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TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



P:12
Bangladesh skipper Nigar Sultana Joty wants more after Indonesia Asia Cup win

HT BRIEFLY

EOW Kashmir Chargesheets Man in Alleged Land-Grabbing, Forgery Case

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 1: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K has filed a chargesheet against a Srinagar resident in a case concerning an alleged attempt to grab land and obtain building permission using forged documents.

The chargesheet has been filed before the Court of Sub-Judge, Srinagar, in FIR No. 08/2016 registered under Sections 420/511, 167, 471 and 120-B RPC.The accused has been identified as Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, a resident of Barapather, Haft Chinari, Srinagar. The case also names

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MBBS Interns Continue Stipend Protest Across J&K for Second Day

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 1:MBBS interns across Jammu and Kashmir continued their protest for the second consecutive day on Tuesday, pressing the government to revise their monthly internship stipend to 30,000.

The interns held peaceful demonstrations at medical institutions across the Union Territory, reiterating their demand for a substantial revision in the stipend and implementation of the pending demand.

The agitation continued despite Health Minister Sakina Itoo stating that the interns' demand was genuine

>>> MORE ON P 02

All Schools Closed Across Poonch Amid Heavy Rainfall

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

POONCH, SEP 1: The Poonch administration on Tuesday ordered closure of all government and private schools across the district as heavy rainfall continued to lash the area.

The decision was taken as a precautionary measure amid concerns over a possible rise in water levels in rivers and streams following persistent rainfall.

Chief Education Officer Poonch Javed Gulshan said the closure was ordered keeping the safety of students and teaching staff in view.

‘‘In view of the prevailing weather conditions and keeping the safety of students and teachers in mind, all government and private

>>> MORE ON P 02

Man Dies After Falling From Walnut Tree in Tral

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

TRAL, SEP 1: A man died after accidentally falling from a walnut tree while harvesting walnuts at Laribal area of Tral in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

The deceased was identified as Ghulam Mohammed Ganai, son of Mohammed Khaleel Ganai, a resident of Laribal, Tral.

Ganai reportedly fell from the tree while threshing walnuts and sustained critical injuries in the accident.

He was immediately shifted to SMHS Hospital Srinagar for specialized treatment, where he later succumbed to his injuries. [KNT]

6.83% Power Tariff Hike Comes Into Force in J&K From Today; ToD Billing Also Introduced

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 1: Electricity consumers across Jammu and Kashmir will start paying higher tariffs from Tuesday as the revised power tariff approved by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh (JERC-JKL) comes into effect from September 1.

The commission has approved an average 6.83 per cent increase in retail electricity tariffs for the 2026-27 financial year. The revised rates will apply to electricity consumed from September 1, 2026,

>>> MORE ON P 02

LG Orders Tougher Anti-Terror Drive As J&K Security Apparatus Reviewed

Manoj Sinha stresses area domination, action against narco-terror networks and stronger public-police engagement



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 1: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the security situation and strategic preparedness across Jammu and Kashmir, directing security agencies to maintain sustained pressure on terror networks, intensify area domination and strengthen inter-agency coordination. Sinha called for a proactive approach to emerging threats while directing officials to step up operations against narco-terror networks and closely monitor cyber and social media platforms for digital misinformation, anti-national propaganda and online blackmailing. He also emphasised the importance of public confidence in policing and asked police officers to maintain regular engagement with citizens, ensure transparent grievance redressal and conduct investigations with

fairness and professionalism. Senior civil, police and security officials briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the security situation, counter-terror operations, law and order, drug smuggling and other emerging challenges across the UT.

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today chaired a high-level review meeting with senior officials and assessed the security apparatus and strategic preparedness across the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Shri Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home Department; Shri S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri M.K. Sinha, ADGP, CID; Shri Sujit Kumar, IGP Kashmir

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J&K Clears ₹2,692-Crore Urban Transformation Package

Jammu, Srinagar and Katra projects to combine public funding, PPP investment and market-linked financing

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 1: The Union Territory High Powered Steering Committee, headed by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, has approved three major urban development projects with a cumulative base cost of ₹2,692.58 crore under the Government of India's Urban Challenge Fund, covering Jammu's Tawi riverfront, Srinagar's historic core and lakefront areas, and pilgrimage infrastructure in Katra. The ₹1,567.91-crore TARANG project envisages regeneration of the Tawi riverfront and surrounding areas through public infrastructure and PPP-led development, while the ₹1,010.77-crore Walled City and Nigeen Lakefront Revitalisation project aims to rejuvenate Srinagar's historic urban spaces and unlock their tourism and economic potential. The ₹113.90-crore KRIPA project in Katra will focus on pilgrim



amenities, traffic management, parking and institutional infrastructure, including a gateway centre with accommodation and commercial facilities and a multi-level parking facility. The administration said the projects are intended to create investment-ready

>>> MORE ON P 02

Omar Reviews IFFJK Preparations, Meets New IAS Officers

CM stresses seamless coordination for first International Film Festival of J&K; discusses policing, governance and investment-related matters

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 1: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday reviewed preparations for the first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) and held separate meetings with newly inducted IAS officers, senior police officials and representatives of Ernst & Young (E&Y) at the Civil Secretariat here.

During his meeting with a group of 12 newly inducted IAS officers, including Babila Rakhwal, Shabnam Shah Kamili, Rachna Sharma, Leena Padha, Rajinder Singh Tara, Munirul Islam, Sajjad Hussain Gani, Anoo Malhotra, Nitu Gupta, Prediman Krishan Bhat, Bhawani Rakhwal and Anuradha Gupta, the Chief



Minister congratulated them on joining the Indian Administrative Service.

Omar Abdullah wished the officers a successful tenure and urged them to uphold the spirit of public service with dedication and professionalism.

The Chief Minister separately

met Commissioner Secretary, Information and Planning Department, R

. Alice Vaz, who briefed him on preparations for the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir, scheduled from September 7 to 10.

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Sunil Sharma Challenges Omar To Seek Fresh Mandate On Statehood

BJP leader accuses NC of diverting attention from jobs and governance as parties prepare for rival protests

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 1: Jammu and Kashmir BJP leader and Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma on Tuesday challenged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to resign and seek a fresh mandate if restoration of statehood was the central issue on which his government

wanted public backing. Reacting to the National Conference's decision to stage protests outside BJP offices in Srinagar and Jammu on September 2, Sharma alleged that the ruling party was using the statehood issue to divert attention from employment and governance concerns. He claimed that the NC had sought votes in the Assembly elections on issues such as



electricity, jobs and ration rather than restoration of statehood, and also levelled allegations regarding the distribution of government posts among party workers. The BJP leader said his party's proposed protest

would focus on employment opportunities for youth, while the National Conference has said its programme is aimed at pressing the Union Government to fulfil commitments relating to restoration of statehood and constitutional safeguards. Jammu and Kashmir BJP leader and Leader of

>>> MORE ON P 02

HT BOTTOM NEWS

Heavy Rains Batter Parts Of J&K As Me T Warns Of Flash Floods

Kathua records 73 mm rainfall; intense showers may trigger landslides and mudslides in vulnerable areas

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 1: Several parts of Jammu and Kashmir received significant rainfall during the past 24 hours, with Kathua recording the highest precipitation at 73 mm, followed by Katra with 62 mm, Poonch with 38.5 mm and Udhampur with 27 mm, according to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar. The weather office has forecast generally cloudy conditions across J&K on September 1 and 2, with light to moderate rain or thundershowers at many places



and the possibility of brief intense showers, particularly over parts of the Jammu division. Authorities have been cautioned that intense localised rainfall could trigger flash floods, mudslides and landslides in vulnerable areas. Weather is expected to remain

generally dry on September 3, while another spell of rain and thundershowers is likely at many places on September 4, followed by predominantly dry conditions from September 5 to

>>> MORE ON P 02

Altaf Bukhari Calls For Collective Action To Protect J&K Bank

Apni Party chief raises concerns over credit growth, recruitment, board representation and headquarters

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 1: Apni Party president and former Jammu and Kashmir Finance Minister Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has appealed to political parties, civil society, business organisations, intellectuals, lawyers and chambers of commerce to come together to safeguard the interests and institutional identity of J&K Bank. Bukhari expressed concern over what he termed the bank's gradual drift away from the interests of people



in the Union Territory, alleging that credit expansion within J&K was declining even as the bank expanded outside the region. He also questioned a reported

>>> MORE ON P 02

Javid Dar inaugurates BDC building at Kralgund; stresses accountable, transparent grassroots governance

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 1: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated the Block Development Council (BDC) Building at Kralgund, Kupwara, marking another step towards strengthening the Panchayati Raj institutions.

MLA Langate, Sheikh Khurshed Ahmad, accompanied the Minister during the visit.

Addressing a large gathering on the occasion, the Minister said that the newly established BDC building is not merely an administrative infrastructure but an important institutional mechanism for empowering the grassroots democratic institutions and ensuring responsive, accessible and people-oriented governance.

Constructed at a cost of Rs 97 lakh, the building will provide a dedicated platform for functioning of the Block Development Council. The utility will facilitate the people of the area in putting forth their developmental concerns and grievances before the concerned authorities without having to travel long distances.

Javid Dar said that strengthening Panchayati Raj institutions is central to the government's vision of decentralized development, wherein local communities and their elected representatives have a meaningful role in



identifying priorities, planning development works and monitoring their implementation. He emphasized that the government is committed to ensure that the benefits of welfare and development schemes being implemented by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the Government of India reach the deserving beneficiaries in a timely, transparent and hassle-free manner.

He reiterated that accountability and transparency will remain the cornerstone of

the government's development agenda, particularly in execution of works at the grassroots level. He directed the concerned functionaries to ensure proper utilisation of public resources, adherence to approved norms and specifications, timely completion of works and transparency at every stage of project implementation. "Every rupee of public money must translate into tangible development and public benefit," the Minister said while stressing that government institutions must remain

accessible and accountable to the people.

Javid Dar maintained that equitable development of all regions and areas is a fundamental priority of the government, with particular attention being given to rural, remote and far-flung areas. He called upon the officers to work in close coordination with elected representatives and local communities so that developmental planning remains aligned with the actual needs of the people.

The Minister also underscored the importance of regular field visits, effective grievance redressal mechanisms and continuous monitoring of ongoing projects to ensure quality, efficiency and timely delivery of services.

MLA Langate, Sheikh Khurshed Ahmad, in his address, highlighted the vast developmental potential of Kupwara district, particularly in the sectors of agriculture, horticulture and rural development. He called for focused interventions and sustained investment in these sectors to unlock the district's economic potential, strengthen rural livelihoods and create greater employment and income opportunities for the local population.

Director Rural Development Kashmir, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Assistant Commissioner Development Handwara, other senior officers of the concerned departments and a large number of local people were present on the occasion.

JKSSB invites applications for 2,863 posts across J&K departments

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, September 1 (KNS): The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) has invited online applications for 2,863 posts in various departments of the Union Territory administration, according to an official notification issued on Tuesday.

The recruitment process has been notified under Advertisement Notification No. 09 of 2026, dated September 1, covering posts across UT, divisional and district cadres.

Eligible candidates can submit their applications online from October 5, while the last date for submission is November 3, the notification said.

Applicants must be domiciles of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and are required to possess a valid J&K Domicile Certificate by the last date for submitting applications.

The prescribed upper age limit is 40 years for candidates belonging to the Open Merit category and generally 43 years for candidates falling under reserved categories, subject to applicable age relaxations under government rules.

The educational qualifications vary according to the posts. For Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) and Class-IV positions, candidates are required to have qualifications ranging from matriculation to 10+2.

For posts of Sanitation Workers, the minimum educational qualification ranges from Class 8 pass to 10+2, depending on the specific post.

The board has advised prospective applicants to carefully go through the detailed advertisement, including the post-wise eligibility criteria, vacancies, reservation provisions and other conditions, before submitting their applications.

The recruitment drive is expected to provide opportunities for candidates seeking government employment across different departments and administrative cadres in Jammu and Kashmir. (KNS).

DC Budgam reviews progress of National Highways, Vital Road Projects

■ HT News Network

UDGAM, SEPTEMBER 01: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today reviewed the progress of the National Highway and other vital road projects in the district at a meeting with concerned executing agencies.

The Deputy Commissioner directed agencies to expedite ongoing works while ensuring quality standards and completion within stipulated timelines. He stressed that improved road infrastructure is vital for better connectivity, seamless mobility, tourism promotion and economic growth in the district.

He called for close coordination among departments, prompt resolution of bottlenecks and regular monitoring of project progress to prevent delays and ensure



timely completion for the benefit of the general public.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, ACR, CE PwD, Superintending Engineer R&B, Executive Engineers of various engineering wings, officers from NHAI and other concerned officials attended the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner directed agencies to expedite ongoing works while ensuring quality standards and completion within stipulated timelines. He stressed that improved road

infrastructure is vital for better connectivity, seamless mobility, tourism promotion and economic growth in the district.

He called for close coordination among departments, prompt resolution of bottlenecks and regular monitoring of project progress to prevent delays and ensure timely completion for the benefit of the general public.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, ACR, CE PwD, Superintending Engineer.

DC Anantnag chairs Multidepartment District-Level Task Force meeting on Mining

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 01: In order to review issues related to mining and the implementation of S.O. 61 of 2026, aimed at strengthening the enforcement mechanism against illegal mining activities in the district, besides ensuring the availability of construction material for government works, a meeting of the Multidepartmental District-Level Task Force was held under chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stressed upon the officers of the Irrigation, Flood Control, Geology & Mining, Revenue and other concerned departments to adopt a strict and coordinated approach to curb illegal mining activities in the district. He emphasized ensuring adequate availability



of illegally sourced construction material for ongoing works being executed by various government departments.

Dr. Bilal directed the Police, Revenue, Mining, Flood Control, Irrigation and other concerned departments to work in close coordination to effectively curb illegal mining and ensure a hassle-free supply of legally extracted material to macadam plants, crusher plants, contractors and other authorized users, after payment of the applicable consideration fee and other due charges under rules. He further instructed

them to effectively implement the prescribed mining regulations and strengthen field-level monitoring while ensuring prompt action against violations. The DC further directed the concerned officers to maintain strict monitoring of mining activities and ensure that extraction is carried out from designated and approved sites while safeguarding the environment, irrigation infrastructure and nearby habitations. During the meeting, the XEN Flood Control and District Mining Officer (DMO) informed the chair that 27 dry blocks, with an estimated quantity of 12 lakh cubic metres, have been identified for extraction of RBM, nallah muck and wet-mix raw material for government works. The meeting was attended by ADC, Dr. Muzamil Maqbool, ACR, SDMs, SE Hydraulics, DFO, Chief Wildlife Warden, XENs of R&B and Irrigation & Flood Control.

DC Budgam Reviews Arrangements for conduct of Forest Deptt PST/PET

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 01: Deputy



Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today reviewed arrangements for the smooth, transparent and hassle-free conduct of the Physical Standard Test (PST)/Physical Endurance Test (PET) for various posts of the Forest Department.

The meeting discussed detailed arrangements for the conduct of the tests, scheduled to be held on September 08,

2026 at Wathoor New Bypass Road, including security, traffic management, medical facilities, venue arrangements and other logistical requirements.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments and agencies to ensure close coordination and make adequate arrangements well in advance for the smooth conduct of the tests.

He instructed the concerned departments for smooth and hassle-free conduct of the test for applicants.

Among others, senior officers from Police, Traffic, SDRF, JKSSRB, Civil Administration, Health, NHAI, R&B, Jal Shakti, KPDC and Municipal Committee Chadoora attended the meeting.

Union Secretary chairs workshop on “Administrative Data Harmonisation” at SKICC

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 01: The Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES), J&K, under the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, organised a one-day UT-level workshop on “Administrative Data Harmonisation” at SKICC, Srinagar, to strengthen the quality, consistency, interoperability and effective use of administrative data across government departments.

Dr. Saurabh Garg, Secretary, Union Ministry for Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) chaired the event.

R. Alice Vaz, Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department along with other Administrative Secretaries of major line departments were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Saurabh Garg highlighted the pivotal role of administrative data in strengthening the national statistical system. He stressed harmonisation of concepts, definitions, classifications, metadata and standards to ensure comparability, interoperability and statistical quality. He encouraged J&K to leverage institutional mechanisms such



as Data Strategic Units and Chief Data Officers. Addressing the gathering, R. Alice Vaz introduced the broad objectives of the workshop. She emphasised the importance of reliable, standardised and timely data for evidence-based policy formulation, efficient resource allocation and outcome-oriented governance. She stressed stronger coordination among the departments besides improvement of data systems at the source.

The Commissioner Secretary underscored the importance of departmental ownership, inter-departmental coordination and sustainable institutional mechanisms for ensuring regular and quality administrative data flows aligned with planning, monitoring and evidence-based decision-making.

In her welcome address, Ashu Gupta, Director General, Economics & Statistics, J&K, described the workshop as an important step towards establishing a common statistical language across government departments. She clarified that harmonisation is aimed at establishing common standards, definitions, classifications and metadata while retaining departmental ownership and accountability. She called for a shift from fragmented and periodic data collection towards a regular, structured and quality-assured administrative data ecosystem.

The technical sessions featured experts from MoSPI, Government of Delhi, Government of Karnataka, Delhi Technological University, Population Council

and other professional institutions. The discussions covered the national initiative on Data Harmonisation and Support for Statistical Strengthening, Data and AI initiatives, administrative data for population and development evidence, Karnataka's Kutumba Digital Family Registry besides the Economic, Analytical and Governance Framework of Administrative Data Harmonisation.

A dedicated discussion was also held to identify the administrative datasets that could be made AI-ready, facilitating improved analytics, innovation and evidence-based governance. The Kutumba initiative provided practical insights into the use of integrated digital family registries for targeted delivery of government benefits and services.

The workshop was attended by the Administrative Secretaries, senior officers from MoSPI, Chief Data Officers, members of Data Strategic Units and other senior officials, providing a platform to share experiences, identify challenges and develop practical pathways for administrative data harmonisation in J&K. Besides, the Chief Planning Officers and District Statistics and Evaluation Officers from various districts of UT also participated in the workshop.

HT EDITORIAL

Beyond Crackdowns : Make Integrity the Default in J&K Governance

Zero Tolerance For Corruption Must
Move From Official Declarations to the
everyday functioning of government

Corruption is not defeated by occasional raids, suspensions or high-profile investigations alone. It is defeated when institutions are designed and managed in a manner that leaves little room for manipulation, favouritism and abuse of authority. For Jammu and Kashmir, the real measure of administrative reform will not be the number of initiatives announced, but whether an ordinary citizen can access government services without delay, influence or fear.

There is little doubt that governance in Jammu and Kashmir has undergone a significant transformation in recent years. The expansion of digital services, online applications, e-governance platforms, transparent recruitment mechanisms and improved financial monitoring has reduced unnecessary human intervention in several areas. Such reforms are important because technology can bring transparency to processes that were once vulnerable to discretion and opacity.

But technology alone cannot eliminate corruption. The mindset within institutions must change alongside the systems. Corruption does not always arrive in the form of a demand for money. Sometimes it appears as an unexplained delay, a deliberately complicated procedure, preferential treatment, manipulation of rules or the misuse of official position. These practices may seem small in isolation, but collectively they erode public confidence and undermine the credibility of the administration.

The citizen should not have to know an influential person to get a legitimate government service. Nor should access to an office depend upon personal connections. A transparent system is one in which the rules are clear, decisions are traceable and services are delivered according to entitlement rather than influence.

This demands continuous administrative scrutiny. Every department should periodically examine procedures that create unnecessary bottlenecks. Rules that have become outdated or unnecessarily complicated must be simplified. Services that can be delivered digitally should be taken online, while digital systems themselves must be regularly audited to ensure that they are accessible, secure and genuinely functional.

At the heart of this reform, however, lies the public servant. Government employment is not merely a career; it carries a public responsibility. Honesty, impartiality and professionalism must therefore be treated as essential attributes of public service. Vigilance mechanisms, regular audits, ethics training and rotation of officials in sensitive assignments can strengthen this culture. Equally, officials who demonstrate exceptional integrity and efficiency should be recognised. Institutions become stronger when honesty is rewarded rather than taken for granted.

Citizens also have an important role in building clean governance. A responsive grievance-redressal system can become one of the strongest safeguards against administrative misconduct. Complaints must be examined objectively, genuine grievances addressed promptly and those who raise concerns in good faith protected from retaliation. Public participation in governance becomes meaningful only when people believe that speaking up can lead to corrective action.

There is another critical dimension: the certainty of accountability. Investigations into alleged corruption must be impartial, evidence-based and professional. Disciplinary proceedings should not remain pending indefinitely, while cases before the courts should move forward without unnecessary delays. When accountability is excessively slow, it weakens public confidence and diminishes the deterrent effect of the law.

The Union Territory administration and the elected government have repeatedly underlined their commitment to transparency, accountability and good governance. The challenge now is to ensure that this commitment becomes institutional practice rather than remaining confined to policy statements.

Ultimately, clean governance is not about creating an atmosphere of fear among officials. It is about creating an environment in which honest officials can work without pressure, citizens can access services without influence and public resources are used strictly for public welfare.

Jammu and Kashmir's development journey requires institutions that command trust. Roads, hospitals, schools and infrastructure matter, but so does the integrity with which public money and public authority are administered.

The next stage of reform must therefore be deeper than another crackdown. It must create a culture where corruption is difficult, accountability is certain and integrity is routine. Zero tolerance should not be an occasional government slogan. It should become the everyday character of governance.



BY-MOOL RAJ

The decision to increase electricity tariffs in Jammu & Kashmir at a time when ordinary families are already struggling with the rising cost of living is deeply disappointing. More importantly, it raises a fundamental question of political accountability: what happened to the promises made to the people before the Assembly elections? Following Political News

The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission has approved an average tariff increase of 6.83 per cent, applicable from September 1, 2026. For metered domestic consumers, the rate for consumption up to 200 units has increased from 2.30 to 2.45 per unit; for 201-400 units, from 4.00 to 4.20; and above 400 units, from 4.35 to 4.60 per unit.

These figures may appear small when viewed from the comfort of government offices. For an ordinary household, however, every additional financial burden matters.

From promise of relief to reality of higher bills

The National Conference went before the electorate promising 200 units of free electricity. That promise naturally created expectations among families that desperately needed relief.

Today, instead of experiencing the promised relief, consumers are confronting increased tariffs.

The government may argue that its promise of free electricity and the general electricity tariff are technically separate matters. But politics cannot be reduced to technical explanations. The real question is what an ordinary voter understood when promises of cheaper or free electricity were made.

People vote on the basis of promises and the reasonable expectations created by those promises.

If financial constraints, distribution losses and the cost of purchasing electricity were realities after the election, they were realities before the election as well. Governments cannot discover economic realities only after obtaining the mandate

Sky Touching Electric Tarrif In Jammu And Kashmir

of the people.

Winter Zone of Jammu Division and Kashmir's winter cannot be viewed through ordinary consumption calculations



The impact of electricity prices assumes an even greater significance in the Jammu and Kashmir Valley.

For people sitting outside Kashmir, electricity may be regarded primarily as a source of lighting and running household appliances. During Kashmir's severe winter, electricity is intimately connected with survival, warmth and basic human comfort.

Temperatures fall below freezing in many areas. Water pipes freeze. Snowfall disrupts normal life. Families depend increasingly upon electric heaters, boilers, geysers, heating blankets and other appliances.

The elderly, children and economically weaker families suffer the most.

This means that electricity consumption during the harsh winter months cannot simply be treated as discretionary consumption. A Kashmiri family using additional electricity to keep its children or elderly parents warm is not indulging in luxury.

It is responding to climatic necessity.

And the timing is particularly unfortunate. The revised tariff becomes applicable from September 1 and will remain applicable through the approaching winter until March 31, 2027.

The government should therefore ask itself a simple question:

The Debate Of Euthanasia



SURINDERPAL SINGH

The Modern medicine has transformed human life and revolutionized the ways of treating the patients. Diseases that were once considered incurable can now be treated. Life can be prolonged through advanced technology and patients can survive conditions that were once fatal. Yet this progress has created a difficult question: When the medical treatments can no longer cure a patient, should a person have the right to decide how and when life should end? This question lies at the heart of the debate over euthanasia.

Euthanasia generally refers to intentionally ending the life of a person suffering from a serious and incurable condition to relieve unbearable suffering. It is one of the most sensitive subjects in modern society because it involves not only medicine but also human dignity, individual freedom, ethics, religion, law and social responsibility. The debate is not simply about choosing between life and death. It is about understanding what constitutes a dignified life and a compassionate death.

Advances in medical technology have made it possible to keep the human body functioning for long periods, sometimes even when recovery is extremely unlikely. Ventilators, artificial nutrition, intensive-care treatment and other technologies can prolong biological life. But prolonging life and improving life are not always the same thing.

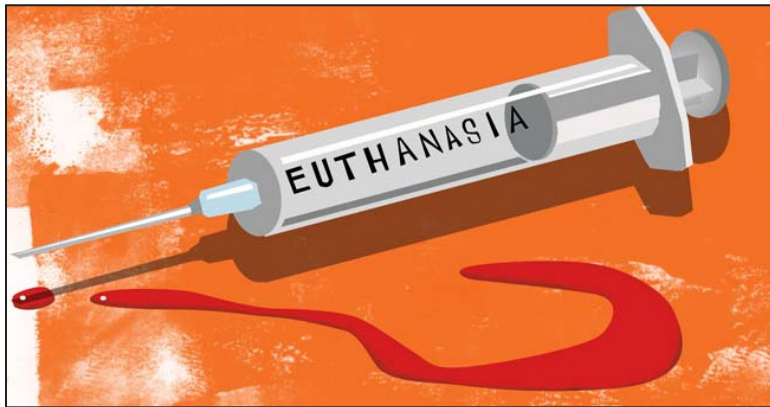
A terminally ill patient may experience severe pain, loss of independence and complete dependence on others. In some cases, medical treatment may no longer provide a realistic possibility of recovery. For such patients, the question of whether suffering should be prolonged becomes deeply personal. The supporters of euthanasia argue that a mentally competent person suffering from an incurable and unbearable condition should have some say in

decisions concerning the final stage of life.

The strongest argument in favour of euthanasia is human dignity. Every individual wants to live with a sense of independence, self-respect and control over important personal decisions. When a terminal illness permanently destroys these abilities, some patients may feel that continuing treatment merely prolongs suffering rather than meaningful life. Hence the supporters believe that respecting a person's informed wishes in such

they are becoming a burden on their family. A poor patient may feel pressured because treatment is expensive. Someone suffering from depression may make a decision that could change if appropriate psychological support were provided.

There is also a danger that society might gradually begin to consider certain lives—particularly those of the elderly, disabled or seriously ill—as less valuable. Such a situation would be deeply dangerous. The right to dignity must never become a justification



circumstances can be an expression of compassion rather than cruelty. However, this argument must be approached carefully. Illness, disability or dependence should never be interpreted as making a person's life less valuable.

Pain is another important factor in the euthanasia debate. The Modern palliative medicine can successfully control many forms of physical pain, but suffering is not always limited to physical discomfort. Patients may also experience fear, anxiety, loss of independence, loneliness and emotional distress. For someone with a terminal illness, knowing that there is no possibility of recovery can itself become a tremendous psychological burden. In this scenario the supporters of euthanasia therefore argue that, in exceptional circumstances, a person should not be forced to endure unbearable suffering simply because modern medicine can technically keep the body functioning.

The arguments against euthanasia are equally powerful. The first concern is the possibility of misuse. A vulnerable elderly person may feel that

for discrimination against vulnerable people.

One of the most important answers to the euthanasia debate is better palliative care. Palliative care focuses on reducing pain and providing emotional, psychological and social support to patients and their families. It does not aim to cause death. Its purpose is to make the remaining period of life as comfortable and meaningful as possible. Unfortunately, access to high-quality palliative and hospice care remains unequal in many parts of the world.

Therefore, before discussing euthanasia as an option, governments and healthcare systems must ensure that patients have access to proper pain management, counselling, hospital services and compassionate medical care. No patient should request death simply because affordable pain relief or basic healthcare is unavailable.

If euthanasia is considered within any legal framework, informed consent must be central. The patient should clearly understand their medical condition, prognosis, available treatments and

alternatives. The decision should be voluntary and free from pressure.

Independent medical opinions may be necessary. Mental capacity should be carefully assessed where appropriate. Family members should not be allowed to make decisions simply because caring for the patient has become difficult or expensive. Most importantly, the patients should have the opportunity to reconsider the decision.

Doctors occupy a sensitive position in this debate. Their primary responsibility is to care for patients and relieve suffering. They must therefore approach end-of-life decisions with exceptional caution. A doctor should never suggest death merely because treatment is difficult, expensive or time-consuming. If the law permits euthanasia under specific circumstances, strict professional standards, independent assessments, documentation and oversight would be essential. At the same time, society must recognise that doctors may have genuine ethical objections to participating in such procedures, subject to the applicable law.

Modern society must be careful not to treat euthanasia as an easy answer to difficult social problems. Loneliness should be treated with companionship.

Depression should be treated with mental health support. Financial hardship should be addressed through social and healthcare assistance. Inadequate pain control should be addressed through better medicine. Family neglect should be addressed through social responsibility and legal protection. Death should never become a substitute for care. This principle should remain at the centre of the debate.

The euthanasia debate is often presented as a conflict between people who value life and people who value personal freedom. In reality, the issue is much more complicated. A compassionate society must value life while also recognising that medical treatment should not automatically mean endless intervention. Patients should be allowed to discuss their wishes about serious illness and end-of-life care with doctors and families.

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SRI AMRITSAR SAHIB
PUNJAB.

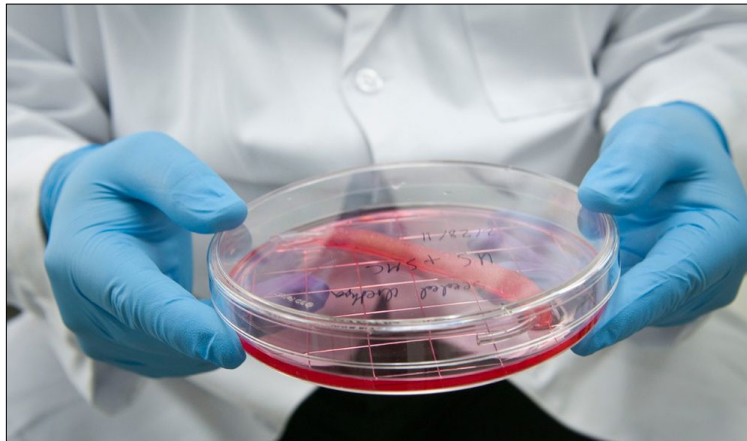
Human Organs Could Soon Be Grown in Laboratories!



Dr. Vijay Garg,

Imagine a future in which patients waiting for a kidney, liver, heart, or other vital organ do not have to depend entirely on human donors. Scientists are working towards a remarkable possibility—growing human tissues and organs in laboratories.

Using advanced techniques such as stem cells, tissue engineering, and 3D bioprinting, researchers are learning how to create living tissues that may one day replace damaged



organs. Stem cells can develop into different types of body cells, while specially designed

materials can provide a structure on which these cells grow and form tissues.

Scientists have already made progress in developing simple tissues and miniature versions of organs for research. These laboratory-grown tissues can also help doctors study diseases and test new medicines.

Although fully functional, transplantable organs are still a major scientific challenge, the progress is encouraging. In the future, laboratory-grown organs could reduce the shortage of organ donors and make transplantation safer and more accessible.

What once seemed like science fiction may gradually become a reality. The laboratory could one day become a place where science helps grow not just knowledge—but new organs and new hope for human life.

Dr Vijay Garg Eminent Scientist
Academic Editor of online Magazine

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Women Empowerment: When Women Rise, Society Rises



BY AFREEN JAN

There is a simple truth that we often forget: a society cannot move forward if half of its population is held back. Women are not merely members of families; they are students, teachers, doctors, farmers, entrepreneurs, artists, administrators, scientists, leaders, caregivers, and countless other things. They contribute to society in ways that are sometimes visible and sometimes unnoticed. Yet, despite their contributions, many women still have to fight for opportunities and respect that should naturally belong to every human being. That is why women empowerment is not just a fashionable phrase or a topic for speeches. It is a real social need. Women empowerment means creating a world in which women have the freedom, confidence, education, resources, safety, and opportunities to make decisions about their own lives. It does not mean putting women above men. It means removing the barriers that prevent women from standing beside men as equal participants in society. One of the strongest foundations of women's empowerment is education. Education does much more than help a person find a job. It teaches people how to think, question, understand their rights, and make informed decisions. When a girl receives a good education, the benefits often extend beyond her individual life. She can become financially independent, support her family, understand health and legal issues better, and encourage the next generation to value learning. Unfortunately, in some communities, girls are still asked to compromise on their education because of financial difficulties, household responsibilities, early marriage, or the belief that educating a girl is less important than

educating a boy. Such thinking needs to change. A daughter's education is not an expense with no return; it is an investment in the future of a family and society.

Economic independence is another important part of empowerment. A woman who has the opportunity to earn, save, manage money, or start a business generally has greater freedom to make choices about her life. But economic empowerment is not simply about having a job. Women also need fair wages, safe working environments, opportunities for promotion, access to financial services, and the freedom to choose the work they want to do. At the same time, we should remember that not every woman wants or is able to follow a traditional career. A woman who chooses to dedicate herself to her family and household should not be considered less valuable. Homemaking involves enormous responsibility and deserves respect. True empowerment means giving women choices rather than forcing them into a particular definition of success. Another major obstacle is the presence of stereotypes. From childhood, boys and girls can be taught different expectations. Boys may be encouraged to be ambitious and independent, while girls may be expected to be quiet, obedient, and cautious. A girl who speaks confidently may be labelled negatively, while the same behaviour in a boy may be praised as leadership.

These double standards can quietly shape a person's entire life. We need to teach children that qualities such as courage, kindness, intelligence, leadership, responsibility, and ambition do not belong to one gender. A girl should be allowed to dream of becoming an

engineer, pilot, police officer, teacher, entrepreneur, scientist, athlete, civil servant, or anything else she is capable

sharing knowledge, mentoring younger girls, and speaking against discrimination can create a chain of empowerment.



of becoming.

Safety is also fundamental to empowerment. It is difficult to speak about freedom when women are afraid of harassment, violence, discrimination, or exploitation. Women should be able to travel, study, work, and participate in public life without constantly feeling unsafe. Strong laws are important, but laws alone cannot solve the problem. Society must also develop a culture in which violence and harassment are never normalised or excused. Families have an especially powerful role to play. Empowerment does not always begin in a parliament, office, or courtroom. Sometimes it begins at a dinner table. It begins when parents listen to their daughter's opinion. It begins when a family invests equally in the education of sons and daughters. It begins when a brother learns to respect his sister's choices and when a father tells his daughter that her dreams matter. Women themselves also play an important role in this journey. Supporting other women,

Progress becomes much stronger when women do not have to compete with one another simply to receive opportunities. However, women empowerment should not become a competition between men and women. Men and boys are also important partners in creating equality. A man who respects women, challenges harmful stereotypes, shares household responsibilities, supports women's education, and speaks against violence is contributing to empowerment. Technology has opened new doors as well. Today, women can learn through online courses, work remotely, sell products online, build businesses, access information, and connect with people across the world. But the digital world also has challenges, including online harassment and unequal access to technology. Therefore, digital literacy and online safety should become part of modern education for girls and women. There is also a deeper issue that deserves attention: women should be allowed to define success for themselves. Society

often tells women what they should look like, how they should behave, when they should marry, what career they should choose, and what kind of life they should lead. Empowerment means giving women the confidence to make these decisions for themselves while respecting the rights and choices of others. A truly empowered woman does not need to prove that she is better than anyone else. She simply knows that her voice matters, her choices matter, and her future matters. The responsibility for women empowerment therefore belongs to all of us—families, schools, governments, workplaces, communities, men, and women themselves. We need better education, fair opportunities, stronger protection from violence, economic independence, equal treatment, and a change in the attitudes that have been passed from one generation to another. But change does not always require a grand movement. It can begin with something as small as encouraging a girl to continue her studies, listening to a woman's opinion, supporting a female entrepreneur, sharing household responsibilities, or refusing to laugh at a sexist joke. Women do not need permission to have dreams. They need opportunities to pursue them. When a girl is educated, a future is educated. When a woman becomes financially independent, a family can become stronger. When women participate in leadership, new perspectives enter decision-making. And when women live with dignity and security, society as a whole becomes healthier. Women empowerment is ultimately about building a society where talent is not limited by gender and where a person's future is determined by ability, effort, character, and choice—not by whether they were born a boy or a girl. The real measure of progress is not how loudly we speak about equality, but how fairly we practice it.

When women rise, society does not lose its balance—it gains strength.

The NCC acts as a key youth organization that builds character, leadership, and a spirit of selfless service through structured training.



BY M S NAZKI

Everyone loves success that is earned through hard work and principles! Discipline, duty and the dutiful with dignity do claim success but the basics should be right on the course!

- The National Cadet Corps (NCC) in India was officially established on July 15, 1948, through the National Cadet Corps Act to shape disciplined and patriotic youth.
- Captain Divya Ajith Kumar is an inspiring example of an NCC cadet who achieved greatness in the Indian Army.
- NCC Journey: Joined the National Cadet Corps (NCC) during her college days in Chennai. Won the prestigious All India Best Cadet Award during the Republic Day Camp in 2008. Received the Prime Minister's Baton for her outstanding performance as a cadet leader.
- Entry into the Army Inspired by her NCC training, she cleared the Services Selection Board (SSB) interview.
- Joined the Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai for rigorous military training. Commissioned into the Corps of Army Air Defence in 2010.
- Making History led by the first-ever all-women contingent of the Indian Army during the Republic Day Parade in 2015. Commanded 154 women officers and soldiers as they marched down Rajpath before US President Barack Obama as the chief guest. Broke historical gender barriers in military ceremonial command.
- Origins and British Era 1917:
- The British formed the University Corps during World War I to create a pool of trained youth for defense.
- 1920: Renamed the University Training Corps (UTC).
- 1942: Designated as the University Officers Training Corps (UOTC), which later failed to meet wartime expectations.
- Post-Independence Formation 1946: The Kunzuru Committee was formed to design a better, national-level cadet organization for schools and colleges.
- 1948 (July 15): The NCC was formally inaugurated following the passing of the NCC Act.
- Expansion and Milestones 1949: The Girls Division was raised. 1950 & 1952: The Air Wing (1950) and Naval Wing (1952) were added, making it a complete tri-services organization.
- 1957: The official motto, "Unity and Discipline," was adopted. 1965–1971: Cadets served as a crucial second line of defense during the Indo-Pak wars.
- During the Indo-Pakistani wars of 1965 and 1971, the National Cadet Corps (NCC) served as a vital second line of defense for India.
- Key Roles During the Wars
- Logistics and Supply: Cadets organized camps to assist ordnance factories and helped supply arms and ammunition to the front lines.

-Patrol and Security: They acted as patrol parties to help capture enemy paratroopers and guarded critical installations like telephone exchanges, radio stations, and post offices.

-Civil Defense: Cadets worked closely with civil authorities to manage traffic, handle rescue operations, and build protective bundhs along western borders.

-Post-War Reforms

-Syllabus Revision: Following the conflicts, the NCC reduced heavy military training in its curriculum.

-New Focus: The focus shifted toward building leadership traits, officer-like qualities, social service, and youth management.



-The National Cadet Corps (NCC) in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has a rich history dating back to its inception in 1948.

-Initially, it was formed as the 'University Corps' under the Indian Defence Act 1917 to address the shortage of personnel in the Army.

-Over the years, it evolved into the University Training Corps (UTC) and later the University Officers Training Corps (UOTC).

-The NCC in J&K was raised in 1954 with one Senior Division Unit and four Junior Division troops, controlled by the 07 Circle, New Delhi.

-The J&K Directorate of NCC came into existence in 1960 at Srinagar and was headed by a Colonel.

-A Girls wing unit was raised in 1964, and the post of Director was upgraded to Brigadier in 1982. The Directorate was redesignated as Additional Director General (ADG) NCC in June 2012. The expansion of NCC in J&K and Ladakh was approved by the Ministry of Defence, increasing the cadet strength by 12,860, a 46.1% rise, with the addition of four more NCC Units.

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) is important in Jammu and Kashmir because it channels the energy of local youth toward constructive nation-building, leadership, and discipline.

-Key Reasons for NCC's Importance in J&K:
-Fostering Patriotism and Unity: NCC instills core values of national unity, secularism, and selfless service among

young boys and girls, countering separatist tendencies and fostering a strong connect with the motherland.

-Youth Empowerment and Leadership: It trains the youth to become confident leaders across all walks of life, including careers in the Armed Forces.

-Community and Border Area Support: Cadets actively participate in social initiatives, community welfare, relief camps in border districts, and awareness drives against social issues like drug addiction.

-Career and Educational Incentives: Participation provides tangible benefits like NCC 'B' and 'C' certificates, which facilitate recruitment opportunities into the military and reservations in government positions.

-The man who leads the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh (JK&L) is Major General Anupinder Bevil, VSM.

-He serves as the Additional Director General (ADG) of the NCC Directorate for Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.

-Role: Head / Additional Director General (ADG) of NCC Directorate JK&L.

-Predecessor: He took charge of Major General Rajesh Kumar Sachdeva.

-Background: He is a third-generation army officer with over three decades of distinguished military service, including deployment tenures in high-intensity areas like Siachen and Tiger Hill (Operation Vijay).

-Cadet Aarav was an NCC (National Cadet Corps) senior division cadet who believed his uniform meant he had to fix every problem he saw. The Overburdened Cadet The Mission: Aarav wanted to help every single person in his college and neighborhood.

-The Routine: He woke up at 4:00 AM for physical training, ran errands for elderly neighbors, tutored struggling classmates, and managed college festival logistics.

-The Problem: He took on too much. He missed his own drill practice, failed a map-reading test, and collapsed from exhaustion during a community cleanup drive.

-The Turning Point The Lesson: His Associate NCC Officer (ANO) found him resting under a tree and handed him a canteen of water.

-The Advice: The officer told him, "An NCC cadet is part of a team. You cannot carry the whole world on your shoulders. If you break down, you help no one."

-The Realization: Aarav learned that true leadership means organizing others to help, rather than doing everything alone.

-The New Approach Delegation: He formed a cadet-aid group in college, dividing tasks among twenty willing volunteers instead of acting alone.

-Impact: The group cleaned the local park faster, raised more funds for charity, and still allowed Aarav to pass his certificate exams with high grades.

The Result: He still helped everyone, but he did it smartly as a team leader.

The morning bugle at the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Camp always tasted like brass and cold mist. For Senior Under Officer Maya Rao, that sharp sound was the rhythm of her ambition.

-Growing up in a cramped railway colony in Jhansi, Maya's world was bounded by the constant clatter of trains and her father's modest income as a station clerk.

Needs or Market-Made Desires?



(Abid Hussain Rather)

We live in a world where people do not simply buy things because they need them; rather things persuade people to buy them. The marketplace has changed from a place where we fulfil our needs into a powerful system that creates new desires in us every day. From the moment we wake up until we go to sleep, advertisements surround us. They appear on our phones, television screens, roads, newspapers and social media. They tell us what to wear, what to eat, which car to drive, which mobile phone to carry and even what kind of life we should desire.

The most powerful word in this entire commercial world is perhaps "new." A new model has arrived. A new design has been introduced. A new version is available. A new lifestyle is waiting for you. Slowly, we have allowed the word "new" to become almost synonymous with "better." This is where the real problem begins. Something does not become better simply because it is newer. A new product may be useful but at the same time it may also be unnecessary. An old product may be outdated, but it may also be perfectly functional. The real measure should be quality, usefulness, necessity and durability—not merely freshness or newness. But advertisements rarely encourage us to think in this way.

Consider the mobile phone in our hands. It may be working perfectly. Its battery may be good, its camera may satisfy our needs and it may perform every task we require. Then a new model appears. Suddenly, the phone that served us so well yesterday begins to look old. We are made to feel that our device is no longer fashionable even though nothing has actually changed in its usefulness. This is the subtle power of consumerism. The market does not always sell us a product; sometimes it first creates a feeling of inadequacy and then sells us the product as a solution. We are made to believe that our lives are incomplete, our appearance insufficient, our homes unimpressive or our personalities somehow behind the times. Then a product is placed before us as the answer.

When we feel that a new dress will make us attractive. A new car will make us respectable. An expensive watch will make us successful. A particular mobile phone will make us modern. Gradually, the product stops being an object of utility and becomes

a symbol of identity. This is where the magic of brands becomes even stronger. A brand is no longer merely a name printed on a product. It has become a story. We associate certain brands with success, elegance, wealth, sophistication and social status. Sometimes two products of similar quality are placed before us, but we are willing to pay considerably more for the famous name. Why is it so? Because we are not always buying the object. We are buying the image attached to it. A branded shirt becomes a symbol of status. A particular car becomes a symbol of achievement. A luxury watch becomes a statement about personality. A smartphone becomes a sign of modernity.

The most successful advertisement is therefore not the one we see on television. It is the one that continues to operate inside our minds after the advertisement has disappeared. When a person begins to think, without seeing an advertisement, that he is inferior without a particular brand, that he is unsuccessful without an expensive possession, or that he is falling behind without the latest model, the advertisement has achieved its ultimate victory. It has moved from the screen into the mind.

This phenomenon deserves particular attention in the age of social media. Today, advertisements do not merely tell us what to buy; they show us how other people are supposedly living. Perfect homes, fashionable clothes, expensive holidays, luxurious cars and carefully designed lifestyles appear before us every day. We compare our ordinary lives with these carefully constructed images and begin to feel that something is missing. But the truth is that much of what we see is an advertisement disguised as a lifestyle.

The other casualty of this culture is contentment. The more we possess, the more we sometimes feel that we lack. Our wardrobes are full, yet we complain that we have nothing suitable to wear. Our homes contain countless objects, yet we constantly search for more. We replace things that still work simply because newer versions have arrived. In this endless race, satisfaction becomes temporary. The excitement of a new purchase lasts for a while, and then another desire appears.

In the race of chasing new things and new models we forget that there is something particularly beautiful about old things that the modern marketplace can't sell. That beautiful thing is the memories associated with old things. An old watch may remind us of our father.

(The author teaches Geography at GDC Anantnag and can be reached at rather1294@gmail.com)

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Div Com Jammu reviews progress of road connectivity projects

Directs executing agencies to focus on maintenance, avoid delays in execution

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 01: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today convened a meeting to review the progress of ongoing projects being executed by NHAI, NHIDCL, Beacon/Sampark and PMGSY across the Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Rakesh Minhas; Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma; Deputy Commissioners of Jammu Division; Joint Director, Geology & Mining, Jammu; senior officers of NHAI, Sampark, PMGSY Jammu, PWD Jammu and NHIDCL; besides other concerned officers, who participated in person and through virtual mode.

The Deputy Commissioners and senior officers of the concerned departments and executing agencies briefed the chair about the current status and progress of ongoing projects

in the areas of their respective districts, besides apprising him of issues and bottlenecks requiring intervention.

The Divisional Commissioner undertook a detailed review of roads, bridges, tunnels, four-laning works, drainage and other connectivity work, with focus on physical progress, financial issues, land acquisition, compensation, RoW, forest and wildlife clearances, utility shifting and other field-level constraints.

The Divisional Commissioner sought detailed feedback on the progress of different road sections along the National Highway from Jammu to Kathua, Udhampur, Ramban, Banihal besides, Akhnor to Poonch and other areas. He directed the executing agencies to expedite improvement of riding surfaces, rectification of damaged/vulnerable stretches and strengthening of road approaches, while ensuring strict



adherence to prescribed safety and quality standards.

Reviewing tunnel and four-laning projects, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned agencies to accelerate the pace and adhere strictly to committed timelines. He emphasized adequate deployment of manpower, machinery and safety measures, particularly at vulnerable stretches and construction sites.

The meeting also reviewed compensation and collateral damage

cases, including cases involving affected structures, RoW and slide-affected areas. The Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned agencies to verify the relevant records and expedite eligible payments and pending cases, while ensuring proper follow-up of matters pending before courts and competent authorities.

Issues concerning forest and wildlife clearances, compensation afforestation and mitigation measures were also reviewed. The concerned

agencies were directed to maintain close coordination with the Forest and Wildlife authorities and complete all statutory requirements without delay.

The Divisional Commissioner expressed concern over delays in certain works despite availability of funds and awarded contracts. He directed the executing agencies to mobilize adequate resources, increase the pace of work and fix responsibility for avoidable delays. He also stressed regular field inspections and immediate rectification of potholes, damaged riding surfaces and sliding/vulnerable locations.

Reviewing drainage and utility works in market/shopping areas, the Divisional Commissioner directed execution in manageable stretches in coordination with the local administration so that public movement and business activities are not disrupted.

DC reviews progress of work on new GMC campus at Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 01: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today convened a meeting to review the progress of ongoing construction works and allied facilities at the new Government Medical College Campus. Chairing a meeting with officers of the departments associated with the project, the DC conducted a detailed review of each component of the medical college campus including academic infrastructure, student hostels, faculty residences and other residential facilities. The status of essential services required for the full operationalisation of the campus, including drinking water supply, electricity, sanitation, internal roads, drainage, lighting, mess facilities, transport arrangements and security of the premises, was also reviewed.

The DC directed the executing agencies to expedite the balance construction works, mobilise adequate manpower and resources, address bottlenecks and ensure the time-bound completion of all remaining components. He stressed that all essential utilities and facilities for students and faculty must be made fully functional before shifting to the permanent campus.

The Medical College Principal was directed to maintain close coordination with the executing agencies and concerned departments and ensure regular monitoring of the ongoing works.

Ramban: MVD, Police conduct enforcement drive; E-challan 23 vehicles

■ HT News Network



RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 1: The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), Ramban, in coordination with the District Police, conducted a joint surprise enforcement drive today at Maitra, Atri Chowk and T-Chowk to check compliance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

The enforcement drive was led by ARTO Varun Bhasin. The MVD team checked 146 vehicles, of which 23 vehicles were e-challaned for various violations of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

The violations included overcharging, overloading, operating without valid permits, use of curtains on vehicle windows and operating without valid fitness certificates, among other offences.

Vehicles found plying without the required statutory documents were challaned, while those involved in serious violations were seized as per the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

The total expected amount of the e-challans is approximately 54,500. In addition, two vehicles were seized for serious violations.

CMO Doda Reviews Progress of Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram Programme

■ HT News Network

DODA, SEPTEMBER 01: Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. Vinod Sharma, today virtually convened a review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) in District Doda, on 01-09-2026.

The meeting was aimed at reviewing the performance of RBSK teams and strengthening the implementation of the programme, which focuses on early identification, screening, treatment and timely intervention for children from birth to 18 years of age.

During the meeting, the CMO reviewed the component wise progress of the programme, including child health screening, identification of health conditions, referrals, follow-up and treatment of identified cases. The participants also deliberated upon the achievements, challenges and gaps in effective implementation of the programme across the district.



Dr. Vinod Sharma emphasized the importance of regular and comprehensive screening of children as per the protocols and guidelines prescribed by the GOI. He directed the RBSK teams to ensure timely identification of health conditions and appropriate referral and management of children requiring further care.

The CMO directed the concerned teams to prepare a comprehensive micro plan for regular visits to schools and

Anganwadi Centres, ensuring complete coverage of eligible beneficiaries and proper documentation of all screening activities. The CMO laid special emphasis on improving case detection, observing that the progress achieved in this component was comparatively low. He directed the RBSK teams to intensify screening activities, ensure comprehensive coverage of children and proactively identify more cases for timely referral, treatment.

Ritika Trehan reaches out to marginalized women and girl children in Channi Himmat

■ HT News Network

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and Convenor, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao J&K UT, Ritika Trehan, interacted with women and little girls from marginalized sections of society during her visit to Channi Himmat, taking direct feedback on the implementation of various welfare and empowerment schemes of the Central Government.

During the interaction, Trehan sat with the women and girl children, listened to their experiences and personally enquired whether the benefits of welfare schemes were reaching eligible families at the grassroots level.

She specifically reviewed the reach of schemes and initiatives including free ration, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat health cards, girls' education and Sukanya Samridhi



Yojana. She expressed satisfaction that a number of families were benefiting from these initiatives, while noting that some families still require guidance and handholding to access the benefits available to them.

Ritika Trehan said that women and girls from economically weaker and marginalized sections must remain at the centre of welfare and empowerment initiatives, adding that awareness and last-mile delivery are equally important for ensuring that no eligible beneficiary is left behind. "Public service is not merely about framing

policies; it is about ensuring that the benefits of those policies reach the last person in the line. This is the spirit of Antyodaya envisioned by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji," she said.

She assured the women that their concerns would be noted and that all possible assistance would be extended in guiding them towards the appropriate welfare schemes and benefits.

Trehan also emphasized the importance of educating and empowering the girl child, stating that initiatives such as Sukanya Samridhi Yojana are helping families.

Kishtwar Admin finalises arrangements for Shri Krishna Janmashtami, Shobha Yatra

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 01: Additional Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal today finalised the arrangements for Shri Krishna Janmashtami and Shobha Yatra here at a meeting convened in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex. The Additional Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to make adequate arrangements for security, sanitation, medical facilities, drinking water, transportation and other basic amenities to ensure the smooth and successful culmination of the festival. The ADC directed



the Police Department to deploy adequate security personnel at all temples across Kishtwar Township and its suburbs. He emphasized the need for formulating a foolproof traffic management plan and directed the authorities to identify alternate routes for traffic diversion to provide smooth

passage to the Shobha Yatra.

The JPDCL and Municipal authorities were asked to complete repair and replacement of streetlights wherever required. He stressed illumination of dark spots to avoid public inconvenience during the festival night.

Furthermore, the PHE and

PDD departments were directed to keep the staff on alert for uninterrupted water and electricity supply in the town and its suburbs during the festival, with water tanker supply arranged at identified locations. The enforcement departments including PCS&CA, Revenue, Legal Metrology, Municipal authorities, food safety and Police were tasked with conducting market inspections to keep a check on overcharging and food quality.

The Municipal authorities were directed to launch a massive drive to clean lanes and drains and lime-lining across the town and its suburbs.

New road connectivity proposed for villages affected by HEPP Pakal Dool: DC reviews proposals

■ HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 01: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to discuss and review the proposal for the construction of a road along the right bank of River Marusudar to provide road connectivity to the villages of Khraipakhnoo, Tunder and Prangus of Tehsil Dachan.

The villages fall in the vicinity of the Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Power Project (HEPP) and the existing connectivity to these habitations is expected to be cut off upon completion of the dam reservoir. The new road connectivity



project to Tunder and Prangus villages is being taken up under the PMGSY-phase IV. Detailed discussion was held regarding the proposed road alignment, its technical feasibility and other issues related to the implementation of the project. The status of existing road

connectivity and the requirements of the affected villages were also reviewed.

The PMGSY functionaries apprised the meeting that the project to connect Tunder and Prangus villages is expected to be taken up under the PMGSY-Phase IV. The DC directed the

authorities to prepare a DPR for the additional road stretch leading to Khraipakhnoo village and push the already submitted DPR for Lopara to Tunder-Prangus for the current financial year. The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the importance of ensuring proper road connectivity to these right-bank villages and called for close coordination among all concerned departments and agencies for the timely finalisation of the proposal and its submission. The issues concerning land acquisition, forest clearance, road alignment, technical feasibility, funding and other matters were also discussed in detail.

“Swachhata Sankalp Campaign” organised by ULB Directorate concludes Over 5,000 citizens participated across Jammu Division

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 01: The Directorate of Urban Local Bodies Jammu, under the leadership of Director Kapil Sharma, has successfully conducted the “Swachhata Sankalp” Campaign across the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Jammu Division.

With active coordination of the concerned Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Executive Officers (EOs), the

campaign covered Municipal Councils/Committee Billawar, Kathua, Samba, Vijaypur, Bari Brahmana, R.S. Pura, Katra, Reasi, Akhnor, Sunderbani, Nowshera, Surankote, Udhampur, Batote, Ramban, Doda and Baderwah.

The campaign witnessed participation of more than 5,000 individuals, including students, government officials, prominent citizens, concerned MLAs, NGO representatives and local residents, taking part

in cleanliness drives, awareness programmes, Swachhata pledges and rallies.

A special focus of the campaign was placed on the core messages of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban-keeping surroundings clean, proper management of wet and dry waste, responsible disposal of waste and encouraging citizens to take collective responsibility for cleanliness.

One of the major components of the campaign



was the Green Initiative, through which citizens, shopkeepers, students and local

residents were sensitised to the harmful effects of polythene and single-use plastic.

Over 2,000 reusable jute bags were distributed among local residents and participants to encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly alternatives and reduce dependence on single-use plastic. The campaign also promoted awareness regarding wet and dry waste segregation, cleanliness of public spaces and responsible citizen behaviour. Schools across the participating ULBs responded positively to the initiative. A

large number of school children participated in the awareness activities, rallies, cleanliness drives and Swachhata pledges. The campaign provided students an opportunity to understand the importance of cleanliness, waste segregation, environmental protection and their role as responsible citizens.

The active participation of district administration, local administration, government officials, NGOs, prominent

citizens, market representatives and local residents further strengthened the campaign and ensured wider community outreach. To supplement the field-level activities, the Directorate also undertook a Radio Awareness Campaign through FM Radio Channels, carrying messages on Swachh Bharat Mission, cleanliness, sanitation, waste segregation, prevention of single-use plastic and responsible citizen participation.





ANTF Jammu Busts Inter-State Drug Syndicate, Seizes 750 Codeine Syrup Bottles

■ HT News Network

Jammu, September 01: In a significant breakthrough against the illegal trafficking of pharmaceutical drugs, Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Jammu has busted an inter-state drug syndicate involved in the transportation and distribution of narcotic cough syrup from Delhi to Jammu.

Acting on a specific intelligence input, ANTF Jammu registered FIR No. 06/2026 under Sections 8/21/22/29 of the NDPS Act, 1985 at Police Station ANTF Jammu and launched an investigation.

During the operation, a sleeper Bus (RK Holiday) bearing Registration No. MP07 ZT-7771, operating on the Delhi-Jammu route, was intercepted in the Narwal area of Jammu. A thorough search of the bus led to the recovery of 750 bottles of Altorex-CD Syrup, which had been concealed in the luggage compartment.

The bus driver, Swaran Singh S/o Shamsher Singh, R/o Bari Brahmana, District Samba, and Joginder Singh S/o Gulab Singh, R/o Swankha Morh, Samba, were arrested in connection with the case.

Preliminary investigation indicates that the syndicate had been procuring narcotic/psychotropic cough syrup from Delhi, transporting it to Jammu and subsequently supplying it to local youth at exorbitant prices.

ANTF Jammu is conducting a detailed investigation to unravel the complete network, including its backward and forward linkages. Further arrests are likely as the investigation progresses.

ANTF J&K reiterates its commitment to dismantling drug trafficking networks and making Jammu & Kashmir drug-free. The general public is urged to share credible information regarding drug trafficking or peddling with the Police so that prompt legal action can be taken against the Narco offenders.

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ANTF Jammu is conducting a detailed investigation to unravel the complete network, including its backward and forward linkages. Further arrests are likely as the investigation progresses.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, MEHAVISH JAN, D/o JAVAID AHMAD BHAT, R/o Pahalgam, Anantnag, J&K, hereby declare that my Date of Birth has been incorrectly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as 03/12/2008. My correct Date of Birth, as per my Class 10th Marks/Grade Card issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, is 10/03/2010. I hereby request the concerned authorities to update/correct my Date of Birth in my Aadhaar records as 10/03/2010 as per my educational record.

Name: MEHAVISH JAN
Father's Name: JAVAID AHMAD BHAT
Correct DOB: 10/03/2010
Place: Pahalgam, Anantnag

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that due to an inadvertent error, the name of the undersigned has been recorded as "Raja Begum" instead of "Raja Banoo" in Passport No. L5706240. The undersigned intends to get the said error corrected in the official records. Therefore, if any person(s) has any objection, claim, or concern regarding this correction, they may submit the same before the concerned authority/department during office hours within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection or claim shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Advertiser: Raja Banoo
Wife of Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir
Resident of Sopat Tangpora, Tehsil Devsar,
District Kulgam, Jammu & Kashmir.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as AZAAN AZAM MIR S/O GH QADIR MIR on my Aadhaar card bearing Aadhaar No. 6940 4370 8064 while my correct name is MUHAMMAD AZAAN AZAM MIR R/O KREERI which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of concerned Aadhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name: MUHAMMAD AZAAN AZAM MIR
S/O: GH QADIR MIR
R/O: KREERI

Anganwari Workers Union Visits Family of Wild Animal Attack Victim in Tarigam

■ Farooq Rather

Kulgam, 01, September, A delegation of the Anganwari Workers' and Helpers' Union, J&K, today visited Tarigam in Kulgam and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family of Lateefa Ji, an employee of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Department, Kulgam, who lost her life yesterday in an attack by a wild animal in her native village.

The Union termed her untimely death a major setback for the organisation, describing the deceased as a hardworking and dedicated activist of the Anganwari Workers' Union.

The delegation conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and her place in Jannat.

The Union urged the administration to provide adequate compensation to the victim's family and demanded that a government job be provided to an eligible next of kin (NoK) of the deceased as a measure of support to the family.

The delegation also called upon the Wildlife Department to intensify efforts and deploy adequate manpower and machinery to trap the wild animal involved in the attack, so as to prevent further loss of human life in the area.

The delegation comprised Union President Hanifa Mir, AIDWA leader Lateefa Ganaie, Zamrooda Ji (Treasurer), Dazy Jan and Dazy Akhter, besides other senior Union activists.

AISGEF to Hold National Executive Committee Meeting in Srinagar on September 12-13

■ Farooq Rather

SRINAGAR, 01, SEPTEMBER: The All India State Government Employees Federation (AISGEF) is scheduled to hold its National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting in Srinagar on September 12 and 13.

The National Executive Committee meeting is being hosted by the Jammu and Kashmir Coordination Committee of Trade Unions (JKCCTU), affiliated with AISGEF. Leaders and representatives of various trade unions from across the country are expected to participate in the two-day event.

The visiting trade union leaders are expected to hear and deliberate upon various service-related issues confronting employees in different sectors, including electricity, horticulture, health, municipal corporations, education, agriculture, nutrition and other departments.

The employees and representatives from these sectors are keen to place their long-pending demands and service-related concerns before the national leadership, with the aim of seeking appropriate intervention and support for their resolution.

JKCCTU President Abdul Rashid Najar and General Secretary Fayaz Ahmad Bhat have appealed to employees belonging to different categories to put forward their valuable suggestions and issues for consideration during the NEC meeting and to help ensure the successful conclusion of the event.

The JKCCTU leadership also called for a sustained and united approach towards resolving the multiple long-pending issues confronting employees and workers. They expressed hope that collective efforts and dialogue with the national trade union leadership would contribute towards securing pro-employee and pro-worker policy decisions and creating a more conducive and dignified working environment for employees.

Er. Aamir Ali Meets Gandhi Global Family President to Discuss Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives

Farooq Rather



Srinagar, September 1: Member, RedR India and former Director, Disaster Management, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Er. Aamir Ali, met President of Gandhi Global Family and Padma Shri awardee Dr. S.P. Verma and discussed various initiatives being undertaken by RedR India for establishing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Clubs in universities and colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the two sides held detailed discussions on strengthening disaster preparedness and resilience among students and young people. The proposed DRR Clubs aim to promote awareness, capacity building and greater youth participation in disaster risk reduction activities.

The meeting also explored possibilities of collaboration between RedR India and Gandhi Global Family in key areas including disaster preparedness, climate change adaptation, youth engagement and community-based initiatives.

Both sides emphasised the importance of involving educational institutions, youth and local communities in building a safer and more resilient society, particularly in view of the increasing risks associated with natural disasters and climate change.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to explore joint initiatives and strengthen cooperation in the areas of disaster resilience, awareness and community preparedness.

Dr. Pushpendra Singh Bhati set to take charge as Chief Justice of J&K, Ladakh High Court

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, AUG 31: In a major legal development, the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, has officially recommended the appointment of Dr. Pushpendra Singh Bhati as the next Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The decision, finalized during the Collegium's meeting on August 31, 2026, paves the way for Dr. Bhati to assume leadership of the judiciary across the two union territories upon executive clearance.

Dr. Bhati, currently serving as a judge of the Rajasthan High Court, will succeed Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Kumar, who has been steering the bench since June 2026.



Bringing decades of legal expertise, Dr. Bhati practiced for nearly 25 years before his elevation to the bench in November 2016.

During his practice, he served as Additional Advocate General for Rajasthan, held presidency of the High Court Lawyers Association, and holds a Ph.D. in constitutional and public employment law.

As part of the same reshuffle,

the Supreme Court Collegium has also proposed the appointment of new Chief Justices for the High Courts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to address leadership vacancies.

Justice Sanjay K. Agrawal, a senior judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court who served as Additional Judge in 2013 before being made permanent in 2016, has been recommended to take over as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.

Simultaneously, Justice Alpesh Yeshvant Kogge of the Gujarat High Court—who was elevated to the bench in 2016 following a distinguished practice as a Special Public Prosecutor—has been named the incoming Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

Both recommendations are now awaiting executive approval and formal notification from

the Ministry of Law and Justice. Dr. Bhati, currently serving as a judge of the Rajasthan High Court, will succeed Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Kumar, who has been steering the bench since June 2026.

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Criminal Investigation Department Counter Intelligence (CID), Jammu PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, an FIR No. 03/2026 Under Sections 49, 61 (2), 152, 196, 353 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha, and 13 Unlawful Activities Prevention Act 1967 stands registered at Police Station CID CI, Jammu on 04.07.2026 in connection with the publication and circulation of the book titled "Personalities and Legends of J&K", purportedly authored by one Hilal Ahmed; and Whereas, during the course of investigation, it has emerged that the identity, address and other particulars of the said authors could not be verified despite exhaustive efforts undertaken during the course of investigation, including verification through available official records and other lawful means, the Investigating Agency has not been able to ascertain or verify the identity, address, credentials, or whereabouts of the person described as "Hilal Ahmed" in connection with the authorship of the aforesaid book and there are reasons to believe that the name may be fictitious or that the author is not traceable; and Now, therefore, in the interest of a fair, impartial and comprehensive investigation, notice is hereby given to the general public that any person having knowledge of, or possessing any authentic information regarding, the identity, address, contact details, educational or professional credentials, or any other particulars of the authors namely "Hilal Ahmed" and "Mushtaq Ahmed Shah" of the below-mentioned books published by Paradise Press, 316, Second Floor Sector 63 G-Block Gautam Buddha Nagar, Pin Code 201301 Noida Uttar Pradesh, is requested to furnish such information, along with supporting documentary evidence, to the Investigating Officer of FIR No. 03/2026, Police Station CID CI, Jammu, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The details of the books along with the authors is as under:

Personalities and Legends of J&K, authored by Hilal Ahmed and Santosh Meena.

Jammu and Kashmir & The United Nations, authored by Mushtaq Ahmed Shah and Santosh Meena.

Political Parties of Jammu & Kashmir, authored by Mushtaq Ahmed Shah and Santosh Meena.

The identity of the informant shall be kept confidential, if so requested.

This notice is issued in the interest of a fair and impartial investigation.

DIPK-5210/26
Send Date: Sep 1 2026

Khalid Ashraf-JKPS
Dy. SP Hqs CID CI Jammu
Investigating Officer

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla e-mail, id, xenmhd.bla@jk.gov.in

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender

NIT No:		M&HDB/TS/2026-27/70/1918-22			
Date:		31-08-2026			
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla , invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on percentage wise basis from Authorized Service Providers of OEMs /Registered / Listed Contractors for the below mentioned works:					
S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion
01.	Repairs and Routine Maintenance of 40 KVA and 25 KVA DG Set of Snow Clearance Control Unit Tangmarg	0.5015	200.00	1003/-	10 days
Note:-					
AAA:- Administrative Approval accorded by Chief Engineer M&HD Kashmir vide No. M&HED / K / Acctt / 29 of 2026-27 Dated:- 30-04-2026. Technical Sanction:- Technical Sanction Accorded by Assistant Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Sub Division 1st Baramulla vide No. M&H/SD 2nd /TS-03; Dated:- 25-08-2026. Executing Agency:- Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.					
1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	01-09-2026			
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 01-09-2026 to 11-09-2026			
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	From 01-09-2026 (18:00 HRS)			
4.	Bid Submission End Date	11-09-2026 (18:55 HRS)			
5.	Date of Opening of Cover 1 st	12-09-2026 (13:00 HRS)			

The bidders are required to submit their offers in **two (02)** covers.

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

01.	Tender Fee	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement including m-Pay Delight+ , to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. Tender ID to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKA0TEHSL Account No.: 0213010200000051.
02.	EMD	Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 02% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla . EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of 03% to 10% Performance Guarantee from (L1) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of un-successful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020.
03.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" and "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	Tax Clearance	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
05.	GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
06.	Undertaking	Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.
07.	Eligibility / Work Experience Certificate	The Bidder Shall submit documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in last 07 years in any Govt. / Semi Govt./Autonomous institutions alongwith satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer.

Note:- The successful bidder has to furnish EMD document physically to the Divisional office alongwith fee receipt within three days from the date of opening price bid, without which his bid shall not be accepted for further processing of contract in his favour.

➤ **Bidders / Firms shall refrain from uploading irrelevant documents.**

➤ **Contractor / Firm shall upload the contact / communication details separately on single page.**

A. Cover-II shall contain:

01. Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. In no case, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
02. The bids for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.
03. The complete bidding process will be online.
04. The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.
05. Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
06. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
07. The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.

DIPK-5194/26
Send Date: Sep 1 2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Baramulla





DC Kulgam visits faculty of Agriculture, South Campus SKUAST-K Khudwani

Pledges full support for development works, amenities at the campus

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 01: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today visited Mountain Research Centre for Field Crops (MRCFC), Khudwani, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K).

The DC was accompanied by senior district officers and university officials and was briefed on the centre's work across seed production, crop improvement, agronomy, plant protection, and soil health.

The DC also took note of the centre's pivotal role in developing rice, rapeseed, and wheat varieties suited to Kashmir's diverse agro-climatic conditions – from temperate valley plains to cold, high-altitude areas exceeding 2,000 metres – and its germplasm conservation programme, a living repository of indigenous



rice landraces and exotic introductions safeguarding Kashmir's agricultural biodiversity for future breeding and climate adaptation.

He lauded the institution's sustained contributions and its standing as a model

research facility over more than eight decades of dedicated service. He was further apprised that MRCFC Khudwani has been upgraded to the Faculty of Agriculture, South Campus (FoASC), marking the first dedicated

agricultural faculty in South Kashmir, a development long in the making. The upgraded campus will offer MSc and PhD courses in agronomy, plant breeding, plant pathology, entomology, and soil sciences. The DC assured the university authorities of district administration's full developmental backing, assuring that macadamisation of roads, installation of street-lighting, and all other civic amenities needed to create a conducive environment for students and faculty would be taken up on priority. The DC also stressed that research must travel beyond experimental plots to reach all the farmers across Kashmir. He called for wider dissemination of modern technologies in field crops where improved varieties, precision input management, nano fertilisers, and resource-conservation practices, and value addition hold real potential to raise farm incomes.

Honeybee Products Hold Vast Therapeutic Potential: Experts at Wadura SKUAST-K Workshop

■ **DR. AB QAYOOM**



Sopore, Sept. 01: Highlighting the growing potential of honeybee products in healthcare, wellness and entrepreneurship, the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) organized a one-day workshop-cum-training programme on "Recent Advances in Apitherapy & Apipuncture" at the Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura. The programme, organized by the Division of Entomology in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKST&IC), brought together scientists, researchers, students, beekeepers, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to explore the emerging therapeutic and commercial applications of honeybee products. The workshop focused on the scientific potential and value addition of honey, bee pollen, propolis, royal jelly, beeswax, bee bread and bee venom, besides providing insights into recent developments in apitherapy and apipuncture, their possible applications, safety aspects and future research prospects. The event was held under the chief guestship of Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Mir, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura Campus, who stressed the need to connect apiculture research with healthcare, wellness, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Prof. Mir highlighted the immense potential of bee-derived products and called for stronger coordination among researchers, beekeepers, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to promote sustainable apiculture and develop innovative value-added products.

Prof. Md. Jamal Ahmad, Professor and Head, Division of Entomology, said the workshop was aimed at spreading scientific awareness about apitherapy and apipuncture while creating opportunities for skill development, technology transfer and entrepreneurship. Dr. Shah Nawaz Ahmad Dar, Assistant Professor and Training Coordinator, said the programme provided participants with scientific as well as practical exposure to hive products and their applications. He emphasized evidence-based approaches, safe handling of bee products, bee venom collection and utilization, value addition and emerging research opportunities. He said Kashmir has significant potential for apiculture and value-added bee products, adding that capacity-building initiatives could open new avenues for beekeepers, students and young entrepreneurs.

Director Agriculture Kashmir reviews expenditure status of Shopian, Anantnag

■ **HT News Network**

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 01: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today undertook a comprehensive review of the expenditure status and implementation of various departmental schemes in the districts of Shopian and Anantnag.

During his visit, the Director inspected the Soil Testing Laboratory at Bijbehara, where he took detailed stock of its functioning, infrastructure and facilities available for soil analysis. He emphasized the significance of soil testing in promoting scientific and balanced use of fertilizers, improving soil health and enhancing agricultural productivity. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that farmers are provided timely soil testing services and appropriate technical advisories based on soil health parameters. The Director also



inspected the site identified for establishment of the Centre of Excellence at Kulgam and reviewed the suitability of the site and the proposed facilities. He underscored that the Centre of Excellence should serve as a state-of-the-art platform for demonstration and promotion of modern agricultural technologies, climate-resilient farming practices, quality planting material and advanced production techniques.

While reviewing the expenditure status of Shopian and Anantnag districts, Sartaj Ahmad Shah stressed upon the officers to ensure timely and judicious utilization of

allocated funds and expedite the implementation of approved interventions. He called for close monitoring of both physical and financial progress and directed the field functionaries to ensure that the benefits of various schemes and programmes reach the farming community in a timely and transparent manner.

The Director further emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among field functionaries to strengthen agricultural infrastructure, improve service delivery and facilitate the adoption of modern technologies by farmers.

DAJ reviews physical, financial progress of Agriculture schemes in Udhampur, Reasi districts

■ **HT News Network**

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 01: Director Agriculture Jammu (DAJ) Anil Gupta today reviewed the physical and financial progress of different departmental schemes in the Udhampur and Reasi Districts.

The meeting was attended by Regional Level SMS Krishan Kant; Chief Agriculture Officer Udhampur Vikas Padhda; Chief Agriculture Officer Reasi Dolly John, besides all district-level officers, SDAOs, SMSs and DDOs of the twin districts.

During the first half, the Director reviewed the progress of Udhampur district. Chief Agriculture Officer Vikas Padhda gave a detailed presentation on the ongoing activities, physical achievements, financial expenditure and implementation status of central schemes, CAPEX, NABARD, HADP and JKICP.

In the second half, the



progress of Reasi district was reviewed. Chief Agriculture Officer Dolly John presented a detailed report on ongoing activities, physical targets, achievements and expenditure under various departmental schemes and projects.

Anil Gupta directed the officers to ensure timely utilization of funds and achievement of physical targets within the prescribed

timelines. He emphasized that financial expenditure must be supported by tangible physical achievements and instructed the officers to strictly adhere to approved guidelines, components and financial norms. Anil Gupta directed the officers to ensure timely utilization of funds and achievement of physical targets within the prescribed timelines.

Farmer Field School Programme inaugurated at Ganderbal

■ **HT News Network**

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 01: The Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, in collaboration with the State Agriculture Department, Ganderbal, inaugurated a "Farmer Field School Programme" at Village Khanpora, Ganderbal, today. The programme was chaired by Dr. Vageesh Pandey, Deputy Director (E), CIPMC Srinagar and Ghulam Ahmad Rather, SMS (DL), Ganderbal, who was accompanied by Mushtaq Bhat, AEO, Wakoora. At the outset, Ghulam Ahmad Rather, provided a brief introduction to the programme, along with an overview of the activities and schedule planned for the day. Dr. Haroon Rashid Hakla, Assistant Plant Protection Officer (PP), delivered an informative introductory lecture and highlighted the importance of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and its various benefits.

JKEDI organises capacity Building programme on MSME health clinic

■ **HT News Network**

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 01: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), under the overall supervision of Mohammad Younis Malik, Director, JKEDI, organized a Capacity Building Programme on MSME Health Clinic at the Regional Office (RO), Bari Brahmana, Jammu for District Nodal officers from Jammu Division, SBDU representatives, and DIC members.

The programme was aimed at strengthening the capacity of field-level officials and experts to effectively assess the health and performance of Micro, Small



and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and provide appropriate guidance and support for their sustainability and growth.

A total of 26 delegates from the participating departments and institutions attended the programme. Representatives from various districts, including Poonch, Rajouri, Ramban and Kishtwar, also participated virtually, ensuring wider participation and coordinated

capacity building across the Jammu Division. The event was also attended by Officers/Officials of JKEDI. The sessions focused on the concept of MSME Health Clinics, assessment of the financial and operational health of an enterprise, identification of stress factors and field-level assessment methodologies. Emphasis was laid on the practical aspects of conducting MSME assessments.

ATF price up 5.46pc, commercial LPG rate rises Rs 9.50

■ **United News Of India**

NEW DELHI, Sept 1: Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices on Tuesday were hiked by 5.46 per cent, while the price of commercial LPG, used by establishments such as hotels and restaurants, was raised by Rs 9.50 per 19-kg cylinder, in line with a rise in their international benchmarks.

The price of Jet fuel or ATF has been raised by Rs 6.28 per litre, or 5.46 per cent, to Rs 121.28 per litre for domestic airlines, according to state-owned oil firms. The increase comes on the back of a Rs 5 a litre rise in rates on August 1. The two increases will add to the financial



burden of airlines, for whom ATF makes up to 40 per cent of operating costs. Commercial LPG prices have increased from Rs 2,738 per 19-kg cylinder to Rs 2,747.50. The price of the 5-kg market-priced cooking gas LPG cylinder, called 5-kg FTL, has also been increased from Rs 762 to Rs 764.

The rate hike follows two

straight monthly reductions – a steep Rs 192 per 19-kg cylinder cut on August 1 and a Rs 183.5 cut on July 1. The two reductions in commercial LPG rates on July 1 and August 1 followed the West Asia crisis pushing rates to record highs in June. After the outbreak of the conflict in late February, commercial LPG rates had risen by a massive Rs 1,373 per 19-kg cylinder – from Rs 1,740.50 in February to Rs 3,113.50 in June.

ATF and LPG prices – revised on the first of every month, based on benchmark international prices and foreign exchange rates – vary from state to state depending on local taxes such as VAT.

SKUAST-K hosts 37 IFS Officers from 18 States for National Ecotourism Capacity-Building Programme

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 01: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir) has brought together 37 Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers from 18 States for a three-day national capacity-building programme on "Ecotourism in Forest and Wildlife Realms: Prospects & Challenges", being held from September 01 to 03 at the Shalimar Campus.

Organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government

of India, the programme brings together senior forestry professionals, university leaders, researchers and subject experts to deliberate on emerging opportunities and challenges in sustainable ecotourism, forest and wildlife management.

Addressing the participants, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, stressed that tourism in ecologically fragile regions must be guided by sustainability, conservation and community participation. He said the objective should not be to maximize tourist numbers but to maximise the positive value

of tourism while minimising its ecological footprint.

Emphasising the vulnerability of Himalayan ecosystems, Prof. Ganai called for a calibrated approach in which tourism becomes an instrument for conservation rather than ecological degradation. The Vice Chancellor also underlined the growing role of GIS, remote sensing, Artificial Intelligence and digital monitoring in protected-area management, biodiversity assessment, visitor management, ecosystem monitoring and evidence-based decision-making. He said SKUAST-K has



an important role in generating scientific evidence, building professional capacities and providing technology-driven solutions to emerging environmental challenges.

Former Chief Secretary,

Ramesh Negi, Guest of Honour, emphasised the need to shift ecotourism from a tourism-centric to a conservation-centric model, keeping ecological carrying capacity, biodiversity protection, local livelihoods and

responsible visitor behaviour at the centre of planning and management.

Dr. Javeed Iqbal, Course Director, said the programme has been designed to go beyond conventional classroom-based training by providing participants with a field-oriented, interdisciplinary and technology-enabled learning experience. He noted that participation from 18 States would facilitate cross-state learning and exchange of experiences from diverse forest and ecological landscapes.

The programme covers key themes including Himalayan

biodiversity, protected-area management, ecosystem carrying capacity, legal and institutional frameworks, Eco-Development Committees, participatory planning, gender integration, overtourism mitigation, sustainable livelihoods, GIS, remote sensing and AI-based conservation monitoring.

As part of the experiential component, the participating officers will visit important ecological and tourism landscapes including Wular Lake, Gulmarg, Zabarwan landscape, Chandaji Eco-Restoration Site and Hokersar

Wetland. They will also be exposed to technological innovations at SKIIE and the Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, SKUAST-Kashmir.

The programme builds upon SKUAST-Kashmir's continuing engagement with MoEFCC through capacity-building initiatives focused on smart conservation, forest landscape restoration, climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation. The University has also been advancing multidisciplinary, technology-driven solutions involving AI, IoT, CRISPR and precision systems.



How to exercise safely in hot weather

Soaring temperatures could put people's long-term health at risk by stopping them from exercising, scientists warn. Here's how you can keep going when things hot up. Staying active in hot weather can be challenging. It's one reason why players at the World Cup 2026 in the US, Canada and Mexico are being given additional, but controversial hydration breaks 22 minutes into each half. And with record temperatures on their way this summer thanks to a powerful El Niño weather pattern, it's likely to be a tough time to exercise.

Pushing through a run or football match in extreme heat can not only be uncomfortable but also dangerous, putting us at risk of heatstroke.

"Walking, cycling, exercising outdoors and even daily routines like commuting on foot become more physically demanding and less comfortable when temperatures are high," says Christian García-Witulski, an environmental lifestyle epidemiologist at the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina.

But if we reduce our physical activity each time it feels too hot to exercise outside, it can contribute to long-term health risks.

García-Witulski and colleagues have recently warned in new research that rising temperatures due to climate change could lead to people moving less in the heat and consequentially result in an estimated 470,000 to 700,000 premature deaths per year by 2050.

Why you get tired quicker in the heat

As you work out, your muscles contract and generate heat. Your body then tries to cool itself by sweating and diverting blood towards the skin.

But that creates a trade-off as the same blood is also needed to supply oxygen to your muscles, says Ollie Jay from the University of Sydney. "Your skin is basically robbing blood from your muscles, so you can't deliver as much oxygen to them."

In hot conditions, can very quickly lead to fatigue as your body struggles to get enough oxygen to your muscles, but it can also put extra strain on your heart as



adding in more breaks.

"Sometimes a shorter walk in the morning, or some light indoor movement, is safer and more realistic than trying to stick rigidly to the same routine," says García-Witulski. "Hotter conditions create more thermal strain. People tire more easily, sweat more, may feel dizzy or uncomfortable, often sleep worse and daily movement simply becomes less appealing and, in some cases, less safe."

Reducing body temperature before exercise gives you a greater heat buffer before conditions become dangerous

Rebecca Stearns, a kinesiologist at the Korey Stringer Institute at the University of Connecticut says that while

exercise gives you a greater heat buffer before conditions become dangerous. "Slightly lowering your body temperature before you go into the heat will give you a greater amount of time before it becomes dangerous," Stearns says.

This can also be done by consuming ice slurry (icy water), which has been found to cool the body and improve exercise performance.

Let your body adapt

Gradually building up the amount of exercise you do in hot weather will allow your body get used to it, a process called heat acclimatisation.

Generally, says Stearns, after seven to 14 days of regularly exercising in the heat your core temperature at rest drops, your sweat rate rises and your blood plasma volume increases. "You have this huge demand for blood flow. And blood is ultimately what's going to be able to supply and support all of these physiological functions in the heat," she says.

This adaptation helps your body respond better, she adds, helping to improve performance as well as decrease the risk of heat stress.

But this response is "transient", says Jay. "If you don't use it, you'll lose it... If you don't expose yourself to the heat, then those adaptations that you've primed will disappear."

Know when to stop

While fatalities from exercising in the heat are relatively rare, heat exhaustion is becoming more common.

And if you exercise a lot, it doesn't necessarily provide protection against heat exhaustion.

More like this:

- What science says about staying cool in a heatwave
- The troubling ways hot weather can warp your mind
- Is water always the best choice on a hot day?

Elite athletes can be at a higher risk of heatstroke than recreational exercisers because they are already used to pushing themselves "past their biological limits", says Stearns. This could be dangerous as the intensity of the exercise is the primary driver of rising internal body temperature.

She therefore advises that "listening to your body and deliberately backing off the pace is your primary line of defence".

If we adapt, pace ourselves and exercise early we can stay active even as the temperature rises. Heat related illness is still a risk so signs to look out for include dizziness, nausea, fatigue and palpitations. If any of these appear, stop immediately and cool down.

"I think the bigger message is that we should stop thinking of physical activity as something completely separate from climate," says García-Witulski. "As heatwaves become more common, people will increasingly need to adapt not just whether they move, but when, where, and how they do it," he adds.

*Melissa Hogenboom is a senior health correspondent at the BBC and author of Breadwinners and The Motherhood Complex. She is melissa_hogenboom on Instagram.

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(Melissa Hogenboom)



it tries to keep up with the demand.

So how do you safeguard your long-term health by staying active when it gets really hot? Here are some of the strategies that researchers say might help you stay cool while staying active:

Exercise earlier

The single most impactful change most people can make is to exercise when it is cooler, such as in the morning or evening, if this is possible.

You could also pick times when the area where you like to exercise is in the shade as opposed to the full glare of the Sun. "That difference can be as much as 12-15C (22-27F) higher than the shaded air temperature," says Ollie Jay, director of the Heat and Health Research Centre at the University of Sydney.

Check the humidity

Humidity matters too. Your body's primary way of losing heat is through sweat evaporating from the skin, which helps to lower your body temperature. But in humid conditions, that process is affected as the evaporation that cools your body reduces.

"There's more moisture in the air and therefore the [evaporative] driving force is blunted," says Jay.

Wind speed also plays a role, which is why running in enclosed spaces with little airflow makes heat stress a bigger risk.

Shorten your session or reduce the intensity

On days when you can't avoid the heat, you might consider exercising for shorter periods of time as well as

taking breaks from exercise, find a cooler environment where possible. "If you can get inside an air-conditioned environment, or even just shade with cold water and a fan, take time to actually start to cool down," she says.

(For those who want to check their potential heat stress risk, Jay and colleagues at the University of Sydney have developed a free heat tool covering over 40 sports that draws on your local weather data.)

Cool down smarter

When it comes to cooling methods, it might be tempting to reach for an ice pack. But Stearns says that while ice packs feel cold to the skin they actually have a surprisingly low cooling rate because they tend to only cover a small part of the skin.

Immersion cooling can be a better way to cool down. This is where you submerge parts of the body (such as the hands and forearms) in cold water. Alternatively, you can pour water over yourself.

"If you take water and apply it to the skin surface, and then that water evaporates, that's actually doing the job of sweating without having to sweat," says Jay. That then means your body can direct more blood to your muscles to deliver oxygen.

Similarly, a cold wet towel frequently rotated over your arms, legs and torso also helps cool you down, says Stearns.

Pre-cool yourself

Pre-cooling before you head out is also helpful.

Research shows that reducing body temperature before

Hockey India Member Units celebrate National Sports Day 2026 with enthusiasm across Country

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 1 : Hockey India's Member Units across the country came together to celebrate National Sports Day 2026, marking the 121st birth anniversary of hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand, whose incredible feats helped India win Olympic gold in 1928, 1932 and 1936.

The three-day celebration, held from 28 to 30 August under the Fit India Movement and the theme "Khelega Bharat, Jeetega Bharat," saw Member Units organise digital tributes, hockey matches, fitness drives and cycling events, reaffirming the game's deep connection with communities across the nation. The celebrations began on August 28 with a Digital Tribute Day, as units took part in the "29 Challenge," organised Pass the Ball activities and shared Sports Bandhan posts to spread the message of unity through sport online. The main day of celebration, August 29, was observed with "Ek Ghanta Khel ke Maidan Mein," with hockey matches, coaching drills and fitness sessions conducted at grounds



nationwide, before the festivities concluded on 30 August with "Sundays on Cycle," bringing communities together for fitness through cycling. Hockey Jharkhand handled wide-ranging celebrations across Simdega, Gumla, Khunti, Hazaribagh, Ramgarh, East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Godda, with hockey competitions and friendly matches organised in tribute to Major Dhyan Chand.

Simdega, long regarded as the nursery of Indian hockey, hosted the grand 21st Major Dhyan Chand Senior District Men's and Women's Hockey Championship 2026, drawing 58

competing teams, while Hockey Godda organised a "Sunday on Cycle" ride in association with the District Sports Office. Goans Hockey marked the occasion across four venues in the state - friendly matches among six teams at Peddem Astro Turf under coach Eliter Fernandes; dribbling and fitness sessions for young players at Loyola High School led by Physical Education teacher and Hockey India umpire Ayaz Khan; a hockey session at Miracle High School, Sanguem, conducted by Inacio Fernandes; and a tournament themed "Ek Ghanta ka Khel" at Damodar English High School, Gudi. Dadra & Nagar

Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey, in association with the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Fit India and the Sports Authority of India, hosted a three-day "Nationwide Celebration of Sports, Spirit & Unity" at the Stadium Ground, Silvassa, headlined by the Hockey 5s Tournament. In Rajasthan, Hockey Rajasthan organised matches across districts to spread awareness of the Fit India Movement, while the state's Youth Affairs and Sports Department led a National Sports Week in Jhalawar with floral tributes to the hockey legend. Hockey Maharashtra, together with the Directorate of Sports & Youth Services, Maharashtra, celebrated the 121st birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand at Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Balewadi, Pune, as part of the "Fit Maharashtra Paramparik Khel Utsav 2026." The Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu celebrated across its academies and district member units, Hockey Arunachal organised a series of activities in its region, and Chhattisgarh Hockey, along with the District Hockey Association Rajnandgaon.

India A to tour New Zealand for three four-day games ahead of Test Series

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 1 : New Zealand Cricket on Tuesday confirmed that India A will tour the country for three four-day matches in October as part of their preparations for the upcoming Test series between the senior teams.

India are scheduled to travel to New Zealand for a packed multi-format tour from late October to early December. The senior teams will play five T20Is, five ODIs and two Tests, while India A will also face New Zealand A in three four-day fixtures.

The three India A matches will be played in Christchurch, with the first game scheduled to begin on October 24.

"The domestic red ball summer will also

get an injection of international class as New Zealand A host India A for three four-day matches in Christchurch starting October 24," NZC said in a statement.

New Zealand Cricket announced the India A fixtures while releasing the schedule for the upcoming Plunket Shield season. The domestic first-class competition will begin on November 19 and continue until March 29, with a break during the season for the Super Smash and Ford Trophy.

The three four-day matches between New Zealand A and India A will overlap with the senior teams' white-ball series. NZC is yet to announce the exact dates for all three games but confirmed that the first fixture will get underway on October 24.

Career-Best ratings for Athapaththu in latest ICC Women's T20I player rankings



United News Of India

DUBAI, SEP 1 : The Women's Asia Cup has begun in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and some fine performances on the opening weekend have resulted in notable movements in the ICC Women's T20I Player Rankings.

Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu leads the gains this week thanks to an unbeaten 25-ball 48 and one for 10 in three overs in her team's nine-wicket victory over the UAE.

Her performance has helped her remain strong in sixth place in the ICC Women's T20I Batting Rankings, advancing three slots to 33rd in the Bowling Rankings and maintaining her position at third among the all-rounders.

Her major achievement is reaching career-best rating points across all three categories - 734 in batting, 552 in bowling and 405 among all-rounders.

Athapaththu's opening partner Imesha Dulai advanced four slots to a career-high

18th place and 625 points thanks to her 25 from 18 deliveries.

Among the bowlers, Mithali Ayodhya's stars continued to rise after she took an impressive three for 14 to help restrict the home team to 79. She has rocketed up 18 slots to 70th and a career best 444 points. Sugandika Kumari's two for 18 helped her jump five slots to 23rd.

Thailand won their tournament opener against Hong Kong by six runs but suffered a heavy, 94-run loss to India, but there was a silver lining for Nannapat Koncharoenkai whose 41 off 48 in their match against India saw her move up one slot to 29th in the batters' list. Suleeporn Laomi took three for 26 against India, advancing five spots to joint-63rd.

Bangladesh announced themselves with a strong, 71-run win over Indonesia on Monday. Sobhana Mostary was rewarded with a one-slot move to 39th and a career-best rating of 500. Her teammate Marufa Akter's two for six in three overs helped her gain two places to reach 37th position.

Badminton: Unnati Hooda bows out of China Masters

United News Of India

SHENZHEN, SEP 1 : India's rising shuttler Unnati Hooda bowed out of the China Masters 2026 badminton tournament after losing to world No. 12 Kim Ga-eun of the Republic of Korea in the women's singles opening round here on Tuesday.

The 18-year-old Indian badminton player, ranked 25th in the world, lost 21-10, 21-18 in 37 minutes at the Shenzhen Sports Centre Gymnasium in the People's Republic of China, according to olympics.com. Kim Ga-eun raced to a 4-0 lead in the opening game and extended her advantage to 11-3 at the mid-game interval. The experienced Korean maintained control after the break to take the opener comfortably. Unnati responded strongly in the second game, starting with a 3-0 lead. Kim Ga-eun moved 7-5 ahead before the Indian fought back and briefly led 15-14. Trailing 18-16 later in the game, Unnati won the next two points to draw level. Kim Ga-eun, however, held her nerve to claim the final three points and close out the match. It was the first career meeting between Unnati and Kim Ga-eun, who won the Macau Open title in June and was part of South Korea's gold medal-winning women's team at

Bangladesh skipper Nigar Sultana Joty wants more after Indonesia Asia Cup win



United News Of India

DUBAI, SEP 1 : Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana Joty wants her side to build on their first-up victory over Indonesia when they take on Sri Lanka in their next clash at the Asia Cup.

Bangladesh commenced their Asia Cup campaign in style with a dominant 71-run victory over Indonesia at Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Monday, but Sultana Joty has challenged her side to improve on that effort when they face reigning champions Sri Lanka

at the same venue on Sunday. Sultana Joty suggested prior to the tournament that Bangladesh were aiming to finish on top of their group to give themselves the best chance of reaching the Asia Cup final and a victory over Sri Lanka will be crucial to their fortunes if they are to achieve that goal. "There are a lot of areas we could have done better," Joty

said after the win over Indonesia.

"We need to bowl more in the right areas, we do have some time before our next game so we'll rectify our mistakes." "We played at the last few Asia Cups, and it didn't go our way, we want to go all the way this time. We have to play our A-game." Sobhana Mostary scored 40 and Shorna Akter an unbeaten 31 as Bangladesh compiled a decent total of 129/8, with Nahida Akter (3/15) and Marufa Akter (2/6) combining for five wickets in reply as Indonesia were bundled out for just 58 in reply, according to ICC.

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