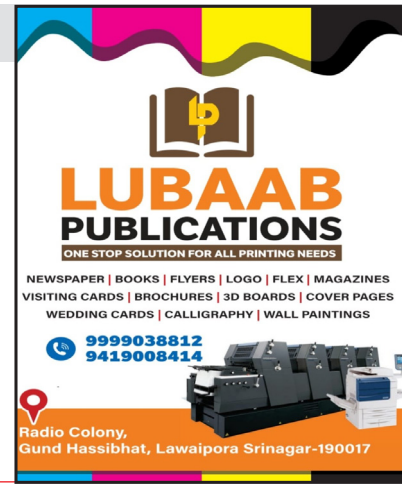


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Voice To The Voiceless



No Delays, No Compromise on Quality: Omar Abdullah Cracks Whip on R&B Projects Across J&K

Chief Minister Reviews Key Works, Lays Foundation of ₹119 Crore Projects

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday took a tough stance on delays and quality lapses while reviewing projects of the Public Works (Roads & Buildings) Department, directing all executing agencies to ensure time-bound completion and high construction standards for road and bridge works across Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing a high-level meeting at the PWD Conference Hall, Gandhi Nagar, the Chief Minister laid



the foundation stone of R&B projects worth ₹119 crore through virtual mode and e-inaugurated completed works valued at ₹33 crore.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, senior administrative officers, engineers, and representatives of BEACON, SAMPARK, NHAI and NHIDCL. Deputy Commissioners and field officers participated through

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J&K's Tourism Story is Being Told to The World in a New, Dynamic Way : CM Omar Abdullah

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir is presenting its tourism potential to the world through innovative promotion, modern infrastructure and a strong digital footprint, as he unveiled the 2026 calendars

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Snowfall in higher reaches chills Kashmir; dense fog in Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JAN 06: With higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley receiving fresh snowfall on Tuesday, minimum temperatures fell across most parts of Kashmir, while dense fog affected normal movement in parts of the Jammu region, officials said.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in the Kashmir Valley, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.0 degrees Celsius, while the airport registered minus 4.8 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund settled at minus 3.0 degrees, Pahalgam at minus 6.8 degrees, Kupwara at minus 3.1 degrees and Kokernag at minus 2.0 degrees.

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SKUAST-J is Transforming Lives, Strengthening Economy: Surinder Choudhary

Deputy CM Reviews Flood Repair Works, HADP, JKIP, Other Schemes with VC

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 06: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Jammu is playing a pivotal role in transforming the lives and strengthening the economy of Jammu region through knowledge-based interventions in agriculture, animal sciences and allied sectors.

The Deputy Chief Minister remarked this during

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After Terror, Drugs Emerge as Biggest Threat in J&K: DIG Maqsood Ul Zamaan

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNS

BARAMULLA, JAN 6: Deputy Inspector General of Police, North Kashmir Range (NKR), Maqsood Ul Zamaan on Tuesday termed drug abuse as the most serious challenge facing Jammu and Kashmir after terrorism, stressing that the police have launched sustained and decisive operations to counter the growing menace.

Talking to reporters in Baramulla, the DIG said North Kashmir Police have achieved major

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CS finalises the plan to 'Transform Skilling Ecosystem in J&K'

Five-Year plan aims to empower individuals to be future-ready in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 06: In a major initiative aimed at making the population of J&K future-ready for emerging employment opportunities, the Skill Development Department today presented a comprehensive and forward-looking roadmap to Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo to transform the skilling ecosystem of the UT.

The meeting was attended by

Vice-Chancellors of local Universities, Director IIM Jammu, Managing Director, J&K Bank, Secretary, Education; MD, Skill Mission and representatives from premier institutions including IIT, NIIT and other reputed academic and professional institutions.

While reviewing the roadmap, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need to explore the concept of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in Jammu & Kashmir for



the creation of better and high-quality employment opportunities. He also suggested developing fellowship programmes to create a strong pool of skilled human resources within the UT.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the overall framework of the plan, stating that it incorporates all essential constituents required for skilling different sections of the population, making it inclusive and forward-looking in character.

He, however, stressed that the roadmap should be made more practical, outcome-driven and implementable, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities of all participating institutions, including national-level institutions such as IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, NITs, Universities, SKIMS and other professional institutions.

Emphasising employability,

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Continuous Dialogue With Employee & Pensioner Bodies Is Vital for Responsive Governance : Dr Jitendra Singh

Labour Union Delegation Affiliated with BMS Discusses Service, Employment and Pension Issues With DoPT Minister

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JAN 6: A delegation of labour unions representing major telecom units and postal pensioners' organisations, affiliated with the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), on Tuesday met Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh, at the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) headquarters in Kartavya Bhavan.

During the interaction, the delegation discussed a wide range of issues related to services, employment and pension administration, while expressing appreciation for what they termed the Modi government's employee-friendly and pensioner-sensitive policies. Members of the delegation conveyed that the government has generally remained receptive to representations from employee and pensioner bodies, and emphasised the need for sustained engagement.

Representatives from the Bharatiya Doorsanchar Pensioners Sangh (BDPS), Bharatiya Postal Pensioners Sangh (BPPS) and other allied organisations highlighted concerns specific to pensioners from the telecom and postal sectors. The discussions focused on the importance of clarity in policy matters, timely flow of information and better coordination between pensioners' organisations and concerned departments to

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Massive blaze guts commercial units in Barzulla, 2 firemen injured

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JAN 06: A massive fire broke out in a commercial unit at Bulbul Bagh, Tengpora area near Old Barzulla here on Tuesday evening, gutting several adjoining sheds and sending thick plumes of toxic smoke billowing into the sky.

Eyewitnesses told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the fire erupted around 5:07 pm, quickly spreading from one unit to another that housed carpet, foam, hardware and paint thinner stores, where materials that fuel the blaze and made firefighting

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Silent Red Flag in Childhood : Over Half of J&K's Young Children Show High Triglyceride Levels

Adult-Like Diseases Into Early Childhood, Doctors Warn of Health Risks

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JAN 06: A worrying health trend is emerging in Jammu and Kashmir, where more than half of children between the ages of 5 and 9 have been found with elevated triglyceride levels—an early marker of metabolic and cardiovascular risk traditionally associated with adults.

According to the Children in India 2025 report released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 50.2 per cent of children in this age group in Jammu

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No final decision taken on fare hike yet: RTO Kashmir

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, DEC 07: Stating that no final decision has been taken on the fare hike yet, Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir Qazi Irfan on Tuesday said that only recommendations for enhancement have been submitted to the government.

Irfan while talking to reporters here, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Drivers should not rush into increasing fares as final decision is awaited."

The RTO said, "The transport department last notified fares

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Rana engages tribal voices to shape inclusive development agenda

Calls for united efforts to empower tribal communities through responsive governance

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JAN 06: In a major outreach initiative reflecting the government's commitment towards participatory and inclusive governance, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, today chaired an exclusive interactive session with the eminent personalities from the tribal communities of Kashmir division at Srinagar.

The day long interaction brought together a distinguished gathering of tribal artists, writers, poets, social activists, conservationists, public representatives and community leaders, providing a meaningful platform for direct dialogue between the government and grassroot voices. The session was aimed at capturing the lived experiences and informed suggestions to refine the government's policies and programmes for tribal welfare.

Addressing the gathering, Javed Ahmed Rana described the interaction as a collaborative effort rather than a routine meeting. He stressed that genuine tribal upliftment must be shaped by the aspirations and lived realities of the communities themselves.

"This interaction reflects our shared responsibility towards inclusion, empowerment and dignity of tribals. Development can be sustainable only when it is guided by the voices of those it

seeks to serve," the Minister said. He underlined the critical role of domain experts, elected representatives and socially influential voices in shaping effective policies and monitoring their execution, particularly in remote and tribal dominated areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

"This approach fosters collaborative governance, where policy intent aligns with the ground realities. When community wisdom and administrative action move together, public welfare outcomes become meaningful and lasting," Rana observed. The Minister urged the writers, artists, poets and civil society leaders to take the lead in initiatives for the welfare of tribal and other vulnerable communities. He noticed that their cultural and social influence places them in a unique position to guide and mobilize society.

He said the interactive session would serve as a strategic platform for sustained engagement, enabling the government to respond to the evolving social, cultural and economic needs of tribal populations.

Emphasising the vision of "Responsive Governance," he assured participants that the insights shared would directly inform the future policy frameworks. Education emerged as a key focus area during the deliberations. Rana reiterated that tribal education remains a top priority of the government, with



special emphasis on quality residential education through upgraded hostels, timely scholarships for Scheduled Tribe students and organized educational exposure programmes to ensure that no tribal child is left behind.

He informed that infrastructure in Gujjar and Bakarwal hostels is being strengthened alongside implementation of the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (ERMS) to ensure quality education.

Highlighting the importance of balancing development with tradition, the Minister stressed the need for systematic documentation and preservation of tribal history, languages, art and oral traditions. He said cultural preservation is central to strengthen tribal identity and self-respect and institutions like the Tribal Research Institute would play a pivotal role in this effort.

On livelihood generation, the Minister emphasized promotion

coordinated, mission mode implementation of welfare initiatives.

The Minister outlined key schemes being implemented for tribal welfare. These included the Capex Budget, Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS), Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY), Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) and the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY).

The interactive session was attended by MLA Kokernag, Zafar Khatana, DDC Chairperson Anantnag, Mohammad Yousuf Kohli and DDC Vice Chairperson Anantnag Nazir Choudhary besides Director Tribal Affairs, Deputy Director Tribal Affairs Jammu and Nodal Officer, Tribal Research Institute and Deputy Director Tribal Affairs Kashmir.

Prominent citizens, writers, artists, poets and representatives from various tribal communities of the Kashmir Division actively participated in the deliberations and placed their demands and suggestions before the Minister. Key issues raised included upgradation of facilities in tribal areas, documentation of oral histories, promotion of tribal languages and culture and streamlining of forest-related clearances for community welfare activities.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure prompt and time bound redressal of the issues raised.

Women in STEM: KU faculty Dr. Riffat John secures prestigious SPARC research grant

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR JAN 06: In a significant academic achievement for the University of Kashmir (KU), faculty member Dr. Riffat John, Department of Botany, has been awarded a major research grant under the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) of the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Dr. John has secured the SPARC project titled "Unstructured but Essential: Understanding and Exploiting Intrinsically Disordered Proteins for Climate-Resilient Maize" under the Agri and Food Technologies theme. The project has been approved by the SPARC Apex Committee chaired by the Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India.



Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message, congratulated Dr. John and said, "The award reflects the University's growing research footprint and its emphasis on meaningful international collaborations. Such initiatives strengthen interdisciplinary research and contribute to addressing region-specific agricultural and climate challenges."

She further said that the University remains committed to supporting faculty-led research that aligns scientific inquiry with societal and environmental needs while fostering global academic engagement.

Dean Research, KU, Prof. Mohammad Sultan Bhat also congratulated Dr. John and said, "The award reflects the quality and global relevance of the research being undertaken at the varsity."

The two-year international collaborative project involves research partnership with The Pennsylvania State University, USA, and the Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR), Ludhiana. The project focuses on advancing proteomics-based understanding of maize resilience to cold and low-temperature stress, with relevance for crop adaptation in hilly and cold agro-climatic regions of northern India.

Dr. John will serve as the Principal Investigator from the University of Kashmir, with the collaboration enabling access to advanced protein interaction and intrinsically disordered protein analysis platforms.

The award strengthens the University's participation in nationally coordinated international research programmes.

JKLCU Unit Doda Meets Hon'ble MLA Bhaderwah, Submits Memorandum of Long-Pending Demands

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, JAN 06: The Jammu & Kashmir Lamberdars and Chowkidars Union (JKLCU), Unit Doda, today met with the Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Bhaderwah, Shri Daleep Singh Parihar, during a Public Grievance Camp held at Dak Bunglow, Doda, and submitted a detailed memorandum highlighting their long-pending and genuine demands.

The JKLCU urged the Hon'ble MLA to kindly consider these issues sympathetically and ensure their inclusion in the forthcoming Budget Session.

While speaking on the occasion, JKLCU unit Doda District Organizer Sh Anil Kumar stated that Lamberdars and Chowkidars have been serving the administration and the public with sincerity and dedication for decades at the grassroots level. They act as a vital link between the government and the people, assisting in revenue matters, maintenance of law and order, disaster management, elections, surveys, and coordination with more than 30 government departments, especially in far-flung and remote areas.

Despite rendering such essential services, the honorarium paid to Lamberdars and Chowkidars remains extremely meagre, irregular, and insufficient to meet even basic household needs. Many members are facing severe financial distress and are unable to pay school fees for their children or manage daily expenses. The prolonged delay in the release of honorariums has pushed several families into debt and hardship.

JKLCU expressed deep anguish that while almost all categories of government employees have benefited from pay revisions and social security measures, Lamberdars and Chowkidars continue to be neglected despite their lifelong service to the administration and the people.

Key demands submitted in the memorandum include: Revision of honorariums at least in accordance with the Minimum Wages Act.

Provision of pension after retirement Regularization of services. Immediate release of all pending honorariums. Issuance of entry passes for government offices while performing official/public duties.

Payment of election-related honorarium at par with other staff such as polling parties, BLOs, and election officials, as Lamberdars and Chowkidars remain continuously engaged for days in election arrangements.

Free or concessional transport facilities for official duties, especially while traveling for revenue work.

Creation of new Chowkidar posts and filling of vacant positions. Provision of social security benefits such as health insurance and education assistance for families.

Introduction of a clear promotion policy for Lamberdars and Chowkidars.

The Hon'ble MLA Bhaderwah gave a patient hearing to the deputation and assured that the genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned authorities at the appropriate level. The deputation included JKLCU District Organizer Doda Shri Anil Kumar, along with Lamberdars and Chowkidars from various areas of the district.

Three-Week Children's Theatre Workshop Continues in Ganderbal

■ GULFAM BARJI

GANDERBAL, JAN 06: A three-week children's theatre workshop is currently underway at Theatre Studio ADCC Ganderbal, organized by the Azaad Dramatic Cultural Club, Repora Ganderbal, with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The workshop is being conducted under the Guru Shishya Parampara Repertory Grant.

Several renowned the-



atre experts from the region are providing children with traditional the-

atre training and are playing a key role in nurturing their hidden creative tal-

Adbi Markaz Kamraz Clears Major Cultural Initiatives, Approves Three-Day Kashmiri Conference in Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JAN 6: Adbi Markaz Kamraz Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday took a series of significant decisions aimed at strengthening Kashmiri language, literature and cultural activities, including approval for organising a three-day Kashmiri Conference in Jammu.

The decisions were taken during the monthly meeting of the Executive Body of the Markaz held at its headquarters in Kanispora, Baramulla. The meeting was presided over by the President of the organisation, Mohammad Ameen Bhat, and witnessed participation from representatives of thirty affiliated units across the Union Territory.

The meeting began with Fateha Khwani and special prayers for the departed souls, including noted writer and broadcaster Abdul Ahad Farhad, General Council Member Ghulam Hassan Baykas of Sadrkot Bala, Bandipora, the maternal aunt of Media



Secretary Jameel Ansari, and other deceased members.

During the session, the Executive Body approved a proposal to hold a three-day Kashmiri Conference in Jammu, aimed at promoting the Kashmiri language and literary heritage beyond the Valley. The office bearers informed the meeting that the

final dates of the conference would be announced soon.

The Executive Body also ratified the jury's decisions regarding the prestigious annual awards "Sharaf-i-Kamraz" and "Khalat-i-Hanfi Sopori" for the year 2025. In a key policy decision, it was announced that the Best Book Award of the Markaz will now be

conferred every year on the occasion of "Youm-i-Aslaaf" on June 14.

Another important decision taken at the meeting was to organise a theatre workshop at the Markaz headquarters after the holy month of Ramadan. The workshop will be held under the patronage of Adbi Markaz Kam-

raz, with theatre experts from outside the Valley invited to provide professional training to local artists.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the Markaz's commitment to expanding literary and cultural initiatives to preserve and promote Kashmiri heritage.

DC Srinagar inspects initiation of work on new building for GMS Gangbug

Project to Boost Educational Infrastructure

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today visited Gangbug area of the District and conducted an on-site inspection of the initiation of work on construction of new building for Government Middle School (GMS) being carried.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur and other senior Officers accompanied the DC during the visit.

During the visit, the DC carried out an on-site assessment of the works initiated to construct new building for Government Middle School Gangbug to fulfil long pending demand of the local population and enhance educational infrastructure



and learning conditions for students in the area.

The DC emphasized the importance of maintaining quality standards and ensuring timely completion of the project as per approved specifications. The DC directed the concerned Officers to closely monitor the progress of work so that the facility is completed within the stipulated timeframe.

During the visit, local residents of the area also accompanied the Deputy Commissioner. They expressed hope that the new school building would provide improved classrooms and better educational facilities, contributing to a more conducive academic environment and ensuring enhanced access to quality education to students of Gangbug and adjoining areas.

DC Ganderbal reviews progress of RIDF projects under NABARD, stresses timely execution and completion

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

GANDERBAL, JANUARY 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today convened a meeting to review the progress of projects being executed under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) under NABARD in the district.

At the outset, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, briefed the chair on the scope and eligible components under RIDF, which include agriculture and allied sectors, social sector initiatives and rural connectivity.

During the meeting, AGM NABARD advised departments to ensure pre-submission preparedness, including detailed surveys, accurate cost estimates, obtaining administrative approvals and technical sanctions, and securing land and forest clearances, to ensure project readiness before submission to NABARD.

He also stressed that priority should be accorded to RIDF XXVII projects, as the phasing of these projects is scheduled to close by March 2026.

The meeting held detailed deliberations

on various aspects of RIDF implementation, including project timelines, expenditure status and physical progress of various projects.

It was informed that a total of 52 RIDF projects are currently ongoing in the district under RIDF Tranches XXVI to XXX. Of these, 41 projects pertain to the Public Works Department (PWD), two to the Jal Shakti and Irrigation Department, five to the Agriculture Production Department (APD), and four to SKAUST- APD.

Taking a department-wise review, the DC assessed the status of various projects taken up, ongoing and completed works, and the expenditure incurred so far under RIDF. He directed all concerned departments to submit regular updates of their respective projects to NABARD on regular basis.

With regard to submission of Project Completion Certificates (PCCs) and Project Completion Reports (PCRs) in respect of Completed Projects, DC instructed the concerned departments to submit the same at the earliest. He also directed officers to ensure regular submission of Utilization Certificates (UCs) every quarter.

DC Baramulla reviews progress of schemes under Agriculture and Allied Sectors

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 06: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a review meeting at the Main Meeting Hall of the DC Office, Baramulla, to assess the progress of various schemes being implemented under the Agriculture and Allied Sectors in the district.

During the meeting, the DC undertook a detailed review of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), assessing both physical and financial progress and evaluating the targets achieved so far.



While reviewing the progress of the PM-KISAN Scheme, the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are mandatorily linked with active Kisan Credit Card (KCC) accounts, so that farmers can seamlessly access institutional credit and other financial benefits.

He further instructed the banking authorities to submit a branch-wise list of KCC account holders to facilitate monitoring and gap analysis.

The DC also reviewed the implementation status of other key schemes, including PM Krishi Maan-Dhan Yojana, PM Dhan-Dhanya Yojana, and other farmer-centric initiatives.

Stressing upon the importance of social security and income enhancement for farmers, he called for intensified awareness and enrollment drives, particularly in rural and far-flung areas.

Minga Sherpa also instructed the officers to set realistic and achievable annual targets, with a focus on achieving a significant incremental increase in scheme performance during a financial year.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Horticulture Officer, Lead District Manager, along with officers from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and other allied departments.

JKTPO organises Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce Onboarding drive in Budgam

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 06: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) today successfully organised an Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce Onboarding Drive in Budgam to promote exports and digital market integration of local producers.

The workshop was organised in collaboration with the District Administration Budgam, ODOP Team, DPIIT, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC), Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) and Flipkart.

The primary objective of the programme was to empower local MSMEs, artisans, Self Help Groups

(SHGs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and entrepreneurs by providing comprehensive knowledge on export-related schemes, procedures and opportunities offered through digital commerce platforms. The initiative aimed to connect local producers with national and international markets while familiarising participants with various central and state government export promotion schemes.

Development Commissioner, Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles, while inaugurating the workshop, highlighted that the Ministry acts as a facilitator, promoter and regulator of the region's rich craft sector. He emphasized that flagship

schemes such as NHDP and CHCDS focus on artisan welfare, skill up-gradation, market access and preservation of traditional heritage, ensuring sustainable economic upliftment while safeguarding cultural identity.

General Manager, JKTPO, underlined the pivotal role of JKTPO in organising district-level workshops to promote ODOP sellers and facilitate their onboarding on e-commerce platforms, thereby enhancing their market reach and export readiness.

It was highlighted that Kani Shawls, selected as the One District One Product (ODOP) of Budgam, hold immense export potential. Under the District as Export Hub Initiative, the District

Administration is working in close coordination with Government departments and export promotion institutions to boost exports and position Budgam as a hub for its niche products and allied derivatives.

Branch Manager, ECGC, elaborated on the role of credit guarantee, credit risk insurance and related services, providing valuable insights into safeguarding export shipments and ensuring financial security for exporters.

Representatives from ONDC and Flipkart detailed the digital marketing opportunities available to exporters and entrepreneurs, including market access, buyer discovery and e-commerce facilitation.

Over 120 artisans, exporters and FPO representatives from Budgam district participated in the workshop.

The event witnessed enthusiastic engagement, with participants actively interacting during sessions and expressing keen interest in onboarding their products on digital platforms.

The initiative forms part of JKTPO's ongoing efforts to promote exports from all districts of Jammu & Kashmir under the Districts as Export Hubs scheme and the ODOP initiative. Expert-led sessions also covered export incentives, branding of local products for international markets, export financing options and credit risk insurance mechanisms.

DC Bandipora reviews functioning of SWD in district, pushes for People-Centric approach

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 06: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to take stock of the functioning of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and assess the implementation of key welfare schemes in the district.

During the meeting, the District Social Welfare Officer Bandipora presented a detailed briefing on major schemes, including the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Marriage Assistance Scheme, distribution of motorised tricycles for specially-abled persons, and rehabilitation measures for militancy victims.

The DC also reviewed progress under flagship initiatives such as Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya. The functioning of the SAKHI One Stop Centre, Women's Helpline, Nari Adalats, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), and various child protection mechanisms was discussed in detail. Updates on case status, awareness campaigns, inspections, and capacity-building

programmes were also examined.

A detailed review of the SHE-BOX portal registrations was conducted, along with an assessment of the implementation of Mission Vatsalya and its institutional framework, including the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), Child Helpline, and Child Helpdesk.

The meeting deliberated on matters related to children in conflict with law, children in need of care and protection (CNCPL), child care institutions, sponsorships, inspections, and awareness activities.

The functioning of the SAKHI One Stop Centre Bandipora came in for special focus, with a review of cases registered, resolved, disposed of and currently under process. Awareness programmes, orientation workshops, inspections and training sessions conducted by the centre were also discussed. Emphasising the importance of coordinated action, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for stronger inter-departmental collaboration among the Police, Women Help Desks, Health Department, District Legal Services Authority and the Social Welfare Department to effectively address cases of domestic violence

and ensure timely psychosocial and legal support to survivors.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the department to further intensify awareness about the Child Helpline, ensure regular inspections of institutions, strengthen sponsorship mechanisms, and expand outreach activities. She also instructed that a coordinated meeting be convened, involving SHOs, CDPOs, clinical psychologists from the Health Department, and the District Legal Services Authority, to streamline reporting and response mechanisms, particularly in cases of domestic violence.

Highlighting the need for accountability, the Deputy Commissioner directed the department to lay down clear parameters for the release of staff salaries, verify tour programmes, assess work output, and ensure transparency in service delivery. She reiterated the district administration's commitment to safeguarding the rights and welfare of women, children, and other vulnerable sections of society.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police, Aijaz Ahmad Zargar, District Social Welfare Officer Bandipora, and other concerned officers.

DC Budgam Flags off Girls Trekking Camp to Pahalgam

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, JANUARY 6: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Uddin Bhat, today flagged off a Girls' Trekking Camp to the renowned tourist destination Pahalgam, at a function held at the DC Office Budgam.

The trekking camp, being organized by the District Administration Budgam in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Budgam, is held from January 06 to January 12, 2026, and will witness the participation of girls from all age groups across district Budgam.

Addressing the participants on the occasion, the DC lauded the initiative and highlighted the transformative role of adventure-based activities in shaping confident, disciplined, and resilient youth. He emphasised that trekking and outdoor pursuits not only enhance physical endurance but also instill vital life skills such as teamwork, leadership, self-reliance, and mental toughness.

The DC stated that such camps provide a platform for young girls to step out of their comfort zones, explore their potential, and connect with nature. He



underscored that exposure to the scenic and serene landscapes of Jammu and Kashmir helps inculcate environmental awareness and a deeper appreciation of the region's natural heritage.

The DC further stressed that the District Administration is committed to ensuring inclusive participation of girls in sports and adventure activities, thereby empowering them socially and physically. He added that encouraging girls to participate in such initiatives is a step towards nurturing confident citizens who can contribute meaningfully to society.

He urged the participants to make the most of the opportunity by learning from the experience, supporting each other, and maintaining discipline throughout the camp.

The DC also assured that all necessary arrangements have been put in place to ensure the safety, security, and well-being of the participants during the entire duration of the trekking camp.

ADC Handwara visits Tehsil Zachaldara to review developmental works

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, JANUARY 6: Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javid Naseem, today conducted an extensive tour of Tehsil Zachaldara of sub division Handwara to address public grievances and review the progress of ongoing developmental works in the area.

During the visit, the ADC interacted with local residents and listened patiently to their grievances and demands. He assured the public that genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for early redressal.

The ADC also took stock of various development projects being executed under different schemes



and stressed upon timely completion and quality execution of works. He directed the officers

to remain responsive to public issues and ensure that developmental benefits reach the grassroots level. The ADC was accompanied by Tehsildar Zachaldara, Block Development Officer Rajwar, and other officers/officials from the Revenue Department and Rural Development Department who briefed him about the status of ongoing works and local issues.

The visit was appreciated by the local populace, who expressed hope for improved service delivery and accelerated development in the tehsil.

Later, he also visited Tehsil office Zachaldara and took stock of the ongoing digitization work of Jamanbandis at designated Lab.

DC Kulgam reviews RDSS works

Directs for timely completion of projects to strengthen power distribution & reduce AT&C losses

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, JANUARY 06: To assess the progress of ongoing works under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), a meeting of officers was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan here at the mini-secretariat Kulgam.

During the meeting, through a detailed presentation, the DC was briefed about the status of ongoing projects in the district.

It was informed that the RDSS, with a project cost of Rs 113 crore, aims to strengthen the power distribution infrastructure in the district by installing 618 new distribution transformers and 350 km of LT Aerial Bundled Cables (ABC) and 450 Ckm of HT reconductor Circuit kmts.

It was further shared that the



initiative is designed to reduce Aggregate Technical and

Commercial (AT&C) losses in Kulgam.

It was given out that 93% progress has been made in

installation of HT/LT electric poles and 35 % in DT installation has been completed.

The DC instructed to mobilize men and machinery to ensure completion of projects well in time besides proper coordination between different departments.

The DC emphasized the importance of completing the works within the stipulated timeline to enhance the reliability and efficiency of the power distribution system in the district.

Furthermore, the DC directed the executing agency to complete the process of Training Testing Inspection and Commissioning (TTIC) of all completed feeders.

The meeting was also attended by, JDP, DGM PGCL, SE KPDCL Circle Bijbehara, Executive Engineers of KPDCL, STD Bijbehara, AEE Project Division Anantnag, All O&M AEEs.

DC Bandipora reviews ICDS implementation

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 06: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of ICDS and Poshan schemes in the district.

During the meeting, Programme Officer ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan, presented a detailed overview of services under Poshan Abhiyaan, including status of AWCs and beneficiary registration on the Poshan Tracker, identification of children and anaemic beneficiaries, Aadhaar, mobile and ABHA verification, and face recognition system (FRS) compliance.



The Deputy Commissioner directed that dealing assistants be properly trained for accurate data uploading and stressed that e-KYC of AWWs and AWHs must reach zero pendency.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner sought revenue village-wise data, breakup of SAM cases, anaemia details, and month-wise reporting of Community Based Events (CBEs) and Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSNDs).

During the meeting, the DC also reviewed infrastructure gaps and directed exploration of abandoned government buildings for conversion into Anganwadi Centres, identification of land for rented centres, and ensured heating, drinking water, toilet and electricity facilities, particularly in Aspirational Blocks Tulail and Arin.

The meeting also reviewed progress under Saksham/Balvidyalaya AWCs, Palma creches, Poshan Vatikas, PMMVY enrolment drives, food safety and quality monitoring, FSSAI licensing, and the Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan. Key convergence and departmental issues raised by POICDS were resolved on the spot.

DC Bandipora Chairs DLIC Meeting; 249 cases sanctioned under Mission YUVA

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 06: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today presided over a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) at the Mini Secretariat to evaluate proposals under Mission YUVA.

During the meeting, the Committee thoroughly examined the cases, following which 249 cases were



approved after due scrutiny. The meeting also reviewed the district-wise progress of Mission YUVA, including cases forwarded to banks, sanctions accorded, disbursements made, and applications rejected, to gauge the effectiveness of the scheme's implementation on the ground.

Emphasizing transparency and due diligence, the Deputy Commissioner directed officers to maintain strict verification standards while processing cases.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed bank authorities to undertake a detailed analysis of rejected cases, clearly identify the reasons for rejection, and explore the possibility of resolving genuine issues in a time-bound manner.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Officers from DIC Bandipora, District Social Welfare Office Bandipora, ARTO Bandipora, Pollution Control Board Bandipora, JKEDI Bandipora, and other concerned departments.

DYSS Rajouri organizes cricket trials at sports stadium

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, JANUARY 6: On the directions of the DG YSS, Anuradha Gupta, the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, District Rajouri, today conducted spirited cricket trials at the Sports Stadium, Rajouri, for boys and girls in the Under-17 and Under-19 categories.

The trials aimed to select district teams for the upcoming YSS Cup and witnessed enthusiastic participation from across Rajouri, including determined youngsters from far-flung areas who traveled with the sole ambition of showcasing their talent.

From the opening ball to the final run, the atmosphere brimmed with energy and ambition. Young cricketers displayed refined technique, fitness



and teamwork, reflecting their determination to represent Rajouri with pride.

Coaches and mentors guided the aspirants, focusing on discipline, resilience and the ability to perform under pressure. The screening emphasized technical skill, athleticism and the potential to grow into championship-level players.

Speaking on the occasion, the DYSSO

Rajouri, Mohd Qasim said that today's trials highlighted that talent thrives in every corner of the district. "These trials are not just a competition but a launch pad for young cricketers to rise and shine", he added.

He informed that the final squad for both boys and girls in U-17 and U-19 categories will be announced shortly, ahead of the upcoming Jammu event.

DC Shopian reviews implementation of Mission Yuva

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, JANUARY 6: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today Chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress and effectiveness of Mission Yuva in the district.

During the meeting, an in-depth evaluation was conducted of the Mission's key components, including capacity-building initiatives, progress under beyond sanction campaign, facilitation and coverage of Lakhpati Didi beneficiaries, enterprise mentorship and the status of cases pending with banks for financial sanction.

The review focused on identifying operational gaps and strengthening the delivery mechanism to ensure optimal outcomes.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of a coordinated and result-oriented approach among all stakeholders. He directed members of the Small Business



Development Unit (SBDU) and Business Help Desks (BHDs) to intensify beneficiary facilitation, ensure effective handholding and enhance field-level engagement to translate approvals into sustainable entrepreneurial ventures.

Highlighting the critical role of timely credit linkage, the DC urged bank officials to expedite the disposal of eligible cases by addressing procedural bottlenecks and ensuring prompt financial support to beneficiaries.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; SDM, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed, LDM, Cluster Head, J&K Bank, AD, Employment, Members of the SBDU, BHDs and officials from various banks.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of I&C Department Schemes

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, JANUARY 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of various schemes being implemented by the Industries and Commerce (I&C) Department in the district.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the performance of schemes being executed through the District Industries Centre (DIC), Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Handloom, and Handicrafts Departments. General Manager, DIC Kulgam, presented a comprehensive report highlighting the achievements of all departments since the inception of their respective schemes. He informed that a total of 27,172 industrial units have been established in the district so far, involving an investment of Rs, 356.69 crore and generating employment opportunities for



35,626 persons.

Emphasizing the need for regular monitoring, the Deputy Commissioner directed the General Manager, DIC Kulgam, to submit updated progress reports of all schemes every Monday to ensure effective implementation and timely outcomes.

Mission Yuva progress reviewed at Doda

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, JANUARY 06: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda, Harvinder Singh today chaired a review meeting here in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex, to assess the progress achieved under the Mission Yuva Scheme.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Roshan Lal; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Ashraf Pervaz; Chief Planning Officer, Manesh Kumar; General Manager, DIC, Mohd Ashfaq Khanji; Cluster Manager JK Bank, Kumar Sorab; District Social Welfare Officer, Zubair Ahmed and Assistant Director Employment. The Sub-Divisional Magistrates Thatthri, Gandoh and Assar, Principal GDCs and other concerned officers participated through virtual mode.

The meeting reviewed pending credit applications, capacity building of applicants through identified colleges, post-sanction handholding support, setup and hiring of SBDU infrastructure and on-boarding of Lakhpati Didi into Mission Yuva.

The DDC directed the Employment Department to ensure timely scrutiny and clearance of all pending cases, intensifying outreach for capacity-building programmes and provisioning of continuous post-sanction support to beneficiaries so that enterprises



established under the scheme become viable and sustainable.

The JK Bank Manager was directed to accelerate the processing and disbursement of pending loan cases, maintain close coordination with the District Employment and Industries Departments and promptly address issues causing delays in credit linkage.

Stressing the need for effective hand holding after sanction, the DC directed the concerned departments to provide market linkage, mentoring and technical guidance to beneficiaries to enhance success rates and income generation.

The SDMs and other officers were directed to closely monitor the scheme at the grassroots level, ensure effective mobilization of potential beneficiaries including women and youth and regularly review progress in their respective jurisdictions.

J&K IMPARD, DARPG, DOPG HOLD TRAINING ON SEVOTTAM FOR GRIEVANCE REDRESS AT BGSBU

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, JANUARY 6: A training programme on Sevottam for effective grievance redress for the districts of Rajouri and Poonch was today organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (J&K IMPARD) in collaboration with the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), Gol and Department of Public Grievances (DOPG), J&K at Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU).

The programme commenced with an introductory lecture on Good Governance and the Sevottam Framework for public service delivery by Professor Reva Sharma, In-charge Academics and Nodal Officer (Sevottam), J&K IMPARD. She elaborated on citizen-centric administration and systematic grievance redress mechanisms.

Director General, J&K IMPARD, Rehana Batul, highlighted the importance of capacity building

of officers for improving the public service delivery. She also expressed gratitude to BGSBU and the Rajouri administration for their cooperation in organizing the programme.

Vice Chancellor, BGSBU, Professor Javaid Iqbal, who attended the event as guest of honour, stated that such training sessions would prove instrumental in strengthening the public service delivery and improving grievance redress system.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, while addressing the gathering, emphasized both the quality and quantity of grievance redress. He stressed the need for timely, effective and empathetic disposal of public grievances.

He appreciated J&K IMPARD for organizing outreach training programmes in the tribal districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

The programme was graced by Dr. Ashok Bhan, Former DGP CID & Prisons as the chief guest who delivered an insightful lecture on



public service ethics. He lauded J&K IMPARD for organizing the training programmes outside Jammu and Srinagar.

He emphasized that the passion and attitude of officers towards the public play a crucial role in resolving their grievances.

He also underscored the need for establishing kiosks for grievance

registration to enhance accessibility for the citizens.

Additional Secretary, Department of Public Grievances, Narinder Kour, delivered a detailed presentation on JK Samadhan, highlighting its role in strengthening the grievance redress ecosystem.

Towards the end of the programme, a technical session on the JK Samadhan Portal was conducted by the technical team of DOPG, J&K, Muneeb Buch and Ajaz Ahmed, providing hands-on guidance to the officers.

A question-and-answer session was also held at the end of the programme, during which the participants raised queries related to grievance redress mechanisms and clarifications were provided by the resource persons.

The district and sectoral officers from Rajouri and Poonch districts actively participated in the first day of the training programme, which aimed at enhancing the institutional capacity for citizen-centric governance.

HT EDITORIAL

When Childhood Begins to Mirror Adult Illness

The revelation that nearly 50 percent of children between the ages of 5 and 9 in Jammu and Kashmir have elevated triglyceride levels should shake us out of our collective complacency. What was once considered a health concern confined to middle-aged and elderly populations is now silently taking root in our classrooms, playgrounds and homes. The disturbing lipid profile among young children is not merely a medical statistic—it is a warning bell ringing loudly across the Valley and beyond.

Triglycerides are a type of fat found in the blood, and high levels are closely linked to heart disease, diabetes, fatty liver and other metabolic disorders. The fact that such abnormalities are being detected in children who have barely begun formal schooling points to a deeper crisis—one rooted in lifestyle changes, unhealthy food habits and diminishing physical activity.

Over the past decade, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a dramatic shift in dietary patterns. Traditional, home-cooked meals rich in vegetables, pulses and whole grains are steadily being replaced by processed foods, sugary drinks, fast food and excessive snacking. Chips, pizzas, instant noodles and carbonated beverages have become staples rather than occasional indulgences. Aggressive marketing of junk food, coupled with easy availability, has only worsened the situation.

Equally alarming is the decline in physical activity among children. Outdoor play has been replaced by screen time, mobile phones, tablets, video games and television now dominate a child's daily routine. Urbanisation, lack of safe play spaces, academic pressure and parental concerns about safety have all contributed to a sedentary lifestyle. The result is a generation growing up with adult-like health problems long before adulthood. The long-term implications are grave.

Addressing this challenge requires a multi-pronged approach. Parents must take primary responsibility by encouraging balanced diets at home and limiting junk food consumption. Schools should play an active role by promoting physical education, discouraging unhealthy food in canteens and incorporating health awareness into the curriculum. Regular health screenings in schools can help in early detection and timely intervention.

The government, too, must step in with strong policy measures regulating the sale and advertisement of junk food, especially near educational institutions, creating safe recreational spaces, and launching sustained public awareness campaigns focused on child nutrition and physical fitness.

Most importantly, society must collectively rethink its definition of convenience and modernity. A child's health cannot be sacrificed at the altar of fast food culture and digital addiction. Childhood is meant to be a time of growth, energy and vitality—not a prelude to lifestyle diseases.

The alarming lipid profiles among young children in Jammu and Kashmir are a wake-up call we cannot afford to ignore.

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Saving Kashmiri Language: A Role for Parents and Youth



■ SYED MEHDI MUZAFFAR

The Kashmiri language, once a vital part of every household in the Valley, is slowly losing its importance among the youth. Today, many young people prefer to speak Urdu, sidelining their mother tongue, Kashmiri. This trend is concerning, as it threatens the survival of a language that has carried the culture, history, and identity of Kashmiris for centuries.

Kashmiri has always been more than just a means of communication. It is the voice of our poetry, folklore, and traditions. Poets like Lal Ded and Sheikh-ul-Alam have used Kashmiri to share their wisdom with the world. However, the influence of Urdu, which dominates schools, workplaces, and media, is leading to a gradual abandonment of Kashmiri, especially in urban households.

Parents play a crucial role in this shift. In many families, Urdu has replaced Kashmiri as the language of communication, often because parents believe it will give their children better educational and professional opportunities. While this approach may have practical benefits, it unintentionally undermines the importance of teaching children their mother tongue.

The impact of this neglect is far-reaching. A language is more than words—it connects people to their roots, history, and traditions. Losing a language means losing a part of one's identity. If this trend continues, future generations may grow up without a connection to their Kashmiri heritage.

Parents have the power to change this. Here are a few simple steps they can take:



Speak Kashmiri at Home: Make it a habit to use Kashmiri as the primary language of conversation in daily life.

Share Stories and Songs: Introduce children to Kashmiri folk tales and songs to make the language more engaging for them.

Encourage Participation: Motivate children to take part in cultural events like Kashmiri poetry recitations or plays.

Support Language Education: Advocate for Kashmiri to be included in school curriculums and ensure children have access to books and other resources in the language.

Young people also need to understand the value of their linguistic heritage. Kashmiri is not in competition with Urdu or English. Learning and using their mother tongue alongside other languages only

enhances their skills and broadens their horizons.

Communities and institutions also have a responsibility to promote the use of Kashmiri. This can be done through campaigns, events, and media content that highlight the importance of preserving the language.

In the end, saving Kashmiri is a shared responsibility. Parents, youth, and society must work together to keep it alive. The Kashmiri proverb, "Akh zal chukh nish pyeth malni" (one flame lights hundreds), reminds us that small efforts can lead to great change.

Let us take pride in our mother tongue and ensure that it remains a vibrant part of our lives and identity. Speaking Kashmiri at home, celebrating its beauty, and passing it on to the next generation is the only way to keep our language and culture alive.

When Tourism Becomes Livelihood: Understanding Gulmarg



■ MUDASIR AHMAD NAJAR

Tourism is usually understood as a matter of travel, enjoyment and temporary escape from routine life, but in Gulmarg it carries a meaning far deeper than leisure. Here, tourism is not only about visitors admiring snow covered landscapes or enjoying winter sports; it is about the survival of families whose lives are closely tied to the seasonal movement of people and money. Gulmarg is often presented as a paradise of beauty but behind this beauty lies a working world where livelihoods are shaped by snowfall, tourist arrivals and the fragile balance between nature and economy. For the surrounding villages, tourism is not an additional source of income but the main pillar on which daily life stands. When winter approaches and most economic activities slow down across Kashmir, Gulmarg begins to awaken offering employment and purpose to those who depend on it.

Understanding Gulmarg, therefore, requires looking beyond its scenic charm and examining how tourism quietly transforms into livelihood, responsibility and hope for thousands of people.

The villages around Gulmarg share a close and inseparable relationship with this hill station. For many households, winter tourism determines whether the year will be manageable or difficult. Farmers whose fields lie frozen under snow find alternative work connected to tourism. Young men and women become guides, hotel staff, drivers, shop assistants and ski helpers. Elderly people contribute through small businesses, rentals, and informal services that support the tourism system. Every visitor who arrives creates a chain of economic activity that reaches deep into village homes. In this way tourism



becomes a collective effort rather than an individual benefit. The income earned during winter is often used to sustain families throughout the year, pay school fees, meet medical expenses and prepare for the uncertainties of future seasons. Gulmarg thus becomes a center not only of employment but of planning and survival where the rhythm of life follows the rhythm of tourism. There is a philosophical truth hidden in this dependence on tourism, one that reflects the human ability to adapt to environment and circumstance. Winter, which is usually seen as a time of hardship and limitation, becomes in Gulmarg a time of opportunity and movement. Snow, instead of blocking life, opens new paths for livelihood. This transformation shows how people do not merely endure nature but learn to work with it.

The economy of Gulmarg is shaped by patience, skill, and continuity, passed from one generation to another. Skills related to guiding, hospitality and local knowledge are not learned from books alone but through lived experience. Tourism, in this sense becomes a form of education, discipline and cultural transmission. It teaches cooperation, resilience and responsibility while also

reminding people of their dependence on forces beyond their control. At the center of this discussion lies an important question: when does tourism stop being an industry and start becoming a livelihood? In Gulmarg, this shift happens when absence of tourists leads directly to hardship. Any disruption—whether due to (weather conditions, political instability or global crises) immediately affects village households.

This reality exposes both the strength and vulnerability of a tourism-based economy. On one hand, it provides employment where few alternatives exist; on the other, it demands stability and thoughtful planning. Understanding Gulmarg requires acknowledging this dual nature. Tourism here is powerful, but it is also sensitive. It connects local lives to global movements making village economies dependent on factors far beyond their borders. Yet, despite this uncertainty, people continue to invest their labour, trust and future in tourism because it remains their most reliable means of survival.

Gulmarg also offers insight into how dignity is attached to work. For many villagers, tourism allows them to remain close to home rather than migrate to

distant cities in search of uncertain employment. It preserves family structures and community life. Work done in Gulmarg is not seen merely as service to outsiders but as contribution to collective survival. There is pride in guiding visitors, hosting them, and representing one's land and culture. This emotional connection between livelihood and place strengthens social bonds and reinforces a sense of belonging. Tourism, therefore becomes more than an economic activity; it becomes a social system that supports identity and continuity.

In the larger picture, Gulmarg stands as an example of how regional economies function in difficult environments. It shows that development does not always come through factories or large industries; sometimes it emerges through careful use of natural resources and human skill. The success of Gulmarg's winter tourism lies not only in its landscape but in the people who sustain it through effort and adaptability. Their lives remind us that behind every tourist destination lies an unseen workforce whose labour transforms beauty into livelihood. To understand Gulmarg is to recognise this invisible foundation and to appreciate tourism as a serious economic force rather than a seasonal attraction.

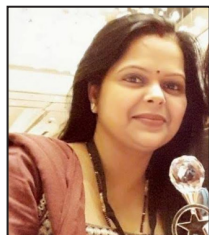
In completion when tourism becomes livelihood as seen in Gulmarg, it reshapes the meaning of work, winter and survival. Gulmarg teaches us that tourism is not always about pleasure for some and profit for others; sometimes it is about endurance, planning, and collective existence. It is about how villages organise their lives around a single economic source and how that source in turn, defines their future.

Understanding Gulmarg therefore, is not only about understanding tourism but about understanding people their struggles, hopes and resilience in the face of uncertainty. In its snow-covered silence and seasonal crowds Gulmarg quietly tells a powerful story: that when tourism becomes livelihood, it becomes life itself.

The Author from Dandmoha,
Kreeri, Baramulla

BOOK REVIEW

Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee's Our Time Revisited: Focusing on Diversity of Literary Creativity



■ PROF. MALLIKA TRIPATHI

Our Time Revisited by Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee is an expansive and intellectually rigorous critical work that undertakes the formidable task of mapping literary, cultural, political, and socio-ethical discourses of the contemporary world. The volume stands at the intersection of literary criticism, cultural studies, and social commentary, offering a panoramic view of global literature while simultaneously grounding its analyses in the specificities of historical moments and lived realities. As such, the book positions itself as a significant contribution to contemporary literary studies and interdisciplinary humanities scholarship.

At the core of this volume lies Dr. Bhattacharjee's conviction that literature is not an autonomous aesthetic construct but a dynamic, historically situated practice that both reflects and interrogates social consciousness. The book revisits "our time" not merely in a chronological sense but as a conceptual space where literature engages with urgent questions of identity, power, ethics, marginalization, resistance, and human dignity. This theoretical orientation aligns the work with humanistic and socially engaged criticism, moving beyond formalist readings to embrace contextual and ideological analysis. One of the most striking features of Our Time Revisited is its remarkable scope and inclusivity. The volume engages with a wide range of literary figures—spanning classical, modern, and contemporary traditions—across geographical, linguistic, and cultural boundaries. Canonical writers such as Shakespeare, Rabindranath Tagore, Charles Dickens, Percy Bysshe Shelley, John Keats, T. S. Eliot, Alexander Pushkin, and Emily Dickinson are read alongside Nobel laureates and globally recognized authors such as Toni Morrison, Kazuo Ishiguro, Louise Glück, Annie Ernaux, and Han Kang. These engagements are neither perfunctory nor reverential; rather, they are analytical re-readings that situate canonical texts within evolving socio-cultural frameworks.

Equally significant is the book's sustained engagement with contemporary writers and thinkers, many of whom are still actively shaping present literary discourse. Dr. Bhattacharjee's criticism here performs an archival function—documenting and critically evaluating voices of our time that might otherwise remain marginal in mainstream academic discourse. His analytical approach foregrounds thematic concerns, ideological positions, and stylistic strategies, thereby enabling a deeper understanding of contemporary literary production. The inclusion of critical essays on living writers enhances the immediacy and relevance of the volume while underscoring its role as a chronicle of contemporary literary response. Dr. Ayyappa Raja Sattanathan, Associate Professor of Annamalai University in his Introduction to the book wrote: "The brilliant research articles written on different premises focus on different continents and contexts. Their research articles reveal to the readers the richness and diversity of literary creativity. These research essays have a social bearing and contemporary relevance" The writers have focused upon issues such as Diasporic Sensibility, Dalit Consciousness, Ecological Concerns and Religion. Dr. Chetan Trivedi, Vice Chancellor of Bhaktar Kavi Narasinh Mehta University Gujarat also wrote a Foreword in which he described the book 'an exquisite collection of articles'. He wrote, 'The articles in the book evoke in us a desire to rethink on the subjects in a new light in an original and unconventional way as Dr. Bhattacharjee usually does it in his prose and poetic writings on diverse subjects, talking from gender discriminations and fourth world literature to

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film and music." The book review section in the book is really impressive where he encourages a lot of new young writers along with the well-known poets and novelists of India and abroad.

As an International Visiting Faculty in the American Universities, Dr. Bhattacharjee has gained wider experiences of men and writers and as a multilingual poet and columnist, he deals with an infinite variety of issues, which are accommodated partially in this precious book. "His articles are all a record of our contemporary times, but they gain a timelessness in the presentation of ideas, providing us scope for fresh thinking and enabling us to reframe our vision with clearer ideas, reexamining those previously formulated on them," said Dr. Chetan Trivedi. In his essay on Amitav Ghosh Dr. Bhattacharjee mused deeply on postmodern elements in Indian English literature—a preoccupation with insecurities in the existence of humanity. The picture of life delineated by them accommodates meaninglessness, purposelessness and absurdity of human existence through the employment of devices such as Contradiction, Permutation, Discontinuity, Randomness, Excess, Short Circuit and so on. Amitav Ghosh as a practitioner of post modernism in novels focuses entirely on the colonialism's impoverished and usually non-white victims. They are given the central position not the white masters. The book has a wonderful discussion on Mahasweta Devi's Mother of 1084. Dr. Bhattacharjee wrote: "Mahasweta Devi's Mother of 1084 concentrates on the issues of exploitation and marginalization as a continuing socio-historical process embedded in social and cultural practices, a focus on the interlocking structures of oppression, the crisis—cross of multiple hierarchies of class, caste and gender.

The article on Mulk Raj Anand, the Charles Dickens of India focuses on the peculiar question raised by him through the most important character Bakha in The Untouchable. "How queer the Hindus don't feed their cows although they call her cow 'mother'!" Mulk Raj Anand was a master in depicting the social consciousness and he analysed adroitly the feelings of Bakha in a poignant manner. "His feelings would rise like spurts of smoke from a half-smothered fire in fitful, unbalanced jerks when the recollection of some abuse or rebuke he had suffered kindled a spark in the ashes of remorse inside him." Side by side the book gives us details of Alexander Pushkin's contribution as the founder of Russian fiction. His contribution to Russian literature was described by Maxim Gorky as 'the beginning of beginnings'. Pushkin rejects Byron's subjective, romanticized treatment in favour of objective description and shows his hero not in exotic surroundings but at the heart of a Russian way of life. Yevgeny Onegin written in 1833 unfolded a panoramic picture of Russian life. Onegin is the disenchanted skeptic. Dr. Bhattacharjee took a special care to write on Pushkin's use of the Russian language formed on the basis of Ivan Turgenev and Leo Tolstoy. His novel pointed the way to the Russian realistic novel. T.S. Eliot's poetic vision is analysed in the book. Dr. Bhattacharjee rightly says, "The Waste Land is often read as a representation of the disillusionment of the post-war generation and a poetic counterpart to James Joyce's Ulysses. Side by side we get her the contemporary masters of literature such as Nobel Laureate 2020, Louise Glück the first American woman since Toni Morrison took the prize in 1993. Ratiner wrote: 'Glück's poems 1962-2012' is weighted with the dark matter of the human universe, invisible in our everyday interactions but at the core of our conscious experi-



ence. Dr. Bhattacharjee rightly says, Though Glück lays bare the most intimate moments of longing and loss, these poems are not what we think of as confessional. They are more like the record of a shipwreck survivor trying to come to terms with the strain of isolation and the stark horizon of her island. Language is the castaway's only refuge." We get in the book a heart engaging discussion on Makam in the context of Sino-Indian Conflict. Dr. Rita Choudhury who had her doctoral thesis on Society and Women Psychology Depicted in Nirupama Borghain and Ashapurna Devi's Novels, took interest in Chinese Diaspora and 1962 Sino-Indian War in this novel. The public history is interspersed with the private history of the protagonists from both Chinese and the Assamese Communities whose lives are transformed in the social assimilation. Dr. Bhattacharjee brilliantly wrote in this book on Derek Walcott and said, He had no Nation but Imagi- Nation. Derek was a natural poet in the Keatsian sense. Keats wrote in a letter to his friend, John Taylor, "If Poetry comes not as naturally as Leaves to a tree it had better not come at all." Derek too naturally wrote about the landscape, flora and fauna which is unforced and fluent since the very first poem that he wrote at the age of 14. As a postcolonial writer he had both white and black ancestry because his birthplace was a British Colony as he asked in a 1962 poem, 'A Far Cry from Africa' "I who am poisoned with the blood of both / Where shall I turn, divided to the vein?".

The structural organization of the book further reinforces its interdisciplinary ambition. Divided into sections encompassing literature, politics, society, environment, pandemic reflections, film, music, and book reviews, Our Time Revisited reflects a holistic understanding of culture as an interconnected system of meanings and practices. Such an organization resonates with the methodologies of cultural studies, where literature is examined in dialogue with socio-political events, media, and ideological formations. The essays addressing political movements, governance, citizenship, gender justice, environmental crises, and educational policy reveal Dr. Bhattacharjee's commitment to examining literature as a site of ethical inquiry and social critique. Particularly noteworthy is the section on Pandemic Musings, which captures literary and cultural responses to the COVID-19 cri-

sis. These essays document how global literature grappled with themes of isolation, fear, loss, resilience, and collective vulnerability during an unprecedented historical moment. From a scholarly perspective, this section holds archival value, preserving literary interpretations of a global catastrophe that reshaped human relationships, institutional structures, and creative expression. Dr. Bhattacharjee's analyses here move beyond surface-level commentary to explore how crisis literature reconfigures notions of selfhood, community, and survival.

Stylistically, the prose of Our Time Revisited is characterized by clarity, coherence, and argumentative precision. While the author draws upon a wide range of literary and cultural references, he avoids excessive theoretical jargon, thereby maintaining accessibility without compromising intellectual depth. This balance makes the volume particularly useful for a diverse readership, including researchers, teachers, postgraduate students, and serious readers of literature. The essays are informed by critical awareness and scholarly discipline, reflecting the author's extensive engagement with literary history, criticism, and contemporary debates. Another important dimension of the book is its ethical and humanistic orientation. Across the volume, literature is consistently framed as a moral force—capable of questioning hegemonic power structures, articulating marginalized voices, and fostering empathy across cultural and ideological divides. Whether addressing feminist discourse, postcolonial identities, regional literatures, or global humanitarian concerns, Dr. Bhattacharjee foregrounds the transformative potential of literary expression. His criticism is thus not detached or purely academic; it is deeply invested in literature's capacity to influence social consciousness and ethical reflection. In evaluative terms, Our Time Revisited may be seen as both a critical compendium and a cultural archive. It documents literary engagements across time and space while offering interpretative frameworks that invite further scholarly inquiry. The volume's strength lies in its breadth, interdisciplinary vision, and commitment to contemporaneity, making it a valuable reference for ongoing research in literature, cultural studies, and the humanities at large.

In conclusion, Our Time Revisited emerges as a significant scholarly contribution that reaffirms the relevance

Equally significant is the book's sustained engagement with contemporary writers and thinkers, many of whom are still actively shaping present literary discourse.

Dr. Bhattacharjee's criticism here performs an archival function—documenting and critically evaluating voices of our time that might otherwise remain marginal in mainstream academic discourse. His analytical approach foregrounds thematic concerns, ideological positions, and stylistic strategies, thereby enabling a deeper understanding of contemporary literary production. The inclusion of critical essays on living writers enhances the immediacy and relevance of the volume while underscoring its role as a chronicle of contemporary literary response. Dr. Ayyappa Raja Sattanathan, Associate Professor of Annamalai University in his Introduction to the book wrote: "The brilliant research articles written on different premises focus on different continents and contexts. Their research articles reveal to the readers the richness and diversity of literary creativity.

of literary criticism in an era marked by rapid social change, political uncertainty, and cultural fragmentation. Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee establishes himself as a perceptive critic and cultural commentator who understands literature as an evolving dialogue between text and context, past and present, aesthetics and ethics. The book not only revisits our time but also invites readers to critically engage with it, ensuring its lasting relevance within academic and intellectual discourse.

About the Reviewer
Dr. Mallika Tripathi Professor of English and Director Humanities Firoze Gandhi Institute of Engg and Technology Rai Berili is an award winning poet and academician known for her introspective, socially conscious, and emotionally resonant writing. She is the Founder and President of Anjani Welfare Society, reflecting her commitment to social responsibility and humanitarian work. She won 'Best Pensmith Award' and the 'International Brooklyn Award' for literary excellence.



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Fresh fruits and vegetables are the healthiest foodstuffs available on this earth. They are a priceless gift of nature and play a vital role in maintaining good health. Fruits are packed with essential nutrients such as vitamins, minerals, fiber, antioxidants, and many other basic components that our body needs for proper growth and functioning. A balanced diet is incomplete without the regular intake of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Health is one of the most precious assets of human life. In today's fast-moving world, people are becoming more conscious about their health and lifestyle. Unhealthy eating habits, lack of physical activity, stress, and pollution have given rise to several lifestyle-related diseases. To overcome these problems, nutritionists and health experts strongly recommend the inclusion of fresh fruits and vegetables in our daily diet.

Fruits and vegetables are mostly seasonal, but nature has been very kind to us. Different varieties of fruits are available throughout the year. Some fruits are native to our region, while others are imported from neighboring countries and distant parts of the world. This availability ensures that people can enjoy nutritious food in every season. Fruits not only add taste and color to our meals but also provide protection against many diseases.

The fruit sector plays a pivotal role in uplifting the economy of a country. It provides employment to thousands of farmers, traders, transporters, and workers belonging to different age groups. From cultivation to harvesting, packaging, and marketing, the fruit industry supports the livelihood of a large population. In countries like India, horticulture has emerged as an important source of income, especially in rural and hilly areas.

In this article, I am going to explore the amazing health benefits of one of the tastiest and most popular fruits in the world—the pomegranate. This fruit is widely liked for its delicious taste as well as its powerful medicinal properties. Pomegranate is a round-shaped fruit that resembles an apple from the outside. It is mostly cultivated in the Middle East, Mediterranean regions, and parts of South Asia, but today it is grown and consumed almost all over the globe.

Special Focus on Pomegranate



Pomegranate, scientifically known as Punica granatum, is considered one of the healthiest fruits among all fruits. It has been used since ancient times in traditional medicine for its healing properties. The fruit has a thick, inedible outer skin, but inside it contains hundreds of edible seeds known as arils. These arils are red, juicy, sweet, and slightly tangy in taste. The seeds and arils are the edible parts of the fruit and can be eaten raw or consumed in the form of juice, while the peel is usually discarded.

Pomegranates are rich in fiber, vitamins such as vitamin C and vitamin K, minerals like potassium, and powerful bioactive plant compounds. Although they contain natural sugar, their overall nutritional value makes them extremely beneficial for health

when consumed in moderation.

One of the most important health benefits of pomegranate is its ability to lower blood pressure. High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, is one of the leading causes of heart attacks and strokes worldwide. Several studies have shown that people suffering from hypertension experienced a significant reduction in their blood pressure after consuming pomegranate juice regularly. The antioxidants present in pomegranate help improve blood circulation and reduce damage to blood vessels.

Pomegranate is also highly beneficial for people suffering from arthritis. Arthritis is a condition that involves inflammation of the joints and causes pain, stiffness, and reduced mobility. There are different

types of arthritis, but inflammation is a common factor in most of them. Research has found that pomegranate possesses strong anti-inflammatory properties. These properties help reduce joint inflammation and may slow down the progression of arthritis, providing relief to patients.

Another major benefit of pomegranate is its role in reducing the risk of heart diseases. Heart disease is currently the world's most common cause of premature death. It is a complex disease influenced by factors such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, obesity, and unhealthy lifestyle choices. Pomegranate helps lower bad cholesterol (LDL) levels and prevents oxidation of cholesterol, which is a key factor in the development of heart disease. Regular consumption of pomegranate juice may contribute to better heart health.

Pomegranates contain two unique plant compounds that are responsible for most of their medicinal benefits. These compounds are punicalagins and punicic acid. Punicalagins are extremely powerful antioxidants found in pomegranate juice and peel. They help neutralize harmful free radicals in the body and protect cells from damage. Punicic acid, found in pomegranate seed oil, has anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer properties.

Due to its high antioxidant content, pomegranate is also believed to help improve immunity and protect the body against infections. Antioxidants strengthen the immune system and reduce oxidative stress, which is linked to aging and many chronic diseases. Pomegranate may also support digestive health because of its fiber content, which aids in smooth digestion and prevents constipation.

In the Kashmir Valley, especially during winter, fresh fruits often become expensive and difficult to find in large quantities. Due to harsh weather conditions and transportation challenges, fruit availability is limited during this season. However, people who understand the importance and health benefits of fruits make sure to include them in their diet despite the high cost. They enjoy not only the taste but also the long-term health benefits that fruits provide.

In conclusion, fresh fruits and vegetables are essential for a healthy and balanced life. Among them, pomegranate stands out as a super fruit due to its exceptional nutritional and medicinal properties. From lowering blood pressure and reducing inflammation to protecting heart health and boosting immunity, pomegranate offers numerous health benefits. Including pomegranate and other fresh fruits in our daily diet can help us lead a healthier, happier, and disease-free life. Nature has given us everything we need to stay healthy; it is our responsibility to make wise choices and respect this precious gift.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Importance Of Sprouts In Nutrition



■ DR. (H.C) SURINDERPAL SINGH

Sprouts represent one of the most biologically active and nutritionally dense forms of food available to humans. Produced through the controlled germination of seeds, legumes or grains, sprouts transform stored nutrients into highly bioavailable forms that support growth, tissue repair and disease prevention. In an era increasingly marked by lifestyle disorders, micronutrient deficiencies and digestive ailments, sprouts emerge as a low-cost, sustainable and scientifically validated dietary intervention. Human nutrition has gradually evolved from merely fulfilling calorie requirements to emphasizing nutrient density, bioavailability and preventive health. Unfortunately, modern diets dominated by refined carbohydrates and processed foods often fail to meet physiological needs for vitamins, minerals, enzymes and dietary fiber. Against this backdrop, sprouts—consumed traditionally across cultures worldwide—have gained renewed scientific attention for their superior nutritional profile and therapeutic potential. From a medical perspective, sprouts function as true “functional foods,” offering benefits that extend beyond basic nourishment by positively influencing metabolism, immunity and cellular health.

Sprouts are young shoots that emerge when seeds, pulses, legumes or grains are exposed to water, oxygen and suitable temperature conditions. Common edible varieties include legume sprouts such as green gram, black gram, chickpea and lentils; seed sprouts like fenugreek, mustard and alfalfa; and grain sprouts including wheat, barley and brown rice. The sprouting process activates dormant enzymes within the seed, triggering biochemical transformations that enhance nutrient availability while reducing antinutritional factors such as phytates and enzyme inhibitors.



The preparation of sprouts follows a simple yet biologically significant process. Clean, unbroken seeds are first washed thoroughly and soaked in potable water for several hours, allowing hydration to initiate germination. The soaking water is then discarded to remove leached antinutrients. Seeds are kept in a moist, breathable environment for one to three days, during which they sprout. Regular rinsing prevents microbial growth, and once the desired length is achieved, sprouts are best refrigerated. Medical guidelines strongly emphasize hygiene, as warm and moist conditions can favor bacterial contamination. For vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals, lightly cooked sprouts are preferable to raw consumption.

Nutritionally, sprouts surpass their unsprouted counterparts due to enzymatic activation during germination. Protein digestibility improves as complex proteins are broken down into amino acids, including essential ones such as lysine, leucine and valine, making sprouts particularly valuable for vegetarian diets. Carbohydrates undergo partial hydrolysis into simpler sugars, resulting in a lower glycemic load compared to cooked pulses, which is beneficial for individuals

with diabetes when consumed in moderation. Sprouts are naturally low in total fat but provide beneficial unsaturated fatty acids, with some seed sprouts contributing small amounts of omega-3 and omega-6 fats.

Micronutrient content also increases significantly during sprouting. Vitamin C levels rise markedly, while B-complex vitamins essential for nerve function and energy metabolism are present in abundance. Sprouts also supply vitamin K for blood coagulation and bone health, along with beta-carotene in green varieties. Mineral absorption improves due to reduced phytate levels, enhancing the bioavailability of iron, calcium, magnesium, zinc, selenium and potassium. Their high dietary fiber content supports gut motility, cholesterol reduction and glycemic control, while a high water content promotes hydration and satiety.

In terms of consumption, adults can safely include about 50 to 100 grams of sprouts daily, while children may consume smaller quantities. Therapeutic diets may allow higher intake under supervision. Sprouts can be eaten raw in salads, lightly steamed or sautéed, mixed with curd or soups, or ground into doughs and porridges. Light cooking often improves digestibility without significant nutrient

loss.

Medically, sprouts support digestive health through enzyme activity and fiber, aid metabolic disorders by improving insulin sensitivity and lipid profiles, and promote cardiovascular health by reducing oxidative stress and supporting blood pressure regulation. Improved iron absorption helps prevent nutritional anemia, while vitamins and antioxidants enhance immune function. Their role in bone health, muscle repair and even preventive oncology further underscores their value.

From a public health and medical standpoint, sprouts are a powerful yet underutilized nutritional resource. When prepared hygienically and consumed in appropriate quantities, they function not merely as food but as a preventive health strategy. Incorporating sprouts into daily diets can significantly improve metabolic balance, immune resilience and overall well-being, reaffirming the age-old principle that food, when chosen wisely, truly becomes medicine.

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

DR. JIBRAN BASHIR

Orthopedic Surgeon

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J&K govt introduces new classification for grant-in-aid expenditure

Departments directed to provide component-wise details of projected funds

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JAN 06: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has decided that Grant-in-Aid expenditure will no longer be booked under a single head but classified into three distinct categories.

In a circular, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Finance Department has intimated that the newly adopted heads are 031 –GIA (General), 035 –GIA (Creation of Capital Assets) and 036 – GIA (Salary).

The move comes after the Principal Accountant General, J&K, advised the Union Territory Government to adopt this classification.

In two separate communiqués, the Principal Accountant General informed the Finance Department that booking expenditure against Grant-in-Aid under a single detailed

head “028 – Grant-in-Aid” is not in conformity with the recommended classification structure.

“Accordingly, it has been recommended that expenditure on Grant-in-Aid be booked under distinct detailed heads, viz. GIA-Creation of Capital Assets, GIA-General, and GIA-Salary, as part of the exercise on Rationalization and Harmonization of Primary Units of Appropriation (PUA)/Object Heads (OH),” reads the Finance Department’s circular.

The move is part of a rationalization and harmonization initiative aimed at achieving pan-India uniformity in the economic classification of government expenditure. The initiative will also facilitate comparability of identical classes of expenditure across Union Territories, State Governments, and the Union Government.

In a letter dated September 10,

2025, the Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General of India had written to J&K’s Chief Secretary, advising adoption of a uniform object head structure for Grant-in-Aid aligned with that of the Union Government.

The Government has directed all Administrative Secretaries to furnish component-wise details of funds already projected under the head “028 – Grant-in-Aid” on BEAMS.

“In order to streamline financial discipline, all the Administrative Secretaries are accordingly requested to furnish the component-wise details of the funds already projected on BEAMS under the detailed head ‘028 – Grant-in-Aid,’ so as to enable the Finance Department to make appropriate budgetary provisions for Grant-in-Aid under the newly introduced detailed heads in the Budget Estimates (BE) 2026-27,” the circular adds—(KNO)

34% power deficit likely in January

NRPC predicts 1277 MWs shortfall

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JAN 06: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to witness power deficiency of more than 34 percent during the peak demand in the month of January, Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) officials said.

According to the official figures available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh during the peak demand will likely have a power deficit of 34.2 percent against the available power position.

The updated anticipated power supply position for January-2026 for both the Union Territories reveals that there will be a peak availability of 2460 Megawatts (MWs) against the requirement of 3737 MWs—keeping a loophole



of 1277 MWs.

However, the official documents also said that representatives of HP SLDC, Punjab SLDC and J&K SLDC informed that the shortfall would be met through real-time exchanges and Banking arrangements.

As already reported by KNO that in Jammu and Kashmir, hydel power generation has reduced by

nearly 70 percent from the local generation plants.

An official had informed that the power generation from all the power plants owned by Jammu and Kashmir has decreased by nearly 800-900 Megawatts (MWs).

The official had also said, “The power generation from across local power plants is currently ranging

from 330 MWs to 400 MWs.”

It also said, “From one of the plants from Baglihar, the power generation is ranging from 250-380 MWs and in case of another power plant of Baglihar, Kishenpur and New Wanpoh, we are generating a maximum of one MW.”

The official further informed that the department is able to generate only 71 MWs from Kashmir based power plants.

On Monday, KNO reported that Jammu and Kashmir valley is reeling under ‘severe low voltage issues,’ officials said.

The official had further 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 also said that the severe voltage in Jammu and Kashmir is in violation of N-1—(KNO)

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertainingto Birth of TALIB HUSSAIN BEIGH S/O MOHD LATEEF BEIGH R/O AUTHOORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 30/04/1990 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

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

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

Public Notice

My son's parentage and date of Birth has been wrongly written as SHOWKAT AHMED SHAH & Date of Birth is 26/03/2014 in his school regard while his correct parentage is SHOWKAT AHMAD SHAH & his correct date of Birth is 22/11/2012 which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her objection in the office of Govt Middle School Shrakwara / ZEO WAGOORA within seven days from publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name...SHOWKAT AHMAD SHAH , F/O NASIR AHMAD SHAH, R/O ...JAHANGIRPORA SHAKWARA

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application INSHA BASHIR & RIZWANA D/O BASHIR AHMAD SOFI R/O SHEIKHPORA for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his /her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the SOFI community having annual income 318012 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1.BASHIR AHMAD SOFI Father 51 years Lumberdar
- 2.DILSHADA BAGUM Mother 50 years H/W
- 3... INSHA BASHIR applicant 28 years student
- 4.MUZAMIL BASHIR Brother 25 years student
- 5....RIZWANA BASHIR applicant 21 years student

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name Late GH MOHD PANDITH S/O GH HAYDER PANDITH R/O AUTHOORA .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040006290 wants to be registered on my MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN MANSOOR S/O late GH MOHD PANDITH R/O AUTHOORA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication ofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name..MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN MANSOOR S/O ... LATE GH MOHD PANDITH R/O ...AUTHOORA

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertainingto Birth of AB HAMID MALIK S/O MOHD SULTAN MALIK R/O BANGDARA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 04/01/1971and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertainingto Birth of ABDUL GANI MIR S/O ABDUL AZIZ MIR R/O PUSNAG Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 04/08/1965 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

I Athara Akbar wants to mention that my name spelling in my aadhar card bearing no. 3489 1739 6128 has been wrongly mentioned as Athra Akbar instead of Athara Akbar Now i want to make correction in my aadhaar card.

Name: Athara Akbar, DOB 15/03/2009 D/O Mohammad Akbar Dar R/o: Shanoo Tehsil Langate District Kupwara 193221

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Public Notice

I Pir Jasarat Atiq wants to mention that my name spelling in my aadhar card bearing no. 3960 4874 3081 has been wrongly mentioned as Peerzada Jasarat instead of Pir Jasarat Atiq Now i want to make correction in my aadhaar card.

Name : Pir Jasarat Atiq S/O Pir Atiq ullah R/o : Ratten Pora Behni pora Tehsil Zachaldara District Kupwara 193221

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of OBC certificate applicant DANISH AHMAD NAJAR S/O ABDUL KARIM NAJAR R/O KALANTRA PAYEEN Tehsil KREERI in favour of self for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward class in his /her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KALANTRA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the NAJAR community having annual income 250000 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1....AB KARIM NAJAR Father 48 years carpenter
- 2..FAHMEEDA BEGUM Mother 45 years House wife
- 3..ARIF AHMAD NAJAR Brother 24 years Student
- 4.. GOWHAR AHMAD NAJAR Brother 23 years student
- 5AMINA KAREEM sister 22 years student
- 6...DANISH AHMAD self 20 years student

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

My Daughter's parentage wrongly mentioned in her Date of Birth certificate (DOB) as Showket Ahmad Dar instead of Showkat Ahmad Dar.Now I am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may Contact Registrar Births and Deaths Wagoora within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

SHOWKAT AHMAD DAR F/O DUAH JAAN R/O NAGBAL KREERI BARAMULLA

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE)Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar

E-mail: hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in | Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 1st Of Re-tender Corrigendum 3rd (For Sl. No 02 of e-NIT)

Subject: Construction of Production Bore Well at Kharbatpora Ratnipora District Pulwama.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 60/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/ Camp/12666-82-504, dated: 20-11-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_295794_4.

Due to “No Response” for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No’s under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 05-01-2026 Up-to 03:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	15-01-2026 Up-to 03:00 PM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	16-01-2026 01.00 PM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./17269-79

Dated: 06-01-2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer

Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar.

DIPK: 9736/25 | Dated: 06-01-2026

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division Pulwama

Corrigendum

Reference: This NIT No. E-NIT No: 23/EE/PMGSY-Pulwama/e-tendering of 2025-26, Dated: 23/12/2025, issued vide endorsement No.EE/PMGSY/Pul/2025/ 4319-26 Dated: 23/12/2025.

Time of Completion of work namely Permanent Rectification/ Restoration of road from L050-Tenghar to Takiya, Package No: JK10205, Under UT Capex 2025-26 (Flood relief Measures)

Please Read "45" days, time for completion of work	Instead of "90" days, time for completion of work
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No: EE/PMGSY/Pul/2025/31-33

Dated: 06/01/2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer

PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division Pulwama

DIPK: 9712/25 | Dated: 06-01-2026

Secy IT chairs meeting on Meghraj Cloud Services

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, JANUARY 06: Secretary Information Technology (IT), Piyush Singla today chaired a significant meeting in his office chamber focused on the hiring of Meghraj Cloud Services, a critical initiative to strengthen government IT infrastructure and accelerate digital transformation in Jammu and Kashmir.

CEO JaKeGA, Special Secretary IT Department, Director Finance, State Informatics Officer of NIC, and other officials were present in the meeting, ensuring comprehensive stakeholder input.

The discussions look deeply into the project's foundational elements, including its conceptualization and detailed



scope definition to align with operational needs.

Participants thoroughly reviewed approval mechanisms and implementation timelines, addressing financial concurrence and fund availability to secure

necessary budgetary support.

Key resolutions covered preparation of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) document for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), execution of the MoU with NICSI and service provider

streamlined release of payments, and a clear roadmap for the operationalization of Meghraj cloud services, constitution of requisition committee for looking after the modalities.

Secretary IT said that Meghraj

cloud services mark a transformative step toward providing secure, scalable, and sovereign cloud infrastructure tailored for public sector applications, enhancing data management, cyber security resilience, and service delivery efficiency.

He stated that it aligns seamlessly with national priorities under Digital India, promoting innovation in government operations while safeguarding sensitive information through robust compliance and local hosting capabilities.

The meeting's outcomes pave the way for rapid advancement, positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a leader in adopting advanced cloud technologies for governance.

Deputations call on Javed Rana

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 06: Several deputations and individuals today called on the Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at Srinagar to apprise him of various public and service-related issues and sought redressal of their grievances.

A delegation of the All J&K Non-Gazetted Forest Officers Association submitted a detailed memorandum to the Minister, highlighting key demands such as the re-designation of left-over Class IV forest employees, rectification of pay anomalies affecting forest field staff, and resolution of other service-related concerns.

Another deputation representing employees of the erstwhile IWDP-Hills J&K raised issues pertaining



to the settlement of their outstanding grievances and sought early intervention for their resolution.

Several other deputations and individuals also met the Minister and brought to his notice a range of public issues, including the need for improved basic infrastructure, better road connectivity in remote areas, strengthening of drinking water supply systems, and the early disposal of pending claims under the Forest Rights Act.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to all the deputations and assured them that their concerns would be addressed in a time-bound manner. He reiterated that redressal of public grievances remains a top priority of the present government and informed that necessary directions have already been issued to the concerned departments to ensure prompt and effective action.

DC Samba reviews implementation of PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Scheme

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SAMBA, JANUARY 06: Deputy Commissioner Samba, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting to review the implementation and progress of the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) scheme in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need to maximize coverage of workers in the unorganised sector to ensure they are brought under the ambit of social security benefits. "The PM-SYM scheme envisages securing the future of workers to bring



them under the ambit of social security mechanisms," she said and asked the stakeholder departments to intensify grassroots-level mobilization and awareness efforts.

Departments were instructed to identify eligible beneficiaries within their respective jurisdictions and facilitate their enrollment through focused field-level activities.

To ensure effective monitoring and timely execution, each department was assigned a target and the officers were directed to submit day-wise progress reports.

The meeting also stressed the importance of close coordination with field staff, CSC centres, PRLs and concerned agencies to conduct on-the-spot registration and awareness drives.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, PO ICDS, ACD, CEO, CMO, ALC Samba, AD Handicrafts, AD Handloom and other concerned officers.

Efforts on to promote Bhaderwah as a prominent Tourist Destination: DDC Chairman

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BHADERWAH, JANUARY 06: Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Doda, Dhananter Singh Kotwal today welcomed the joint efforts being put in by the civil society and the stakeholder departments to promote Bhaderwah valley as a prominent tourist destination. Addressing a promotional event "We Bhaderwah Meet" organized by Bhaderwah Adventure Tourism Association (BATA), he reiterated DDC's commitment to the holistic development of Bhaderwah, particularly in strengthening tourism infrastructure and adventure tourism. He called for active community participation to



project Bhaderwah as a prominent tourist destination on the national map. The event brought together key stakeholders to deliberate on strengthening Bhaderwah's identity and fostering sustainable tourism.

MLA Bhaderwah, Daleep Singh Parihar, Vice Chairperson DDC,

Sangeeta Bhagat and DDC Member, Thakur Yudhvir Singh, besides a large number of local youths, tourism stakeholders, adventure enthusiasts, NGOs, social activists, senior citizens, religious leaders, public representatives and prominent citizens also participated in the meet. The speakers emphasized the need for collective and coordinated efforts to promote Bhaderwah—popularly known as Mini Kashmir—as a hub of adventure and eco-tourism.

The Chairman DDC, MLA Bhaderwah and other public representatives assured that the issues raised during the interaction would be examined and acted upon in a time-bound manner.

Labour Commissioner reviews implementation of Labour Codes in J&K

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, JANUARY 06: Labour Commissioner J&K, Charandeep Singh today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Labour Codes in the Union Territory.

The Labour Commissioner reviewed the ongoing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign and emphasized inclusive sensitization of the stakeholders to the provisions and objectives of the Labour Codes for effective on-the-ground implementation. "Effective implementation of the labour codes requires active participation and informed engagement of all concerned stakeholders, including employers, HR managers, workers and unorganised sector workers", he stressed.

Earlier, the Assistant Labour Commissioners briefed the meeting about the initiatives

undertaken at the district level to disseminate information on Labour Codes. They informed that a series of awareness workshops, interactive sessions and meetings have been organised with employers, industrial units, trade unions, HR professionals and workers to familiarize them with the key provisions of the Labour Codes. "Special focus has been laid on explaining compliance requirements, workers' welfare measures and grievance redressal mechanisms," the meeting was told.

The ALCs further informed that targeted sensitization drives have been carried out for unorganised workers through field visits, community-level interactions and collaboration with local stakeholders. IEC material has been widely circulated and on-ground outreach activities have helped in building awareness among workers about their rights, social



security benefits and safety provisions under the Labour Codes.

The Labour Commissioner directed the department to

prepare a comprehensive and structured action plan focusing on mass-scale sensitization of stakeholders through intensified IEC activities and capacity-

building programmes. He highlighted the importance of making stakeholders fully aware of their rights, responsibilities and the benefits envisaged under the Labour Codes to ensure smooth and effective implementation. He further underscored the need for targeted outreach initiatives to cover unorganised workers and other vulnerable sections, ensuring inclusive awareness and participation across sectors.

The Assistant Labour Commissioners and the Deputy Labour Commissioners shared their field-level experiences and assured full cooperation in implementing the directions issued during the meeting. The Labour Commissioner reiterated the department's commitment to strengthening labour governance through awareness, capacity building and stakeholder engagement for the successful implementation of Labour Codes in Jammu and Kashmir.

IIIM hosts workshop on Bioenterprises based on Flori & Apiculture

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KATHUA, JANUARY 06: The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine Jammu organised a workshop on "Empowering Farmers through Quality Seed Distribution and Technology Dissemination in Floriculture and Apiculture-based Bioenterprises" at the Industrial Biotechnology Park (IBTP) Ghatti-Kathua.

The programme was organised under the CSIR Floriculture Mission, a flagship initiative of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of Science and Technology, aimed at promoting high value floriculture based enterprises and enhancing farmers' income through science led interventions.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 150 farmers from Samba and Kathua districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme was designed

to provide comprehensive exposure to scientific technologies, best practices and market oriented approaches in commercial floriculture, apiculture and allied value-added enterprises, thereby enabling farmers to diversify their income sources and adopt sustainable agri-business models.

Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Dr Zabeer Ahmed was the Chief Guest and delivered the presidential address. In his address, Dr Ahmed underscored the immense potential of commercial floriculture and beekeeping as profitable and highly remunerative income generating activities, particularly for small and marginal farmers in rural and peri-urban regions. He informed that CSIR Floriculture Mission is being implemented under the visionary guidance of Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister for Science and Technology and emphasised that floriculture and apiculture are promising farm

sectors, employment intensive and capable of providing quick economic returns when supported by quality planting material, scientific crop management practices and efficient market linkages.

Dr Ahmed highlighted that availability of quality seeds and planting material, adoption of standardised production protocols and integration with value chains and markets are critical drivers for developing sustainable agri-enterprises. He further stated that CSIR-IIIM Jammu, through its research, development and extension activities is committed to bridging the gap between laboratory innovations and farmer fields, thereby contributing to rural prosperity and inclusive growth.

Nodal Scientist of the Mission, Dr Shahid Rasool provided a detailed overview of the mission's objectives and the pivotal role being played by CSIR-IIIM Jammu in promoting science based

agrarian transformation in the region. He elaborated on the Institute's concerted efforts in disseminating improved varieties of ornamental and floricultural crops, standardising cultivation, post harvest technologies and implementing farmer centric extension and capacity building models.

Dr Rasool highlighted the commercial significance of high value cut flowers such as gladiolus, lily, carnation and gerbera, which have strong domestic demand and emerging export potential. He also informed that bulbous ornamental crops, including tulips and lilies are increasingly being adopted by farmers due to their high market value and suitability to local agro-climatic conditions. Emphasis is being laid on scientific nursery raising, planting techniques, nutrient management, pest and disease control, harvesting practices and post harvest handling to ensure

superior quality produce, he said.

Prominent floriculturist and member J&K Kisan Advisory Board, Tejinder Singh, while speaking at the event, shared his practical experiences and market insights with the participants. He informed that commercial floriculture is a viable agribusiness enterprise in J&K owing to high demand of flowers in the region. He stressed on the importance of understanding market trends, crop planning based on demand, maintaining quality standards and adopting collective marketing and farmer producer models to reduce risks and enhance bargaining power. He appreciated the significant contributions of CSIR-IIIM in imparting advanced scientific techniques in floricultural crop production and management to the farmers across J&K and informed that the quality seed and planting material provided under the Mission to more than 3500 farmer beneficiaries has

brought transformative change in the floriculture sector and positively impacted the socio-economic status of the farmers benefited in J&K.

The participating farmers were imparted skill training on scientific crop production, insect disease management and post harvest handling of floricultural crops. Technical presentations and demonstrations were given on commercial cultivation of marigold, lily, gladiolus, gerbera and other ornamental crops. Farmers were imparted scientific and practical skill for integrated apiculture in floriculture based farming systems for production of honey, beeswax and other hive products. Technical sessions covered scientific beekeeping practices, including hive management, seasonal management of colonies, disease and pest control and methods for ensuring quality honey production, as well as the importance of maintaining

quality standards for market acceptance.

An important component of the workshop was value addition in floriculture produce, aimed at enhancing farmers' profitability and minimising post-harvest losses. Opportunities in dry flowers, floral crafts, essential oils, natural dyes, garlands, bouquets and floral based decorative items were highlighted. The workshop also focused on landscape designing and ornamental horticulture as emerging livelihood opportunities. Experts sensitised farmers about the growing demand for landscaping services in urban green spaces, floriculture infrastructure, public parks, hotels and residential projects. The interactive sessions enabled farmers to engage directly with scientists and experts and discuss location-specific challenges related to cultivation practices, disease management, marketing,

Army Chief Gen Dwivedi Addresses UAE NDC, Pushes Deeper India-UAE Defence Ties

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 6: Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi addressed officers of the UAE National Defence College (NDC) on Tuesday as part of his ongoing two-day visit to the Emirates.

The Chief of Army Staff is on a two-nation tour, with the first leg of UAE ending today.

In his address, the COAS highlighted the evolving global security landscape and the changing character of modern conflicts, underscoring the impetus to technology in modern warfare. The COAS emphasised on the leadership role of senior military officers and stressed the importance of collaborative engagements, including strong bilateral and multilateral defence cooperation

between India, the UAE and other regional partners, to achieve symbiotic outcomes and advance regional and global peace and security.

Earlier, on Monday, Gen Dwivedi met Major General Staff Yousef Maayouf Saeed Al Hallami, Commander, UAE Land Forces. The discussions focussed on enhancing positive military engagement, training convergence and advancing bilateral Defence Cooperation between India and UAE. The COAS also visited the Land Forces Museum, gaining insights into the rich history, traditions and military heritage of the UAE Land Forces.

Following the visit to the UAE, the COAS will visit Sri Lanka from 07 - 08 January. On arrival, the



COAS will be accorded a Guard of Honour by the Sri Lanka Army. He will engage with senior military and civil leadership, including the Commander of the Sri Lanka Army, Deputy Minister of

Defence and the Defence Secretary; and hold detailed discussions on matters of mutual interest, including training cooperation, capacity building and regional security.

During the visit, the COAS will address officers at the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) and interact with officers and trainees at the Army War College, Buttala, reflecting India's strong commitment to defence education and professional military exchanges with Sri Lanka.

General Dwivedi will also pay homage at the IPKF War Memorial, honouring the supreme sacrifice of Indian soldiers.

The visit of the Chief of the Army Staff to the UAE and Sri Lanka reaffirms India's commitment to strengthening defence cooperation, fostering mutual trust and enhancing interoperability with friendly nations in the Indian Ocean Region and West Asia. UNI

With 99.2 per cent electrification, Indian Railways outpaces most global rail networks

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 6: With 99.2 per cent of its railway network now electrified, Indian Railways has firmly established itself among the world's most advanced rail systems, marking a major milestone in its journey towards sustainable and cost-efficient transportation.

As global rail networks show wide variations in electrification levels, India's rapid progress underscores the scale of its infrastructure transformation.

Driven by the goal of achieving 100 per cent electrification of the Broad Gauge network and



backed by an aggressive shift towards renewable energy, particularly solar power, Indian Railways is not only reducing its carbon footprint but also cutting operating costs by nearly 70 per cent compared to diesel traction, reinforcing its vision of a cleaner, greener and more self-reliant rail ecosystem.

Switzerland leads the list with a full 100 percent, followed by China at 82 percent. Spain records a strong 67 percent, while Japan stands at 64 percent. France follows with 60 percent, and Russia is placed at 52 percent while United Kingdom is at 39 percent.

Electrification has accelerated from just about 1.42 km per day between 2004 and 2014 to an average of more than 15 km per day between 2019 and 2025. The pace underscores a transformative shift in how quickly the network is being modernised. Electrified track share rose from 24 percent in 2000 to 40 percent in 2017, and crossed 96 per cent by the end of 2024.

As of November 2025, India has electrified an impressive 69,427 RKM, covering about 99.2% of its railway network, out of which 46,900 RKM have been electrified between 2014 and 2025, the ministry stated.

With 25 States/Union Territories being 100% electrified, with no remaining BG route kilometers pending, only five States have residual sections under electrification, together accounting for just 0.8 per cent of the total BG network. UNI

SC refuses to entertain Gautam Khaitan's plea

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 6: The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a writ petition filed by advocate Gautam Khaitan challenging the provisional attachment of his properties by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the AgustaWestland VVIP helicopter case, holding that the legal issues raised by him are already under consideration in pending review petitions relating to the Vijay Madanlal Choudhary judgment.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi declined to examine the validity of the attachment proceedings under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), noting that the legality of Section 44(1)(c) of the statute is a subject matter of review before the Court.

"Since the issue of the applicability of the provisions of the PMLA is under consideration in review petitions in the Vijay Madanlal case, it seems to us that the legality of Section 44(1)(c) shall be examined in the course of those proceedings," the Chief Justice observed.

The Bench said there was no justification to entertain a separate writ petition on the same issue and dismissed Khaitan's plea, while keeping the question of law open. Khaitan had approached the Supreme Court after the Delhi High Court rejected his challenge to the ED's provisional attachment of



assets allegedly linked to proceeds of crime in the AgustaWestland case, which pertains to alleged kickbacks in the procurement of VVIP helicopters.

During the hearing, Senior Advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for Khaitan, urged the Court to grant liberty to intervene in the pending review petitions arising from the Vijay Madanlal judgment, particularly if Section 44(1)(c) is argued in detail.

Responding to the submission, the Chief Justice made strong observations, stating that such practices of repeatedly invoking constitutional remedies to avoid trial, must stop. "These rich applicants think they can bypass any trial."

You should face trial like any ordinary person," the CJ remarked. The Bench clarified that any liberty granted would be to counsel and not to the petitioner himself. "Liberty is granted to Mr Luthra, not the petitioner," the Chief Justice said, indicating that appropriate applications could be moved by counsel in the pending review matters.

The Chief Justice also noted the presence of Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal in court and expressed hope that substantive hearings in the review petitions arising from the Vijay Madanlal Choudhary judgment would commence soon. "Let's hope that by the end of the month we start," he observed.

The Vijay Madanlal Choudhary judgment, delivered in 2022, upheld several key provisions of the PMLA, including the ED's powers of arrest and attachment, as well as the stringent conditions for grant of bail. Multiple review petitions challenging aspects of that ruling are currently pending before the Supreme Court. Earlier, in 2023, a Delhi court had granted permission to Gautam Khaitan to travel abroad for four months.

Special Judge Arvind Kumar of the Rouse Avenue Court had directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to suspend the Look Out Circular (LOC) issued against him for the said period. The trial court was hearing Khaitan's application seeking permission to visit several countries, including Kazakhstan, Russia, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, the UAE, the UK, select Schengen countries, the US, China, Australia, and others, for professional engagements aimed at reviving business for his law firm, O.P. Khaitan & Company, UNI

ED files charge sheet in Rs 800 cr Sahiti Infratec fraud case

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 6: The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday said it has filed a supplementary charge sheet before a special PMLA court in Hyderabad against B Lakshminarayana and Sandhu Purnachandra Rao, former officials of Sahiti Infratec Ventures India Pvt Ltd (SIVIPL).

The court took cognizance of the charge sheet on Monday.

The ED initiated a PMLA investigation based on an FIR registered by Telangana Police against SIVIPL, B. Lakshminarayana, and others for advertising a "pre-launch offer" for the construction of a world-class residential gated community and collecting large sums from prospective buyers.

The company, however, failed to deliver the flats or refund the money, thereby cheating buyers of their hard-earned savings. Subsequently, various other FIRs were registered based on complaints from investors and buyers of different projects undertaken by M/s SIVIPL and other group entities.

More than 700 homebuyers, who

were promised delivery of flats or villas, were defrauded of a cumulative amount of nearly Rs 360 crore.

The ED investigation revealed that SIVIPL did not have the necessary RERA/HMDA permissions. Furthermore, there was no escrow account for the project, and funds received from investors were deposited into various bank accounts and also collected in cash.

The accused collected over Rs 800 crore through the sale of inventory in illegally launched projects of SIVIPL, cheating the public under the false pretext of selling inventory without obtaining required permissions and approvals.

They collected a substantial amount of cash from buyers, which was not entered into SIVIPL's books of accounts, with a clear intent to conceal and siphon funds. More than Rs 216.91 crore in cash was collected from buyers for the project Sarvani Elite.

The ED investigation further revealed that the proceeds of crime were siphoned off by diverting funds from M/s SIVIPL to related and unrelated entities and individuals through bogus banking transactions without

any genuine business purpose.

In addition, a substantial portion of the proceeds of crime in the form of cash was siphoned from SIVIPL's bank accounts after withdrawal. Proceeds of crime were also diverted and transferred to overseas bank accounts by B. Lakshminarayana and his family members.

Moreover, Sandu Purnachandra Rao was involved in misappropriating approximately Rs 126 crore from SIVIPL, including over Rs 50 crore collected in cash. When this was revealed to B. Lakshminarayana after a forensic audit, he registered three FIRs against Sandu Purnachandra Rao for fund misappropriation.

To withdraw these FIRs, Sandu Purnachandra Rao entered into a settlement agreement with B. Lakshminarayana and transferred 21 immovable properties into the names of employees of the Sahiti Group and others, for the beneficial ownership of B. Lakshminarayana.

Sandu Purnachandra Rao also purchased immovable properties in the names of his family members and entities using the proceeds of crime.

Further investigation is underway. UNI

US intervention in Venezuela: fears of Gunboat Diplomacy return, UN ineffective

■ RAMESH BHAN

NEW DELHI, JAN 6: The United States' unilateral military action in Venezuela on January 3 and the "capture" of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro have reinforced the general perception that the United Nations has become ineffective and Gunboat Diplomacy is the new norm.

The US action has set in a dangerous trend and violated several key Articles of the UN Charter and core principles of international law. It, therefore, reinforces demands by various countries, including India, about reform of the world body to face new challenges.

The much-hyped meeting held by the UN Security Council to discuss Venezuela developments on January 5 concluded without passing any resolutions or taking concrete action beyond the strong statements of condemnation and concern from member States. The outcome was just a public display of deep division among members, reflecting a long-standing pattern where geopolitical rivalries prevent unified action.

The UNSC meeting served primarily as a forum for member States to publicly air their differences about the US military operation. Council members, including the permanent members, presented their positions on the legality and implications of the US action. Russia and China strongly condemned the US action as a violation of the UN Charter and international law. No draft resolution was put to a vote, as any substantive action condemning the US would likely have been vetoed by the US itself. The immediate outcome was a diplomatic stand-off.

The session, requested by Colombia and supported by Russia and China, focused on the legality of the US military action. Any substantive resolution (e.g., impos-

ing sanctions on the US) would require nine votes and no vetoes from the five permanent members (US, UK, France, Russia, China).

Venezuela's representative at the meeting, Samuel Moncada, warned, "Today, it is not only Venezuela's sovereignty that is at stake. The credibility of international law, the authority of this Organisation and the validity of the principle that no State can set itself up as judge, party and executor of the world order are also at stake.... If the kidnapping of a Head of State, the bombing of a sovereign country and the open threat of further armed action are tolerated or downplayed, the message sent to the world is a devastating one — namely, that the law is optional and that force is the true arbiter of international relations."

The military action that defied international law and the UN Charter, violated Article 2(1), Article 2(3), Article 2(4), Article 2(7) and Articles 39-51 of the UN Charter and several provisions of international law.

Article 2(1) says that all member States are equal and that their sovereignty must be respected, Article 2(3) requires members to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered, Article 2(4) says that all Members shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state and Article 2(7) prohibits the UN from intervening in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state.

Articles 39-51 refer to actions about threats to peace, breach of peace and acts of aggression. The US actions did not have prior UN Security Council authorisation under these Articles. The US, ironically, tried to justify its military action under Article 51 (Self-defence). Ironically, at the UNSC



meeting, the US argued that the operation was justified as a law enforcement action against a "narco-terrorist" and was within its rights of "self-defence."

Annalena Baerbock, President of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, said the UN Charter is "not optional. It is our guiding framework, in moments of calm and in times of crisis, like in Venezuela today, culminating with the United States military action. Article 2 of the UN Charter clearly stipulates that all Members of the United Nations shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. Respect for the UN Charter and international law is the foundation of the international order. A peaceful, safe and just world for everyone is only possible if the rule of law prevails instead of might makes right."

The US unilateral action has given rise to fears that a return to "gunboat diplomacy" is becoming a prominent feature of the current US foreign policy approach. In other words, Gunboat Diplomacy can now be pursued by any powerful country against a weaker one. China could repeat it in Taiwan.

(Gunboat Diplomacy is the pursuit of foreign policy objectives with the aid of conspicuous displays of military might, mainly naval power, implying or constituting a direct threat of warfare. The term originated in the 19th

century, during the age of imperialism, when Western powers, including the US, UK, France and Germany, would use their superior military capabilities, particularly their naval assets, to intimidate less powerful nations.)

The fears about a return to Gunboat Diplomacy seem genuine after Venezuelan developments and President Trump's warnings and threats of military or punitive action against several other countries, including Cuba, Panama, Greenland, Colombia, Mexico, Iran and Yemen.

President Trump threatened military action against Colombia and its president, Gustavo Petro, whom he called a "sick man" running a "cocaine factory." The US has imposed sanctions on Petro and his family and hinted that military intervention "sounds good" to him as a way to stop drug trafficking. Trump also warned Mexico to "get their act together" regarding the flow of drugs into the US, stating that the US "will have to do something" if the situation did not improve. He has repeatedly offered to send US troops into Mexico to fight cartels, an offer that Mexico's president has consistently rejected.

President Trump has also warned Iran and conducted military strikes against Iranian nuclear facilities and Houthi targets in Yemen. After the Venezuela operation, Trump warned Iran that if it were to "violently kill peaceful protesters," the US would "hit them very hard," claiming to be "locked and loaded and ready to go".

The military strike, deployment of troops, and capture of the head of State clearly constitute the use of force not authorised by the UN Security Council or justified by self-defence logic.

The military action, particularly the "capture" of the sitting head of State, is an act of aggression and violates the long-standing international law 'rule of immunity ratione personae' for Heads of State. Attempts to impose a change in government through external force violate the Venezuelan people's right to self-determination, recognised under Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Also, in this case, the Geneva Conventions and the law of armed conflict are applicable.

('Immunity ratione personae', or personal immunity, is a doctrine in international law that grants comprehensive immunity from foreign criminal and civil jurisdiction to certain high-ranking State officials because of the office they hold, rather than the specific nature of their actions. This immunity is restricted to the highest representatives of a State including Heads of Government and Ministers for Foreign Affairs.)

The UNSC has significant powers under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to address threats to international peace and security and determine if a situation constitutes a "threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression".

Under Article 41, it can impose binding measures, economic sanctions, arms embargoes, travel bans, and other restrictions. Under Article 42, it can also authorise member States to use all necessary measures, including military force if non-military means are ineffective. It can establish peacekeeping operations, authorise regional organisations to act, appoint special envoys, and set political frameworks for dialogue or transition. {UNI News Analysis}



Shreyas Iyer to Lead Mumbai in VHT

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

ADELAIDE: Shreyas Iyer has been named Mumbai captain for the remaining league matches of the 2025-26 Vijay Hazare Trophy, replacing allrounder Shardul Thakur, who has been ruled out of the tournament with an injury.

Mumbai, who are placed in Group C, will next play Himachal Pradesh on January 6, followed by their last league game against Punjab on January 8, both in Jaipur. Shreyas is expected to lead the side in both games.

The 31-year-old has not played competitive cricket since suffering a spleen injury in Australia while attempting a catch on October 25. He was admitted to hospital with internal bleeding from a spleen laceration. He missed India's home series against South Africa, but has since recovered and was picked for the ODI series against New Zealand, starting January 11. Shreyas' final selection, however, is subject to clearance by the Centre

of Excellence [CoE].

As part of his rehab process and return-to-play protocol, Shreyas played a practice game on January 2 and reportedly came through all his drills, both pre- and post-game, without any signs of discomfort. The Vijay Hazare Trophy will allow Shreyas to fine-tune before the ODI series.

"An experienced international cricketer with proven leadership credentials, Shreyas Iyer brings calmness, tactical acumen, and a strong understanding of the game," the Mumbai Cricket Association said in a statement. "The Association is confident that under his captaincy, the Mumbai team will continue to perform with determination and uphold Mumbai cricket's rich legacy."

Mumbai are currently second in Group C, having won four of their five matches. They are likely to progress to the knockout stage, and may have to look for another captain if they make it, if Shreyas gets the fitness all-clear for the New Zealand ODIs.

Root's 160 Shines, Head's 91 Counters

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BRISBANE: On a second day containing some baffling cricket that has been all too common this series, Joe Root and Travis Head produced breathtaking performances as the Ashes finale appears headed for the long haul.

The fifth Test will get into at least the fourth - and likely a fifth - day after Root's 160 and Head's unbeaten 91 off 87 balls took centre stage at the SCG. After the opening day's play was reduced to 45 overs due to Sydney's usual erratic weather this time of year, Root completely dominated the first half of the day to notch his 41st Test ton and join Ricky Ponting in third place on the all-time century list.

In what might prove to be his final Test on Australian soil, Root was the ninth wicket to fall in a 242-ball masterpiece to sit nicely alongside his drought-breaking Ashes tour century in Brisbane.

He led England to a solid first-innings total but by stumps it felt rather underwhelming after Head responded in typically aggressive fashion.

Root and Harry Brook had made batting appear relatively easy on day one, but the SCG surface quickened up overnight with rearing bounce proving a headache for batters. Root thwarted Australia's seam-



heavy attack with assured batting but England could not quite capitalise after losing 4 for 9 to be bowled out for 384. What had once seemed unfathomable at this ground, spin was not introduced until the 72nd over with Head and seam allrounder Beau Webster - who briefly reverted to offspin - combining for five overs in the entirety of an England innings lasting 97.3 overs. There will continue to be much debate over the non-selection of offspinner Todd Murphy, as spin slowly evaporates in Test cricket in Australia, but the frontline quicks toiled hard and hit back with a second new ball that did plenty.

Michael Neser, who had been perhaps under-utilised, wrapped up England's innings quickly and finished with 4 for 60 from 18.3 overs, highlighted by a brilliant return catch to finally dismiss Root after diving full-stretch. Having left some runs on the table, England needed to be disciplined with ball and in the field amid increasingly overcast conditions. But they weren't, with Brydon Carse unable to back up his rousing effort in favourable conditions at the MCG while Matthew Potts was nervous in his Ashes debut and leaked 25 runs off his first three overs.

Jake Weatherald, selectors left with plenty to ponder

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SYDNEY: Jake Weatherald whacked his bat on his pad as he walked off the SCG. He had reviewed the lbw decision against Ben Stokes and looked hopefully at the big screen for the replay. But it had been given on-field, and it wasn't a howler, so the odds weren't in his favour. It was clipping leg stump.

Weatherald had been given two lives in the space of three balls earlier in his innings: spilled by Joe Root, a tough one above his head at first slip as he flashed at a short ball, and a simpler one to Ben Duckett at square leg from a pull he didn't keep down. But he couldn't cash in. Gone for 21. With one potential innings remaining in his debut series, on what could prove a tricky surface, it left Weatherald with 167 runs at 20.87. Nearly half of those came in one knock at the Gabba.

It was on this ground two years ago that Australia's merry-go-round of opening batters

began with David Warner's final Test. Excluding Scott Boland's nightwatchman appearance at the MCG, there have been seven to hold the role in 20 Tests since Warner's retirement.

Until this series Usman Khawaja, who is finishing his Test career in the middle order, had been the common denominator. Weatherald was due to be his sixth partner - following Steven Smith, Nathan McSweeney, Sam Konstas, Marnus Labuschagne and Travis Head - but the Perth backspasms changed the script and opened the door for Head's series-defining role.

As a comparison to Weatherald's returns, Smith averaged 28.50 in eight innings as opener, McSweeney 14.40 in six and Sam Konstas 16.30 in 10. His current series tally is seven more than Ben Duckett and only 16 fewer than Ben Stokes. He appears to have carried the challenge well, posting on social media after the MCG Test of having signed more autographs than he had



scored runs.

It was a bizarre start to Test cricket for Weatherald. Having expected to open with Khawaja in Perth, he ended up walking out with two different teammates in one game: Labuschagne followed by Head. He sweated on a pair after being pinned lbw by Jofra Archer in his first innings

but was able to play an important role in an opening stand of 75 which broke the back of the run chase. His first innings at the Gabba was an excellent 72 from 78 balls as he took advantage of England feeding his cut shot. They threatened to do the same here with another wayward new-ball performance from Brydon Carse

and Matthew Potts. Given the way England continued to bowl after Weatherald's dismissal, he will likely be even more rueful.

But a theme to his dismissals has emerged over the course of the series. It's one of the unique traits of a five-match contest where opponents go at each other for a sustained period time and technical issues can be exposed then exploited. The second day at the SCG was the fourth time Weatherald had been lbw in nine innings, although he would have saved himself with a review in the second innings in Adelaide. Two of the dismissals were from over the wicket, and two around, while the tickle down the leg side in the first innings in Melbourne also had him falling across the crease.

His other dismissals have been a top edge into the off side, a gloved pull and shouldering arms in the second innings at the MCG. In all, six of Weatherald's dismissals this series have come from around the wicket.

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