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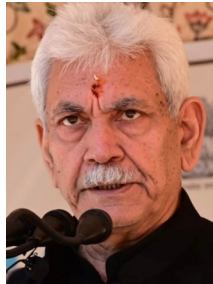
Schools Must Create Unique Individuals for Future Challenges: LG Manoj Sinha

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday stressed that educational institutions must evolve with the changing global landscape and focus on nurturing unique individuals capable of meeting future challenges.

"The world is experiencing transformative changes driven by cutting-edge

technologies and schools must focus on using new tools to aid creativity, curiosity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills," the Lieutenant Governor said while speaking at the 40th Anniversary celebration of Lawrence Public School at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu.



Highlighting the shift in modern learning dynamics, the LG said that the aim of schools and educators should be to unlock the potential of every student rather than confining them to one model of learning.

He lauded Lawrence Public School for its contribution

to holistic education and its legacy of producing successful alumni serving the nation with distinction.

Calling critical thinking and curiosity the greatest strengths of young learners, the Lieutenant Governor urged parents and teachers to allow students to pursue education based on their interests, passions and abilities.

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'Your Money, Your Right' Campaign Returns ₹2,000 Crore : PM Modi Calls for Mass Participation

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday appealed to citizens across the country to actively join the ongoing 'Your Money, Your Right' campaign, which has helped recover and return nearly ₹2,000 crore worth of unclaimed financial assets to rightful owners in just two months.

The nationwide initiative, launched on

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Can Democracy Survive If PM, CM Are Chosen by Infiltrators? : Amit Shah Hits Back

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, DEC 10: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday launched a sharp counterattack against the opposition in the Lok Sabha, accusing them of misleading the nation over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Shah said that the exercise was aimed at strengthening democracy and questioned whether the country's democratic system could remain



secure if "infiltrators" ended up determining who becomes the Prime Minister or Chief Minister. Participating in the debate on election reforms, Shah said the opposition was spreading "one-sided lies" on SIR and unnecessarily creating panic among the people.

"The first SIR was carried out in 1952 when Jawaharlal Nehru was the prime minister. It continued in 1957, 1961, and

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CS Seeks Full Panchayat Saturation, CSC Boost in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 10: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting of the Information Technology Department to review the functioning of Common Service Centres (CSCs), assess the range and quality of services being delivered to citizens, and chart out a roadmap for expanding their reach across all districts of J&K.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department and Power Development Department; Principal Secretary, Finance; Secretary, Information Technology; Secretary, J&K Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board; Managing Director, JPDCL; Chief Executive Officer, JaKeGA; State Head, CSC-SPV, besides other senior officers of the concerned departments.

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Sub-Zero Grip on Kashmir; Zojila -18°C

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 10: Large parts of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh witnessed sharp overnight cooling on Wednesday, with several stations in the Valley recording sub-zero temperatures and Zojila Pass plunging

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Private Participation in Space: Dr Jitendra Briefs LS

HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, DEC 10: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today informed the Lok Sabha that significant and concrete measures have been undertaken over the past four years to encourage private participation in the

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Affordable Housing Is Not a Privilege, It's a Right: CM Omar

Chairs 52nd Board Members Meet of J&K Housing Board

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing accessible and affordable housing, declaring that "Affordable housing is not a privilege, it's a right, and we must deliver it with transparency, speed and accountability." He made the remarks while chairing the 52nd meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jammu



and Kashmir Housing Board (J&KHB) at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The high-level meeting was attended by Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Housing & Urban Development Commissioner Secretary Mandeep Kaur, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, senior finance officials and the Managing

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LG attends HRDS India's 'Veer Savarkar International Impact Award' in New Delhi

Savarkar, the valiant son of Mother India endured tremendous hardship but every moment of his life was dedicated to freedom and development of this soil: LG

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 10: "Savarkar, the valiant son of Mother India endured tremendous hardship but every moment of his life was dedicated to freedom and development of this soil. Today, people of India are working towards creating a Strong, Aatma-Nirbhar and Viksit Bharat, in line with Veer Savarkar's vision", the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday.

He was speaking at the 'Veer Savarkar International Impact Award', organised by High-range Rural Development Society (HRDS India), in New Delhi.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor commended the extraordinary initiative of HRDS India to remind the world about Savarkar's unmatched contribution to the motherland and restore his legacy in citizens' collective consciousness.

Paying homage to Veer Savarkar, the Lieutenant Governor recalled his lifelong campaigns and unparalleled contribu-



tion to India's Freedom struggle. "Savarkar is a symbol of India's success, India's strength, India's prosperity, India's resolve, India's dedication, India's sensitivity,

India's simplicity, India's perseverance, India's culture, and India's dreams. For Savarkar, India was never merely a piece of land, but the centre of human civiliza-

tion," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the national movement, inspired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi's 'Panch Pran' will fulfil Savarkar's vision and dreams.

He also stressed on countering the false narratives to protect historical truth and national pride.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitation to all the award winners for their exceptional devotion and contribution to society and nation-building. He urged them to be the light to guide humanity towards peace, progress and prosperity.

"Veer Savarkar International Impact Award sends a message that the time has come to reclaim India's ancient glory and dedicate ourselves to achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat @ 2047," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Swami Atma Nambi, President, HRDS India; Dr. S. Krishna Kumar, Chairman Emeritus; Shri K.G. Venugopal, Vice President; Shri Aji Krishnan, Founder - Secretary, HRDS India; members of HRDS India and prominent citizens from different walks of life attended the award ceremony.

KU DMS Launches Data Analysis Workshop

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 10: The Department of Management Studies (DMS), University of Kashmir (KU), started a three-day workshop on Data Analysis in Business Research and Econometrics at the Main Campus.

The workshop is designed to strengthen researchers' analytical capabilities and introduce practical tools for handling and interpreting business data.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that universities must equip young researchers with skills that help them analyse and use data responsibly and meaningfully.

"Sound data practices lead to better research outcomes and informed decision-making. Workshops like this help scholars engage with evidence rather than assumptions," she said.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, said that training in data analysis is essential for producing research that is both rigorous and relevant.

Dean Research KU, Prof. Mohammad Sultan Bhat, Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, and Dean, School of Business Studies KU, Prof. Mushtaq



CBK files chargesheet in multi-lakh land fraud case

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 10: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir has filed a chargesheet against four accused in a multi-lakh land fraud case involving forged documents and cheating of multiple purchasers, officials said on Wednesday.

A CBK spokesperson told KNS the chargesheet in FIR No. 18/2025, registered under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 201 and 120-B of the IPC, has been filed before the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar.

The chargesheet names Shabir Ahmad Ganie, Bashir Ahmad Ganie, Javeed Ahmad Hakak—then posted as Patwari—and another Patwari who has since died.

The case was initiated on the basis of a joint



complaint filed by several individuals who alleged they had purchased eight kanals of land through brokers.

Of this, four kanals were shown transferred in the name of one complainant under Khasra No. 92, two kanals in the name of another under Khasra No. 99, and the remaining two kanals in the name of the third complainant's father. However, no valid documents were produced to establish the transfers.

Verification revealed that the mutation numbers provided by the brokers were forged, the spokesperson said.

During investigation, the EOW found that the accused had allegedly acted in criminal conspiracy to prepare fake land documents and mislead the complainants, extracting 725 lakh from them.

The investigation established prima facie evidence of cheating, forgery, destruction of evidence and criminal conspiracy, leading to the filing of the chargesheet for judicial proceedings, the spokesperson added.

The EOW said it remains committed to pursuing economic offences and ensuring accountability through professional investigation. (KNS).

Private Schools Run Amok: Hefty Fees, Zero Facilities: Parents Pay the Price of Official Apathy

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 10: For thousands of economically weaker families in Kashmir, education has turned into a relentless struggle, as private school institutes continue to impose hefty annual fees despite providing minimal or virtually no facilities. Parents allege that schools lacking basic infrastructure are demanding annual charges ranging from Rs 5,000 to even higher, leaving families with shrinking incomes under severe financial strain. Many parents told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that they are being forced to withdraw their children from private institutions simply because they can no longer afford the escalating fees. Ironically, several such children are being admitted to government schools, where teachers draw comparatively high salaries but, according to parents, fail to deliver quality education. "We are trapped

between expensive private schools and ineffective government schools," said a parent from Srinagar, expressing anguish over his child's uncertain future.

The situation has raised serious questions about the functioning of regulatory bodies. The Fee Fixation Committee, meant to regulate school charges and protect parents from exploitation, is accused of existing only on paper. Parents allege that its role has been limited to issuing circulars, with little or no impact on the ground. Similar criticism has been directed at the Education Department, which parents say has failed to intervene meaningfully despite repeated complaints. Locals point out that officials, who themselves draw substantial salaries from the public exchequer, appear more focused on documentation than on enforcing regulations or providing relief to distressed families. The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education,

which claims to have directed private schools to prescribe only government-approved textbooks, has also come under scrutiny. Parents allege that many private schools continue to sell private publications at inflated prices, openly defying official instructions. "Believe it or not, after paying Rs 5,000 annual fee for my class 7th child, I purchased a book 'A parent, while castigating the tall claims made by BOSE, said he was forced to purchase the book Deen-e-Islam for Rs 290 from a shop located just outside the school and run by the same institution. The book, he added, is a private publication recommended by the school despite BOSE's directions to prescribe only government books.' "When informed that BOSE has directed private schools to prescribe only government-issued textbooks, the book seller said that BOSE provides merely two or three books, while parents purchase the remaining textbooks from private publications."

Srinagar Police Attaches Property of Notorious Drug Peddler Worth Rs 2 Crores

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 10: In its relentless efforts to curb the Drug menace and dismantle the infrastructure supporting illegal narcotics trade, Srinagar Police attached a three-storeyed residential house along with 1 kanal of land, valued at approximately

Rs 2 Crores, under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The property is in the possession of Fayaz Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohd Bhat R/o Shaltang, the father of notorious drug peddler namely Manzoor Ahmad Bhat R/o Shaltang.

The accused person was involved in case FIR no 98 /2025 U/S 8/22, 29 of NDPS Act of PS Parimpora.

During investigation, it was established that the said property had been acquired through illegal proceeds from drug trafficking.

Acting on these findings, the competent authority ordered the attachment of the property under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act.

The attachment proceedings were carried out in the presence of Executive Magistrate and independent witnesses, with full adherence to legal protocols.

As per the attachment order, the owner is prohibited from selling, leasing, modifying, or creating any third-party interest in the said property.

Srinagar Police reiterates its commitment to dismantling drug networks and taking strict action against individuals involved in the drug trade.

Tarigami Calls for Accountability After Visit to Journalist Arfaz Dang

Says People Deserve to Know Under Whose Watch the Action Was Taken; Praises Land Donation by Kuldeep Sharma as Symbol of Jammu's Communal Harmony

FAROQ RATHER

JAMMU, DEC 10: CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami, on Tuesday visited the residence of journalist Arfaz Ahmad Dang in Jammu, whose house was recently demolished in what he termed a disturbing case of injustice and violation of due process. Tarigami also met Kuldeep Sharma, who voluntarily donated land to Dang's family, describing the gesture as a shining example of communal harmony and the true spirit of Jammu. Tarigami said that Kuldeep Sharma's act of solidarity "reflects the real face of brotherhood at a time when divisive politics is often used as a tool to polarise communities."

Speaking on the demolition, the CPI(M) leader asserted that the Supreme Court directives and mandatory procedures were blatantly ignored.

He said that even in cases involving alleged illegal constructions, a 15-day notice is legally required so that the affected party can respond.

"In this case, no notice was issued, and the basic right to shelter was violated," he said.

Tarigami added that it remains unclear who ordered the demolition



and under whose authority it was executed.

"The people deserve to know the facts. Accountability must prevail, and the truth must come into the public domain," he said.

Calling the action "arbitrary" and "unjust," Tarigami urged the Chief Minister to constitute a time-bound inquiry committee to ascertain responsibility, ensure transparency, and take corrective measures.

He further stated that senior officials and leaders who visited the

family offered assurances, "but mere words are not enough."

"What is required is concrete action, including a thorough probe and adequate compensation for the family," he said, questioning the trauma caused to the aged parents of the journalist.

Tarigami concluded by praising Kuldeep Sharma's humanitarian gesture, saying it has "revived the true image of Jammu—a society rooted in compassion, coexistence, and mutual respect."



Vehicular Movement at Zojila Pass during Winters: Div Com Kashmir Reviews Preparedness Measures

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DEC 10: In view of winter season, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the regulation of vehicular movement on the Srinagar-Sonmarg-Gumri (SSG) road and the opening and closure schedule of the Zojila Pass, which connects the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner urged District Administrations of Kargil and Ganderbal, SSP Rural Kashmir, and officers from BRO and BEACON to maintain close coordination for timely opening and closure of the Zojila Pass based on weather conditions and road status, in consultation with BRO and VIJAYAK.

Officials briefed the Div Com that the current cut-off timing for allowing vehicular movement is 5:00 AM to 10:00 PM from the Kargil side, and 11:30 AM to 5:00 PM from the Ganderbal side.

The Div Com directed District Administration Ganderbal to provide necessary accommodation to stranded passengers in case of snowfall, road closure, or any untoward incident.

The RTO Kashmir and SSP Rural were instructed to ensure that only mechanically fit vehicles ply



on the route. The RTO was also asked to operationalize weighing

bridges along the SSG road. Emphasizing strict adherence

to Traffic Department advisories, the Div Com called for deployment

of recovery cranes along the Zojila Pass and directed the MED to support BEACON with additional machinery.

The Health Department was tasked with ensuring smooth functioning of the Sonmarg hospital and establishing medical camps as needed.

The Div Com also stressed the setting up of a joint control room comprising District Administration Ganderbal, Police, SDRF, CRPF, and other agencies for coordinated management and emergency response.

Directions were also issued to SSP Traffic and SDRF to ensure adequate deployment of personnel for smooth vehicular movement.

To facilitate movement of emergency vehicles from Kargil side, the Div Com directed for magisterial permission to the vehicles to track the vehicles.

In order to ensure effective flow of information, the Div Com directed for operationalization of distribution wireless sets among the nodal officers.

The meeting was attended by DC Ganderbal, DC Kargil, SSP Ganderbal, SSP Kargil, officers from IMD, MED, PWD (R&B), RTO Kashmir, CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, Executive Director NHIDCL Srinagar/Leh, and representatives of BSNL, Jio, and Airtel.

SDM Kokernag holds Block Diwas at Dandipora

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

ANANTNAG, DECEMBER 10: To address the grievances and concerns of the local community especially related to the ensuing winter season, the Sub divisional Administration Kokernag under the directions of Deputy Commissioner and aegis of Rural Development Department, Anantnag organised a community outreach and grievance redressal programme, Block Diwas today at Dandipora, Larnoo.

The programme was presided over by SDM Kokernag, Prince Kumar and witnessed participation from ACD, Tehsildar and BDO Larnoo, ZEO Vailoo, AEE PDD, officers and officials from R&B, PMGSY, Social Welfare, ICDS, Animal Husbandry, JK Bank and other departments,



members of civil society and general public.

During the program, the SDM gave a patient hearing to the residents who raised issues pertaining to road connectivity, healthcare services, rationalisation of teachers, JJM works, availability of men and machinery for snow clearance, disbursement of credit under self employment schemes, minimising man animal conflicts and provision of fire wood, among others.

Addressing the gathering, the SDM reaffirmed the administration's commitment to the time-bound resolution of all genuine grievances, assuring that issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for effective redressal. He issued on-spot directions to the concerned officers to ensure prompt and efficient resolution of genuine concerns raised by the public.

On the occasion, the representatives of various departments imparted awareness to the participants about respective beneficiary oriented schemes and welfare initiatives.

Locals hailed the initiative hoping such programs will continue in future for their betterment and welfare.

DLSA Srinagar Observes World Human Rights Day at GDC Srinagar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 10: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar organised a Legal Awareness Programme at the Auditorium Hall of Government Medical College Srinagar, under the supervision of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (PD&SJ) Srinagar.

The event aimed at encouraging dialogue, spreading awareness and strengthening the understanding of human rights among students professionals and the general public.

The programme was organized in collaboration with Government Medical College Srinagar and Human Rights Anti Corruption Forum HQ Delhi J&K UT.

The initiative brought together legal experts, faculty members medical professionals and students to highlight the importance of safeguarding human dignity and ensuring access to justice for all.

The Programme was attended by Tabassum Qadir Parray, Secretary DLSA Srinagar; Dr. Andleeb Bashir, Medical Superintendent SMHS Hospital Srinagar and Dr. Mohammad Aijaz Ashraf, Regional Director, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, who gave a general overview of the Human Rights on World Human Rights Day.

The Resource Persons (Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel), discussed the rights of unborn child, rights of the mother, rights of domestic workers and right of old age people and ALAD highlighted the importance of collective action in protecting human rights among Medical professionals and students.

Later, Secretary DLSA Srinagar inspected the Legal Aid Clinic at GMC Srinagar, reviewed its functioning and interacted with the deputed PLVs to ensure effective delivery of Legal Services to beneficiaries. She also appreciated the cooperation of GMC Srinagar and valuable contribution of all the speakers.

The event aimed to strengthen awareness and reinforced the commitment towards protection and promotion of human rights.

SCERT Concludes Month-Long Training Program for over 3000 Aayas across Kashmir

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 10: In a major boost to early childhood care and education in Jammu and Kashmir, the State Council of Educational Research and Training, Kashmir Division (SCERT-KD) successfully concluded a landmark month-long training programme for more than 3,000 Aayas (ECCE Helpers) across all 10 districts of the Kashmir division.

Implemented in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), UNICEF and the Jammu & Kashmir Association of Social Workers

(JKASW), the initiative is being hailed by educationists as the watershed event in the education landscape being the largest capacity-building exercise for school support staff in the region with the prospect of translating into holistic development of children. Each district trained 300 Aayas (ECCE helpers) through a phased schedule conducted between November 3 and December 9, 2025. The officials said the training focused on equipping Aayas (ECCE helpers) with essential skills, clarity on responsibilities and an understanding of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and Early Childhood Care and

Education (ECCE) framework.

Nearly 50 trained Resource Persons were deployed across districts after undergoing a three-day preparatory workshop at SCERT in October 2025.

The successful completion of the large-scale training marks a significant milestone in strengthening foundational learning in government schools across Kashmir. It recognises the vital role of Aayas in pre-primary classrooms and reinforces the commitment of SCERT-KD, UNICEF and partner organisations toward building supportive, child-friendly learning environments across the Valley.

ARTO Bandipora conducts Extensive Traffic Enforcement drive in district

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 10: On the directions of the Transport Commissioner J&K, Team ARTO Bandipora conducted a district-wide traffic checking drive during which 200 vehicles were inspected, and multiple challans were issued for various violations.

The enforcement resulted in 41 compoundable challans, amounting to 49,000 in fines. The drive specifically targeted key traffic violations that pose serious risks to public safety.

The checking focused on high-risk offences including riding two-wheelers without helmets, driving four-wheelers without seat belts, operating vehicles without functional speed-limiting devices, wrong or unauthorized parking leading to obstruction and congestion, and driving without valid motor insurance, a violation



that also leaves accident victims uncompensated.

The ARTO Bandipora team emphasised that such targeted enforcement drives are aimed at deterring habitual violators, creating visible deterrence on roads, and reinforcing that non-compliance with traffic rules will result in financial penalties and legal action.

District Admin Anantnag organizes CBRN Mock Exercise

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

ANANTNAG, DECEMBER 10: Strengthen emergency preparedness for disaster management in CBRN scenario, the District Administration Anantnag in collaboration with NDRF/SDRF, Fire & Emergency Services, Civil Defence, Health and other line departments, organised a mock exercise today at Dak Bangalow Khanabal.

The mock drill was held under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner (CEO, DDMA) Anantnag and focussed on evaluating the response capabilities, coordination mechanism and operational readiness for any disaster-like situation at district level.

During the mock exercise, the participating teams practiced key operations including rapid assessment and sealing of affected area, evacuation and triage of victims, decontamination procedures, on-



sight medical management and transportation of casualties and coordination between field responders, Emergency Operation Center, and District Authorities.

Officers and officials from key departments like NDRF/SDRF, F&E Services, Health, R&B, Revenue, Jal Shakti, RDD, FCS&CA, KPDC, I&FC, Horticulture, Agriculture and NSS/NCC volunteers, among others, participated in the mock exercise.

MLA Lolab reviews stock & supply position of essential commodities in Machil Block

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, DECEMBER 10: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Lolab, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone today held an extensive tour of far flung border area Machill of Lolab Assembly Constituency to review the stock and supply position of essential commodities and winter preparedness of the line departments for the ensuing winter period.

The MLA visited different places of the Machill block during which he inspected Primary Health Centre Dudi, Receiving Station and other developmental projects.

While visiting PHC Dudi, the MLA inspected different sections of the health centre, besides interacting with the patients and

doctors. He stressed upon the concerned officials to ensure cleanliness and hygiene in the hospital premises to avoid spreading of the infections. He also checked the duty roster of the doctors, paramedics and the staff and directed them to ensure their availability in the health center without showing any laxity.

The MLA also inspected the Receiving Station Machill and was informed about the damage of a panel. Due to prevailing weather conditions, the MLA directed the PDD officials for replacement of the panel on war footing basis which will be provided out of his CDF.

At Tehsil Headquarter Machill, the MLA chaired a meeting with various District and Block level officers to review the stock and

supply position of essential commodities and winter preparedness of line departments including snow clearance measures.

The meeting was attended by ACD Kupwara, CMO, AD Fisheries, Executive Engineers of R&B/PHE/PMGSY; BDO, Tehsildar, and concerned officers of line departments.

Addressing the meeting, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone said that the far flung areas like Machill need special focus as it provides unique challenges for survival and development. He impressed upon all the officers of line departments to work with added zeal and enthusiasm for overall development of Machill which will ease out the sufferings of the people.

Reviewing the stock of



essential commodities, the MLA was informed that sufficient stock of essential commodities including rice, atta and sugar is available in the godowns of Food

department to cater to the needs of the local population during the winter season.

He also reviewed snow clearance measures and was

informed that both R&B and PMGSY are clearing the roads in the block as and when snowfalls. He directed the concerned engineers to ensure availability of men and machinery in Machill for timely snow clearance as and when required. Reviewing power scenario, the chair was informed that power supply is being provided on 12 hour schedule on daily basis to the people. He enquired about the buffer stock of transformers and asked the concerned engineers for supply of additional transformers so that people does not face any inconvenience during winters.

Regarding water supply, the MLA asked the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti for connecting the uncovered habitations and assured support from his side to ensure drinking water supply

to the people living in difficult terrain.

The MLA took a detailed review of various other departments including Health, Rural Development, PWD, ICDS, Social Welfare, Handicrafts etc. and assessed their performance and progress in Machill block. He issued on spot directions to the concerned officers for resolving the grievances of the people on priority basis.

Later, the MLA inaugurated the Play ground Machill which has been constructed recently by the Rural Development department. He directed the BDO concerned for upgradation of the Playground as Stadium for the large benefit of the local youth. He also inaugurated the Government quarter at Machill.





DC Srinagar conducts Tehsil wise review of Revenue related matters

Directs for prompt service delivery to public, strict adherence to PSGA timelines

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR DEC 10:- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Wednesday conducted a Tehsil wise review of Revenue related matters at the Conference Hall of the DC Office and conducted a comprehensive review of delivery of key revenue related services.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz-Ul-Aziz; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur; SDM East, Zuber Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar; all Tehsildars and Assistant Revenue Attorney(ARA) with DC and other concerned.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress and performance of Revenue



functionaries in all Tehsils of the district, with an emphasis on timely disposal of Revenue Service under Public Service Guarantee Act(PSGA), replies to Court cases, modernization



of Revenue Offices and other revenue related matters.

On the occasion, the DC stressed the need for strict adherence to PSGA timelines for providing

services to public and in a qualitative manner. He underlined the importance of adopting an effective and efficient mechanism to enhance the overall performance of the Revenue Department in the district. He urged the Officers to ensure quality disposal of public grievances, satisfactory and timely services to the citizens.

He directed officers to avoid unnecessary reversion of applications under PSGA and to focus on the swift disposal of revenue services. He also laid emphasis on prioritizing SRO-43 cases and accelerating their processing

The DC further asked the Revenue Officers to perform duties with due diligence and zeal, closely supervising and monitoring the works of field functionaries, with the aim of providing better and time-bound services to the people.

Div Com Kashmir for vibrant Winter Tourism Activities at Sonamarg

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 10: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting to assess the preparedness for winter tourism activities at Sonamarg, following the operationalization of the all-weather Sonmarg Tunnel, which has ensured uninterrupted road connectivity to the famed tourist destination.

During the meeting, the Div Com stressed the need for the District Administration Ganderbal and the Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) to adopt a vibrant and proactive approach in planning and executing diverse winter tourism and winter sports activities. He highlighted that the improved winter access provides a unique opportunity to promote Sonamarg as a premier winter destination and significantly enhance tourist footfall during the season.

The Div Com directed the concerned officers to ensure that hotel facilities, accommodation units, and tourist service establishments are thoroughly inspected ahead of the winter season. He emphasized



strict adherence to food safety norms, fire safety protocols, and other essential public convenience measures to guarantee a safe and comfortable experience for tourists.

Anshul Garg further underlined the importance of coordinated efforts between district authorities, police, and tourism bodies to ensure seamless arrangements, including snow clearance, traffic regulation, emergency response, and availability of essential services throughout the winter months.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, SSP Ganderbal, CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, and other senior officers from the district and line departments.

DC Budgam chairs District Task Force review meeting on Pulse Polio Immunization Drive 2025

Stresses Zero-Tolerance for Lapses

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, DECEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a comprehensive District Task Force Review Meeting to finalise preparations for the Pulse Polio Immunization Drive 2025, scheduled for December 21, 2025.

The meeting was attended by PO ICDS Budgam, CMO Budgam, CEO Budgam, DIO Budgam, all BMOs, ARTO Budgam, all other concerned district officers, health authorities, block-level teams and officials from supporting departments who are directly involved in vaccination planning, booth management, logistics, supervision and field execution.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed in detail the district-wide micro-plan for the immunization drive, which included block-wise targets, the number of Pulse Polio booths, manpower deployment and the overall preparedness of health and field teams.

Officers presented the complete structure of booth arrangements across Budgam district along with the deployment of vaccinators, supervisors and supporting manpower to ensure smooth functioning of the campaign.

A special focus of the meeting remained on high-risk and hard-to-reach areas, with detailed block-wise presentations covering 46 such villages across the district. These included 12 villages in Khansahib, 8 in Charari Sharief, 7 in Khag, 6 in Chadoora and 13 in

Nagam.

The DC emphasised that all these locations must receive dedicated attention, with proper vaccination booths, field supervision and follow-up mechanisms to ensure that no eligible child is left out.

The meeting also assessed the location and functioning of transit booths, which will be established at busy mobility points such as markets, bus stands and major travel routes to cover children who are on the move during the campaign period. Officers from the health department shared block-wise requirements of vaccine vials, cold chain logistics, print material, banners and other necessary supplies for the smooth execution of the drive.

The DC reviewed the plan for

door-to-door verification activities that will follow the booth day, aimed at identifying and vaccinating any missed children. A detailed schedule of trainings and workshops for supervisors, vaccinators, ASHAs, AWWs and other field workers was also presented, along with the calendar for District and Block Task Force meetings to ensure coordinated preparations till the day of the drive.

During the discussions, the DC issued a strong directive to keep strict track of all migratory and tribal populations, particularly families moving from one district to another, so that every child under five years of age belonging to these groups is covered under the immunization programme.

He stressed that mobile teams and transit points must work in

close coordination to ensure that the movement of such populations does not result in any child being missed during the drive.

The DC directed officers to ensure 100 percent booth staffing, timely reporting, strong monitoring and uninterrupted vaccine supply across all blocks. He reiterated the importance of coordination between health, ICDS, education, RDD and other supporting departments, and called for extensive public awareness so that every parent ensures their child receives the polio drops.

The DC directed all concerned departments to work collectively for the successful and comprehensive implementation of the Pulse Polio Immunization Drive 2025 across District Budgam.

DC Bandipora reviews Multi-Sector projects to strengthen public services in district

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today conducted an extensive inspection of major developmental works in Ajas, Nadihal and adjoining areas to assess progress on key infrastructure, public service delivery, and ongoing rehabilitation projects.

The tour commenced with the review of the ongoing construction work of the Model School for the Educationally Backward Block at Boys Higher Secondary School Nadihal, Bandipora. The Deputy Commissioner assessed the progress on-site, appreciated the efforts of the executing agency, and urged them to work with greater dedication to ensure seamless and timely results.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the ongoing Water Supply Project for IRP at Ajas, being executed at a project cost of 1.79 crore. The DC inspected the site and directed the Executive Engineer, Ground Water Division, to explore additional and sustainable water sources to ensure an uninterrupted water supply to the IRP establishment.

The Deputy Commissioner also carried out an extensive inspection of the FCI PEG Ajas, accompanied by the Assistant Director FCS&CA Bandipora.

During the inspection, the DC checked stock position, quality control measures, hygiene standards, and the food grain dispatch system. The AD FCS&CA Bandipora briefed the DC about the functioning of the PEG facility, including procurement, storage protocols, and supply-chain management.

The DC also inspected the quality control laboratory, pest control mechanisms, and storage infrastructure. She reviewed the winter-dumped food grain stocks for Gurez and other snow-bound areas, ensuring that supplies for remote regions were adequately stored and maintained in optimal condition.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the Capex (Rehabilitation) works amounting to 97 lakh, approved for restoring infrastructure damaged during the August-September 2025 floods. She reviewed the progress of restoration works and directed the concerned officers to expedite execution while maintaining quality and safety standards. In continuation of her field review, the DC also took stock of the ongoing works at Papchan Nalla under the WUCMA-funded project, sanctioned at 3.29 crore. She examined the progress achieved during the current season, stressing on timely execution.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to maintain high standards of quality, transparency, and coordination in all ongoing works and to ensure uninterrupted public services during the winter months. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Assistant Director FCS&CA Bandipora; Executive Engineer R&B Bandipora; Executive Engineer I&FC Bandipora and other concerned officers.

ACD Bandipora conducts outreach programme at Block Aloosa

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 10: Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Bandipora today conducted an extensive outreach programme at Block Aloosa, covering Panchayats Kema and Ashtingoo, and inspected various work sites proposed for execution under the MGNREGA scheme prior to issuing Administrative Approval for these works.

During the visit, the ACD interacted with local inhabitants who apprised him of their requirements and highlighted the necessity of the proposed works for strengthening local infrastructure, improving connectivity, and enhancing livelihood avenues in the area. He patiently heard the issues raised by the community, including demands related to irrigation channels, link roads, and land development works.

After verifying the genuineness of the proposed works on ground, the ACD assured that all feasible and genuine demands will be taken up on priority to ensure timely creation of durable assets and generation of sustainable employment opportunities for the local population. He reiterated that the administration is committed to ensuring that MGNREGA continues to serve as an effective social security and asset-creation programme. He further emphasized that labour demand and workforce availability in the concerned Panchayats will be duly considered while finalizing the work plan, so that maximum wage employment is provided to job card holders under the scheme. He also urged locals to actively demand work and participate in the developmental process. The ACD directed concerned officials to prioritize works pertaining to agriculture, allied sectors, water conservation, and Natural Resource Management (NRM), keeping in view the long-term developmental needs of the region. He instructed the field functionaries to ensure that all approved works are executed strictly in accordance with MGNREGA guidelines, maintaining complete transparency, proper record-keeping, and regular monitoring. He also stressed the importance of geo-tagging, timely measurements, and prompt wage payments to ensure smooth implementation and enhance public trust in the programme. The ACD further advised officials to strengthen coordination with Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) for better planning and community participation.

The outreach programme concluded with the ACD encouraging the locals to utilize the benefits of MGNREGA fully and to bring forth their suggestions to make developmental activities more community-driven and effective.

Onboarding of PM vishwakarma Artisans on Meesho Platform Initiated at Br MSME DFO Srinagar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 10: A one-day workshop on onboarding PM Vishwakarma (PMV) beneficiaries on the Meesho Pvt. Ltd., e-commerce platform was successfully conducted at the Branch MSME Development & Facilitation Office (DFO), Srinagar.

The program was graced by A.K. Tamar, IEDS, Joint Director, MSME DFO Jammu, as the Chief Guest. The event was also attended by officials from MSME DFO Srinagar, District Industries Centre Budgam, DCSrinagar, representatives from the PMU Unit Kashmir, and members of the Meesho CSR & Training team.

The workshop aimed to empower PM Vishwakarma artisans by introducing them to digital marketplace opportunities and guiding them through

the Meesho onboarding process. Participants were given hands-on demonstrations on how to register as sellers, upload product details, manage catalogues, and handle online orders.

The Meesho team also briefed artisans on packaging standards, logistics support, and best practices for improving visibility and sales on the platform. More than 80 artisans actively participated in the programme, reflecting strong enthusiasm and readiness to expand their market reach through e-commerce. During the event, five artisans were successfully onboarded onto the Meesho platform, marking a significant step toward integrating traditional craft-based entrepreneurs with modern digital markets. The initiative aims to enhance the income prospects of artisans by connecting them directly with

nationwide consumers.

The PM Vishwakarma scheme, implemented by the Ministry of MSME, focuses on supporting traditional artisans and craftspeople engaged in 18 identified trades by providing skill training, toolkit incentives, credit support, and market linkages. The integration of artisans with e-commerce platforms is a key component of fostering sustainable self-employment and enhancing their competitiveness in today's digital economy.

Officials highlighted that such programmes will continue across the Kashmir region to ensure that more eligible PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries benefit from structured market access initiatives. Other eligible artisans who attended the workshop will be onboarded onto the Meesho platform in the coming days.

DDC Doda convenes Block Diwas Camp at Panchayat Mundhar Lower-A, Kastigarh

Locals project multiple development demands

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, DECEMBER 10: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Harvinder Singh today convened a Block Diwas Camp at Panchayat Mundhar Lower-A, Kastigarh (Doda).

A large number of people attended the camp and put forth development demands, seeking timely intervention from the district administration. The outreach initiative served as a crucial platform for residents to communicate their grievances directly to Officers/officials, many of which have remained unresolved for years.

Among the prominent issues raised was the demand for restoration and blacktopping of vital road stretches, including 500-metre Koti road segment and

the Saras-Kastigarh road.

Locals also demanded relief and land allotment for families affected by recent landslides, many of whom have suffered extensive property damage.

Residents also expressed concern over the rising bear menace in the region and urged the wildlife department to take preventive and protective measures. Further demands included timely renewal of labour cards, settlement of AAY ration cards, installation of street lights and sanctioning of a new transformer to improve the power supply. The youth strongly demanded a playground to promote sports and prevent drug abuse, while locals also highlighted pending issues such as non-implementation of RDSS works, delay in Animal Husbandry building construction, and the GDCKastigarh



land dispute—seeking retendering to expedite completion of the College campus.

Demands were also raised for a mobile medical unit, construction of Panchayat Ghar at Shamthi, development, maintenance of the roads and land allotment for families affected by landslides.

Responding to the public

concerns, the DDC directed departments to organise awareness camps to educate people about government schemes and assured PMAY housing support for landslide-affected families. He instructed the XEN PMGSY to prioritize road restoration works and directed the Tehsildar to identify land for the establishment

of Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) Kastigarh.

The DDC Doda also assured development of a playground for local youth, ordered installation of wildlife cages to contain dangerous animal movement and instructed concerned departments to resolve MGNREGA material availability issues. He further affirmed improvement in basic infrastructure, including transformer supply, street lighting and essential public services.

Later, the DDC visited the landslide-affected site, inspected the extent of road damage and interacted with the locals of the area. The DDC was accompanied by DDC Councillor Kastigarh, CPO, ACD, SE Hydraulic, PO ICDS, CMO, CAO Doda, DSWO Doda, concerned XENs and other officers and officials.



HT EDITORIAL

Find ways and means to regulate traffic in Srinagar

The other day Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic city Aijaz Ahmad Bhat told media persons that traffic lights alone cannot regulate the movement of traffic in the city. The SSP said that people need to follow the proper rules and only then the traffic mess can be overcome. The city traffic police chief might be right to some extent but this alone cannot solve the traffic mess prevalent in Srinagar city.

Some time back the traffic police department while installing the intelligent traffic management system (ITMS) in Srinagar claimed that the same would solve the traffic woes of Srinagar city. This claim seems to have gone awry and the department seems to be looking for excuses as there is no end to traffic jams in the Srinagar city. Given the fact that they are not able to regulate traffic on the city roads the traffic police resorts to diversions on busy intersections.

Srinagar is probably the only city in the world where the traffic police in order to streamline traffic resorts to diversions. As a result of this a lot of the people get wasted and at the same time there is an increase in the automobile pollution level in the Srinagar city. It is not prudent to resort to diversions while regulating traffic since people are put to trouble. The pain and agony is more so for the patients being ferried from home to hospital or from one hospital to another one.

Since the traffic police department is meant to regulate traffic, it is the duty of the department higher-ups to find out the ways and means to carry out this job. Experts in the field have to chip in and come out with a solution so that there is an everlasting problem. It would be great if the department carries out consultations with their counterparts in some of the metropolitan cities of the country. There is no harm in getting suggestions from the people who have made a mark in traffic management.

The masses as a whole want a solution to the traffic problems and for the same, they want each and every stakeholder to play their part. It is important that the traffic police department along with the officials of the regional transport office play their role to perfection in this regard. Once multiple suggestions are invited then only one can lead to an everlasting solution to this glaring problem.

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Villages minimising the anxiety



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Before ten years, we could clearly differentiate between a city and a village. In the past, electricity was so weak that bulbs only gave dim light on the walls. It was very difficult to get clear visibility on the floor surface. Electric poles were very rare; most households used temporary and risky wiring for electricity and felt immense pleasure even when they got a dim light occasionally.

The roads were just sources of dust, and even a heavy bus would move on these roads with uneven jerks. Drivers kept the third and fourth gears at rest due to the dilapidated condition of the roads. The roads were risky and caused frequent accidents, especially when a driver made a wrong turn.

In the upper reaches, ten or more households would share a single water point. Womenfolk had to do labour work that was not exercise for them. During winters, when taps got frozen, our womenfolk rushed to nearby springs to bring drinking water and used it very carefully. That activity was so hectic that most households ended up in unhygienic conditions and severe health issues.

Alhamdulillah! Today every household in remote areas has sufficient water facilities. I salute those who sponsored schemes like the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and provided clean tap water to every home. This act definitely blessed the higher-ups. It is a great comfort to the underprivileged class, and people appreciate the scheme. But due to some selfish contractors and negligence of officials, this scheme faces issues in some areas where the public complains that the work was not done properly. Some contractors even engage household members for pipe digging without paying them labour charges.

Schemes like the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) and other projects for better connectivity, protection bunds, and drainage systems have provided great relief to the population living in villages. Today, almost every village is connected to each other, roads are macadamized, and people feel great comfort and appreciate the government for these steps.

Today, around 90 percent of villages are electrified, and only a few areas still lack electricity. But one unfortunate thing is the hike in electricity charges. It is very difficult for the underprivileged class to pay electricity bills promptly; they should be given relaxation by the central government.

What came to my mind encouraged me to write this article for a renowned newspaper of the Kashmir Valley.

When I was in 7th class, I started bodybuilding. It was my passion to stay healthy and fit so that I would not feel exhausted and lethargic in school. My school witnessed how much I contributed to a number of activities like scouting, cricket, bodybuilding, etc.

In Srinagar at that time, we had very few gym centres, and they were not equipped with advanced machines. Most players were passionate and did their best, always staying away from drugs and keeping their health a priority. Now, after every two kilometres in Srinagar, we have a gym centre. Unfortunately, today we are facing a severe drug menace. Even the government is very concerned and is applying stringent acts against drug peddlers. Drug peddlers deserve capital punishment, and every corner should be checked so that this curse is eliminated. Youth need proper counselling, education, and sports activities.

Today's youth demand a free zone, which means we should counsel them properly. Tell them, "Give your best, you are still in." Never discourage them when they fail to achieve their goals. Always encourage them and provide opportunities so that they get enough time to know themselves and overcome all odds in life.

I am residing in Bhatti Mohalla Raiyar-Ich, Khansahib, District Budgam, a beautiful and mesmerizing village in the Kashmir Valley. My village is known for noon chai and makkhi roti. Due to the

famous tourist destination Doodhpathri, my village has gained identity as an emerging tourist village in Khansahib.

Just ten years ago, this village was backward in all respects road connectivity, electricity network, tap water facilities, and many more. Today, we have most facilities, but unfortunately, the road connectivity from my home to the main Doodhpathri Road has still not been taken up by the concerned authorities. Some miscreants are blocking the main entrance and keeping us deprived of this basic facility. Still, I am blessed and thankful for many things. I appeal to the government authorities to kindly intervene and take up our road from High School Raiyar-Ich to Bhatti Mohalla. We are losing our dignity without a road. How is it possible that due to some selfish brokers, they can block our road? We have MSc students and civil service aspirants, and the area is purely inhabited by the Gujjar community.

Alhamdulillah, I am passionate about bodybuilding. I have set up a mini gym in a single room at my home.

One of my friends, Mohammad Yousuf, suggested that there is a gym at Yarikhah, just 2 kilometres from my home. A couple of days ago, I went there, got the key from the owner's family, opened the lock, and was surprised that we have such a great gym with imported machines near the shrine of Syed Yaqoob Balkhi. Alhamdulillah.

I talked to some people and the gym owner about their experience. They told me that people are not aware of such beneficial activities. I requested them to please spread the awareness among the general youth so that they visit the gym, get attracted, and explore the iron game world.

Suggestion: Our village is emerging in terms of development, education, business, and many more fields. So we have to keep in mind the mistakes we made while framing the master plan of cities like Srinagar, where we face flood threats and pollution issues. We must keep ample space for plantation, drainage, roads, and irrigation canals. We must stop illegal encroachment so that development becomes permanent, not temporary.

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Childhood: Then and Now



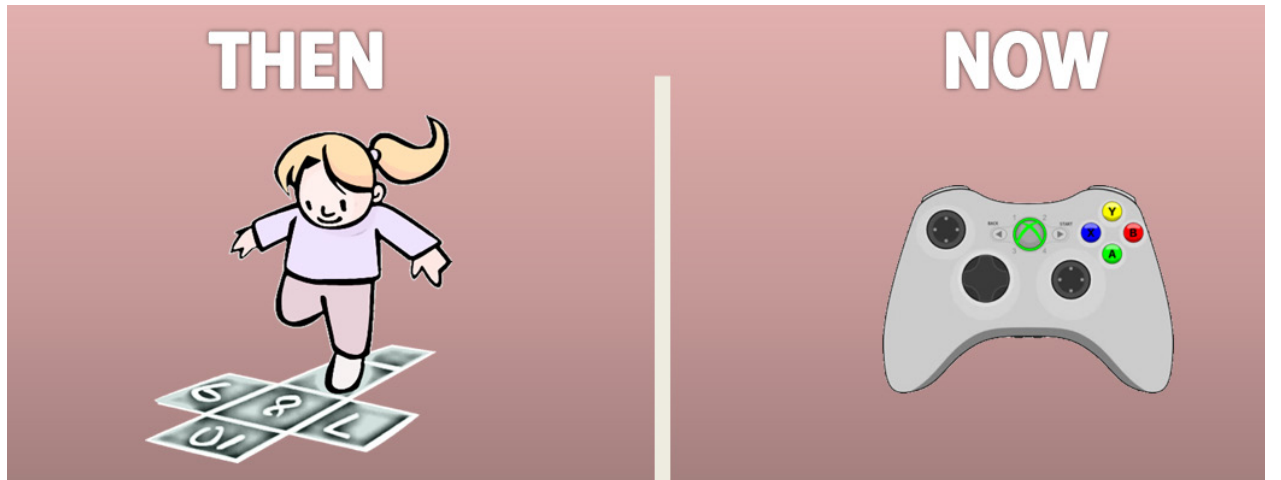
MOOL RAJ

Childhood has always been the most delicate and crucial stage of human life. Doctors advise parents to exercise extra caution during these formative years, while psychologists and educationists stress the need for vigilance, knowing that this stage becomes the cornerstone of a person's overall personality. Writers and poets have celebrated childhood in verses and prose, capturing its innocence, aspirations, and unfiltered joy—an innocence rarely preserved into adulthood.

But the essence of childhood, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, has undergone a dramatic transformation over the past few decades. To compare the childhood of three or four decades ago with that of today is to look at two different worlds—both shaped by their times, yet standing apart in values, habits, and experiences.

In the Jammu and Kashmir of the past, before mobile phones and handheld screens, children lived in rhythm with the seasons and the pulse of their homes. Mornings would begin with a cup of pink salt tea brewed by mothers on traditional clay chulas. A freshly baked bread made from rice or wheat flour, turned golden on an iron pan, was enough to satisfy early hunger. After this simple breakfast, children prepared their school lessons—writing neatly on both sides of a wooden takhti, often practicing English and Urdu lines. Mothers would soon call them for rice before they set out for school.

At school, camaraderie flourished. Children shared lunchboxes, exchanged ideas, and supported each other in learning. Recess was not just about food but about strengthening friendships. Mid-day meals in schools were unheard of then, so many children would return home at noon for a quick bite before resuming classes. The end of the school day meant one



thing: play.

By late afternoon, neighborhood playgrounds filled with the sounds of cricket bats striking balls, volleyball soaring in the air, and the rhythmic claps of kabaddi matches. Childhood was lived outdoors, in the dust, in the snow, under the walnut trees, and by the frozen streams. Winters brought the joy of snowball fights and the thrill of sliding down icy slopes. Autumn carried its own rituals—children waking up at dawn to collect walnuts shaken loose overnight. Evenings often ended with the comforting warmth of family storytelling. Grandparents spun tales that lit up young imaginations, sometimes accompanied by a steaming cup of kehwa or a bowl of suji or gajar ka halwa, lovingly prepared by mothers. Childhood, in those times, was woven with simplicity, discipline, and collective joy.

Today, that landscape looks starkly different. Technology has infiltrated every corner of childhood. The once-cherished playground lies abandoned as smartphones, laptops, and video games monopolize young attention. The modern child spends more time swiping screens than flipping book pages. Study hours shrink, replaced by the lure of social media and endless online distractions. Parents struggle to wean their children off screens just long enough to focus on schoolwork.

The morning routines, too, have changed. Traditional pink tea and home-cooked rice meals give way to packaged snacks and junk food bought from roadside stalls. Instead

of the wholesome nourishment of home kitchens, fast food dominates young diets. Social interaction, once built around shared meals and classroom bonds, now thrives in the digital realm, with "friends" measured not by trust or presence but by numbers on Instagram and Facebook.

Book reading, once regarded as a sacred hobby, is in sharp decline. A child who once found joy in stories read aloud or carefully copied from textbooks now dismisses books as boring. In their place come short-form videos, reels, and memes—snippets of entertainment that demand little thought and offer fleeting satisfaction.

The moral fabric of childhood, too, appears frayed. Where once ethical lessons were passed naturally from parents, teachers, and elders, today's children often resist such guidance, quick to argue and quicker still to dismiss. Instead of emulating real-life role models, they pursue digital idols, chasing likes and followers. Many dream not of careers built on education or skills but of instant fame as YouTubers, TikTok performers, or influencers.

Technology, which could have been a tool of empowerment, has often become a trap. Instead of harnessing its potential for learning and creativity, many children use it recklessly, isolating themselves from family bonds and real-world challenges. They idolize fabricated online personas while drifting away from their own cultural and familial roots. Festivals and traditions, once the heartbeat of family gatherings and com-

munal joy, hold little value in this digital-first childhood.

This transformation is not without consequence. Childhood in Kashmir today risks becoming mechanical, where emotions are dulled and imagination replaced by algorithms. The danger is not only in wasted hours but in the erosion of values, ethics, and human connection.

Yet, hope lies in conscious intervention. If parents, educators, and communities choose to reclaim the legacy of Kashmir's rich traditions, a balance can be struck. The goal is not to reject technology but to teach judicious use—encouraging children to value books alongside devices, outdoor games alongside online ones, and human bonds above digital illusions.

Childhood should remain vibrant, colorful, and full of innocence. To ensure that, society must hold firmly to the rope of its cultural heritage, passing down ethics, stories, and values to the next generation. Only then can children grow into civilized, compassionate citizens capable of navigating both the beauty of tradition and the promise of modernity.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir deserves nothing less than children who mirror its purity and resilience. And childhood, that delicate yet defining stage, must be nurtured with care—not lost to screens, but shaped by stories, love, and the timeless lessons of human connection.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR
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Your Call to Duty – Nation Awaits



By M S Nazki

Each time we face our fear, we gain strength, courage, and confidence in doing! God's love calls us to move beyond fear. We ask God for the courage to abandon ourselves unreservedly, so that we might be molded by God's grace, even as we cannot see where that path may lead us!

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life!

Battle of Jitra, 11–12 December 1941. Japanese invasion of ...The Battle of Jitra (Dec 11–13, 1941) was a swift, decisive Japanese victory in Malaya, where a smaller Japanese force, using tanks and swift tactics, overwhelmed the unprepared British Indian 11th Division, leading to a chaotic retreat, loss of airfields, and a shocking early blow to Allied morale in the Malayan Campaign, forcing the British to abandon northern Malaya and setting the stage for the fall of Singapore.

British forces, anticipating invasion, had prepared defenses at Jitra, but a last-minute cancellation of an offensive plan (Operation Matador) meant troops arrived late and defenses were unfinished.

The Japanese "Seiki" Detachment, though smaller, was experienced, swift, and equipped with tanks, using captured bicycles for rapid movement through the jungle.

On December 11, 1941, Japanese infantry probed the British lines north of Jitra, clashing with Punjabi and Gurkha units.

A small delaying force at Changlun was overrun by Japanese tanks, forcing a retreat, but the Japanese advance was so fast that the main Jitra defenses weren't ready.

The Japanese exploited gaps, driving a wedge between British battalions, overwhelming defenses with artillery and tanks, despite fierce, costly resistance from some Allied units.

By December 12, the British 11th Division commander realized the line was broken and ordered a retreat, which quickly became a rout, with disorganized units fleeing south.

Aftermath: A Shocking Defeat:

The British defeat at Jitra was a major shock, forcing the rapid withdrawal of all Allied aircraft from Malaya to Singapore.

It marked the end of the first phase of the campaign, showcasing Japanese superiority in tactics, mobility (tanks & bicycles), and coordination, shattering the illusion of British invincibility.

Army commander southern command visits Golden Katar Division

The Golden Katar Division is the official name for the 11th Infantry Division of the Indian Army. It is a military formation headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and is part of the XII Corps. The division has a rich history, including service during World War II and participation in Indo-Pakistani conflicts. Its primary responsibility is safeguarding India's borders in Gujarat and southern Rajasthan.

Nickname: "Golden Katar," which means "golden dagger".

Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Area of Responsibility: India's borders with Pakistan in Gujarat and southern Rajasthan

Current Command: Major General Gaurav Bagga is the current commander.

History:

"Kattar" is a Hindi word meaning "extreme" or "staunch". It is not the name of a formal military or governmental command. References to "Kattar Command" generally refer to one of two contexts:

Political/Social Groups: The term "Kattar Hindu" has been used in the media to describe an alleged WhatsApp group used to plan violence during the Delhi riots in 2020. In a political context, the term "kattar" (staunch/extreme) has been used in political commentary in India, for example, the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) self-proclaimed image of being "kattar imandaar" (staunchly honest).

Military Insignia (Katar): The 11 Infantry Division of the Indian Army uses the "Golden Katar" as its insignia. The division's role is a standard military function, focused on defense and security operations.

Therefore, there is no official entity named the "Kattar Command". The phrase refers either to an informal, politically extreme group or a military division's insignia (katar).

World War II: Originally established on September 15, 1940, the division served in the Malaya Command and participated in battles like the Battle of Jitra before surrendering to Japanese forces in 1942.

Post-Independence: The division was re-raised on April 1, 1965, and has since participated in conflicts such as the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 and the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.

Operations and training: The Golden Katar Division conducts joint exercises with other military branches like the Indian Air Force to enhance operational readiness and coordination.

It also engages in civil-military fusion exercises with civil administration and other organizations like the Indian Coast Guard to strengthen coordination for internal security and disaster relief.

We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated!

Be on your guard, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, and be strong!

There came a time when the risk to remain tight in the bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom!

But even if you should suffer because of righteousness, blessed are you. Do not be afraid or terrified with fear of them, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts!

11 Div indian army:

The 11th Infantry Division, nicknamed the "Golden Katar Division," is a significant unit of the Indian Army, active since World War II, known for its service in Malaya, the 1965 & 1971 Indo-Pak wars, and currently guarding India's western borders in Rajasthan/Gujarat under XII Corps, known for its motto - "Jeet Nishchay" (Victory is Certain).

History & Engagements

Raised during WWII: Fought in major battles like Malaya and Singapore.

Re-raised in 1965: Played a crucial role in the 1965 & 1971 Indo-Pak Wars, capturing territory in the Barmer sector.

Humanitarian Aid: Involved in relief efforts after the 2001 Gujarat earthquake.

Composition: -An infantry division comprises multiple brigades, each with several battalions, supported by artillery, engineers, and logistics units.

Significance: A seasoned division with a rich history of combat and humanitarian service, representing the Indian Army's operational capabilities in desert warfare and border defense.

It was originally commanded by Major-General Murray-Lyon until 24 December 1941. Under Murray-Lyon the 11th Indian Division was defeated at the Battle of Jitra and suffered some of its worst casualties during the retreat from Jitra and at the Battle of Gurun.

Murray-Lyon was fired by Lieut. Gen. Arthur Percival and replaced by Brig. A.C.M. Paris and then Maj. Gen. Billy Key. This division suffered such heavy casualties during the early stages of the campaign, that the 1st Leicesters and the 2nd East Surreys were forced to amalgamate, becoming the British Battalion and the 1/8th Punjab and the 2/9th Jats were also amalgamated, becoming the Jat-Punjab Battalion. The 6th and 15th Infantry Brigades were also amalgamated becoming the 6th/15th Indian Infantry Brigade.

After the Battle of Jitra the 11th Division, under Major-General Paris, inflicted heavy casualties on the Japanese at the Battle of Kampar, but was almost completely destroyed at the Battle of Slim River. The division was reformed in Singapore with the remains of the 9th Indian Division.

The 11th Indian Division surrendered to the Japanese on 15 February 1942, along with about 130,000 other British and Commonwealth soldiers, when Singapore was surrendered.

Your Call to Duty – Nation Awaits"

Golden Katar Division under the aegis of Konark Corps, conducted an Outreach Programme on the #Agnipath Scheme at Government Boys Residential School & Government Higher Secondary School in border village Jaisindhar of Barmer district in #Rajasthan.

Local youth were briefed on opportunities, selection process, online registration & #IndianArmy as a way of life. Enthusiastic participation reflected strong motivation to serve and contribute to the cause In ServiceOfNation.

The Agnipath Scheme!

The Agnipath Scheme is India's short-term recruitment model for its Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force) for youth aged 17.5 to 21, serving as "Agniveers" for four years, aiming for a younger, tech-savvy force, with 25% potentially moving to permanent service after skills training, receiving a tax-free 'Seva Nidhi' package and benefits, while reducing pension burdens and enhancing military readiness, though it faced initial protests over job security.

Key Aspects of the Scheme:

Recruitment: For youth (male & female) in the Army, Navy, Air Force.

Tenure: Four years.

Name: Recruits are called "Agniveers".

Objective: Youthful forces, skills development, national service.

Benefits: Monthly salary, risk/hardship allowances, tax-free 'Seva Nidhi' (corpus

fund).

Post-Service: 25% can apply for permanent cadre; others get skills, disciplined workforce for other jobs.

Age Limit: Initially 17.5 to 21 years (later extended).

How it Works:

Enrollment: Youths join for a 4-year term. Training: Receive military training and skills.

Service: Serve in the forces for the period. Exit: Receive a lump sum 'Seva Nidhi' package (contributions + interest).

Permanent Entry: A transparent selection process allows 25% to join the permanent force.

Why It Was Introduced:

Youthful Profile: Lower average age of forces for better combat readiness.

Cost Reduction: Reduce long-term pension burdens.

Modernization: Create a more tech-savvy force.

Concerns & Impact:

Job Security: Initial anxiety over limited permanent spots.

Protests: Widespread protests upon launch in 2022.

Skills: Focus on skill development for civilian life.

After the Battle of Jitra the 11th Division

The Battle of Jitra was fought between the invading Japanese and Allied forces during the Malayan Campaign of the Second World War, from 11–13 December 1941. The British defeat compelled Arthur Percival to order all Allied aircraft stationed in Malaya to withdraw to Singapore.

Background:

Allied defences at Jitra were not complete when the Pacific War broke out. Barbed wire lines had been erected and some anti-tank mines laid but heavy rains had flooded the shallow trenches and gun pits. Many of the field telephone cables laid across the waterlogged ground also failed to work, resulting in a lack of communication during the battle.

Two brigades of Major General David Murray-Lyon's 11th Indian Division held the front line. On the right was the 15th Indian Infantry Brigade, composed of 1st Battalion The Leicestershire Regiment, the 1st Bn 14th Punjab Regiment and the 2nd Bn 9th Jats; on the left was the 6th Indian Infantry Brigade, composed of the 2nd Bn East Surrey Regiment, the 1st Bn 8th and 2nd Bn 16th Punjab Regiments.

Batteries from the 155th Field Regiment, the 22nd Mountain Regiment and the 80th Anti-tank Regiment provided the artillery support. The 28th Indian Infantry Brigade, consisting of three Gurkha battalions was placed in divisional reserve.

The British front line was as long as 14 mi (23 km), stretching across both roads and a railway and far beyond on either side, from the jungle-clad hills on the right, via flooded rice fields and a rubber tree estate to a tidal mangrove swamp on the left.

After Operation Matador—a forestalling attack into Thailand—was cancelled, the 11th Indian Division moved back to defensive positions around Jitra. The Jitra position was still in an extremely poor condition on 8 December 1941 and Murray-Lyon needed time to complete the defences. Malaya Command came up with a secondary plan to delay the Japanese; three mini-Matadors (Krohcol, Laycol and an armoured train), that would hopefully keep the Japanese away from Jitra long enough for Murray-Lyon to get his defences in shape. Krohcol invaded Thailand from south-east of Jitra and was partially successful in delaying the Japanese but unsuccessful in its main objective. The other two columns, Laycol and the armored train operated from north of the Jitra position.

Laycol, the second column consisted of 200 truck-borne soldiers from the 1/8th Punjab Regiment, under Major Eric Robert Andrews, supported by a couple of 2-pounder anti-tank guns of 273 Battery, 80th Anti-Tank Regiment and two sections of engineers. [8][9] Laycol advanced up the Trunk Road from Jitra to 10 mi (16 km) across the Thai border at the town of Ban Sadao.[10] Laycol had just completed their defensive positions at 21:00 on 9 December when the vanguard of the Japanese 5th Division—about 500 men of the 5th Division Reconnaissance Regiment and 1st Tank Regiment under Lieutenant Colonel Saeki—came down the Trunk Road with lights blazing. The Laycol anti-tank guns destroyed two tanks and damaged a third, before Laycol packed up and headed back to the 1/14th Punjab positions at Changlun, 6 mi (9.7 km) south of the border. When Laycol crossed the border they destroyed the bridge and parts of the road behind them, hoping to delay the Japanese further.

Major General Murray-Lyon—realising that the positions at Jitra were still not ready—ordered Brigadier K. A. Garrett took the 1/14th Punjab and the 2/1st Gurkha Rifles to positions on the Trunk Road north of Jitra, in an attempt to delay the Japanese advance until 12 December.

Garrett placed the 1/14th Punjab (Lt.Col.

James Fitzpatrick) at Changlun, 6 mi (9.7 km) from the Thai border and the 2/1st Gurkhas (Lt.Col. Jack Fulton) at the village of Asun (Kampung Asun) just a few miles north of Jitra.

Lieutenant-Colonel Fitzpatrick's 1/14th Punjab—supported by the 4th Mountain battery (from 22 Mountain Regiment, 1A), a section of 2-pounder anti-tank guns (from 2nd Battery, 80th Anti-Tank Regiment) and a company of engineers—separated into two strong ambush positions; one north of Changlun and one south of the village.

The battalion was in position by early evening of 10 December. Lieutenant-Colonel Saeki's vanguard had completed repairs on the road and bridge unopposed by the afternoon and had started heading down the Trunk Road toward the 1/14th Punjabs position at Changlun.

At about 21:00 on 10 December, Saeki's first two tanks to reach the ambush position north of Changlun were destroyed by the anti-tank guns and the Punjabis inflicted more casualties on the Japanese supporting infantry, before pulling out and retreating south of Changlun.

It was early morning on 11 December before the Japanese caught up with the 1/14th Punjabs at their next ambush position. In full daylight, Saeki's men were able to send a flanking party around the Punjabs' position forcing them to withdraw before they were cut off. Fitzpatrick decided to withdraw his mostly intact battalion back to the Gurkha's position at Asun.

At this point in the battle, Murray-Lyon arrived at Fitzpatrick's headquarters and ordered him to set up another ambush north of Asun. Murray-Lyon, Garrett, Fitzpatrick and all four of his company commanders then drove south to see the new ambush site, leaving the 1/14th Punjab to pack up and join them.

By early afternoon, it had started to rain heavily, reducing visibility to a few feet. Halfloaded onto their transport and facing the wrong way, the 1/14th Punjab were surprised by a number of Japanese tanks appearing out of the rain and driv-

ing into the middle of the battalion. Saeki's tanks scattered the battalion with only 270 Punjabis managing to make their way back to British lines.

The Japanese rapidly drove through the destroyed battalion and headed toward Asun. Fitzpatrick—a couple of miles down the Trunk Road—learned of the disaster from the few survivors racing toward Asun. Fitzpatrick and the few men with him attempted to build a road-block but he was severely wounded when the Japanese tanks reached him. Garrett gathered the 270-odd survivors and escaped south. By early evening on 11 December, Saeki's column had reached the Gurkhas at Asun. Asun!

Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Fulton's 2/1st Gurkhas were positioned on the south bank of a fast-flowing stream, just to the north of Asun. Unlike the Punjabs, the Gurkhas had no anti-tank guns but engineers had placed demolition charges on the road bridge.

The arrival of the survivors of the 1/14th Punjab gave a few minutes warning to the Gurkhas who attempted to blow the bridge, but the heavy rain may have damaged the charges.

As the first of Saeki's tanks arrived, Havildar Manbahadur Gurung, using a Boys anti-tank rifle managed to stop the first two tanks on the bridge, blocking it. Saeki's infantry moved swiftly across the stream on either flank, supported by heavy mortar and machine gun fire.

The mostly young and inexperienced Gurkhas soon broke and scattered. By 19:00 on 11 December, the small Japanese force had broken through the Gurkhas. Most of the 2/1st Gurkhas were captured, but Fulton managed to save around 200 of the 550 men.

Battle of Jitra:

After the destruction of the two battalions north of Jitra, the Saeki Detachment sped down the main Trunk Road to the 11th Indian Division defensive line at Jitra. Murray-Lyon had placed the majority of his two brigades to the east and west of Jitra with a four battalion front to face any attack. The 6th Indian Brigade covered the west of Jitra following the line of the Jitra River.

The Poem



■ **SIDHARTH PK**

*Hello, I am a poem
I want to be written well,
By Shakespeare
By Keats
To include in
The short passage
The couplet is me
Its flow is meter
I like iambic pentameter
Upon my surface
My meaning is many
I am being taught
At Sacred Heart College Thevara
I have been reading loudly
In M G University
I am a verse
That is leaving
Byron's pen
My space is color
The hues are similar
To Shakespeare dark lady
I want to rhyme out
From the pen
To release into
The blank
My verb is constructed
The similes I wear
Like gold and diamonds
My metaphor is not tumble,
My rhyme is a song
That connects
You with me.*

Your Hair Deserves Its Own Perfume



■ SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Love smelling great from head to toe, but find your regular perfume fades quickly or feels wrong for your hair?

Hair perfume is a specially formulated fragrance designed for hair health, for moisture and shine.

It's become a popular addition to beauty routines, offering a unique way to carry fragrance and add a touch of elegance and freshness to your hair throughout the day.

While traditional perfumes contain high concentrations of alcohol that can severely dry out and damage your hair strands over time, hair perfumes typically contain less alcohol or none at all. Hair perfume can be safer for people with allergies because they're generally made with natural ingredients and lighter scents, rather than heavy synthetic fragrances. Most hair perfumes are made of ingredients that are gentle

on the scalp; they can be used on the body as well, just like traditional perfume.

Alcohol-free versions are particularly popular because they minimise hair dryness and damage, meeting modern haircare needs. As environmental awareness grows globally, hair perfumes featuring sustainable, vegan, and organic ingredients have surged in popularity, catering to a growing eco-conscious consumer segment.

Hair perfumes contain ingredients like lightweight silicones for shine, natural oils (like Argan or Jojoba) for hydration, panthenol (Vitamin B5) for moisture retention, and UV filters to help protect hair from sun damage.

Hair perfumes are formulated to be gentle on hair and scalp. They not only provide a captivating scent but also offer additional benefits, such as nourishing hair and protecting it from environmental factors.

It's a hair care product usually offered as a spray and intended to give your hair a delightful fragrance.

It's also great for quickly masking environmental odours (like smoke or food) that hair can absorb, acting as a quick refresher.

Hair perfume is an emerging trend in the world of hair care and has caught the attention of many looking for a way to make their hair smell delightful as well.

Technically, you can apply hair perfume to wet hair, but it's best to wait until your hair is completely dry. Water can act as a barrier and prevent your hair from absorbing the scent. This will result in the scent fading too quickly. Focus on the ends rather than the scalp to avoid buildup.

Spray it from a distance of about 6 inches to 8 inches onto your hair, focusing on the mid-lengths and ends, not the scalp.

You can also spray it onto your brush or comb before styling your hair.

Apply hair perfume after using a leave-in conditioner to lock in moisture and scent. Avoid spraying directly onto the scalp, as it can weigh down your hair and cause buildup.

It's best to do a patch test before applying hair perfume, especially if your skin is sensitive.

The author is an internationally famous beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India



The Importance Of Pets In Human Society



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

The Pets provides a crucial bridge between human emotional wellbeing, societal values and ecological balance. Their presence contributes not only to mental health but also to environmental awareness and biodiversity conservation. Human-animal relationships have evolved over thousands of years, transitioning from utilitarian partnerships to deep emotional bonds. In contemporary society pets serve as companions, therapeutic partners and environmental ambassadors. Their value extends beyond affection: they shape human psychology, community engagement and ecological consciousness.

PETS AS A SCIENTIFIC ASSET FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Scientific studies across the globe have showed that interaction with companion animals stimulates the release of oxytocin, a hormone associated with trust, bonding and stress reduction. Simultaneously, levels of cortisol, the primary stress hormone are measurably reduced during pet interaction. This biochemical shift decreases symptoms of anxiety and supports emotional stability.

PETS AND BEHAVIORAL ACTIVATION

Depression often leads to social withdrawal and reduced motivation. Pets especially dogs encourage routine physical activity, exposure to sunlight and regular outdoor interaction, all of which are clinically recognized as components of behavioral activation therapy used in psychiatric treatment.

SOCIAL SUPPORT AND EMOTIONAL AID

Pets provide unconditional affection and non-judgmental presence, functioning as a form of social support. Individuals living alone, the elderly, patients with disability and adolescents experiencing emotional stress report improved mood and reduced loneliness when caring for pets. Animal-assisted therapy is now widely used in hospitals, rehabilitation centers and mental-health clinics.

WHY SOCIETY MUST PROVIDE SPACE FOR ANIMALS ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COEXISTENCE



Humans share the planet with a vast diversity of species that have evolved over millennia to occupy specialized ecological niches. As urbanization expands, society bears the ethical responsibility to create spaces parks, shelters, green belts wildlife corridors where animals, including pets and urban wildlife can co-exist safely.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Integrating animal-friendly spaces in cities improves public well-being. Dog parks encourage community interaction; green spaces reduce air pollution, heat islands and stress; and animal shelters reduce the incidence of stray-related accidents and zoonotic disease transmission through regulated care.

EDUCATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Children who grow up around animals develop stronger empathy, responsibility and environmental awareness. Exposure to pets and wildlife fosters respect for biodiversity, creating future generations committed to conservation.

ANIMALS AS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF NATURE Animals are foundational to eco-

logical stability through:

Pollination and seed dispersal (birds, bees, insects), Pest regulation (cats, owls, reptiles), Soil aeration and nutrient cycling (earthworms, rodents), Food chain balance (predators and prey systems)

Even domesticated pets maintain indirect ecological roles. Dogs historically aided in herd management and protection; cats controlled rodent populations; and livestock guardian animals support rural biodiversity. Removing animals from the human environment would disrupt these ecological services and diminish ecosystem complexity.

IF PETS WERE REMOVED

Pros and Cons PROS (Limited and Contextual)

1. **Reduced zoonotic disease risk:** Certain diseases (rabies, toxoplasmosis) associated with animals would decrease with better public health management.
2. **Decreased waste and resource consumption:** Pets require food, veterinary resources and environmental inputs, which would decline in a pet-free society.
3. **Reduced impact on wildlife:** Outdoor cats and stray dogs can negatively affect local biodiversity through predation.

sity through predation.

CONS (Extensive and Overwhelming)

1. **Rise in mental-health challenges:** Loss of emotional companionship would significantly affect individuals relying on pets for psychological support.
2. **Breakdown of therapeutic programs:** Hospitals, old-age homes and therapy centers depend on animals for rehabilitation and emotional care.
3. **Increase in social isolation:** Pets function as social connectors; their removal would reduce community interaction.
4. **Loss of economic sectors:** Veterinary medicine, pet food industries, animal shelters and allied professions would be severely disrupted.
5. **Ecological imbalance:** Removing domestic animals could indirectly increase rodent populations, reduce pollination (in the case of domesticated bees) and hinder agricultural efficiency.
6. **Cultural and emotional loss:** Pets are woven into human cultural practices, art, storytelling and family structures. Their absence

Pets provide unconditional affection and non-judgmental presence, functioning as a form of social support. Individuals living alone, the elderly, patients with disability and adolescents experiencing emotional stress report improved mood and reduced loneliness when caring for pets. Animal-assisted therapy is now widely used in hospitals, rehabilitation centers and mental-health clinics.

would create emotional and sociocultural voids.

Pets are far more than companions; they form an essential bridge between human society and the natural world. They reduce depression and enhance psychological wellbeing. Socially, they foster community engagement and empathy. Ecologically animals both domestic and wild are key components of nature's intricate balance.

A society that dedicates space, compassion and resources for animals ultimately invests in its own health, environmental stability and cultural richness. Removing pets may yield minor benefits in disease control or resource conservation, but the overwhelming social, psychological and ecological losses make such a scenario undesirable and unhealthy for humanity.

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

DC Srinagar, SMC Commissioner Conduct Citywide Inspection of winter, Snow Clearance Preparedness

Assess ground readiness for winter response at MED Shalteng, ICCC HMT & SMC Control Room

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR DEC 10: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb carried out an extensive on-site review of snow-clearance arrangements across the City.

The visit was aimed to assess on ground readiness of Men and Machinery, Control Room operation and overall winter response preparedness.

During the visit, Chief Engineer Mechanical Engineering Department, Bod Raj; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, Joint Commissioner SMC, Syed Abul Qasim; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SDM West Irfan Bahadur, Superintending Engineers of R&B, MED, SMC and other Officers accompanied the DC and Commissioner SMC.

The DC and SMC Commissioner inspected key sites including the MED Snow clearance Control Room at Shalteng, the Integrated Command & Control Centre (ICCC) at HMT, the SMC

Control Room, and the JAKLINE Yard.

The Officers reviewed the response mechanisms, availability of equipment, communication systems and readiness of field teams.

At MED complex cum Control Room Shalteng, the DC and SMC Commissioner accompanied by Chief Engineer MED inspected the deployment of men and machinery, functioning of control room and coordination mechanisms established to deal with snowfall and related exigencies.

On the occasion, the DC and SMC Commissioner were briefed that as many as 45 snow clearance machines are kept in ready state for deployment of snow clearance along 35 routes comprising road length of 1634 kilometres under the jurisdiction of MED.

Both the Officers emphasized close inter-departmental coordination, round-the-clock control room functioning, and prompt response systems to address public grievances during winter emergencies. They underlined proactive planning, timely deployment of men and machinery and effective communication to tackle any situation evolved due to snowfall besides ensuring



the smooth functioning of essential services.

The DC underscored the importance of swift mobilization of snow-clearance machinery to prevent disruption of essential services. The SMC Commissioner directed field teams to remain alert and fully prepared to respond to any eventuality arising from snowfall, ensuring timely public assistance.

DC Srinagar and SMC Com-

missioner emphasized ensuring round-the-clock functionality of control rooms and swift mobilization of snow-clearance machinery to prevent disruption of essential services. They directed teams to remain fully prepared to address any situation arising from snowfall and to ensure timely assistance to the public.

Meanwhile, the officers visited the Integrated Command &

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application FIRDOUS AHMAD HAJAM S/O Lt. ABDUL REHMAN HAJAM R/O AUTHOORA RESHIPOR Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward classes) in favor of self

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of AUTHOORA RESHIPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the HAJAM community having annual income 130000// (One lack thirty thousand) the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1. FIRDOUS AHMAD HAJAM self 32 years contractual
2. HILAL AHMAD HAJAM Brother 38 years Labour
3. NAZIR AHMAD HAJAM Brother 42 years Labour

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

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

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

Public Notice

I have changed my name from (Old Name)PEERZADA FAYAZ AHMAD to (New Name) FAYAZ AHMAD PIR in future I will be know as (New Name)FAYAZ AHMAD PIR if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact with passport Office Srinagar within 7 days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Public Notice

I have lost my Date of Birth certificate Session Annual Regular 2020 .Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may Contact Board of School Education Sub office Baramulla within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

MOHAMMAD UMAR MIR S/O GHULAM MOHI UD DIN MIR R/O LOLIPORA KUNZER

Public Notice

I HAVE LOST MY RC BEARING REGISTRATION NUMBER LA01-3728.NOW I WANT ITS DUPLICATE. ANYBODY HAVING ANY OBJECTION MAY CONTACT ARTO DRASS KARGIL.

**NAME: IMRAN KHAN, S/O: AHMED KHAN
R/O:DOUNGCTK,CHOKIYAL DRASS**

Public Notice

My Daughter's Name has been wrongly written in D.O.B certificate as Seerat Firdous D/o Firdous ahmad Allaya while my Daughter 's actual Name is Seerat Firdous D/o Firdous Ahmad Allai according to adhaar card .

If any body have any objection He/She Can Contact concerned Department Within a period of 7 days,After that no objection will be entertained .

Name: Seerat Firdous, D/o: Firdous Ahmad Allai

Public Notice

My son's Name has been wrongly written in school records as Mohammad Murtaza Ali Beigh S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Beigh while my Son's actual Name is Murtaza Ali Beigh S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Beigh according to adhaar card with adhaar card No :-4147 3334 3831

If any body have any objection He/She Can Contact in the office of the principal Babul Karra Higher secounday school Gund check

B .k pora Budgam Within a period of 7 days,After that no objection will be entertained .

**Name: Mushtaq Ahmad Beigh
F/o: Murtaza Ali Beigh, R/o: Aribagh Kanipora**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application ZUBAIR AHMAD DAR S/O ABDUL HAMEED DAR R/O NAGBAL for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his /her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of NAGBAL of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the DAR community having annual income 450000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..ABDUL HAMEED DAR Father 56 years Labour
- 2..ZAREENA BAGUM Mother 55 years H/W
- 3... MAYSARA BANO sister 20 years student
- 4..YASMEENA BANO sister 18 years //
- 5....ZUBAIR AHMAD DAR self 17 years //
- 6...MEHNAZA BANO sister 12 years //
- 7..UZAIR AHMAD Brother 08 years //

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

I, Irfan Ahmad Wani, S/o Rashid Wani, R/o Choorapora, Tehsil Sangam, District Anantnag, hereby inform the general public and authorities concerned that:

My name has been incorrectly recorded as Irfan Rasheed Wani in some official/school records.

**My correct name is:
IRFAN AHMAD WANI
S/o RASHID WANI**

This notice is issued to set the record straight. Anyone having any objection may contact the concerned authorities.

**Irfan Ahmad Wani
(Deponent)**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

Office of the Executive Engineer Machinery Division Kashmir, Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir

Corrigendum 02

Name of work: Fabrication of Heavy-Duty Platform with Flooring & Lifting Ramp on MAHINDRA BLAZO X M DURA 35 GVW Ton, 8x4 Cab Chassis (Cab chassis is available with the Department)

Reference: This office e-NIT No: MDSK/TS /2025-26/66 Date:26-11-2025

(Tender ID: 2025_PWDJK_296427_1)

In view of the representation of the firm and for wider participation, the following amendment is made in the subject e-NIT:

Clause as per e-NIT	Description as per NIT	Amended to
Eligibility Criteria Clause vi	Valid ARAI certification of the fabricator as per clause vi and wherever mentioned in the e-NIT	Valid ARAI/ICAT certification of the fabricator

All other terms, conditions, specifications and critical dates as stipulated in the e-NIT/corrigendum shall remain unchanged.

No: MDSK/TS/4779-82 | Dated: 10 -12-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer Machinery Division, Kashmir

DIPK: 8888/25 | Dated: 10-12-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITAL DIVISION ANANTNAG

GIST of Short Term e-NIT No: MHDA/TS/75 of 2025-26 | DATED: 09-12-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT short term e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from Registered contractors/Firms having experience in executing mechanical works for the below mentioned works:

S. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	EMD in Rs	Time of completion (Days)
1	Providing of furnishing and other items for Snow Clearance Control Room Khanabal of Mechanical and Hospital Sub Division 1st Anantnag.	49520.00	200.00	1000.00	07

- Position of Administrative Approval: Accorded vide No. M&HED/K/Acctt/132 of 2025-26 dated 19-09-2025 by Chief Engineer Mechanical and Hospital Engineering Directorate Kashmir.
- Position of Technical Sanction: Accorded
- Position of Funds: Available

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 09-12-2025 (16:00Hrs)
2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 09-12-2025 (17:00Hrs) to 17-12-2025 (14:00Hrs) in two covers.
3. Opening of Bids: The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on 18-12-2025 (14:00Hrs) in Office of the undersigned.
**No: MHDA/TS-370/3568-69
Dated: 09-12-2025**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mechanical and Hospital Division Anantnag**

DIPK: 8867/25 | Dated: 10-12-2025

ذاکر اہلیت، خادم دین مبین، مرحوم اسد اللہ صوفی ساکنہ صوفی پورہ ماگام کے انتقال پر
ادارہ اوقاف کمیٹی وادی محلہ ہارون سرینگر کی جانب سے اظہار تعزیت و تسلیت



ادارہ اوقاف کمیٹی وادی محلہ ہارون سرینگر کی جانب سے
وادی کشمیر کے معروف ذاکر اہلیت، خادم دین مبین
مرحوم اسد اللہ صوفی ساکنہ صوفی پورہ ماگام کشمیر کے انتقال
پر دلی تعزیت و افسوس کا اظہار کیا جاتا ہے۔ مرحوم قوم کا
قیمتی سرمایہ تھے، جنہوں نے پوری زندگی ذکر کُھین، ترویج
دین اور محبت اہلیت میں وقف کی۔ مرحوم نے 20 سال
سے زیادہ ہارون علاقے میں بطور ذاکر اہلیت خدمت
کی اور مرحوم کی خدمت کو ہمیشہ ہارون علاقے کے لوگ
یاد رکھیں گے۔ ادارہ اوقاف کمیٹی وادی محلہ ہارون سرینگر

اس سانحہ کو قوم و ملت کا بڑا نقصان سمجھتی ہے۔ مرحوم کے فرزندان، پسماندگان، خانوادہ صوفی، اہل صوفی پورہ ماگام
کشمیر کی خدمت میں دلی تعزیت و تسلیت پیش کرتے ہیں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ موحوم کے درجات بلند فرمائے۔ انہیں جوارِ
محمد و آل محمد میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے اور لواحقین کو صبر جمیل و اجر عظیم سے نوازے۔

شریک غم ادارہ اوقاف کمیٹی وادی محلہ ہارون سرینگر

JKIMPARD, CBC organise workshop on 'Development of Capacity Building Plans' for Govt. departments at Jammu

Comm Secy GAD Stresses Need for Structured Capacity-Building to Boost Public Service Delivery

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DEC 10: Jammu & Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (JKIMPARD) in collaboration with Capacity Building Commission (CBC) New Delhi organized one day workshop on Development of Capacity Building Plans (DCBP) for government departments of Jammu and Kashmir at Convention Centre here.

The workshop was e-inaugurated by Chairperson, CBC, Radha Chauhan.

Commissioner Secretary, GAD and Information, M Raju; Director, J&K IMPARD, Rehana Batul; Principal Advisor (States), CBC, Chandrakha Mukherjee; faculty

members of JKIMPARD and other officers were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Commissioner Secretary GAD, M Raju highlighted the critical role of structured capacity-building strategies in strengthening public service delivery and fostering a citizen-centric administrative culture. He emphasized that Capacity Building Plans must be dynamic, data-driven, and aligned with emerging governance priorities, including digital transformation, process re-engineering, and outcome-oriented planning.

Lauding JKIMPARD and CBC for spearheading this initiative, he noted that department-specific capacity-building frameworks



would not only enhance institutional efficiency but also equip government personnel with the skills needed to respond effectively to evolving administrative challenges. He urged departments to adopt a coordinated approach and ensure

that capacity-building activities translate into measurable improvements on the ground.

Speaking on the occasion, Director IMPARD highlighted the importance of systematic capacity building for strengthening the governance

and service delivery.

Earlier, in her virtual address, Chairman CBC emphasized on the need for every department to institutionalize a structured approach to capacity building. She highlighted that formulation of department specific Capacity

Building Plans marks the next crucial phase towards outcome-driven governance and improved service delivery. She also underscored the national vision of Mission Karmayogi and the role of structured Capacity Building Plans in building a future-ready civil service.

During the workshop, Principal Advisor (States), CBC, while delivering a presentation, spoke in length about formulation of Capacity Building Plans with the help of AI Tool. She also shared the insights gained from similar initiative recently undertaken at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Member (Admin), Capacity Building Commission, Dr. Alka Mittal also addressed the gathering through virtual mode.

During the workshop, more than 200 officers from various departments like General Administration, Social Welfare, School Education, Rural Development, Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, Health Services, Home/Police, Transport, Command Area Development, Higher Education, Information Technology, Hospitality and Protocol besides Information & Public Relations participated. The participants prepared draft Capacity Building Plans for their respective departments.

Departmental presentations were also held during the workshop, marking a significant step towards finalising the data-driven Capacity Building Plans for the Union Territory.

DC urges for humane, systematic approach to control stray animals

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KATHUA, DECEMBER 10: The District Administration Kathua has reconstituted the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Committee to strengthen the animal welfare mechanism and ensure effective implementation of directions issued by the Supreme Court of India.

The District Development Commissioner will act as the chairman of the committee, with the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer serving as the Member Secretary. The Committee also includes DFO Territorial, Assistant Warden Wildlife, Dy SP Headquarters, District Panchayat Officer, Executive Officer Municipal Council and a Lt. Colonel-rank Army officer as members.

Chairing a meeting in this regard, the DC underlined the mandate of the SPCA Committee, stating that its primary responsibility is to ensure scientific, humane and coordinated management of stray animals across the district. He asked stakeholder departments to work in synergy to implement the prescribed procedures and protocols for animal care, relocation and safety.

During the meeting, discussions were held on key responsibilities to be implemented by the stakeholder departments. These included removal and relocation of stray cattle and dogs from highways, institutional areas and public spaces to designated shelters by Municipal Bodies, PWD, NHAI and RDD. Provision of proper boundary protection around educational institutions, hospitals, stadiums, bus stands and similar premises was discussed as an essential measure to prevent entry of stray dogs. The need for regular inspection by municipal authorities and panchayats to identify and eliminate stray dog habitats also came under focus.

Further, the deliberations centered on ensuring that the relocated animals undergo sterilization, vaccination and timely veterinary care as per approved guidelines. Maintaining sufficient stocks of anti-rabies vaccines and immunoglobulin at hospitals was highlighted. The Committee also discussed the role of the Education Department in conducting awareness programmes on preventive behaviour around animals, first-aid measures in case of bites and proper reporting mechanisms.

The DC called for strict adherence to the court-mandated directions and timelines, directing the departments to initiate joint enforcement drives in vulnerable areas. He instructed each department to submit weekly progress reports to the SPCA Member Secretary and ensure close coordination with shelter homes, Gaushalas and veterinary facilities for smooth implementation.

DC Samba reviews animal welfare measures in line with Supreme Court Directions

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SAMBA, DECEMBER 10: A meeting of the District level Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) was held today at the Meeting Hall of the District Administrative Complex. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Ayushi Sudan.

The meeting commenced with a welcome address by SPCA Member Secretary, Dr. Rahul Dev who briefed the meeting on the functioning and ongoing animal welfare initiatives. A detailed presentation was made regarding

the latest directions issued by the Supreme Court of India vide Order dated 07.11.2025.

The directions highlighted, inter alia, the nomination of Departmental Nodal Officers for monitoring Government infrastructure with respect to adequate fencing, boundary walls, gates and other necessary structural or administrative measures, along with submission of updated inventories.

The meeting also deliberated upon specific instructions for Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils, Municipal Committees,



Panchayati Raj Institutions, Health Department, Youth & Sports Services Department, Education

Department and other allied departments concerning the management and regulation of

the stray animal population.

The Deputy Commissioner issued on-the-spot directions to all concerned departments to ensure strict compliance with the Supreme Court directives and instructed for submission of fortnightly compliance reports for onward transmission to the higher authorities.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Forest Department, Police Department, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Wildlife Department, Municipal Council and Municipal Committees, among others.

Awareness Programme on AIDS prevention, substance abuse held at DISHA institute Ramban

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, DECEMBER 10: Disha Institute of Paramedical & Nursing Science Ramban in collaboration with the Department of Information and Public Relation District Center today organised an AIDS Prevention and Awareness Programme to educate students and the wider community about HIV/AIDS prevention, early detection and the importance of adopting safe and responsible health practices. The awareness programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who delivered speeches, presentations and thematic performances focused on dispelling myths, promoting awareness and encouraging a supportive attitude toward persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Their presentations highlighted issues such as the need for accurate information, preventive measures and discouraging stigma associated with the disease. A vibrant cultural programme presented by the students added color to the event.



The event was graced by the presence of the Medical Superintendent, District Hospital, Dr. Sudershan Singh Katoch as the Chief Guest and the Drug Control Officer, Imtiaz Ahmed as the Guest of Honour.

Speaking on the occasion, the Medical Superintendent emphasized the critical role of awareness and early testing in preventing the spread of HIV. He discussed the common modes of transmission, preventive strategies, the availability of treatment facilities and the significance of community-based health education. He encouraged the youth to become ambassadors of

health awareness and to promote responsible behaviour in society.

The Drug Control Officer, in his address, spoke extensively about the growing issue of drug abuse, its direct and indirect relation to the spread of diseases, and the need for strict regulation and responsible behavior. He highlighted the importance of counselling, rehabilitation and collective action to curb substance misuse among the youth. In his concluding remarks, the Principal of DISHA Institute, Hilal Wani expressed gratitude to the Information department officers, faculty members and students for their active involvement. He appreciated the Information Department for its support and reiterated the institute's commitment to organizing more such awareness initiatives for the benefit of the community.

The programme concluded with a pledge to continue spreading awareness on health-related issues and to work collectively towards a healthier, informed and responsible society.

DLSA Jammu organises Human Rights Day awareness programme at University of Jammu

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 10: District Legal Services Authority Jammu, under the guidance of Chairman DLSA Jammu R.N. Watal (Principal District and Sessions Judge, Jammu) and the supervision of Secretary DLSA Jammu Maleeka Sharma, organised an awareness programme on World Human Rights Day today. The programme was held at The Law School, University of Jammu. Sunil Kumar, Secretary of the J&K High Court Legal Services Committee, was present on the occasion and Prof. K. L. Bhatia, former Director and founder of The Law School, University of Jammu was the guest of the programme.

The Law School marked Human Rights Day with a programme aimed at promoting awareness and advocacy for fundamental human rights. The event was held on the day recognised globally to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Maleeka Sharma, Secretary DLSA Jammu, addressed the gathering and shared insights on the significance of human rights and the role of legal services in protecting and empowering vulnerable communities. She emphasised that human rights are inherent and fundamental, not privileges and highlighted the 2025 theme: "Human Rights: Our Everyday Essentials." She urged students to cultivate integrity, empathy and a commitment to truth, noting their role in addressing emerging human rights



challenges such as digital privacy, discrimination and environmental concerns. She concluded her address by encouraging dedication and hard work and quoted, "Disappear for a while to be noticed for a lifetime."

The session also included presentations by two resource persons, Advocates, Deepali Arora and Uma Kapahi, both Panel Lawyers of DLSA Jammu. They shared expert perspectives on legal frameworks and the practical implementation of human rights laws.

Students, faculty and legal professionals engaged in discussions that reflected the university's commitment to fostering a culture of justice and equality. The event highlighted the importance of continued education and outreach in safeguarding human rights in the region.

Similar awareness programmes were also organised by TLSCs of District Jammu.

DC Ramban conducts public outreach camps in remote Bibrota, Chakka Kundi Villages

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, DECEMBER 10: In a remarkable step towards inclusive governance and last-mile service delivery, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today conducted public outreach camp in the far-flung villages Bibrota and Chakka Kundi in Tehsil Rajgarh, bringing administration directly to the doorsteps of residents living in remote and hilly terrains.

Locals warmly welcomed the maiden visit of any Deputy Commissioner to the area. They projected issues related to road connectivity, school up-gradation, healthcare facilities, power supply, drinking water, animal husbandry, and telecommunication services.

Responding to the demands, the Deputy Commissioner assured that the administrative control of departments currently operating from District Doda in several panchayats of Tehsil Rajgarh—including Chakka-A1, Chakka-A2, Chakka-B and Bibrota—would be taken up with



the authorities for shifting to District Ramban. He emphasized that issues linked to departments functioning from Doda would also be resolved on priority through coordinated efforts with the District Administration Doda.

To strengthen basic amenities, the DC issued several key directions. He instructed the engineers of Jal Shakti to visit in the area two days in a week to ensure smooth functioning of

water supply schemes, while the AEE PMGSY was directed to remain stationed in the area for a week to oversee debris clearance and road maintenance. He directed the concerned to establish a CSC in the area. He also directed BDO to construct a CSC toilet complex in Bibrota. The officers of FCS&CA were directed to remain available at the Tehsil headquarters twice a week.

Further, the DC directed the CAHO and DSHO to depute veterinary and sheep husbandry teams once a week to cater to the needs of livestock farmers. To improve power infrastructure, he directed Executive Engineer JPDCL to provide electric poles and a 63 KV transformer for Chakka Kundi. He also committed to taking up the issue of establishing a BSNL mobile tower with the concerned authorities

to improve connectivity in the region.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed BDO Assar to prepare a proposal for constructing a footpath between Chakka and Bibrota, while PWD and PMGSY were asked to ensure regular road maintenance and expedite pending project proposals. He also directed the CMO to send a medical team once in a week to Chakka Kundi and assured that Aadhaar updation services also be available twice a week in the area.

The Deputy Commissioner passed directions to concerned officers to resolve all the remaining genuine issues in a time frame manner.

A team of senior officers including CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, ACD Sheraz Ahmed, CAO, CAHO, Executive Engineers of JPDCL and Jal Shakti, Tehsildar Rajgarh, BDOs of Rajgarh and Assar, AD FCS&CA and other sectoral officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner to ensure on-the-spot resolution of public grievances.



GOENKAS & GOLD CINEMAS GIVE GUWAHATI TWO-SCREEN KELVIN GOLD

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GUWAHATI, DEC 11: It was a dream which the father saw and to realise which, his son went all out. That's what made the re-launching of Kelvin Cinema — now christened Kelvin Gold — in Guwahati a special and emotional occasion. As if that weren't enough, Kelvin Gold opened on 3rd December which was the birthday of the father, veteran distributor and exhibitor of Assam, Shankar Lall Goenka. Believe it or not but Kelvin first opened in Guwahati in 1935, which was also the year in which Shankar Lall Goenka was born.

The Goenka family has been in the business of film distribution since 1961, and of exhibition since 1926, the year in which Kelvin cinema opened in Shillong. It was started by Shankar Lall's father, (late) Jeevan Ram Goenka. Nine years later, Kelvin cinema also opened in Guwahati.

Ever since the time its curtains came down in 2010 for the redevelopment of the building in which the cinema was housed, Shankar Lall Goenka has dreamed of restarting it. Actually, Goenka dreamed of renovating Kelvin right in 1982 to make it an iconic



cinema of Guwahati. The redevelopment of the structure got delayed. And once the redevelopment started, the job got further delayed because of COVID-19.

Anyway, like a worthy son of an illustrious father, Siddharth Goenka made it his life's mission to restart Kelvin — if only to see his father's long-cherished dream being fulfilled. Siddharth took Gold Cinemas as his collaborators on Kelvin and built a two-screen complex on the seventh floor of Shradhanjali Mall in Guwahati. The two screens have a combined seating capacity of 499. The last rows in both the auditoria have comfortable recliner seats.

Tastefully done up, both the auditoria have far more leg space between the rows than one sees in other multiplexes or single-screen cinemas.

The launching on 3rd December was a grand affair. The entire Assam trade attended the opening including top stars, producers and directors. Guwahati police commissioner Partho Sarathy Mahanta was an esteemed guest. The show started with the Goenkas paying tribute to singer Zubeen Garg who tragically passed away in September this year.

In a departure of sorts, Siddharth had about 20 persons cut

the ribbon simultaneously to mark the opening of Kelvin Gold. Besides the Goenkas, also present at the opening were Hasmukh Shah and Ratan Jain, both of Gold Cinemas. The cinema will be thrown open to the public from tomorrow (5th December). Dhurandhar is the opening attraction.

Siddharth Goenka made a heartfelt speech on the occasion of the cinema opening. He thanked his partners and entire team who toiled hard to convert Kelvin Gold from a dream to reality. Shankar Lall Goenka, who turned 90 on 3rd December, recounted the journey of Kelvin Cinema in brief, and expressed immense joy on the reopening of Kelvin Gold. He added that the restarting of the cinema felt like a friend returning home after a long journey. He explained that since he and the cinema were born in the same year, the cinema's reopening was akin to one part of his life getting a fresh lease of life. He added that his son, Siddharth, had done him proud by fulfilling his long-cherished dream.

PVSLN Murty, chairman and managing director, North Eastern Development Finance Corpora-

tion Ltd., made an impassioned speech and spoke in particular about the family values nurtured by the Goenka family.

Your editor, Komal Nahta, praised the cinema and remarked, "The cinema could as well have been called Diamond Gold because it marked the coming together of Diamond (the Goenkas) and Gold (Hasmukh Shah and Ratan Jain)." He also mentioned that the Goenka family enjoyed a remarkable reputation of being very honest distributors who submitted genuine accounts to all the producers whose films they had distributed over the years. Nahta also stressed that the cinema was no doubt a commercial venture but it was the Goenkas' passion that had prompted them to reopen their cinema at a time when cinemas are shutting down due to the dwindling box-office. The hall burst into applause when Nahta requested the invitees to give "the 'youngest man' in the auditorium (Shankar Lall Goenka) a standing ovation.

Shankar Lall Goenka's grandson and Siddharth's son, Shaurya, proposed a vote of thanks. The launching was followed by a party at Vishwaratan Hotel.

Lok Sabha to resume debate on election reforms; HM Amit Shah to reply today

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 10: The Lok Sabha on Wednesday will resume discussion on election reforms, with Home Minister Amit Shah scheduled to reply. Raising questions about the impartiality of the Election Commission, the Opposition demanded a return to paper ballots and an amendment to the law governing the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners. They also pointed out loopholes in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls being conducted in several states.

The Opposition alleged that the Election Commission was working at the behest of the BJP government, creating mistrust and a lack of transparency in the election process. Speaking on election reforms, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi raised the issue of duplicate voters in the electoral rolls. He questioned the Election Commission about the SIR in Bihar, alleging that 1,20,000 duplicate voter photos exist in the state's electoral list. Intervening in the discussion yesterday, Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said that Special Intensive Revisions of electoral rolls were conducted multiple times during the Congress regime, but the Opposition is now raising questions over the exercise.

He lauded the country's voting structure, stating that every citizen has had equal voting rights since Independence.

In today's Lok Sabha proceedings, several union Ministers are also scheduled to lay papers on the Table. Rao Inderjit Singh will present documents on behalf of the Ministry of Planning. Dr. Jitendra Singh is slated to lay papers for multiple key departments, including the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Department of Atomic Energy, and the Department of Space. Itin Prasad will represent the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani will table papers for the Ministry of Communications. Satish Chandra Dubey will lay papers on behalf of the Ministry of Coal and the Ministry of Mines, and Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya will present documents for the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Alongside the ministers, the Standing Committee on Finance is scheduled to present its Final Action Taken Statements in both Hindi and English on recommendations made in its recent reports. These include the 19th to 24th Reports (18th Lok Sabha) covering Action Taken on Demands for Grants (2025-26) across multiple departments of the Ministry of Finance, including Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Public Enterprises, Revenue, Corporate Affairs, Planning (NITI Aayog), Statistics and Programme Implementation, and Financial Services. In addition, the Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel will present its 15th Report for 2025-26. The report will focus on "Expediting and Simplifying the Environment and Forest Clearance Process for Coal Mining Projects" and highlight steps taken and recommendations to streamline approvals while maintaining environmental safeguards. UNI

Italy's Deputy PM Antonio Tajani arrives in India to deepen strategic partnership

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 10: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Antonio Tajani, arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday aimed at providing further momentum to the strategic partnership between the two countries.

This is his second visit to India this year.

Welcoming Tajani, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on X, "Warm welcome to Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Antonio Tajani, on his arrival in New Delhi.

This is his second visit to India this year. His engagements in Delhi and Mumbai will further strengthen the India-Italy Strategic Partnership."

Tajani's visit is part of Italy's ongoing

efforts to advance bilateral cooperation.

He will meet External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New Delhi on Wednesday before proceeding to Mumbai for official engagements on Thursday, the MEA said in a statement.

He will depart from Mumbai on Friday.

The visit follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on November 23, where the two leaders discussed deepening bilateral ties across several sectors, including trade, investment, defence, innovation, AI, space and education.

Following the meeting, PM Modi wrote on X, "Had a very good meeting with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. The India-Italy Strategic Partnership is growing from strength to strength,

greatly benefitting the people of our nations."

In another post, he added, "We discussed further advancing our cooperation in sectors such as trade, investment, defence, innovation, AI, space and education."

He also announced a new initiative: "India and Italy are announcing a Joint Initiative for cooperation in combating financing of terrorism.

This is a necessary and timely effort, which will strengthen humanity's fight against terrorism and its support networks."

India and Italy established diplomatic relations in 1947 and marked the 75th anniversary of their ties in 2023.

Italy is currently India's fourth-largest trading partner within the European Union, after Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Op Sagar Bandhu a testament to the deep emotional bonds between India-Sri Lanka: MEA

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 10: Under 'Operation Sagar Bandhu', which India launched on November 28 to provide humanitarian relief in Sri Lanka following the devastation wrought by Cyclone Ditwah, India has sent large quantities of humanitarian relief material, including medical assistance, and also helped rescue over 450 persons.

Guided by India's Neighbourhood First policy and Vision MAHASAGAR, India has been standing steadfastly with the people of Sri Lanka in this difficult time. Working in close coordination with Sri Lankan authorities, India has been delivering life-saving assistance, essential relief supplies and humanitarian support, and critical early-recovery capabilities across Sri Lanka, including in areas that were badly impacted and had been rendered inaccessible, a statement said. This has been done by swiftly dispatching emergency relief material by air and sea; rapidly

deploying several specialized search and rescue units, medical and engineering equipment and teams including BHISHM Cubes and Bailey bridge systems; and setting up an Indian Army Field Hospital.

As Op Sagar Bandhu continues, some of the Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) support provided to Sri Lanka include: Delivering Relief

• Within the first three days of Cyclone Ditwah, 53 tons of emergency relief material was delivered; and several specialised search and rescue units and medical teams were deployed.

• On 28 November 2025, 9.5 tons of emergency dry rations from Indian Navy Ship (INS) Vikrant and INS Udayagiri were handed over to Sri Lanka authorities in Colombo. • On 29 November and 30 November, further 31.5 tons of relief material was sent by three Indian Air Force (IAF) aircrafts - two C130J and one IL76 - which included tents, tarpaulins, blankets, hygiene kits etc; as well as high-

priority medical HADR supplies, including two BHISHM Modular Trauma Cubes, over 4 tons of essential medicines and medical items, an Aarogya Maitri team of trauma specialists and emergency physicians, and two specialized Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams of India's elite National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

• On 01 December, additional 12 tonnes of essential relief supplies arrived in Trincomalee aboard INS Sukanya. • On 02 December, an IAF C-17 Globemaster airlifted a modular Indian Army field hospital - including ambulances, trauma care units, operation theatres, and 73 personnel - to support urgent medical needs. 500 mobile water purification units were also despatched. • On 06 December, Government of India facilitated the sealift by Indian Navy of a total of 997 tons of dry rations and other relief material from the State Government of Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka. Three Indian Navy Landing Craft Utility ships, INS L51, INS L54, and INS L57, carried 352 tons

of relief material from Tuticorin, which arrived in Colombo on 07 December 2025. INS Gharial carried 645 tons of relief material from Chennai, which arrived in Trincomalee on 08 December 2025.

Saving Lives • India was the first country to deploy trained disaster responders in Sri Lanka, ensuring that specialised teams reached within the first 24 hours of Cyclone Ditwah, when search and rescue efforts were most needed. Till date, over 450 persons have been rescued and assisted.

• On early morning of 29 November, an IAF IL-76 aircraft brought two specialized teams of India's elite National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to Colombo. The NDRF teams, comprising 80 personnel and a K9 search and rescue unit, worked in coordination with Sri Lankan authorities, and were deployed to some of the worst cyclone-affected areas, including Badulla, Kochchikade, Puttalam, Colombo, and Gampaha. NDRF's operations involved navigating submerged neighbourhoods,

reaching stranded households, assisting those trapped inside damaged structures, recovering mortal remains of the deceased, distributing aid, and providing immediate paramedic attention where needed. The teams responded to every call for assistance despite hazardous water conditions, damaged access routes, and unstable terrain.

• Two Chetak helicopters from INS Vikrant were deployed in the first two days of Op Sagar Bandhu. This was followed by over a week of two IAF Mi-17 V5 helicopters being deployed in sustained daily operations. Both sets of helicopters worked with Sri Lankan Air Force personnel for swift rescue operations, helping pregnant women, infants, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable community members; airlifting critically injured persons; transporting Sri Lankan Army personnel to landslide affected areas; and distributing relief material to remote and inaccessible areas. UNI

Delhi's AQI improves slightly to 220 but air quality remains 'severe'

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 10: Delhi's air quality showed a marginal improvement on Wednesday morning but remained in the 'Severe' category, with the city recording a real-time AQI of 220 at 9:10 am.

Despite the dip from Tuesday evening's CPCB reading of 282, a persistent layer of smog continued to blanket the capital, aided by mist, 71 per cent humidity, and light winds blowing at around 10 km/h.

Pollutant concentrations remained significantly elevated, with PM2.5 measured at 144 µg/m³ and PM10 at 187 µg/m³.

Many parts of the city woke up to a thick haze, and visibility remained low, similar to conditions reported on Tuesday across areas such as India Gate, Kartavya Path, ITO, Anand Vihar, and Ghaziपुर.

Several localities continued to fall under the 'Very



Poor' bracket, including Jahangirpuri at an AQI of 313, Wazirpur at 305, and Vivek Vihar at 306, reflecting a decline in air quality overnight.

Some central regions, however, showed mild improvement. Chandni Chowk recorded an AQI of 281, while RK Puram, Punjabi Bagh, and IIT Delhi registered readings of 283, 279, and 218, respectively.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta reiterated that the government is "continuously making efforts to control every small and large source of air pollution in Delhi."

In a post on X, the Chief Minister said, "Our government is working at a war footing to control pollution, while a comprehensive campaign is also underway to remove garbage. Both pollution control and cleanliness campaigns in Delhi are running in mission mode."

According to the AQI categorisation, values between 0 and 50 are considered good, 51 to 100 satisfactory, 101 to 200 moderate, 201 to 300 poor to severe, 301 to 400 very poor, and 401 to 500 severe.

With its latest reading of 220, Delhi remains at the lower end of the severe range, although officials say the slight improvement could continue if favourable weather conditions develop through the day. UNI

PM Modi pays homage on Swahid Diwas, reaffirms commitment to Assam movement ideals

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the historic Assam Movement on the occasion of Swahid Diwas, reiterating the central government's dedication to fulfilling the movement's core objectives of strengthening Assamese culture and ensuring the state's all-round progress.

The Prime Minister's message,

shared on his official X handle, recalled the valour of all those who participated in the six-year-long agitation.

In his post, PM Modi stated, "Today, on Swahid Diwas, we recall the valour of all those who were a part of the Assam Movement. The Movement will always have a prime place in our history. We reiterate our commitment to fulfilling the dreams of those who participated in the Assam Movement, notably

the strengthening of Assam's culture and the all-round progress of the state."

Swahid Diwas (Martyrs' Day) is observed annually on December 10th in Assam to honour the memory of the martyrs who laid down their lives during the Assam Movement (also known as the Anti-Foreigners Agitation). The date commemorates the martyrdom of Khargeswar Talukdar, who is considered the first martyr of the movement in



1979.

The Assam Movement, which spanned from 1979 to 1985, was a massive socio-political uprising spearheaded primarily by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP). The central demand of the agitation was the detection, disenfranchisement, and deportation of illegal foreigners, mainly from Bangladesh, who had settled in the state.

The movement was driven by deep concerns over the protection of the political rights, cultural identity, language, and land rights of the indigenous Assamese people. The agitation concluded with the signing of the Assam Accord in 1985, which set a cut-off date for the identification of foreigners and included provisions for safeguarding the cultural and economic interests of the indigenous people of Assam. UNI





IPL 2026 auction

De Kock added in 350-player shortlist, Green part of first set



■ UNTIED NEWS OF INDIA

ABUDHABI: A total of 350 players are set to feature in the IPL 2026 mini-auction on December 16 in Abu Dhabi. Of these, 40 players have listed themselves for the maximum base price of INR 2 crore, with Venkatesh Iyer and Ravi Bishnoi the only Indians among them.

Cameron Green, who is tipped to become the most expensive buy, has listed himself as a batter and will appear in the first set. Devon Conway, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Sarfaraz Khan, David Miller and Prithvi Shaw are the others in that set.

Quinton de Kock, Dushan Wellalage, and George Linde, who were not part of the longlist, have been included in the final list. In all, 35 new players have been added after the franchises' request.

Of the 350 players shortlisted, 240 are Indian and 110 from overseas. Nikhil Chaudhary, who made his List A and T20 debuts for Punjab in 2017 before moving to Australia, is listed as an Indian uncapped all-rounder. He has already played domestic cricket in Australia, including the BBL.

The player auction will commence with a full round of capped players. The order will be batters, all-rounders, wicketkeepers, fast bowlers and spinners, followed by a full round of uncapped players. The accelerated process will begin after player No. 70 and will cover the rest of the players. The franchises will then be asked to submit the names of the unsold players from the overall list for further accelerated rounds.

A total of 77 slots are available to be filled at the auction, including 31 for overseas players. Kolkata Knight Riders have the biggest purse of INR 64.30 crore and also have 13 slots left to fill, including six overseas slots. Chennai Super Kings are the next with INR 43.4 crores. They have nine slots vacant.

McCullum in firing line as England batten down hatches

■ VITHUSHAN EHANTHARAJAH

BRISBANE: The viral clip of Liverpool's media manager reacting to Mohammed Salah's explosive mixed zone interaction on Saturday struck a chord over in Brisbane.

Just under 10,210 miles separate Elland Road and the Gabba, where England head coach Brendon McCullum, in the aftermath of a second eight-wicket Ashes defeat, stated he thought the team had trained too much. The sentiments were as far apart as the straight-line distance, but the reaction was still the same: why, oh why, have you gone and said that?

The motivation behind McCullum's comments, which are likely to live in infamy, is far easier to unpick. For this England Test team enjoy the luxury of shelter from the realities of top-level, international sport. A bubble that may be invisible but has long been audible, with the head coach, and, up until his press conference after the second Test, the captain, Ben Stokes, the two prominent voices quipping down missiles headed for their citizens.

Judging by the reactions, McCullum's latest attempt has only attracted more unfriendly fire. Particularly at him. Though his contract runs until 2027, a deal which takes into account his white-ball head coach role, he will likely be first for the block if things go further south. Depending on how badly it goes - who can rule out 5-0 right now? - he won't be the only collateral. "When you're in positions as we are as captain and coach, you wear a lot of that burden," McCullum said. "You wear a lot of that responsibility and that's what you sign up for."

Of course, that coddling of their players does not seem helpful right now. In taking away the stresses and strains of Test cricket, England seem to lack the on-field appreciation that this is supposed to be hard. It is supposed to hurt. The struggle is real, even six days into a five-match Test series.

You would not wish adversity upon anyone. But in life, one way or another, it comes for us all. What you do wish, above all else, is that the people you care for are equipped to deal with such adversity.

The merits of the McCullum and Stokes approach - and, by proxy, managing director Rob Key - are hard to remember at this juncture. But it's worth trying. For starters, it is worth considering that first summer in 2022, when a team who had won one in 17 successfully pulled off four of their top 15 biggest chases. That included a new best of 378 against India, who also found themselves on the wrong end of the second-highest earlier this year.

We can throw in the victory in Hyderabad and, more presciently, the comeback from 2-0 down during the last Ashes series. Ultimately, McCullum has made a home in the intersection of the sports psychology Venn diagram, nestled between what players need to hear and what they want to hear. Suggesting that five days of training leading into the Gabba Test might have been over the top plays on that idea that they wanted it too much.

ESPNCricinfo

Australia could consider Khawaja for middle-order return

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

ADELAIDE: Australia coach Andrew McDonald has suggested that Usman Khawaja could be considered as a middle-order option in Adelaide after overcoming the back spasms that ruled him out of the Gabba contest as the selectors face a key decision over the batting line-up.

Khawaja's return to fitness will create an intriguing conversation ahead of the third Test. He will turn 39 during the Adelaide Test and will be the first Australian Test player in 40 years to play at that age if selected.

However, the success of Travis Head and Jake Weatherald at the top as created a conundrum. The new pair have shared two 70-plus stands in Perth and Brisbane in

rapid time to take both games away from England. Australia had only had three half-century stands in their previous 14 Tests since David Warner retired, with Head involved in one of them with Khawaja in Sri Lanka.

"It worked at this point in time," McDonald said. "Pink-ball Test at the Gabba, we felt like that combination was right for those conditions and the opposition. We will always ask ourselves the question that the selection table as we move in. At our strategy meetings, we'll continue to ask questions on what the best line-up is for that point in time. And we're taking this Test by Test."

"The assumption is that Uzzie can only open as well. So I think that he does have the flexibility. And we like to think that all our



batters have the flexibility to be able to perform anywhere in that order. So we've got a collective sort of group of batters there that as a series wears on, the opposition

may create some different challenges for us. We're open to what it will look like for us moving forward." Khawaja's form was under scrutiny heading into the

series - he is now averaging 31.84 since the end of the 2023 Ashes with one century in 45 innings - but he had been consistent for Queensland earlier in the season.

When Khawaja was recalled to the Test side in early 2022 during the previous Ashes in Australia he came in at No. 5 when Head missed the SCG Test with Covid. Twin centuries made him undroppable and he moved up to open in place of Marcus Harris when Head returned. McDonald said that since that time there had not been consideration given to returning Khawaja to the middle order. Much of the focus after Warner's retirement in early 2024 has been finding a partner for Khawaja, which was set to be Weatherald until Khawaja suffered back spasms in Perth.

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