh visitors from India and abroad.

The five day event generated sales worth over 1.36 crore and secured 391 business leads with prominent business houses, promising substantial economic benefits for the artisans and entrepreneurs of J&K.

The PITEX 2025 was inaugurated by former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind and Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Cheema.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony organized by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), the former President highlighted Punjab's rapid progress, noting that the state, once known primarily as the "bread basket of India", is now emerging as a hub for MSMEs, technology, manufacturing and ease of doing business.

The expo hosted exhibitors from across India and abroad, featuring the participants from 17 Indian states along with several international representatives who showcased a diverse range of products.

The success of the Jammu & Kashmir Pavilion at PITEX 2025 underscores JKTPO's commitment towards enhancing market access for the local artisans and entrepreneurs, fostering both B2B and B2C engagements. The initiative continues to bridge cultures, support livelihoods and drive economic growth across the Union Territory.

As part of its activities for the current financial year, the JKTPO has organized several events, including a Buyer-Seller Meet at SKICC, GI Fair at Budgam, Gandhi Shilp Bazaar at Kashmir Haat and Pashmina Festival at Katra.

Additionally, the JKTPO participated in major national events such as the Handwoven Expo in New Delhi, World Food India and IITF at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, to showcase the economic potential of Jammu & Kashmir.

JKSDM launches UT-level competitions under India Skills 2025-26

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 8: The Jammu & Kashmir Skill Development Mission (JKSDM) has launched the Union Territory-level competitions under India Skills Competitions 2025-26, marking a significant stride towards strengthening the skill development ecosystem across J&K.

The first round of competitions commenced today at the Institute of Technology, University of Kashmir for the Kashmir division, and at Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Jammu for the Jammu division. This year, the Mission witnessed an overwhelming response, with nearly 1500 registrations pouring in from enthusiastic youth across the UT. Following a rigorous screening and assessment process, 265 promising candidates have been shortlisted to compete across 28 diverse skill categories at the UT level.

The winners of these UT-level events will move forward to the Regional Competitions, where they will represent Jammu & Kashmir and compete against top talent from other states and UTs.

To ensure a high-quality competitive environment, the contests are being hosted at premier institutions across J&K, including IIT Jammu, NIIT Srinagar, IHM Srinagar, Central University of Jammu, Government Medical College Srinagar, NIT Srinagar, and Government Polytechnic College Jammu. These institutes provide



world-class facilities, enabling participants to perform at their best.

Speaking on the occasion, JKSDM officials emphasized that the initiative aims to empower skilled youth, promote dignity of labour, and eliminate the stigma often linked with blue-collar professions. The Mission is working to make skill-based careers aspirational and aligned with national goals under the Skill India Mission.

Jammu & Kashmir has demonstrated commendable progress in the skill ecosystem in recent years. The UT secured 13 medals at the National India Skills Competitions 2023-24, including 3 Gold Medals. Notably, these Gold Medalists represented India at the prestigious World Skills Competition 2024 held in Lyon, France, bringing laurels and recognition to J&K.

The India Skills Competitions provide a transformative platform for youth to demonstrate their talent, boost their confidence, and access national as well as global exposure in emerging skill sectors. By nurturing excellence and competitiveness, the initiative is paving the way for a more skilled, empowered, and employment-ready workforce in J&K.

Kishtwar readies for Pulse Polio Immunization Drive 2025

DC reviews preparedness of stakeholder departments

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a District Level Task Force meeting to review and finalize preparedness for the Pulse Polio Immunization Drive, scheduled to be held from Dec 21 to Dec 23, 2025 across the district.

At the outset, the DC assessment the arrangements and issued a series of directions to the HODs of the line departments to ensure well-coordinated execution of the campaign.

The DC directed the CDPOs to work in close coordination with BMOs and deploy Anganwadi Workers in municipal areas where ASHA workers are not available, ensuring that no booth remains unmanned.

The ARTO was asked to establish polio booths at major locations including Bus Stand Kishtwar, Gulabgarh (Paddar) & Chatroo and initiate awareness activities among transporters and drivers.

The ACD and CEO were directed to ensure timely arrangement of logistics in all parts of the district. The DC further emphasized that any shortage of manpower should be addressed with support from the Education Department.

The ALC was directed to intensify awareness among drivers and labourers at all power project sites to ensure universal immunization coverage.

The Municipal Council was directed



to mobilize vehicle-mounted public announcements to raise community awareness about the Pulse Polio Campaign.

Additionally, the DC directed the District Information Officer (DIO) to implement effective communication strategies through electronic, print and social media platforms.

He also directed to train the staff engaged in the campaign and mobilize ASHAs, Anganwadi Workers, school teachers, NGOs, religious leaders and

community influencers for last-mile coverage.

The meeting was attended by CPO, Akhil Thakur; ACD, Manoj Kumar; CDPO, Dr. Kuldeep Kumar; ALC, Mamta Sudarshan; ARTO, Tasleem Wani; CDPO, Nagseni Najeeb Latief; Chief Education Officer, Sanjay Dogra, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Yudhvir Singh; Block Medical Officer, Dr. Anil Sharma, BMO Dachan, Dr. Sajad Hussain, BMO Paddar, Dr. Krishan Singh Katoch, besides other officers and concerned staff.

GDC Hiranagar faculty leads J&K's representation as Jury for Smart India Hackathon 2025 Grand Finale

College achieves major milestone with 3 problem statements selected nationally

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KATHUA, DECEMBER 08: Government Degree College Hiranagar has registered a proud achievement as its Principal and faculty members have been nominated by the Higher Education Department, Jammu & Kashmir to serve as Jury/Evaluators for the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2025 Grand Finale, scheduled for 8 and 9 December 2025 at Vardhaman College of Engineering Hyderabad.

Smart India Hackathon, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell under AICTE, is among the country's most prestigious platforms encouraging innovation and problem-solving among students.

The nomination of GDC Hiranagar's academic team marks a significant moment for the institution, underscoring its growing contribution to national innovation forums. The College



Principal, Dr. Pragya Khanna has been selected as the Team Coordinator, accompanied by experienced faculty members from the institution. Their participation showcases the academic strength, research culture and forward-looking vision nurtured within

the institution.

Adding to the sense of pride, three of the five problem statements selected from Jammu & Kashmir for the SIH Grand Finale have been proposed by GDC Hiranagar.

This accomplishment highlights the college's emphasis on

encouraging creative thinking, developing technological solutions and promoting an innovation-driven academic environment. It also positions the institution as one of the leading contributors from the UT of J&K to national-level problem-solving initiatives.

During the Grand Finale, the nominated faculty members from GDC Hiranagar will evaluate innovative solutions presented by student teams from diverse regions of the country.

The evaluation process spans crucial domains including Smart Education, NEP-aligned automation, digital mental health support systems and technologies that enhance collaboration between academia and industry.

Their participation not only contributes to a national innovation ecosystem but also brings visibility and recognition to the college's academic excellence.

This national representation is expected to further motivate students of GDC Hiranagar, enhance the institution's academic profile and reinforce its role in shaping future-ready minds. The college continues to embody a progressive approach to education, emerging as a key contributor to the nation's evolving innovation landscape.



Gautam Gambhir: Gill 'Ready To Start' T20Is Against South Africa

He had suffered a neck injury while batting during the Kolkata Test last month

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

KOLKATA: Shubman Gill will be back playing for India at the start of the T20Is against South Africa on Tuesday with head coach Gautam Gambhir confirming that he is "fit and fine, hungry to go."

Gill suffered a neck injury last month - understood to involve a pinched nerve - while batting during the Kolkata Test match. He had moved to the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru to recover - the initial timeline that the BCCI had drawn up for him involved five weeks of rest before resuming training.

After completing a 2-1 victory over South Africa in the ODIs on Saturday, Gambhir addressed the press saying, "yes, Shubman is ready to start. That's why he has been selected. And obviously he is fit and fine, hungry to go." In the absence of Gill, Rishabh Pant

had stepped in as captain in the second Test in Guwahati, where India suffered their biggest Test defeat, in terms of runs. In the following ODI series, Yashasvi Jaiswal opened the batting, in place of Gill, along with Rohit Sharma and helped India win the decider in Vizag with his maiden ODI hundred. Gill is now set to return to the top in T20Is and reunite with his good friend Abhishek Sharma.

India have been bolstered further by the return of allrounder Hardik Pandya after an injury had layoff kept him out of action for over two months.

The five T20Is against South Africa will be played on December 9, 11, 14, 17 and 19 in Cuttack, New Chandigarh, Dharamsala, Lucknow and Ahmedabad respectively. Suryakumar Yadav will lead the side while Gill will be his deputy.

Rohit and Kohli take centre stage before receding to the background

ALAGAPPAN MUTHU

VISAKHAPATNAM: He's given that look before. "Do bachchon ka baap", and Samaira and Ahaan would have prepared their father for Saturday, when Kuldeep Yadav saw something shiny - Lungi Ngidi's wicket - and wanted it even though he hadn't entirely earned it.

The ball seemed to be turning too much. To Rohit Sharma, it was just so obvious that for those moments India spent deliberating - which is a kind word - whether or not to review, he stared at Kuldeep like the left-arm wristspinner was one of his toddlers throwing a tantrum. "Kya? Pad par laga out hai?" "Obviously, you know, in DRS, I'm someone who's very bad and he [Rohit] is someone who keeps pulling my leg all the time" Kuldeep told the host broadcaster between innings. "As a bowler, you feel like every not out is out so you have to have those people around you to just guide you, you know calm down, we only have two reviews."

The 2-0 loss in the Test series had the dressing room



wired for this decider. India finally won a toss and KL Rahul was desperate to push home that advantage. He was very particular about which end Prasidh Krishna would bowl from - to take down Aiden Markram and Matthew Breetzke - and eager to have a word with everyone at the start of their spell, ironing out plans. His attention to detail with field placement was also pin-point. Once, he asked Virat Kohli to move to his left at long-on and Marco Jansen hit the next ball straight down that path.

But by that 43rd over, with South Africa 252 for 8, all the tension had dissipated. Rohit, in particular, was feeling goooooood. The leaner part of him had already been on show. He pulled off a sharp stop to prevent Dewald Brevis from getting a boundary at backward point. Kuldeep woke up the meaner part of him.

Rohit, from the 2023 World Cup to the 2025 Champions Trophy, was a violent presence at the top of India's batting line-up. Only 24% of the shots he attempted in the first ten overs were defensive. Since the Australia ODIs - by which point he had retired from every other form of cricket and was chasing the 2027 World Cup dream - he has been rather more sedate. Forty per cent of his shots in the first ten overs had become defensive.

Obviously, that requires context. Conditions in Perth, Adelaide and Sydney weren't easy and against South Africa, Yashasvi Jaiswal seemed comfortable taking those early risks so that the rest of the batting line-up could focus on and post dew-proof totals batting first. Rohit used to play like this a lot, back when he kept churning out daddy hundreds. Has he reverted to type given where his career is at and the goal he has set for himself?

ESPNCricinfo

Smriti Mandhana Confirms Wedding 'Called Off'

In a statement, Smriti Mandhana says "it's time to move forward"

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI: India batter Smriti Mandhana has confirmed that her wedding has been "called off". She and music composer Palash Muchhal were scheduled to marry on November 23, but it was initially postponed after Mandhana's father was hospitalised.

Mandhana appealed for privacy in her statement on Instagram. "Over the past few weeks

there has been plenty of speculation around my life and I feel it is important for me to speak out at this time," she wrote in her post. "I am a very private person and I would like to keep it that way but I need to clarify that the wedding is called off."

"I would like to close this matter here and implore all of you to do the same. I request you to please respect the privacy of both families at this time and allow us the space to process



and move on at our own pace.

"I believe there is a higher purpose driving us all and for me that has always been representing my country at the highest level," she wrote. "I hope to continue to play and win trophies for India for as long as possible and that is where my focus will forever be."

She concluded her statement by saying, "It's time to move forward."

Mandhana was the second-

highest run-scorer during India's successful campaign in the recent women's ODI World Cup, with 434 runs at an average of 54.25.

Her next assignment is the five-T20I series against Sri Lanka at home from December 21 to 30, after which she will lead Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the 2026 WPL from January 9. RCB play the opening game of the season against Mumbai Indians in Navi Mumbai.

Umran is worried about his body, but won't compromise on his speed

RAJAN RAJ

KOLKATA: Umran Malik will not compromise on his speed. It's his "identity" and his "natural ability", and though he is on a comeback trail after over a year out with injuries - a hip issue the last - he will keep bowling as fast as he can since it's a point of difference between him and other quicks in the country.

"Every fast bowler in the world knows that injuries are going to be a part of his career. But speed is my natural aspect. How can I compromise with that? Speed is my biggest strength, and I want to continue to maintain that strength," Malik told ESPNCricinfo on the sidelines of Jammu and Kashmir's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy match against Hyderabad in Kolkata on December 4.

"You can't bowl at 150(kph) straight away. You reach that speed gradually. I don't want to show my speed to anyone, but I want to show my wickets. But it is also that after ten years [of bowling at a competitive level], I want to bowl at 140 [from 150] and not come down to a speed of 130 from 150."

Before turning out in the latest edition of the Ranji Trophy and the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy tournaments, Malik had last played in March 2024 in the IPL that year, for Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) against Mumbai Indians (MI). He was with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in IPL 2025 but could not play a single match.

"Money is not a concern. The first and last thing is that my fit-



ness and form should be such that I play every match for the team and take wickets. If I can't do this, then what will be my value as a player?"

Coming back from a serious injury takes a toll on the body as well as on the mind, and Malik's focus has changed a bit now.

"After spending time at NCA [BCCI's Centre of Excellence] and talking to many experts, I have started to understand my body better," he said. "I now know what things need to be managed better if I want to avoid injury."

Though KKR have let go of a number of their players, including some big-ticket stars, Malik has been retained ahead of IPL 2026.

"I know that for many Indian fast bowlers, it is not that difficult to be part the IPL. It's probably easy for me too, but I'm not just thinking of taking part in the tournament," he said. "Money is not a concern. The first and last thing is that my fitness and form should be such that I play every match for the team and take wickets. If I can't do this, then what will be my value as a player?"

"I will work as hard as I have to. I will learn where I make mistakes. I will take care of myself and want to make my comeback memorable."

Those who have watched him bowl this season have found a slightly different Malik, who has maintained his speeds while also appearing to bowl within himself a bit.

At present, Malik's eyes are focused solely on the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, but it is with an eye on the future, starting with the IPL.

District Chess Championship Baramulla Concludes at SRM Welkin Sore

AASHIQ HUSSAIN

SOPORE, DEC 08: The District Level Chess Championship Baramulla concluded successfully today at SRM Welkin Educational Trust Sopore. The event was organized by the District olympic Association Baramulla in collaboration with J&K Sports council. The championship was open to all age groups and witnessed the participation of boys and girls from various schools and clubs



across the district. The event aimed to promote Chess talent at the grassroots level and to identify potential players who will represent UT Level Chess championship. During the concluding ceremony, Haji Anayatullah Hajini Chairman SRM Welkin Educational Trust Sopore graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He, along with other dignitaries, distributed trophies and medals among the winning and runner-up teams. The organizers expressed gratitude to all participants, officials, and guests for their support and enthusiasm, ensuring the successful culmination of the championship. Among others Majid Bashir former President Sopore cricket association, former chief sports officer JK Sports council Peerzada abQayoom, Technical official AKFI Khazir Mohammad Ganaie, PET Smart School system Zahoor Ahmad, Students and Sports lovers were present on the occasion.



Kruhen Cultural Forum Ushers in New Era With Fresh Leadership

Role of Election Committee Led by Mumtaz Rashid and Dilbar Wanigami Lauded for Smooth, Fair Polls

Shamim Ahmad Shamim Elected as President, SGM Andrabi, as Vice President, Sharief Hussain Qadri as Gen Secretary, Abid Ashraf Sahib as Treasurer, S. Mumtaz Hamdani as Librarian and Jahangir Bukhari as Publicity Secretary



HT NEWS NETWORK

MURADABAD KREERI, DEC 07: The Kruhen Cultural Forum Muradabad Kreeri, one of the oldest and most influential literary and cultural institutions in North Kashmir has elected a new administrative body, signalling what members described as a revitalised phase of cultural preservation, organisational strengthening, and literary renaissance.

The elections, conducted on Sunday at Government Model Higher Secondary School Muradabad Kreeri, saw registered members actively participating in the process. The Election Committee, chaired by Mumtaz Rashid with support from senior member Dilbar Wanigami, was widely appreciated for its transparent and well-coordinated proceedings.

Although most positions were filled through unanimous decision, the post of General Secretary witnessed a keen contest between Syed Sharief Hussain Qadri and Dr. Reyaz Ahmad Alai (Rabbani).

After polling concluded, Qadri emerged as the winner, securing the only contested seat.

Newly Elected Office Bearers of the forum include

President: Syed Shamim Ahmad Shamim
Vice President: Syed Ghulam Mohiuddin Andrabi
General Secretary: Syed Sharief Hussain Qadri
Treasurer: Abid Ashraf
Librarian: Syed Mumtaz Hamdani
Publicity Secretary: Jahangir Bukhari
Members present at the venue

described the election as an important milestone in the Forum's long cultural journey—one that predates several renowned regional institutions, including Adbi Markaz Kamraaz. Many noted that the Forum has historically functioned as a platform for voices shaping Kashmiri literary identity and thought.

The newly elected leadership reaffirmed their commitment to revitalising the organisation through workshops, poetry symposiums, book events, cultural documentation efforts, literary mentorship programs, and public engagement activities.

Expressing gratitude for the confidence placed in him, President Syed Shamim Ahmad Shamim said the Forum will expand its activities and foster inclusivity. "This Forum is not merely an organisation, it is a living archive of linguistic memory and cultural identity. Together, we will work to protect it, strengthen it, and pass it forward to future generations." Newly elected Gen Secretary Syed Sharief Hussain Qadri added.

Newly elected Publicity Secretary Jahangir Bukhari reiterated that the Forum has long served as "a beacon for writers, poets, scholars, and cultural thinkers." He said the new leadership aims to restore the vibrancy the Forum once enjoyed and amplify its outreach beyond traditional literary spaces.

The new body has assumed responsibility immediately and is expected to release its structured annual activity calendar in the coming weeks.

Kruhen Cultural Forum Kreeri Reviving the Cultural Spine of North Kashmir

JAHANGIR BUKHARI

There are cultural institutions that emerge, flourish, and quietly fade into the archives of collective memory — and then there are those that refuse to be forgotten. The Kruhen Cultural Forum Kreeri, established in 1969, belongs firmly to the latter category. As North Kashmir's oldest cultural and literary organisation, the Forum predates even the influential Adbee Markaz Kamraaz and is widely regarded as its ideological parent and foundational inspiration.

Few may recall that at a time when Kashmir was only beginning to shape organised literary thought, the Forum had already begun cultivating a cultural consciousness in the towns and hamlets of North Kashmir. Its architectural mind was the celebrated poet and thinker Syed Manzoor Hashmi, who, with remarkable foresight, envisioned Kreeri as a creative hub rather than a distant literary outpost. His mission was strengthened by a constellation of notable writers, including Mashaal Sultanpuri, Ghulam Mohammad Gamgeen, Syed Sad-ud-Din Saidi, Fayaz Tilgami, Syed Nazir Hussain Hussain, Tanha Nizami, Ranjoor Tilgami, Hosh Wanigami, Shad Dardpuri and others whose contributions have shaped Kashmiri literature in meaningful ways.

The soil of Muradabad Kreeri has long been fertile with cultural brilliance. Its legacy boasts towering literary names such as Sanullah Kreeri, Ameer Shah Kreeri, Wasif Bukhari, Syed Abdul Jabbar Khamosh, and Syed Ali Gowhar Bukhari, each of whom enriched the literary landscape of Kashmir with distinctive voices and contributions.



Yet, despite its illustrious foundation and cultural significance, the organisation drifted into an unexplained period of silence — a long hibernation during which it survived more in memory than in movement. Many feared that the Forum, like many forgotten institutions, might remain a relic of the past.

But history — especially cultural history — often returns with renewed urgency.

Yesterday's elections marked a decisive shift: the Forum has now entrusted its future to a younger, energetic leadership, poised to reconnect it with its original purpose. The newly elected team carries both the promise of revival and the responsibility of safeguarding a cultural inheritance spanning over half a century.

At the centre of this renewed chapter stands Syed Shamim Ahmad Shamim, elected as President — a role that comes not merely with authority, but with expectation. The Forum's members and wider cultural community see in him and his team an

opportunity to breathe life back into a legacy that should never have paused, only progressed.

The task ahead is not merely organisational — it is historical. It requires reconnection with past literary traditions while simultaneously creating space for contemporary voices, especially younger writers seeking identity and belonging in Kashmir's shifting cultural narrative.

As the Kruhen Cultural Forum Kreeri steps once more into the public sphere, there is cautious optimism — and rightful anticipation. Culture lovers, historians, and literary circles across the Valley now watch closely, hopeful that the oldest cultural institution of North Kashmir will reclaim its place not just as a memory — but as a movement.

For a region rooted in poetry, thought, and storytelling, this revival is more than administrative; it is symbolic.

It is a return to continuity. And now, the story begins again.

Grand Literary Event Organised Jointly by Daeraeadab Delina Baramulla and J&K Cultural Academy

Unveiling of the 35th Issue of Literary Journal "Partav" / Poetical Symposium (Mushaira) Also Held

JAMEEL ANSARI

BARAMULLA, DEC 08: Under the patronage of Adbee Markaz Kamraaz (AMK), and in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Cultural and Languages Daera-e-Adab Delina Baramulla organised a grand literary event at the Adbi Markaz Kamraaz Office, Kanispora Baramulla.

The event was presided over by renowned Kashmiri poet and writer Fayaz Tilgami, while distinguished poet Shehnaz Rasheed, senior literary figure Saad-ud-Din Saidi, AMK Vice President Shakir Shafi, Abdul Khaliq Shams, President Daera-e-Adab Delina Muhammad Afzal Afzal, and it's Vice President Shahid Dilnavi graced the podium.

General Secretary of Daera-e-Adab Delina, Qazi Parvaiz, delivered the welcome address,

followed by Zameer Ansari, who paid heartfelt tributes to the late founders of the organization and prayed for their eternal peace.

The proceedings formally commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Syed Nadim Bukhari, after which Shah Nawaz Hussain Mir captivated the audience by presenting a Na'at penned by the late poet Nishat Ansari.

On this occasion, Vice President of Daera-e-Adab Delina and noted writer, poet Shahid Dilnavi presented a paper on the literary history of the organisation and on its annual journal "Partav", which received high appreciation from the audience.

As a gesture of honor, senior member of Daera-e-Adab Delina and editor of the annual journal "Partav", Jameel Ansari, was felicitated with a



traditional shawl by the eminent poet Shehnaz Rasheed.

One of the key highlights of

the ceremony was the formal release of the 35th edition of the literary annual "Partav".

A grand Mushaira was also held as part of the program, in which scores of leading poets from various districts recited their poetry.

The proceedings of the Mushaira was performed by the distinguished writer, poet, and critic Shahid Dilnavi.

The participating poets included: Taseer Afzal, Shuja Sahil Ansari, Riyaz Parwana, Jahami Razaq, Syed Muhammad Madni, Shehzad Manzoor, Qazi Hafiz, Zahoor Haigami, Sher Ali Mashghool, Zameer Ansari, Saleem Yousuf, Masood Shadab, Syed Sarwar Hashmi, Tariq Ahmad Tariq, Qazi Parvaiz, Riyaz Rabbani, Farooq Shaheen, Anzar Mahjoor, Nisar Azam, Nazir Talib, Basheer Qaisar, Syed Nadim Bukhari, Ghulamuddin Bahar, Shabnam Gulzar, Majrooh

Kashmiri, Muhammad Afzal Afzal, Hassan Azhar, Sagar Sarfaraz, Shehnaz Rasheed, Abdul Khaliq Shams, Syed Sad-ud-Din Saidi, Shahid Dilnavi and the president of the event, Fayaz Tilgami.

Prominent literary and media personalities who attended the event included AMK General Secretary Shabnam Tilgami, Dr. Bahar Mash'al, Nazir Ibn-e-Shahbaz Qureshi, Muhammad Ali, Tawqeer Afzal, journalist Qazi Shafiq, Muneeb Hurrar from ETV Urdu, Khan Jahangir from Daily Daily Gadyal and Majid Gannaie from Pramote Kashmir, Dawood Ahmad from DD News, Irshad Ahmad from Gulistan TV, Anzar Mahjoor from Voice TV, and Hudsan Hussain.

At the conclusion of the event, senior member of Daera-e-Adab Delina, Zameer Ansari, presented the vote of thanks.