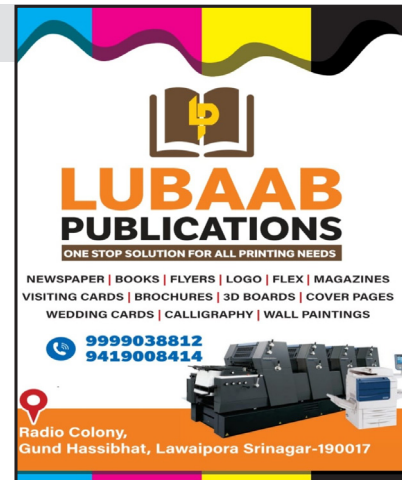


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Voice To The Voiceless



India Proved That Democracy Thrives Amid Diversity: PM Modi

Reiterated That Democratic Institutions Have Delivered Stability, Speed and Scale to India's Development

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JAN 15: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India has transformed its vast diversity into the greatest strength of its democracy, demonstrating to the world that democratic institutions and processes provide stability, speed and scale to national development.

Inaugurating the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth at the Samvidhan Sadan



in the Parliament House complex, the Prime Minister remarked that Indian democracy resembles a large tree sustained by deep roots.

Recalling the period after Independence, Modi noted that many had doubted whether democracy could survive amid India's immense social, cultural and linguistic diversity. "However, this very diversity became the strength of Indian democracy," he said, adding that contrary to scepticism, India has shown that

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Security Vigil Remains Paramount in J&K: Union Home Secretary Reviews Security With LG Sinha

High-Level Meeting Focused on Border Management, Inter-Agency Coordination Amid Drone And Infiltration Threats

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / UNI

JAMMU, JAN 15: Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Thursday reviewed the prevailing security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, holding detailed discussions with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on ongoing anti-terror operations and the operational preparedness of security forces across the Union Territory.

During his two-day visit to Jammu, Mohan called on the LG at Lok Bhawan and deliberated on a wide range of security, operational and development-related issues. The discussions covered the security landscape in both Kashmir and Jammu regions, with particular emphasis on anti-terror operations in the Val-



ley and the hilly and forested areas of Jammu.

Later, the Home Secretary chaired a high-level meeting at the convention centre in Jammu, reviewing heightened operational

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CS Pushes Fast-Track Housing Development

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 15: In a significant push towards addressing the growing housing requirements of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, the Chief Secretary chaired a meeting today to assess the progress and future roadmap of housing colonies being developed by the Jammu & Kashmir Housing Board (JKHB), Jammu Development Authority (JDA), and Srinagar Development Authority (SDA).

The review focused on ongoing, proposed, and planned housing projects, with particular emphasis on sustainable development, affordability, and timely execution through innovative models such as Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and Self-Financing Schemes (SFS) in both Kashmir and Jammu division.

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD was attended by Vice-Chairmen, JDA/SAD; MD, J&K Housing Board; CEO, CITAG and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary observed that the rapid shrinkage of available urban land coupled with steadily rising land prices has made housing increasingly unaffordable for large sections of the population. He emphasized that the government must proactively intervene through planned housing colonies to ensure that home ownership remains within reach of the common citizen, particularly middle- and lower-income groups.

Highlighting the strategic importance of public housing projects, he noted that structured, high-density housing developed by

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Operation Sindoor Is Not Yet Over: Rajnath Singh

On 78th Army Day, Singh Warns That Terrorism Will Be Nipped in The Bud, Pursued Till Its Ideology Is Eradicated

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JAN 15: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday asserted that Operation Sindoor is "not yet completely over", underlining that India's efforts for peace will continue until terrorist ideology is fully eliminated. Addressing the 78th Indian



Army Day celebrations in Jaipur, he described Operation Sindoor as a balanced and calibrated military response that will be remembered as a symbol of India's courage, strength, restraint and national character.

Commending the Indian Army's indomitable courage and unwavering dedication,

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Indigenisation Is No Longer a Choice, It Is a Strategic Necessity: Army Chief

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAIPUR, JAN 15: Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Thursday said the Indian Army is transforming into a

● Turn on Page 2

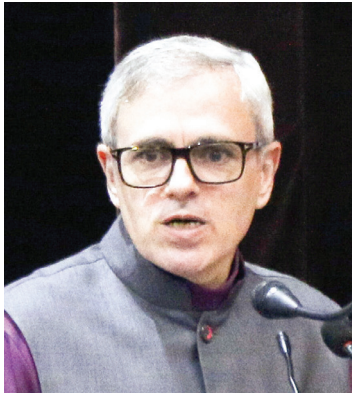
Real Change Begins at the Ballot Box: CM Omar Abdullah on Mumbai Civic Polls

Stressed That Public Participation Through Voting is The Foundation of Democracy

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

MUMBAI, JAN 15: Emphasising that meaningful change in a democracy begins with citizens exercising their right to vote, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said public participation is the true driving force behind political transformation.

"Change can only be brought by those who are ready to take part. And taking part does not



necessarily mean contesting elections—it also means stepping out to vote," Abdullah told reporters during an interaction in Mumbai.

The Chief Minister was speaking on the sidelines of an event at the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies, responding to recent remarks by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, who underlined the importance of voting for a healthy democracy.

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BISAG partnership propels J&K to new heights in IT expansion

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 15: For decades, governance in Jammu & Kashmir was shaped by its geography—mountains, remoteness and access gaps that often made service delivery slow and uneven. Today, that geography is no longer a constraint. Over the past few years, the Union Territory has witnessed not incremental digitisation, but its first comprehensive IT-led governance transformation—one that has unfolded steadily, strategically and with enduring impact.

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Secy RDD reviews SBM-G progress, stresses timely completion of sanitation infrastructure

Plastic waste management units planned around Yatra transit camps

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JAN 15: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of the Swachh Bharat Mission–Gramin (SBM-G) and to deliberate on the formulation of the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) 2026–27 for Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Director General, Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra; Additional District Development Commissioners (ADDCs); Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers of REW; Assistant Commissioners Panchayats (ACPs); and other concerned officers.

Reviewing the status of SBM-G assets, it was noted that community-level works such as Community Compost Pits, Community Soak Pits, Community Sanitary Complexes and Segregation Sheds have shown encouraging progress. However, larger infrastructure projects—including Plastic Waste Management Units (PWMUs), Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs), DEWATS and GOBARdhan plants—continue to lag, primarily due to low levels of tendering and slow execution.

The Secretary stressed that Plastic Waste Management Units must be developed in and around Yatra transit camps to strengthen sanitation arrangements and waste handling mechanisms.

He noted that such facilities would also support revenue generation and improve overall upkeep of Yatra infrastructure, underscoring the need for integrated planning and sustained maintenance.

He said districts like Rajouri, Jammu, Reasi, Samba, and Udhampur have reported high levels of tender finalisation, early work commencement, and substantial completion of sanitation assets.

Similarly, Bandipora and Kupwara have also recorded steady improvement, signalling better coordination between planning and execution at the district level.

Highlighting environmental concerns, Secretary emphasised the need for a permanent solution for debris management in both rural and semi-urban areas.

Addressing implementation gaps, he directed that tendering for all pending major assets be completed immediately, and works commenced without delay where allotments have already been made. He made ADDCs directly responsible for resolving land-related issues and ensuring commencement of works, calling for close coordination with line departments and regular district-level reviews.

The Secretary directed the DG Rural Sanitation to undertake bi-weekly reviews of SBM-G asset progress, while ADDCs were instructed to continuously monitor implementation in their respective districts. He identified land availability and timely initiation of works as the two most critical factors requiring focused attention. District Commissioners



were asked to intervene wherever land issues persist, while Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers were directed to resolve DPR-related issues on priority and ensure time-bound execution.

Stressing that sanitation infrastructure must translate into functional service delivery, the meeting also reviewed progress under Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) for 2025–26. The Secretary directed that geo-tagging be completed on priority and long-pending IHHL cases be

cleared within fixed timelines, cautioning that delays adversely impact ODF sustainability and beneficiary confidence.

Under the GOBARdhan initiative, 18 biogas plants are planned across the Union Territory. Secretary emphasised that GOBARdhan projects and FSTPs are central to sustainable waste management and circular economy objectives, and directed officers to expedite tendering, address contractor response issues and ensure convergence with other schemes.

The status of Operations & Maintenance (O&M) and Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) policies was also reviewed. Draft policies, prepared after public consultation and incorporating inputs from the Environment Committee of the J&K Legislative Assembly, have been submitted for legal vetting and are currently under examination by the Law Department. The Secretary stressed that finalisation of these policies is essential for long-term sustainability of SBM-G assets.

Discussions were also initiated on the AIP 2026–27, with emphasis on realistic planning, prioritisation of incomplete works and greater focus on large waste-management infrastructure.

Calling for a results-oriented approach, Secretary Asad directed officers to move beyond target-centric implementation and focus on timely completion, functionality and effective utilisation of sanitation assets to sustain gains achieved under SBM-G in rural Jammu and Kashmir.

He further directed ADDCs to personally supervise unresolved land issues, review cases where land matters have already been settled, and conduct district-wise SBM reviews on the 10th of every month.

During the meeting, the DG Rural Sanitation presented a comprehensive progress report on SBM-G assets, including community sanitary complexes, plastic waste management units, greywater systems, DEWATS, soak pits and GOBARdhan plants across the Union Territory.

Poetry Collection “Inshirah” Released

Rafiq Raz’s Intellectual and Creative Artistry Lauded

In-depth discussion held on the literary and thematic aspects of the book

■ JAMEEL ANSARI

SRINAGAR, DEC 15: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages organised a dignified and memorable literary event at the Conference Hall, Tagore Hall, as part of its ongoing efforts to promote and disseminate Urdu literature.

The occasion marked the formal release of the poetry collection “Inshirah” by renowned poet Rafiq Raz.

A large gathering of eminent writers, critics, intellectuals, and literature enthusiasts attended the event.

The programme was presided over by noted writer and literary critic Prof. Majrooh Rashid, whose insightful address added scholarly depth to the proceedings.

Eminent writer and journalist Javed Azar attended the function as the Guest of Honour, further



enhancing the significance of the literary gathering.

Reflections on Rafiq Raz’s poetic journey were shared by Prof. Nasir Mirza, Dr. Mushtaq Ganai, and Mohammad Yousuf Shaheen, who appreciated the poet’s contribution to Urdu literature.

In his presidential address, Professor Majrooh Rashid described Rafiq Raz’s poetry as a mirror of intellectual maturity and creative authenticity. He observed that “Inshirah” compels readers to reflect deeply and serves as a true expression of the poet’s inner world.

Speaking on the occasion, Rafiq Raz expressed his gratitude to the organisers, distinguished guests, and audience, and shared insights into his creative vision and the background of the book.

Among those present at the event were Mohammad Yousuf Shaheen, Pervaiz Manooos, Ghulam Nabi Shahid, Rehana Shajar, Dr. Rakesh Talib, Dr. Younis Dar, Imdad Saqi, Ashraf Adil, Bashir Hayil, Nasir Mirza, Dr. Mushtaq Ganai, Liaqat Abbas, Bashir Chiragh, Dr. Mubarak Lone, Shakeel-ur-Rahman, Faahi Kashmiri, and Nazim Nazeer, among others.

The audience hailed the programme as highly successful and memorable, terming it an important step towards the promotion of Urdu literature.

The event was gracefully conducted by Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Lone, whose effective moderation ensured a well organised and engaging programme.

The vote of thanks was presented by Mohammad Saleem Salik, Editor of Sheeraza Urdu. The programme was successfully coordinated through the efforts of Programme In-charge Saleem Sagar.

CEO Ganderbal held meeting of officers for celebrating Republic Day 2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JAN 15: The Chief Education Officer (CEO), Ganderbal convened an important review meeting of Headmasters of District Ganderbal with the objective of ensuring meaningful, disciplined, and dignified celebrations of “Republic Day, 26th January,” across all educational institutions of the district.

The meeting underscored the philosophical essence of the Republic Day—a day that reminds every citizen, especially the young minds, of the values of democracy, unity, constitutional morality, sacrifice, and national responsibility. The CEO emphasised that schools are not merely venues for celebrations, but sanctuaries where the spirit of the Constitution is nurtured and passed on to future generations. Headmasters were urged to ensure that the celebrations go beyond ceremonial routines and inspire students to internalize the ideals of justice, equality, and fraternity.

Detailed deliberations were also held regarding “arrangements,” discipline, safety, cultural programmes, and student participation, with instructions to maintain decorum, inclusivity, and patriotic fervour in all events. The CEO stressed that every activity should reflect respect for the national symbols and foster a sense of collective pride and responsibility among students.

During the meeting, the progress of “DIPR Online Competitions” was reviewed in detail. The CEO highlighted the role of such platforms in encouraging creativity, expression, and civic awareness among students. Headmasters were directed to ensure maximum participation, timely registration, and proper guidance to students, so that talent is not limited by lack of awareness or opportunity. It was reiterated that participation in these competitions is an extension of experiential learning and an opportunity for students to voice their thoughts on nation-building.

Concluding the meeting, the CEO called upon all Headmasters to act as leaders, mentors, and torchbearers, reaffirming their pivotal role in shaping enlightened, responsible, and conscientious citizens. Collective effort, sincerity of purpose, and commitment to national values were emphasized as the foundation for a successful Republic Day celebration and effective educational engagement.

Majlis-e-Aza and Marsiya Held at Imam Bargah Hanjiwera by All JK Shia Association

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

HANJIWERA (PATTAN), JAN 15: All Jammu & Kashmir Shia Association (AJKSA) today organised a Majlis-e-Aza and Marsiya at Imam Bargah Hanjiwera, which witnessed gathering in thousands of devotees from different areas.

The Marsiya recitation began at around 9:30 am, with several Zakireens reciting Marsiya and Nauhah highlighting the sacrifices of Imam Musa Kazim (AS) and the spirit of Karbala. The main Majlis was recited at about 3:30 pm by AJKSA President Molvi Imran Ansari.

In his address, Molvi Imran Ansari spoke on the religious and spiritual significance of 22 Rajab, stating that Koonday Niyaz is a long-standing Shia tradition rooted in faith, niyyat,

and charity, associated with the remembrance of Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (AS). Responding to criticism raised against such practices, he remarked that questioning acts of devotion on the basis of dreams is selective, adding that believers also visit Jamkaran Mosque every Tuesday night, a practice accepted by the Shia world as an expression of spiritual belief and collective faith. He emphasized that many religious practices are sustained by collective belief and intention, not by rigid books alone.

Speaking on the life of Imam Musa Kazim (AS), Molvi Imran Ansari highlighted the Imam’s unmatched Sabr, silent resistance against tyranny, and unwavering loyalty to divine justice. He said Imam Musa Kazim (AS) spent long years in imprisonment but never compromised on truth, teaching

the Shia community the values of endurance, discipline, and trust in Allah even in the most difficult circumstances. He added that the Imam’s life is a guiding light for Shias in times of oppression and uncertainty.

During the programme, participants were seen carrying pictures of Ayatullah Syed Ali Khamenei in solidarity with ongoing protests in Iran. Slogans in his support were raised. Molvi Imran Ansari stated that Ayatullah Khamenei is their Mujtahid and emphasized that this is where the red line is drawn, warning that anything directed against him by USA or Israel would face strong resistance from Shias across the world.

The Majlis concluded peacefully with collective prayers, remembrance, and supplication for the unity and safety of the Ummah.

SKUAST-K Empowers Youth and SHGs through One-Day Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KREERI, JAN 15: The Division of Agricultural Extension & Communication, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), organized a one-day Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme under MSME on 14th January 2026 (Wednesday) at Merakshah Fed Fruit Producer Company Limited, Darwa, Wagoor, Baramulla (Cluster-B), Wagoor.

The training programme, titled “Harnessing the Potential of SHGs and Youth for Sustainable Entrepreneurship,” aimed at promoting self-employment, encouraging entrepreneurial thinking, and strengthening the economic



capacities of Self Help Groups (SHGs), women artisans, and youth through awareness, capacity building, and exposure to

various government and institutional support schemes. The programme witnessed active participation from women SHGs,

youth, artisans, FPO representatives, and other stakeholders.

Dr. Hilal Sahib (AHTO) delivered a lecture on handicrafts as

a pathway to economic empowerment of women SHGs. Mr. Arshad Nazir, Bank Manager, J&K Bank Wadura, discussed financial assistance and banking schemes. Mr. Akhter Sb, CEO (FPO), spoke on policies and schemes for SHGs and women handicraft artisans, while Mr. Naveed Sb, Block Manager, highlighted government support and block-level interventions for MSMEs. Heads of various FPOs also coordinated and supported the programme. The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Syed Shafat Kubrevi.

The programme concluded successfully, reiterating SKUAST-K’s role in empowering SHGs, nurturing youth entrepreneurship, and promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities in rural Kashmir.

DIPR holds Two-Day workshop on Holistic Wellness

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JANUARY 15: The Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), organised a two-day workshop on Holistic Wellness: The Science of Breath, Mind & Meditation at the DIPR Auditorium.

The workshop was attended by Director Information, Nitish Rajora; Joint Director (Hqr), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director, Jammu Division, Deepak Dubey; officers and other officials of DIPR and divisional office, Jammu.

The sessions were conducted by renowned Dietician, Yoga Teacher and Chakra Meditation Expert Dr. Mitali Gupta, who seamlessly blended scientific principles with ancient yogic wisdom, making the sessions practical, engaging and transformative through her experiential teaching approach.

A special highlight of the workshop was a live practical demonstration by Dev, an underprivileged and a student of Dr. Dr. Mitali Gupta.

His confident and disciplined demonstration was appreciated and stood as a live example of how yoga and meditation can empower individuals and promote inclusive growth.

During the two-day workshop, participants gained deep insights into the interconnection between the body, breath and mind along with practical tools for achieving mental calmness and inner balance.

The workshop focused on



explaining how physical health, breathing patterns and mental state is deeply interconnected. Participants learned how conscious breath regulation can calm the

mind, balance emotions, reduce stress, and enhance overall well-being.

The foundational sessions laid the groundwork for inner

awareness, self-regulation, and holistic healing.

On the concluding day, sessions on Meditation, Chakra Meditation and Power Nap Techniques were

conducted.

Besides, simple meditation practices were introduced to help participants quiet the mind and improve awareness. The chakra meditation session emphasized balancing the body's energy centres to promote emotional stability, inner harmony and mental clarity. Additionally, power nap techniques were shared to enable deep relaxation and rejuvenation within a short span of time.

The workshop concluded on an inspiring note, reinforcing the importance of mental well-being, conscious living, and compassionate education in building a healthier and more balanced society.

Speaking on the concluding day, Joint Director (Hqr) Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina appreciated the initiative, stating that the workshop significantly contributed to improving coordination between mental and physical well-being. He said all the sessions were highly informative and expressed hope that participants would make the best use of the yoga and meditation practices in their daily lives for a healthier lifestyle.

He further added that yoga and meditation have been adopted worldwide for overall well-being and healthy living.

Speaking during the inaugural session, Joint Director (Jammu) Deepak Dubey welcomed the participants and highlighted the positive role of yoga and meditation in developing a strong body and mind, and in promoting a disciplined way of life.

Swachh Republic Day Campaign: Mandeep Kaur reviews sanitation, encroachment issues

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JANUARY 15: As part of the Swachh Republic Day campaign being run by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur along with Commissioner JMC, Dr. Devansh Yadav, today undertook a detailed review of sanitation and encroachment-related issues in Wards No. 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38.

The inspection covered major localities including Old Janipur, High Court Chowk, Powerhouse, Lakkar Mandi, Janipur Colony, Paloura, Patoli and surrounding areas. The senior officers conducted on-spot assessment of cleanliness levels in the streets, lanes, drains and public spaces. They reviewed the solid waste management systems and examined the extent of encroachments on roads, footpaths and other public places.



During the visit, Mandeep Kaur emphasized that the Swachh Republic Day campaign aims to ensure a clean, hygienic and orderly city ahead of Republic Day celebrations. She directed the concerned officers to ensure daily and thorough cleaning of all areas, timely lifting of garbage, proper segregation of waste and uninterrupted door-to-door garbage collection.

The Commissioner Secretary also instructed the officials to take action against the illegal encroachments, particularly those causing inconvenience to the pedestrians and disrupting traffic flow. She also asked for ensuring that enforcement drives are carried out in a humane and lawful manner.

Dr. Devansh Yadav briefed the Commissioner Secretary about the ongoing sanitation drives and enforcement measures being implemented by the Jammu Municipal Corporation. He instructed the JMC field staff, along with the sanitation company engaged by the Corporation, to further intensify cleanliness operations by deploying adequate manpower and machinery, ensuring punctual attendance of sanitation workers and maintaining high service standards across all wards. He stressed that close coordination between the municipal officials and the sanitation agency is essential for achieving the objectives of the Swachh Republic Day campaign.

The officers also interacted with the local residents and shopkeepers, listening to their grievances. They encouraged them to actively cooperate with the Municipal Corporation and the sanitation company by avoiding littering, ensuring proper disposal of waste and refraining from encroachments on public land. The residents were also made aware of the importance of collective participation in keeping the city clean and presentable during the national celebrations.

Gujjar-Bakerwal Hostel students excel in JKBOSE Class 10th, 12th results

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JANUARY 15: The students residing in various Gujjar-Bakerwal (G&B) Hostels across the Winter Zone have registered an outstanding performance in the recently declared Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) Class 10th and 12th examination results, reflecting their dedication, perseverance and the enabling academic atmosphere being provided in the hostels. As per the consolidated result details, 147 students appeared in the Class 10th examinations, of which, 136 students passed, achieving an overall pass percentage of 92%, with 30 students securing distinctions. Several hostels, including G&B Hostel Budgam, Boys Hostel Pulwama, Girls Hostel Srinagar, Boys Hostel Kupwara, Kishtwar (Chatroo) and Doda, have recorded a 100% pass percentage, underscoring remarkable academic consistency. The Class 12th results were equally encouraging. Out of 94 students who appeared, 83 students qualified successfully, registering an overall pass percentage of 88.29%, with 38 distinction holders. A number of hostels including Pulwama, Anantnag, Shopian, Bandipora, Girls Hostel Srinagar and Kupwara have achieved a 100% success rate, with Girls Hostel Srinagar alone contributing 16 distinction holders.

J&K Tribal Affairs Minister Javed Ahmed Rana has congratulated all the successful students particularly those belonging to the tribal communities for their excellent performance. He lauded the committed efforts of the Hostel Wardens and staff, whose guidance and mentoring played a vital role in these achievements.

He said the results reflect the effectiveness of welfare initiatives aimed at uplifting educational standards among the tribal students.

The Minister conveyed special congratulations and best wishes to Saira Noor of G&B Girls Hostel, Srinagar, who secured an exceptional 99.20% marks and bagged outstanding position in the JKBOSE Class 10th examination. Rana described her achievement as a source of inspiration for the entire Gujjar-Bakerwal community, especially for young girls aspiring to excel in academics. Reaffirming Omar Abdullah Government's commitment, the Minister stated that focused efforts will continue to strengthen the hostel facilities and educational support systems to ensure holistic development and brighter futures for tribal students.

WMDA urges public cooperation to keep Manasbal clean

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JANUARY 15: In a significant step aimed to safeguard the fragile ecosystem and enhance cleanliness in Manasbal area, the Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority (MDA) has appealed people living in catchment areas and stakeholders besides tourists to ensure scientific waste management, prevent littering and promote a clean, hygienic and environmentally sustainable Manasbal. As per a notification of WMDA, households, commercial establishments and institutions have been directed to hand over their waste

only to the designated sanitation staff of WMDA or collection vehicles of the Rural Development Department, Block Safapora, at the notified time and place.

The public has been strictly advised to segregate waste at source, separating wet/ biodegradable waste such as kitchen and food waste from dry/ non-biodegradable waste including plastic, paper, glass and metal. Mixing of wet and dry waste has been prohibited.

The Authority has also imposed a complete ban on dumping of garbage, plastic waste or construction debris on roads, open spaces, water bodies, drains and other public places. Burning of waste in open areas has likewise

been prohibited. Citizens have been urged to use designated dustbins and collection points and avoid dumping waste at unauthorized locations.

Further, the Authority has cautioned that any violation of these directions shall invite penal action under the J&K Development Act, Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and other relevant regulations, including the imposition of fines and other legal proceedings. Seeking active public participation, the Manasbal Development Authority appealed to residents, traders, visitors and institutions to cooperate in making Manasbal a litter-free, clean.

DC Shopian reviews NRLM performance in district

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JANUARY 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation and overall progress of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in the district.

During the meeting, The Deputy Commissioner reviewed NRLM interventions across various Community Development (CD) Blocks, with particular emphasis on institutional strengthening of Self Help Groups (SHGs), livelihood promotion, credit linkages, capacity building and convergence with allied departments.

The District Programme Manager (DPM), NRLM, presented a detailed performance overview through detailed presentation, highlighting overall scenario of NRLM implementation in the district.

The DC sought a detailed block-wise assessment of bank linkage progress, status of credit flow to SHGs, physical achievements, identification of potential Lakhpati Didis, establishment of Agri-Nutri Gardens and formation of Producer Groups. He directed the concerned officers to bridge gaps in capitalisation and ensure timely and adequate credit flow to all eligible SHGs.

While reviewing progress achieved

under non-farm livelihood enterprises, including service-oriented ventures promoted through SHGs, Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for sustained handholding, mentoring and market linkage support to emerging entrepreneurs to ensure viability of enterprises.

The DC also reviewed pendency issues at various banks and directed bank authorities to resolve the same on priority.

Highlighting the importance of sustainable livelihood generation in both farm and non-farm sectors, the DC emphasised scaling up income-generating activities undertaken by SHG members stating that livelihood diversification is essential for enhancing household incomes.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed convergence initiatives with line departments and called for a more coordinated and integrated approach to maximise benefits for NRLM beneficiaries. He directed NRLM functionaries to ensure timely achievement of targets in close liaison with banks and line departments to ensure socio-economic empowerment of rural households in Shopian district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by General Manager, DIC, LDM, CAO, CHO and representatives from concerned departments.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of Mission YUVA

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JANUARY 15: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of Mission YUVA in the district.

The meeting involved a detailed, component-wise review of all verticals under the mission to ensure effective implementation and timely achievement of targets. During the review, progress under key components including Credit, Capacity Building, Output Tracking, Udyam Jagriti, Hiring of Motivators, functioning of Small Business Development Units (SBDU) and Business Help Desks (BHD), Sanctions, and Disbursements was thoroughly assessed.

Detailed discussions were held on achievements, pendency, and bottlenecks across each vertical.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for expeditious processing of cases, enhanced coordination with banks, and timely sanctions and disbursement of financial assistance.

He stressed the importance of strengthening output tracking and post-



sanction handholding to ensure sustainability and long-term success of enterprises established under the mission.

Special focus was laid on Udyam Jagriti and awareness campaigns to maximize outreach and bring more eligible youth under the ambit of Mission YUVA.

The functioning of SBDUs and BHDs was also reviewed, with instructions issued to further improve efficiency, accountability, and grassroots-level service delivery.

The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Noorabad, SBDU members, Career Counselling Officer (CCO), DE&CC Kulgam, BHD members, and other concerned officials.

HKM GDC Bandipora organise Cultural Event at Eco Park Chandaji

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 15: HKM Government Degree College Bandipora in collaboration with 27 Assam Rifles organised a Cultural (Dosti) Event on Thursday at Eco Park Chandaji and witnessed

enthusiastic participation from a large number of college students.

The event provided a vibrant platform for cultural exchange and meaningful interaction between students and personnel of the armed forces.

Students showcased their talent through various cultural performances. In addition, students enthusiastically participated in a Tug of War competition, fostering a spirit of teamwork, sportsmanship, and camaraderie.

A key highlight of the



programme was the interactive sessions between students and the officers and personnel of the 27 Assam Rifles. These interactions allowed students to engage in open dialogue, exchange ideas, and gain insights into the role of the armed forces in nation-

building, thereby strengthening mutual understanding and respect.

The programme went beyond entertainment and emerged as a meaningful celebration of unity, brotherhood, togetherness, and national harmony,

reinforcing the bond between the youth and the armed forces.

The Event proved an enriching and interactive experience for the students, promoting cultural exchange, civic awareness, mutual respect, and a strong sense of national integration.

Javid Dar meets Union Agriculture Minister; seeks enhanced central support for Agriculture, Rural Development

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

NEWDELHI, JANUARY 15: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Jammu & Kashmir, Javid Ahmad Dar, today called on the Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development and held detailed discussion on key issues concerning agriculture, horticulture and rural development in the Union Territory.

During the meeting, Javid Dar apprised the Union Minister of the progress and implementation status of major Centrally Sponsored Schemes and flagship programmes in Jammu & Kashmir. He highlighted the sectoral priorities including strengthening of agricultural infrastructure, promotion of horticulture, expansion of irrigation and water management facilities, farm mechanisation, availability of quality seeds and inputs, extension services and enhancement of rural livelihoods.

The Minister specifically sought early release of the second instalment



under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Krishonnati Yojana. He emphasised that timely financial support is crucial for uninterrupted execution of ongoing

projects and effective delivery of benefits to the farmers.

Emphasising the unique agro-climatic conditions, difficult terrain and recent weather-related

challenges faced by Jammu & Kashmir, the Minister urged the Union Government to accord special consideration for restoration of rural infrastructure and strengthening of farm-based livelihoods.

The Minister also discussed the recently concluded India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement and conveyed the concerns of apple growers of Jammu & Kashmir regarding its potential impact on domestic markets.

The Union Minister assured that the interests of local farmers would remain the foremost priority of the Government of India. He said that adequate safeguards would be ensured to protect the domestic horticulture, particularly the apple sector.

The Union Minister further assured that all the issues raised would be examined expeditiously for resolution.

He reiterated the Government of India's commitment in extending all necessary support for the continued development of agriculture, horticulture and rural sectors in Jammu & Kashmir.

DC Kupwara chairs NCORD Meeting

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JANUARY 15: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review the measures undertaken by various departments to review the ongoing anti-drug measures and the overall response to drug abuse and trafficking in the district.

The meeting was attended by SSP Kupwara, Syed Tahir Al Geelani; SSP Handwara, Sahil Sarangal; ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; ACP Kupwara, CEO, MS Associated hospital GMC Handwara and other concerned officers. Principals of Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) and Tehsildars participated in the meeting virtually.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner sought detailed feedback from all departments on the progress made on various important agenda points like functioning of ATF and DDRC, ongoing awareness drive, CCTV surveillance monitoring in hot spot areas, Nasha mukta Panchayat, rehabilitation etc.

SSP Kupwara and SSP Handwara briefed about enforcement action and preventive initiatives undertaken including registration of cases, arrests, seizures, licence suspensions, and attachment of properties related to narcotics offences.



While addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for sustained and coordinated efforts to eradicate drug abuse and addiction in the district. He directed the concerned departments to work proactively and aggressively, with special focus on the rehabilitation by facilitating self-employment opportunities. CEO Kupwara and all Principals of GDCs were instructed to submit status of working of CCTV cameras to ensure strict surveillance and deter drug-related activities.

Tehsildars, in coordination with SHOs, were directed to monitor drug hotspot areas on regular basis.

It was emphasised to ensure support from community leaders in ongoing awareness activities to have wider impact.

The meeting concluded with emphasis on the district administration's commitment to a zero-tolerance policy against drugs and urging all stakeholders to ensure coordinated and result-oriented action.

KVK Bandipora-1 launches 7-Day ESDP on "Scientific Vermicompost Production"

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 15: A week-long Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) on "Entrepreneurial Skill Development and Management of Rural Youth in Scientific Vermicompost Production" commenced today at KVK Bandipora-1.

The seven-day programme is being organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra Bandipora-1 under the Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir, in collaboration with the EMDP Division, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India.

The training is specifically designed to empower rural youth, Krishi Sakhis, and participants from the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). The primary goal is to provide these participants with the technical skills and business management knowledge required to establish and run successful vermicomposting units as sustainable micro-enterprises.

During the inaugural session, Dr. Tahir Saleem, Specialist (Vegetable Science) delivered a detailed presentation and led a practical demonstration on the essentials of scientific vermicomposting. He explained that vermicompost is a nutrient-rich organic fertilizer produced by the breakdown of organic waste by earthworms. He demonstrated how this process not only cleans up the environment by recycling farm waste and cow dung but also significantly improves soil health and water retention, leading to better crop quality and reduced chemical costs for farmers.

Dr. Nazir Ahmad Mir, Specialist (Animal Science) spoke about the importance of scientific management in vermicompost units. He explained that by following correct methods such as maintaining proper moisture and temperature participants can produce high-quality organic manure much faster than traditional methods. He encouraged the NRLM members and rural youth to look at vermicomposting as a "Green Business" that has high demand in both local and urban markets.

The seven-day programme will cover the basic biology of earthworms to the branding, packaging, and marketing of the final product. It was informed that the collaboration with MSME is aimed at building the entrepreneurial capacity of rural communities, helping them move from being job seekers to job creators.

JKEDI trains 474 entrepreneurs under RAMP, concludes MDPs in 20 districts

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, JANUARY 15: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) successfully concluded the fifth and sixth batch of Management Development Programmes (MDPs) across 20 districts of the Union Territory under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. The scheme is being funded by the Union Ministry for MSME and implemented by the Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The six-day intensive MDPs, were held simultaneously in Anantnag, Bandipora, Baramulla, Budgam, Doda, Ganderbal, Jammu, Kishtwar, Kulgam, Kupwara, Kathua, Pulwama, Shopian, Srinagar, Samba, Rajouri, Reasi, Poonch, Ramban and Udhampur. A total of 474 aspiring and existing entrepreneurs successfully completed the 30-hour structured training programme, which was comprised of expert interactions and field exposure visits. Notably, 452 women entrepreneurs participated in the batch, marking a significant stride towards gender

inclusivity in the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem. The programmes were conducted by the respective District Centres of JKEDI under the overall supervision of the Director, JKEDI.

The MDPs were designed to enhance the managerial, financial and strategic competencies of participants, enabling them to scale up their enterprises, improve competitiveness and develop sustainable business models. The initiative aligns with the broader objectives of the RAMP programme, which seeks to strengthen and modernise the MSME ecosystem

across the country.

The carefully curated curriculum, developed by subject matter experts, covered key areas including business planning, marketing strategies, use of digital tools, financial literacy, statutory compliance, innovation and leadership development. The training also featured mentorship sessions, case studies, interactive discussions and hands-on workshops to provide the participants with practical, real-world business insights.

Sector-specific sessions formed an important component of the

MDPs, with experts from the District Industries Centres (DICs) and the Labour and Employment Department interacting with the participants to share domain-specific guidance. In addition, field visits to successful enterprises were organised to provide firsthand exposure to operational best practices. The programmes were regularly monitored by the designated Range and Reviewing Officers, who interacted with participants to assess training quality and gather feedback, ensuring effective implementation and impact.

J&K State Hajj Committee schedules Orientation/ Training Programme of pilgrims for Haj-2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 15: J&K Hajj Committee has informed that the training Programme for selected pilgrims for Haj-2026, about Mansik-e-Haj and other logistics will be conducted in their respective districts and has advised all selected pilgrims of Kashmir Division to attend the compulsory Training Programme as per schedule.

The programme is scheduled to be held on 19th January, 2026 at 10:30 AM in the Auditorium hall, Govt Degree College, Womens, Anantnag for the pilgrims of Anantnag, Pahalgam, Sallar, Kokernag, Larnoo and Srigufwara. Likewise, for the pilgrims of Shangus, Dooru, Qazigund, Shahabad Bala, Mattan, Bijbehara will be held on January 20, 2026 at 10:30 AM in the Auditorium hall, Govt Degree College, Womens, Anantnag.

Similarly, the Training programme for the pilgrims from Tehsils of Pattan, Khoi, Vagur, Kreeri, Singpora, Tangmarg, Kunzer and Karhama of district Baramulla will be held on 22nd January, 2026 at 10:30 AM at Jamai Hamdania Masjid Sharief, Kunzer, Baramulla. Likewise, for pilgrims of Baramulla, Uri,

Boniya, Wagoora, Dangi wacha, Rohama, Sopore, Watrgam, Zanieger and Dangerpora will be held on 24th January, 2026 from 10:30 AM at Masjid-e-Baitul Mukararamah, Baramulla.

Further, training programme for pilgrims of Budgam, Khansahib, Narabal, Magam, Khag and Beerwah is scheduled on 19th January, 2026 at 10:30 AM at Jamia Masjid Sharief, Ompora. Likewise, training for the pilgrims from Tehsils of Chadoora, Kanipora, charari sharief and BK Pora of district Budgam will be held on 20th January, 2026 from 10:30 AM at Jamia Masjid Sharief, Ompora.

Similarly, training programme for all pilgrims of district Bandipora will be held on 22nd January, 2026 at 10:30 AM at Peer Masjid, Bandipora.

Likewise, training programme for all pilgrims of district Ganderbal will be held on 21st January, 2026 at 10:30 AM at Markazia Hanfia Jamia Masjid, Behama, Ganderbal.

Similarly, training programme for the pilgrims from Tehsils of Kupwara, Dragmulla, Trahgam, Kralpora, Keran, Machil, Sogam, Lalpora, Tangdar and Karnah will be held on 29th January, 2026 at 10:30 AM at Jamia Masjid, Kupwara. Likewise, training for the

pilgrims from Tehsils of Handwara, Langate, Kralgund, Qaziabad, Bilgam, Zachaldara and Kalamabad is scheduled on 31st January, 2026 at 10:30 AM at Jamia Masjid, Handwara.

Further, training programme for the pilgrims from Tehsils of Rajpora, Litter, Pulwama and Kakapora will be held on 21st January, 2026 from 10:30 AM at Jamai Masjid Chatpora, Pulwama. Likewise, for the pilgrims from Tehsils of Awantipora, Tral, Aripal and Pampore is scheduled on 22nd January, 2026 at 10:30 AM at Jamia Masjid, Awantipora.

Likewise, training programme for the pilgrims of district Kulgam will be held on 22nd January, 2026 at 10:30 AM at Markazi Jamai Masjid, Kulgam.

Similarly, training programme for the pilgrims of district Shopian is scheduled on 24th January, 2026 at 10:30 AM at Tak Masjid Sharief, Shopian.

Similarly, training for the pilgrims of district Srinagar will be held at Baitul Hujaj Haj House, Bemina, Srinagar at 10:30 AM from Cover No. JFK-1-2-0 to JFK-1158-3-0 on 28th January, 2026; Cover No. JFK-1159-2-0 to JFK-1369-4-0 on 29th January, 2026 and from Cover No. JFK-1370-2-0 to JFK-2249-2-0 on 31st January, 2026.

ADDC reviews R-Day arrangements 2026 at Udhampur

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, JANUARY 15: District Admin Udhampur today finalized the arrangements for the smooth celebration of Republic Day-2026 here at a meeting chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr Umesh Shan; Chief Planning Officer, Uttam Singh and heads of other departments attended the meeting.

Threadbare discussions were held on the arrangements for barricading, security, traffic regulation, drinking water and power supply, sanitation, transport, distribution of prizes, Illumination of government buildings, first-aid, PAS, provision of Fire-tenders etc.



It was decided that the main function would be held at Government PG Degree College Boys, where the chief guest would hoist the National Flag and take the salute at 9:55 am. The function would start with the Shehnai Vadan by the Information department.

The ADDC asked the officers to put in place all the necessary arrangements well in time for the smooth and enthusiastic celebration of the national event. He called upon the officers and employees of all departments to remain present at the venue on the day of the function. The Executive Engineers of PHE and PWD were directed to make foolproof arrangements for seating, barricading and drinking water, while Executive Engineer PDD was asked to ensure uninterrupted power supply at the function site.

The Executive Officer Municipality was asked to maintain cleanliness in the town as well as at the venue. Regarding first aid arrangements, the Chief Medical Officer was directed to deploy an ambulance along with a team of doctors and necessary medicines till the end of function. "District and Traffic Police would ensure security and traffic management," the ADDC added.

ADDC constituted the Reception Committee, Illumination Committee and other panels for the successful celebration of the national function.

Kathua Admin gears up for second phase of 'Vande Mataram' Campaign

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, JANUARY 15: District administration Kathua today commenced the arrangements for the second phase of the Commemoration of 150 years of National Pride - 'Vande Mataram' to be observed from January 19 to January 26.

In this regard, the Deputy Commissioner, Rajesh Sharma chaired a meeting with stakeholder departments to formulate an action plan to encourage maximum public participation by organising rallies, debates, symposiums, cultural programmes and awareness activities while integrating ongoing departmental events with the campaign to achieve its intended objectives. He stressed that the activities shall reflect the spirit of unity, patriotism and national pride



associated with Vande Mataram. The concerned departments

were asked to ensure coordinated implementation of the campaign

across the district. "The ADCs and SDMs shall oversee and monitor

the campaign in their respective sub-divisions to ensure effective outreach at the grassroots level," the DC directed. "All stakeholder departments including Education, Rural Development, Health, ICDS and Information shall actively disseminate information about the campaign and ensure the involvement of students, youth and community members at the grassroots level," he maintained.

The DC also directed the departments to upload details and document the activities on the dedicated campaign portal in a timely manner to facilitate monitoring and reporting.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, GM DIC, ADC, RTO, ACD and other district officers. ADC Basohli, ADC Billawar, SDM Hiranagar and SDM Bani joined the meeting virtually.

HT EDITORIAL

Housing Board on path to solve housing woes of people

The Housing Board in collaboration with Jammu Development Authority (JDA) and Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) has embarked upon a journey to come up with housing projects in the twin capital cities of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Not only this the Board has also identified parcels of land in many other districts where accommodation for the common masses would be set up. These projects will come up via the public-private partnership (PPP) and self-financing schemes (SFS) modes.

Since there has been a rapid shrinkage of land in the urban areas housing has increasingly become unaffordable for a large section of the population. It is important that the government intervenes through planned housing colonies to ensure that home ownership remains within reach of the common citizen, particularly middle- and lower-income groups. Structured, high-density housing developed by government agencies is the need of the hour as it will make housing more accessible to a wider cross-section of society.

Government housing colonies play a vital role in preventing urban sprawl, reducing pressure on infrastructure and ensuring equitable access to basic services for all segments of society. It is imperative that the housing and urban development department (H&UDD) provides suitable housing units/plots to the public as it has done in the past. The Housing Board has a plan to develop multiple housing colonies across Jammu & Kashmir to cater to diverse income groups. In this regard several land parcels have been identified in Srinagar, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Bandipora, Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts.

Modern amenities such as commercial spaces, parking and other facilities for the amenable living of the inmates would be kept there in the proposed housing colonies. The adoption of PPP models aims to reduce government exposure while creating model townships that integrate energy efficiency, transit-oriented development norms and climate-resilient infrastructure. The need of the hour is that the projects are completed within a stipulated time frame and there should not be any compromise in this regard.

At the same time, it is important that the construction is carried out according to the modern day demands and there should not be any compromise on the quality standards. Once quality is ensured then it is sure that the inhabitants would have a comfortable stay for the rest of their life. As such more and more people would be enthused to take up the accommodation at the government level and they would be absolved of the tension on the housing front.

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Where Hard Work Writes Success: When Effort Becomes Excellence



■ **MUDASIR AHMAD NAJAR**

Government Higher Secondary School Bandi Payeen has once again proved its academic strength by achieving excellent results in the 12th-grade examinations, bringing pride not only to the school but also to the entire village and nearby areas. Located in a rural region, the school has become a strong example of how dedication, discipline and committed leadership can overcome challenges related to distance and limited facilities. At a time when quality education is often linked only with urban institutions, the success of Government Higher Secondary School Bandi Payeen clearly shows that true excellence depends on hard work and commitment, not on location. These results reflect years of sincere effort, teamwork and a strong belief in the power of education to change lives.

One of the most inspiring parts of this success is the outstanding performance of students Umer Javid and Tasleema Ameen, who both secured an impressive 416 marks. Their achievement reflects determination, self-control and the strong guidance provided by their teachers. For students of Bandi Payeen and nearby villages, their success has become a source of encouragement and confidence. It shows that students from rural backgrounds, when supported by good teaching and a positive learning environment, can perform at the highest level. Their success is not only a personal victory but a shared moment of pride for teachers, parents and the entire community, strengthening the belief that education is the strongest path to personal growth and social progress.

The natural surroundings of Government Higher Secondary School Bandi Payeen add greatly to its learning atmosphere. Built on a small mountain, the school enjoys a peaceful and refreshing environment that helps students focus better on their



studies. A gentle stream flowing from the nearby Shranzfall adds to the calmness of the area, while the presence of a hospital on one side and a middle school on the other creates a safe and supportive educational setting. This balance of nature and community support plays an important role in students' mental well-being. The quiet surroundings reduce distractions and allow students to study with greater concentration and purpose.

Although the school faces challenges due to limited infrastructure and resources, it has shown that proper use of available facilities can produce excellent results. Classrooms are well managed, laboratories are used to strengthen understanding of concepts, and the library supports academic development. Teachers encourage students to ask questions, think independently, and develop a real interest in learning. The disciplined academic environment helps students learn responsibility and time management, skills that benefit them not only in examinations but also in their future careers and lives.

The success of the school is strongly connected to the visionary leadership of Dr. Syed Anayatullah, (the Head of Institution), (senior lecturer) who has an academic background in Chemistry. Since assuming charge, he has introduced an organized and goal-oriented approach to teaching and learning. His focus on clear concepts, interactive teaching, and regular evaluation has improved the academic culture of the school. By maintaining discipline while encouraging creative teaching methods, he

has motivated both teachers and students to give their best. His leadership shows a deep understanding of education as a process that develops knowledge, character and confidence together.

Another important contributor to the school's success is Dr. Nissar Najar, the Political Science teacher, whose guidance has been especially valuable for arts stream students. His mentorship has helped students widen their academic vision and prepare for competitive exams and higher education. By guiding students beyond the textbook syllabus, he has ensured that arts students feel respected and supported. This balanced approach has strengthened the school's overall academic structure, ensuring equal attention to all streams and students.

The combined efforts of the entire teaching staff deserve special appreciation. Teachers at Government Higher Secondary School Bandi Payeen go beyond routine classroom teaching and focus on moral values, discipline and emotional strength. They believe that education is not only about marks but also about shaping responsible and confident individuals. Their dedication is visible in the extra time they spend helping students clear doubts and overcome difficulties. This strong sense of responsibility has played a major role in the school's consistent academic success. The school's achievements have created a positive impact on the local community. Parents encouraged by the results are now more involved in their children's education and more supportive of learning. The

success has also changed attitudes toward rural education, breaking the belief that quality education exists only in cities. Students from nearby villages now look at Government Higher Secondary School Bandi Payeen as a place of hope and opportunity inspiring them to study with confidence and ambition.

The journey of the school offers important lessons for other rural and semi-urban institutions. It highlights the value of perseverance, strong leadership, effective guidance, and cooperation between teachers, students, and the community. It also shows that lack of resources does not prevent success when there is dedication and a shared goal. By building a culture of discipline, respect, and hard work, the school has created an environment where students are encouraged to dream big and work steadily to achieve those dreams. Looking ahead, Government Higher Secondary School Bandi Payeen is ready to continue its path of excellence. With hardworking students, devoted teachers and strong leadership, the school is expected to reach even greater achievements in the future. Continued focus on academic quality, character development and community involvement will further strengthen its position as a model rural institution. The success story of the school inspires not only students but also educators and decision-makers, showing what can be achieved through unity and consistent effort.

Government Higher Secondary School Bandi Payeen stands as a true example of how hard work, guided by vision and supported by teamwork, turns effort into excellence. The outstanding 12th-grade results have brought honor to both the school and the village, renewing faith in education as a powerful force for change. The achievements of students like Umer Javid and Tasleema Ameen reflect the rewards of dedication, while the commitment of teachers and leadership represents the true spirit of education. This success proves that when hard work writes success, it creates a lasting legacy that motivates generations to believe, work hard, and achieve their goals.

The Author from Dandmoha, Kreei, Baramulla

Broken Roofs, Mud Walls, and a Sky of Success



■ **TANVEER MOHIUDIN**

Yesterday, as the matriculation results were announced, one particular image took social media by storm. It wasn't a picture of a student from an elite private school or a posh bungalow; it was the story of a warrior from a home where poverty resides in every corner, but where hard work has just lit a sun that outshines the brightest lamps.

488 Marks—this is not just a digit. It is the sum of countless hungry nights, sweat-drenched afternoons, and the unwavering grit of a child who refused to be defined by his circumstances. Living in a tiny two-room house, where the ground floor is made of raw mud and the upper room is shielded by a thin, rusted tin sheet, this boy has achieved what many with every luxury could only dream of.

■ The Mud Hut vs. The Mansion

Today, that humble mud house must feel a thousand times more precious to the parents than the grandest mansions built on bank loans. We see parents providing air-conditioned rooms, expensive tutors, and every possible facility to their children, yet they often fail to instill the "fire" that this boy possessed.

Looking at the dilapidated state of his home, one wonders if he even had two square meals a day. Did he have a stable light to read by at night? But when your resolve is as firm as a mountain, crumbling walls cannot stop your path. They become the silent



witnesses to your struggle.

■ A Father's Pride and a Lesson for the Youth

Today, that hardworking father walks with his head held high. No amount of wealth can buy the pride this son has gifted him. He has honored the calloused hands of his father and the silent prayers of his mother. He has proven that success is not the birthright of the rich, nor is it a slave to resources.

■ To the Youth of the Coming Generation:

If you ever feel discouraged because you lack a

fancy gadget, if your roof leaks during the rain, or if you feel ashamed of your poverty—look at this boy's face. Let his struggle be your guiding light. Remember, the real battle is against your circumstances, and the one who conquers his hardships is the true champion.

May this mud house soon turn into a fortress of security for them, but may the scent of this boy's hard work linger forever to inspire others. Congratulations, young hero! You have proven the words of the poet: "With a little moisture, this soil is incredibly fertile."

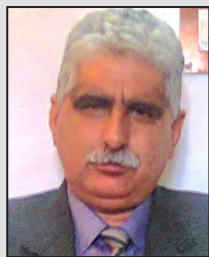
The author from Kanispora Baramulla

HT - TRIBUTE

Prof. Mohi-ud-din Hajini:

The Great Genius of Kashmiri Literature

A tribute to the towering scholar, teacher and cultural torchbearer on his 33rd death anniversary



■ SHEIKH GHULAM MUHAMMAD

On the 33rd death anniversary of Prof. Mohi-ud-din Hajini, it is both fitting and necessary to remember a man whose life was devoted to learning, literature and the preservation of Kashmiri language and culture. Prof. Hajini was not merely an academic; he was a rare intellectual force whose influence continues to shape Kashmiri literary and educational thought.

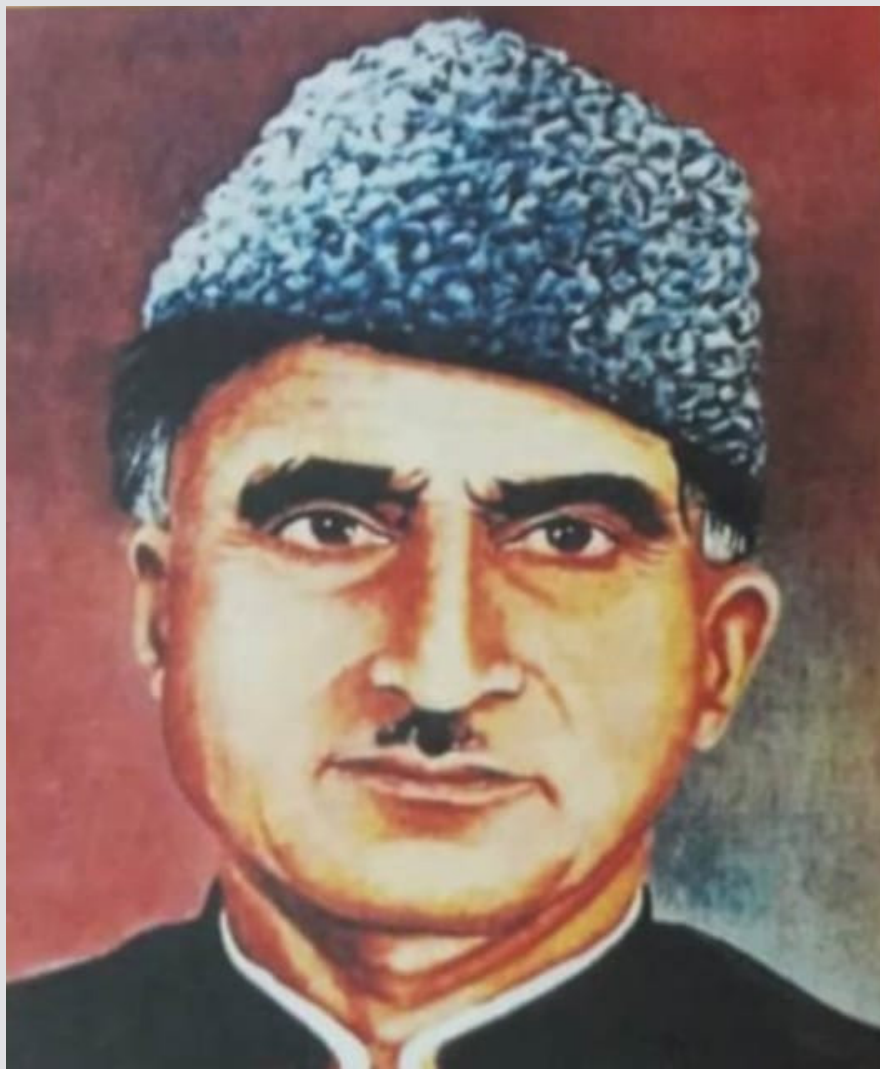
Born on June 21, 1917, in the town of Hajin into a respected landlord family, Prof. Hajini displayed exceptional intellectual brilliance from an early age. He received his initial education at a local government school in Hajin and later passed his Matriculation examination from Government High School, Sopore, with distinction. His academic journey then led him to Government Sri Pratap College, Srinagar, where he completed his Bachelor of Arts degree.

Driven by an insatiable thirst for knowledge, Prof. Hajini pursued higher studies at Aligarh Muslim University, Uttar Pradesh. There, he achieved an extraordinary academic milestone by simultaneously qualifying for a Master's degree in Arabic, a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.), and a diploma in Journalism—an achievement regarded as exceptionally

In 1942, Prof. Hajini began his teaching career as a lecturer at Prince of Wales Degree College, Jammu. He was later transferred to Sri Pratap College, Srinagar, where he served with distinction until his retirement in 1972. As a teacher, he was revered not only for his scholarship but also for his humility, discipline and deep commitment to students

demanding even by the highest academic standards. His success across disciplines reflected both his natural genius and relentless dedication.

Alongside his academic pursuits, Prof. Hajini remained deeply engaged with



literary and cultural activities. More than six decades ago, he played a pivotal role in establishing influential literary forums such as Adbi Markaz Kamraz

and Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari Hajin, platforms that nurtured Kashmiri language, literature and critical discourse. His most notable literary contribution came in

1939 with "Grees Sund Ghar", the first complete drama in Kashmiri literature, a landmark achievement that opened new creative avenues for Kashmiri writers.

Prof. Hajini was also a passionate advocate for linguistic and cultural awareness, especially among educated youth. His tireless efforts were instrumental in the introduction of Kashmiri as a subject at college and university levels in the early 1970s—an enduring legacy that continues to benefit generations of students.

In 1942, Prof. Hajini began his teaching career as a lecturer at Prince of Wales Degree College, Jammu. He was later transferred to Sri Pratap College, Srinagar, where he served with distinction until his retirement in 1972. As a teacher, he was revered not only for his scholarship but also for his humility, discipline and deep commitment to students.

Prof. Mohi-ud-din Hajini passed away on January 16, 1993, and was laid to rest in the compound in front of his residence in Hajin. Though he is no longer among us, his intellectual legacy remains vibrant.

In essence, Prof. Hajini was a truly well-rounded genius—writer, critic, researcher, translator, educationist, and cultural activist—whose life exemplified humility, rationality, resilience and creativity. He lived and worked to promote and propagate the Kashmiri language and literature, earning an indelible place in Kashmir's cultural history.

The author is a retired DIET Principal, former Principal of J&K Sainik School Manasbal, and a senior member of Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari Hajin and Wahab Cultural Society Hajin.

Hardwork and Success



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Every great journey begins with humble roots, and the life story of Sahil Manzoor Bhatti is a living example of how dedication, perseverance, and hard work can shape an inspiring destiny. Born on January 4, 1992, in the serene and culturally rich hamlet of Bhatti Mohalla, Tangnar Raiyar-Ich, Tehsil Khansahib, District Budgam, Sahil grew up amidst the natural beauty and traditional values of Kashmir. From an early age, he displayed an inquisitive mind, a deep sense of compassion, and a strong desire to learn—qualities that would later define his personality and life's mission.

■ Childhood and Early Environment

Sahil's childhood was marked by simplicity, discipline, and moral upbringing. Raised in a family that valued education and ethics, he learned early on that success is not inherited but earned through consistent effort. Part of his childhood was spent in Srinagar, where his family shifted for personal reasons. Living in both rural and urban environments gave Sahil a unique perspective on life. He witnessed the struggles and aspirations of common people while also being exposed to modern educational opportunities.

This blend of experiences helped shape his balanced worldview. He developed empathy for society's challenges while remaining hopeful about progress through education and awareness. These formative years instilled in him a strong belief that knowledge, when guided by values, can become a powerful tool for change.

■ Early Schooling and Moral Foundation

Sahil began his formal education at Vibgyor Educational Institution, Maharaipora Batamalloo, Srinagar. From the beginning, he proved to be a sincere and hard-working student. Teachers often appreciated his discipline, curiosity, and eagerness to participate in academic as well as co-curricular activities. His school years were not only about textbooks and examinations but also about character building.

He actively engaged in discussions, classroom activities, and moral lessons, which strengthened his communication skills and confidence. During this phase, Sahil developed a strong foundation in values such as honesty, perseverance, respect, and responsibility. These values later became guiding principles in both his personal and professional life.

■ Adolescence and Academic Growth

As Sahil progressed into adolescence, his thirst for knowledge deepened further. He pursued his Higher Secondary education in the medical stream at S.P. Higher Secondary School, M.A. Road, Srinagar, one of the reputed institutions in the Kashmir Valley. Choosing the medical stream reflected his interest in science and his desire to understand life and health.

During this stage, Sahil's interests expanded beyond the prescribed syllabus. He began exploring environmental science, literature, social issues, and public awareness topics. He realized that education is not confined to one stream or discipline; rather, it is a lifelong journey of learning and self-improvement. This realization became a turning point in his academic philosophy.

■ Diverse Academic Pursuits

Driven by his belief that learning has no boundaries, Sahil qualified for and explored multiple academic and professional fields, including B.Sc. Information Technology, BUMS, Diploma Engineering,



and B.Pharmacy. His diverse academic pursuits reflect his versatile nature and intellectual curiosity. Rather than limiting himself to a single domain, he embraced the idea of multidisciplinary education.

This phase of his life highlights an important lesson: success does not always follow a straight path. Sahil's willingness to explore different fields demonstrates courage, adaptability, and an open mind—qualities essential in today's rapidly changing world.

■ College Life and Leadership

Eventually, Sahil pursued his graduation from Amar Singh College, Gogji Bagh, Srinagar, a prestigious institution known for academic excellence. College life played a significant role in shaping his personality. Here, Sahil's intellectual maturity, leadership skills, and social awareness

began to shine.

He actively engaged in discussions, writing activities, and peer interactions. His thoughtful approach to issues and his respectful demeanor earned him admiration among classmates and teachers alike. College life also strengthened his passion for writing, reflection, and community engagement.

■ Professional Training and Higher Education

Sahil's commitment to education did not stop at graduation. Understanding the transformative power of teaching, he pursued a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.), which prepared him to guide and inspire young minds. He further earned a Master's degree in Environmental Science from IGNOU, deepening his understanding of environmental challenges and sustainable devel-

opment.

His academic journey reflects a clear vision: to integrate education with social responsibility. As an environmental science graduate, Sahil strongly believes in raising awareness about ecological balance, climate change, and sustainable living—issues that are particularly relevant to the fragile ecosystem of Kashmir.

■ Philosophy of Hard Work and Purpose

For Sahil Manzoor Bhatti, education is not merely a means to earn degrees or secure employment. It is a tool for self-discovery, empowerment, and service to society. He firmly believes that hard work, guided by purpose and faith, can overcome all obstacles.

His journey from Bhatti Mohalla to becoming a learned scholar and educator stands as an inspiration for the youth, especially those from rural and underprivileged backgrounds. Sahil's life teaches that circumstances do not define destiny—determination does.

■ Contribution and Inspiration

As a teacher, writer, and motivator, Sahil continues to influence lives through knowledge and positive thinking. He encourages students to dream big, work hard, and remain grounded in values. His story resonates deeply in a society where many young people struggle with uncertainty and limited opportunities.

■ Me By Me

The life of Sahil Manzoor Bhatti is a testament to the timeless truth that hard work is the key to success. From humble beginnings to academic excellence, his journey reflects resilience, discipline, and unwavering faith in education. His story reminds us that no dream is too big and no beginning too small. With vision, dedication, and sincerity, one can transform challenges into stepping stones toward success.

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WHY SAYING SORRY FIRST IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH

■ DR. SURINDERPAL SINGH

In the modern materialistic world, there is a common perception that saying sorry first is a sign of weakness. Many people believe that an apology lowers their status or diminishes their self-respect. However, science and psychology strongly contradict this belief. Research shows that apologizing is not just a social courtesy but a powerful act that benefits the brain, heart and mind. If a person genuinely seeks forgiveness and peace, the willingness to apologize becomes the first and most important step. When a person offers a sincere apology, significant changes take place in the human brain. The brain gradually shifts from a state of anger, defensiveness and hostility to one of calmness and understanding. Neural regions responsible for empathy, emotional regulation and rational decision-making become more active. At the same time, the fear and stress centres of the brain reduce their activity. This neurological shift creates a sense of emotional safety, making both individuals more open, receptive and emotionally connected.

Unresolved conflicts place a heavy burden on the body by increasing stress hormones such as cortisol. Prolonged elevation of stress hormones is linked



with high blood pressure, disturbed sleep, anxiety disorders and weakened immunity. Apologizing helps reduce these stress levels and promotes the release of oxytocin, a hormone associated with trust, bonding and emotional warmth. As oxytocin levels rise, the body experiences relaxation, emotional balance and improved overall well-being.

The mental health benefits of apologizing are equally profound. Carrying guilt, suppressed anger or ego within the mind creates emotional tension and inner conflict. Apologizing allows a person to release this psychological burden. Individuals who are comfortable saying sorry tend to experience

lower levels of anxiety and depression, better emotional regulation and stronger self-respect. Contrary to popular belief, an apology does not bring shame; instead, it offers relief, clarity and inner peace.

Apologies also play a vital role in healing relationships. Whether in families, friendships or workplaces, unresolved misunderstandings can damage emotional bonds. Research indicates that when one person takes the initiative to apologize, the other person often becomes calmer and more willing to forgive. This response occurs because the human brain is naturally wired to respond positively to empathy, sincerity and emotional honesty. A simple

apology can transform conflict into connection.

Beyond emotional well-being, apologizing has tangible effects on physical health. Chronic emotional stress contributes to inflammation in the body, increasing the risk of heart disease and weakening the immune system. By resolving emotional conflicts through sincere apologies, the body's natural healing mechanisms function more efficiently. Emotional harmony supports physical resilience and long-term health.

Scientifically and psychologically, apologizing is a sign of strength rather than weakness. It requires courage, self-control and high emotional intelligence. The ability to accept responsibility and express regret reflects maturity, wisdom and inner confidence, not defeat.

In essence, saying sorry first acts as a powerful medicine for both mind and body. It reduces stress, improves mental health, repairs relationships and supports physical well-being. Science clearly affirms that forgiveness begins with the willingness to apologize. By saying sorry, one does not merely heal others but also embarks on a journey of self-healing and personal growth.

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

Insomnia tied to suicidal thoughts, anxiety in schizophrenics

Insomnia -- a sleep disorder -- is likely to increase suicidal thoughts and actions, as well as anxiety and depression in people with schizophrenia, finds a new study.

Insomniacs have trouble falling and/or staying asleep. It is a common problem among patients with schizophrenia -- a mental disorder where people interpret reality abnormally.

Waking up too early was associated with suicidal thoughts, and more severe schizophrenia, including symptoms like anxiety and depression. Trouble falling and staying asleep significantly increased the odds of a suicide attempt, revealed the study, detailed in the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry.

"We are now aware that significant insomnia is putting our patients at even higher risk for suicide, so if they are having changes in sleep patterns, if they are having significant insomnia, then we really need to hone in on those questions even more related to suicidal thinking and do what we can to help," said Brian Miller, psychiatrist and schizophrenia expert at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, in the US.

Schizophrenia is clearly associated with an increased risk of suicide, with a 5-10 per cent lifetime risk of death by suicide, which is likely the greatest within the first year of diagnosis, Miller said.

Better sleep, on the other hand, showed improvements in schizophrenia, he noted.

The study suggests that insomnia is an important treatment target in schizophrenia.

Other interventions include avoiding caffeine, as well as blue light from common sources like televisions and smartphones, particularly in the hours before bedtime, as well as prescription and over-the-counter sleep aids.

Making adjustments to antipsychotic medication used to treat their schizophrenia since some, like clozapine, also have sedative effects can also help.

The team looked at associations between insomnia, suicidal thoughts and attempts and disease severity in 1,494 individuals diagnosed at 57 sites in the US, and enrolled them in a comparative study of five different antipsychotics.

Nearly half of patients reported problems falling asleep or broken sleep, termed initial and middle insomnia, and 27 per cent reported terminal insomnia where they wake up too early and cannot get back asleep.

Courtesy Healthline



BP pills may raise heart disease risk in people with HIV: Study

BP pills may raise heart disease risk in people with HIV: Study New York: Intake of certain medications that can lower blood pressure in people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), can also increase long-term risk of heart disease, stroke and heart failure, according to new research.

People with HIV are able to live longer with the anti-retroviral therapy (ART). However, the medication likely elevates blood pressure (hypertension) and hypertension-related heart problems in the HIV group than among people without the virus.

"We suspected there could be differences in risk based on which medication providers select to treat hypertension among people with HIV due to potential interactions between blood pressure medications and some therapies used to treat the virus," said Jordana B Cohen, Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, US.

"Additionally, factors such as how the body handles salt, inflammation and the accelerated ageing of blood vessels may affect the risk of cardiac events in people with HIV differently than people who do not have HIV, which could be influenced by which blood pressure medication is used," Cohen added.

The findings were published in the journal Hypertension.

For the study, the team reviewed records of 8,041 veterans with HIV (average age 53 years) who developed high blood pressure between 2000-2018; 6,516 had never been diagnosed with heart or blood vessel problems for more than six years.

While 5,979 were on anti-retroviral medication therapy, 6,582 were prescribed single antihypertensive medication therapy: 1,025 on beta blockers, 848 on calcium channel blockers, 1,905 on ACEi/ARBs and 1,865 on diuretics.

The researchers found that 25 per cent people experienced a cardiovascular event. The risk of developing heart disease, heart failure or stroke for the first time was 90 per cent higher among those taking beta-blockers compared to those who were taking ACEi/ARBs -- the most frequently prescribed type of high blood pressure medication.

The increased risk was present whether or not blood pressure was under control. Thiazide diuretics and CCBs did not increase risk.

"Blood pressure and heart disease risk in patients who have HIV can be safely managed with first-line treatment of hypertension with ACEis, ARBs, CCBs and thiazide diuretics and may have added benefit from initial treatment with ACEis and ARBs," Cohen said.

Cohen said the results also highlight that there is possible harm from beta-blockers as first-line treatment for hypertension whether a person has HIV or not.

Courtesy Healthline

External factors may help kids develop internal control

The ability to control your own behaviour, known as executive function, develops with many influences from outside the mind, suggests a new theory.

The theory, detailed in the journal Perspectives on Psychological Science, draws on dynamic systems theory which originated in mathematics and physics and has been used to describe complex organising phenomena like cloud formation and flying patterns of birds.

The executive function has been shown to play a role in everything from children's readiness for school to their social relationships.

Its development is also tied to long-term outcomes for adulthood.

"We propose that executive function is really about using cues from the environment to guide your behaviour," said Sammy Perone, Assistant Professor at the Washington



State University.

"As humans we use our experience and norms to decide what's the appropriate path to take, so to encourage executive function development, we want to help children build those connections between

cues and appropriate behaviours."

In a classroom, these cues might include things such as decorations on the wall, verbal instructions or the way tables are set up.

Eliminating environmental distractions may also help children control their behaviour like having sharpened pencils on hand or resolving a tottering desk chair.

In addition, physical things normally thought of as peripheral, like whether a child has adequate sleep or enough to eat, also influence executive function, Perone said.

Previously, the dominant view held that executive function was three distinct neurocognitive processes: working memory, inhibitory control, which is the ability to stop yourself from doing something, and cognitive flexibility, which allows you to transition from one activity to the next. Courtesy Healthline

Lifestyle Changes Alone Can Control Obesity: Experts

Experts of Ayurvedic, Unani and modern medicines said lifestyle changes were necessary to control obesity and allergies.

They were deliberating upon how to combat obesity - through prevention and medications and therapies commonly used to treat allergies in a multi-disciplinary online seminar on 'Obesity and its Prevention, Allergic Diseases' organised by the Faculty of Medicine, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

We need to find ways to combine both the traditional and modern medicine systems for a major role in the fight against lifestyle diseases, said AMU Vice Chancellor, Prof Tariq Mansoor.

"Of course, we cannot adopt these procedures for all diseases, but for chronic diseases there is a lot of scope," he added pointing out that since the spread of Covid pandemic, the government is also encouraging multi-disciplinary research in various systems of medicine," the Vice Chancellor said. Stressing the need for joint traditional and modern medicine research, Prof Mansoor said that AMU is a multi-disciplinary university and we can take advantage of the facilities for collaborative research.

Speaking on the treatment and prevention of obesity in Ayurvedic medicine, Prof Jonah S (All India Institute of Ayurvedic, New Delhi) recommended lifestyle changes and appropriate modification in daily diet to



improve health along with oral medications to help optimizing the metabolism.

He elaborated how Ayurvedic plants and herbs help in controlling obesity. "Because Ayurveda focuses on healthy nutrition, stress reduction, and cultivation of a balanced lifestyle, many people look to its dietary principles and natural remedies when they want to lose weight. People in many Western countries are using the Ayurvedic regimens and remedies as part of their overall healthcare," said Prof Jonah.

Dr Paras Wani (Incharge, GTB and IHBAS Unani Unit, Director of Ayush, GNCT, New Delhi) explained how Siman-e-Mufrit (obesity) is considered as a Phlegmatic (Balghami) disease in Unani medicine.

She added that obesity can

be prevented by maintaining Asbab-e-Sittah Zarooriyah (essentials of life) namely the proper and balanced diet, physical activity, balanced retention and evacuation.

Dr Paras explained the various modes of treatments with Ilaj bil Ghiza (Dietotherapy) and Ilaj bit Tadbeer (regimental therapies).

Dr Uwais Ashraf (Faculty of Medicine, JNMC) described how obesity is the root cause of all lifestyle diseases in modern medicine.

"Obesity leads to coronary artery disease, hypertension, fatty liver and PCOD among other health problems. Obesity has a strong genetic and biochemical basis and these areas are being looked into for newer therapeutic modalities," he said.

Dr Uwais added that diet,

lifestyle and behavioural therapies are necessary in the management of obesity.

He also gave a slide presentation on preventing and treating obesity.

Speaking on preventive measures to avoid allergies, Prof Rubi Anjum (Chairperson, Dept of Tahaffuzi wa Samaji Tib, AMU) discussed various Unani therapies of Ilaj bil- Tadbeer.

She spoke about treatments through special regimens and methods to maintain general health through modulation in 'Asbaab-e-Sitta Zarooriya'.

Prof Rubi also shared a list of foods to try to avoid allergies such as ginger, citrus fruits, turmeric, oily fish and onions.

Dr Divya Kajaria (All India Institute of Ayurvedic, New Delhi) discussed how Ayurvedic allergy treatment focuses on pacifying

the imbalanced dosha, restoring digestion with herbal preparations, and advising supporting diet and lifestyle.

"Allergic reactions manifest themselves in the form of commonly seen skin and respiratory disorders such as eczema, hives, hay fever, asthma and food allergies. In Ayurveda, allergy treatment is done by first diagnosing the individual root-cause of every patient," she added.

Dr Nafees A Khan (Dept of TB and RD, JNMC) stressed the importance of increasing awareness on the relevance of allergic diseases as a major public health problem.

"Programs to increase awareness of allergic diseases should focus on the causes, prevention, control, and economic impact," he said.

Dr Nafees further spoke on Type I hypersensitivity (or immediate hypersensitivity) as an allergic reaction provoked by re-exposure to a specific type of antigen referred to as an allergen.

"Type I is distinct from type II, type III and type IV hypersensitivities. Exposure may be by ingestion, inhalation, injection, or direct contact," he added.

In the welcome address, Prof Rakesh Bhargava (Dean, Faculty of Medicine) said that this programme will help build a better understanding of lifestyle as a pattern of individual practices and behavior related to elevating or reducing health risks.

Courtesy Healthline

Speaker addresses Book Review event of ‘Durr-e-Naayaab’ at Jammu University

- Book a moving tribute of Sakeena Itoo to her father Shaheed Wali Muhammad Itoo
- Lauds Government for exceptional performance of Govt. Schools in 10th, 12th class results



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 15: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather today addressed the Book Review event of 'Durr-e-Naayaab', a biography of Shaheed Wali Mohammad Itoo at Department of Urdu, University of Jammu.

The book, authored by Minister Sakeena Itoo, daughter of late leader, chronicles the life and contributions of Shaheed Wali Mohammad Itoo, former Minister and Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, who was assassinated on March 18, 1994, in Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker paid glowing tributes to late leader, describing him as “an able administrator and people friendly leader, who sacrificed his life for the well being of people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the downtrodden communities.”

The Speaker recalled that Shaheed Wali Mohammad Itoo was a man of principles who remained committed to his principles and his party despite the turbulent times of militancy in early nineties. “He never wanted to leave Kashmir in those difficult times and always desired to be among his people for their upliftment”, the Speaker said.

Remembering his close association with the late leader, the Speaker said, “In the year 1977 both of us were elected as first time MLAs and this association changed into a close relation till he left us”. He added that his tenure as MLA, MLC, Minister or Speaker has been very noteworthy which left an indelible mark on those associated with him.

Paying glowing tributes, the Speaker remarked Shaheed Wali

Mohammad Itoo as a great leader whose selfless work cannot be defined in words. The Speaker also said that great leader has done a great favour to the society by giving us a brave daughter Sakeena Itoo who is living the mission of her great father.

While lauding the Minister Sakeena Itoo's literary accomplishment, the Speaker said that despite being the most active Minister, she spared some time to write this extraordinary book, adding that this book will be a guide for younger generation to do something for society, as it reflects deeply on life and mission of a leader who dedicated himself to his people and his land.

On the occasion, the Speaker also lauded the Government and especially the Education Minister Sakeena Itoo for exceptional performance of Government Schools in 10th and 12th results declared yesterday. He underlined that the performance of students of Government Schools reflects the commitment towards the improvement of Education sector from last more than a year, adding that the teachers and the government deserve due credit for this.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sakeena spoke about the valuable and golden moments she shared with her father which became cornerstone for her to write this unique book. She also expressed her gratitude to former Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah; Chief Minister Omar Abdullah; Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather and others for guiding her while penning this book.

Addressing the gathering, Vice Chancellor, Jammu University, Prof. Umesh Rai said that this book is an important asset for the younger people to acquaint themselves about the life long teachings and learnings

of a great leader, who dedicated his life for the betterment of society. He also appreciated the author and Minister Sakeena Itoo for writing this book despite such a busy schedule.

He also announced that the University will provide every possible support for translating the book into English, Hindi or other local languages.

Speaking on the occasion, noted poet, writer and Sahitya Academy Awardee, Prof. Mohammad Zaman Azarduh said that this book is great tribute of a daughter to her father, highlighting the great contribution of a great leader who dedicated his life and everything for the welfare of people. He also lauded the author and Minister, Sakeena Itoo for keeping the mission of her father alive by dedicated herself to the society as a public representative and Minister.

In his welcome address, Professor & Head department of Urdu, Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik remembered his close association with the late leader. He added that the late leader had a very soft corner towards his people and he always remained at forefront in helping others.

On the occasion, Assistant Professor, Dr. Sehnaz Qadri also read a review of the book 'Durr-e-Naayaab' which captivated the audience to read this book. Pertinently, the book was released by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah in the month of October 2025 at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) Srinagar.

Dean Research Studies, Jammu University, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra; noted poet and Sahitya Academy Awardee Manshoo Banihali; Author and Tribal Social Reformer, Javid Rahi; Professors, faculty members and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my son's applying for Birth certificate in Tehsil office Langate namely Muhammad Mustansir Parray DOB 26/02/1999 Muzamil Fayaz Parray DOB 18/04/2009 Prantage Fayaz Ahmad Parray R/o Suddergund District: kupwara. if anybody having any objection in this regards he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the Tehsil Office Langate within 07 days .After that no objection shall be entertained.

MUHAMMAD MUSTANSIR PARRAY DOB 26/02/1999 MUZAMIL FAYAZ PARRAY DOB 18/04/2009 PRANTAGE FAYAZ AHMAD PARRAY, R/O SUDDERGUND TEHSIL LANGATE DISTRICT KUPWARA

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my son' applying for Birth certificate in municipal committee handwara namely Zohan Ahmad Lone DOB 23/04/2022 S/O Mohd Ramzan Lone, R/o Yamlar Payeen District: kupwara. if anybody having any objection in this regards he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the Municipal committee handwara within 07 days .After that no objection shall be entertained.

ZOHAN AHMAD LONE DOB 23/04/2022 S/O MOHD RAMZAN LONE R/O YAMLAR PAYEEN TEHSIL ZACHALDARA DISTRICT KUPWARA

Laptop Care House

Wholesale Dealer Of New And Pre Used Laptops

DEALS IN ALL KINDS OF LAPTOPS AND ACCESSORIES

REPAIRING OF: ALL TYPES OF LAPTOPS & DESKTOPS



Public Notice

My daughters Mothers Aadhar No has been wrongly written as 7298 6522 9014 in her Date of Birth certificate issued by Block Development Officer WAGOORA while her correct Mother's Aadhar No is 7298 6522 9041 which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of BDO office WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**NAME....SAIMA BEGUM
M/ O... HANIYA JAAN
R/O ...WAGOORA TANGWARI BALA**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of OBC certificate applicant MEHRAJ GANI MIR & RASHID GANI MIR S/ O ABDUL GANI MIR R/O KAKOTHAL 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 KAKOTHAL KREERI of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the MIR community having annual income 696560 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...ABDUL GANI MIR Father 65 years RETIRE EMPLOYEE
- 2..TASLEEMA BEGUM Mother 55 years House wife
- 3..YASMERNA GANI sister 25 years Student
- 4.. RASHID GANI MIR self Brother 20 years student
- 5..MEHRAJ GANI MIR Brother 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

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name Late BASHIR AHMAD MIR S/O AB AHAD MIR R/O DOLIPORA WAGOORA .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040011000 wants to be registered on my JAVID AHMAD MIR S/O BASHIR AHMAD MIR R/O DOLIPORA WAGOORA 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 of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**NAME....JAVID AHMAD MIR
S/O ... BASHIR AHMAD MIR
R/O ...DOLIPORA**

Public Notice

I have lost my provisional cum character certificate at somewhere bearing registration No N17441720060 .Now i am applying for its duplicate certificate if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of JKBOSE srinagar / Govt Higher Secondary School KREERI. within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**NAME...ARBEENA TARIQ
D/O ...TARIQ AHMAD MIR
SESSION....ANNUAL REGULAR 2020
R/O ...SALOOSA
DISTRICT.... BARAMULLA**

Public Notice

My name wrongly mentioned in my driving licence under licence number JK05 200400,14625 as Gh Mohammad Lone instead of Ghulam Mohammad lone.Now I am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact ARTO Baramulla within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

GHULAM MOHAMMAD LONE S/O MOHAMMAD SULTAN LONE R/O NOWPORA JAGIR BARAMULLLA

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 has submitted case file pertaining to Birth/ Death of FAROOQ AHMAD RATHER S/O AB RASHID RATHER R/O TAKIYA YOUSUF SHAH Tehsil KREERI Dist. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth /death as 04/06/1993 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 /death this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

I have changed my wards name from (Old name) GH. MOHD NAYAK to (New name). GH. MOHD. In future He will be known as (New name) GH. MOHD.

If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name GH .MOHI UD DIN SHAH S/O AB SAMAD SHAH R/O... CHANDKUT .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040005220 wants to be registered on my GH MOHAMMAD SHAH S/O GH MOHI UD DIN SHAH R/O CHANDKUT .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 of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name...GH MOHAMMAD SHAH
S/O ... GH MOHI DIN SHAH
R/O ...CHANDKUT**

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my GRAND Fathers name Late FATAH THOKAR S/O MOHD RAMZAN THOKAR R/O KALANTRA BALA .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040002550 wants to be registered on my GH MOHI UD DIN THOKER S/O MOHD RAMZAN THOKAR R/O KALANTRA BALA .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 of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name...GH MOHI UD DIN THOKAR
S/O ... MOHD RAMZAN THOKAR
R/O ...KALANTRA BALA**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of. AB AHAD LONE S/O AB REHIM LONE R/O THINDIMA for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that AB REHIM LONE S /O AB AHAD LONE has passed away on 01/12/2025 The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1.... AB AHAD LONE SON ,48 Labour married
- 2.... SHAFIQA BANO daughter 52 years H/W widow
- 3...SHAHEENA BEGUM daughter 45 years H/W married
- 4.. SHAKEELA BANO daughter 40 years H/W married
- 5...HAJRA BEGUM daughter 49 H/W married
- 6....RUBEENA LONE daughter 38 years H/W married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self.

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application ISHRAT SULTAN , ASMAT SULTAN & JABEENA SULTAN D/O MOHD SULTAN BHAT 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 BHAT community having annual income 544000 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..MOHD SULTAN BHAT Father 50 years Labour
- 2.NASEEMA BAGUM Mother 47 years H/W
- 3... JABEENA SULTAN applicant 27 years student
- 4..ISHRAT SULTAN applicant 25 years student
- 5....WASEEM AHMAD BHAT Brother 22 years student
- 6....ASMAT SULTAN 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

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of FAROOQ AHMAD BOKRA S/O GH MOHD BOKRA for the issuance of R/O..BANDIBALA (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal)in favour of MUDASIR FAROOQ ,FARHAT FAROOQ & SAHIL FAROOQ

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and BOKRA community, having annual income is 1110408 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...FAROOQ AH BOKRA self 51 years Govt Employee
- 2.... NASEEMA BEGUM wife 49 years H/W
- 3....MUDASIR FAROOQ son 24 years student
- 4....FARHAT FAROOQ daughter 22 years student
- 5...SAHIL FAROOQ son 16 years student

The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self.

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 TEHSILDAR KREERI

DLC approves 690 cases under JKCIP, 136 under IDDS

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JANUARY 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee to discuss and approve cases under Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) and Integrated Dairy Development scheme (IDDS).

After detailed scrutiny, the committee approved 690 cases under JKCIP pertaining to Agriculture, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries departments while 136 cases were approved under IDDS of the Animal Husbandry department.



On the occasion, DC directed agriculture and allied departments to focus on establishment of units under these schemes. Besides, he also directed for making improvements in L2, L3 registrations on KKGs, and processing of credit applications under HADP. In order to achieve tangible

results on the ground, DC directed officers to maintain close coordination with beneficiaries for effective monitoring and adopting an outcome based approach.

He further directed the concerned departments to take proactive measures to bridge any deficiencies and ensure early processing of applications and wider coverage under these schemes.

The meeting was attended by General Manager DIC; Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, and other committee members.

Dir Agri chairs procurement rate fixation committee meeting at Krishi Bhawan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JANUARY 15: The Divisional Level Committee constituted for fixation of procurement and sale rates of Potato Seed Tubers and Open Pollinated Vegetable Seeds for the Spring/Kharif 2026 season met today under the chairmanship of the Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu Anil Gupta here at Krishi Bhawan Talab Tillo.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs), Dr. Ashwani Sharma; Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms), Aman Jyoti Sharma; Agronomist (Vegetable Improvement Scheme), Vikas



Padha; Potato Development Officer, Raj Singh Sumbria; Professor of Department Vegetable Sciences and Floriculture, SKUAST-J, Dr. Anil Bushan, Accounts Officer, Vriti Uppal; Divisional Seed Certification Officer (DSCO), Nirmal Prakash Sharma; Technical Officer HADP, Raj Kumar besides other officers and staff.

Director Agriculture, Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah participated in the meeting through video conferencing. Detailed and threadbare discussion was held on the relevant parameters to finalize the procurement and sale rates of open pollinated vegetable seeds and potato seed tubers (Hill Varieties) for the Spring/Kharif 2026 season.

The Director Jammu stressed the need to ensure timely availability of high-quality vegetable and potato seeds to farmers. "In addition to open pollinated varieties, hybrid vegetable seeds shall also be made available, with more than 25 percent of the total supply comprising hybrid seeds," he directed. The Agronomist was instructed to collect district-wise demand from the Chief Agriculture Officers, clearly indicating major crops and their varieties.

The Joint Director SLUB/Farms was asked to strictly adhere to the mandated cropping pattern at departmental farms. Highlighting the emerging trend of urban farming, he also suggested inclusion of vegetable seed mini-kits during procurement to facilitate urban growers.

After due deliberations, the Committee finalized the procurement rates for seeds of major vegetable crops and potato seed tubers for the forthcoming season.

Awareness drive on Social Welfare Schemes held at Bhaderwah

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BHADERWAH, JANUARY 15: An awareness drive on the social welfare schemes was today organized here at Bhaderwah jointly by the Social Welfare Department and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) team.

The drive witnessed active participation from local residents, SHG members and community representatives.

The participants were sensitized to key schemes being implemented by the Social Welfare Department, including those meant for women empowerment, child welfare, old age pension, disability assistance and protection-oriented schemes aimed at social



security and inclusion.

Officials from the Social Welfare Department and NRLM team elaborated on eligibility criteria, documentation requirements and the application process for availing benefits under different schemes. Emphasis was laid on linking self-help groups (SHGs) with welfare initiatives to promote economic empowerment, financial inclusion and sustainable livelihoods at the grassroots level.

The officials encouraged beneficiaries to come forward, seek guidance from concerned offices and ensure timely registration under various schemes. The initiative reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to strengthening last-mile delivery of welfare measures and enhancing public awareness to ensure inclusive and equitable development in the region.

Training Program on National Pest Surveillance System App Organised at Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JANUARY 15: A training-cum-awareness programme on the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) Mobile App was today organized at the Directorate of Agriculture Talab Tillo. The event was organised by Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, Jammu in collaboration with the Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Jammu. The programme aimed to equip agriculture officers from all districts of the Union Territory with comprehensive knowledge of the NPSS mobile application and its web portal, focusing on its practical use in modern pest surveillance and management.

The training was conducted under the chairmanship of the Joint Director (Extension), Jammu Sanjay Anand, who is also the Nodal Officer for NPSS, Jammu. Deputy Director (Plant Protection), Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Arya from CIPMC, Jammu were also present.

The programme was attended by Plant Protection Officer (PPO), Raju Mahajan; APPO (Extension), Ravi Chappare; APPO (Plant Protection) Dr. Haroon Rashid Hakla, District



Agriculture Officers and staff of the Agriculture Department.

Addressing the gathering, Sanjay Anand highlighted the transformative potential of the NPSS app in strengthening pest management and crop protection mechanisms in the region. He stressed the need for organizing similar training and capacity-building programmes at the district level to ensure effective implementation of the system at the grassroots level.

Plant Protection Officer Raju Mahajan elaborated on the operational aspects of NPSS. He stressed to make it fully functional at the field level to enable the farming community to

achieve intended benefits.

Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Arya delivered a detailed presentation on the features and benefits of the NPSS mobile application, emphasizing its importance in early pest detection, real-time reporting and timely advisory services for farmers.

A live demonstration on pest identification and image uploading through the app was also conducted, providing hands-on exposure to the participants.

The event represented a major step forward in leveraging digital technology to enhance agricultural productivity and promote sustainable pest management practices in the region.

Medical cum Eye Screening camp organised for public transport operators at Bunjwah

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, JANUARY 15: Motor Vehicle Department Kishtwar, in collaboration with Traffic Police, Health & Ayush Department, on Thursday organised a Free Medical Cum Eye Screening Camp for Drivers, Cleaners and Transporters here at Bunjwah.

Over 50 drivers received free medical check-ups and health screenings conducted by a team of medical professionals from Health & Ayush Department. They



were also provided free medicines as per the requirement. Rapid drug tests of 15 drivers



were also conducted during the camp, along with raising awareness on safe driving practices and drug

abuse.

Speaking on the occasion, ARTO Tasleem Wani said the drivers

are major stakeholders in road safety and the advised them to go for regular health check-ups. He emphasised that ensuring the physical fitness of drivers not only safeguards their personal health but also contributes to overall road safety.

He thanked BMO Kishtwar and District Officer Ayush, the team of Doctors & other health officials, Incharge Police Post Jawalapur & Transporters of Bunjwah for providing the necessary support for organising the programme.

Pr. District & Sessions Judge Jammu chairs Under Trial Review Committee-2026 meeting

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JANUARY 15: Chairman District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu (Principal District and Sessions Judge) R. N. Watal today chaired the first Undertrial Review Committee-2026 meeting in his office chamber to evaluate cases of under-trial prisoners and to ensure compliance with legal safeguards and timely justice.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Adm), Jammu Ms. Ansuya Jamwal; Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, Joginder Singh; Secretary DLSA Jammu, Maleeka Sharma; Superintendent of Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu, Chhabil Singh; Assistant Superintendent of District Jail Amphalla Jammu, Tarseem Lal and Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel Jammu, Anil Sharma.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed cases based on guidelines from the Supreme Court and NALSASOPs, focusing on prisoners with no representation or those who have spent substantial time behind bars.

The Committee recommended the release of eligible prisoners, by filing bail applications before the appropriate Courts and ensuring



that the benefits of legal provisions reach the intended beneficiaries, especially prisoners. The meeting also discussed action taken, such as conducting regular meetings to track progress, maintaining a consolidated datasheet to monitor prisoners' cases and preparing quarterly reports.

The meeting concluded with appreciation expressed by Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge) Jammu to all the stakeholders for their proactive participation in addressing the concerns related to under trial prisoners.

DLSA Reasi convenes Under Trial Review Committee meeting

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, JANUARY 15: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Reasi today convened Under Trial Review Committee meeting as per Quarterly Schedule issued by National Legal Services Authority for the year 2026.

The meeting was chaired by Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Reasi, Khalil Choudhary and was attended by the members of the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC). The Committee reviewed the cases of under trial prisoners and stressed on effective implementation of legal aid measures in accordance with the mandate of UTRC guidelines. The Committee considered 04 cases of UTPs and recommended 02 cases for release. The committee members present were District Magistrate Reasi, Nidhi Malik; Secretary, DLSA Reasi, Pooja Gupta; Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi Vipan Chandran; Public Prosecutor Pr. District & Sessions Court Reasi Rajesh Bakshi; Chief LADC DLSA Reasi Rashi Baru and Superintendent Sub Jail Reasi S.P. Attari.



During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on individual cases of under-trial prisoners, focusing on prolonged detention,

eligibility for bail, compounding of offences and other legal provisions aimed at reducing unnecessary incarceration. The Chairman

emphasized coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to safeguard the rights of Under trial and to uphold the principles of access to justice and speedy trial. The members assured their full cooperation in implementing the decisions taken during the meeting, reaffirming their commitment to the objectives of the Legal Services Authorities Act and the welfare of Under trial prisoners. Meanwhile, Under the visionary leadership of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Reasi (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge Reasi) Khalil Choudhary and Secretary Pooja Gupta, a door to door campaign was also organised by PLVs of DLSA Reasi and TLSC Mahore to generate awareness about the Government Schemes and prohibition of child marriage Act at different villages of the District. The campaign aimed at spreading legal awareness among the general public, particularly the marginalized and vulnerable sections regarding the benefits, eligibility criteria, procedures for availing different Government Welfare Schemes and importance of girl child protection, education and empowerment.

Rodriguez, Trump hold first call on bilateral “unresolved issues”

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MEXICO CITY, JAN 15 : Venezuela's acting president, Delcy Rodríguez, spoke with US President Donald Trump in a phone call to address “unresolved issues” between their governments.

Rodríguez described the conversation as “long and courteous” and said it focused on a cooperative agenda for both countries as well as outstanding bilateral matters. This marks the first officially confirmed contact between the two leaders since Rodríguez assumed office on January 5.

Rodríguez became acting president after US forces captured President Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores on January 3 in an operation called Absolute Resolve.

Both Maduro and Flores were taken to New York to face charges,

including alleged involvement in narco-terrorism and other threats. During their court appearance, they pleaded not guilty.

Rodríguez posted on X, “Today, I had a lengthy, productive, and courteous telephone conversation with US President Donald Trump, which took place in an atmosphere of mutual respect. We discussed the bilateral working agenda in the interest of our nations, as well as unresolved issues in relations between our governments.”

Trump described the conversation as positive, mentioning that topics like oil, minerals, trade, and national security were discussed. He expressed hope for a strong partnership with Venezuela and optimism about the country's stability and development.

In a Truth Social post, Trump wrote, “This morning I had a very



good call with the Interim President of Venezuela, Delcy Rodríguez.

We are making tremendous progress, as we help Venezuela stabilize and recover. Many topics were discussed, including Oil,

Minerals, Trade and, of course, National Security. This partnership between the United States of America and Venezuela will be a spectacular one FOR ALL. Venezuela will soon be great and prosperous again, perhaps more so than ever before!”

Earlier, Trump said he had discussed oil exports with Rodríguez, stating, “She’s been very good. She asked us if we could take 50 million barrels of oil, and I said yes, we can; it is worth USD 4.2 billion, and it is on its way right now to the United States.”

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk said Tuesday the US military operation in Venezuela has undermined a key principle of international law that prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. UNI

IQ-Line Earns High-Level Recognition at UP AI & Health Innovation Conference

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

LUCKNOW, JAN 15 : IQ-Line achieved a significant milestone at the UP AI & Health Innovation Conference, receiving high-level acclaim for its forward-looking vision of a digitally enabled healthcare ecosystem.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited the exhibition and commended IQ-Line for its contributions toward strengthening and modernising the State's digital health infrastructure.

The event, supported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, witnessed strong engagement from policymakers, healthcare leaders, and the medical community. IQ-Line's participation stood out for its emphasis on practical, scalable, and ready-to-deploy artificial intelligence solutions tailored for real-world clinical environments.

Founders Dr. Saurabh Garg (Chairman & Managing Director), Ayush Garg (Chief Executive Officer), and Amit Jain (Chief Technology Officer) presented IQ-Line's comprehensive AI ecosystem – an integrated roadmap designed to transform healthcare delivery across all levels.

The platform focuses on seamless AI



integration into clinical workflows, advanced automated diagnostics, and a scalable digital framework capable of supporting large public health systems.

“IQ-Line's vision aligns closely with the Government's commitment to leveraging technology for accessible, efficient, and high-quality healthcare,” noted stakeholders during the exhibition, highlighting the company's role in shaping the future of digital health in Uttar Pradesh.

With growing support from government bodies and an enthusiastic response from clinicians and healthcare institutions, IQ-Line continues to position itself as a key enabler of AI-driven healthcare transformation in India. UNI

Indian Oil to provide Rs 62.38 lakh CSR support for Zoram Medical College Hospital

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

AIZAWL, JAN 15 : Zoram Medical College and Hospital (ZMC&H) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) assistance aimed at strengthening healthcare infrastructure in Mizoram.

The MoU was signed between the Director of ZMC&H and Malati Makar, Senior Manager (HR–CSR) of the Indian Oil AOD State Office. Under the agreement, IOCL will extend CSR support amounting to Rs 62.38 lakh for the procurement of critical medical equipment for Zoram Medical College and Hospital at Falkawn.



Officials said the assistance will be utilised for the purchase of an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance, a diathermy machine and C-Arm equipment. These facilities are expected to significantly enhance the hospital's emergency response, diagnostic capabilities and treatment services.

Expressing gratitude, the Director of ZMC&H thanked IOCL for its continued support to the healthcare sector in the state, stating that the equipment would greatly benefit patients and contribute to improving the overall quality of medical care.

Malati Makar reaffirmed Indian Oil's commitment to community welfare through its CSR initiatives, highlighting the company's focus on supporting healthcare services and public well-being across the region. UNI

RIL-Owned Reliance Industries Infra Q3 FY26 Profit Up 9.9 per cent YoY At Rs 3.01 cr

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, JAN 15 : Reliance Industrial Infrastructure Limited (RIIL), which is a group company of the Mukesh Ambani owned-Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), has reported a 9.9 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase in its consolidated net profit for the third quarter of FY26.

According to a company statement, RIIL's consolidated net profit stood at Rs 3.01 crore in Q3 FY26, as compared to Rs 2.74 crore recorded in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. The improvement in profit came despite largely stable income levels during the quarter.

The company's total income

for Q3 FY26 stood at Rs 18.48 crore, which was broadly in line with the Rs 18.60 crore reported in Q3 FY25 on a year-on-year basis. The near-flat income indicates stable business activity during the reporting period.

Reliance Industrial Infrastructure Limited (RIIL) is a Reliance Industries Ltd group company that builds and operates vital industrial infrastructure, primarily focusing on pipeline networks for transporting petroleum products, natural gas, and raw water, along with providing other support services and equipment leasing.

RIIL primarily provides these services to its promoter group company, Reliance Industries



Limited. The company stated that it currently does not have any expansion plans on the anvil. RIIL remains focused on efficiently operating and maintaining its

existing infrastructure assets while continuing to support the operational requirements of Reliance Industries Limited.

On a standalone basis, Reliance

Industrial Infrastructure Limited (RIIL) also reported a consistent performance, while its standalone total income for the quarter was Rs 18.48 crore, similar to Rs 18.60 crore recorded in the same quarter last year.

The company's standalone net profit for Q3 FY26 is at Rs 2.59 crore, as compared to Rs 2.48 crore in Q3 FY25, which is a modest year-on-year (YoY) improvement.

The difference between standalone and consolidated profit is that while standalone profit is defined for a single company's performance, consolidated profit combines the performance of the parent company as well as all its subsidiaries into a single financial statement. UNI

Blockchain to enhance transparency, security in PSC operations: Kerala CM

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN 15 : Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan today said the introduction of blockchain technology would significantly enhance transparency and data security in the functioning of the Kerala Public Service Commission (PSC). Inaugurating the blockchain system at the PSC headquarters here, the Chief Minister said the initiative marked a landmark step in the Commission's history, with advanced digital technology being integrated into its core operations.

The blockchain platform has been developed by the Kerala Digital University, the State's first digital university. With this, Kerala has become the first State in the country to implement blockchain technology in a Public Service Commission, further reinforcing its leadership in digital governance, he said.

The Chief Minister noted that the Kerala PSC had made more than three lakh appointments over the last decade. He said it was a notable achievement that nearly 60 per cent of PSC appointments across the country are carried out through the Kerala PSC.

He attributed these accomplishments to timely modernisation and efficient, systematic functioning. Unlike many other States where PSC recruitment is limited mainly to higher posts, the Kerala PSC conducts recruitment to 1,763 posts spread across more than 100 government departments, over 100 companies, and various boards, corporations and universities.

On an average, the PSC issues around 800 recruitment notifications every year, attracting more than one crore applications annually, with nearly 60 lakh candidates participating.

The Chief Minister pointed out that the PSC has consistently been a role

model in modernisation, with the entire recruitment process—from application submission to issuing appointment recommendations—being fully computerised. The adoption of blockchain technology would further strengthen these mechanisms, he added. He observed that any decline in public sector recruitment disproportionately affects weaker sections of society, and institutions like the PSC play a vital role in ensuring the effective implementation of reservation policies. The Chief Minister also warned against attempts by vested interests to erode the credibility of the PSC, asserting that efforts to undermine the aspirations of the youth would not be allowed. At the function, the Chief Minister released the PSC publication “Udyogarthikal Ariyam” by handing over the first copy to Thiruvananthapuram District Panchayat President V. Priyadarshini.

Kotak marks 30 years on NSE

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

KOCHI, JAN 15 : Kotak Mahindra Bank has marked 30 years of being listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) with a bell-ringing ceremony, celebrating its growth journey alongside India's emergence as a strong, trusted and modern financial market.

From its beginnings as a small non-banking financial company in the 1980s, Kotak has evolved into one of India's most respected financial institutions, a release said. Its transition from structured finance to a diversified financial services conglomerate mirrors India's shift towards deeper capital markets, wider



access to formal finance and rapid adoption of digital public infrastructure.

Over the past three decades, the Bank has expanded by strengthening customer trust, improving access to financial solutions and contributing to the growing stability and transparency of India's financial ecosystem.

Today, Kotak commands a market capitalisation of about 4.2 trillion, with consolidated customer assets of 5,76,339 crore as of September 30, 2025, and a consolidated profit after tax of 22,126 crore for FY25.

The Bank's scale and consistency reflect the increasing resilience and maturity of India's financial markets. Ashok Vaswani, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank, said the milestone underscored the Bank's commitment to India's financial future. “Our 30 years on the NSE reflect a shared journey with India as the nation built stronger and more trusted financial markets.

Kotak has grown by earning the confidence of millions of customers and widening access to financial solutions. As India enters its next phase of growth, getting it right by the customer remains central to who we are,” he said. Ashish Kumar Chauhan, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Stock Exchange of India, said Kotak's three decades of listing highlight the transformation of India's capital markets.

“Over these years, markets have become deeper, more transparent and technologically advanced, enabling wider participation and reinforcing investor confidence. This milestone reflects the resilience and maturity of India's financial ecosystem,” he noted. UNI

Moody's revises Adani Ports outlook to stable from negative

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, JAN 15 : Moody's Ratings (Moody's) has today affirmed the Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited's (APSEZ) Baa3 issuer and senior unsecured ratings.

At the same time, we have revised the outlook on APSEZ's ratings to stable from negative., it said.

“The stable outlook reflects our expectation that APSEZ would maintain solid access to liquidity and a credit profile in line with its Baa3 rating over the next 12-18 months. APSEZ's robust financial profile is supported by the discretionary nature of its planned capital spending for growth and funding access,” Moody's said.

According to Moody's the affirmation of APSEZ's ratings further captures the company's strong market position as India's largest port developer and operator by cargo volume.

“We expect APSEZ's cargo throughput to increase in fiscal 2026, on the back of contribution from recently commissioned ports.



That said, throughput growth during the year will likely slow down as a result of the elevated trade tensions with the US as well as operational disruptions as a result of the India-Pakistan conflict during the June quarter,” Moody's said.

The credit rating agency expects the port's funds from operations (FFO) to debt to moderate to the low to mid-20% range over the next 2-3 years as a result of debt-funded capital expenditure, versus the minimum tolerance level of 14%.

Over the medium term, Moody's expect APSEZ's credit profile to be driven by its growth initiatives as well as its funding approach for the related capital spending requirements.

“We assume that any strategic acquisitions will be funded in a manner consistent with the debt incurrence covenant, which requires debt/net worth to remain below 3 times. Our base case scenario does not include additional capital spending potentially required to develop new ports in Maharashtra, per two non-binding

memorandum of understandings APSEZ has entered into with the State authorities,” Moody's said.

In November 2024, the chairman of Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), along with two other senior executives, were indicted by the US Attorney's Office in a criminal case, while the US Securities and Exchange Commission initiated civil proceedings against them. The charges and allegations include: (1) conspiracy to commit securities and wire fraud; (2) securities fraud involving misleading statements; and (3) omission to disclose material

facts in certain statements.

“Although the allegations and the charges pertain to AGEL's senior executives, one of the individuals has a prominent role as chairman as well as the controlling shareholder of APSEZ. Based on our understanding of the key project documents, we expect the contagion risk from the ongoing proceedings to the operation of APSEZ to be manageable within the rating,” the Moody's said.

Since the initial filing, various Adani Group entities have continued to demonstrate access to liquidity - for refinancing, hedge rollovers and growth funding. At the same time, management confirmed that there were no material disruption to Group entities' operations - including at APSEZ - as a result of the indictment.

That said, negative outcome from the indictment proceedings or further evidence of material corporate governance weaknesses - if materialized - could still have an adverse impact on the group's ability to execute its growth initiatives or its funding access in the future. UNI



Kohli Overtakes Rohit as ODI No. 1

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

VADODARA: Virat Kohli has replaced Rohit Sharma as the top-ranked batter in men's ODIs on the ICC table after his 91-ball 93 led India's chase to top New Zealand's 300 in the first ODI of the three-match series in Vadodara on Sunday.

With the latest update, Kohli has achieved the top spot on the table for the 11th time. He first got there in October 2013, and has now spent a total of 825 days at No.1, the most by an India batter. Kohli is in tenth place in the all-time list, which is topped by Vivian Richards, who held the top position for 2306 days.

His recent run has been spectacular. Prior to the Player-of-the-Match-winning performance in Vadodara, he had a sequence of 74*, 135, 102 and 65* in his last four ODIs, the only format he is still active in internationally.

As for Rohit, he has not only conceded the top spot, but has also slipped two spots to No. 3 after scoring just 26 in the opening ODI. Daryl Mitchell, who top-scored with 84 in 71 balls for New Zealand in that game, has moved up to No. 2 from No. 3. But those spots could change with one standout innings: Kohli has 785 points, Mitchell 784, and Rohit 775.

KL Rahul is the other batter to

As for Rohit, he has not only conceded the top spot, but has also slipped two spots to No. 3 after scoring just 26 in the opening ODI. Daryl Mitchell, who top-scored with 84 in 71 balls for New Zealand in that game, has moved up to No. 2 from No. 3. But those spots could change with one standout innings: Kohli has 785 points, Mitchell 784, and Rohit 775

make a move up the table, going from No. 12 to No. 11 after scoring 29 not out in 21 deliveries in Vadodara.

The Ashes series is over, and Travis Head, who topped the run-scorers' charts with 629 runs, and Steven Smith, who finished with a flourish with 138 in the finale at the SCG, have moved up in the latest rankings update for Test cricket.

Head is now up at No. 3 and Smith at No. 4. Joe Root, who had 400 runs in the series, and Harry Brook, who had 358, are in the top two positions. Their team-mate Jacob Bethell, who hit 154 in the second innings at SCG, rose a remarkable 25 places to 52nd.

Mitchell Starc was the standout bowler in the series, finishing with 31 wickets and the Player-of-the-Series award. His numbers took him up six spots from ninth to third on the Test bowlers' table.

Scott Boland's 20 wickets in the series, meanwhile, helped him hold on to the seventh position, the same as where he was at the start of the series.

In men's T20Is, Wanindu Hasaranga's five wickets in the three-match series at home against Pakistan has moved him up three places to second among the bowlers, while Sahibzada Farhan gained among batters, going from sixth to fifth, after scoring 51 in the first game.

Hazlewood 'on track' to be part of Australia's T20 World Cup campaign

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SYDNEY: Josh Hazlewood is confident of being ready for the start of Australia's T20 World Cup campaign in Sri Lanka next month after seeing his Ashes wiped out by injury.

Hazlewood was ruled out of the start of the England series with a hamstring strain and then picked up an Achilles problem during his rehab. He won't feature in the latter stages of the BBL, where he is on Sydney Sixers' supplementary list, or in the T20Is against Pakistan in late January, but is targeting a warm-up match ahead of the



World Cup early next month.

The tournament schedule also works in Hazlewood's favour, with Australia's first match, against Ireland, not until February 11. Chair of selectors George Bailey has previously flagged potentially holding Pat Cummins back to give him more time if needed, but Australia wouldn't be able to carry more than one player who wasn't able to feature from the start.

"Everything's going to plan," Hazlewood told ESPNcricinfo. "We took a few extra weeks once we couldn't make the Test matches. I had a couple of bowls off the half-run last week. Running's going well, all the strength stuff's going well so, yeah, on track."

Since the 2020-21 season, when Hazlewood played all four Tests against India, he has only completed one home summer without injury. That came as part of an unbroken ten-Test stretch between the middle of 2023 during the Ashes and the start of the 2024-25 India series, which was then curtailed by calf and side strains. Prior to this summer, Hazlewood played four Tests in a month during the winter with the World Test Championship final followed by three in the West Indies.

Life's all purple for the WPL's new pace queen Nandani Sharma

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI: When Nandani Sharma completed a hat-trick in just her second WPL match, her emotions took over. She roared, pointed towards the stands, and offered a salute to the Delhi Capitals (DC) management seated there. It was her way of acknowledging the faith they had shown in her, for backing her at a time when she was "struggling" and giving her the opportunity to perform on the big stage.

A two-wicket haul on debut was followed by a night to remember: the first hat-trick by an uncapped Indian player in WPL history, and a place on an

elite list as only the second Indian to take a five-for in the tournament, all achieved inside two games. "I was told from the beginning that I will be backed no matter what," she said after the five-for against Gujarat Giants (GG). "DC picked me, so I feel like I wanted to do something for DC. My celebration was for them."

The 24-year-old Chandigarh quick had been on DC's radar for some time before they secured her for INR 20 lakh at the auction late last year. Her main strength is to land the ball on a good length repeatedly, but she also has several variations, especially her slower balls.

One such variation, a back-of-the-hand slower ball, proved



decisive against GG. Bowling her second over after being taken apart by Sophie Devine in her first, Nandani rolled her fingers on the ball and deceived Devine, who was well set on 95. The

wicket sparked a turnaround. From there, Nandani ran through the lower order, picking up four more wickets, including the hat-trick in the final over.

A moment that captured the

significance of the spell was when Devine, who held the purple cap before the game, handed it over to Nandani during the break between innings.

In the stands that evening were her mother Seema and brother Akash, whom Nandani waved at after earning the cap. Over the past year, they have been more than just a support system. They have been her coaches too, helping her develop her inswinger. Earlier, much of her learning had come from training alongside boys.

"I used to practice with a coach first and then he taught me how to bowl the bouncer," Nandani said. "In between, I changed my coach after the lockdown."

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