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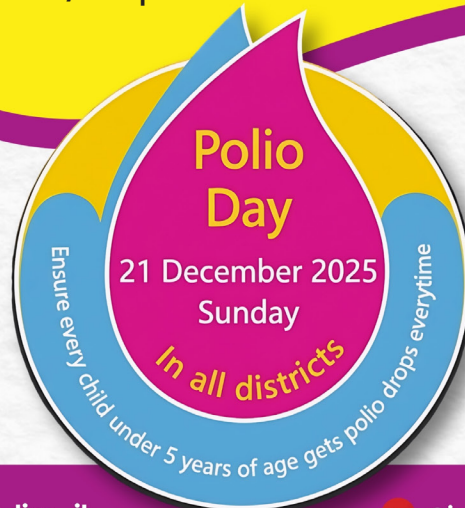
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LG Sinha Sacks 103 Fire Services Staff After ACB Uncovers Recruitment Scam

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 15: In a major crackdown on recruitment fraud, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday ordered the termination of services of 103 employees of the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Department after their appointments were found to be illegal and tainted by large-scale manipulation in the 2020 recruitment process.

The action followed the findings of a high-level inquiry committee and a subsequent investigation by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), which unearthed serious irregularities, including paper leakage, tampering of OMR sheets, fabrication of scanned answer sheets, and manipulation of merit lists.

According to an order issued by the Home Department, Principal Secretary Chandraker Bharti said the government had constituted an inquiry committee on



December 12, 2022, to probe allegations surrounding the recruitment of firemen and drivers in the department. The committee, after a detailed examination, recommended a criminal investigation, lead-

ing the ACB to register an FIR on January 2, 2025.

The ACB's preliminary verification and subsequent reports conclusively established that results had been manipulated in favour of 106 candidates, who were awarded marks far in excess of what they had actually secured, pointing to a criminal conspiracy to subvert the recruitment process.

"The investigation has established beyond doubt that these appointments were obtained fraudulently through criminal means, rendering them void ab initio," the order stated, adding that the constitutional protection under Article 311(2) does not apply where the very foundation of employment is vitiated by fraud. The order cited relevant judgments of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh and the Supreme Court to underline the government's position.

Out of the 106 candidates identified, the appointments of three had already

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CM Omar Reviews Srinagar Development Works



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level review meeting at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) to assess the overall developmental scenario of Srinagar district and obtain first-hand feedback on public issues from elected representatives.

The meeting undertook a detailed review of sector-wise and Assembly Constituency-wise

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CM Omar E-Inaugurates ₹37.92 Cr Projects

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today e-inaugurated and in virtual mode laid foundation stone of

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Pahalgam Carnage: NIA Files 1,597-Page Chargesheet, Names Pak Handler and LeT/TRF

Probe Traces April 22 Tourist Attack Conspiracy to Pakistan; Three Slain Terrorists, Two OGWs Among Six Accused

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 15: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday filed a detailed 1,597-page chargesheet in the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists, dead, naming six accused including a Pakistan-based handler, three slain terrorists and two overground

workers.

The chargesheet was submitted after seven-and-a-half months of investigation before a special NIA court in Jammu. The agency has named the banned Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and its proxy outfit, The Resistance Front (TRF), as the key terror organisations behind the planning and execution of the attack.

According to the NIA, the three Pakistani terrorists involved—Sulaiman Shah, Hamza Afghani and Jibran—were neutralised in Operation Mahadev in Srinagar. Two OGWs, Bashir Ahmad Jothar and Parvez Ahmad, have been chargesheeted for providing shelter, food and logistical support to the terrorists a day

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CS Pushes Mission-Mode DPIIT District Reforms

Plan to ensure ease of doing business at grassroots level

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 15: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held a review to access the implementation of the newly rolled-out District Business Reforms Action Plan (D-BRAP) under the Ease of Doing Business initiative of the Government of India's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

The review meeting, coordinated by the Industries & Commerce Department, was attended by Administrative Secretaries and Heads of Departments, along with Deputy Commis-

sioners of all districts through either in person or through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took a comprehensive appraisal of department-wise services and reform parameters mandated under D-BRAP. He emphasized the need for the Industries & Commerce Department, as the nodal agency, to develop a common real-time dashboard providing a consolidated view of the status of all services across departments and districts. He further directed that all such services be

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Chief Secy Reviews 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' Prep

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 15: In a run-up to the nationwide 'Sushasan Saptah – Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' campaign to be observed from December 19 to 25, 2025, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today reviewed the preparedness of districts in a meeting attended by Administrative Secretaries and all Deputy Commissioners.

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Lok Sabha Clears Supplementary Grants 2025-26

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, DEC 15: The Lok Sabha on Monday approved the supplementary demands for grants for the financial year 2025-26, seeking an additional Rs 41455 crore, of which Rs 2504 crore has been earmarked for the Union Territory of Ladakh to be transferred to the Union Territory of

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Snow Wait Stalls Kashmir's Winter Tourism, Hoteliers Eye Revival with First White Spell

Low Hotel Occupancy Across Resorts as Tourists Hold Bookings, Industry Pins Hopes on Imminent snowfall

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, DEC 15: Kashmir's winter tourism season has begun on a subdued note, with hotel

bookings across major destinations remaining lower than expected due to the absence of the season's first major snowfall.

Popular resorts such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonmarg are witnessing thin tourist footfall, though industry stakeholders say the situation could change overnight once snow blankets the Valley. Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Hoteliers Club, Mushtaq

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'34% power deficit' looms in J&K, Ladakh amid cold wave

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, DEC 15: Amid persistent cold temperatures, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to witness a power deficit of more than 34 percent in the month of December.

The officials according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)—said that in the anticipated power supply position in the northern region for December-2025, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to have a power shortage of 34.2 percent.

The official figures reveal that there is an availability of just 2460 Megawatts (MWs) against a requirement of 3737 MWs in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. It also reveals that there is a shortage of 1277 MWs.

Another official document accessed by KNO read, "With the increase in winter, demand of J&K control area is on a higher side and it is hovering around 3200MW."

It also said that the heating load is also picking up during early morning and night hours. "The demand may further increase in the coming days."

"It has been observed that the

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Centre Updates J&K Hydropower Projects Status

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, DEC 15: The Union Ministry of Power has informed Parliament that NHPC Limited is currently operating six hydropower projects in Jammu and Kashmir with a combined installed capacity of 2,250 megawatts, while two major hydropower projects, Ratle and Pakal Dul, are under construction through joint ventures with the Jammu and Kash-

mir government.

In a written reply in Parliament, Minister of State for Power Shripad Naik said NHPC is operating the Salal project with a capacity of 690 MW, Uri-I with 480MW, Dulhasti with 390 MW, Sewa-II with 120MW, Uri-II with 240 MW, and Kishanganga with 330 MW in the Union Territory.

The minister said the 850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project and the 1,000 MW Pakal Dul Hydroelectric

Project are being implemented through joint venture companies formed between NHPC Limited and the Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation.

According to the reply, the Ratle project is being executed by Ratle Hydro Power Corporation Limited, a joint venture between NHPC and JKSPDC. As of October 31, 2025, the project has achieved physical

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اظہار تشکر

میں فیاض احمد قریشی ان تمام معزز احباب کا شکریہ ادا کرتا ہوں جنہوں نے میری شریک حیات محترمہ منوہ قریشی کے انتقال پر ہمارے گھر تشریف لا کر اس نہایت صدمہ خیز گھڑی میں ہمارے ساتھ گھرے ہو کر حوصلہ نصرت اور دعا کے ذریعے میں تقویت بخشی۔ آپ کی موجودگی اور دعاؤں نے میں اس مشکل وقت کا سامنا کرنے کی بہت عطائی میں۔ اپنے ماضی ملازمین صحافتی انجمنوں، کشمیر بار ایڈمیٹیشن، دوکان حضرات، طبی شعبہ دایین بی او، سماجی کارکنان، سیاسی رہنماؤں، عزیز واقارب، دوستوں، بڑوں کیوں اور ہر اس فرد کا صمیم قلب سے شکر گزار ہوں جس نے آگے بڑھ کر ہمارے ساتھ ہمدردی اور یکجہتی کا اظہار کیا۔ آپ بھی معززین کی محبت، فکرمندی اور تعاون ہمارے دلوں میں ہمیشہ نقش رہیں گی۔ آپ کی جانب سے دکھ میں شریک ہونے کے اس جذبے نے ہمارے حوصلے مضبوط کیا اور ہمیں اس مشکل مرحلے سے گزرنے میں مدد دی۔

میں اپنی پوری محنت کی جانب سے ان تمام احباب کا شکریہ دل سے شکر یہ ادا کرتا ہوں جنہوں نے بالمشافہ یا پیغام کے ذریعے اپنی ہمدردی پیش کی۔ اللہ تعالیٰ آپ سب کو اجر عظیم عطا فرمائے اور اپنی رحمتوں سے نوازے۔ آمین

با احترام

ایکادعا گو

فیاض قریشی

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Div Com Kashmir Reviews Progress of Operationlisation of 60 MLD STP for Srinagar city

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 15: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today reviewed the operationlisation of 60 MLD STP for Srinagar city and the progress of tendering process for utilities shifting required to connect lane-level drainage with the sewerage system under the Greater Srinagar Sewerage Scheme (JnNURM).

The meeting was attended by the Chief Engineers of KPDC, PWD; Superintending Engineers from PHE and UEED, Deputy Director Planning, and officers of NBCC.

During the review, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the need to expedite and complete the tendering process for utilities shifting related to the construction of connecting drainage portions of the UEED network.



tion of connecting drainage portions of the UEED network. SE UEED assured the Chair that the process of connecting Households with the trunk line to the STP shall be completed by 5th January for optimal utilisation of the installed capacity.

The Div Com directed the concerned departments to ensure timely power connection to the Sewerage Treatment Plant at Noorbagh and to complete the outfall line.

He also instructed the concerned authorities to project bottlenecks affecting works in Alamgiri Bazar, Zadibal, and Habakadal for discussion in the forthcoming High-Level Committee meeting.

Strict Traffic Operation on Gulmarg-Magam Highway to Boost Road Safety

UBAID MEHDI

BUDGAM, DEC 15: In a bid to strengthen road safety and ensure strict adherence to traffic regulations, the Traffic Police carried out a special enforcement drive on the Gulmarg-Magam Highway. The operation was conducted under the supervision of SSP Traffic Rural Ravinder Pal Singh and DSP Traffic Farooq Ahmad.

During the special drive, traffic police personnel established checking points at various locations along the busy highway, during which thousands of vehicles were inspected. The enforcement team took strict action against traffic rule violators, leading to the seizure of several vehicles and the issuance



of challans to offenders.

Officials said the campaign was launched in view of increasing traffic congestion and frequent violations on the Gulmarg-Magam stretch, which witnesses heavy vehicular movement, especially during peak hours. The drive focused on checking overspeeding, rash driving, lack of valid documents, non-wearing of seat belts and helmets, and other violations that pose serious risks to commuters.

The Traffic Police emphasized that the objective of the operation was not punitive alone but also to create awareness among motorists, encourage responsible driving behavior, and reduce the likelihood of road accidents. Authorities further stated that similar enforcement drives will continue in the coming days to maintain traffic discipline and ensure the safety of all road users on the highway.

Continuous Joint Special Traffic Drive Conducted in Qazigund, Kulgam

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, DEC 15: A continuous joint special traffic enforcement drive was conducted today in the Qazigund sector of Kulgam under the supervision of DySP Traffic Mohd Aslam, along with the District Traffic Inspector (DTI), all Station Officers (SOs), and traffic teams.

The drive was carried out at various locations across the Qazigund-Kulgam sector to check visible traffic violations. During the special drive, a total of 126 vehicles were booked for different traffic offences, and an on-the-spot fine of ₹54,800 was imposed. Additionally, six



vehicles were seized for not having proper documents.

Officials said that such enforcement drives will continue in the coming days to ensure strict compliance with traffic laws. Along with challaning, traffic awareness was also a key component of the drive. Motorists were sensitised about the importance of carrying valid documents and strictly following traffic rules to ensure the safety of vehicle owners, passengers, and pedestrians, and to prevent any untoward incidents.

The general public has been urged to follow traffic rules for their own safety and is also requested to inform traffic officers or officials if they observe any traffic violations.

Ehsaas Foundation in Collaboration with Arsh Institute Organises ASAT Scholarship Test

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 15: Ehsaas Foundation, in association with Arsh Institute, successfully conducted the ASAT Scholarship Test, which saw the participation of over 100 students hailing from different streams.

This initiative was taken to help brilliant, eligible, and talented students to support their education by allowing them to pursue it through scholarships.

Programme Coordinator Meer Arsalan informed that the ASAT Scholarship Test was conducted to identify meritorious students, especially from economically weaker sections.



Chairman Ehsaas Foundation, Zahoor Ahmad Malik, in his message, said the initiative is committed to BPL students, orphans, and other underprivileged learners so that financial constraints do not act as a deterrent in their schooling.

Students who sat for the test commended the initiative taken by Ehsaas Foundation and Arsh Institute, terming it a very thoughtful and well-timed move. They said that such scholarship programmes not only encourage students but also instill hope among people who desire a brighter future through education.

The organisers said, "similar initiatives in coming times too will strengthen the students' position and ensure continuity of education among the less privileged section of society."

Announcement of the Publication of the Annual Literary Magazine of ICF

Decision taken at a meeting held in Najin Sumbal by the Forum

GULFAM BARJI

BANDIPORA, DEC 15: A significant and final meeting of the current year was held at the residence of the Forum's senior member, Zakir Mohammad Ramzan Malla, in Najin Sumbal under the banner of the well-known literary organization Inder Cultural Forum (ICF) Inder Kot Sumbal presided over by the Forum's President, Saleem Yousuf. During the meeting, discussions were held on making the organization more active and on other organizational matters.

In the meeting, all members of the Forum unanimously decided that the first annual literary magazine of Inder Cultural Forum for the year 2026 would be published.



lished. Forum members Gulfam Barji and Showqeen Sonmi presented their views via phone.

While formally announcing this decision, Forum President Saleem Yousuf stated that, under the auspices of Inder Cultural Forum Sonawari, a high-quality annual literary magazine would

be published with the objective of promoting the literary, cultural, and creative talents of the region.

The meeting also included detailed and serious deliberations on the Forum's literary activities and future plans. Other important matters were discussed at length, with emphasis placed on the need for all affiliated members to work diligently to make the Forum more active and dynamic.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a grand poetic symposium (Mushaira) was also held. The poets who participated included Saleem Yousuf, Taufiq Talib, Gh Hassan Hassan, Mir Rafiq, Gulfam Nowgami, Mir Muzamil, Mohammad Ramzan Malla, among others.

Cultural Academy Presents Acclaimed Theatre Play "Faasla" at Amar Singh College, Srinagar

Late Marriage and Growing Drug Abuse in Society Highlighted; Performances by Firdous Dramatic Club Lauded

JAMEEL ANSARI

SRINAGAR, DEC 15: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages on Monday organised a theatre performance of the play "Faasla" at Amar Singh College, Srinagar. The play was presented by Firdous Dramatic Club, Srinagar, and was written and directed by noted theatre artist Hassan Javaid. The performance received an overwhelming response from the audience.

The play effectively highlighted the issues of late marriage and the alarming spread of drug abuse in society, portraying their devastating impact through a realistic and thought-provoking narrative.

Through powerful scenes and dialogues, the drama reflected the challenges faced by the younger generation and the serious social and familial consequences arising from these issues.

Several characters were portrayed with remarkable skill, and the performances of Hassan Javaid, Ashiq Hussain Bhat, Abdul Majeed Majaz, Akhtar Hussain, Shah Mohiud-Din, Farhat Siddiqui and child Artist Ahmad were especially appreciated. The artists, through their natural and expressive acting, successfully conveyed the central theme of the play to the audience.

Prior to the performance, Dr Syed Iftikhar Ahmad, Senior Officer and In-charge Pro-



gramme, J&K Cultural Academy, delivered the welcome address and warmly greeted the audience, artists and organisers. He said that theatre is a powerful medium for social reform and intellectual awakening, and that drama festivals play a vital role in engaging youth in positive and creative activities.

Principal Amar Singh College, Prof. Ejaz Ahmad Hakak, attended the event as the Chief Guest. Speaking on the occasion, he appreciated the efforts of the Firdous Dramatic Club and the Cultural Academy, and expressed hope that such meaningful and quality productions would continue to promote awareness and dialogue in society. He emphasised the need for more educational and socially relevant plays for the younger generation.

On the occasion, Dr Gulzar Ahmad Rathar, Assistant Editor, J&K Cultural Academy, thanked the administration of Amar Singh College, Srinagar, and stated that the promotion of serious theatre is not possible without institutional support.

Meanwhile, Hassan Javaid, President of Firdous Dramatic Club, expressed gratitude to the J&K Cultural Academy, the administration of Amar Singh College, and the students for their cooperation and support in making the theatre performance a success.

The programme was compered by Dr Gulzar Ahmad Rathar.

Sham Lal Sharma chairs PAC meeting

Examines CAG's Audit Paras of H&UDD

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 15: The Committee on Public Accounts (PAC) of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today held a meeting under the Chairmanship of MLA, Sham Lal Sharma, to examine various Audit Para's pertaining to Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD).

Legislators, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurez), Balwant Singh Mankotia, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Javid Hassan Baig and Sajad Shaheen; members of the committee, Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur; Accountant General J&K, Tsewang Tharchin; Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Devansh Yadav; besides Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandit attended the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed



discussions were held on the CAG's Audit Paras 3.3 and 4.2.3 (2006-07) and 3.12 (2014-15) pertaining to Housing and Urban development Department.

The Committee also reviewed the steps and action taken on CAG's Audit Paras 8.5 (2000-01), 5.1 to 5.8 and 6.3 (2020-21) which have already been discussed by the Committee in its previous meeting held at Assembly Complex, Srinagar.

Accountant General J&K, Tsewang Tharchin, briefed the Committee

about the queries and present status of various audit paras pertaining to H&UD Department.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD and Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) briefed the Committee about the action taken on query raised in the CAG's Audit paras of H&UDD.

The Chairman highlighted the main objectives and working of the Committee and directed the senior officers of H&UDD to clear all hurdles for improving work culture and

accountability. He also asked for fixing responsibility to ensure visible and effective development is extended to the people living in urban areas.

The Chairman directed the concerned officers to submit a comprehensive detailed report regarding Audit Para 6.3 (2020-21) within ten days so that the final decision could be taken in this regard.

The members of the Committee gave their valuable suggestions to make the Committee more fruitful and result oriented. They also highlighted various issues pointed out in the CAG's audit paras.

Among others Director, Local Bodies Kashmir, Qazi Sarwar; Director, Local Bodies Jammu, Kapil Sharma; VC, SDA, Mohammed Rafi besides senior officers of H&UDD and Assembly Secretariat attended the meeting.

Sunil Sharma's organizational strength to boost BJP's Assam poll strategy: Billawaria

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DECEMBER 15 : The senior leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, led by Baldev Singh Billawaria, General Secretary, J&K BJP, today felicitated Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition in the J&K Legislative Assembly, on his nomination as Election Co-Incharge for the Assam Assembly Elections by the BJP high command.

Speaking on the occasion, Baldev Singh Billawaria congratulated Sunil Sharma and lauded his unwavering dedication, discipline, and commitment to the party's ideology and organizational growth. He stated that Sunil Sharma has consistently demonstrated sharp political acumen, strategic clarity, and an exceptional ability to coordinate party workers at the grassroots level. He said that Sunil Sharma's journey in the organization has been marked by tireless hard work, organizational loyalty, and a deep connect with party cadre. His experience in handling challenging political situations with maturity and foresight makes him a natural choice for this crucial responsibility,

Billawaria said.

He further emphasized that Sharma's disciplined, result-oriented approach and hands-on organizational style would significantly strengthen the BJP's election preparedness in Assam. His leadership qualities and organizational skills will energize the party cadre and help translate the vision and policies of the BJP into effective on-ground action. We are confident that his contribution will play a vital role in further consolidating the party's position in Assam, he added.

Those present on the occasion included DDC Suresh Sharma, Spokesperson Dr. Tahir Choudhary, Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Pitambar Sharma, Surinder Singh Gilli, Adv. Rajinder Singh Jamwal, Rajesh Gupta, Satish Shastri, and other senior party leaders and workers.

The BJP leadership expressed full confidence that Sunil Sharma will discharge his responsibilities with the same dedication and organizational excellence that have defined his political career, thereby contributing meaningfully to the party's electoral success in Assam.

Kishtwar admin formulates action plan to curb child labour

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) to review and strengthen measures for the regulation and prohibition of child labour in the district.

The meeting focused on the effective enforcement of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, which prohibits the employment



of children below the age of 14 years and regulates the working conditions of adolescents. The meeting decided to initiate formulation of a comprehensive action plan to prevent child labour.

The DC emphasized the need for a well-defined strategy and directed the concerned departments to chart out a detailed calendar for district-wide awareness drives aimed at sensitising the public about the legal and social consequences of child labour.

The DC stressed inter-departmental coordination and proactive field-level action to ensure a child-labour-free district with special focus on education, rehabilitation and community participation.

The meeting was attended by key members of the DLTFC, including ASP Kishtwar, Pardeep Singh; DSWO Kishtwar, Tariq Parvez Qazi; ALC Kishtwar, Mamta Sudarshan, Member Secretary; ZEO Kishtwar; Chairperson, CWC Kishtwar, Sheetal Sharma and other concerned representatives.

District Administration Kishtwar engages communities through ongoing IEC Campaign on Drug Abuse

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 15: The District Administration Kishtwar, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, has intensified the IEC campaign under the aegis of Nasha Mukti Jammu & Kashmir initiative to address drug abuse at the grassroots level.

In continuation to the campaign, a series of awareness drives were conducted today at the village and panchayat levels.

The widespread campaign, spanning all 13 administrative blocks of the district, has drawn active involvement from the social spectrum, including residents, students, teachers, youth groups and local influencers.

The central goal is to educate citizens about the harmful impact of drug misuse and to inspire collective efforts toward achieving a drug-free ("Nasha Mukti") environment.

Every Monday, awareness events are being organized across different panchayats, where resource persons appointed by the administration engage with the people.

The resource persons are drawn from Social Welfare, Health, Police, Education and Rural Development Department, among others. The sessions aim to maintain continuous engagement and provide



meaningful education on the dangers of drug abuse directly to rural populations.

Today's focus was on conducting awareness drives in educational institutions, making schools and colleges the epicenters of change and learning. At the District Headquarters, the main program was held at Mother's Pride School in Ward No. 13.

During the daylong events, dedicated nodal officers and nodal agencies led impactful information-sharing activities in multiple villages across all 13 blocks of the District. The events promoted public dialogue and heightened awareness.

Capacity-building workshop on Packaging, Branding held at Ramban

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, DECEMBER 15: The Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom Jammu & Kashmir, in collaboration with NIFT Srinagar, on Monday organised a one-day capacity-building workshop on Packaging and Branding here at the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

The workshop was organized with the objective of strengthening the

market readiness of local artisans and craft-based entrepreneurs.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

He emphasized the crucial role of effective packaging and branding in transforming traditional crafts into sustainable livelihood opportunities. He highlighted the government's continued efforts under the RAMP Scheme aimed

to provide institutional support, skill up-gradation and enhanced market linkages to artisans and weavers.

The workshop focused on enhancing participants' understanding of modern packaging techniques, branding strategies, product presentation, and market positioning to add value to the products and improve competitiveness in national and international markets.

Agriculture Department hosts one-day Youth Club Awareness Workshop at Kishtwar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KISHTWAR, DECEMBER 15: The Department of Agriculture Kishtwar today organised a one-day Youth Club Campaign-cum-Awareness workshop with the aim of sensitising young minds to sustainable agricultural practices, environmental conservation and community development.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the pivotal role of youth in fostering cleanliness, environmental protection and the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices at the grassroots level. He emphasized that empowered and informed youth can act as catalysts for positive change in rural communities.

A total of 10 Youth Clubs, with two clubs from each block—Kishtwar, Palmar, Thakrie, Nagseni and Mughal Maidan—participated in the workshop.

During the programme, detailed deliberations were held on the role and responsibilities of youth clubs, highlighting their involvement in key community-centric activities such as conducting cleanliness drives, organizing plantation campaigns,



supporting rejuvenation of local water bodies and dissemination of weather advisories among farming communities.

Officers from the Agriculture Department apprised the participants of various government schemes and stressed the importance of youth engagement in environmental protection and sustainable agricultural development.

The workshop concluded with an interactive session encouraging youth club members to actively participate in community-based initiatives and serve as ambassadors of change in their respective areas.

Pawan Singh nominates State Executive of BJP Urban Local Bodies Cell in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DECEMBER 15 : Pawan Singh, Convenor, Urban Local Bodies (ULB), J&K BJP, has nominated the State Executive Members of the BJP Urban Local Bodies Cell for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The appointments were made after due consultation with Sat Sharma (CA), Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and President, J&K BJP, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP, and Ved Sharma, Incharge, BJP All Cells. The State Executive includes names of leaders including Surinder Sharma, Subhash Chander, Vikram Singh, Munish Kumar, Surinder Sharma, Manohar Lal Bhagat, Rajesh Gupta, Narotam Sharma, Ankur Gupta, Nitin Thappa, Satpal Pappi, Varinder Singh, Rajan Sharma, Sham Lal Bhagat, Raghunandan Singh, Rakesh Sharma, Ravinder Pathani, Vikal Parihar, M. L. Bhatt, Rajinder Gupta, Rajeev Tandon, Mohd. Arif Jatt, Ankush Kumar Baru, Sunita Kumari, Pawan Bakshi, Prem Jamoria, Surinder Arora, Amit Abrol, Mohammad Hanief Bhat, Anjil Zahid, Samyaz Ahmad Sofi, Aijaz Ahmad Dhobi, Ekhlal Ahmad Ganaie, Mukhtar Ahmad Mir, Zubair Ashraf Ahanger, Abdul Hamid Bhat, Zahoor Ahmad Lone, Mehraj Ud Din Rather. Leaders hailed from Jammu province districts including, Akhnoor, Bhasholi, Doda, Jammu North, Jammu, Jammu south, Jammu Border, Kathua, Kishtwar, KDD, Nowshera, Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Ramban, Samba, Udhampur, and Kashmir province districts including Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kupwara, and Bandipora have been entrusted with this responsibility. Congratulating the newly nominated members, Pawan Singh expressed confidence that the team will work with dedication and discipline to strengthen the BJP's organizational structure at the urban level. He emphasized that the Urban Local Bodies Cell will focus on effective implementation of party policies, addressing civic issues, and promoting good governance in line with the BJP's vision of transparent, accountable, and people-centric administration. He further stated that the BJP remains committed to empowering urban local bodies and ensuring inclusive development, with the newly formed State Executive playing a pivotal role in translating this commitment into action on the ground.

Public welfare and youth development remain BJP priorities: Sat Sharma

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DECEMBER 15 : A deputation of prominent citizens from JMC Ward Numbers 35, 36 and 37, led by former Councillor, JMC Ward No. 35, and Chairman, Swachh Bharat Committee, JMC Jammu, Yash Paul Sharma (Mantoo), called upon Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and President, J&K Bharatiya Janata Party, Sat Sharma, at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The deputation submitted a memorandum seeking the establishment of a full-fledged Indoor Stadium at Patoli Magotrian (Patoli Chowk) for the benefit of youth and the general public.

Responding to the concerns raised, Sat Sharma assured the deputation that the BJP remains sensitive to genuine public aspirations, especially those connected with youth welfare and social upliftment. He stated that the constructive demands aimed at youth engagement, sports



promotion and positive social development deserve careful and sympathetic consideration. He said that the proposal for an Indoor Stadium at Patoli Magotrian reflects a forward-looking vision of the local population.

He added that the matter will be examined seriously and taken up with the concerned authorities at the appropriate level, keeping public interest and feasibility in view.

He further reiterated that BJP's

politics is rooted in service, dialogue and sustained advocacy for people-centric development.

The deputation explained that during the 'Public Samvad' programme organized by JMC at Bharat Mata Park, Patoli Morh,

representatives from five adjoining wards collectively proposed the utilization of available JMC land at Patoli Chowk for an Indoor Stadium. It was highlighted that the land, earlier a dried-up natural pond and later prone to dumping and encroachment, has now been properly fenced by JMC and stands recorded as Banjar Qadeem in revenue records.

The deputation stressed that establishing an Indoor Stadium at this centrally located site, surrounded by 8 to 10 JMC wards would provide year-round sports facilities, curb drug abuse, prevent youth from drifting towards social evils, and serve lakhs of residents.

Supplementing the deputation, Yash Paul Sharma (Mantoo) expressed gratitude to the BJP leadership for its consistent accessibility and responsive attitude. He thanked Sat Sharma for patiently hearing the memorandum and giving a reassuring response.

Sensitization workshop 'Yuva Vani 2.0' under JKCIP held at Ganderbal

DC presides over the event, releases booklet on 'Kisan Sampark Abhiyan- JKCIP'

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

GANDERBAL, DEC 15: Agriculture department Ganderbal today organized a district-level sensitization workshop 'Yuva Vani 2.0', a large-scale Youth Club campaign under the JKCIP (Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project).

The workshop was organized for identified Youth Clubs from designated blocks of the district to equip the youth with the knowledge and skills necessary to tackle pressing environmental challenges.

The training sessions focused on three critical areas viz. rejuvenation of water bodies, solid waste management and weather awareness.

Deputy Commissioner (DC)

Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore presided over the event, and released a booklet on 'Kisan Sampark Abhiyan- JKCIP'.

Addressing the gathering, DC highlighted the pivotal role of youth in nation-building and environmental stewardship. He encouraged the club members to act as ambassadors of change in their respective blocks, taking the lessons learned from the workshop back to their communities.

He said this workshop holds immense significance to train Youth Club members to engage with the community for environmental conservation.

He urged them to formulate DPRs timely for the environmental conservation projects without compromising the quality. He also directed the concerned department to give full



cooperation to nominated youth clubs for the said programme and ensure timely action in the field.

Earlier, Chief Agriculture Officer Ganderbal 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 SKUAST-K, KVK, Agriculture department and allied departments and FTEC delivered technical sessions on youth mobilization, environmental issues, and climate change

besides 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 JKCIP activities were also distributed among youth clubs, ensuring that the youth receive comprehensive information and remain well-informed.

Besides, a documentary on the Yuva Vani 2.0 was also screened on the occasion.

Chief Planning Officer, Chief Agricultural Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Nodal Officer HADP, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officers, concerned Agriculture Extension Officers, representatives from agriculture department participated in the training programme.

DC Kupwara reviews various Land issues Pertaining to Defense

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, DECEMBER 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess and resolve various land-related issues pertaining to Defense establishments in the district.

During the meeting, the DC took a detailed appraisal of matters concerning identification, verification, demarcation, and record updation of Defense land. Emphasis was laid on expeditious disposal of pending cases through close coordination between the civil administration, Defense authorities, and revenue officials.



The DC stressed the importance of maintaining accurate land records and ensuring timely resolution of issues to facilitate smooth functioning of Defense establishments while safeguarding public and government interests. Officers were directed to adhere strictly to established procedures and timelines, and to submit periodic progress reports.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad; concerned Tehsildars, besides officers and representatives from the Defense authorities.

DC Shopian reviews preparations for Good Governance Week

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, DEC 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a comprehensive meeting to review preparations for the effective implementation of the Good Governance Week campaign "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore", scheduled to be held from December 19 to 25, 2025. During the meeting, The DC emphasized on the coordinated efforts of all line departments to ensure smooth implementation of the village outreach campaign

with focus on citizen-centric delivery of services at the grassroots level. Tehsildars were designated as Nodal Officers at Tehsil-level camps, while Block Development Officers (BDOs) were nominated as Nodal Officers at Panchayat-level camps for the campaign period. The DC directed all line departments to depute their representatives to the designated village level camps and submit deputation schedules in advance.

Establishment of Registration Desks, Service Delivery Desks and the availability of a dedicated



Samadhan Portal at all camps shall be ensured to facilitate prompt redressal of public grievances and delivery of public services.

Reiterating the objective of Good Governance Week, the DC stressed that the campaign aims to take governance to the doorsteps of citizens and ensure transparency, accountability and efficient public service delivery across the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACD, district and sectoral officers, tehsildars and BDOs.

House Committee conducts on-spot inspection of JJM Schemes in Baramulla

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 15: The House Committee, constituted by the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly to probe alleged irregularities in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), today conducted an extensive on-spot inspection of various JJM schemes in Baramulla district.

The Committee, led by Chairman Hasnain Masoodi, MLA, visited multiple project sites to assess the ground-level execution of the flagship drinking water programme. The inspection focused on evaluating the physical progress, quality of workmanship, functionality of water supply systems, and adherence to prescribed guidelines and timelines.

During the visit, the Committee interacted with local residents and public representatives to gather firsthand feedback regarding water supply, coverage of households, and sustainability of the schemes. Several public grievances and concerns related to delayed execution, inadequate



infrastructure, and maintenance issues were brought to the notice of the Committee.

Officers of the Jal Shakti Department and other concerned agencies briefed the Committee about the current status of the schemes, financial and technical challenges faced during implementation, and corrective measures being undertaken to ensure timely completion. The Committee sought detailed explanations on issues related to cost escalation, contractor performance, and quality control mechanisms.

Emphasizing transparency, accountability, and robust monitoring,

the Committee directed the concerned departments to strictly adhere to JJM guidelines and ensure that all eligible households receive safe and adequate drinking water as envisaged under the mission. It also stressed the importance of regular maintenance and community participation to ensure long-term sustainability of the water supply schemes.

The on-spot inspection reflects the Legislature's firm commitment to strengthening oversight, addressing public concerns, and improving service delivery under the Jal Jeevan Mission in Baramulla district.

DC Kulgam flags off farmers for Exposure visit to CSKHPKV under HADP

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, DECEMBER 15: Under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan, today flagged off 46 farmers of the district for a five-day exposure visit to Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (CSKHPKV), Palampur (HP) under the Promotion of Oilseeds programme, 2025-26.



The exposure visit aims to familiarize farmers with advanced agricultural technologies, improved oilseed cultivation practices, and innovative farming techniques to enhance productivity and farmer's income in the district.

On the occasion, the DC highlighted the significance of such exposure visits in capacity building of farmers and promoting the adoption of scientific and sustainable agricultural practices under HADP.

Chief Agriculture Officer Kulgam, Farooq Ahmad Reshi, along with other officers of the Agriculture Department, were present on the occasion and assured continued technical support to the farming community.

The initiative is expected to contribute significantly towards strengthening oilseed production and overall agricultural development in Kulgam district.

JKPDA Meets Controller Legal Metrology J&K

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 15: The Jammu and Kashmir Petroleum Dealers Association (JKPDA) today called on the Controller, Legal Metrology, Jammu and Kashmir, Shiv Kumar Gupta, to discuss key issues and operational challenges being faced by petroleum dealers across the Union Territory.

The delegation, led by JKPDA President, Rahul Gupta, highlighted the importance of close coordination

between the Legal Metrology Department and petroleum dealers to ensure smooth operations and effective compliance with prescribed regulatory standards.

During the interaction, the Controller, Legal Metrology, assured the delegation of full cooperation from the department. He emphasized strict adherence to legal provisions, transparency in day-to-day operations, and prompt redressal of consumer grievances, reiterating that consumer trust



and satisfaction remain the cornerstone of the petroleum retail sector.

The Controller further advised the dealers to ensure timely submission of applications for revalidation of dispensing units strictly in accordance with the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). He stressed the need to ensure accurate quantity and quality delivery of petroleum products at all times.

Dealers were also advised to maintain duly verified capacity measures of appropriate capacity, such as 5 litres or 10 litres, and to

periodically check the accuracy of fuel dispensers so that consumers are neither short-delivered nor misled in any manner.

Responding to the issues raised, the JKPDA delegation assured the Controller that the association and its members would strictly adhere to all the guidelines and directions issued by the Legal Metrology Department and would extend full cooperation in ensuring compliance with all statutory requirements.

KVK Bandipora organises Technology Demonstration on Aquatic Crop Cultivation

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 15: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1, under Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Kashmir (SKUAST-K), organised a technology demonstration on scientific cultivation of aquatic crops at its demonstration farm to promote aquatic plant development and livelihood opportunities through wetland-based agriculture in Kashmir.

The demonstration focused on high-potential aquatic crops including Gorgon Nut (Makhana/ Fox Nut), Water Chestnut, and Lotus, which offer strong potential for agricultural diversification, income enhancement, and sustainable utilization of water-rich ecosystems around Wular Lake.

The initiative was conducted under the guidance of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who emphasized promoting aquatic crops as a

strategic intervention for diversification of farming systems and enhancement of farmers' income.

The Director Extension, SKUAST-K, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, supported the initiative and emphasized effective technology dissemination, farmer capacity building, and integration of aquatic crops for sustainable livelihoods. She also envisaged developing KVK Bandipora-1 as a Centre of Excellence for aquatic plant development.



The programme gained added significance following the MoU signed in October between

SKUAST Kashmir and ICAR-National Research Centre for Makhana (ICAR-NRCM), Darbhanga, aimed at strengthening collaborative research and development in aquatic crops.

Principal Scientist, ICAR-NRCM, Darbhanga, Prof. Indu Shekhar Singh, conducted live field-based demonstrations on scientific cultivation practices of makhana and water chestnut under local agro-ecological conditions, highlighting their

economic viability in Kashmir's wetlands.

Chief Scientist, AICRP, Prof. Syed Zameer Hussain, highlighted the importance of post-harvest management and value addition to enhance profitability from aquatic crops.

Head, KVK Bandipora-1, Dr. Tariq Sultan, informed that lotus cultivation has been successfully established at the KVK demonstration farm with high production under organic conditions, strengthening

prospects for expansion of aquatic crops. KVK scientists Dr. Tahir Saleem and Shabnum Mumtaz shared technical inputs during interactive sessions. Scientists, staff, and farmers from different parts of the district actively participated.

The initiative marks the first organised scientific demonstration of aquatic crop cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir and represents a significant step towards promoting wetland-based agriculture in the region.

HT EDITORIAL

Time to remove ban on closed tourist destinations has come

The union territory government headed by chief minister Omar Abdullah seems to be very much concerned about the revival of tourism in Kashmir. The government has its eyes focused on upcoming winter tourism and for the same they are in process of taking some confidence building measures. The people at helm are expecting that people in huge numbers would turn up and visit the Kashmir valley in the coming winter months.

Few days back the chief minister visited Gulmarg and besides inaugurating tourism related projects he also took part in a tourism related event. On this occasion the chief minister opined that the campaign related to revival of tourism would not bore fruits unless and until ban is not revoked from the tourist destinations that continue to be out of bounds for the locals and tourists. Omar voiced the demand that the tourist destinations should be reopened at the earliest so that there is real revival of tourism in Kashmir.

It would be in place to mention here that following the Baisaran-Pahalgam massacre on April 22 this year as many as 50 tourist destinations were closed for tourists and locals. Even though travel advisories have been removed from some of the banned tourist places, the majority of them continue to be out of bounds for locals and outsiders. The union territory government is walking on a razor's edge since it cannot take a decision of its own about the removal of advisories with respect to the closed tourist destinations.

Since the home department comes under Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha the union territory government is not competent to take a decision about the lifting of restrictions or otherwise about the tourist destinations. Stakeholders associated with the tourism sector have been making the demand of reopening of all the closed tourist destinations. Up to this moment of time only partial success has been achieved in this regard as many tourist destinations continue to be closed.

It is important that the home ministry steps in and takes the decision about lifting of restrictions from the closed tourist destinations as soon as possible. Since lakhs of people are associated with the tourism sector in Kashmir directly or indirectly it is imperative that the livelihood of such people is restored. Over the past eight months or so the tourism players are suffering and time has come to balm the wounds of the affected people.

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Continuity and Commitment

Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Ganai and the Tradition of Iqbaliyat in Kashmir



■ DR. MOHIUDIN ZORE KASHMIRI

"Iqbal is not hopeless about his barren land; if it is given a little moisture, this soil is very fertile, O cup-bearer"

Some years ago, the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, in his characteristic humorous style, once remarked to a lady journalist: "You are from Sopore, the Apple Town. Once, it was even called 'Small London.'" This casual remark reflected a deeper historical and cultural truth.

During my formative years in the 1980s and 1990s, in my own fanciful world, Sopore was spoken of with admiration. It was said that one of the wealthiest personalities of Sopore was Khawaja Samad Pandit, the owner of the famous "Samad Talkies." These recollections underline the fact that Sopore has always been a place of prominence, not only for horticulture and trade, but also for its rich intellectual and cultural heritage.

1. **This fertile land has produced renowned scholars, thinkers, noble souls, and artists. Among them were Balder, a Hindu landlord whose land was distributed among the inhabitants of Amargarh, Sopore; Ateeqa Bhen Ji, an eminent educationist; professor Ghulam Rasool Bacha (founder of MET) Pandit Bhajan Sopori, the legendary musician; Dr. Abdul Rahman Rather, a distinguished physician; Mohammad Ibrahim, a noted Desi Hakeem; and literary figures such as Abdul Rahman Mukhlis, Ibn Ismaeel, Rasheed Afaq, Shafaq Sopori, Rasheed Parveen, Shah Faisal Jan, and Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Ganai.**

Early Association with Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Ganai

Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Ganai, born in 1963, belongs to this proud intellectual tradition. Our association dates back to the early years of this era when both of us were struggling academically at the University of Kashmir. He was nearly eight years senior to me. At that time, I was pursuing my Ph.D., while he had almost completed his doctoral work. He was teaching in a local school, though he was not satisfied with the position, having earlier taught Arabic at the Islamia College, Sopore (a UGC-granted institution), which was unfortunately burnt during the early 1990s turmoil.

Like many young scholars of that period, we were deeply engaged in literature, research, and intellectual pursuits. We aspired for teaching positions at the university level, wrote articles for newspapers and journals, published books, and regularly attended literary conferences and seminars. Our common meeting places were the University of Kashmir and Meezan Publishers, Batamaloo, Srinagar, where the owner, Shabir Mati Ji, was a close mutual friend.

Academic Careers and Enduring Friendship

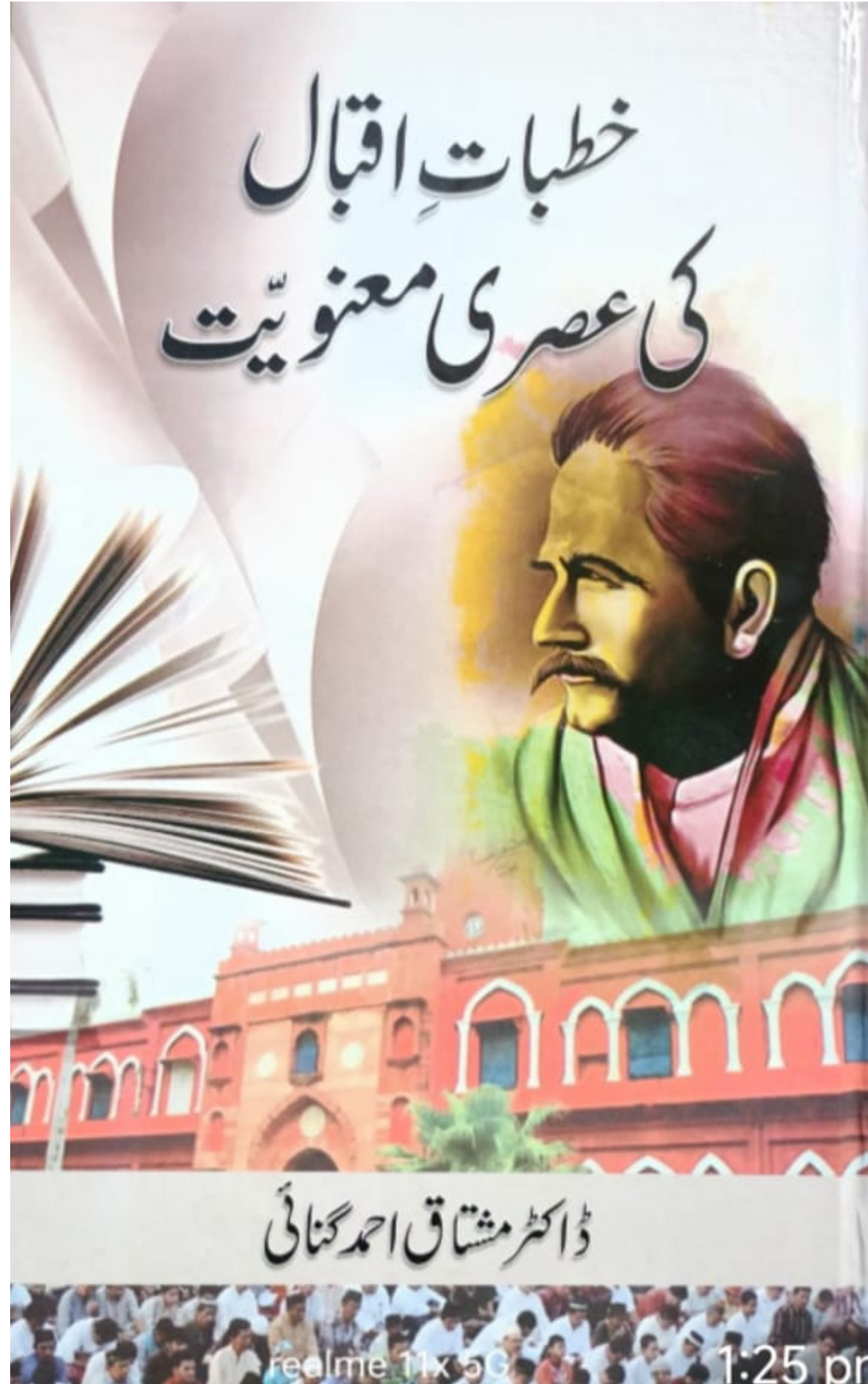
Time moved swiftly. I was appointed to the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Srinagar, and later joined the Department of Higher Education, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Ganai, meanwhile, was appointed at the Iqbal Institute of Culture and Philosophy, University of Kashmir. Other colleagues also found their respective paths, yet Dr. Mushtaq and I continued our friendship. This was largely because we never allowed petty issues to divert us from literature, scholarship, and higher intellectual values.

It is unfortunate that many so-called scholars forget even the titles of their theses, while some recycle a single research work for personal gain, promotions, or seminar tourism. Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Ganai does not belong to this category. He has worked with sincerity, devotion, and intellectual honesty, without greed or the pursuit of material benefits. His scholarship reflects depth, originality, and commitment.

Academic Background and Research Contributions

Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Ganai hails from village Seer, Sopore, and belongs to a respected and educated family. His father, Late Ghulam Rasool Ganai, was a revenue officer. Dr. Ganai graduated from Sopore Degree College in 1986 and completed his Master's degree in Arabic from the Department of Arabic, University of Kashmir, in 1988. He later joined the Iqbal Institute for research.

■ **M.Phil. (1998): "Tashkeel-e-Jadeed-ul-Hayat-e-Islamiya ke Muslim Aalam"**



ul-Hayat-e-Islamiya ke Muslim Aalam

■ **Ph.D. (2002): "Falsafa-e-Iqbal mein Ijtihad ki Ahmiyat"**

Role at the Iqbal Institute

Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Ganai has made invaluable contributions to the University of Kashmir, particularly by continuing the legacy of Professor Ale Ahmad Saroor, the founder of the Iqbal Institute. He has published numerous books, organized national and international seminars, delivered extension lectures, introduced new courses, guided research scholars, and worked on various academic projects.

One of his most significant achievements has been elevating the annual journal "Iqbaliyat" to great academic heights. The journal now appears in both Urdu and English, spans nearly 300 pages, and accommodates research from scholars across the globe.

His scholarly excellence has been acknowledged by eminent personalities such as Justice Javid Iqbal (son of Allama Iqbal), Professor Jagannath Azad, Professor Sheikh Mohammad Iqbal, Professor Qamar Rais, professor Abdul Haq (Delhi University), Professor Sharb Rudaulvi (JNU), Professor Rafiq ud Din Hashmi, Professor M. Aslam (University of Kashmir), Ghulam Nabi Khayal, and many others.

It is imperative that our literary and academic circles recognize Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Ganai's immense contributions and accord him the appreciation he truly deserves, so that he may continue his scholarly work with renewed zeal and enthusiasm.

A Glimpse into the Works of Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Ganai

■ **Nazriya-e-Ijtihad aur Iqbal (Two editions: 2003, 2013 | Pages: 368)**

A revised version of his Ph.D. thesis, this work comprises five detailed chapters. It explores the concept of Ijtihad, its historical evolution, and contemporary relevance. The author examines

reformist thinkers such as Jamal-ud-Din Afghani, Sheikh Mohammad Abduh, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, before presenting a comprehensive analysis of Iqbal's vision of Ijtihad in relation to unity, politics, and democracy.

■ **Tashkeel-e-Jadeed-ul-Hayat-e-Islamiya ke Muslim Aalam**
Published in 2000 by the Iqbal Institute; based on his M.Phil. research.

■ **Iqbal: Ishq-e-Rasool (ﷺ)**
A widely acclaimed work highlighting Allama Iqbal's profound love and devotion to the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

■ **Nala-e-Neem-Shab**
(Editions: 2006, 2008)
A collection of research papers on Iqbal, addressing themes such as Qur'anic concepts of love (Ishq), Prophetic devotion, and critical perspectives in Iqbaliyat.

■ **Iqbal: Khasoosi Mutala**
Designed as study material for special papers on Iqbal taught at various universities.

■ **Hube Rassool (ﷺ) aur Fiqri Iqbal**
Kitab Mahal Srinagar Kashmir.

■ **Khutbat-e-Iqbal ki Asri Manaviyat (Published 2021 | Pages: 328)**

This book critically analyzes Iqbal's lectures, highlighting their contemporary relevance across philosophy, knowledge systems, and modern intellectual discourse.

Iqbal and Current Issues

Published in English by a reputed New Delhi, based publisher, this internationally significant work comprises nine interconnected research papers. It explores Iqbal's ideas on Islamic renaissance, nationalism, Khilafat-e-Islamia, knowledge and civilization, humanism, Neo-Ijtihad, women's status, secularism, and other lesser-explored dimensions of Iqbal's thought.

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Sopore's Parking Crisis: A Barrier to Progress



■ SHOIAB MOHAMMAD BHAT

Sopore is one of the main towns in the Baramulla district. It is located about 48 kilometres north of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. Sopore is one of the prime commercial and administrative hubs in the region. Also known as "Apple Town," Sopore is an essential part of the agricultural-based economy in the Kashmir Valley. It is a historic town with roots dating back to the ancient period.

Sopore accommodates women and men of a wide range of ages and religions; it has gained importance due to its active commercial activities and availability of local products such as apples, nut products, etc. The place has good roads leading to connectivity via the highway; the Sopore-Srinagar highway acts as a pathway connecting commuters to cities and transporting goods. It witnessed rapid development over the last decade, with its development in infrastructure and fast-expanding commercial areas. However, with such growth comes traffic congestion, inadequate parking spaces, and so on, as well as an increased demand for basic amenities.

The town also boasts a rich cultural heritage and educational institutions, markets, and historical landmarks. Still, Sopore is moving forward as a vibrant town by balancing its old charm with the new growth in the town. With population growth and commercial activities taking place in town, more automobiles are coming out on the streets. Such expansion has exerted pressure on available parking space facilities, which had not been made to handle a large number of automobiles. For this reason, people find parking spaces to be a challenging problem in their lives.

Traffic Congestion: Sopore, like many growing towns, had little road space and infrastructure available to it. As the number of private automobiles is increasing in the town, it is often fraught with regular traffic jams. Even narrower streets in the



town, along with heavy pedestrian and vehicular movement, make it difficult to park. It blocks lanes, and that subsequently reduces the space of the road when people park their cars on already congested roads. It becomes worse during peak hours, especially when people, out of necessity, try to park in commercial areas or near markets, whereby there is a resultant delay and frustration.

Lack of Specific Parking Areas: The main problems are the poor organization and the lack of defined parking areas within the town. Residential, commercial, and the busy market zones do not contain specific parking areas. People are parking their cars wherever they can find some space, and it may include the roadside parking, parking along the shops, or even any open space. This results in a confused parking scenario and is one of the main reasons for congestion. There is also no designated parking area, so in case of emergencies, emergency vehicles such as ambulances and fire trucks have to go through blocked roads, which might be hazardous at the time of emergencies.

Illegal parking is a very common issue here, as most people park their vehicles in no-parking zones or in unauthorized areas. The presence of parked vehicles blocks the view at the crossroads, causing it to become harder for the driver to find a clear passage through the crossroads. Furthermore, illegally parked vehicles also obstruct the movement of public transport and emergency services.

Impact on Local Business: The dearth of local parking directly hurts the local economy. Customers prefer not to step into commercial sites because they don't know where to park their vehicles. Hence, this also leads to declining footfalls. Shop owners, as well as businesses in town centers, ultimately lose sales revenue. In such a growing town as Sopore, local business activities increase, and not having enough local parking creates economic problems for such a town.

Safety Risks: Incorrect parking is prone to raising many safety issues. The ill-parked cars might block several road signs and lane narrowing in lanes and may restrict pedestrian walking paths. It might some-

times be positioned in front of the field of view before crossing intersections or pedestrians, hence becoming more prone to accidents. Additionally, due to the absence of proper parking, pedestrians have also been found to walk on roads, increasing their chances of getting involved in an accident.

Environmental Impacts: Well, there is an absence of proper parking, which has a negative impact on the environment. When people circle around to look for a parking spot, it consumes unnecessary fuel and emits poor air quality. More time spent idling on the streets waiting for parking leads to higher emissions.

Increased Stress for Drivers: The parking problem is so stressful for drivers, as they are now having difficulty parking. Time wasted while searching for a parking area causes frustration in crowded areas, such as markets or near hot spots. Moreover, this increases the already congested daily driving in Sopore, so it is no longer fun and time-consuming. Anxiety about getting a parking area turns routine drives into major problems.

Limited Options for Public Transportation: The major problem is that the public transport in Sopore has not been developed well. Since public transportation is not that efficient, many people prefer to ply their own vehicles and therefore require parking spaces. To alleviate this crunch, if public transport were more readily available, economical, and frequent, people would prefer to make use of this service rather than driving around.

Inadequate Infrastructure for Two-Wheelers: On the other hand, the town's increasing population of two-wheelers is adding to the problem of parking space for cars. Insufficient parking for bikes and motorcycles, they have to be parked in car spaces or on roadside areas, creating more congestion and nuisance for others using the road.

Seasonal and Event-Based Traffic: During festivals, local fests, or religious gatherings, the count of visitors to Sopore increases, giving rise to temporary but high demand for parking. The visitors further strain the already scarce parking spaces and make the area badly congested. The seasonal increase in demand has merely worsened the parking shortage that was already present, and it really irritates both locals and visitors.

The parking problems in Sopore are growing due to an increased demand for parking facilities. The town expands, and there is a lack of parking facilities to keep pace with the growing number of vehicles, making traffic worsen tremendously as there is considerable parking of cars illegally on most streets. It also causes safety hazards because, in most cases, emergencies and people are barred from the area by vehicles. Businesses are also affected negatively because people are frustrated to find a car-parking spot, thereby resulting in fewer customers entering shops. This also means more pollution because the increased use of cars contributes to causing more harm to the environment. The town has to plan better and provide enough space to build more parking places and ways of developing public transport means. Increasing awareness among the community about rules on parking will also help. These steps will enable Sopore to reduce traffic, improve safety can and create a better environment for all.

Shoaibhat2018@gmail.com

Greenhouse Winter Stock



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

The valley experiences harsh winters. Winter starts from November and continues until mid-March. During these months, the rates of essential commodities skyrocket. We have very few alternatives to store fresh vegetables because the chilling cold wave spoils edible items and creates suffering for the consumers.

Importance of Greenhouse Sheds

The government has taken several initiatives to eradicate the shortage of vegetables and fruits during winter. Due to health benefits and the presence of rich nutrients like vitamins, carbohydrates, and fiber, vegetables are given priority by the administration before the arrival of winter.

I want to add to your knowledge that a recent study by the Biodiversity of International Scientists in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations revealed that there are about 1,100 vegetable species with a great variety of uses and growth forms cultivated throughout the globe. Vegetables and fruits are essential food items for the healthy survival of humans on this blue planet.

In the Kashmir Valley, winters are extremely harsh, and survival becomes difficult. There are many reasons behind this, including the fact that our farmers are not well equipped by the concerned authorities to minimize the shortage of vegetables during this period. Nowadays



in Kashmir, the prices of essential commodities are skyrocketing, which is very unfortunate and unacceptable for consumers. People are suffering from various nutrient-deficiency diseases. Pulses and dried vegetables are also consumed in winter, but studies have shown that dried vegetables are not very healthy, and their consumption may even lead to infections.

In this article, I am going to highlight the role of the Horticulture Department: how the department improves the distribution and installation of greenhouse sheds

and distributes vegetable saplings among growers. The Horticulture Department plays an important role by holding awareness programmes during seasonal cultivation of vegetables and fruits in the valley. We know that most of our farmers are not highly educated, but they have gained vast experience. They help grow the nation, boost the economy of the country, and feed the people through their day-and-night hard work. The farming community deserves appreciation and should be included under beneficial schemes,

providing them with advanced equipment, carriages, sprayers, and good-quality fertilizers so that the yield increases.

The Horticulture Department introduced the scheme years ago, inviting applications from desirous farmers for the installation of miniature greenhouses and providing them an amount of ₹10,000 as a subsidy. The scheme requires growers to submit an application on A4-size paper. After approval from the concerned authorities, the beneficiary has to deposit ₹21,000

into the account of the Horticulture Department. After the installation of the greenhouse shed, ₹10,000 is credited back into the beneficiary's account. This scheme is beneficial, but there are still certain areas that must be considered to favour farmers.

The department should provide expert and trained staff who guide beneficiaries and offer proper counselling on how to grow seasonal vegetables and what the do's and don'ts are. Many farmers do not know how to prepare saplings for the greenhouse or how to produce adequate quantities of seasonal vegetables. Greenhouses are widely used throughout the world for raising vegetable saplings and for gardening purposes. In large flowering gardens, greenhouse sheds are highly useful and benefit growers on a large scale.

The greenhouse effect is a scientific phenomenon first introduced by Joseph Fourier in 1824. The greenhouse effect is also related to the carbon-dioxide problem. A greenhouse is a building with glass walls and a glass roof. Greenhouses are used to grow plants such as tomatoes, coriander, radish, and many flowers. A greenhouse stays warm inside during winter. Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide, and methane (CH₄) trap reflected sunlight and warm the greenhouse from within.

Suggestions

There are still a large number of farmers who are unaware of the scheme and have not benefited from it. The concerned Horticulture Department should hold more counselling programmes, and the general public should be informed through local village bodies. Seasonal seeds and good-quality fertilizers should be provided to growers at subsidized rates and in adequate quantities.

sahilmanzor411990@gmail.com

Dr Tasaduk launches free telehealth consultation

■ HT HEALTH DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 15: Dr Tasaduk Hussain Itoo on Monday launched free telehealth consultation.

In a statement issued today, Dr Tasaduk said that the emerging trends of lifestyle diseases are concerning that needs effective redressal at primary care level by imparting proper guidance, awareness

and health education among public.

The doctor shall be available to take calls only on Sundays and will focus on to listen queries from patients and guide and educate them to ensure proper prevention and treatment of their conditions.

Pertinently, Dr Itoo is a distinguished medical professional from Kashmir, who holds the title of Fellow of the Royal

Society for Public Health(FRSPH, UK), Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow, Belgium), and International Practitioner of the UK Faculty of Public Health(IPFPH, UK). He is further a member with prestigious global medical organizations including, the American College of Physicians(USA), and Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India(RSSDI).



DR. TASADUK HUSSAIN ITOO (PHYSICIAN)

MBBS, FRSPH (London, UK), **FRSB** (London, UK), **FACadMed** (Cardiff, UK), **IPFPH** (London, UK), **FIDF** (Belgium)

*Member, American College of Physicians (USA)
Academic Life Member, Research Society for Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI)*

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JKMC REGD. NO.: 15414

SCREEN TIME IN THE DIGITAL AGE



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

In the 21st century, digital screens have become an integral part of education, work, and social life. Smartphones, tablets, computers, and televisions provide unprecedented access to information, communication, and entertainment. While these technologies offer immense convenience and opportunity, they also bring complex health, psychological, and social consequences that require careful consideration.

Screen time refers to the amount of time spent interacting with digital screens. This includes passive activities such as watching videos, interactive engagement like gaming and social media use, and task-oriented purposes such as online learning or professional work. Screen time is commonly measured through self-reported surveys or device-based analytics, which classify usage by duration, frequency, and purpose.

When used appropriately, screen time offers significant cognitive and educational benefits. Digital technologies can enhance learning through multimedia presentations, adaptive learning systems, and instant access to vast information resources. Studies indicate that interactive educational software, when guided and moderated, can improve outcomes in areas such as reading and mathematics.

Screens also play a vital role in social connectivity. For many individuals, particularly adolescents and marginalized groups, digital platforms enable social interaction that may not otherwise be possible. During periods of physical isolation, such as pandemics or remote learning situations, screens have been essential in maintaining educational continuity and social relationships.

In terms of efficiency and productivity, screen-based tools have transformed professional life. Communication platforms, cloud-based collaboration, and real-time data access have improved

workplace flexibility and efficiency. Sectors such as healthcare have benefited through telemedicine, while research and knowledge dissemination have become faster and more accessible.

Despite these advantages, excessive screen time is associated with several negative health impacts. Physically, prolonged screen use contributes to sedentary behavior, increasing the risk of obesity, musculoskeletal problems such as neck and back strain, and eye fatigue. Screen exposure before bedtime can suppress melatonin production due to blue light, disrupting sleep patterns and reducing sleep quality, a finding strongly supported by chronobiological research.

Cognitively and developmentally, excessive screen time can be particularly harmful for children and adolescents. Research links high screen exposure to delayed language development, reduced attention spans, and weaker executive functioning. Neurological studies suggest that overdependence on digital cues may impair working memory and the ability to engage in deep, sustained reading.

Mental health concerns are also prominent. A substantial body of research associates heavy screen use—especially on social media—with higher risks of anxiety, depression, and feelings of loneliness. Platforms driven by comparison and validation-seeking behaviors can intensify emotional distress, particularly among young users.

While screens often provide short-term mental stimulation and pleasure, these effects do not necessarily translate into long-term well-being. Notifications, likes, and constant novelty trigger dopamine release, offering instant gratification similar to mechanisms observed in gambling behavior. Over time, individuals may need increasing levels of screen engagement to achieve the same psychological reward, fostering compulsive usage patterns that undermine sustained mental health.

In modern economies, technology is largely shaped by profit-driven models that prioritize user engagement. Dominant technology companies design platforms to maximize attention and consumption, raising ethical concerns about materialistic control. In this context, technology is no longer a neutral tool but a carefully engineered product that influences behavior

to serve commercial interests.

Schools play a crucial role in reducing the harmful effects of excessive screen time while preserving its educational benefits. Educational institutions can promote digital literacy by teaching students not only how to use technology, but also when and why to use it. Understanding algorithmic influence, data privacy, and responsible usage patterns is essential in today's digital environment.

Incorporating structured screen-free intervals within the school day can help counter sedentary habits and cognitive overload. Emphasizing offline activities such as physical education, arts, and hands-on learning supports balanced development. Teacher training is equally important, enabling educators to distinguish between meaningful digital engagement and unnecessary distraction. Evidence-based guidelines can help teachers integrate technology in ways that enhance learning while protecting student well-being.

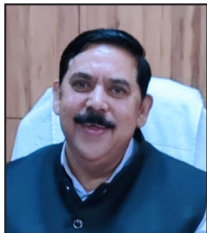
Collaboration with parents and communities further strengthens these efforts. Through workshops and communication initiatives, schools can help families develop effective strategies for managing screen use at home, ensuring consistency between educational and domestic environments.

Screen time is neither inherently beneficial nor inherently harmful. Its impact depends on context, including the nature, duration, and purpose of use. Digital tools have the power to enrich education, improve connectivity, and enhance productivity, yet they also pose risks to physical, cognitive, and emotional health when overused or poorly regulated.

Addressing this complex challenge requires a multidisciplinary approach that combines scientific research, ethical technology design, educational reform, and public health policy. Collaboration among schools, families, and technology stakeholders is essential to create environments where digital engagement enhances human potential without compromising holistic well-being. Achieving this balance is key to nurturing a generation that benefits from technology while avoiding its pitfalls.

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

Bathua: The Forgotten Superfood of Winter – Rediscovering India's Ancient Nutritional Treasure



■ BY PROF. DINESH CHANDRA RAI

In India, the onset of winter for such a long time has meant one thing—the advent of Bathua (*Chenopodium album*) Green to Indians. For so many years, this common leafy vegetable has figured in many indigenous dishes, "Bathua ka Raita," "Bathua Saag," "Bathua Parathas," and so on, all of which have given Indians a healthy life. Ironically, in contrast to this very intensive usage of this common vegetable in an Indian setting, this very same vegetable Bathua was frequently misunderstood in a Western setting. Often referred to in Western farming systems simply as "Lamb's Quarters," this very common vegetable in Western farmland is considered a common 'weed,' with a 'huge potential' being destroyed.

The very presence of Bathua in the Indian diet speaks volumes about how revered it is, and this is not accidental; it really is a powerhouse of nutrients. Bathua is a powerhouse of indispensable minerals, which are a prerequisite for maintaining a robust and healthy body. Additionally, Bathua is an incredible source of Calcium for a strong body and a potent source of Potassium for a sound cardiovascular system. More importantly, in a country where people are struggling with widespread anemia, an incredible amount of highly assimilable Iron in Bathua makes it an excellent natural blood-builder. Coming to non-essential but equally important requirements in a country where people suffer from lack of immunity, an incredible amount of Vitamins in Bathua stands out in particular, with unusually high quantities of Vitamin A (also known as the 'eyes and skin' vitamin) and Vitamin C (also known as 'immunity booster') vitamins. To top this all, Bathua provides an incredible amount of potent antioxidants in the form of natural substances in combination with these Vitamins, which work wonderfully in protecting the body from inflammation and maintaining a youthful physiology. Importantly, uniquely, and unusually, an incredible amount of Protein and unusually high Fiber content in Bathua is a compelling factor for ensuring a wonder-working digestive system with impregnable energy levels.

Although Bathua possesses immense health values, it has undergone a massive challenge in the sense that it is very perishable. Like most other fresh vegetables in this category, it gets expired in a very short span of time, which is not more than two to four days after being harvested. Due to this characteristic, our usage of this vegetable remains limited to a short period in winters, which is why Bathua can never become a serious commercial crop in our diet.

Our research team considered different ways in which drying of leaves can be achieved. This is basically what leads to the stabilization of leaves. Our team discovered that a cabinet dryer is basically a perfect way in which drying can take place. The water content is removed in a way that prevents damage to nutrients in the leaves. The end product will be a Bathua Powder that is significantly different from the green leaves. As a matter of fact, since water is removed from the leaves, nutrients become concentrated in nature. The Bathua Powder will have a higher intensity of nutrients such as Iron and Vitamin A than in green leaves. Moreover, drying prevents an element in leaves which hinders



absorption of nutritious minerals in the human body.

Methods Through Which Bathua Increases Farmer's Economy

"Bathua Stabilization" thus makes it a huge economic driver for the farmland community by triggering so many strategic shifts in the value chain. The main advantage is in "Value Addition at the Source," where the farmers do not remain simple "Suppliers of Saleable Produce" but become "Producers/Processors" in their own right. They achieve this by setting up mini drying plants and thus gain direct access to the very high value added by a "stable, concentrated product," thus making them impervious to losses through spoilage and resistant to being forced into competitive pricing during the winter harvest glut when they can command a higher price because they have a high-quality "Nutrient Booster" product, thus offering them access to "Premium Niche Markets" where they can retail their "Bathua Powder" directly to consumers as a "High-Value Nutrient Booster" product, thus allowing them to demand far higher prices than for loose leaves. Moreover, they achieve "Strategic Product Diversification & Fortification," which helps them to produce new "Ready To Use Foods" in the form of "Iron Fertilized Flour Blends & Fortified Snacks," thus ensuring them a continuous market demand all through the year and increasing their market reach. In addition, they achieve a "Complete Zero Waste & Inter-cropping System"; in other words, they can plan their Bathua cultivation in such a way that they can intercrop it with their other major agricultural produce, thus ensuring a guaranteed side income with minimal additional effort, besides using the seeds of this crop for producing "High-Vitality Cooking Oils" and using the dried leaves for production of "High-Quality Animal Feed," thus making a "High Profit, Closed-Economic-Loop" for the farmers.

The Author is a Vice-Chancellor, BRA Bihar University, Muzaffarpur

IIM Jammu Launches 14th Future Leadership Batch

Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 15: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu, inaugurated the Fourteenth batch of the Nurturing Future Leadership Program on 15th Dec 2025 at Vedanta, MDP Centre, Jagti. Organized under the aegis of the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, Ministry of Education, Government of India, this initiative reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to academic excellence and leadership development.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu graced the inaugural ceremony. The inaugural ceremony commenced with the lamp lighting ceremony. The program consisted of 25 participants from different parts of the country.

This unique residential training program, scheduled from 15th Dec to 19th Dec 2025, is designed to cultivate leadership capabilities among educators at various levels, creating a pool of potential leaders ready to drive generational transitions. Delivered by IIM Jammu's faculty, the program aims to help



institutions enhance their leadership potential. The inaugural ceremony was also graced by Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE & C), IIM Jammu; Dr. Prakrit Silal, Program Director, IIM Jammu; and Dr. Sakthi Nagaraj T, Program Director, IIM Jammu. Also present on the occasion was Dr. Sandeep Ananthanarayanan, CEO, CITaG, IIM Jammu.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu, highlighted the diversity of partici-

pants from across domains and India, emphasizing that the programme goes beyond best practices to understanding the Institute's academic journey since 2016. He reflected on IIM Jammu's growth to over 1,200 students, noted the leverage of the new IIM Act in offering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, underscored IIM Jammu BGA Institutional and EFMD MBA programme accreditations with an aspiration for Triple Crown accreditation, and called for col-

lective contribution to create a multiplier impact through interactive discussions, while highlighting the rarity and value of the student life experience.

Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE&C), IIM Jammu, stated that the programme is a major and marquee initiative of the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, with the 14th batch reflecting its sustained commitment to leadership enhancement and continuous improvement in

delivery quality. He highlighted the unique vision of the Ministry of Education driven by voluntary institutional engagement, emphasized blended classroom, collaborative, and experiential learning for diverse participants, encouraged sharing experiences on LinkedIn, and reaffirmed that IIM Jammu remains open to feedback.

Dr. Sakthi Nagaraj T, Program Director, IIM Jammu, delivered the welcome address and added that each participant is a leader in their own right, and the program is designed to foster continuous learning, before, during, and after sessions. Coming from diverse industry backgrounds, participants bring valuable insights, and he encouraged everyone to engage actively and feel free to reach out for guidance.

Participants introduced themselves and shared their reflections on the program, discussing their experiences and expectations. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Prakrit Silal, Program Director, IIM Jammu, followed by the national anthem.

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as SHUGUFTA BEGUM W/O AJJAZ AHMAD KHAN in my Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No...20514697 5267 while my correct name is SHAGOOFA SHABAN D/ O MOHD SHABAN BHAT as per my school record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his /her objection in office of concerned aadhar authorities with in seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name..SHAGOOFA SHABAN
S/ OMOHD SHABAN BHAT
Mathers name.....FARZANI**

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that I, Farooq Ahmad Bhat S/o Mohammad Sultan Bhat, resident of Kalantra Payeen, Kreeeri, Baramulla, intend to apply for a fertilizer/seeds license under the name MS BHAT TRADERS, located at Kalantra Payeen, Tehsil Kreeeri, District Baramulla.

The application will be submitted to the Chief Agriculture Office, Baramulla. If Anybody has any objections or concerns regarding this application should be filed at the Chief Agriculture Office, Baramulla, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objections received after this period will not be considered.

**FAROOQ AHMAD BHAT
Proprietor, MS BHAT TRADERS
Kalanatra Payeen, Kreeeri, Baramulla**

Public Notice

I have lost my 10Th pass marks card under roll no 13125265 session Annual Regular 2020 .Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Board of School Education (BOSE) Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**ULFAT RASHID RESHI S/O ABDUL RASHID RESHI
R/O SHEIKHPORA KREEERI**

Public Notice

I have lost my Date of Birth certificate of class 10Th Session Annual Regular 2020 under roll no 12430225, registration number 1921000000520027. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may Contact Board of School Education (BOSE) Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**MOHAMMAD UMAR MIR S/O GHULAM MOHI UD DIN
MIR R/O LALPORA KHARKHAL KUNZER KUNZER
Pin code 193404**

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as Mohammad yaqoob Dar on my aadhar aadhar under number 9020 5720 3022 ,while my correct name is Yaqoob Bashir s/o Bashir Ahmad Dar as per birth records which needs to be corrected. if anybody having any objection in this regard, he/she may contact with uidai office within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name. Yaqoob Bashir
S/o. Bashir Ahmad Dar
R/o .Khise Pora Kreeeri**

92.7 BIG FM Hosts 'SHE Dignity Walk' Finale



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 15: 92.7 BIG FM Jammu successfully culminated its impactful social initiative, "TOILET SHE DESERVES," with a powerful and inspiring "SHE DIGNITY WALK" led by RJ Juhie and the enthusiastic students of JK Montessori Senior Secondary School. The campaign, launched with the aim of highlighting the need for safe, hygienic, and well-equipped public toilets for women, has sparked meaningful conversations across Jammu.

Over the past several days, RJ Juhie visited multiple women's public toilets across the city, personally reviewing their condition and documenting the issues faced by thousands of women daily. Through her radio show on 92.7 BIG FM and across digital

platforms, she brought these realities to the forefront—ranging from lack of cleanliness and poor maintenance to absence of basic facilities such as water supply, proper lighting, and functioning latches. Her observations resonated deeply with listeners and citizens, prompting a strong community response.

To strengthen the campaign's foundation, various experts from the fields of public health, sanitation, and women's welfare were consulted. They emphasized how inadequate toilet infrastructure directly affects women's health, school attendance, workplace participation, and overall dignity. Their insights highlighted a simple yet powerful truth: access to clean toilets is not a luxury, but a basic right for every woman.

In a heartfelt effort to spread this

message further, the "SHE DIGNITY WALK" was organized, where students of JK Montessori Senior Secondary School marched with placards and slogans advocating for clean and secure toilets. Their participation symbolized the voice of the younger generation—aware, responsible, and determined to shape a more respectful society for women. The walk urged residents of Jammu to take collective responsibility in ensuring that women across the city have access to proper sanitation facilities.

92.7 BIG FM has always been committed to using its platform to drive positive social change. With campaigns like "TOILET SHE DESERVES," the station reaffirms its dedication to raising awareness, inspiring action, and building a more inclusive and dignified future for all.

Public Notice

My name wrongly mentioned in my 8Th Class School certificate as Nissar Ahmad Parray instead of Naseer Ahmad Parray. Now i am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Govt Middle School Hail Jageer within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**NASEER AHMAD PARRAY S/O TARIQ AHMAD
PARRAY R/O HAIL JAGEER KREEERI BARAMULLA**

Laptop Care House

Wholesale Dealer Of New And Pre Used Laptops

DEALS IN ALL KINDS OF LAPTOPS AND ACCESSORIES

REPAIRING OF: ALL TYPES OF LAPTOPS & DESKTOPS

SERVICE FOR ALL LAPTOPS

DELL
hp
lenovo

7006083461

BJP believes in merit and service, not dynastic politics: Ranjodh Singh Nalwa

HT NEWS NETWORK

BEERWAH, DEC 15: President BJP J&K UT Minority Morcha, Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, on Monday visited the remote Beerwah area of the Kashmir Valley for the first time after assuming charge.

The visit witnessed a warm and enthusiastic welcome by BJP party workers and representatives of the community, reflecting growing grassroots engagement in the region.

General Secretary J&K UT Minority Morcha, Imtyaz Bhat, Vice President J&K UT Minority Morcha, Amarjit Singh, District President Jammu South Minority Morcha Gurdeep Singh, BDC Farooq Ganai, Media Incharge Advocate Sajid Yousaf, Social Media Co-Incharge J&K UT, Sajad Raina, and other party workers present on the occasion.

On the occasion, several workers of the National Conference (NC) joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in the presence of Nalwa, expressing faith in the BJP's policies and leadership. Their joining was seen as a significant political development in the area.

Addressing the gathering, Ranjodh Singh Nalwa said that the people of Kashmir, especially the youth, are well educated and politically aware.

"I have found that the people of Kashmir fully understand the pro-poor schemes of the BJP and the development agenda that the party is advocating for Jammu and Kashmir," Nalwa said.

He added that he had not come to explain anything to the people but to make a humble appeal.

"People here know that they were misled for years. You cannot keep anyone misguided for long. Now



they have realised that their future and the future of their children lies with the BJP," Nalwa stated.

Highlighting the party's internal culture, Nalwa said that the BJP does not believe in dynastic politics or favoritism.

"In BJP, there is no bhai-bhati jawaad. Merit and capability are respected. The party promotes only

those who have the ability and commitment to work for the poor and the deprived sections of society," he said.

Taking a dig at the National Conference, Nalwa strongly criticised it for promoting dynastic rule in Jammu and Kashmir. He alleged that such politics has harmed the interests of common people and deprived deserving individuals of opportunities. "Dynastic politics has stalled real development and kept people away from progress," he added.

Nalwa further said that the BJP remains committed to inclusive development, social justice and equal opportunities for all sections of society, including minorities. He urged party workers to strengthen grassroots outreach and spread awareness about central government welfare schemes among the people.

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

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (CIVIL WORKS)

NIT No: 110/R&B of 2025-26 | Dated: 13-12-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	T.D Cost	E/M	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority	Tender call
1	Up-gradation of inner link at Gokhama near BSNL Office on the main NTR road..	1.64	200/-	3280/-	15 days	3054-M&R	DEE	R&B Deptt.	1 st

Position Of AAA: Accorded

Position of T.S: Accorded

Position of funds: Assured

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13-12-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	15-12-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	15-12-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	22-12-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	23-12-2025 11:00 AM

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority)

3. All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP/ maintenance period.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority).

6. The earnest money/ Bid security in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 day s from the date of opening of Technical bids.

8. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-

i. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

ii. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

iii. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

iv. Failure of successfully bidder to submit the performance security within the time period (as per JKPWD Engineering Manual 2020) i.e 21 Days from the issuance of latter of acceptance, after that the work will be put to fresh tenders without any notice to the contractor and the EMD will be forfeited.

9. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

i. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" option on website www.jktenders.gov.in to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.

ii. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get' Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)'as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

iii. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

iv. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

v. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

No: R&B/Divn./ Tang/5950-60 | Dated: 13-12-2025

DIPK: 9007/25 | Dated: 15-12-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg

DC Kathua reviews performance of Banks at DCC, DLRC meeting

Emphasises improving credit flow, agri lending and social security coverage

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KATHUA, DECEMBER 15: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired the District Consultative Committee (DCC) and District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting and reviewed the performance of banks with regard to credit deployment, implementation of government schemes and financial inclusion in the district.

Reviewing the Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio, the Chairperson directed banks to work towards achieving the national benchmark of 60 percent. It was informed that the district's CD ratio stood at 52.19 percent as on June 30, 2025, reflecting a decline of 0.42 percent. The DC instructed banks to undertake year-on-year as well as quarter-wise analysis to identify reasons for the decline and asked branches with CD ratios below the benchmark to intensify lending efforts.

The DC emphasized the need for increased focus on agricultural credit, pointing out that agricultural advances in District Kathua stood at Rs. 683.72 crore as on 30.09.2025, accounting for only 11.76 percent of overall advances. Banks were directed to scale up lending to the agriculture sector and clear pendency under the Kisan Credit Card scheme on priority. He also instructed banks to ensure coverage of all KCC loan account holders



under PMFBY for the Rabi season.

The DC further directed to pursue pending loan applications under Centrally Sponsored Schemes with banks on an individual basis and ensure proper scrutiny and counselling of applicants. The Animal Husbandry Department

was directed to reconcile sanctioned, pending and rejected loan applications with banks.

The Lead District Manager highlighted the need for coordinated efforts by banks to improve credit flow in priority sectors and urged branches to expedite sanction and

disbursement of eligible loan cases. The LDM also briefed the meeting on overall banking performance in the district.

AGM and Lead District Officer, Reserve Bank of India emphasized the conduct of Financial Literacy Camps by all rural branches and

advised banks to allocate targets in proportion to the number of rural branches. The RBI officer stressed optimal utilization of BC/CSP channels for creating awareness about banking products and services and called for regular review. The performance of banks under the ongoing Unclaimed Deposits Campaign was also reviewed, and banks were advised to participate actively.

The DC instructed banks to achieve targets under social security schemes including PMJDY, PMSBY, PMJJBY and APY and asked line departments to actively support financial awareness programmes to improve coverage.

The DC also reviewed the performance of CRISIL and Responset agencies and directed them to organize meaningful financial literacy and awareness camps with participation of officers from SDM and ADC Offices.

The meeting was informed on the status of opening of a new J&K Grameen Bank branch at Village Dilwan.

Taking serious note of delays in submission of data, the DC directed banks and departments to submit DGGI data by the 5th of every month and LBS data by the 10th of each quarter, warning that non-compliance would invite strict action.

CPO Kathua Ranjit Thakur, Officers of concerned departments and Banks were also present.

Clear Pending Dues of Retirees, Contractors' Payments: AJKPC

■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, DECEMBER 15: All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference

(AJKPC), a registered organisation working to strengthen grass-root level democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, has urged the J&K Government to immediately clear all pending dues of retired government employees and release long-pending payments to contractors.

Expressing serious concern over the issue, Anil Sharma, President of AJKPC, said it is deeply painful that legitimate bills continue to



remain pending in various treasuries across Jammu and Kashmir for months on end. He stated that retired employees, after serving the government for decades with sincerity and dedication, are forced to wait endlessly for their pensionary benefits, gratuity, and arrears, causing them and their families undue financial and mental stress.

The AJKPC President further stated that small and medium contractors, who have executed developmental works in good faith, are also facing severe hardships due to the non-release of their payments. Many contractors are unable to clear bank loans, pay labourers, or manage day-to-day expenses, leading to a slowdown in developmental activities at the grass-root level. Anil Sharma emphasized that the timely payment of these dues is neither a favour nor a concession, but a legal and moral obligation of the government. He added that repeated assurances without concrete action have only worsened the situation and shaken public confidence in the administrative system.

He demanded that the government establish a time-bound and transparent mechanism for the clearance of all pending liabilities, including proper monitoring at departmental and treasury levels. He also called for fixing accountability for officers responsible for unnecessary delays in processing and releasing payments.

The AJKPC appealed to the Lieutenant Governor, Chief Minister and Chief Secretary to take immediate and compassionate steps to resolve the issue so that retired employees can live with dignity and contractors can function smoothly, thereby ensuring uninterrupted development and sustaining trust at the grass-root level.

'Vote Chori is Congress' Political DNA: Gaurav

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DECEMBER 15: BJP Spokesperson and Convener, International Affairs, Gaurav Gupta on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the Congress, stating that the party's allegations of "vote chori" are nothing but a desperate attempt to mislead the nation and cover up its own dark history of electoral manipulation.

In a strong statement, Gupta said the Congress' Delhi rally had nothing to do with electoral reforms or protecting democracy. Instead, it was aimed at creating confusion, shielding illegal infiltrators such as Bangladeshis and Rohingyas, and diverting attention from the hard facts exposed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Parliament.

Gupta said Amit Shah had comprehensively dismantled the Congress narrative by reminding the country that vote chori is deeply rooted in the Congress' political culture.

He recalled that India witnessed the first betrayal of democratic norms when Jawaharlal Nehru became Prime Minister despite losing the internal vote to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, calling it an early example of how the Congress disregarded democratic processes.

He further pointed out that in 1975, Indira Gandhi's election from Rae Bareilly was set aside by the Allahabad High Court due to electoral malpractices, after which the Congress chose to crush institutions, amend laws to protect the Prime Minister, and impose the Emergency rather than respect the Constitution.

Referring to the present era, Gupta said even today serious questions remain unanswered, with a case pending in a Delhi court regarding whether Sonia Gandhi was registered as a voter even before acquiring Indian citizenship.

"When someone who is not eligible still becomes a voter, that is the most blatant form of vote chori," he said, echoing the Home Minister's remarks.

Gupta accused the Congress of repeatedly attacking constitutional institutions to escape accountability after suffering electoral defeats. "First they blamed EVMs, then they targeted the SIR process, and tomorrow they will blame the people of India. Congress never introspects; it only looks for excuses," he said.

Defending the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, Gupta said the process has strengthened democracy wherever it has been implemented. Citing Bihar as an example, he said more than one crore voters supported the SIR process and the state witnessed a record turnout after its completion. "Instead of spreading lies, the Opposition should learn from this success," he added.

Gupta also dared Rahul Gandhi to approach the courts if he believed there were irregularities in the Bihar Assembly elections. "If Congress truly believed in democracy, it would seek legal remedies instead of staging street protests," he said. Questioning the impact of the rally, Gupta dismissed Congress claims of large attendance, pointing out that Ramlila Maidan has limited capacity and is chosen more for its symbolism than for public support.

DC reviews activities of Krishi Udyamis in Udhampur

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, DEC 15: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting of Krishi Udyamis (KUs) to review performance and deliberate on measures aimed at strengthening service delivery to farmers across the district.

The DC informed that PM-KISAN KYC access has been provided to Krishi Udyamis, enabling them to facilitate farmers more effectively. She directed the KUs to enhance their work output and maintain high service standards in the field. Emphasis was laid on the regular submission of daily performance reports.

Krishi Udyamis were instructed to maximize service delivery in their respective areas and extend



proactive support to farmers. "Their performance will be assessed on the basis of farmer registrations, timely submission of daily reports and income generation," the DC said. The department will also organize capacity-building and technical training programs to further enhance their efficiency and service quality.

Concerned departments were

directed to hold awareness and service camps to facilitate easy outreach by Krishi Udyamis and ensure effective delivery of benefits at the grassroots level.

The DC also listened to the issues faced by Krishi Udyamis during field operations and assured them that all genuine concerns would be addressed at the earliest.

DC Doda reviews initiatives aimed at mental healthcare, protection of women & child and labour welfare

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, DECEMBER 15: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda, Harvinder Singh, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the initiatives aimed at Mental Healthcare and Suicide Prevention, Protection of Women's Rights, and the mechanisms in place for the prevention of Child and Labour exploitation in the district.

The meeting, held in the Mini Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, focused on identifying prevailing challenges, strengthening inter-departmental coordination, and ensuring effective implementation of various government schemes and legal frameworks designed to safeguard mental well-being, women's safety, child rights, and overall public welfare.

Emphasizing the growing importance of mental health, the DDC stressed the need for sustained awareness generation, early identification of vulnerable individuals, timely intervention, and a proactive, grassroots-level approach to prevent suicides. He called for coordinated efforts among the Health, Education, Social Welfare, and Police Departments to ensure outreach at community



and institutional levels.

The functioning of the One Stop Centre (OSC) was reviewed in detail, with discussions held on the resolution of matrimonial disputes, counselling services, and support mechanisms for women in distress. The DDC directed officers to

strengthen coordination among concerned departments to ensure prompt redressal and timely assistance, while reiterating strict adherence to laws and welfare schemes aimed at the protection and empowerment of women.

He further instructed the

designated counsellors to conduct regular visits to schools, interact closely with students, identify stress-related issues at an early stage, and submit detailed inspection and counselling reports to the district administration. The meeting also deliberated

upon remedial mechanisms to address issues related to academic pressure, adolescent mental health, and problems faced by married women.

The DDC emphasized ensuring that all helpline numbers function efficiently and remain accessible to the public at all times. He directed that Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on grievances, complaints, and decisions taken during the meeting be submitted to higher authorities within the stipulated timelines.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning of the District Task Force Committee on Child and Labour. Directions were issued to conduct special enforcement drives against child labour, enhance inspections of workplaces, and ensure strict implementation of relevant labour laws to safeguard children from exploitation.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Chief Education Officer (CEO), District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC), Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) of the district, besides other concerned officers and officials.

SC dismisses plea challenging election of DMK MP Dayanidhi Maran

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 15 : The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a petition challenging the election of DMK MP Dayanidhi Maran from the Chennai Central constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joydalya Bagchi and Justice Vipul Pancholi rejected the petition filed by ML Ravi, who had approached the apex court against the Madras High Court's order dismissing his election petition.

The petitioner alleged that Maran had indulged in corrupt electoral practices by publishing newspaper advertisements and distributing pamphlets during the 48-hour "silent period" prior to polling, in violation of the

Model Code of Conduct.

It was contended that the High Court committed a patent error in striking off the triable issue of corrupt practice on the ground of deficient pleadings, and that advertisements during the silent period constituted a triable issue warranting a full trial.

During the hearing, the Chief Justice asked the petitioner's counsel about the number of votes secured by the petitioner in the election.

On being informed that the petitioner had secured only 696 votes, the Chief Justice observed that the petitioner should focus on working for the next election by engaging with voters, campaigning in advance, and clearly communicating ideas and plans.



When the counsel reiterated that publication of front-page newspaper advertisements on

the polling day amounted to a corrupt practice, the Chief Justice remarked that such acts could have been done by party workers.

In a lighter vein, the Court suggested that the petitioner could attempt more forceful campaigning and outreach in future elections, noting that voters respond to his vision and messaging positively.

The Bench held that it found no ground to interfere with the High Court's judgment.

The High Court had concluded that the newspaper advertisements relied upon were published by the DMK as a political party and not by Maran personally, and that none of the advertisements referred to him by name.

Relying on Election Commission guidelines, the High

Court had further held that publication of political advertisements by a party, if pre-certified, was not per se prohibited and could not automatically be attributed to the candidate.

With regard to allegations relating to stickers, booth agent expenses and rallies, the High Court had found that the petitioner made only assumptions and approximations without pleading material facts to establish that such expenditure was incurred by or attributable to Maran.

The Court also noted that Maran's election expenditure accounts had been submitted to and accepted by the Election Commission, which had not flagged any discrepancies. UNI

Delhi Traffic Police special drive nets over 24,000 traffic violators

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 15, Delhi Traffic Police challaned over 24,000 vehicles and impounded 144 during a special enforcement drive Operation Chakravayuh, an officer said on Monday.

The police launched the drive on December 1 on the directions of Satish Golcha, Commissioner of Police, and the two-week-long operation was carried out by the Traffic Management Division in close coordination with local police stations and PCR units.

"The drive focused on habitual and serious traffic offenders at identified hotspots across the city," said Shashank Jaiswal, Deputy Commissioner of Police,



Traffic Management.

Under the operation's strategy, traffic and local police personnel were deployed in a multi-tier formation for two hours daily, effectively sealing all entry and exit points at selected locations such as busy intersections, market areas, and accident-prone stretches.

"This ensured that traffic violators could not evade enforcement action," the officer said.

As per the data, a total of 24,841 challans were issued for violations including riding without helmets, triple riding, drunken driving, wrong-side driving, rash and negligent driving, jumping traffic signals, and using mobile phones while driving.

Officers also impounded 144 vehicles for serious offenses, including cases where vehicles were found to be stolen.

In a significant development during the drive, police also detected narcotic substances inside a vehicle, leading to the registration of an FIR at Timarpur police station. Senior officers said Operation Chakravayuh received positive feedback from law-abiding citizens, who welcomed the visible enforcement and stricter action against errant drivers.

"The drive, police said, played a crucial role in improving road discipline and reinforcing compliance with traffic rules," the officer said.

Nuclear energy key to 24x7 clean power for energy-intensive data centres: Piyush Goyal

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 15 DEC: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal emphasised on Monday that nuclear energy will play a pivotal role in ensuring a continuous supply of clean and reliable power, particularly for energy-intensive sectors like data centres.

During a media interaction, Goyal expressed strong support for the recently introduced nuclear energy bill, 'The Shanti Bill', which is currently under consideration in Parliament. He highlighted that the bill would propel India to new heights in nuclear energy development, making it an integral part of the country's renewable

energy mix and helping meet the increasing power demand with a 24/7 supply.

"SHANTI Bill has been brought in, and it is currently before the Parliament, which will take India to new heights in terms of nuclear energy. It will encourage public and private players, besides public-private partnerships. It will also ensure small modular reactors are set up in large numbers in India, which will negate power cuts, raise renewable energy mix in overall power basket. Solar, wind, and nuclear combined will be able to meet power demand 24*7," Goyal said.

Goyal further emphasized that India has the potential to become

a global hub for data centres, driven by the growing demand in the era of Artificial Intelligence (AI). He credited this to India's robust and integrated national power grid, which has undergone significant transformation.

"We have a 500 gigawatt grid, one of the largest in the world. And a single integrated grid, which can take care of the redundancy requirement, the surge of power which data centres cause, can best be handled by a country like India because of our massive grid. So we are a preferred destination for data centers," the minister said.

He also outlined the government's ambitious plan to significantly increase renewable

energy capacity in the coming years, ensuring that the nation will have the necessary power to support its people, farmers, industries, and commercial establishments, including data centres and Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

Highlighting the major reforms in the energy sector, Goyal said the renewable energy capacity of our country has sharply expanded since 2014. While the wind energy capacity has grown by 2.5-fold, Solar power capacity has seen a magnanimous growth, with installed capacity increased by nearly 46 per cent, the minister noted.

"A combination of solar, wind,

and nuclear energy will not only meet India's growing electricity demands but will also increase the share of clean energy in our overall power mix," Goyal added.

Goyal also spoke about increased reach of conventional energy sources like natural gas and expanded Petroleum refining capacity of our nation. Drawing attention to reforms in coal sector the minister noted that measures such as rationalisation of coal linkages and streamlining of coal supply chains have improved efficiency and helped to maintain power tariffs under control, benefiting consumers while reducing dependence on coal imports for our country. UNI

Lok Sabha adjourned till 2 PM amid protests; Treasury, Opposition trade charges

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 15: Parliamentary proceedings in both the Houses were repeatedly adjourned on Monday amidst intense protests and demands for apologies from both the Treasury benches and the Opposition, reflecting a deepening political standoff on some slogans being raised at Sunday's Congress rally in Delhi against the Prime Minister.

The Lok Sabha was adjourned twice during the day. The first adjournment, until noon, came shortly after proceedings began, following loud protests from Treasury bench members demanding an apology from the Congress over alleged threats to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a Congress rally on Sunday.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju condemned the incident, stating that slogans like "Modi, teri kabr khudegi, aaj nahi toh kal khudegi" (Modi, your grave will be dug, if not today, then tomorrow) heard at the Congress rally as unacceptable.

Rijiju said, "PM Modi is the leader of 140 crore people of the country. Congress party must tender an apology for the threat."

Amidst uproar, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House within



minutes till 12 noon.

When the House reassembled, Opposition members stormed the well while Ministers were making statements on supplementary grants. The Opposition demanded an apology from union Home Minister Amit Shah for what they described as "abusive" language used by him in the House earlier.

The Chair urged members to allow the Zero Hour to proceed and assured Opposition MPs that they would be given an opportunity to raise their issues after listed business was taken up.

However, continued disruptions over the demand for Shah's apology led to a second adjournment of the Lok Sabha, this time till 2 PM.

The Rajya Sabha was also adjourned for an hour till noon amidst uproar

from Treasury benches over slogans raised against Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a Congress rally in Delhi on Sunday.

Immediately after papers were laid in the Upper House, Leader of the House and union Minister JPNadda condemned the Congress for the slogan demeaning the PM in Sunday's Congress rally. "Saying this sort of thing against the Prime Minister and pressing for death is deeply condemnable. The Congress Party and Sonia Gandhi should apologise to the country," Nadda said.

Opposition members immediately protested against Nadda's remarks, leading to the adjournment of the Upper House. The continued disruptions across both Houses highlight the charged political atmosphere in the country in the aftermath of the Bihar elections. UNI

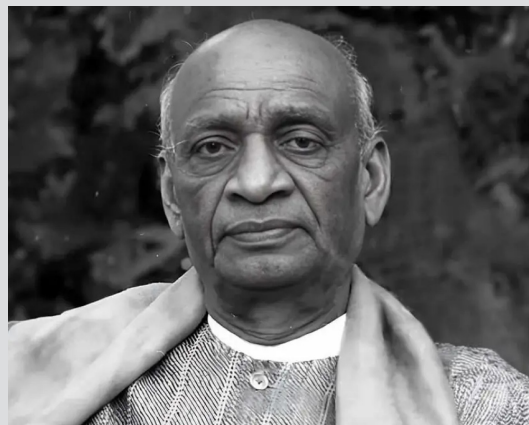
Patel was symbol of national unity, also laid self reliant India's foundation: Shah

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 15: Remembering Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his death anniversary, union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that despite all the adverse circumstances back in the day, Patel unified the fragmented country into a strong shape of one nation after independence.

Paying rich tributes to the veteran leader, who was also independent India's first Home Minister, Shah said that he made the security of India, internal stability and establishment of peace, his life's goal.

The HM also said that Patel was the leader who laid the foundation of self-reliant India by reviving the cooperative movement and making women and farmers self-reliant, and his teachings and ideals will continue to guide the nation like a guiding star on



the "nation first" path.

Earlier this year on October 31, on the occasion of Patel's 150th birth anniversary, Shah also recalled that while the nation celebrated independence, Patel was actively monitoring naval warships to secure Lakshadweep.

By sending the Navy in time and hoisting the tricolor, the iron man ensured that the islands became part of India—a major post-independence contribution.

Shah had earlier mentioned that Patel had integrated the princely states into a united India, and the only unfinished task concerning Kashmir was fulfilled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through the abrogation of Article 370 of Jammu and Kashmir.

He had also criticised previous Congress governments for not giving due respect to the stalwart, noting that it took 41 years for Patel to be awarded the Bharat Ratna.

Shah had also said that no monument or memorial had been built to commemorate Patel's work until Prime Minister Modi assumed office, after which the Statue of Unity was constructed in his honour. UNI

Delhi pollution: Congress MP Vijay Vasanth moves adjournment motion seeking national health emergency

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 15 : Amid worsening air quality in the national capital, Kanyakumari Lok Sabha MP Vijay Kumar alias Vijay Vasanth on Monday moved an adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha, demanding an immediate declaration of a national health emergency in Delhi-NCR as air pollution levels touched the "Severe Plus" category.

In his notice to the Speaker, Vijay Vasanth said the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi-NCR had surged to 461, posing what he described as a "direct and immediate threat to human life."

"Delhi has effectively been turned into a gas chamber. Millions of citizens are being forced to inhale toxic air," the MP said, adding that children, senior citizens, and people with pre-existing illnesses are bearing the brunt of the crisis.

Citing findings of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), Vijay Vasanth flagged "recurring negligence and evident gaps" in road maintenance, dust mitigation, and waste management. He said dust-laden roads, construction debris, municipal waste, and open burning continued "unchecked," worsening what he termed a "man-made



disaster."

Hospitals across Delhi-NCR are already witnessing a medical emergency, the MP said, noting a 25 per cent rise in respiratory

patients in the last two days alone.

"Patients with asthma, COPD, and cardiac illnesses, including those earlier stabilised, are again reporting acute distress. Doctors have categorically warned that this is no longer merely an environmental issue but a full-scale public health emergency," he stated.

Calling the situation a violation of the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution, Vijay Vasanth said Parliament could not continue with business as usual when citizens were "struggling to breathe."

"When the air itself becomes

poisonous, the House cannot proceed with business as usual," he said, urging the government to immediately declare a national health emergency, activate emergency health protocols, suspend non-essential polluting activities, and ensure accountability for administrative failures.

The Congress MP also sought the Speaker's permission to allow the Leader of the Opposition to speak on the issue, stressing that the crisis was "not a routine seasonal phenomenon but a life-threatening emergency demanding an immediate national response." UNI

Kohli, RCB set for Chinnaswamy return

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU: The decks have been cleared for the M Chinnaswamy Stadium to be back on the BCCI's radar after newly-elected KSCA chief Venkatesh Prasad has received a go-ahead from the Karnataka government to host matches, a week after being elected. The BCCI is believed to have been apprised of the recent developments too.

The immediate implications are that Virat Kohli could be back playing at the Chinnaswamy, with the KSCA set to move Vijay Hazare Trophy matches involving Delhi from Alur owing to security and logistical challenges. As things stand, Kohli and Rishabh Pant have been named in a jumbo Delhi squad and both could be available for the first three matches.

Prasad and vice-president Sujith Somasunder held meetings with chief minister Siddharamaiah, deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar and other government officials in Belagavi earlier this week on the sidelines of the state's assembly session and the conversations are understood to have been fruitful.

ESPNcricinfo understands the KSCA is also making provisions to be able to accommodate 2000-3000 fans by throwing open certain stands to the public, considering the high-profile nature of matches involving two Indian superstars.

At the meeting with the government officials, the Prasad-led KSCA committee reiterated their commitment to implement-

ing as many changes as feasible from the Justice John D'Cunha report on the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

While hosting matches in the Vijay Hazare Trophy is seen as a starting point, Prasad and KSCA are keen on ensuring Bengaluru doesn't lose out on hosting IPL matches.

"We're on track for the IPL to be back," an office-bearer privy to the developments told ESPNcricinfo. The KSCA is expected to begin work on the D'Cunha recommendations in a phased manner.

"To avoid any future incidents, we have put in place precautionary measures. We have granted permission accordingly," deputy chief minister Shivakumar said after the state's cabinet meeting on Friday. "The Home Minister will hold discussions with the KSCA president and police officials."

The venue hasn't hosted any top-flight cricket since the June 4 stampede that marred Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL victory celebration, leading to 11 deaths and several injuries. KSCA's Maharaja Trophy was shifted to Mysore in August, while the venue also lost out on hosting five Women's World Cup matches, including the final, due to the ongoing impasse.

"We have no intention of stopping cricket matches. But crowd-management measures need to be examined," Shivakumar said. "We also intend to implement the recommendations of the Justice Michael D'Cunha Committee in a phased manner. Venkatesh Prasad too has agreed to this."



Lizelle Lee's 77 takes Hobart Hurricanes to first WBBL win

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HOBART: Hobart Hurricanes won their maiden WBBL title with a comprehensive win over Perth Scorchers, thanks to an unbeaten 77 off 44 balls by Lizelle Lee.

Hurricanes, who topped the table at the end of the regular season, grassed half a dozen chances in the field but were still able to restrict their opposition to 137 for 5.

Lee then turned on the fireworks in the chase as her side reeled off the target with eight wickets in hand and 30 balls to spare on Saturday night in front of a delighted home crowd. Hurricanes' first trophy in the 11th edition of the WBBL came after their male counterparts broke through to win the BBL crown last season.

Lee whacked three consecutive boundaries in the opening over, which included a drop that was parried across the rope. In scenes reminiscent of



Mitchell Owen's stunning hundred for Hurricanes in the January BBL decider, Lee turned up the heat and finished with 10 fours and four sixes.

Lee's knock was the highest score in a WBBL final and her best score of the season. She shared a 77-run partnership with Nat Sciver-Brunt (35 to 27) to iron out the majority of the chase.

Scorchers legspinner Alana King, who was in good form heading into the contest, copped some punishment and went for 0 for 25 off two overs.

Earlier, Scorchers won the bat flip and opted to bat but struggled to get their innings going, despite Hurricanes missing chances in the field. In-form opener Beth Mooney (33 from 26) was dropped three times in the powerplay before being bowled by Heather Graham in the 11th over. Graham (2-26) also picked up the big scalp of Scorchers' skipper Sophie Devine.

New Zealand international Devine, who was dropped on 27, was circumspect early but came to life with two sixes, before getting stumped in the 17th over. Hobart's English spinner Linsey Smith bowled just two overs but finished with a valuable 2 for 8.

Hurricanes had earned a direct passage to the final after ending the season atop the table, while Scorchers, who were gunning for their second title, won two finals games to qualify. On the big day, Scorchers came up short while Hurricanes cruised home.

BCF PLAYING A TRANSFORMATIONAL ROLE IN SHAPING YOUTH THROUGH CRICKET

■ LONE MUSAIB

BARAMULLA: The Baramulla Cricket Forum (BCF) has been playing a remarkable and transformative role in promoting cricket and youth development in North Kashmir for several years. Through its sustained efforts, BCF has emerged as a strong platform for nurturing young and budding cricketers while simultaneously addressing serious social challenges affecting the youth of the region.

Every year, BCF provides opportunities to nearly 3,000 young cricketers to showcase and refine their talent at the prestigious Bipin Rawat Stadium, Baramulla. These large-scale

cricketing activities not only help in identifying raw talent but also instill discipline, teamwork, and a sense of purpose among young players. For many aspiring cricketers, BCF has become a guiding force and a pathway toward a brighter future.

A major strength of BCF lies in its dedicated and visionary leadership. The forum is led by committed sports promoters and administrators including Ghulam-ud-Din Shalla, Zubair Ahmad Dar, Abdul Khaliq Wani, Akash Najar, along with several other members who have worked selflessly for the promotion of cricket at the grassroots level. Their collective efforts, transparent functioning, and deep under-

standing of youth issues have helped BCF gain credibility and respect across the sports fraternity. These leaders have consistently focused on keeping youth positively engaged through sports, thereby playing a crucial role in protecting young minds from social evils, particularly the growing drug menace. By providing a structured, competitive, and disciplined sporting environment, BCF has successfully channelized the energy of thousands of youngsters toward healthy and constructive activities.

Beyond organizing tournaments, the BCF leadership ensures that players receive moral guidance, motivation, and equal opportunities regardless of their

background. Special emphasis is laid on inclusion, allowing talented players from rural and underprivileged areas to compete on merit. This approach has strengthened trust among parents and encouraged greater participation from all sections of society.

Over the years, several players nurtured under the BCF platform have progressed to district, state, and national-level competitions, bringing pride to Baramulla and Jammu & Kashmir. These success stories stand as a testament to the tireless efforts of the forum's leadership and volunteers, who work behind the scenes to ensure the smooth conduct of tournaments and training programs.

In conclusion, the Baramulla Cricket Forum is not merely an organizing body for cricket tournaments; it is a movement dedicated to youth empowerment, social responsibility, and sports development. The unwavering commitment of its leadership Abdul Khaliq Wani Chairman, Ghulam Din Shalla President, Zubair Bashir Dar General Secretary, Irfan Ahmed Rather, Akib Manzoor,

Mansoor Sherwani, Nisar Ahmed Najar, Ishfaq Ali, Jehangir Bakshi, Ajaz Ahmed Shah Irfan Jalal and other dedicated members continues to shape lives, nurture talent, and build a stronger, healthier future for the youth of the region.

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