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TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless

P-12

Saptak Talwar leads strong field as Rs 1 crore Bengaluru Open tees off at KGA

HT BRIEFLY

IGP Kashmir reviews Srinagar security grid, traffic management

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR SEPT 21 : IGP Kashmir Sujit Kumar, IPS, chaired a security review-cum-traffic management meeting with all stakeholders at PCR Kashmir. The meeting was attended by the DIG Traffic Jammu; DIG CKR Srinagar; DIG Traffic Kashmir; DIsG CRPF North/South Srinagar; DIG CRPF Ops Srinagar; SSP PCR Kashmir; SSP Traffic City Srinagar; SSP Srinagar; SO to IGP Kashmir; SSP CID SB (K); SSP CID CI (K); SP Cargo Srinagar; all zonal SsP of Srinagar City; and other officers.

At the outset, the participating officers briefed the IGP Kashmir on the prevailing security scenario in their respective areas. They also shared their inputs and suggestions, which were discussed to identify gaps and further improve traffic

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Property Attached Under NDPS Act in Mujgund

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 21 : A residential property belonging to a man booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was inspected and verified at Check Mujgund on Monday, officials said.

According to officials, the property, owned by Umer Ahmad Khanday, son of Nazir Ahmad Khanday, a resident of Check Mujgund,

>>> MORE ON P 02

GMC Srinagar team screens 95 children for hearing, speech disorders

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 21 :As many as 95 children with hearing and speech impairments were screened during a specialised medical programme organised at Abhedananda Home here by RehabNation Healthcare Foundation of India in collaboration with the home, Department of Social Welfare, Kashmir, and the Department of ENT, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar.

The screening programme was conducted by a specialist team from the Department of

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Govt dismisses teacher over POCSO, BNS case

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 21 :The Jammu and Kashmir government has dismissed a Teacher Grade-II from service, citing a case registered against him under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

According to a government order, a copy of which was accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the

>>> MORE ON P 02

Empowering persons with disabilities top priority for National Conference: Tanvir Sadiq

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, 21 SEP :: The Jammu & Kashmir National Conference Chief Spokesperson and MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq Monday distributed medals and certificates of distinction among the winners of the 8th Srinagar District Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior Games Championship for deaf and speech-impaired athletes, held at Gindun Park, Rajbagh, Srinagar. In a statement issued , Tanvir Sadiq said

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“Food of the Future Must Be Nutritious, Profitable and Sustainable”: LG Sinha

Inaugurates National Dialogue on Millets at SKUAST-Jammu



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called for wider adoption of millet cultivation and consumption, saying the traditional crop can strengthen farmers, promote healthy lifestyles

and build climate-resilient food systems. Inaugurating the National Dialogue on Millets for Health at SKUAST-Jammu, he said millet cultivation could provide new opportunities for small and marginal farmers, empower women and help revive the rural economy. The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj

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“Raise Public Issues Through Question Hour, Not Placards”: Choudhary
Deputy Chief Minister asks BJP to use Assembly proceedings to raise people’s concerns



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 21: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Monday criticised the BJP protest outside the Legislative Assembly, saying issues concerning employees and the public should be raised through Question Hour and Zero Hour. He said concerns

relating to NHM employees, daily wagers, health, education and other sectors could be taken up directly with the government inside the House.

): Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Monday criticised the BJP for staging a protest with placards outside the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, saying issues concerning employees and the public should be raised through questions and debates inside the House.

Talking to reporters after the first day of the Assembly’s autumn session was adjourned, Choudhary said the Assembly meets after a gap of six months and people expect their concerns to be discussed when the House is in session.

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BJP Will Raise Unresolved Public Issues: Sunil Sharma

LoP highlights concerns of workers, ASHA and Anganwadi employees and JKSSB aspirants

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 21: Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma on Monday said the BJP would raise unresolved public issues during the ongoing Autumn Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. He said concerns of daily wagers, contractual employees, ASHA and Anganwadi workers, besides the demand for age relaxation for JKSSB aspirants, would be taken up during the session.

Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Monday said people have high expectations from the ongoing Autumn Session and urged the government to address issues that, he claimed, have remained unresolved despite repeated assurances.

Speaking to reporters on the

opening day of the session, the BJP leader as per news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) said



the government had made several commitments to the people, but many of the issues raised earlier were still awaiting responses. He described the current session as an important opportunity for the government to respond to public concerns and provide clarity on pending matters.

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J&K Has 39.07% Forest Cover, JKFD C Carries ₹462 Crore Legacy Liabilities

Government outlines measures to improve timber operations and corporation’s finances

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 21: Jammu and Kashmir has 39.07 per cent of its geographical area under forest cover, while the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Development Corporation has liabilities exceeding ₹462 crore, the government informed the Legislative Assembly on Monday.

Replying to a starred question by National Conference MLA Banihal Sajjad Shaheen, the Forest, Ecology and Environment Department provided a detailed breakdown of the region’s forest resources, timber extraction, and the financial health of the JKFD C.

Citing the India State Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, the government as per news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) stated that against a total

the state-run Jammu and Kashmir Forest Development Corporation (JKFD C) is grappling with legacy liabilities of over Rs 462 crore, the government informed the Legislative Assembly on Monday.

Replying to a starred question by National Conference MLA Banihal Sajjad Shaheen, the Forest, Ecology and Environment Department provided a detailed breakdown of the region’s forest resources, timber extraction, and the financial health of the JKFD C.

Citing the India State Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, the government as per news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) stated that against a total

geographical area of 54,634.12 sq. km, the total forest cover in J&K is assessed at 21,346.39 sq. km, constituting 39.07 per cent of the digitized geographical area. The estimated annual economic potential of these resources stands at Rs 10,878.51 lakh.

Providing year-wise data on timber extraction by the JKFD C, the government revealed that while the corporation has been meeting its extraction targets, revenue realization has seen a steady decline over the past three fiscal years.

In 2023-24, against an extraction target of 28,016 lakh cubic feet (cft), the JKFD C achieved 21,413 lakh cft, realizing a revenue of Rs 13,329.54

lakh (including GST). However, in 2024-25, despite a higher target of 30,772 lakh cft and an increased achievement of 22,483 lakh cft, revenue dropped to Rs 10,759.57 lakh. The downward trend continued in 2025-26, with the corporation achieving 26,643 lakh cft against a target of 30,770 lakh cft, realizing only Rs 10,702.36 lakh.

Addressing questions regarding the financial health of the JKFD C, the government admitted that the corporation operates on a Grant-in-Aid model, with all revenues deposited directly into the Government

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HT BOTTOM NEWS

Rehabilitation Council Approves ₹12.95 Crore Welfare Plan

Around 1,500 motorised tricycles proposed; 400 children to undertake national exposure visits

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, : Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Monday approved proposals worth ₹12.95 crore for mobility assistance and youth outreach under the J&K Rehabilitation Council during 2026-27. The plan includes procurement of around 1,500 motorised tricycles for eligible specially-abled persons and national exposure visits for 400 children from vulnerable and economically weaker sections.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired the 12th Executive Council Meeting of the J&K Rehabilitation Council for Orphans, Women and Disabled Persons to review its



functioning, achievements and action plan for 2026-27.

The Meeting besides the Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department was attended by Secretary

in Social Welfare Department; DG, Budget; and Executive Director, Rehabilitation Council here. The meeting reviewed major

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Lt Gen Mohit Seth to Take Over as GOC White Knight Corps on October 1

He will succeed Lt Gen P K Mishra as commander of the Jammu-based formation

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21: Lieutenant General Mohit Seth will take over as General Officer Commanding of the White Knight Corps at Nagrota on October 1, succeeding Lt Gen P K Mishra. Lt Gen Seth, presently Commandant of the Indian Military Training Team in Bhutan, has held several key command and staff appointments, including GOC of the Counter-Insurgency Force Kilo.

): Lieutenant General Mohit Seth will take over as the new General-Officer-Commanding (GOC) of the strategically vital

White Knight Corps, based at Nagrota in Jammu.

Official sources told news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) that he will succeed Lt Gen P K Mishra on October 1 in a baton handing ceremony. Lt Gen Mishra will move to a new posting.

Lt Gen Seth has held key command and staff appointments, including as GOC of the Counter-Insurgency Force Kilo. He is presently serving as Commandant of the Indian Military Training Team (IMTRAT), the Indian Army’s training establishment in Bhutan.

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IGP Kashmir reviews

management and security arrangements. The existing city security grid and deployment of personnel were reviewed, with particular emphasis on realigning naka points wherever required to enhance security coverage and reduce traffic congestion. The meeting focused on ensuring the smooth flow of vehicular traffic without compromising the existing security grid.

IGP Kashmir directed the implementation of security arrangements across intra-zone, inter-zone, inter-district and peripheral areas. Sujit Kumar further directed that check posts at the entry and exit points of Srinagar City be reinforced, with seamless coordination and real-time information sharing among the Traffic Police, District Police and naka points to facilitate effective monitoring and a swift response.

IGP Kashmir also stressed the need to leverage technology to improve traffic regulation, surveillance, coordination and information sharing, thereby making traffic and security arrangements more effective.

The meeting concluded with the IGP Kashmir reiterating the importance of continuous review, close coordination and the professional execution of security and traffic-management measures, with a focus on public safety and minimising inconvenience to commuters. (KNS)

Property Attached

comprises a residential house built on 18 marlas of land under Survey No. 260-Min.

The property had been attached under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act, 1985, in connection with FIR No. 43/2023 registered under Sections 8/21 and 29 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Shalteng.

The attachment was carried out by the Competent Authority under the provisions of the NDPS Act, officials said.

The inspection and verification of the property were conducted on September 21 at around 12:10 pm. (KNS)

GMC Srinagar

ENT, GMC Srinagar, led by Dr Jasif Ahmed, Associate Professor, GMC Srinagar.

The team carried out detailed clinical assessments of the children and identified those requiring further medical attention. Following the screening, two children were advised referral for further evaluation and appropriate management.

RehabNation said early identification of hearing and speech-related difficulties can have a significant bearing on a child's communication, learning, participation and overall development, while timely screening and referral can help ensure that children receive appropriate support at the right stage.

The foundation expressed appreciation to GMC Srinagar for its prompt response, professional support and coordination in facilitating the screening programme.

It also acknowledged the support of the Principal, Administrator and Head of the Department of ENT, GMC Srinagar, for facilitating the collaboration and ensuring the availability of specialist services.

RehabNation also thanked Dr Mudasir Ahmed, Principal, Abhedananda Home, for his support, coordination and efforts to ensure that the children had access to specialist screening services in a supportive environment.

The initiative, according to the foundation, is part of its efforts to bring healthcare and rehabilitation services closer to children and communities requiring such support and to strengthen partnerships with public health institutions and specialised care providers.

RehabNation Healthcare Foundation of India said it remains committed to developing collaborative models connecting healthcare, rehabilitation and community-based support, with the objective of helping children communicate, learn, participate and reach their full potential. (KNS)

Govt dismisses

Government said it was satisfied, after considering the facts and circumstances of the case, including the registration of FIR under Sections 61(2), 65(1), 90, 91 and 92 of the BNS, 2023, and Sections 4, 6, 8, 10 and 17 of the POCOA Act, 2012, that the activities of the Teacher Grade-II at Government Middle School, Bumalpora, Gurinalla, Zone Inderwal, District Kishtwar, warranted the imposition of a major penalty.

The order said the case of the teacher, who was under suspension, was placed before the competent authority, which, after due consideration of all facts and circumstances, decided to impose the major penalty of dismissal from service, which ordinarily disqualifies him from future employment.

The Government said the penalty was imposed under sub-clause (b) of the proviso to clause (2) of Article 311 of the Constitution of India read with Rule 30 (viii) of the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, considering that it was not reasonably practicable to hold an enquiry in the case and that his continued employment would be detrimental to the interests of the Government and erode public trust in Government institutions.

The order further stated that, in exercise of the powers under the provisions, the Government imposed the major penalty of

dismissal from service, with disqualification from any future employment in Government service of the UT of J&K, upon Khalid Hussain, Teacher Grade-II, presently posted at Government Middle School, Bumalpora, Gurinalla, Zone Inderwal, District Kishtwar. The order identified him as the son of Ghulam Mohd and a resident of Gurinalla, Chatroo, District Kishtwar—(KNO)

Empowering persons

that the National Conference has always championed the cause of a dignified life and equal opportunities for every vulnerable and marginalised section of society. He said that providing persons with disabilities with meaningful opportunities in education, employment, skill development, financial assistance and sports is essential to enable them to become self-reliant, empowered and active members of society.

He said that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities framework in Jammu and Kashmir contains provisions for reservation in government employment and higher education, along with inclusive education and equal opportunities in sports. These measures, he said, reflect the party's longstanding commitment towards the empowerment and social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Tanvir Sadiq said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is taking the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities seriously and is working towards further strengthening their welfare, social inclusion and access to a dignified life. He said he would raise their issues and demands with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to further improve their access to education, financial assistance, skill development, employment and other essential services.

Welcoming the approval by the Omar Abdullah government of free travel on government transport for persons with disabilities, he said the initiative fulfils the government's budgetary commitment and represents an important step towards inclusive and people-oriented governance. Under the facility, persons with disabilities will be able to travel free of cost on JKRTC buses as well as Jammu and Srinagar Smart City e-buses.

The National Conference Chief Spokesperson said sports play an important role in building confidence, courage and self-reliance among persons with disabilities. He stressed the need to expand sports opportunities, training facilities, appropriate infrastructure and encouragement programmes at the district and provincial levels so that such athletes can further hone their talents and bring laurels to Jammu and Kashmir at national and international platforms.

Tanvir Sadiq congratulated all the participating athletes, their parents, coaches and organisers and said that recognising the abilities of persons with disabilities and respecting their dignity, aspirations and determination is a collective responsibility of society. (KNS)

Food of the

Minister's initiatives led to the United Nations declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets, bringing global recognition to India's traditional wisdom.

Tracing the heritage of millets, the Lieutenant Governor noted that sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet, kodo millet, little millet, foxtail millet, and barnyard millet have nourished generations of farmers and families. Once sidelined as "food of the poor," millets are now reclaiming their place at the intersection of tradition and modern science. He reiterated the ancient wisdom—"Annam Brahma"-food is divine, and healthy food builds healthy citizens, strong societies, and resilient nations.

"The experts are aware that millets nourished the families of small and marginal farmers in different parts of the country for many decades. At that time, modern irrigation facilities were not available. Marginal farmers had neither access to fertilisers nor accurate weather forecasts. However, millet crops did not require these to the same extent, because they could grow even in the most difficult weather conditions and provide support to families.

Today, science is understanding this traditional wisdom through new research and evidence. Countries across the world that are facing the challenge of climate change are also realising that the food of the future will not merely be food that can be produced in large quantities. It will have to be nutritious, profitable for farmers and sustainable for the planet," he said.

Highlighting the relevance of millets for Jammu Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor underscored that over 80% of the region's farmers are small and marginal, dependent on uncertain weather. Millets, requiring less water and fewer inputs, offer them confidence and sustainability. He urged farmers to embrace millet cultivation as a pathway to self-reliance and resilience against climate change.

"I see the Millets Mission as the greatest hope for the smallest farmer in our villages. Under the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan, we prepared a strategy 3-4 years ago to ensure the health of future generations,

the prosperity of our farmers and the protection of our earth.

I believe that millet cultivation can give marginal farmers in Jammu Kashmir a new sense of confidence while also helping reduce the risks associated with farming. On this occasion, I would like to tell all our marginal farmers that although the size of your landholding may be small, your contribution to building a self-reliant Jammu Kashmir can never be small," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasized the health benefits of millets, noting their dietary fibre, low glycaemic index, and rich nutrients such as iron, calcium, magnesium, and zinc. He called upon citizens to bring millet-based foods like bajra rotis, ragi dishes, and barnyard millet rice back to their plates to combat lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and hypertension.

On the economic front, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of creating a millet economy from farm to market.

"With India producing 18 million tonnes of millets in 2024-25 and accounting for 38% of global production, the importance of value-added millet products is immense. We must encourage women's self-help groups and young entrepreneurs in Jammu Kashmir to innovate with millet-based enterprises, packaging, and branding under initiatives like One District, One Product," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged all stakeholders including farmers, researchers, doctors, entrepreneurs, and citizens, to make food systems diverse, nutritious, sustainable, and resilient.

"I call upon every household to give millet products a place on their plate and strengthen farmers, empower women, and ensure a healthier future for generations. I also want all of you to carry this message to the villages that millets are not merely a heritage of the past but they are a strategy for the future of Jammu Kashmir. Let us work together to ensure that every village has opportunities and future generations inherit a healthy planet," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released several publications including 'A Laboratory Manual on Soil Microbiology'; 'Fundamentals of Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing', and 'Package of Practices for Minor Millets'.

Padam Shri Dr Khadar Vali; Prof BN Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu; Shri Umendra Dutt, Executive Director, Khethi Virasat Mission; Dr. Anjani Kumar, IFPRI; Prof. SK Gupta Director Research, SKUAST Jammu; experts, policy makers, researchers; senior officials, progressive farmers, agripreneurs, members of Self-Help Groups, faculty and students attended the inaugural ceremony.

3.22 Crore

On the power infrastructure, he said damage amounting to 27.99 crore had been assessed in Rajouri district due to heavy rains and flash floods during July 2026, of which 9.39 crore pertained to Rajouri constituency.

He said temporary restoration of power supply had been undertaken through installation of an Emergency Restoration System (ERS) tower on the 132 KV Rajouri-Draba transmission line. The tendering process for its permanent restoration is under way.

The Chief Minister further informed the House that 1.25 crore had been received under SDRF for temporary restoration of power supply in Rajouri district. Of this, 57.60 lakh had been allocated to Rajouri constituency, while the remaining amount was distributed among other affected constituencies of the district.

As regards agricultural losses, the Chief Minister said the Agriculture Department had assessed crop damage during Kharif 2026 through field-level verification. Maize was affected over 416 hectares, with 15 per cent damage assessed, while paddy was affected over 101.50 hectares, with 65 per cent damage assessed.

He said the Jal Shakti and Public Works (R&B) Departments had also carried out detailed assessments of damage to water supply, irrigation and road infrastructure in the constituency.

The Chief Minister said all damaged roads, bridges, water supply and power supply schemes had been temporarily restored within one month. Detailed Project Reports for permanent restoration had been prepared and were under consideration.

He further stated that flood-prone electrical infrastructure would be strengthened and realigned wherever required to enhance its resilience against future eventualities. Adequate spares would also be kept available for immediate restoration of the electrical infrastructure in case of future damage or disruption.

On the demand for enhancement of compensation under SDRF for damaged houses, agricultural land, commercial establishments and other properties, the Chief Minister said revision of SDRF compensation norms falls within the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

J&K Has

Treasury through the office of the PCCF & HoFF, J&K.

While the net profit of the corporation was recorded at Rs 1,402.29 lakh as per the balance sheet for 2022-23, the government disclosed a staggering liability burden. As per the balance sheet, the total liabilities stand at Rs 46,270.68 lakh (over Rs 462 crore). This includes a legacy government loan and interest of Rs 6,213.66 lakh from the erstwhile State Forest Corporation, a liability of Rs 1,234.17 lakh pursuant to a Supreme Court order, and a massive royalty payable of Rs 38,822.85 lakh—all inherited from the pre-reorganization State Forest Corporation.

Acknowledging the corporation's inability to achieve its full timber extraction potential and become financially self-sustaining, the government outlined a series of corrective measures to improve operational efficiency and boost revenue.

The JKFC has instructed its field staff to explore potential catchment areas to bring more markings and coupes under operation, with existing human resources to be utilized rationally. The corporation is also working in close coordination with the Territorial Wing to increase marking volumes.

Furthermore, the government said the JKFC is focusing on modernizing its timber extraction and transportation mechanisms. Plans include regulating mechanical cutters and encouraging the use of skylines and aerial ropeways where feasible. To penalize delays in extraction, penalties will be considered and implemented by the Board of Directors in letter and spirit.

Additionally, to make timber available to the public at cheaper rates, the corporation plans to strengthen its depot network by opening additional timber sale depots at suitable locations beyond the existing ones in Jammu and Srinagar. (KNS)

Lt Gen Mohit

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA) and the National Defence College (NDC), Lt Gen Seth was commissioned into the 3 Madras Regiment in 1991. He has also served as Indian Army Liaison Officer at the High Commission of India in the United Kingdom.

The White Knight Corps covers the region south of the Pir Panjal range, extending from the Pir Panjal and Shivalik ranges to the plains of Jammu and Akhnor.

It is responsible for guarding the International Border and the Line of Control (LoC), besides conducting intensive counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations in Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch and the erstwhile Doda districts, officials said. (KNS)

Rehabilitation Council

welfare interventions undertaken during the previous financial year and approved an expanded road map focused on improving mobility and self-reliance among specially-

abled persons besides providing greater national exposure and opportunities to children from vulnerable and economically weaker sections.

A major focus of the meeting was the free distribution of retrofitted motorized tricycles to eligible orthopedically disabled persons of J&K. The initiative prioritizes students, girl students, artisans and small vendors who possess a Priority Household (PHH) ration card and have at least 40 per cent locomotor disability.

It was given out by the Commissioner Secretary, SWD, Sarmad Hafeez that during 2025-26, against an approved proposal of

13 crore, the Social Welfare Department released 11.05 crore under the CAPEX Budget to the State Motor Garages Department for procurement of around 1,284 motorized tricycles at an approximate cost of 86,000 per unit through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

Similarly for 2026-27, the Council has proposed 12.95 crore for procurement of around 1,500 units, with an initial 4 crore already released after completion of mandatory codal formalities by the Department.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the implementation of the 'Watan Ko Jano' Youth Exchange Programme, being fully funded and supported by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India, since 2012.

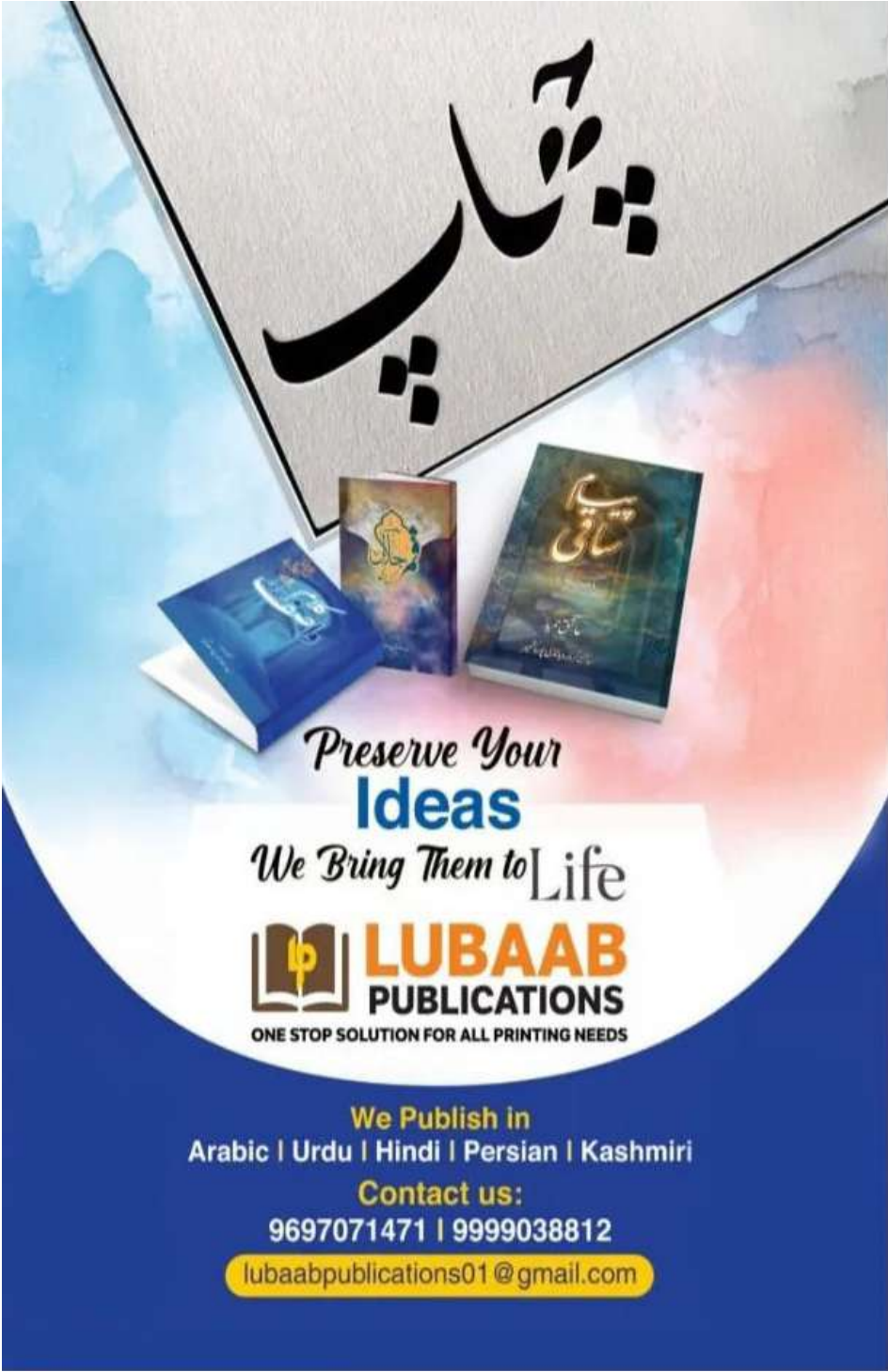
The programme provides children and youth from vulnerable sections, including children of militancy-hit victims, specially-abled children and those belonging to economically weaker sections, an opportunity to experience the cultural diversity and developmental progress of different parts of the country.

Under the programme, the Executive Director of the Council divulged that around 250 children from EWS families, studying in government schools and residing in Palash and Parisha Homes managed by the Social Welfare Department, undertook a visit to Lucknow and New Delhi in April 2026, accompanied by 23 coordinators. During the visit, the children also had the opportunity to meet and interact with the President of India and Vice President of India.

Moreover, building on the initiative, the Council is going to take more 400 children on national exposure visits in two phases during 2026-27, covering the Mumbai-New Delhi and Jaipur-New Delhi circuits, with funding already secured from the MHA.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to fast-track procurement and implementation processes while maintaining complete transparency and adherence to prescribed procedures.

He also stressed maximizing outreach and ensuring that welfare schemes translate into tangible benefits for eligible beneficiaries at the grassroots level, with particular attention to empowerment and social inclusion of vulnerable sections across the cross section of the society here.



Javid Dar inaugurates zonal workshop on National Supportive Supervision Framework

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, September 21: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated the zonal workshop on the National Supportive Supervision Framework (NSSF) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

The four day workshop brought together representatives and stakeholders from Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Haryana. The initiative is aimed at providing a common platform for reviewing the progress of Cluster Level Federations (CLFs), identifying institutional gaps and evolving State-specific strategies for strengthening the community institutions.

The National Supportive Supervision Framework, developed under DAY-NRLM, seeks to provide a structured and outcome-oriented approach for nurturing CLFs towards



greater institutional maturity, financial sustainability and self-reliance. The framework places emphasis on state ownership, structured accompaniment, peer learning and a progressive transition from national-level support towards autonomous community-led institutions.

The workshop deliberated upon the existing status of CLFs and Model CLFs, gap analysis against prescribed criteria, cross-State peer learning,

State-specific and time-bound action plans, strengthening of the MSRP/ SRP-CLF support architecture, capacity-building requirements, systems and documentation, besides establishing robust monitoring and follow-up mechanisms.

It was informed that DAY-NRLM has established a vast institutional ecosystem of approximately 34,000 CLFs, federating more than 10 crore rural women through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across the country. The next

phase of the Mission is being focused on moving beyond mere institution formation towards developing community-governed, financially sustainable and autonomous institutions capable of driving rural transformation from within.

The national framework envisages expanding the number of Model CLFs from approximately 10,000 to 20,000 by 2031, with around 500 CLFs proposed to be nurtured as Model CLF immersion sites during FY 2026-

27. For Zone 3, comprising the six participating States/UTs, 53 Model CLF immersion sites have been identified as the target for FY 2026-27. Addressing the gathering, Javid Ahmad Dar said that DAY-NRLM has evolved far beyond the conventional paradigm of poverty alleviation, emerging as a powerful institutional framework for women-led socio-economic transformation in rural India. He said the Mission has created a nationwide ecosystem in which rural women are increasingly moving beyond the role of beneficiaries to become partners in development, entrepreneurs, producers, service providers and community leaders.

The Minister noted that more than 10 crore rural women are now part of over 93 lakh SHGs across the country while cumulative bank credit accessed by SHGs has crossed 13 lakh crore. Javid Dar said the emergence of more than 3 crore Lakhpati Didis is an important reflection of the growing capacity of women-led institutions to translate collective action, financial inclusion and livelihood interventions.

Autumn Session 2026 Minister Javid Dar introduces Bill to amend J&K Cooperative Societies Act

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, September 21: Minister for Cooperatives, Javid Ahmad Dar today introduced in the Legislative Assembly a Bill seeking to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989.

"A Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989, to repeal the Jammu and Kashmir Self Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999 and to provide transitional arrangement of self-reliant cooperatives under the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989 and for matters connected or incidental thereto. (L.A. Bill No.9 of 2026)," already published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette.

DDC Kulgam reviews implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 in district

■ Farooq Rather



Kulgam, September 21: A review meeting on the implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 was held today at Kulgam and was presided over by the District Development Commissioner (DDC), Shahzad Alam.

The meeting was convened to assess the progress made by various departments and Urban Local Bodies towards effective solid waste management and to identify areas requiring further improvement.

The officers of the concerned RDD and Executive Officers of all Municipal Council/Committees apprised the meeting of the latest status, achievements, ongoing activities and issues requiring intervention.

Important aspects of solid waste management, including registration and management of Bulk Waste Generators, inspection and functioning of Waste Processing Plants, four-way segregation of waste at source and the status of retrofitting of door-to-door collection vehicles, implementation of the Single-Use Plastic Portal and enforcement of penalties against violations and seized plastic, capacity-building programmes and preparedness for implementation of the SWM Rules, 2026 were reviewed in the meeting.

The DDC stressed the need for strict enforcement of rules, source segregation, efficient door-to-door collection, scientific processing and disposal of waste, besides strengthening coordination between Urban Local Bodies and Rural development.

The meeting was attended by ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; CPO, Malik Suhail; CEO MC Kulgam, Mohammad Irfan, BDO's and other officers and representatives of MCs.

DC Anantnag reviews solid waste management, parking facilities, drainage arrangements in urban areas

■ HT News Network

Anantnag, September 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today chaired a meeting at the DC Office to review the status of solid waste management, cleanliness and sanitation initiatives, parking facilities, drainage arrangements, and street-light infrastructure in urban areas of the district.

Detailed discussions on urban parking-related issues, drainage arrangements, ongoing parking and beautification projects, and initiatives key to solid and liquid waste management were held on the occasion.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Dr. Muzamil Maqbool; Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Tawseef



Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Tariq Ahmad Malik; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP), Executive Engineer UEED, Chief Executive Officer MCA, Executive Officers of various Municipal Committees, and other concerned officers.

At the outset, the EOs of Urban Local Bodies briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the existing civic infrastructure and the measures being undertaken to ensure

cleanliness, proper sanitation, and effective solid waste management in their respective jurisdictions. The meeting was informed that door-to-door collection of solid waste is being carried out across the Municipal Committees through dedicated vehicles.

The officers apprised the chair of the functioning of Solid Waste Treatment Plants (STPs) in ULBs and the measures being taken for the proper collection and management of solid and liquid waste.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the action taken by the ULBs to improve sanitation and ensure proper waste disposal. He stressed the need for sustained cleanliness drives, effective monitoring of waste collection and transportation, and timely garbage disposal to keep public spaces clean and hygienic.

DC Budgam reviews NABARD-Funded Development Projects

■ HT News Network

Budgam, September 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial progress of development projects being executed in the district under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of NABARD.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of 90 projects sanctioned under RIDF-XXV to RIDF-XXXI was undertaken. It was informed that 68 projects have been completed, while 15 connectivity projects are presently under execution.

The meeting reviewed the progress of major road and bridge projects being implemented through the R&B Divisions of Budgam, Chadoora, Beerwah and Charar-i-Sharief. The Deputy Commissioner



took a detailed assessment of the status of ongoing works and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of the projects.

The meeting was also informed about the progress of the Kutbal-Yousmarg Road, Kanidajan-Pehlipora-Seklu Road and Hanjigund-Chadoora diversion road-cum-bridge. The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure timely completion of all requisite formalities and expedite execution of the works.

The meeting further reviewed eight new high-priority road and bridge projects

sanctioned under NABARD RIDF-XXXII for 2026-27, covering important connectivity works in Nasrullahpora, Farshangipora, Beerwah, Charar-i-Sharief, Chadoora and Khanshab areas. Administrative Approval has been accorded for seven projects, while the remaining project is under process. Emphasizing the importance of improved rural connectivity for socio-economic development and tourism, particularly in areas such as Tosamaidan, Doodhpatri and Yousmarg, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned Executive Engineers.

UTLIMC reviews progress on PACS computerisation, directs timely completion of remaining deliverables

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, September 21: Commissioner Secretary Cooperative, Yasha Mudgal, today chaired the 12th meeting of the Union Territory Level Implementation and Monitoring Committee (UTLIMC) to review the progress on the Centrally Sponsored Project for Computerisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Registrar, Cooperative Societies, J&K; Deputy General Manager, NABARD; Managing Director, J&K State Cooperative Training Board (JKSTCB); representatives of the System Integrator and Managing Directors of the District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs).

During the meeting, the System Integrator made a detailed PowerPoint presentation before the Committee, apprising the members of the overall

progress of the PACS Computerisation Project, the status of implementation across the Union Territory. The presentation also highlighted the activities presently underway and the areas requiring focused attention for timely completion of the remaining targets.

Reviewing the progress, Yasha Mudgal directed the System Integrator to maintain the momentum of implementation and ensure completion of all assigned deliverables within the stipulated timelines. She emphasized that the approved implementation schedule must be adhered to strictly and all necessary measures should be taken to prevent delays in completion of the remaining activities.

The Commissioner Secretary stressed that the objective of the project should go beyond mere installation or deployment of the computerised system and should culminate in its effective adoption and utilisation by PACS. She emphasized that



the computerisation initiative should facilitate improvement in the day-to-day functioning of PACS and enable them to provide more efficient and transparent services to their members.

She underscored the importance of close and continuous coordination among the Cooperative Department, Registrar Cooperative Societies, NABARD, DCCBs, System Integrator and other stakeholders

for timely resolution of field-level issues and smooth implementation of the project.

Yasha Mudgal also stressed the need for proper monitoring and verification of the progress reported against each milestone and deliverable. She directed that completed activities must be duly verified and supported by appropriate records and documentation to ensure that the actual status of implementation remains clearly ascertainable.

The Commissioner Secretary called upon all stakeholders to sustain the present momentum, adhere to the approved timelines and ensure timely completion and verification of all remaining deliverables. She reiterated that coordinated, time-bound and result-oriented efforts by all implementing agencies are essential for achieving the approved objectives of the PACS Computerisation Project and ensuring its effective implementation across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

District-Level NCORD meeting held in Budgam DC stresses coordinated action against drug abuse

■ HT News Network

Budgam, September 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, along with SSP Budgam, Hari Prasad KK today chaired the 51st District-Level Narcotics Coordination Committee (NCORD) meeting at the Conference Hall, Budgam.

The Deputy Commissioner took detailed review of measures for prevention and control of drug abuse in the district.

At the outset, the DC reviewed enforcement, awareness, treatment and rehabilitation measures and called for stronger coordination among all concerned departments.

He directed intensified IEC activities, particularly among youth, students and vulnerable groups, besides strict vigil around educational institutions and other vulnerable areas.

The DC called for firm action against drug peddling and directed timely identification, counselling, treatment, rehabilitation and follow-up of persons affected by drug abuse. He also directed intensified action against illegal cultivation of cannabis, poppy and other prohibited crops through coordinated field efforts.

Reviewing chemist shops, the DC stressed strict monitoring, 100 per cent CCTV coverage and computerised billing, with action against



violations as per law.

SSP Budgam stressed sustained enforcement and close inter-departmental coordination to strengthen the anti-drug campaign.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, SDMs, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, DFO, ARTO, CMO, District Social Welfare Officer, officers from the Health Department and other concerned departments. SSP Budgam stressed sustained enforcement and close inter-departmental coordination to strengthen the anti-drug campaign.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, SDMs, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, DFO, ARTO, CMO, District Social Welfare Officer, officers from the Health Department and other concerned departments.

HT EDITORIAL

Let the Assembly Debate, Not Disrupt : Public Interest Must Come First

Government must answer tough questions with clarity, while Opposition must use the House to hold it accountable, not paralyse it. The opening day of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly's Autumn Session, marked by repeated disruptions over issues including National Health Mission employees, job outsourcing and electricity tariffs, has once again underlined the responsibility that rests on both sides of the House. The Assembly is the principal democratic forum for raising public concerns, scrutinising the Government and debating matters of policy. Every minute lost to slogans and disorder is ultimately a minute taken away from the people whose issues the legislators have been elected to represent.

The Government, for its part, must recognise that concerns relating to employment, NHM employees and electricity are genuine public issues requiring clear facts, transparent explanations and, wherever possible, concrete timelines and solutions. Policy decisions affecting thousands of families cannot be adequately addressed through political assertions alone. Ministers and officials must be prepared to explain the Government's position and respond meaningfully to difficult questions.

The Opposition, meanwhile, has every democratic right—and responsibility—to question the Government, highlight shortcomings and demand accountability. But that responsibility is most effective when exercised through debate, questions, motions, evidence and sustained scrutiny rather than prolonged disruption. A strong Opposition does not need a paralysed House to make its voice heard; it needs the opportunity to put the Government on record and challenge its decisions through the institutions of democracy.

The Assembly is conducted with public resources, and legislators are entrusted with responsibilities that extend beyond political confrontation. They are expected to deliberate on legislation, scrutinise expenditure, question the executive and work towards solutions to problems affecting everyday life. The people of Jammu and Kashmir should therefore see their representatives using the floor of the House to address substantive issues rather than spending valuable legislative time in disorder.

Political differences are natural and necessary in a democracy. The Government and Opposition need not agree, but they must disagree constructively. Criticism should not be dismissed as obstruction, while every disagreement should not become an excuse for disruption. The issues that triggered Monday's protests affect livelihoods, employment and household finances and therefore deserve serious, sustained and substantive discussion.

The Assembly should be the place where such concerns are debated transparently, answers are sought and solutions are pursued. The Government must listen, explain and respond; the Opposition must question, scrutinise and offer alternatives. Ultimately, the people did not elect their representatives merely to occupy the House—they elected them to make the House work for them.



Sahil Manzoor

Teacher's Reflection on Students, Sports and Unconditional Affection Human beings are among the most wonderful creations of Almighty Allah. We are blessed not only with intelligence but also with qualities like sympathy, empathy, love, affection and care for one another. Books are an important source of knowledge, but some of the most valuable lessons in life come from our relationships and everyday experiences.

We learn from one another, share our ideas, help each other and slowly develop the understanding needed to face the challenges of life. In this way, every person we meet can teach us something valuable.

There should be no place for hatred and unnecessary disputes in our society. Hatred creates distance between people, while love, understanding and respect bring them closer. As members of society, we should always try to promote peace, kindness and compassion.

The Omelette invitation

I am a teacher at Government Middle School Kralapathri. At our school, Saturdays are observed as Games Day. It gives students an opportunity to take part in different sports and recreational activities. I always find my students excited and happy while playing cricket, volleyball, badminton, kho-kho, carrom and other games.

Sports are not only a way to have fun or spend free time. They play an important role in the overall development of children. Through games, students learn cooperation, discipline, decision-making, leadership and teamwork. They also learn to stay calm under pressure and accept both victory and defeat gracefully.

A game is not always about winning. Sometimes, the losing team deserves more appreciation when its players show courage, determination and sportsmanship. Such experiences teach children that mistakes and failures are not the end. They are opportunities to learn and improve.

I have noticed that many of our students improve their thinking and learning skills through games. They carefully keep track of scores, runs, goals and results. More importantly, they learn to communicate with one another, follow rules and work together as a team.

Education should not be limited to the four walls of a classroom. Students need opportunities to explore, interact and learn in different environments. Such experiences can help them

become confident, responsible and socially aware individuals.

Recently, I experienced a small but deeply touching moment with some of my Class 7 students.

While I was playing cricket, some of my students—Khushbu Amin, Uzma Mushtaq, Aabroo Qayoom and others—called me and said, "Sir, please come. We have something delicious for you." I replied that I would come after some time. But they did not accept my answer. They came to me, took me with them, spread a cotton sheet nicely and said, "Please sit, Sir. We have something for you."

They then offered me an omelette prepared by Bimsa Rashid, milk kahwa prepared by Inshah Majeed and some biscuits.

It was a simple meal, but the love and affection behind it made the moment very special. While enjoying the food, I asked them how they had planned the invitation. They replied, "Sir, we were planning this yesterday when you told us that we were going to the stadium on Saturday for Games Day."

Their answer touched my heart.

At that moment, I realised something important: students observe their teachers more closely than we sometimes think. They notice how teachers speak to them, how they treat them, how they encourage them and how they make them feel.

This experience reminded me that teaching is not only about textbooks, examinations and academic results. A teacher also has the responsibility to guide, encourage, respect and care for students.

Children may forget some lessons from their textbooks as they grow older, but they often remember how their teachers made them feel. They remember kindness, encouragement, respect and affection.

My students were watching me as I enjoyed their simple meal. I gave them my heartfelt wishes and said something that came straight from my heart:

"Wazwan never gives me as much pleasure as this omelette and the love you have given me today."

The omelette was simple. The kahwa was simple. The biscuits were simple. But the feelings behind them were priceless.

True and unconditional love does not need expensive gifts or grand arrangements. It only needs sincerity, affection, respect and care.

That small invitation from my students taught me a lesson that no textbook could have taught me in quite the same way.

May Almighty Allah bless every student with success, wisdom and happiness and protect them from all evils. Ameen.

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti
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Parasites and Human Health

in children. Repeated or heavy parasitic infections may contribute to poor nutrition, impaired physical development and difficulties with concentration and learning. The impact is therefore not limited to the individual—it can also affect education, productivity and

range of microorganisms during development may influence immune-system regulation. However, this does not mean that deliberate parasitic infection is safe or recommended. Controlled research is still needed to understand these complex relationships.



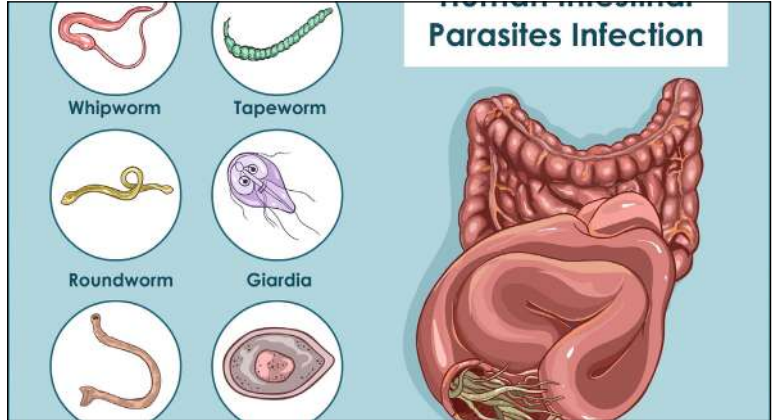
SURINDERPAL SINGH

The human body is home to trillions of microorganisms, many of which live harmlessly or even provide benefits. Yet among the organisms that can enter and survive inside the human body, parasites occupy a particularly important place. Parasites are living organisms that depend on another organism, known as the host, for food, shelter or survival. Some parasites cause little or no noticeable harm, while others can produce serious diseases and in severe cases, threaten life.

Parasites can be broadly divided into protozoa, helminths and ectoparasites. Protozoa are microscopic organisms that include parasites responsible for diseases such as malaria, amoebiasis and giardiasis. Helminths are parasitic worms, including roundworms, tapeworms and hookworms. Ectoparasites, such as lice, mites and certain ticks, live mainly on the surface of the body.

Parasites can influence human health in several ways. They may consume nutrients from the host, damage tissues, cause inflammation or interfere with normal organ function. Intestinal worms, for example, may compete with the body for nutrients and can contribute to abdominal pain, weakness, anaemia and poor nutritional status. Some parasites can also cause diarrhoea and other gastrointestinal problems.

The effects can be particularly serious



the wider community.

One of the most fascinating aspects of parasitic infections is their interaction with the immune system. The human immune system attempts to identify and eliminate invading parasites, while parasites have evolved sophisticated strategies to survive inside their hosts. Some can alter their surface structures, hide within tissues or influence immune responses.

Interestingly, scientists are studying these interactions for another reason. Certain parasitic organisms appear to influence immune activity in ways that may provide clues about inflammatory and autoimmune diseases. This has led to research into the so-called hygiene hypothesis and related theories suggesting that exposure to a wide

Parasitic diseases remain an important public-health concern, particularly in tropical and subtropical regions. Poor sanitation, unsafe drinking water, inadequate waste disposal, contaminated food and certain environmental conditions can increase the risk of transmission. Malaria is one of the best-known examples. It is caused by Plasmodium parasites and transmitted through the bites of infected mosquitoes. Other parasitic diseases are transmitted through contaminated food or water, undercooked meat, insect vectors or contact with contaminated soil. The burden is often greatest among communities where access to clean water, sanitation, healthcare and preventive measures is limited. Climate and environmental changes may also alter the

geographical distribution of some parasite-carrying vectors, creating new public-health challenges.

Many parasitic infections can be prevented through relatively simple measures. Washing hands regularly, drinking safe water, properly cooking food, washing fruits and vegetables, maintaining clean surroundings and using appropriate protection against insect bites can reduce the risk of infection.

Good sanitation is particularly important because some intestinal parasites spread when human waste contaminates soil or water. Community-level improvements in sanitation and hygiene can therefore be as important as individual treatment.

Treatment depends on the specific parasite and disease. Antiparasitic medicines should be used according to medical advice, because different parasites require different drugs and treatment schedules. Self-medication may be ineffective and can sometimes delay proper diagnosis.

Parasites are often viewed simply as enemies of human health, but modern biology presents a more complicated picture. They are highly adapted organisms that have co-evolved with their hosts over enormous periods of time. Studying them can reveal important information about immunity, evolution, disease transmission and the relationship between organisms.

Researchers are investigating parasite molecules and their effects on the immune system in the search for new approaches to treating inflammatory and immune-related diseases.

SURINDERPAL
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PUNJAB.

Let Teachers Teach-An Open Letter To J&K Education Minister



BY-MOOL RAJ

A quiet crisis is unfolding in our education system. You will not find it in inspection reports or departmental dashboards, but it is happening in plain sight. Our schools are slowly transforming into administrative offices that just happen to have classrooms attached to them.

Today, the people responsible for shaping the minds of the next generation are increasingly occupied with everything except teaching. In the relentless pursuit of compliance, monitoring, and digital documentation, the actual purpose of the school is fading into the background.

The administrative burden does not arrive all at once. It accumulates drop by drop. Instead of designing thoughtful assessments or sitting down with a struggling student to unpack a difficult mathematical concept, today's educators are trapped in a maze of paperwork and online tasks. They are spending their hours manually entering redundant data into portals, conducting surveys, acting as temporary health workers for local drives, filling out Google Forms, generating useless certificates, and completing tasks as if they were playing a game.

A teacher's week is now fractured by mandatory online webinars designed only to generate completion certificates. They are tasked with organizing weekly awareness rallies that demand staged photographs as proof of execution, all while duplicating reports for multiple different departmental offices. Individually, each task might seem harmless. Collectively, they are cannibalizing the most vital resource in any school, which is instructional time.

Madam Minister, what happened to teaching? I am not arguing that schools should operate without accountability. Attendance, records, and monitoring all matter. Government programmes matter when they genuinely address an educational need. Data matters when it helps us understand a problem and make better decisions.

But there is a fundamental question that deserves to be asked before another form is sent out to a school. What educational problem is this solving?

If the answer is unclear, why are thousands of teachers being asked to spend valuable time on it? And if the activity

is genuinely useful, we have to ask about the cost of taking teachers away from their primary responsibility.

This cost is rarely calculated. We count how many forms were submitted, how many schools participated, how many certificates were generated, and how many photographs were uploaded. But who counts the teaching time lost in the process? Who calculates the hours that teachers could have spent preparing better lessons, checking notebooks, or simply talking to a child who feels left behind?

One of the strangest features of our current culture is a



growing fascination with certificates. A teacher watches a video, completes an online activity, downloads a certificate, and shares it. The task is considered complete. But we rarely stop to ask what actually changed in the classroom. Did the teacher become a better educator? Did the student learn something new?

If the answer is no, then we need the courage to admit that we have created an activity without creating an educational outcome. A photograph of a programme is not evidence of learning. A certificate is not evidence of professional growth. A filled form is not evidence of educational improvement.

The problem does not end with teachers. School heads and management are caught right in the middle of this. An instruction comes from above, and the principal has to forward it to the teachers. The school then has to collect proof, check completion, send reports, and answer for any missing data.

A principal who should be observing classrooms is instead checking whether teachers have completed an online survey. A teacher who should be preparing tomorrow's mathematics lesson is attending a meeting about an unrelated programme. A school that should be discussing why its students cannot understand fractions is busy compiling photographs of a departmental activity. It is a massive opportunity cost.

Our education system increasingly wants to monitor

everything. There is a real danger, however, in monitoring what is easiest to measure instead of what matters most. We can easily measure form submissions and photo uploads. Teaching itself is much harder to measure. How clearly did the teacher explain the concept? Did the students actually understand it?

These questions require us to enter the classroom. The danger is that our system is starting to reward visible compliance rather than invisible teaching. Teachers learn that what matters most is what can be demonstrated to someone outside the classroom. That is exactly how paperwork begins to compete with pedagogy.

This is not a demand to free teachers from accountability. Accountability should serve education, not replace it. If data is genuinely required for policy decisions, we should collect it intelligently and preferably only once. But if an activity exists merely because an office somewhere needs a completion report, it deserves to be questioned.

Before introducing another programme to schools, we should ask ourselves a few basic questions. What educational problem does it solve? How much teacher time will it consume? Can we get this information from an existing system? What measurable benefit will students receive, and what will happen if the activity is simply not done?

If an activity cannot answer these questions convincingly, it does not belong in a teacher's working day. The department should conduct a comprehensive review of all recurring surveys, online activities, and reporting requirements. We need to keep what genuinely contributes to education and discontinue what merely consumes time.

Teachers do not need another motivational speech about working harder. They need time to work better. A teacher's most valuable resource is not a certificate. It is time. Once that time is spent on an unnecessary meeting or a meaningless reporting exercise, it cannot be returned to the classroom.

We have successfully built a system that can prove with screenshots and certificates that everything was done. Everything, that is, except teaching. It is time to conduct a ruthless audit of this administrative burden and treat classroom time as sacred. The teachers are already in the classrooms. Ms Itoo, please give them the space to do the job they were appointed to do.

Let teachers teach.

With due respect and hope for urgent action,

The Author Is A Regular
Columnist And Freelance Writer

The National Security Guard (NSG) maintains elite and versatile capabilities across the entire spectrum of counter-terrorism and high-risk security operations.



By M S Nazki

They play hard and are excellent when on a mission! In the past they have executed dangerous tasks and have always emerged as winners!

-When the going gets rough only the tough get going!

-One Shot, One Kill." (The ultimate operational standard for the NSG's elite hit-and-run sniper squads)

-When courage is the only currency. (A phrase commonly used by defense analysts to describe the brutal selection and training environment of the force)

-Recently they carried out drills that show cases capabilities!

-The National Security Guard (NSG) conducts regular counter-terrorism and hostage-rescue mock drills across India to test its rapid response and coordination with local and international forces.

-Recent Major Drills:

-Bengaluru (August 2026): NSG commandos and the Karnataka State Police carried out high-risk counter-terrorism and hostage-rescue exercises at prominent locations including the Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Ground, MG Road Metro station, Barton Centre, Public Utility Building, and Vidhana Soudha.

-Pune (August 2026): Over 100 NSG personnel joined 17 US Army Special Forces commandos and the Pimpri Chinchwad Police for a large-scale joint anti-terror mock drill at the Infosys Phase-2 campus in Hinjewadi, simulating a high-intensity attack and helicopter-rappelling rescue.

-Surathkal (August 2026): NSG personnel conducted tactical exercises at NITK Surathkal featuring coordinated Indian Air Force helicopter insertions and rapid room interventions.

-Annual Gandiv Exercises: The NSG periodically conducts nationwide multi-city counter-terror exercises (such as the Gandiv series) targeting critical infrastructure, commercial areas, and transport hubs across states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and the National Capital Region.

-The story which we got went something like this: It was rather a news item:

-NSG Capability Demonstration Marks Beginning of Comprehensive Capacity Building Module in Karnataka. The National Security Guard conducted a comprehensive Capability Demonstration in Bengaluru on 28 August 2026, marking the commencement of the Comprehensive Capacity Building Module (CCBM) for Karnataka State Police Forces. The event was graced by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri D. K. Shivakumar, Hon'ble Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Shri R. Ashoka, senior Ministers and other distinguished dignitaries. DGP Karnataka Dr. M. A. Saleem, IPS, and DG NSG Shri Brighu Srinivasan, IPS, along with senior officers of the State Police and NSG, were also present. The demonstration showcased NSG's specialised capabilities across the spectrum of counter-terrorism operations, including helicopter slithering and rappelling, intervention drills, K9 operations, bomb disposal, urban assault, counter-drone capabilities, VVIP/PSO protection and tactics!

-The National Security Guard (NSG) is India's elite federal contingency counter-terrorism force, known for its hallmark principles of speed, surprise, stealth, precision, and zero error.

-Core Operational Capabilities Counter-Terrorism & Urban Assault:

-Specialized in neutralizing terror threats and high-risk assaults in complex urban and built-up environments.

-Hostage Rescue: Rapid tactical intervention to safely rescue hostages from hostile or barricaded situations with minimal casualties.

-Anti-Hijacking Operations:

-Trained extensively as "Hijack Busters" to reclaim hijacked aircraft, land vehicles, or maritime targets.

-Bomb Disposal & EOD:

-Advanced search, detection, and safe neutralization of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and explosive ordnance.

-Post-Blast Investigation (PBI): Scientific analysis and investigation of explosion sites to trace terror networks and methodologies.

-Specialized Tactics: Proficient in helicopter slithering, rappelling, K9 (dog squad) operations, and counter-drone measures.

-Specialized Structure:

-Special Action Group (SAG): Drawn entirely from the Indian Army, forming the primary offensive counter-terror and anti-hijacking strike arm.

-Special Rangers Group (SRG): Composed of personnel from central police and state forces, handling operational

support and high-risk duties. (More about them, later in the script)

The National Security Guard (NSG) K9 dog squad is an elite four-legged combat and reconnaissance unit that partners with the "Black Cat" commandos for high-risk counter-terrorism and anti-hijack operations.

-Breeds and Roles:

-Belgian Malinois: Highly agile and preferred for direct-action assaults, tactical room clearing, and multi-



role operations (tracking, sniffing, and attacking).

-Labrador Retrievers: Traditionally deployed for sniffing and tracking, though the force is gradually phasing them out in favor of the Malinois.

-Cocker Spaniels: Selected for their compact, backpack-size dimensions, making them ideal for tight spaces and precise explosive or narcotic detection.

Advanced Technology and Gear:

-Tactical Gear: Canines are equipped with specialized body-mounted and head-mounted cameras, LED lights, and K9 visual systems.

-Real-Time Feed: Handlers view a live video feed from the dog's perspective during reconnaissance and communicate directly with the animal through ear-piece devices.

-And in that vast emptiness, two heads bobbed above the surface without a sound, just one hundred feet from them. Do not come up, I will handle them. (His final words to his personnel while charging terrorists alone after a fellow commando was injured.)

Heroes are made of men who stay focused in battle. Heroes are men who have a plan, and who understand the plan is ever-changing and dependent on enemy action...

-The phrase Comprehensive Capacity Building Module (CCBM) in Karnataka most prominently refers to a high-

profile, structured counter-terrorism initiative launched on August 28, 2026, by the National Security Guard (NSG) for the Karnataka State Police Forces.

-If the secondary part of the query "nry Nsg" was shorthand for Nursing/Healthcare (e.g., miskeyed "nrsg"), the state also actively operates a distinct digital and clinical nursing/healthcare capability initiative.

-The NSG & Karnataka Police CCBM (Security Sector) Launched at the Manekshaw Parade Grounds in Bengaluru,

this module establishes a joint-training framework between central forces and state responders.

-Core Purpose: To elevate first-responder operations, foster tactical synergy, and guarantee precise, shared coordination during high-risk security threats.

-Key Demonstration Modules: Air Operations: Helicopter slithering and high-rise rappelling.

-Tactical Assaults: Urban counter-terrorism intervention drills and tactical driving.

-Specialist Units: K9 tracking operations and explosive ordnance/bomb disposal.

-Modern Threats: Counter-drone warfare tactics and specialized VIP/PSO protection.

-Primary Stakeholders: Managed under DG NSG Brighu Srinivasan and Karnataka DGP Dr. M. A. Saleem, with administrative support from Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

-Clinical & Nursing Capacity Building (Healthcare Sector),

-Karnataka executes targeted initiatives via the Karnataka State Nursing Council (KSNC) and national institutes like NIMHANS!

-Digital Health Training: Standardized multi-week digital modules deployed for Community Health Officers (CHOs) and field workers to upgrade clinical knowledge, attitudes, and psychiatric primary care practices.

-Continuing Nursing Education (CNE): Mandatory structured accreditation frameworks that enforce periodic skill alignment, evidence-based nursing care, and hospital infection control protocols.

-The National Security Guard (NSG) maintains elite and versatile capabilities across the entire spectrum of counter-terrorism and high-risk security operations.

Core Tactical Capabilities

-Rapid Insertion: Uses helicopter slithering and fast rappelling to deploy commandos into hostile or restricted zones.

-Urban Assault: Executes close-quarter battle and fast room-intervention drills for built-up areas.

-Hostage Rescue: Conducts precise operations to free hostages from terrorists with minimal collateral damage.

-Counter-Hijacking: Responds to aircraft hijackings and aviation-related security threats.

-Specialized & Technological Support

0-Bomb Disposal: Detects, defuses, and disposes of improvised explosive devices through specialized ordnance teams and the National Bomb Data Centre.

-Counter-Drone Operations: Deploys anti-UAV and counter-UAV technologies to neutralize airborne electronic and drone threats.

-Protection & Capacity Building

-VVIP Security: Provides high-level Personal Security Officer (PSO) and close-protection duties for designated dignitaries.

-State Interoperability: Conducts joint capacity-building programs, such as the Comprehensive Capacity Building Module and specialized training courses, to partner with state police forces and the NSG Training Academy

-The Special Action Group (SAG) is a core part of the National Security Guard (NSG), serving as its primary offensive and strike wing. Key facts about the Special Action Group include:

-Personnel and Composition Exclusively Indian Army: All commandos and officers in the SAG are drawn on deputation from the Indian Army (including infantry, paratroopers, and special forces).

-This differentiates them from the Special Ranger Groups (SRG), which are recruited from police and paramilitary forces.

-Two Specialized Units: The SAG is divided into two primary operating branches:

-51 SAG: Tasked primarily with counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations.

-52 SAG: Specialized in anti-hijacking and hostage rescue operations.

The 'puss' reached the court from Chanda Mama

"Boor" is obscene or sweet? The real question is context.



- Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

Bur" or "Bura" has long been used in many North Indian dialects to refer to finely powdered sugar or sugar candy. Its use in the context of puris, laddus, and other traditional sweets is natural and intuitive. Therefore, if a word with a similar sound has an offensive meaning in another region, attributing that meaning to the entire song would not be fair to the linguistic context.

The world of folk songs and lullabies is far older than written dictionaries. They are passed down through generations, and the meaning of their words is rooted in the culture and way of life of the community in which they originated. "Chandamama Door Ke" is a lullaby from this folk tradition, later gaining widespread popularity through the 1955 Hindi film "Vachan." Thus, a folk tune and a folk sentiment, through cinema, etched a lasting place in the memories of millions. To view it solely through the lens of today's local meanings would be to ignore that cultural journey.

The history of language shows that words are not static. They travel, change languages, cultures, and their meanings change with them. From Sanskrit to Prakrit, Apabhramsha, and modern Indian languages, and from languages like Arabic, Persian, Turkish, English, and French, countless words have become so ingrained in Indian languages that their foreign origins are no longer even apparent. But knowing a word's etymology and accepting its current meaning as equivalent to its original meaning are two different things.

Take the word 'Aurat'. In the Arabic etymological tradition, the meanings associated with 'awra' have been related to things or body parts that were considered to be covered or hidden. However, as it entered Indian languages, the general meaning of 'Aurat' became established as woman or lady. Today, it is used in everything from common Hindi colloquial speech to literature and journalism. Can every usage today be read in that old meaning based solely on its historical etymology? Clearly not. This is the reality of linguistic evolution.

The word "madam" is also an example of semantic change and social evolution. Evolving from the French "ma dame," this term originally referred to a woman with respect. Different phases of history have had different social usages, but today, in English and Indian languages, "madam" is commonly used to address a teacher, an officer, or a respectable woman. Therefore, to define a word's current meaning by focusing on a single phase of its history would be to reduce the complexity of linguistics to a simple conclusion.

The real question isn't whether a word has a different

meaning in one place. The question is whether every word will be read based on all its possible meanings in every context? If this were to happen, a large portion of vernacular, literature, folk songs, and old proverbs would be rendered questionable in today's semantic system. A word's meaning derives from context, and ignoring context can distort meaning.

Therefore, in such linguistic matters that arise before

different places.

Before judging words, we should examine their context. Was the word intended to be offensive? Was it used in an obscene manner? Or was it part of a folk tradition, food, nature, relationship, or cultural symbol? Without answering these questions, it would be premature to judge language based solely on the word.

In "Chandamama door ke, pue pakaen burke," an Indian



courts and public institutions, it is not enough to simply look at the meaning of a word. It is essential to consider all aspects—the language or dialect from which the word originated, the time when it was used, its meaning in which region, the purpose of its creation, and its context within the sentence. Linguistic sensitivity does not mean applying every potentially offensive meaning everywhere. True sensitivity requires respecting the semantic worlds of different linguistic communities.

This controversy also offers a significant social lesson. In today's age of digital media and instant feedback, it's easy to find a single meaning of a word, but difficult to understand its history and context. The internet can instantly tell us the meaning of a word, but it doesn't necessarily explain its entire cultural journey. Therefore, "Google's meaning" cannot be the definitive proof of any linguistic conclusion. Language can only be understood by considering etymology, historical usage, regional dictionaries, and context.

Instead of clashing with modern sensibilities, folk language should be used as an opportunity for dialogue. If a different meaning of "bur" makes people uncomfortable in a particular region, that regional sensibility should be understood; but it would also be inappropriate to question the cultural memory of centuries-old lullabies on the same grounds. The beauty of language lies in its versatility: the same sound can open up a world of different meanings in

child sees the moon shining in the distant sky, the intimate relationship of his maternal uncle, and the imagery of sweet puris. This is its cultural context. To ignore this context and grasp only the meaning of a word would be to view the entire folk memory through the wrong lens.

Language is like a river—it keeps flowing, changing paths, shifting banks, and carrying new meanings with it. It's as difficult to confine a word to its current meaning as it is to stop a river on one bank. Therefore, the need is not to fear words, but to understand them; not to view folk languages with suspicion, but to embrace their diversity. After all, words are neither good nor bad in themselves. Meaning is formed by context, expression through expression, and understanding through understanding. Kabir's lines remind us of this human understanding: "We and you both are one, speaking and listening are two. Weighing one mind against another, two minds can never be two." If we can rise above the controversy of words and understand the history, culture, and emotions hidden behind them, then language will not only remain a medium of communication but also a bridge connecting diverse India.

(Dr. Satyavan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

The Farmer's Dilemma: More Crops, Less Gain



Dr. Vijay Garg

Modern agriculture has achieved remarkable progress. Improved seeds, irrigation, fertilizers, machinery and scientific farming practices have helped farmers produce more food from the same land. Yet a troubling question remains: Does producing more always mean earning more?

For many farmers, the answer is not necessarily. A higher yield can be accompanied by rising costs of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, electricity, diesel, machinery, labour and irrigation. When market prices do not increase in proportion to production costs, the farmer may harvest more but receive little or no additional income.

This creates a difficult paradox. Agriculture is often judged by the quantity of crops produced, while the farmer's economic well-being depends on something different—the income left after paying the costs of cultivation. A bumper harvest may therefore look like a success at the national level but may not translate into greater prosperity for the individual farmer. Market uncertainty makes the situation even more complicated. Prices can fall when production is high, particularly when supply exceeds demand or storage and marketing facilities are inadequate. Farmers who cannot store their produce for better prices may be forced to sell soon after harvest. Perishable crops face an even greater risk of distress sales.

Climate change adds another layer of uncertainty. Unseasonal rain, heatwaves, droughts, floods, pests and changing weather patterns can damage crops or increase production costs. Even when yields remain high, farmers may face greater financial risks.

The solution is not simply to produce more. Agriculture needs to become more

profitable, sustainable and resilient. Better access to storage, transportation, processing and reliable markets can help farmers retain more value from their produce. Crop diversification can reduce dependence on a single crop, while efficient irrigation and responsible use of fertilizers can lower input costs.

Technology can also help. Soil testing, precision farming, weather information, improved irrigation systems and digital market platforms can support better decisions. Farmer-producer organizations and cooperatives can strengthen bargaining power by enabling farmers to purchase inputs collectively and market produce in larger quantities.

Consumers, too, have a role. The food system connects the farmer, trader, processor and consumer. A fairer agricultural economy requires greater



transparency so that the value created along this chain is not disconnected from the livelihood of the person who grows the food.

Ultimately, the success of agriculture should not be measured only in tonnes per hectare. It should also be measured by net income, soil health, water efficiency, resilience and the dignity of farming as a livelihood.

Farmers should not have to choose between producing more and earning more. The real goal of agricultural progress should be simple: more productive farms, lower avoidable costs, fairer returns and a secure future for those who feed the nation.

Dr Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educationist and Eminent Scientist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab -152107



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of ABDUL AHAD WANI S/O
ABDUL AZIZ WANI R/O CHANDKOTE Tehsil KREERI
for the issuance of income Dependent certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant family consists of (04) members and having annual income 95000 / the details of family of the applicant are as fallows

- 1...AB AHAD WANI Father 52 years Labour Married
- 2.SHAMEEMA BEGUM Mother 45 years H/W
- 3...SHOWKAT AHMAD WANI Brother 28 years Un , Employed
- 4...IQRA AHAD Applicant 22 years student

It is further submitted that AB AHAD WANI S/O AB AZIZ WANI is Labour by profession and is sole earnings in the said family .Theapplicant needs income dependent certificate in favour daughter IQRQ AHAD for Labour scholarship

The applicant has applied for the issuance of income dependent certificate as such the instant matter is published through newspaper .

if anyone is having any kind of objection He/She may approach this office within (07)seven days of the publication of this notice .After passing of Stipulated time of 07 days No objection will be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as SHAFIYA ASHRAF D/O MOHAMMAD ASHRAF WANI on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..3934 6070 8466 while my correct name is SHAFEA ASHRAF WANI D/O MOHAMMAD ASHRAF WANI 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 Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name... SHAFEA ASHRAF
D/O..MOHAMMAD ASHRAF WANI
R/O..NAGBAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as SHUBA BANO D/O GHULAM MOHI UD DIN DAR on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..3060 9455 0226 while my correct name is SHABINA JAN D/O GH MOHI UD DIN DAR 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 Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...SHABINA JAN
D/O..GH MOHI UD DIN DAR
R/O..NOWPORA JAGIR

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as MUSRAT JAN D/O GHULAM AHMAD RATHER on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..2324 5010 9898 while my correct name is MASRAT JAN W/O WASEEM ABDULLAH 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 Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...MASRAT JAN
W/O..WASEEM ABDULLAH
R/O..GUNDBAL PATTAN

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as AASHIYA BANO D/O GHULAM MOHD RATHER on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..6973 4633 4884 while my correct name is AISHA BANO D/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD RATHER 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 Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name..AISHA BANO
D/O..GHULAM MOHAMMAD RATHER
R/O..WAGOOORA

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared SSE(Class 10th) under Roll No. 107013017 session: AnnualRegular (Oct-Nov)-2025 through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the HSS Tilgam against my Date of Birth as 08/10/2011 instead of 08/10/2010 Now I have applied for correction

in The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates Kashmir Division within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public.

The correct particulars be recorded as under:-

Name: Arif Rehman Kumar
Father's Name: Abdul Rehman Kumar
Mother's Name: Shakeela Begum
Date of Birth: 08/10/2010
Residence: Singpora Kalan Baramulla Mobile No.:9149518497



Several political leaders, activists from Trehgam constituency join Apni Party

Altaf Bukhari, senior party leaders welcome new entrants into party fold

■ HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sept 21 (KNS) : Apni Party President Altaf Bukhari, along with other senior party leaders, on Monday warmly welcomed several political and social activists and leaders from Trehgam

constituency into the party fold.

According to a press release issued here, several political and social activists and leaders from Trehgam constituency formally joined the Apni Party during an event organised at the party headquarters in Srinagar on Monday. On the occasion, Altaf Bukhari and other

senior party leaders welcomed the new entrants and expressed hope that their joining would further strengthen the party at the grassroots level. The new entrants included National Conference (NC) Halka President Marhama Trehgam Constituency Wali Mohammad Mir, Senior Worker NC Najmu Saqib, Ashiq

Hussain Pir, Senior Worker NC Mansoor Ahmad Waza, Senior Worker NC Nisar Ahmad Shikheh, and others. They all hail from Trehgam constituency. Besides Altaf Bukhari, the prominent party leaders who were present on the occasion included Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir, District President Budgam.



**Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.**

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in

Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 2nd of Re-Tender Notice/ Corrigendum.

Subject: Construction of Production Bore Well at Madina Sanzwatoo District Pulwama.

- Reference:** 1. This office **Corrigendum Notice 1st** issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/ 26-27/Camp./ 7835-47 Dated: 20-08-2022 bearing Tender ID No: **2026_PHE_315512_2**
2. This office **Extension Notice 2nd** issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/ 26-27/Camp/ **2377-93**, dated: 11-05-2026.
3. This office e-NIT No. **29/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27**, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/ **4044-56**, dated: **09-07-2026** Bearing Tender ID No. **2026_PHE_315512_1**.

Due to **"NO Response"** for the above mentioned work's advertised vide e-NIT No. and **Tender ID No's** under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till **21-09-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM**.

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	01-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	02-10-2026 11:00 AM

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

DIPK-5982/26

Send Dated: 21-09-2026.

Sd/=
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.



**Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.**

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in

Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 3rd. of Re-Tender Notice/ Corrigendum.

Subject: Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme Chatterhama by way of construction of

Additional

Bore Well.

- Reference:** 1. This office Retender Corrigendum Notice vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/ 26-27/ Camp./ 3506-19, Dated: 19-06-2026, Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_307393. 3.
2. This office Extension Notice 5th issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/ 26-27/ Camp/ 2363-76, dated: 11-05-2026.
3. This office e-NIT No. 03/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/ 26-27/ Camp/ 64-76, dated: 03-04-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_307393_1.

Due to **"NO Response"** for the above mentioned work advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till **21-09-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM**.

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	01-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	02-10-2026 11:00 AM

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

DIPK-5985/26

Send Dated: 21-09-2026.

Sd/=
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.



**Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.**

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in

Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 8th. of Re-Tender Notice/ Corrigendum.

- Subject:** 1. Construction of 125 mm dia machine drilled Bore well including allied accessories in the premises of Divisional Office (Executive Engineer Civil Investigation & Design Division PDC Sopore) for drinking water purpose in District Baramulla. (Sl.no.2)
2. Construction and Harnessing of 01 No. 125 mm dia, machine drilled Bore-well in the premises of Mechanical & Hospital Division Baramulla. (Sl.no.3)

- Reference:** 1. This office Extension Notice / Corrigendum 1st vide Endorsement No: JS/PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/8384-408/ dated: 25.08.2026. Bearing Tender ID No: 2026_PHE_309097_7 & 8
2. This office Retender Corrigendum Notice vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/ 26-27/ Camp/ 2949-72, Dated: 19-06-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_309097_7 & 8.
3. This office Extension Notice 3rd issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/ 26-27/ 27/Camp/ 2412-35, dated: 11-06-2026.

4. This office e-NIT No. 11/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/ 26-27/ Camp/ 818-41, dated: 29-04-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_309097_2 & 3.

Due to **"NO Response"** for the above mentioned work's advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till **21-09-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM**.

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	01-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	02-10-2026 11:00 AM

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

DIPK-5980/26

Send Dated: 21-09-2026.

Sd/=
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.





Javid Dar inaugurates buyer-seller meet at SKICC

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 21: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated the buyer-seller meet organised by the Department of Horticulture Planning & Marketing, J&K at SKICC, Srinagar.

The event, themed "Transforming Horticulture Marketing in Jammu & Kashmir", highlighted the Department's achievements, economic impact and various interventions undertaken to strengthen the market infrastructure and improve post-harvest management in the horticulture sector.

On the occasion, the Minister

inspected various stalls showcasing horticulture produce, products, technologies and marketing initiatives. He interacted with the farmers, growers, traders, buyers and other stakeholders and took their feedback regarding marketing facilities, post-harvest management, market linkages and issues confronting the sector.

During his interaction, Javid Ahmad Dar emphasized the need for further strengthening the horticulture marketing infrastructure and creating efficient, transparent and farmer-centric market mechanisms to ensure better returns to growers. He stressed upon coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to improve the entire horticulture value chain, from production and post-harvest



handling to marketing and final market access. He also called for greater focus on value addition, modern market facilities, scientific post-harvest management and stronger buyer-seller linkages.

The Minister said that horticulture constitutes an important component of Jammu & Kashmir's rural economy and provides livelihood opportunities to a large section of the population. He

underscored the importance of sustained interventions to reduce post-harvest losses, improve handling and storage facilities and facilitate wider and remunerative markets for local produce. The Buyer-Seller meet provided an important platform for direct interaction between the growers, traders, buyers, market functionaries and other stakeholders, enabling them to explore new business opportunities, share experiences and identify measures for improving the marketing ecosystem. The Department, through its presentation, showcased the impact of its market infrastructure and post-harvest interventions. Besides, it highlighted the ongoing initiatives aimed at modernizing the horticulture marketing and enhancing the competitiveness.

DC Samba reviews performance of banks, Credit Flow at DLRC meeting

HT News Network

SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of the District Level Review Committee (DLRC)/ District Consultative Committee (DCC) at the DC Office Complex, to review the performance of banks for the quarter ended June 2026.

The meeting, convened by Lead District Manager (LDM) Nishu Suppal, reviewed key banking indicators including deposits, advances, Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio, achievement under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) 2026-27, as well as the progress of various Government-sponsored and social security schemes.

The meeting was attended by LDO RBI Vishal, DDM NABARD Shalesh Sharma, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, AD Fisheries, District Coordinators of J&K Bank, SBI,



PNB and JKGB, representatives of other banks and officials of sponsoring Government departments/agencies.

The LDM informed the meeting that banks operating in Samba district had recorded deposits of 9,575 crore and advances of 5,470 crore as on June 30, 2026, with the district recording a CD Ratio of 58%. Under the Annual Credit Plan 2026-27, banks achieved advances of 1,453.85 crore against the annual target of 3,365.40 crore, registering an achievement of 43%. Under the Priority Sector, advances stood at 2,684 crore against the target of 8,695 crore, while under the Non-Priority

Sector, advances stood at 5,843 crore against the annual target of 9,713 crore.

The Deputy Commissioner conducted an extensive review of government-sponsored schemes, with special focus on PMEGP, JKREGP, KCC, HADP, PMAY, NRLM and NULM.

Emphasising the importance of financial inclusion and employment generation, the DC directed banks to achieve 100% digitisation of bank accounts and advised all sponsoring agencies and banks to intensify awareness among the public regarding various self-employment schemes launched by the government.

ADC Poonch flags off 52 Farmers to Srinagar for Specialised Horticulture Training

HT News Network

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 21: Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch Tahir Mustafa Malik today flagged off a batch of 52 local farmers for a specialised horticulture training programme in Srinagar. The farmers were flagged off in the presence of Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO) Uttam Lal.

The specialised training programme has been organised to provide farmers with technical knowledge, practical exposure and experience of modern and improved horticulture practices.

During the programme, the farmers would visit and receive training at the Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), Rangreth; SKUAST-K, Shalimar, Centre of Excellence, Zawoora and C.A. Store, Lassipora, Pulwama.

The programme shall also include field visits to local orchards in Shopian and interactions with progressive orchardists and nursery growers, enabling the participating farmers to gain practical insights into modern orchard management, nursery production and other advanced horticultural techniques.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC emphasised the importance of capacity building and exposure visits in enhancing farmers'



knowledge and encouraging the adoption of modern technologies in the horticulture sector.

The programme aims to enhance the technical skills and knowledge of local farmers and promote the adoption of improved horticultural practices for increased production, productivity, quality and income generation.

The initiative is expected to provide the participating farmers with valuable practical exposure that can subsequently be shared with other growers in the district, thereby contributing to the overall development and modernisation of the horticulture sector in Poonch.

DC Rajouri reviews progress of EMRS projects

HT News Network

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today reviewed the progress of ongoing works of the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in the district and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of the same.

During the review of EMRS at Gurdhan Balla, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned authorities to start the boundary wall construction work after proper demarcation of the land by the Revenue Department. He stressed for close coordination among the concerned departments and directed that the work be completed within the stipulated timeline.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of EMRS Hubbi and took stock of the ongoing works. He called upon the concerned officers to expedite the pace of execution.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that all bottlenecks affecting the execution of the projects should be identified and resolved promptly, with regular monitoring to ensure timely completion of the works.

The meeting was attended by the ADDC, Malikzada Sheraz UI Haq; SE PWD (R&B), Manzoor Ahmed; CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; CMO, Dr Manohar Lal Rana; CEO Mohd Hafiz; Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) Rajouri, Thanamandi, Nowshera, Kalakote and Koteranka, besides other concerned officers.

GMC Srinagar team screens 95 children for hearing, speech disorders

HT News Network

Srinagar, Sep 21 (KNS): As many as 95 children with hearing and speech impairments were screened during a specialised medical programme organised at Abhedananda Home here by RehabNation Healthcare Foundation of India in collaboration with the home, Department of Social Welfare, Kashmir, and the Department of ENT, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar.

The screening programme was conducted by a specialist team from the Department of ENT, GMC Srinagar, led by Dr Jasif Ahmed, Associate Professor, GMC Srinagar.

The team carried out detailed clinical assessments of the children and identified those requiring further medical attention. Following the screening, two children were advised referral for further evaluation and appropriate management. RehabNation said early identification of hearing and speech-related difficulties can have a significant bearing on a child's communication, learning, participation and overall development, while timely screening and referral can help ensure that children receive appropriate support at the right stage. The foundation expressed appreciation to GMC Srinagar for its prompt response, professional support and coordination in facilitating the screening programme.

It also acknowledged the support of the Principal, Administrator and Head of the Department of ENT, GMC Srinagar, for facilitating the collaboration and ensuring the availability of specialist services.

RehabNation also thanked Dr Mudasir Ahmed, Principal, Abhedananda Home, for his support, coordination and efforts to ensure that the children had access to specialist screening services in a supportive environment.

480 medical officer posts referred to JKPS, 335 appointed so far: Sakeena Itoo

HT News Network

Srinagar, Sep 21 (KNS): The Jammu and Kashmir government is taking measures to strengthen healthcare delivery in remote and difficult areas, including Karnah, through recruitment, rational deployment and augmentation of medical and paramedical manpower, Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Itoo said on Monday.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Javid Ahmad Mirchal during Question Hour in the Legislative Assembly regarding deployment of staff and augmentation of healthcare facilities in his constituency, Itoo said 480 Medical Officer (Allopathic) posts had been referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPS).

Of these, 416 candidates have been recommended and 335 have been appointed so far, she said.

Shiv Sena protests new Jammu Tawi exit plan, opposes forcing passengers towards Narwal

HT News Network

Jammu, Sep 21: Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), J&K unit, on Monday staged a protest outside Jammu Tawi Railway Station against the new exit arrangement introduced from September 16 as part of the station's redevelopment, alleging that passengers were being inconvenienced by being directed towards Narwal.

Led by party's J&K president Manish Sahni, the protesters demanded that passengers be allowed to choose an exit according to their convenience and requirements.

"Railway premises and passengers are not the private property of railway officials.



Passengers must have the freedom to use an exit according to their convenience," Sahni said. He said the new arrangement was particularly inconvenient for passengers arriving on late-night trains and raised concerns over the safety and accessibility of women,

elderly people and those travelling alone. Sahni said the Railway Administration should first ensure adequate facilities, including lockers, dormitories and public transport such as autos, taxis and matadors, before directing passengers towards Narwal.

J&K Rehabilitation Council approves Rs 12.95 crore proposals for mobility, youth outreach

HT News Network

Srinagar, Sep 21 (KNS): The J&K Rehabilitation Council for Orphans, Women and Disabled Persons on Monday approved proposals worth Rs 12.95 crore for mobility assistance to specially-abled persons and national exposure programmes for children from vulnerable and economically weaker sections. The decisions were taken at the 12th Executive Council Meeting of the Rehabilitation Council, chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, which reviewed the council's functioning, achievements and action plan for 2026-27.

The meeting was attended

by Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary in the Social Welfare Department, Director General, Budget, and Executive Director, Rehabilitation Council. The meeting reviewed major welfare interventions undertaken during the previous financial year and approved an expanded roadmap aimed at improving mobility and self-reliance among specially-abled persons while providing greater national exposure and opportunities to children from vulnerable and economically weaker sections.

A major focus was the free distribution of retrofitted motorised tricycles to eligible orthopaedically disabled persons

in Jammu and Kashmir.

The initiative prioritises students, girl students, artisans and small vendors possessing a Priority Household (PHH) ration card and having at least 40 per cent locomotor disability.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department Sarmad Hafeez informed the meeting that during 2025-26, against an approved proposal of Rs 13 crore, the department released Rs 11.05 crore under the CAPEX Budget to the State Motor Garages Department for procurement of around 1,284 motorised tricycles. The tricycles are being procured through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) at an approximate cost of Rs 86,000 per unit.

Jammu Expo 2026 concludes on high note with overwhelming public response

HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21: The first edition of Jammu Expo 2026 – A Celebration of Craft, Culture & Cuisine successfully concluded here at Gole Market Gandhi Nagar, receiving an overwhelming and encouraging response from the people of Jammu.

Organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) under the aegis of the Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Jammu & Kashmir under the tagline

"Discover Local- Experience Dogri Cuisine-Connect with Markets," the three-day Expo, held from September 18 to 20, 2026, brought together local entrepreneurs, artisans, MSMEs, women-led enterprises, startups, ODOP enterprises and emerging businesses on a common platform to showcase their products and connect directly with consumers and markets.

Jammu Expo celebrated the entrepreneurial spirit, cultural identity and culinary heritage of Jammu and witnessed heavy footfall throughout all three days, with visitors showing keen



interest in local products, handicrafts, handloom, agriculture, horticulture, food

products, innovative offerings and products showcased by women-led SHGs/enterprises

and local entrepreneurs. The enthusiastic participation of the public translated into impressive

and strong consumer engagement, providing exhibitors with valuable market exposure and direct customer interaction.

A major attraction of the Expo was the dedicated "Taste of Jammu" Food Corner, which offered visitors an opportunity to savour traditional Dogri cuisine, local snacks, beverages and value-added food products. The Expo also featured cultural performances celebrating the rich Dogra heritage, adding to the overall visitor experience.

The participation of rural women Self-Help Groups, startups, ODOP enterprises,

artisans, MSMEs and local businesses further strengthened the Expo's objective of promoting local enterprise and creating opportunities for market linkages.

The successful culmination of Jammu Expo 2026 reflected the growing interest of consumers in local products, local brands and local entrepreneurship, while providing participating enterprises with a platform to engage with customers, understand market preferences and expand their reach.

The JKTPO has extended its sincere gratitude to the people

of Jammu, exhibitors, artisans, entrepreneurs, women-led enterprises, startups, partners and all stakeholders for their enthusiastic participation and support in making the first edition of Jammu Expo a success.

The overwhelming public response has further encouraged JKTPO to continue creating regular, market-oriented platforms across Jammu & Kashmir to promote local enterprises, strengthen market linkages and provide entrepreneurs and artisans with greater opportunities to connect with consumers and wider markets.



Confusion in the immune system

How allergies can develop later in life

We often think of allergies as the result of an unlucky hand dealt in childhood, or even before birth. But "any person, at any point in their life, can develop a new allergy", says allergist Kelly Colas. Allergies can rear their ugly heads at any time in life – sometimes well into adulthood. These issues emerge seemingly from nowhere. But as researchers learn more, they are identifying a number of strange and surprising ways to "catch" new allergies – from tick bites to hormonal swings.

The Covid 'on switch'

Some people are born with a genetic predisposition to allergy. But "it's not all genetics," says Ruchi Gupta, director of the Center for Food Allergy and Asthma Research at Northwestern University in Illinois. Often, "something is turning it on."

One such "on switch" is Covid-19, which can leave its stamp on the immune system in the form of new allergies.

Confusion in the immune system

Ironically, the treatments used to address some common illnesses may similarly have unintended effects. Antibiotic use, for example, has been linked to a subsequent risk of allergies.

Gupta, who has studied factors that may trigger allergies, says this could be because antibiotics disrupt the delicate balance of the gut microbiome, the massive colony of bacteria that live in the human gastrointestinal tract.

Scientists still have a lot to learn about the gut microbiome, but it seems to play a role in myriad aspects of our health – including immune system function. Disrupting the microbiome, Gupta says, may lead to "confusion in the immune system," causing what should



and progesterone, after all, are well known to interact with the immune system.

Research also suggests women may experience new allergies after they hit menopause, another time of great hormonal change. "These hormones can do just about anything," Colas says.

Allergies hiding in the weeds

The bite of a lone star tick, an arachnid native to North America but spreading to new parts of the world as the climate warms, can be another surprising allergy trigger – specifically, causing reactions to red meat.

After a decadent dinner of lamb chops and French wine during a 2007 trip to London, Thomas Platts-Mills headed back to his hotel for a good night's rest. But then, he says, "I woke up at 2:30 in the morning. By 3:00, I

we eat. Humans, however, "lost the ability about 10 million years ago," Platts-Mills explains.

That means, when a person is exposed to alpha-gal through a tick bite, their immune system may see it as a threat and respond accordingly. "Everything non-primate is your enemy," Platts-Mills says. When that person encounters alpha-gal again – perhaps while enjoying a juicy hamburger – they may develop allergic symptoms including hives, swelling and gastrointestinal discomfort.

Diagnoses of alpha-gal syndrome are rapidly becoming more common in the US as lone star ticks spread to new parts of the country, well beyond their original home in the Southeast. More than 90,000 people were diagnosed from 2017 to 2022 alone, according to government data.

Is there a cure for sudden-onset allergies?

While pregnancy rhinitis usually goes away once the baby comes, many people who develop sudden-onset allergies aren't so lucky. Whether it emerges after an illness, a tick bite or seemingly out of nowhere, a new allergy may be permanent.

Whether you're allergic to pollen or peanuts, dust or dogs, the same general process is to blame. Allergies happen when the body responds to what should be a benign substance as if it's a dangerous foreign invader and pumps out antibodies, a type of immune protein. When the immune system fires up, you're left with symptoms like runny nose, itchy eyes – or, in serious cases, even life-threatening anaphylaxis.

"Your immune system has recognised [a substance] as bad and created antibodies to whatever that is," Gupta explains. "Now, every time your body comes into contact with it, it goes on attack."

In cases where later-in-life allergies have a likely cause, such as inflammation related to an illness or gut microbiome changes after a course of antibiotics, there are clues about

how to potentially prevent or reverse the damage, at least in part. Gupta, for example, recommends that people taking antibiotics also consume probiotics, prebiotics, yoghurt and fermented foods, all of which can help support the health and diversity of the gut microbiome.

More like this:

- The 1950s blunder causing mass allergies in Japan
- Nine tips for beating seasonal allergies
- Are we close to a hay fever cure?

Preventing inflammation from raging out of control during a viral illness could also feasibly stop downstream consequences like allergies, Curman says. "Could we affect the development of these secondary disorders, like asthma, with early treatment?" he asks. That's an open question, but one worth investigating further, he says.

Immune-modulating drugs, in general, are promising for novice and veteran allergy sufferers alike. Xolair, a drug that has been used for decades to treat asthma and has more recently proven effective at taming food allergy reactions, works by targeting the immune system, blocking it from mounting an overly aggressive response that could become dangerous or fatal.

Researchers are also studying other ways to retrain the immune system to overcome allergies. These experimental approaches include vaccines that may teach the system to respond to allergens in a more restrained way – just as vaccines prepare the body to fight off viruses without going haywire – and a single-dose treatment that aims to directly supply the body with allergen-blocking antibodies.

As of now, there's no surefire way to reverse a new allergy, Gupta says. But the future looks bright. "I've been studying food allergies for 20 years," she says, "and it's just such an exciting time to see so much progress."

"Infection increased the risk, and vaccination decreased the risk," explains Philip Curman, a co-author of the study and a dermatologist at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. The immune system can run wild during a case of COVID-19, cranking up inflammation – including a type known to be related to allergic disease, Curman explains.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) – a common childhood illness – and rhinovirus, a cold-causing virus, seem capable of similar effects, at least in children, previous studies show. Developing allergies in the wake of these illnesses is sometimes collateral damage – a physiologic example of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, Gupta explains.

"If your body sees a type of food or an environmental allergen coming in when your immune system is already overwhelmed [by fighting off a virus]," she says, "your immune system's like, 'Okay what is this now? Just get rid of everything.'"



be harmless substances to be filed under threats that need neutralising.

Pregnancy is another seismic disruption to the immune system, and one that can have unexpected effects on allergies, says Colas, who is an allergist at the University of Washington specialising in allergy management during pregnancy.

About a third of women with pre-existing environmental allergies find that they get worse after conceiving, Colas says. There's also a phenomenon known as "pregnancy rhinitis," which is when a pregnant person who has never had allergies before develops all the telltale symptoms, like sneezing, congestion and runny nose.

Pregnancy rhinitis probably isn't a true allergy, but rather a temporary condition that results in allergy-like symptoms, Colas says. (One key point of differentiation? Symptoms usually disappear after delivery rather than lasting forever.) Why it happens is "really poorly understood", Colas says, but it seems related to hormonal fluctuations. The female reproductive hormones oestrogen

was covered in hives."

Platts-Mills, a professor of medicine and microbiology at the University of Virginia in the US, was uniquely qualified to understand this strange sequence of events. At the time of his trip, Platts-Mills' lab was deep in the weeds of a medical mystery.

His team was trying to understand why a string of patients in the US had developed allergies to red meat after years of omnivorous dining.

By then, Platts-Mills had a hypothesis: these bizarre allergies seemed to follow tick bites. His own case helped seal the deal. Platts-Mills had been covered with, and bitten by, larval ticks after hiking months earlier. Subsequent blood tests showed high levels of allergy-related antibodies. And now, his lamb dinner had him breaking out in hives.

Platts-Mills' unfortunate reaction helped his team define what's today known as alpha-gal syndrome.

Ticks can carry in their saliva a sugar molecule called alpha-gal, which is produced naturally by most mammals, including those





Asian Games Day 2: Himangshu, Rudrankksh, Suchika shine as India's gold wait continues

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 21 : India's wait for a gold medal continued on Day 2 of the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Monday, with three more medals taking their tally to six as shooting and Mixed Martial Arts provided the biggest highlights and the team sports maintained the momentum.

Shooting once again led India's medal charge, with Himangshu Dhillon (252.4) and Rudrankksh Patil (230.9) completing a podium double by winning silver and bronze, respectively in the men's 10m air rifle final. China's Olympic champion Sheng Lihao took gold with a Games-record 254.2.

It was also the second medal of the day for both shooters after they had earlier combined with Parth Mane to win silver in the men's 10m air rifle team event. The result took India's shooting medal haul at Aichi-Nagoya to five. Suchika Tariyal also created history in MMA, winning bronze in the women's traditional 60kg category to become India's first Asian Games medallist in the sport.

In wushu, two-time Asian Games medallist Roshibina Devi moved into



the women's 60kg Sanda quarterfinals after defeating Bangladesh's Shika Khatun by points difference. Roshibina, who won bronze at Jakarta 2018 and silver at Hangzhou 2023, is now one victory away from securing another Asian Games medal. Two-time junior world champion Aryan also progressed to the men's 56kg Sanda quarterfinals after beating Afghanistan's Safi Shahzada 2-0 (5-0, 5-0). In table tennis, the Indian men and women's teams secured their place in the quarterfinals after registering clinical victories against Pakistan. Both Indian teams will face

hosts Japan in their respective quarterfinals on Tuesday. India's boxing campaign also began on a positive note with Sumit Kundu defeating Thailand's Bunjong Sinsiri by unanimous

decision in the 70kg opening round. Kundu, one of India's two boxers who missed out on medals at last month's Commonwealth Games, produced his strongest work in the final round to complete a 5-0 victory. He will next face Iraq's Ali Qasim Hamdan Al-Sarra in the pre-quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, defending champions India began their men's kabaddi title

defence with a comfortable 49-24 win over Japan in Group A. India will face South Korea in their second group match on Tuesday. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the semifinals.

In hockey, the Indian women's hockey team followed up their 19-0 win over Uzbekistan with another emphatic victory, beating Indonesia 17-1 at the Gifu Prefectural Green Stadium. India led 9-0 at half-time and extended the advantage to 14-1 after three quarters before adding three more goals in the final period. Deepika, Sunelita Toppo, Lalremsiami, Rutuja Pisal, Sakshi Rana, Salima Tete, Navneet Kaur and Ishika Chaudhary were among India's scorers.

In badminton, India's men's team opened its campaign with a 3-0 win over Bangladesh, to join their women counterparts in the quarterfinals. Lakshya Sen began with a 21-4, 21-4 win over Ayman Ibn Jamaan before Ayush Shetty defeated Gourab Singha 21-4, 21-13. Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth completed the clean sweep with a 21-15, 21-9 victory over Al Amin Jumar. Both teams will both face Japan in the quarterfinals on Tuesday.

Asian Games: South Korea, Thailand reach badminton men's team quarterfinals

United News Of India

NAGOYA (JAPAN), SEP 21 (UNI) World No. 2 Kunlavut Vitidsarn led Thailand to a 3-0 victory over Macao, China, while South Korea defeated Hong Kong, China 3-1 to reach the men's team badminton quarterfinals at the Asian Games on Monday.

South Korea took the lead when Yu Tae-bin rallied from a game down to beat Hong Kong, China's Lee Cheuk Yiu 18-21, 21-16, 22-20 in the men's singles opener.

World No. 1 men's doubles pair Kim Won-ho and Seo Seung-jae then defeated Deng Chi Fai and Hung Kuei Chun 21-9, 21-10 to put South Korea 2-0 ahead.

"Honestly, playing against the world No. 1 is like playing against a wall. Their defense is unbreakable. It's really impressive," Hung said after the game.

Jason Gunawan beat Park Sang-yong 21-18, 21-17 to pull one back for Hong Kong, China, before Kang Min-hyuk and Ki Dong-ju defeated Chan Yin Chak and Lui Chun Wai 18-21, 22-20, 21-18

to seal South Korea's victory. Thailand also reached the quarterfinals with a 3-0 win over Macao, China. 2024 Olympic silver medalist Kunlavut Vitidsarn edged Pui Pang Fong 21-19, 20-22, 21-10 in a three-game



thriller, before Panitchaphon Teerarataskul extended Thailand's lead with a 21-8, 21-7 victory over Pui

hi Chon. Puritat Arree then sealed the win by beating Leong Lok Chong 21-14, 21-12, according to Xinhua.

"I just try my best and do everything to be the best on the court, because right now I feel like

Rajeev Ram flags 'genetics' as factor in physical challenge facing Indian tennis



United News Of India

BENGALURU, SEPT 21 : Tennis, like life, has never been entirely fair. And Rajeev Ram, who has spent more than two decades discovering precisely how unfair it can be, believes Indian players have one more handicap to contend with: the modern game has become a physical business.

Ram, the recently retired six-time Grand Slam champion and former world No. 1 doubles player, said the emphasis in tennis has steadily shifted from finesse and technique towards strength, speed and physical endurance.

"The game now has become more physical and less technical and less about, let's say, the skill-based portion of it than it ever was," Ram said replying to a couple of UNI questions at this felicitation ceremony held by Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association here on Monday.

And then came the line that is likely

to make Indian tennis sit up.

"I think Indians in general are better with the skill side of it than the physical side. So let's just say the deck is stacked against us a little bit," he said.

It was, however, not an invitation to Indian players to blame their genes, their ancestors or their mothers.

Ram immediately qualified his observation. Physical limitations, he said, may exist, but they should never become an excuse for not becoming the best player one can be. "I do think it does play a big role. However, I also think that using that as an excuse... is not the right mentality," he said. "It may be the truth and it may be the case, but I think it's short-sighting yourself if you feel like that's why maybe you weren't as good as you could have been." There is a more encouraging side to his assessment. Ram believes Indians possess two commodities that cannot be bought in a gym:.

Two athletes, a world of hope as refugee team makes Asian Games debut

United News Of India

NAGOYA (JAPAN), SEP 21 : For Hunaidi Talal Hassan, reaching the Asian Games is a dream years in the making.

"For us, this is not just a competition, it is a dream we have worked towards all our lives," the 18-year-old told a press conference on Monday. "We always had hope. And today we are here living that dream."

Hassan and fellow taekwondo athlete Muhammed Mahmoud Jasem make up the first refugee team to participate in the Asian Games. Both are from Syria and now live in Jordan. At Aichi-Nagoya 2026, they bring ambitions for the competition ahead, along with stories of how sport helped them see a future when one had seemed out of reach. Hassan took up taekwondo at nine. The sport, she says, has changed many things in her life for the better. Being at the Games is a source of happiness and pride, made all the more meaningful by the difficulties she has faced. "We faced many challenges, but we kept going and never gave up on our dreams," she said. Jasem began practicing taekwondo at 14. For him, its importance has long extended beyond training and competition.

Saptak Talwar leads strong field as Rs 1 crore Bengaluru Open tees off at KGA

United News Of India

BENGALURU, SEP 21 : DP World PGTI Order of Merit leader Saptak Talwar will headline a strong field at the Bengaluru Open 2026 powered by IndianOil, which tees off at the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA) here on Monday with a total prize purse of Rs 1 crore.

The winner will take home Rs 15 lakh, while the runner-up will receive Rs 10 lakh. The third- and fourth-placed finishers will earn Rs 5.998 lakh and Rs 4.998 lakh respectively, underlining the substantial rewards on offer in the fifth edition of the tournament.

Talwar will be joined by fellow Asian Games-bound golfer Veer Ahlawat, defending champion N Thangaraja, Honey Baisoya, Akshay Sharma, Rashid Khan and local favourite Khalin Joshi in the tournament, to be played from September 22 to 25.

Talwar and Ahlawat will represent India at the Asian Games in Japan next week along with last year's DP World PGTI Order of Merit champion Yuvraj Sandhu. The Bengaluru Open will thus serve as an important competitive

outing for the two Asian Games-bound golfers before they head for the continental event.

The tournament features 132 golfers, comprising 131 professionals and one amateur, with international players adding further depth



to the field. Sri Lanka's Thangaraja and Mithun Perera, Thailand's Tanapat Pichaiakool, Czech Republic's Stepan Danek, Nepal's Subash Tamang, Bangladesh's Md Akbar Hossain, Uganda's Joshua Seale, Japan's Koichiro Ishika and Taiga Tanaka, Americans Koichiro Sato and Dominic Piccirillo, South Africa's Gerhardus Jacobus Pepler, Ireland's Declan Kenny and Canada's Sukhraj Singh Gill are among the overseas competitors.

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