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Justice Denied for Decades Is Being Delivered Now: LG Manoj Sinha

Hands Over Job Letters to 41 Terror Victim Families

■ MUKARAM ALI

JAMMU, DEC 11: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday handed over appointment letters to 41 Next of Kin (NoKs) of terror victims from Jammu division, marking another significant step in the administration's efforts to rehabilitate families long neglected amid years of militancy. He also distributed appointment letters to 22 beneficiaries in age-relaxation cases and 19 wards of J&K Police martyrs under SRO-43 and the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme.

Recalling that 94 families had earlier received jobs on July 28, the LG said the latest appointments bring long-awaited relief to 135 families who "were denied

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Work Fast, Spend Wisely, Deliver Results: CM Omar

Stressed for Accelerated Development & Stronger Fiscal Discipline

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 11: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess progress under District Capex, CDF works, SASCI projects and the overall fiscal health of Jammu and Kashmir, calling for speed, accountability and agility across departments.

Top officers including Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D. Vaidya, Deputy Commissioners and senior officials of Finance and Rural Development Departments attended the meeting, with officers outside Jammu joining via video conference.

Principal Secretary Finance presented a detailed sector-wise review, highlighting achievements, bottlenecks and the steps needed to ensure timely execution. The Chief Minister examined administrative approvals, tendering status and awarded works under the 2025-26 District Capex and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, stressing strict adherence to timelines and elimination of procedural delays.

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CM Omar Abdullah Unveils 56 Modern Flats, Pushes Vertical Housing Vision for Darbar Move Employees

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 11: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated newly built residential blocks at Ahata Amar Singh and Sarwal, marking a major boost to housing facilities for Government employees linked with the Darbar Move.

The Chief Minister opened the two G+6 residential blocks—comprising 56 compact two-room flats—during a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony. Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary Estates Shaleen Kabra, Director Estates

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Will leave no stone unturned to increase tourist footfall, says Dir Tourism Kashmir

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 11: Director Tourism Kashmir, Syed Qamar Sajad, on Thursday said the department is fully committed to promoting adventure, winter and sustainable tourism across Jammu and Kashmir. He said the department will "leave no stone unturned" to increase tourist footfall in the Valley during the upcoming winter season.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event in Srinagar

to mark International Mountain Day, Sajad, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the observation, declared by the United Nations in 2002, underscores the need for mountain conservation and sustainable practices.

"Mountains are the core of our ecosystem. We cannot allow tourism to grow at the cost of environmental degradation. A sustainable eco-tourism strategy is essential for the future," he said.

The Director said the department had invited adventure tourism stakeholders, trekkers and young cyclists for the event, which featured a cycling race, a felicitation ceremony and film screenings on mountain preservation and environmental protection.

"The department is formulating strict guidelines for trekkers and adventure groups to ensure mountain trails remain clean. We will make it binding on trekkers not to litter or dump

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MeT predicts light snow in J&K higher reaches between Dec 13 & 17

Sub-zero readings in Valley, harsh cold in Ladakh, Jammu relatively warmer

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, DEC 11: The Meteorological Department on Thursday forecast light snow in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir between December 13 and 17, while predicting mostly partly cloudy conditions across the Union Territory in the coming days.

An official informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that December 12 (Friday) is expected to remain partly cloudy across Jammu and Kashmir. From



December 13 to 17, skies are likely to be partly to generally cloudy, with very light snowfall possible at

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J&K faces rainfall deficit, many springs, water bodies dry up

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, DEC 11: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a seasonal rainfall deficit of 17 per cent so far this season, with six districts in Kashmir, including Srinagar, receiving below-normal rainfall, while four districts reported large excess precipitation, official data showed on Thursday. According to meteorological data for the

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DM Jammu Orders District-Wide Fire Safety Audit After Goa Tragedy

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 11: In the aftermath of the devastating fire incident in north Goa that claimed 25 lives earlier this month, the Jammu administration has initiated a district-wide audit of fire safety compliance across commercial establishments.

District Magistrate Rakesh Minhas on

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LG Kavinder Seeks Action on White-Collar Terror

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

LEH, DEC 11: The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, has called for a strengthened and technology-driven policing framework to counter the rising threat of "white-collar" terror modules—networks that operate through funding channels, logistical support and sophisticated planning rather than overt acts of violence.

Addressing the concluding session of the 2-Day State/UT-Level Conference on Dissemination and Implementation of DGSP/IGSP Conference Recommendations 2025, organised by Ladakh Police at the CIBS Auditorium Hall in Choglam-sar, the Lt Governor emphasised that "white-collar" terror modules represent an evolving security challenge and require enhanced intelligence gathering, financial-

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High Court of J&K, Ladakh declares Dec 20 as working day

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 11: In a significant demonstration of its commitment towards ensuring timely delivery of justice, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has declared 20

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J&K Govt Orders Urban Local Bodies To Secure Schools, Hospitals, Stadiums From Stray Dogs

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 11: The Jammu and Kashmir housing and urban development department on Thursday directed all urban local bodies to map schools, hospitals, stadiums and transport hubs within two weeks and secure them from the entry of stray dogs.

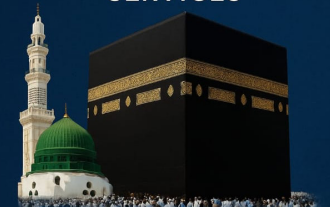


Mandatory three-monthly inspections and humane ABC-based removal of stray dogs from these places have also been ordered, along with a 30-day compliance report.

Commissioner-Secretary of the department, Mandeep Kaur, issued a circular directing all ULBs across the Union Territory to immediately

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With profound grief, we announce the Charam of **Mymoona Qureshi**, an esteemed **Social Activist** and respected wife of **Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi**, and mother of **Adv. Khalid Qureshi**, R/O Galib Abad Lane No. 2 (East) Shalteng, Srinagar.

The Congregational Fateh Khawani will be offered on **Friday, 12th December 2025**, at 3:00 PM, at our Ancestral Graveyard, Wanta Pora, Srinagar.

Bereaved Family:

• Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi
• Adv. Khalid Qureshi

Phone: 9906000524 / 9419000524

Satish Sharma lays foundation stone for bridge linking Reasi with Jammu

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 11: In a significant development aimed at strengthening the inter-district connectivity and improving public infrastructure, Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, IT, ARI and Trainings, Satish Sharma, today laid the foundation stone for Stone Girder Bridge over Tawi river at village, Balsaroo Mohalla, Mehari, Chowki Chura constituency Chhamb.

The bridge, once completed, will provide much-needed connectivity and ease of travel for thousands of residents of both districts.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said that the road and transport infrastructure is being



vigorously enhanced to ensure inclusive growth and equitable access to essential services. He emphasized that the upcoming bridge will not only reduce the travel time but also boost economic activities, improve

access to education and healthcare and facilitate smoother movement between the regions.

Later, the Minister held a series of public meetings in the area, which witnessed enthusiastic participation

from locals and were attended by officers from various departments.

During these interactions, the citizens highlighted several developmental concerns and service-related issues.

Satish Sharma directed the concerned officers to ensure quality facilities and timely delivery of public services. He also instructed the departments to maintain transparency, speed up ongoing works and adopt a people-centric approach in all development initiatives.

The Minister assured the public that similar outreach programs and infrastructure interventions will continue to be carried out across the region to uplift the overall standard of living of the people.

DC Bandipora reviews readiness for upcoming immunization drive

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a District Task Force (DTF) meeting to review preparations for the upcoming immunization programme in the district. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner was informed that 360 booths would be established, requiring 720 teams (two per booth). She directed the CMO to issue a detailed communication to all district heads of concerned department covering all aspects of the immunization plan, including home-based vaccination for differently-abled children and others unable to visit booths. During the meeting, the DC urged Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora and Police to finalise booth locations and ensure mobile teams in far-flung areas. She further directed BMO Bandipora to identify areas requiring mobile support. The meeting also reviewed vaccine and cold chain arrangements, including

the estimated 61,732 children below 5 years, OPV dose requirements, vials, vaccine carriers, and related logistics.

The DC stressed tracking non-local labour populations, including those in KV, JNV, factories, and other settlements, so that no eligible child is missed. High-risk areas were also discussed for focused coverage.

During the meeting, the DC directed the Health Department to involve ex-Sarpanchs, DDCs, BDCs, and ensure adequate manpower, including ASHA workers, MPHWS, Anganwadi workers and volunteers in the process. The DC directed PO ICDS to submit nominations within two days.

Reiterating the responsibility of all stakeholders, the Deputy Commissioner said, "No one should be left out, and this duty must be performed with utmost seriousness." Among others, the meeting was attended by DPO ICDS Bandipora; CMO Bandipora; DSWO Bandipora; MS DH Bandipora; DyCEO; DyCMO; DySPDAR and other concerned officers.

VC DDC Kupwara assures full support for Time-bound completion of JJM Projects

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, DECEMBER 11: Vice Chairperson (VC) District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir, today conducted an extensive inspection of multiple Water Supply Schemes (WSS) in Wavoor territorial constituency.

The visit was aimed at reviewing the progress on ground and addressing the causes behind delays in the completion of the crucial JJM projects.



The Vice Chairperson was accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Mufti Fareed ud Din; BDO Wavoor, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, AEE Jal Shakti, AEE Mechanical and other concerned officials.

During the field visit, the inspection team assessed the status of WSS Khan Batoo Maidanpora, WSS Bun Maidanpora, and WSS Krusan.

Officials briefed the Vice Chairperson that a substantial portion of civil works on these schemes has already been completed. However, certain mechanical components remain pending primarily due to shortage of funds.

Expressing satisfaction over the progress achieved so far, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir stressed the importance of ensuring that no scheme is left incomplete due to administrative or financial impediments. He reaffirmed his commitment to facilitating a smooth and timely completion of all JJM projects in the district.

He further assured the officers that he would personally take up the matter of pending funds and related issues with higher authorities to ensure their prompt resolution.

The VC urged the executing agencies to maintain momentum and work in mission mode to achieve the targets within the stipulated timeframe.

District Admin Kupwara organizes Mission YUVA Outreach programme at Tangdar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, DEC 11: District Administration Kupwara organised a Special Awareness-cum-Registration Mela under Mission YUVA at Dak Bungalow Tangdar.

The event witnessed an overwhelming participation from aspiring entrepreneurs, Mission Yuva applicants, and local youth seeking information and the registration under the flagship self-employment programme.

The event was attended by Deputy Commandant, Col. Sudeep Bose; Tehsildar Tangdhar, Mohammad Amin Bhat; BDO Tangdhar, Mudasir Sikander, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI and officers from other allied departments, who interacted with applicants and addressed their queries.

The programme was chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Mufti Muhammad Farid-ud-din, who reiterated the Government's unwavering commitment to empowering youth through entrepreneurship, access to finance, and market-linked support. He urged young participants to transform their ideas into viable livelihood ventures with the comprehensive handholding offered under Mission YUVA.

Incharge Helpdesk, Mission YUVA presented an overview of the scheme and highlighted the increasing relevance of self-employment in the backdrop of the growing unemployment scenario.

LDM, Kupwara briefed participants on the role of financial institutions in facilitating Mission



Yuva cases and assured full support from all bank branches for the

timely processing of youth applications.

The ADDC Kupwara also heard the grievances of applicants and the public and assured timely redressal through coordinated efforts of the District Administration and concerned departments.

Participants expressed appreciation for the District Administration and the banking institutions for conducting the extensive outreach programme in the border area, enabling easy access to government services and financial support.

ADDC Kupwara, along with Col. Sudeep Bose and LDM Kupwara, distributed sanction letters to 42 beneficiaries under Mission YUVA, marking a significant milestone in extending entrepreneurial support to the youth of Tangdar region.

Directorate of Agriculture organises District-Level sensitization Workshop for Youth clubs under JKCIP at IIKSTC Dussoo

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 11: The Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir today organised a district-level sensitization and educational workshop under the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) at IIKSTC Dussoo, Pulwama.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, who inaugurated the event and shared the department's broader vision for the upcoming agricultural cycle.

In his inaugural address, the Director emphasized that the workshop is aimed at strengthening agricultural planning, enhancing farmer-oriented service delivery, and establishing a robust development framework based on informed decision-making. He highlighted the significance of district-level sensitization programmes in equipping officers and field functionaries with the essential understanding required for effective implementation of departmental schemes, ensuring timely and impactful delivery of benefits to the farming community.

Addressing the participants, the Director stressed the importance of



coordinated efforts, transparency, and continuous follow-up to achieve the project's objectives. He urged officers to take the learnings of the workshop along with the members of youth clubs to the grassroots and work collectively to make the district a model for efficient and result-oriented implementation of JKCIP. The workshop witnessed active participation from key officers and stakeholders, including the Assistant Development Commissioner Extension Kashmir, Joint Director Agriculture Extension Kashmir, Chief Agriculture Officer Pulwama, and other senior

officers of the department. Field functionaries, technical experts and 12 Youth clubs were also present and engaged in detailed deliberations on strengthening project monitoring systems, promoting innovative agricultural interventions, and improving data management practices across the sector.

The programme concluded with a reaffirmation of the department's dedication to promoting sustainable agriculture, empowering farmers, and ensuring holistic agricultural development across the region.

District-level training programme on NPCCHH & SBPCP held at Shopian

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 11: A district-level training programme on the National Programme on Climate Change & Human Health (NPCCHH) and Snakebite Prevention & Control Programme (SBPCP) organized by the District Surveillance Unit (DSU) Shopian, was conducted at Mini Secretariat Shopian today.

The training programme, presided over by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Shopian, Dr. Arshad Hussain Tak, highlighted the importance of strengthening climate-resilient healthcare services and improving



preparedness for climate-linked health challenges.

BMO, Shopian, Dr. Mohd Yousuf Naikoo elaborated on the administrative role in managing climate-related health issues and snake bite cases, emphasizing coordinated planning, capacity building, timely reporting and effective implementation at the block level.

Physician, DH Shopian, Dr. Junaid Altaf, delivered, a detailed presentation on Snake Bite Management, focusing on early recognition, first-aid protocols, ASV administration and community awareness. He also spoke on Climate-Sensitive Clinical Assessment and Environmental Determinant-Based Screening, essential for integrating climate considerations into routine clinical practice.

The participants were also made aware about the impact of Climate Change on human health, changing disease trends, heat-related risks, vector-borne diseases and the necessity for adaptive public health strategies.

The programme concluded with a renewed commitment to enhancing district-level preparedness under NPCCHH and SBPCP to safeguard community health amid evolving climatic conditions.

DARS Rangreth empowers tribal farmers through pulse distribution initiative under TSP at Balpora

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 21: The All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) team of DARS Rangreth, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Shopian, today organized a one-day awareness-cum-input distribution programme aimed at strengthening pulse production among tribal farming communities under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) at Balpora.

The programme, held at the KVK Shopian campus, witnessed enthusiastic participation from around forty tribal farmers, besides experts and field functionaries from DARS Rangreth and KVK Shopian.

Head KVK Shopian, Dr. Zafar



Afroze Badri, in his address, highlighted the significance of adopting scientific interventions to boost agricultural productivity, especially in tribal and remote areas where access to modern

farming technologies is limited. He encouraged farmers to utilize the distributed inputs effectively and assured them of continuous technical support from KVK.

Principal Investigator, AICRP

(Pulses), Prof. Ajaz Ahmad Lone, briefed the farmers about the goals of the initiative and elaborated on the latest advancements in pulse cultivation, including improved varieties, integrated nutrient management, and scientific sowing techniques. He stressed that pulses, being an essential protein source, hold great potential for income generation and nutritional security in tribal belts.

Experts from the project team conducted technical sessions covering pest and disease management, soil health improvement, water-saving methods, and climate-resilient farming practices essential for enhancing productivity.

Farmers were sensitized about the importance of adopting

scientific crop management practices and were encouraged to shift from traditional methods to improved, technology-driven approaches to achieve better yields.

As part of the programme, key agricultural inputs such as tarpaulins, quality pulse seeds, Rhizobium culture, and other essential materials were distributed among the tribal farmers to support their field operations and motivate them to adopt advanced pulse production technologies.

The participants expressed gratitude to DARS Rangreth and KVK Shopian for extending support and organizing such programmes aimed at uplifting tribal farming communities and ensuring sustainable agricultural development in the district.



DC Srinagar inaugurates awareness Programme Cum Exhibition for Farmers Under MIDH at Tagore Hall

Urges farmers to avail benefit from government schemes for improved income and livelihood

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar Akshay Labroo inaugurated a District Level Awareness Programme cum Exhibition organized by Department of Horticulture for farmers under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) at Tagore Hall, here today.

The event saw a detailed presentation on various schemes aimed at creating awareness amongst farmers by Chief Horticulture Officer, Jyoti Prasad.

The awareness programme was participated by farmers/orchardists from different Horticulture Zones of Srinagar, who received comprehensive awareness and guidance on modern and scientific horticultural techniques, ongoing departmental schemes and innovative practices to enhance



productivity and improve fruit quality for better livelihood opportunities.

After inaugurating the event, the Deputy Commissioner inspected stalls set up by Horticulture and allied departments, and machinery distributors, showcasing a wide range of departmental schemes, tools, and technologies designed to support the farming community.

Addressing the gathering of farmers, the DC highlighted several Government initiatives aimed to enhance farmers income and promote sustainable horticulture growth for the welfare and socio-economic upliftment of the farming community. He urged officers to intensify outreach and educate farmers about flagship schemes, particularly MIDH, HADP and JKICP, ensuring that maximum benefits reach the ground.

The DC further urged the farmers/orchardists to avail maximum benefits from the government schemes as suit them.

He assured all possible support from the district Administration enabling farmers and unemployed youth to fully benefit from the credit-linked and subsidy-based schemes offered by the Government. He also guaranteed fast-track processing of cases under MIDH to ensure timely delivery of benefits.

During the programme, the DC also handed over sanction letters to beneficiaries for procurement of various horticulture machinery as part of the programme.

At the end of the programme, the Chief Horticulture Officer Srinagar expressed gratitude to the participating farmers for their enthusiastic involvement and keen interest in the department's new initiatives.

DC Udhampur reviews District Environment Plan

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting of the District Environment Plan Committee to review the District Environment Plan and assess the implementation of key environmental initiatives in the district.

The DC directed the concerned departments to expedite the finalization of the plan and strictly enforce the ban on polythene. She instructed departments to adhere to SOPs in waste segregation and disposal at designated composting sites. The Municipal Bodies and Rural Development Department were tasked with preventing any accumulation of waste near educational institutions, hospitals, public places and along major roads.



The DC laid special emphasis on the scientific disposal of biomedical waste to safeguard public health. To further enhance environmental hygiene, the Municipal Council, Jal Shakti Department and Irrigation & Flood Control Department were directed to launch massive cleanliness drives of nallahs and water channels across both urban and rural areas.

She also called for the installation of dustbins at key public locations and stressed the timely implementation of major environmental interventions, including the establishment of effluent treatment plants, solid waste management facilities and plastic waste processing units.

The DC urged all departments to work in close coordination to ensure effective execution of the District Environment Plan for a cleaner and healthier Udhampur.

One-Day Yuva Vani 2.0 Training Programme for Youth Clubs under JKICP held at Kulgam

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, DECEMBER 11: To strengthen youth engagement, skill development and entrepreneurial participation in agriculture and allied sectors, one day training programme was organized today at Kulgam for identified Youth Clubs from designated blocks of the district under Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKICP) by the Department of Agriculture Kulgam.

The programme aims to empower youth club members, enhance their community leadership skills and strengthen their participation in local development processes.

At the outset, CAO Kulgam highlighted the significance of youth engagement in shaping a progressive farming society and urged the participants to utilize the training to positively influence their communities, promote constructive activities and contribute to grassroots developmental initiatives especially with reference to environmental issues and climate change.

Resource persons from KVK Kulgam and MRCFC Khudwani delivered technical sessions on youth mobilization, communication skills, community development, social awareness on environmental issue, climate change and disaster management. The trainees were also briefed about opportunities available under different government schemes aimed at youth empowerment.

As part of the awareness campaign, Booklets related to JKICP activities were also distributed among youth clubs, ensuring that the youth receive comprehensive information and remain well-informed.

Chief Horticulture Officer Kulgam, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officers Kulgam and Qaimoh, Concerned Agriculture Extension Officers, representatives from agriculture department also participated in the training programme.

Man-animal Conflict: Wildlife Division Kathua hosts training Workshop for field staff

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KATHUA, DECEMBER 11: Wildlife Division Kathua organized one-day awareness cum training workshop for Forest Officers and staff at Jasrota Training Centre of Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary

As many as 42 forest officers (Range officers/Foresters) of Kathua, Billawar, Samba, Udhampur, Ramnagar and Jammu Forest Divisions along with Forest Protection Force (FPF) personnel from J3 Kathua and staff of wildlife Divisions Jammu and Kathua

participated in the Workshop.

Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Research Amit Sharma delivered a detailed PowerPoint Presentation (PPT) and shared his experiences on Human Wildlife Conflict and equipment used during rescue operations.

He further highlighted the significance of the coordination and real time information sharing with sister wings of the Forest Department, Police, Local Administration and PRLs while dealing with Human Wildlife Conflict.

Wildlife Warden Kathua Vijay

Kumar apprised the officers regarding legal procedure and manual for framing Wildlife offence cases before the Court.

A hands-on training exercise on the installation of Camera traps was also conducted inside the Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary.

Regional Wildlife Warden Jyotsana appreciated the efforts of wildlife division Kathua for organizing the training for field staff and stressed the officers to implement these inputs in the field for conservation of forests and Wildlife.

JKEDI concludes Capacity Building Programs under Mission YUVA; trains 142 entrepreneurs, aspirants across J&K

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 11: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Thursday successfully concluded a series of Capacity Building Programmes (CBPs) in hybrid mode for aspiring and existing entrepreneurs under Mission YUVA across 12 districts of the Union Territory.

Conducted between December 01 and 11, 2025, the hybrid-mode capacity building programs covered Budgam, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Bandipora, Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, and Anantnag, witnessing enthusiastic

participation from youth and emerging entrepreneurs. The initiative reflects a growing shift towards inclusive and opportunity-driven entrepreneurship across Jammu & Kashmir. During these CBPs, 142 aspiring and existing entrepreneurs were covered across 12 districts of the Union Territory.

Over the 10-day training period, participants underwent intensive classroom sessions, sector-specific and video lectures, hands-on workshops, and expert interactions.

The programmes focused on strengthening managerial, financial, and strategic capabilities



to help entrepreneurs scale operations, enhance competitiveness, and build sustainable enterprises.

The curriculum was tailored to provide practical, actionable knowledge on opportunity identification, business plan formulation, financial literacy, market analysis, branding, regulatory compliance, and accessing government support schemes. Sessions were conducted by JKEDI faculty alongside industry specialists, ensuring interactive and outcome-oriented learning.

Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) is a flagship initiative aimed at promoting

entrepreneurship-led employment across the Union Territory. It forms a key pillar of the Government's commitment to empower youth, women, and other vulnerable groups by nurturing a strong ecosystem for innovation, startups, and enterprise development.

JKEDI reiterated its commitment to strengthening the entrepreneurial landscape in Jammu & Kashmir. Through Mission YUVA, the Institute continues to provide young entrepreneurs with the skills, confidence, and ecosystem support needed to generate new economic opportunities across the UT.

Export Awareness Workshop organized at Doda

DC pitches for promotion of modern trade practices to achieve rural prosperity

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, DECEMBER 11: To unlock the global potential of Doda's unique produce and empower local entrepreneurs, the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) in coordination with the District Administration Doda organized a mega Export Awareness Workshop cum E-Commerce On-boarding Drive today.

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh inaugurated the event and highlighted the growing importance of export-oriented strategies for strengthening the district's economic landscape.

In his inaugural address, the DC urged participants to take advantage of technical sessions to understand global market trends, export procedures and the emerging role of e-commerce platforms. He encouraged FPOs, MSMEs, agri-startups, artisans and progressive farmers to adopt modern business practices with commitment and consistency, noting that their progress would significantly contribute to the growth of the rural economy. He further assured full administrative support from all concerned departments to



help local entrepreneurs transition from local trade to international markets.

The workshop saw an overwhelming participation from around 200 stakeholders, including MSMEs, startups, FPOs, progressive farmers, traders, artisans, weavers and officials from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal

and Sheep Husbandry, Handicrafts, Handlooms, Fisheries, Sericulture, Agriculture Marketing and DIC. The diverse attendance reflected growing enthusiasm among local producers to explore global opportunities and enhance product quality, branding, and packaging to meet international standards.

JKPDD launches massive energy conservation campaign

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 11: The Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department today launched a massive campaign on Energy Conservation across J&K as part of the ongoing National Energy Conservation Week observance.

The initiative was aimed at to sensitise the masses about the importance of conserving energy.

During the campaign, it was highlighted that Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), JKPDD, Shailendra Kumar, has laid strong emphasis on promoting judicious use of electricity, minimizing wastage and conducting regular Energy Conservation campaigns across J&K. He has particularly stressed that simple practices such as switching off lights during daytime and whenever not in use should become routine habits among the citizens to ensure responsible and efficient use of electricity.

Under the guidance of the ACS, a massive energy conservation campaign was launched by the Chief Electrical Inspector, Sanjay Sharma, along with his State Designated Agency (SDA) team, who organized a series of events and awareness programmes in government and private schools and colleges across J&K.

The key highlight of the week-long



initiative was the 'Energy Conservation Pledge', administered during the morning assembly sessions in numerous schools and colleges across J&K. Thousands of students, right from pre-primary classes to the collegiate level participated.

The students were encouraged to extend the message of energy conservation beyond school premises by spreading awareness within their

families and neighbourhoods.

It was informed that educational institutions are also conducting various thematic activities, including debates, slogan-writing competitions and other awareness drives focused on energy conservation.

This initiative on energy conservation would not only help save our natural resources but also contribute towards environmental sustainability.



HT EDITORIAL

Take precautions in order to avoid fire incidents

Some days back a person lost his life as he was trapped in fire after his house went up into flames in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. The death of the person sent shock waves among the people and everyone was saddened by his death. This fire incident should not be viewed in isolation since such fire incidents take place across the length and breadth of the Kashmir valley.

Over the years it has been observed that there is a spike in fire incidents once the winter sets in. People suffer huge losses in such incidents and in some cases, there are human casualties as well. Even though people are advised to take precautions while using heating gadgets at their homes or workplaces in most of the cases people tend to take things lightly. It is due to this reason that fire breaks out in a house or two thus leading to huge losses.

People tend to use the heating gadgets without taking precautions and the same results in mishap. Since sub-standard heating gadgets are available in the market at low rates some of the people purchase such heating gadgets and as such compromise with their safety and security. At the same time the people who use traditional gas heaters known as Bukharis keep no provision for ventilation and as such the carbon monoxide gets accumulated in the room thus leading to asphyxiation.

Some of the people tend to keep the Bukharis on during the night as well and in some of the cases the carbon monoxide fumes turn out to be deadly for the inmates since they are in deep sleep. In the past it has been observed that families have been wiped as they died due to asphyxiation. The worst part is that the people are not willing to learn a lesson or two from the unfortunate fire incidents that take place every now or then.

The usage of electric blankets has increased over the past few years and most people keep the electric blankets on before going to bed. There is no harm in using an electric blanket but here too the people need to take precautions. The electric blankets should be of superior quality even though one has to shell more money. The electric blankets should be kept on for some time and once a person goes to bed the same should be turned off.

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The Moral, Political, And Spiritual Significance Of IMAM HUSSAIN(A.S)

A COMPREHENSIVE ACADEMIC ANALYSIS



■ SYED SAHRAAN HUSSAIN
AL-BUKHARI AL-NAQVI

Abstract

This research paper examines the historical, ethical, and theological dimensions of Imam Hussain Ibn Ali(a.s), focusing on the events leading to the tragedy of Karbala and its enduring impact on Islamic intellectual traditions. Through a critical analysis of classical and contemporary scholarship, the study highlights Hussain's(a.s) role as a reformer, a defender of divine justice, and a universal symbol of resistance to illegitimate authority. The paper argues that the Hussaini movement represents a paradigmatic model for moral agency, collective conscience, and spiritual awakening within the broader context of Islamic thought.

Keywords

Imam Hussain(a.s); Karbala; Divine Justice; Islamic Political Theory; Moral Resistance; Ahl al-Bayt; Yazid; Martyrdom.

1. Introduction

Imam Hussain ibn Ali(a.s), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad(s.a.w.w), occupies a central position in Islamic History and moral philosophy. His stand at Karbala in 680 CE represents not merely a historical encounter but a timeless ideological confrontation between truth and falsehood, justice and tyranny, legitimacy and corruption. This paper seeks to evaluate the intellectual significance of Imam Hussain's(a.s) mission by employing a multi-disciplinary academic framework encompassing history, ethics, political theory, and theology.

Karbala is not studied as an isolated event; rather, it is approached as a culmination of socio-political transformations within the early Islamic polity. Imam Hussain's(a.s) movement emerges as both a corrective to institutional decay and an assertion of divine authority against political deviation.

2. Literature Review

Scholarship on Imam Hussain(a.s) can be broadly be categorised into three schools:

2.1 Classical Islamic Sources

Early historians such as al-Tabari, al-Mas'udi, Shaykh al-Mufid, and Ibn Athir Provide chronologically grounded narrations of the Umayyad period. These works form the backbone of historical reconstructions of Karbala.

2.2 Theological and Ethical Analyses

Shi'i scholars – including Allama Majlisi, Sayyid Ibn Tawus, Sharif al-Murtada, and contemporary thinkers such as Ayatollah Mottahhari – interpret Karbala as a metaphysical and ethical revolution rooted in Qur'anic notions of justice(adl), enjoining good (amr bil-ma'ruf), and resisting oppression (nahi 'an al-munkar).

2.3 Modern, Academic, and Sociopolitical Studies

Recent scholarship explores Karbala through lenses of political legitimacy, social mobilisation, martyrology, and liberation ethics. Scholars such as Wilferd Madelung, Lilyakat Takim, Mahmoud Ayoub, and Vali Nasr examine Imam Hussain(a.s) stand as moral paradigm transcending sectarian identity.

3. Historical Background: Preconditions of Karbala

The rise of Mu'awiya and subsequent appointment of Yazid represent a structural departure from the prophetic model of leadership. The transformation of the caliphate into a hereditary monarchy was widely perceived as a usurpation of Islamic political ideals.

3.1 The Crisis of Legitimacy Yazid's accession violated:

- The principle of shura
- The prophetic instruction regarding Ahl al-Bayt (a.s)
- Morally binding criteria for leadership, such as justice, piety, and stewardship

Imam Hussain (a.s) rejected allegiance not as a personal act of defiance but as a theological duty to protect the integrity of Islam.

3.2 Kufan Correspondence and the Duty of Response

Thousands of letters from Kufa invited the Imam to lead a reformative movement. Although politically unstable, this correspondence represented genuine public dissatisfaction with Umayyad tyranny.

3.3 The Road To Karbala

The ambush at Karbala and deprivation of water constituted deliberate psychological and political warfare. By refusing capitulation, Imam Hussain (a.s) transformed a militarily impossible situation into a morally invincible stand.

4. The Movement of Imam Hussain (a.s)

4.1 Reform (Islah) as a Foundational Objective

Imam Hussain (a.s) famously declared:
"I have risen only to seek reform in the Ummah of my grandfather."

This mission emphasised restoration of Qur'anic ethics, revival of prophetic governance, and protection of human dignity.

4.2 Sacrifice as Political Theology

The deliberate embrace of martyrdom reframed political action within the metaphysical horizon of divine pleasure. Hussain (a.s) demonstrated that legitimacy does not arise from power but from adherence to truth.

5. Ethical, Political, and Spiritual Dimensions

5.1 Ethical Universality

Imam Hussain (a.s) values – justice, compassion, steadfastness, courage – transcend sectarian boundaries. His stand appeals to universal moral intuition.

5.2 Political Philosophy of Karbala

Karbala introduces:

- Accountability of rulers
- Supremacy of divine law over dynastic politics
- The duty of the righteous to resist injustice
- A redefinition of leadership as moral responsibility, not privilege

5.3 Spiritual Archetype of Submission

Karbala is the epitome of spiritual submission:

- Submission to God, not rulers
- Patience ('sabr') not as passivity but active conviction
- Contentment with divine decree ('rida') even in suffering

6. Impact on Islamic Thought and Global Consciousness

6.1 Shi'i Intellectual Tradition

Karbala shapes doctrines of:

- Imamate and divine guidance
- Martyrdom and redemptive suffering
- Resistance and Justice

6.2 Sunni Scholarly Perspectives

Many Sunni scholars – including Imam Shafi'i, Ibn Kathir, and al-Dhahabi – recognise Hussain (a.s) as the embodiment of Prophetic virtues.

6.3 Global Moral Influence

From Gandhi's political philosophy to liberation movements across the world, Imam Hussain (a.s)

functions as a universal symbol of standing against injustice regardless of cost.

7. Conclusion

Imam Hussain (a.s) legacy is an intersection of religious devotion, moral philosophy, political reform, and spiritual awakening. His movement was not a struggle for power but a stand for truth – timeless, principled, unshakeable. Karbala endures as an ethical compass for humanity, challenging individuals and societies to uphold justice even in the face of overwhelming tyranny.

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Author's Note

As a Syed, I recognise that true advantage of this lineage is not status, but responsibility. Being connected to the blessed household of the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.W) through Imam al-Hussain (a.s) places upon me a moral and spiritual obligation: to embody their ethics, to uphold their message, and to serve as a humble representative of their values.

Lineage alone carries no merit unless it is accompanied by Knowledge, sincerity, and devotion to truth.

My mission is conducting research on the Ahl al-Bayt (a.s) is to contribute – however modestly – to the preservation and illumination of their teachings. In an age where information is abundant but depth is rare, I strive to produce work that is academically rigorous, spiritually grounded, and faithful to the legacy of these divine guides. Through this research, I hope to guide hearts toward the justice, compassion, and divine insight exemplified by the Ahl al-Bayt (a.s), and to inspire others to engage with their luminous heritage.

This paper is part of my lifelong commitment to seek knowledge, to serve the community, and the honour the sacred trust of being from the family of the Prophet (S.A.W.W). May Allah grant me sincerity and steadfastness in this mission.

As Ameer ul-Moomineen Imam Ali Ibn Abi Talib (A.S) has said:

“Knowledge Enlivens the Soul”
–Nahl al-Balaghah, Saying 4.
– Labaiki Ya Hussain(a.s)

More Than a Celebration: Ramzaan College Fresher's Day Becomes a Portrait of Culture, Unity and Nursing Excellence



■ MOHAMMAD ARFAT WANI

The day of 26 November 2025 at Ramzaan College of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, Galander Pampore, arrived as a festival wrapped in colours, warmth, and youthful joy. It was as if the entire campus had woken up to a morning full of celebration and promises never to be forgotten. While walking through the gates, the soft rising wave of excitement from all directions gripped us, and the moment we stepped into the decorated auditorium, glowing from corner to corner with light, flowers, and vibrant colors, it knew without a doubt that this day was going to be etched in the history of our college as a treasured memory. Every chair seemed to carry a silent invitation to happiness, every face radiated expectation, and every moment felt like it whispered that something beautiful was about to unfold.

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

The first performance today was the Rouff dance which was presented by our talented girls under the guidance of Shah-nam, along with participants Rawa Shahzad (Hawa), Mehnoor, Hazika, Misba, Sayana, zahira, Toiba, Ishrat, and Sahiba, who moved so graciously and purely that every step seemed to be telling some story, the revival of Kashmiri heritage, a soft echo of the beauty of our homeland. Their performance of traditional songs like "Tosh Tosh

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

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

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

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

Then, Aqib Sir sang "Tera Mera Rishta Purana," accompanied by Aqeel and Faizan, and their performance created a musical moment that echoed warmly in every corner of the hall. This was followed by the Task Session, which was beautifully hosted by Sadaf and Basharat Amin. The lively interaction, interesting questions, and playful atmosphere brought laughter and curiosity amongst the students. One student's poised answers, along with her intelligent counter-questions, reminded



everyone that true learning gets reflected not just by knowledge but by confidence, communication, and courage. Rayees Sir added a gentle reminder about respecting seniors, expressed with humour and affection bringing both discipline and warmth to the mood.

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

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

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

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

This was followed by a personal moment

that I will forever cherish. My coordinator Professor Ajaz Sir and Principal Maam Jamsheeda Zaroo coming onto the stage to honor me with a gift in recognition of my writing, which touched my heart with pride, gratitude and renewed motivation to keep on writing and contributing.

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

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

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

A Light That Will Never Dim: Remembering the Grace, Strength and Legacy of Suriya Bibi

■ MOHD. YASEEN

An irreplaceable light, Suriya Bibi, has left this world, drawing to a close a life that illuminated countless others with warmth, compassion and quiet dignity. Her departure has created a silence that stretches far beyond her home in village Kathar, nearly 70 km from Jammu, touching everyone who ever found comfort in her presence. She did not live a life of noise or spectacle, yet she carried within her a rare grace that made her an anchor for her family, her community and the cultural memory of an entire region. The grief that has settled over her loved ones today is not simply the grief of losing an elder. It is the feeling of losing a living bridge to heritage, tradition and the gentle wisdom of earlier generations.

She belonged to a time when life moved at a slower rhythm and values were learned not through instruction but through observation. Her hands were always busy yet always patient. In their movement, one found the continuity of Dogra tradition. She spent years preserving the delicate and vibrant craft of basket weaving, a practice that has nearly vanished from the contemporary landscape. Sitting in the soft light of her veranda, she would weave patterns that reflected the colours of her homeland. Her work was not just a reflection of creativity, but a testament to her deep connection with the cultural roots of Jammu. Every design carried a memory, and every motif carried a story.

Her legacy flows into the lives of those she raised, and continues to shape the accomplishments and character of her family. Among them is her granddaughter, Advocate Sajra Qadir, Vice Chairperson of the District Development Council, Reasi, whose commitment to public service is firmly grounded in the values instilled by her grandmother. It is from women like her that younger women learn dignity, strength and the courage to lead without losing compassion.

Her grandson, Mohd. Yaseen, known for his contributions as an art critic, grew up in an environment where aesthetics were not theoretical concepts but lived experiences. He watched her weave colours into cane, shape meaning from simplicity, and transform everyday objects into cultural expressions. These childhood imprints later enriched his understanding

of art and identity.

She was also the mother-in-law of celebrated Dogri poet Abdul Qudir Kundria, whose literary journey has been shaped in no small measure by the atmosphere of love, discipline and cultural integrity she maintained in her home.

But the foundation of her family tree rests equally on the lives shaped by her as a mother. Her sons carry forward her values in the paths they have chosen:

Shokat Ali, an ex-Army man, served the nation with the same discipline, humility and courage that defined his upbringing. His commitment to duty, grounded in the moral strength he inherited from his mother, stands as a proud extension of her character.

Liaqat Ali, serving as an ASI in the Jammu & Kashmir Police, reflects her teachings in his integrity and dedication to maintaining peace and justice. His service to society echoes her lifelong belief that true strength lies in protecting and supporting others.

Together, her children and grandchildren represent the virtues she nurtured—service, compassion, cultural pride and resilience.

Her life was marked not only by devotion to her own family, but also by her extraordinary generosity toward the nomadic Bakkarwal community. For decades, the Bakkarwals, who migrate seasonally between the mountains of Kashmir and the plains of Jammu, found in her home a place of welcome.

At the heart of this tradition stood Late Karim Baksh, her husband and the revered Naana ji of the region. He was the man who made his home a sanctuary for the Bakkarwals. He left no stone unturned to ensure that anyone who arrived at his doorstep—tired, hungry, or in need—found warmth, food and rest. He never said "no" to anyone, no matter how modest his own resources were. His sons, Shokat Ali and Liaqat Ali, grew up witnessing this legacy of unconditional care, absorbing the values of service and humanity that he embodied every day. With the passing of Suriya Bibi, and earlier of Karim Baksh, an era of boundless generosity and open-hearted hospitality in Kathar feels as though it has come to an end. A legacy that once defined the soul of their home has now reached its final chapter.

After her husband's passing, Suriya Bibi continued this tradition with devotion and sincerity. Every winter, when the Bakkarwals journeyed from Srinagar



toward the warmer plains of Jammu, they would stop at her door. She welcomed them like family, preparing meals with the same affection she offered her own children. To her, feeding the tired, the traveling and the unknown was not charity. It was faith. It was humanity. It was duty. The Bakkarwals speak of her home with deep reverence, recalling how she never turned anyone away. Her compassion extended far beyond societal boundaries, proving that kindness is the truest expression of culture.

Within her home, she was the memory-keeper of rituals, traditions and stories. Whether it was a festival or a simple family meal, her presence added a sense of completeness. She believed that homes are built not by wealth but by affection, shared meals and respect among generations. Her blessings, her words of reassurance, her gentle laughter and her slow, steady walk through the courtyard became symbols of stability that her family depended upon without even realizing how much.

Those who sat with her often left with a lighter heart. She did not use many words to comfort others, but when she spoke, her voice carried sincerity shaped by years of experience. She believed that difficult moments were a test of faith and that gratitude should

be the foundation of life. Her resilience was quiet but unshakable.

She lived in harmony with nature. She found joy in the changing seasons, the warmth of the winter sun, the sound of wind passing through the trees and the soft colours of dawn. In her presence, the world appeared less hurried.

Her passing has created a void that cannot be filled. Yet even in this sense of loss, her family finds strength in knowing that she lived a life of purpose, humility and service. Her blessings will continue to guide her children and grandchildren. Her teachings will remain embedded in the decisions they make and the paths they choose.

For Advocate Sajra Qadir, her grandmother's memory is a reminder of why one serves society with compassion.

For Mohd. Yaseen, it is a reminder that cultural preservation begins at home.

For Abdul Qudir Kundria, it is the memory of a woman whose presence enriched his creative world.

For the Bakkarwal community, it is the memory of a home where they were never strangers.

For Kathar, it is the memory of an elder whose quiet contributions kept traditions alive.

For Shokat Ali and Liaqat Ali, it is the memory of a mother whose values continue to shape their service to the nation and society and whose shared legacy with their father, Late Karim Baksh, will forever remain a source of pride.

Her journey on this earth has ended, but she leaves behind a living legacy woven into the hearts of those who loved her. Every thread of a basket she made, every meal she prepared for a traveler, every prayer she whispered and every blessing she offered continued to ripple outward.

May the Almighty grant her the highest place in Jannat.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.

And may her life continue to inspire all who cherish the values she embodied.

The writer is a National Scholarship and Fellowship holder from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in the field of Theatre. He can be reached at: yaseensalaria@gmail.com

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The Science Of Introverts, Extroverts And Otrovert



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

Human personality has fascinated scientists, philosophers and psychologists for centuries. At the heart of this exploration lies the spectrum of introversion and extroversion—two orientations first formalized by Carl Jung and later expanded by decades of neuroscience and behavioural research. In the modern era, personality science has broadened further to acknowledge a third category: the otrovert, commonly known as the ambivert, who blends the attributes of both extremes.

Far from being simple social preferences, these orientations are rooted in the biology of the human brain, shaped by neural pathways, hormonal responses, genetic predispositions and environmental interactions. As workplaces, schools and societies evolve, understanding these distinctions becomes essential—not only for scientific insight but also for building harmonious, productive human environments.

■ BIOLOGICAL AND NEUROLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

Neuroscience has uncovered compelling differences in how introverts, extroverts and otroverts process stimulation. The key lies in dopamine, a neurotransmitter central to motivation, reward and social engagement.

Introverts possess higher baseline sensitivity to dopamine. Their brains reach stimulation thresholds quickly, making social gatherings, noise or prolonged activity overwhelming. This heightened sensitivity isn't a sign of weakness; rather, it means introverts thrive in environments requiring concentration, depth and reflection.

Extroverts, meanwhile, have lower dopamine sensitivity. They seek novelty, social activity and external stimulation to achieve optimal arousal. Their brains are wired to respond positively to active, energetic environments, making them naturally expressive and socially confident.

Otroverts (Ambiverts) fall in between. Their dopamine thresholds are flexible, allowing them to adapt depending on context. Sometimes they crave solitude; at other times, they thrive in crowds. This neural adaptability is a key reason otroverts excel in dynamic or unpredictable roles.

■ AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM

AND STRESS RESPONSE

The autonomic nervous system—responsible for involuntary actions such as heart rate and breath—also shapes personality orientation:

- **Introverts lean toward parasympathetic dominance, which favours calmness, slow processing and inward focus.**
- **Extroverts show stronger sympathetic activation, fuelling energy, movement and outward engagement.**
- **Otroverts can switch between both states depending on the situation, offering a balanced regulatory system.**

This means that while an extrovert might feel energized in a bustling environment, an introvert may find the same scenario mentally exhausting. An otrovert, however, may adjust moment-to-moment.

■ GENETIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES

Twin studies show that 40–60% of personality differences are genetic, but the environment remains a powerful sculptor. Childhood experiences, cultural expectations, family dynamics, stress levels and even educational systems influence how inherent traits are expressed.

Personality is, therefore, a blend of nature and nurture—genetic predispositions interacting with life experiences to form the unique psychological profile of each individual.

■ PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL TRAITS

- **INTROVERTS**
- **Physical Characteristics**
- **Prefer quiet, low-stimulus environments**
- **Easily fatigued by noise, crowds or long social interactions**
- **Exhibit calmer physiological states with lower heart-rate reactivity**
- **Show strong prefrontal cortex activation, supporting deep thinking and focused attention**

Emotional Characteristics

- **Highly introspective and self-aware**
- **Maintain a rich internal emotional landscape**
- **Process emotions deeply, though more slowly**
- **Sensitive to criticism and emotionally perceptive in one-to-one interactions**

Introverts excel in roles requiring careful planning, creativity, independent work and deep analysis.



EXTROVERTS

Physical Characteristics

- **Naturally energetic and movement-driven**
 - **High tolerance for sensory input like lights, noise and crowds**
 - **Motivated by dopamine-driven reward pathways**
- #### Emotional Characteristics
- **Expressive, outwardly emotional and optimistic**
 - **Thrive on social validation and dynamic interactions**
 - **Process emotions quickly and openly**
 - **Struggle with isolation or lack of external engagement**

Extroverts shine in leadership roles, teamwork settings, communication-driven tasks and crisis responses.

OTROVERTS (AMBIVERTS)

Physical Characteristics

- **Adaptive energy levels suited to both stimulation-rich and quiet environments**
- **Balanced neural activation between reward and regulatory systems**

Emotional Characteristics

- **Emotionally flexible and situationally adaptive**
- **Comfortable working alone or collaborating**
- **Skilled at reading social cues due to balanced inward-outward focus**

■ Moderate need for solitude and connection

Otroverts often excel in roles requiring negotiation, diplomacy, adaptive leadership and multi-domain teamwork.

■ CAN THESE TRAITS CHANGE OR BE MODIFIED?

Neuroscience confirms that while personality traits are stable, they are not fixed. Through neuroplasticity, individuals can learn behaviours outside their natural orientation:

- **Introverts can develop social confidence through gradual exposure and communication training.**
- **Extroverts can cultivate introspection through mindfulness, journaling or structured quiet time.**
- **Otroverts can shift toward either pole depending on life circumstances and needs.**

However, while behaviour is modifiable, biological predispositions remain constant. An introvert can become socially skilled, but may still find large crowds draining. An extrovert can learn to enjoy quiet, but may never feel fully energized without social input.

The objective is not to force transformation, but to help individuals function optimally within their natural neurological design.

WHICH PERSONALITY ORIENTATION IS BEST?

From a scientific perspective, none is superior. Each offers strengths:

Introverts excel at:

- **Deep analytical thinking**
- **Creativity in solitude**
- **Focused problem solving**
- **Long-term planning and perseverance**

Extroverts excel at:

- **Leadership visibility and communication**
- **Rapid decision-making**
- **Collaboration and team motivation**
- **Effective crisis management**

Otroverts excel at:

- **Adaptive leadership responsive to changing environments**
- **Negotiation and people-oriented diplomacy**
- **Balanced emotional regulation**
- **Merging independent and group work efficiently**

In modern workplaces, otroversion is often seen as advantageous due to its flexibility, but introversion and extroversion are equally valuable when matched to suitable tasks and environments.

THE BROADER SIGNIFICANCE: BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

The study of introverts, extroverts and otroverts extends beyond psychology—it influences business management, education, healthcare and even governance. When institutions embrace these distinctions:

- **Workplaces become more productive by assigning roles that align with natural strengths.**
- **Schools create learning environments that respect different processing styles.**
- **Relationships grow stronger with better understanding and reduced stereotypes.**
- **Mental well-being improves as people feel seen, valued and understood.**

Recognizing the full spectrum of human personality is not a luxury—it is essential for building inclusive communities.

Human personality is a dynamic interplay of biology, environment and experience. By understanding the science of introverts, extroverts and otroverts, society can better appreciate the diversity of minds that shape our world. In a rapidly changing era that requires both deep thought and collaborative action, embracing all three orientations is not merely beneficial—it is indispensable.

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

Shahr e Khaas Literary & Cultural Welfare Society & Angel's Cultural Academy Organize Free Eye Screening Camp in Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 11: In a remarkable collaboration aimed at improving community health, Shahr e Khaas Literary & Cultural Welfare Society and Angel's Cultural Academy, in partnership with ASG Eye Hospital, Srinagar conducted a Free Eye Screening Camp at New Career Convent School, Fateh Kadal, Srinagar. The camp saw an overwhelming participation from the local community, especially senior citizens, who took full advantage of the opportunity to receive free eye checkups and consultations.

The event was organized with the primary goal of providing essential eye care services to those in need, ensuring that vision-related issues are addressed at an early stage. Dr. Tariq Ahmad Shera, the esteemed President & Founder of both Shahr e Khaas Literary & Cultural Welfare Society and Angel's Cultural Academy, expressed his commitment to continuing such initiatives in the future. He stated, "This eye screening camp is just one of the many efforts we are undertaking to improve the well-being of our society. We are dedicated to organizing similar camps in the future for the benefit of our community."

The camp was a huge success, with several senior citizens benefiting from free screenings and expert consultations. At the conclusion of the event, Dr. Shera honored the doctors from ASG Eye Hospital and media persons with certificates of appreciation for their dedication and invaluable support in making the camp a resounding success.

"We believe in the power of community collaboration. It is only through such



collective efforts that we can ensure the health and happiness of our people," Dr. Shera added.

This initiative highlights the ongoing

commitment of Shahr e Khaas Literary & Cultural Welfare Society and Angel's Cultural Academy to improving the lives of people in the region.

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- Vertigo (Dizziness)
- Multiple Sclerosis

Dr. Saurabh Sultania
Associate Consultant
Neurology

Saturday, 13 December 2025 | 11 am - 3 pm
Venue: National Highway 1A, Tengpora Bye Pass, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir

88004-94236

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88-0000-1068

Medanta Hospital,
Sector 38, Gurugram, Haryana



Kashmir transporters divided over Dec 15 strike

All Kashmir Transporters Confederation defers its decision to extend support

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, DEC 11: The All Kashmir Transporters Confederation on Thursday said that it will “defer its decision” on supporting the December 15 strike, originally proposed by the Jammu and Kashmir Transport Welfare Association.

Addressing a press conference here, the Confederation said that the earlier strike call failed to address Kashmir-specific issues and that urgent discussions with the government are necessary before any action.

The press conference was attended by the Confederation's President, Secretary General and representatives from all districts.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the group stressed that while the Welfare Association has issued a strike notice over certain transport concerns, Kashmir's own pressing issues were not included.

They said a decision on whether to join or support the strike will be taken after government responses are received by Saturday evening.

It is important to note that the December 9 strike call, by the Jammu and Kashmir Transport Welfare Association had highlighted grievances including: unregulated operation of e-buses, arbitrary e-challans and steep hikes in fitness and green taxes.

While the Welfare Association has announced a one-day token strike on December 15, the All Kashmir Transporters Confederation claims it is a separate body representing 'over 80% of unions across all districts' and says the

earlier notice does not reflect Kashmir's unique operational challenges.

The key issues highlighted by the Confederation, during Srinagar press conference were, green tax confusion, as transporters say of previously paying green tax twice a year (Rs: 8,000–16,000 and Rs: 13,000–26,000). “After Delhi talks with the Transport Minister, the tax was meant to be collected once a year, but NIC system glitches have caused inconsistent orders, forcing some operators to pay Rs: 7,000–27,000, depending on vehicle type. Leaders said this is creating severe financial pressure, particularly on small operators and driver-owners.”

The Confederation criticized the government for issuing ad-hoc orders instead of a comprehensive transport policy. Arbitrary decisions on permits, stand removals, e-challans and fees are reportedly affecting day-to-day operations.

Confederation also claim that unauthorized and unregistered e-buses and e-rickshaws are operating without zoning or timetables. They said this is in contrast to Jammu, where such services are properly regulated, leading to illegal operations and reduced earnings for licensed operators.

Payments for election duties, rallies and other government events are reportedly routed through contractors who deduct large shares, leaving transporters underpaid. The Confederation demanded direct payments to transporters to prevent long-standing delays.

The Confederation also called for loan waivers, one-

year EMI forgiveness, or interest relief to support struggling operators. “Most Kashmir transporters own only a few vehicles and often act as both owner and driver, making them financially vulnerable.”

Confederation said previous government packages for tourism-related transport have not reached small operators, causing financial strain on families.

Confederation leaders also accused contractors and certain associations of benefiting at the cost of small transporters. They also raised concerns about permits and leases, claiming inconsistencies in gov-

ernment practices have created unfair competition. The Confederation reiterated that it is not in personal conflict with the Welfare Association but criticized its approach and failure to address Kashmir-specific problems.

The Confederation said, a government meeting is scheduled for Friday, during which they hopes to resolve key issues including green tax, e-bus operations, e-rickshaw zoning, delayed payments and policy gaps. The Confederation said it will review the outcomes and then decide whether to support the December 15 strike—(KNO)

اجتماعی فستخوانی

برخبر انتہائی رنج و غم کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے معروف سماجی کارکن محترمہ میسرورہ بیٹی صاحبہ الہیہ فیاض احمد قریشی، والدہ اید وکیٹ خالد قریشی راکند غائب آباد ٹائٹلنگ گزٹ شدہ روز اس ادارتی سے انتقال گئی۔ اتانہ وانا الہیہ راجعون

موجودہ کے ق میں اجتماعی فاستخوانی 2 دسمبر بروز جمعہ المبارک دن کے 3 بجے ان کے آبائی مقبرہ پورہ سرینگر میں انجام دی جائیگی۔ بعد ازاں قریشی صاحب کے دولت خاں واقع غائب آباد، مین نر (ایسٹ) ٹائٹلنگ پدمائیں مجلس کا انتہام ہوگا۔ انشاء اللہ

سوگواراں:

فیاض احمد قریشی
ایڈ وکیٹ خالد قریشی
(9906000524) (9419000524)

Public Notice

It is hereby informed that my name has been wrongly recorded in the school records of Govt. High School Chatripora as:
Wrong Name: Irfan Rashid Wani S/o Rashid Wani instead of
Correct Name: Irfan Ahmad Wani S/o Abdul Rashid Wani I, Irfan Ahmad Wani S/o Abdul Rashid Wani R/o Charepora, Tehsil Sangus, District Anantnag, am applying for correction of my name in all my official records.

Anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the concerned authorities within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Applicant: Irfan Ahmad Wani
S/o Abdul Rashid Wani
R/o Charepora, Tehsil Sangus, District Anantnag

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that I, Ajaz Ahmad Wani S/o Ghulam Hassan Wani R/o Kawarigam, am applying for issuance of an RBA Certificate from the office of Naib Tehsildar Achabal.

Anybody having any objection regarding my claim/application may file the same in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Achabal within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Applicant: Ajaz Ahmad Wani
S/o Ghulam Hassan Wani, R/o Kawarigam

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 shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

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
- ..HILAL AHMAD HAJAM Brother 38 years Labour
- ... NAZIR AHMAD HAJAM Brother 42 years Labour

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

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Office Of The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar, NEAR J&K BANK(ZALDAGAR)

Telefax No. 0194-2952696 | e.mail Id: to-exenmidsrinagar@jk.gov.in

Sub: Extension in bidding time for e-NIT No. 30 OF 2025-26, Dated:03-12-2025 for below mentioned works: LIS Lethpora - Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 02 pumping units, allied Civil Works including Foundation Works, Submersible Pump for Priming, 3-Ton Travelling Crane with Chain Pulley Block, Operator's Cabin and allied electro-mechanical works.

Ref: JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No: 2025_IFC_297209_1

Extension Notice 1

Due to poor response to above mentioned e-NIT for the subject works, the critical dates are extended as under:

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	15/12/2025 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	16/12/2025 at 1230 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

No: MIDS/Ts/ 4342-47 | Dated: 11-12-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar

DIPK: 8922/25 | Dated: 11-12-2025

Office Of The Chief Horticulture Officer BANDIPORA

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HORTICULTURE OFFICER BANDIPORA

District Administration Complex Mini Secretariat Bandipora

TENDER INVITING

Sealed tenders offered with Rs 05/- revenue stamps, are invited for the year 2025 from the interested persons for auctioning of 269 Nos of Old and Senile Fruit Trees existing in Govt. Orchard at Chekreshipora Bandipora.

The detailed tender notice and prescribed tender form against the amount of Rs 100/-, will be made available to the interested persons from 11/12/2025 to 31/12/2025, between 10: 00 AM to 4:00 PM against proper application to be attached with Photostat copy of the identity card of applicant.

Tenders, sealed properly in envelopes, after fixing gum and tape on all sides are to be deposited in the tender box available in this office on 01/01/2026, between 10: 00 AM to 2:00 PM. The tenders will be opened by the auction committee on 01/01/2026 at 2:30 PM in CHO office Bandipora in presence of renderers who wish to be present. In case of holiday or due to un-avoidable circumstances or pre-occupation of the chairman Auction committee on the fixed dates the department reserves the right to change the dates of auction including the date of opening of tenders.

Terms and conditions: -

1. The offer should be accompanied with earnest money in the form of CDR, drawn on any JK Bank scheduled in Bandipora and pledged to CHO Bandipora, as per the following breakup.

S. No.	Trees under Auction	CDR to be deposited with tender
1	Old & Senile Fruit Trees	5% of the tendered amount

2. The CDR deposited with the tender, should bear the name of the tenderer/agency.
3. Cheque or cash deposited with the tender, as earnest money, shall not be accepted.
4. Besides fixing photo on the tender form, a photocopy of identity card of the tenderer should be attached with the tender.
5. The particulars of the orchard for which tender has been deposited should be recorded on the sealed envelope.
6. Complete particulars/full address of the tenderer should be recorded on the envelope containing the tender.
7. The successful bidder shall have to deposit the auction amount in one installment in the office of Chief Horticulture Officer within weeks' time from the date of communication of acceptance offer.
8. In case the committee is not convinced that the highest bid offers is not genuine offer for the old and senile fruit trees, the committee reserves the right to cancel the offer. As such, the highest bid should not necessarily make the bidder eligible for the contract or considered as successful bidder. The committee can invite the fresh tenders for making the appropriate arrangements for auction of the said trees.
9. Office communicating the approval of bid/offer, if the successful offer/bidder failed to deposit the auction amount or execute the agreement within the specified time limit, it shall be considered as backing out from the contract by the concerned. The department, in that event, shall be within its rights to decide the matter on its merits or make allot the contract to 2nd highest bidder or may re-auction the old and senile fruit trees of the respective orchard. Loss, if any sustained by the Government on the account, shall have to be made good from the defaulting contractor through the concerned Tehsildar recoveries and the CDR will be forfeited.
10. On depositing the auction amount in Chief Horticulture Officer, the successful bidder shall have to execute an agreement immediately with the Department on non-judicial paper of Rs 10/- as per the specimen of the department where after only the approval of the offer and formal authority for taking possession of the old and senile fruit trees of concerned orchard/Nursery will be issued by the Chief Horticulture office Bandipora.
11. The open auction of the old and senile fruit trees of the departmental orchard/nursery, if any, wherever it shall be deemed necessary by the department (either due to in-adequate response or due to unreasonable bid amount) shall be conducted in the respective orchard/nursery, by the members of auction committee on the dates as shall be notified by the Chief Horticulture Officer separately.
12. In respect of the department orchard/Nursery where the open auction takes place and full amount of auction money is deposited, a notarized document containing all the safety clauses (as per the specimen to be made available separately will be obtained by the concerned officer from the on-spot auction bidders before award of the bid formally to ensure safety of departmental assets.
13. In case the successful bidder does not follow the instructions/terms/conditions of the department, the department will be at liberty to take necessary action against the bidder.
14. Successful bidder (S) who fails to execute the contract shall be deemed to have been “Black Listed” to future auction process.
15. The auction committee reserves the right to reject any offer in full or part thereof, without assigning reasons thereof.
16. For smooth implementation of the contract, instructions as may be deemed necessary and issued by the department from time to time, will be binding on the successful bidder and deemed to be contract.

Sd/- Chief Horticulture officer Bandipora

DIPK: 8905/25 | Dated: 11-12-2025

INDIGO STABILISING ITS OPERATIONS AT SRINAGAR AIRPORT

5 flights cancelled, 180 Umrah pilgrims depart to Ahmedabad

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR, DEC 11: As part of smooth flight operations, Srinagar International Airport facilitated the departure of 180 Umrah passengers to Ahmedabad on Thursday, ensuring seamless check-in and boarding arrangements in coordination with IndiGo Airlines.

According to details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), airport authorities wished the pilgrims an “auspicious journey,” stressing harmony and the spirit of travel.

“Religion does not teach us to harbor enmity among ourselves; we are Hindi, our homeland is



Hindustan,” the airport shared in a post as the passengers departed in IndiGo flight 6E 6266,

The departure comes on a day when the airport faced operational challenges, leading to the cancellation of at least five flights.

According to airport officials, four IndiGo flights were affected, including services to Amritsar, Delhi, Kolkata and another to Delhi. Additionally, one Spicejet flight to Delhi was also cancelled.

Passengers affected by the cancellations were advised to contact the respective airlines for rebooking and further assistance.

Airport officials also urged travellers to stay updated via airline notifications for timely information regarding operational changes—(KNO)

SKUAST-J holds flags off ceremony for SREP 2025 under HADP

Agriculture Minister highlights significance of field based learning

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 11: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) organised the flag off ceremony for the Students' Rural Exploration Programme (SREP) 2025 at the Baba Jitto Auditorium, Chatha, under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

Nearly 800 students are participating in this major experiential learning initiative from across all districts of the Jammu division.

Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department Javid Ahmad Dar was the chief guest on the occasion.

While addressing at the event, Javid Dar emphasised the pivotal role of SKUAST-Jammu in driving agricultural growth and improving farmer livelihoods across the Union Territory. He highlighted that universities like this serve as the backbone of

scientific innovation, technology dissemination and capacity building in agriculture.

Urging the students to "be like farmers, work for the farmers and work with the farmers", he stressed that true understanding of agriculture emerges when young professionals share the spirit, resilience and work ethic of the farming community. He said that future of agricultural development in Jammu & Kashmir depends heavily on contribution of students, whose innovation and engagement will strengthen the departmental functioning and sectoral progress.

The Minister stated that SREP offers an invaluable opportunity to observe the real-time challenges across diverse agro-climatic zones and contribute to evidence-based planning.

Appreciating the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), he highlighted its essential financial support for the farmer-centric interventions. He commended SKUAST-Jammu for institutionalising the experiential learning through SREP. He



underscored the importance of farmer-scientist communication through platforms such as Radio Kissan Jammu 90.8 FM.

He encouraged the students to engage deeply with the rural communities, document indigenous knowledge and contribute to the sustainable development of agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir.

Guest of Honour, Vice-Chancellor, Professor B. N. Tripathi, appreciated the Agriculture Minister in strengthening the university's academic and extension activities.

He underscored the significance of HADP as a transformative initiative that provides critical financial support and strategic direction for

betterment of farmers. He asserted that HADP-funded activities have enhanced field-based learning, improved farmer outreach and enabled documentation of grassroots innovations. He encouraged the students to explore agro-climatic diversity, understand the local challenges and contribute to evidence-based planning and

farmer-centric extension efforts through the SREP platform.

Professor S.K. Gupta, Director Research, highlighted the importance of complementing classroom teaching with real-world agricultural exposure.

Professor Vinod Gupta, Division of Agricultural Extension Education, presented a detailed overview of the SREP structure. He explained that students from Agriculture, Veterinary Sciences, Horticulture, Dairy Technology, Agricultural Engineering, Biotechnology and Basic Sciences will undertake village profiling, household surveys, resource mapping and community interactions across the Jammu Division.

Professor Sanjay Khar, Director Education, highlighted that SREP builds essential competencies in participatory appraisal, scientific observation and community engagement.

Professor Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, stated that SREP enhances student-farmer collaboration, supports documentation of real-time field issues and contributes to

identifying need-based interventions under HADP.

The student representatives thereafter shared their expectations from the programme, expressing enthusiasm for participating in hands-on learning and contributing to village documentation and community engagement.

The programme was attended by all statutory officers, Directors, faculty members, members from line departments, non-teaching staff and students.

Later, the university inaugurated the brochure of its community radio station, Radio Kissan Jammu 90.8 FM, a major extension outreach platform designed to deliver agricultural advisories, expert interactions, weather information and success stories to farmers across the region.

Among others present were Director RRD, Jammu, Director Agriculture Jammu, Director Horticulture Jammu, Director Animal Husbandry Jammu and Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu.

Speaker Legislative Assembly visits Charar-e-Sharief constituency

Inaugurates healthcare facilities; reviews development works

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

CHARAR-E-SHARIEF, DECEMBER 11: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and MLA Charar-e-Sharief, Abdul Rahim Rather, today conducted an extensive tour of his constituency to review ongoing developmental works besides inaugurating key healthcare facilities.

During the visit, the Speaker inaugurated newly established Dental and Digital X-Ray units at PHC Hayatpora, marking a significant enhancement in healthcare services available to the local residents.

Rahim Rather, later, visited



the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Nagam, where he interacted with the doctors, paramedical staff and the public.

Responding to their grievances and developmental concerns, the Speaker assured them that the government is fully committed towards strengthening the healthcare infrastructure and addressing the public needs on priority.

As part of the tour, the Speaker also inspected the PHC Sursyaar, where he inaugurated a digital X-ray plant.

He, later, addressed a public darbar in Sursyaar where he assures the residents that PHC Sursyaar will soon function 24x7,

providing round-the-clock patient care and improved medical services.

Rahim Rather also visited the PHC Kremshore where he interacted with the doctors, paramedical staff and the public.

The residents of the area expressed hope that the visit of the Speaker would expedite long-pending development works across the region.

During the constituency tour, the Speaker was accompanied by Director Health Services Kashmir, Deputy Director Health, CMO Budgam, SDMs of Chadoora and Khansahib besides BMOs of Chadoora, Khansahib along with other senior officials.

Ramban gears up for Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI)

-2025 drive

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, DECEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting of the District Task Force to finalize arrangements and review the implementation strategy for the Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) -2025 drive. The meeting brought together senior health officials and representatives from the line departments to ensure preparedness for the district-wide campaign. Chief Education Officer, M S Khan; Medical Superintendent District Hospital, Dr. Sudershan Singh Katoch; Block Medical Officers and other concerned officers attended the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the micro-plan presented by the Health Department and issued directions for ensuring 100% coverage of all eligible children across the district. The DC emphasized the need for coordinated efforts across all four medical blocks—Batote, Ukheral, Banihal and Gool—to achieve complete saturation. During the IPPI 2025 drive, around 59,203 children aged 0-5 years would be administered polio drops across the Ramban district on December 21, 2025. A door-to-door follow-up drive will be conducted on December 22, 2025 to vaccinate left-out children. To facilitate smooth and effective implementation, the administration has established 435 vaccination booths, supported by a strong deployment of 1,700 officials and 88 supervisory officers. Additionally, 9 transit teams and 4 mobile teams have been constituted to cover nomadic, migratory and other floating populations so that no child is left unvaccinated. The district has projected a requirement of 75,186 vaccine doses, factoring in standard wastage norms to ensure uninterrupted supply throughout the campaign. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of maintaining vaccine quality, cold chain integrity and timely distribution to all vaccination sites. The Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to lay special focus on covering the "Hard to Reach Areas,". He instructed the field staff to prioritize these areas with enhanced monitoring to ensure equitable health access across the district. The Deputy Commissioner called for close inter-departmental coordination involving ASHA and Anganwadi Workers, the Education Department and public representatives. He also directed the BMOs to ensure widespread awareness through public announcements and other media platforms for maximum participation. The Deputy Commissioner asked all stakeholders to work with utmost dedication to ensure that every child below five years receives the polio vaccine during the upcoming drive.

DDC Doda reviews healthcare scenario

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, DECEMBER 11: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Harvinder Singh today chaired a meeting to assess the functioning of healthcare institutions, progress on ongoing projects and overall service delivery across the district.

The meeting was attended by Programme Officer ICDS, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Medical Officer, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Block Medical Officers, Child Development Project Officers and other concerned officers and officials.

The DDC took an in-depth review of Block-wise achievements under the Vandana Scheme, Block-wise Presumptive TB Testing and follow-up actions, Progress and beneficiary support under Nikshay Poshan Yojana, engagement and contribution of Nikshay Mitras for welfare of TB patients, status of TB Preventive Treatment (TPT), functioning of Anganwadi Centres, Model AWCs and newly established Kindergarten Centres, preparations and coverage targets under the Pulse Polio Programme.

The DDC directed the Block Medical Officers and CDPOs to put in extra efforts for effective implementation of TB control measures, enhancing community mobilization and monitoring vulnerable groups, especially children under the TPT category. He emphasized the need for complete coverage under Nikshay Poshan Yojana and appreciated the role of Nikshay Mitras in supporting TB patients.

Reviewing the ICDS sector, the DDC stressed improving the quality of services at Anganwadi Centres, ensuring availability of nutrition supplies and strengthening the Model AWCs and Kindergarten Centres to enhance early childhood care and education.

The DDC also instructed officials to expedite the completion of ongoing health infrastructure projects and improve coordination between field-level workers for better outreach and service delivery. He called for renewed efforts to ensure coverage under the upcoming Pulse Polio drive to safeguard children from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Rajouri Admin organises Inspirational Interaction Programme with women achievers under BBBP

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, DECEMBER 11: The District Administration Rajouri, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, today organised an inspirational interaction programme with Women Achievers under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme.

The event was held at the Auditorium Hall of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) amid enthusiastic participation from girl students from different educational institutions.

At the outset, Prof. Romana Rasheed extended a warm welcome to all guests and attendees.

Vice Chancellor BGSBU, Prof. Javid Ahmed graced the event and lauded the initiative aimed at motivating young women to pursue excellence in diverse fields. He stressed the importance of education, equal opportunities and progressive thinking in nurturing confident and capable women leaders of the future.

IAS Probationer Seerat Baji, the guest speaker delivered an inspiring keynote address, emphasising that



high aim, hard work and perseverance are the key to success. Citing the remarkable example of India's youngest Paralympic medallist Sheetal Devi, she urged students to set ambitious goals, face challenges with determination and strive for financial independence. She also expressed gratitude to the District Administration and the University administration for organising such a meaningful programme.

An engaging interactive session followed, during which girl students posed questions related to success stories, civil services preparation strategies and overcoming life challenges. The guest speaker addressed each query with clarity and depth,

leaving the audience motivated and encouraged.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks by District Social Welfare Officer Abdul Raheem, who appreciated the active participation of students and acknowledged the valuable contributions of all dignitaries.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Sachi Sood and Prof. Tanveer from the English Department. Girl students who have excelled in different fields were felicitated, adding to the spirit of celebration and inspiration.

Staff and students from different departments of BGSBU, PG College Rajouri, HEM College Rajouri, Nursing College and several other institutions participated in the programme. Students, who have applied for the Super-30 batch of Civil Services coaching under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme, were also present.

The programme successfully reinforced the message of women empowerment, aspiration and equal opportunities, inspiring young women across the district to pursue their goals with confidence and determination.

ADC Jammu reviews preparedness for Pulse Polio Immunisation 2025 drive

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 11: Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Vidhu Shekhar today presided over a District Task Force meeting to review Jammu district's preparedness for the Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) 2025 campaign, scheduled from December 21 to 23, 2025.

During the drive, children below five years of age would be administered oral polio vaccine as part of the national effort to sustain polio-free status and maintain high immunity levels across the country.

In the meeting, officers briefed the ADC on a detailed operational plan for the district, including arrangements for static

immunization booths, house-to-house vaccination drives and transit site activities with special focus on high-risk areas.

It was informed that Jammu district has mapped 2,22,389 children aged 0-5 years for the campaign, with over 1,41,256 in rural areas and 81,133 in urban areas.

Elaborate arrangements

comprising 1258 booths, 38 transit points, 2516 house-to-house teams, 5032 team members, 257 supervisors have been put in place to ensure that no child is left out during the campaign.

The ADC was briefed on the strategy for covering transit points such as major transport hubs and crowded public places, besides migratory populations, slums,

nomadic settlements, industrial clusters and brick kilns.

The ADC directed all stakeholder departments to strengthen monitoring and supervision mechanisms, ensure inter-departmental coordination and formulate robust contingency plans to support smooth execution of the campaign across all parts of Jammu district.

Peter in Tangail: The Secret Mission Behind India's Decisive Airdrop of 1971

■ JAYANTA ROY CHOWDHURY

NEW DELHI, DEC 11: On December 11, 1971, as India's lightning campaign in the East neared its climax, a parachute battalion dropped into the paddy fields near Tangail, just 56 kms from the final objective - Dhaka.

The landing, executed as the day's light faded, cut the last viable retreat for Pakistani forces falling back on Dhaka, accelerating the collapse of Pakistan's army in the East, commanded Gen AAK Niazi, and hastening the final fall of Dhaka, five days later.

Half a century on, the Tangail airdrop is remembered as one of the most audacious airborne operations in South Asian military history.

Less known is the man who prepared the ground for it, Captain Prashanta Kumar Ghosh, a young paratrooper and signals officer, moving under the unlikely codename "Peter".

Disguised in 'lungi' and a torn shirt, carrying a Stengun and a crystal-tuned radio, Ghosh slipped into East Pakistan weeks before the war formally began.

His task was to find safe landing zones, link up with the Mukti Bahini, sabotage communications, and shepherd the airborne battalion when the moment came.

The operation's origins lay in early assessments by Indian Army's Eastern Command that Poongli Bridge was a critical choke point on the Jamalpur-Tangail-Dhaka axis.

Control of this crossing by paratroopers would prevent Pakistani forces falling back from Mymensingh and Jamalpur from regrouping at Dhaka. And Ghosh was chosen for the job of going in, in disguise to guide the commandos in their mission.

In the autumn of 1971, as refugees streamed into India and Delhi contemplated intervention, he was abruptly summoned by Lt Gen JFR Jacob, Eastern Command's operations mastermind.

Jacob's reasoning had a brutal logic: "You're a paratrooper, a signaller, a commando, a Bengali, and you topped your course at joint air warfare school." The young captain, as he later admitted, had not volunteered at all. He was press-ganged into one of the most daring missions of 1971.

By mid-November, after a series of pre-dawn briefings in Shillong and the Tura Hills, and kitted out by the local sector headquarters, Ghosh was launched across the border, with the army top brass making it clear that once he crossed the border, he was on



his own and if caught, India would disclaim all knowledge of his existence.

His companion was a 14-year-old Mukti Bahini trainee named 'Badshah', whose grasp of local dialects proved indispensable.

For the next 10 days, "Peter" moved between Mymensingh and Tangail, ambushing convoys with Mukti Bahini

commander Abul Kader Siddique's forces and passing back intelligence to the Indian side.

He identified two suitable drop zones and concluded, quite correctly, that the northern thrust towards Dhaka, unobstructed by major rivers, offered India its best chance of a swift capture of the capital.

The main aim of the air-borne commandos who were to be dropped, was to secure the Poongli Bridge over the Lohajang River, capturing the adjacent ferry crossing, blocking the retreat of Pakistan's 93 Infantry Brigade, enabling a rapid Indian advance towards Dhaka.

When the 2nd Para Regiment finally parachuted down on the evening of December 11, 1971, Ghosh and roughly 200 Mukti Bahini fighters had already secured the landing area.

He guided the crack battalion to Poongli Bridge, and salvaged heavy stores scattered across the darkness. By midday on the 12th, leading elements of 95 Mountain Brigade had linked up with the paratroopers.

Pakistani troops guarding the bridge withdrew after brief resistance. The battalion then ambushed the retreating 93 Infantry Brigade, inflicting heavy casualties and forcing it back northward.

On December 12, advancing elements of 1 Maratha Light Infantry linked up with the paratroopers, enabling Indian forces to bypass the defended Tongi-Dhaka road and push towards the capital via Manikganj.

The road to Dhaka lay open. It was the beginning of the celebrated

"race to the capital," which 101 Communication Zone forces would win: the Red Berets led the triumphant entry into Dhaka on the morning of December 16.

Deception operations, including publicising old photographs of the entire para brigade being dropped somewhere in central India as part of a training exercise, unnerved Niazi's command leading them to believe an entire brigade of para-commandos from the west besides Indian infantry and tanks from the north was converging on Dhaka.

Yet Ghosh's most stinging memory from that mission is not triumph but disappointment.

At the surrender ceremony at the Ramna Race Course, he watched as a naval officer quietly removed Niazi's black Mercedes staff flag—an unclaimed wartime trophy Ghosh had hoped to secure for his regiment's mess. "Who says life is fair?" he later remarked, with characteristic wryness.

The Tangail airdrop may have quickened the end of the war, but it was the unseen work of men like "Peter", moving silently through hostile territory, that made it possible. UNI

Supreme Court rejects Prajwal Revanna's plea to transfer rape trials

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 11 : The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to entertain a plea filed by Janata Dal (Secular) leader and former MP Prajwal Revanna seeking transfer of two rape trials from the Special MP/MLA Court in Bengaluru to another court.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joyimalya Bagchi rejected Revanna's contention that the trial judge was biased. Notably, the same special court had earlier convicted and sentenced him to life imprisonment in another rape case.

Revanna approached the Supreme Court after the Karnataka High Court rejected his request for a change of the presiding judge.

Appearing for Revanna, senior advocates Siddharth Luthra and Siddharth Dave argued that the trial judge had made adverse remarks not only against Revanna but also against the defence counsel.

The bench, however, refused to accept allegations of bias, observing: "These observations of the presiding officer cannot be the ground of bias. We have no reason to doubt that the officer would not be swayed by the fact that the petitioner was found guilty in the earlier case and will confine his conclusions to the evidence led in the pending trial."

The court added that the petitioner was free to approach the High Court seeking expunction of the remarks made by the trial court.

Both the trial court and the Karnataka High Court had earlier refused Revanna's transfer plea, noting that the Special MP/MLA Court is specifically designated to try offences involving sitting and former legislators.

Before the High Court, Revanna had filed petitions seeking the transfer of two rape trials on the grounds of judicial bias.

He sought transfer of case No SPL.C.C. No. 5/2025 (arising out of Crime No. 20/2024), involving offences under: IPC Sections 376(2)(n) (repeated rape), 354A (sexual harassment), 354B (assault with intent to disrobe), 354C (voyeurism), 506 (criminal intimidation), 201 (destruction of evidence), Section 66E of the IT Act (violation of privacy)

The matter is currently pending before the Additional City and Sessions Judge, Bengaluru, designated as the Special Court for criminal cases involving present and former MPs and MLAs.

With today's order, the Supreme Court has made it clear that the trials will continue before the same Special MP/MLA Court. UNI

Protecting civilians from consequences of conflict

■ BY JOYDEEP BISWAS

NEW DELHI, DEC 11 : The adage 'kings' battle, plebeians perish' still holds good in contemporaneous geopolitical and geoeconomic tensions. Multidimensional protracted conflicts across regions and States have continued to adversely affect the protection of civilians and brought about catastrophic humanitarian consequences on them. The Global Risks Report 2025 ranked State-based armed conflict as the top risk for 2025.

Torture, suffering, death, injury, forced displacement, and enforced disappearance of civilians have become very common narrations in armed conflicts. Over the course of the 20th century civilian fatalities in war climbed dramatically from 5 per cent at the turn of the century, to 15 per cent during World War-I, to 65 per cent by the end of World War-II, to more than 75 per cent in the wars of the 1990s.

It is estimated that in recent times civilians consist of close to 90 per cent of recent war casualties. The plight of women, children, persons with disability and older persons is pathetic. Women and children comprise the most vulnerable section and the vulnerability to radicalisation thrust upon them has increased manifold.

They are the victims of unbelievably horrific atrocities and injustices in State-based armed conflicts. Women often experience violence, forced pregnancy, abduction and sexual abuse and slavery. Violence against women in armed conflicts was devastating over the last two years. Compared with 2021-2022, women were killed in armed conflicts at a rate approximately four times higher between 2023 and 2024.

According to casualties recorded by UN Human Rights, 21,480 women and 16,690 children were killed in conflicts during 2023-2024. The Global Outlook



Report, "Prospects for Children in 2025: Building Resilient Systems for Children's Futures" reported that by the end of 2023, 47.2 million children had been displaced by conflict and violence.

The figure for 2025 is expected to rise even higher amidst intensifying conflicts in many parts of the world. It is evident that the mandate of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict 1996 to strengthen the protection of children affected by armed conflict has, unfortunately, been found grossly violated. Indiscriminate attacks, disregard for ceasefires and peace agreements, and deepening humanitarian crises, have severely weakened the protection of civilians in relentless hostilities.

Protecting civilians during armed conflict is the cornerstone of international humanitarian law (IHL). It provides a robust framework within which civilians and 'civilian objects' are protected. Qualified as "cardinal" and "intransgressible", the principle of distinction – set out in Articles 48 and 52 of Additional Protocol to the Geneva conventions – draws a line between civilians and combatants, and also prohibits any attacks directly targeting civilians or civilian objects.

The fundamental guarantees laid down in the IHL prohibit

torture, degrading treatment, collective punishments, sexual violence, enforced disappearance, slavery, hostage taking and unfair trials during armed conflicts. Given the moral stigma attached to the victimisation of civilians, why are noncombatants frequently targeted despite the widespread belief that it is not only wrong but also illegal according to international law? Gone are the days when safety and protection of civilians in armed conflicts was considered war-priority as exemplified in Ernest Hemingway's "the old man at the bridge".

In yesteryears, participation of civilians in armed conflicts remained relatively distant. But in recent times the pattern of conflicts has changed significantly. The focus has shifted away from distinct battlefields into populated areas. Urbicide and domicile have become a part and parcel of recent armed conflicts.

It is observed that civilian victimisation has become a military strategy chosen by political or military elites. The objectives of such victimisation are to satiate the appetite of belligerents to conquer and annex a neighbour's territory.

The conqueror viewed population in hostile territories as a perceived threat. Attackers often move quickly to eliminate

the threat rather than leave it in place.

Moreover, targeting civilians generates an impression among indigenous people that their government is unable to protect them any further from casualties of armed conflicts. Instilling terror among entire communities, affecting their mental health, and driving mass and prolonged displacement have become common features of victimising civilians in armed conflicts. With the adoption of sophisticated technologies in conflicts, deliberate harm has been inflicted on civilians.

Application of cyber tools, autonomous weapon systems, and artificial intelligence exert devastating consequences for the protection of civilians in contemporary armed conflict. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that at the end of 2024, 123.2 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and other events seriously disturbing the public order. This is an increase of 7 million people compared to the end of 2023.

Indeed, "geopolitical recession" dives deep into the dangers of unilateralism taking hold in national security considerations and highlights the worsening

humanitarian impacts of ongoing conflicts. Added to this is the galloping increase in military spending. Higher military spending has significantly amplified the human cost of combat.

Marking the largest annual increase since 1988, global military expenditure spiralled to USD 2.718 trillion in 2024, up 9.4 per cent from 2023. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), military spending now accounts for 2.5 percent of global GDP.

In parallel to military spending, the human cost of armed conflict is also getting grim. Great power confrontation has returned to levels of such intensity that a sustainably peaceful outcome is far from certain. It is time for governments to put pressure on all parties to a conflict to protect civilians, halt arms transfer to armies and groups that violate international law and end impunity so that perpetrators face justice.

In the Pact for the Future, adopted in September 2024, Member States, in accordance with international law, committed themselves to restrict or refrain from, as appropriate, the use of explosive weapons in populated areas when their use may be expected to cause harm to civilians and essential civilian infrastructure, schools, medical facilities and places of worship.

Protecting civilians from the effects of war has never been easy. Global collaboration is essential at this critical juncture for human development. States, civil society and international organisations should take steps in order to be more responsive, effective and more unified in protecting civilians in the armed conflict of today and tomorrow.

(The writer is Principal Secretary, Faculty Council for Postgraduate Studies in Science, University of North Bengal.)

In arrangement with The Statesman. UNI

RS Debate on Vande Mataram: Nadda slams Congress' 'Opportunism'; Congress defends Nehru's role

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 11 : A special discussion in the Rajya Sabha to mark the 150th year of Vande Mataram spiralled into a fierce political confrontation, dominated by sharp ideological exchanges and historical accusations. The debate saw Minister and Leader of the House, JP Nadda, robustly defending the government's stance while the Congress benches, led by LoP and president of the party Mallikarjun Kharge, raised strong objections, particularly over the

repeated mention of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

The government sought to use the anniversary to highlight the national song's patriotic significance and its alleged neglect after Independence. However, the move was immediately labelled "politically motivated" by the Opposition.

Nadda launched a direct attack on the Congress, accusing the party of "opportunism" by opposing the debate. He stressed that the government's true intention was to "set historical records straight" and not to

malign any individual leader.

"Our aim is not to tarnish the image of the first Prime Minister, but the question must be asked: why did Vande Mataram not receive the respect it deserved after independence?" Nadda said, attributing this historical lapse to the then-Congress led government. He reiterated the long-standing nature of the controversy, noting that the debate surrounding the song is over a century old.

The Minister then broadened his critique, linking the past government's approach to the



national song with a wider "legacy of compromises" that he argued had lasting and negative impacts on the country. He cited compromises related to key issues, including Article 370 and the division of the Bombay

Presidency in 1946, stating that such decisions led to a "divided independence."

The debate heated up considerably when the focus shifted directly to Nehru's role in the adoption of only the first two stanzas of the song. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge intervened sharply during the discussion.

Kharge questioned the relevance of repeatedly invoking Nehru's name in a debate meant to celebrate the national song. "Whether the debate is on Vande Mataram or Jawaharlal Nehru?"

Kharge reportedly asked, attempting to steer the discussion back to the song's significance during the freedom struggle. He also asserted that the decision on the song's stanzas in 1937 was a collective one made by the Congress Working Committee, not an individual decision by Nehru.

The Congress chief also went on the offensive, accusing the ruling party's ideological predecessors of having "worked for the Britishers" while Congress leaders fought for independence chanting Vande Mataram. This

exchange led to a major ruckus.

Stepping up his offensive, Minister Nadda emphasised the need to formally and symbolically elevate the song. He stressed that Vande Mataram should be accorded the same respect and status as the National Flag and the National Anthem, reflecting the country's true traditions and values.

The Rajya Sabha debate ultimately underscored the deep, ongoing ideological differences between the ruling party and the Opposition on the national song issue. UNI

Kohli Closes In On Rohit At The Top Of ODI Batting Rankings

Mitchell Starc's 18 wickets in the first two Ashes Tests have pushed him up to No. 3 among Test bowlers

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

VISAKHAPATNAM: Virat Kohli's Player-of-the-Series performance against South Africa has pushed him up to No. 2 among ODI batters in the latest update in the ICC rankings. Kohli is only behind Rohit Sharma on the table.

Kohli climbed two places following the series to displace Daryl Mitchell from the second spot after tallying 302 runs at an average of 151 in the three matches against South Africa. That included back-to-back hundreds in the first two matches before an unbeaten 65 in the third game as India won the series 2-1.

Rohit, meanwhile, held on to the top spot after a good time of it himself. He struck two half-centuries on

his way to 146 runs in the series at an average of 48.67, and has 781 rating points compared to Kohli's 773.

Apart from Kohli and Rohit, India also had KL Rahul and Kuldeep Yadav gaining in the ODI rankings. Rahul, who had stood in as captain against South Africa, is up two places to No. 12 among batters after scores of 60 and 66* in the first two ODIs. Kuldeep, whose nine wickets were the most in the series, stepped up three places up to No. 3 among bowlers.

South Africa's Dewald Brevis, meanwhile, entered the top ten among T20I batters, rising three places to No. 8 with his 22 in the first game against India.

There were also gains for Australia's in-form quick Mitchell Starc,

who has starred with successive Player-of-the-Match awards in the ongoing Ashes series against England. Starc gained three places to rise to No. 3 among Test bowlers, with 852 rating points. Both are career-high numbers for Starc, who has 18 wickets at an average of 14 in the series so far.

Among Test batters, Joe Root continues to lead the table after a knock of 138* in Brisbane, his first Test century in Australia. Root is followed by Kane Williamson and Steven Smith on the table, with both batters having gained one spot each. While Williamson scored 52 in the first Test against West Indies in Christchurch, Smith has got 103 runs at an average of 51.50, including a best of 61, so far in the Ashes.



Allen to miss start of India T20I series if Scorchers reach BBL finals

■ TRISTAN LAVALETTE

DUNEDIN: Opener Finn Allen could miss the start of New Zealand's upcoming five-match T20I series in India due to BBL commitments.

The series, which starts on January 21 in Nagpur, serves as important preparation for the T20 World Cup to be played in India and Sri Lanka. It is the second leg of New Zealand's white-ball tour with three ODIs slated from January 11-17.

But Allen might not be available until possibly the fourth T20I on January 28 if Perth Scorchers reach the BBL final set to be played on January 25. Scorchers wrap up their regular season against Melbourne Stars on January 17 in Perth. If they don't qualify for the finals, then Allen should be available for the full T20I series.

"Pending selection, I'll head straight to India once the Big Bash finishes up for us [Scorchers]," Allen told ESPNcricinfo.

Allen, 26, is one of five players who signed casual agreements in order to have some flexibility between playing for New Zealand, remaining within the high-performance system, and taking



up franchise opportunities overseas.

"Playing for New Zealand is still, for me, the pinnacle and the reason why I love playing is to represent my country," Allen said. "But cricket's obviously evolving and changing year on year."

"New Zealand Cricket's been really good to work with over the last wee while. [I'm] confident about getting back into some Black Caps stuff after the Big Bash and hopefully can continue that."

Gearing up to partner Australia T20I skipper Mitchell Marsh at the top of the order for Scorchers, Allen will be making his return to competitive cricket after being sidelined with a foot stress fracture sustained in the MLC in early July.

In the season opener of MLC, Allen had smashed 151 - featuring a T20 record of 19 sixes - in San Francisco Unicorns' victory over Washington Freedom at the Oakland Coliseum.

Allen last played international cricket in March, where he hit 27 off 12 balls in New Zealand's eight-wicket victory over Pakistan in Wellington.

Shahid Mir From Baramulla Shines in ISPL Season-3 Auction, Gave Credit To His Coach Zeeshan Pervaiz

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Shahid Maqbool Mir from Wahigund Tangmarg, Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir, has made it big in the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) Season-3 auction! He was picked up by Bengaluru Strikers for an impressive ₹3 Lacs.

Shahid credits his success to the unwavering support of Affarwat-XI Sports Club Baramulla and Zeeshan Pervaiz, who stood by him throughout his journey. "Zeeshan Pervaiz was with me every step of the way during this one-and-a-half-month journey," Shahid said, expressing his heartfelt gratitude.

This achievement is a proud moment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the residents of District Baramulla and Tehsil Tangmarg. Shahid's selection is a testament to his hard work and dedication to the sport.

The ISPL Season-3 is set to feature eight teams and will be played in Surat from January 9 to February 6, 2026. With over 4.4 million player registrations, the ISPL has become a platform for talented cricketers to showcase their skills.

Shahid's story is an inspiration to aspiring cricketers, and his achievement will undoubtedly motivate others to pursue their passion for the game.



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