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HEADLINES
TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



P:12
Arshdeep, Bhuvneshwar in contention as India mull bowling combination for WI decider

Eminent Islamic Scholar Mufti Muneer Hussain Passes Away at 85; Thanamandi Mourns
 Wife and son also passed away in recent days; Nimaz-e-Janaza scheduled for Tuesday at 2:30 PM

M S NAZKI
 HT CORRESPONDENT

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 19: Eminent Islamic scholar Mufti Muneer Hussain of Thanamandi in Rajouri district passed away on Monday at the age of 85, leaving the Pir Panjal region in mourning. According to reports, his wife passed away on Sunday, while his son had also died several days earlier.

The successive deaths have cast a pall of gloom over Thanamandi and adjoining areas. Mufti Muneer Hussain was widely respected for his religious scholarship and services to the community. His Nimaz-e-Janaza will be offered on Tuesday at 2:30 PM.

J&K- Registered Vehicles Attacked, Threatened With Ban On Srinagar- Delhi Route

Kashmiri Bus Driver Alleges Attack in Haryana; Said "Goons Called Me A Terrorist" ; Two Rounded Up After Bus Vandalism Leaves Passenger, Dhaba Employee Injured

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

RAMBAN/JAMMU, OCTOBER 19: A Srinagar-bound luxury sleeper bus was allegedly attacked and vandalised in Haryana after its driver was branded a "terrorist" and threatened over the operation of Jammu and Kashmir-registered vehicles on the route. The incident took place during a dinner halt at Nilokheri in Haryana's Karnal district on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday, leaving a passenger and a dhaba employee injured. Police have rounded up two men in connection with the incident.

The bus driver, Waqar Chaudhary, told PTI that he had stopped the vehicle, carrying 35 passengers, outside a hotel for dinner when a group of men allegedly began harassing him. He claimed that one of them abused him, called him a "terrorist", attempted to tamper with the bus's number plate and damaged a window. The situation allegedly escalated when other men arrived on motorcycles



and vandalised the vehicle.

Chaudhary alleged that the attackers threatened not to allow Jammu and Kashmir-registered vehicles to operate on the route. He also expressed concern over the alleged harassment of Kashmiri transport operators and appealed to the authorities to ensure their safety and dignity.

A passenger, identified as Abdullah

and a resident of Srinagar, alleged that one of the men appeared to be heavily intoxicated and repeatedly returned to the scene despite attempts by people to stop him. He further claimed that he was assaulted inside a police lockup after the police arrived and had to undergo hospital treatment after losing consciousness.

>>> MORE ON P 02

Kokernag Labourer Found Dead in Punjab After Disappearance; Family Alleges Murder

Body of Aijaz Ahmad Dar, Missing Since September, Reaches Native Village; Police Assure Thorough Investigation

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

KOKERNAG, OCTOBER 19: A 28-year-old labourer from Darpura, Hallpora, Gadool area of Kokernag, who had gone missing while seeking work outside Jammu and Kashmir, was found dead in Punjab, with his body reaching his native village on Monday. The deceased, identified as Aijaz Ahmad Dar, son of Abdul Majeed Dar, had left home for labour work and was reportedly in contact with his family for about a week before his phone was switched off. A missing report was lodged on September 26. According to his family, Dar had initially travelled to Srinagar before proceeding to Ludhiana in Punjab in search of employment. On October 17, family members and locals staged a protest in Hallpora, expressing concern over his disappearance and demanding urgent efforts

to trace him. The protest ended peacefully following assurances from the SDPO Kokernag and SHO concerned. After the body reached his home on Monday, family members and locals staged another protest outside Police Station Kokernag, alleging that Dar had been murdered and demanding a thorough investigation. Police assured the protesters that the case would be investigated and taken to its logical conclusion, following which the protest ended peacefully.

A 70-year-old woman was allegedly murdered inside her home in Parigam village of south Kashmir's Pulwama district early Monday, with an unidentified assailant suspected of entering the house and slitting her throat while her son was away at a nearby mosque for Fajr prayers.

>>> MORE ON P 02

Centre Seeks ₹4.16 Crore Refund from J&K Over Failed Apple Infrastructure Project

APEDA Cancels 2005 Pack-House Project After Repeated Delays; 10% Annual Interest Included in Recovery Demand



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19: The Centre has sought a refund of 4.16 crore from the Jammu and Kashmir Government after a long-delayed project to establish modern apple grading, packing and storage infrastructure failed to materialise despite nearly two decades of extensions. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) had released 1.42 crore to the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) in September 2005 for an integrated pack-house estimated to cost 3.88 crore. However, the project remained

unimplemented, prompting APEDA to cancel the agreements and demand repayment with 10 per cent annual interest. Documents accessed by news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO) state that repeated extensions, including the last one granted in June 2022, failed to resolve the delays. The Centre also cited unanswered reminders issued in September 2023 and January 2024. The development has raised questions over the implementation of post-harvest infrastructure projects intended to strengthen Kashmir's apple industry. In a major embarrassment for the Jammu & Kashmir Government

>>> MORE ON P 02

PM Modi Extends Maha Navami Greetings

Prays to Maa Siddhidatri for Fulfilment of Devotees' Aspirations and Well-Being

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday extended heartfelt greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Maha Navami and invoked the blessings of Maa Siddhidatri, the ninth and final manifestation of Goddess Durga worshipped during Navratri. In a message shared on X, the Prime Minister offered prayers for the fulfillment of devotees' resolutions and aspirations. Maha Navami marks the culmination of nine days of Navratri celebrations and is observed with special prayers, religious ceremonies and offerings at temples and homes across the country. Devotees seek the goddess's blessings for prosperity, good health, strength and success, while the festival also reflects the enduring values of faith, devotion and the victory



of good over evil.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday extended heartfelt greetings to the people of the country on Mahanavami, invoking the blessings of Maa Siddhidatri, the ninth and final manifestation of Goddess Durga worshipped during Navratri, for the fulfilment of devotees' resolutions and aspirations.

In a message posted on the social media platform X, Modi said, "Heartfelt greetings to all countrymen on the auspicious occasion of Mahanavami. On this sacred occasion, I offer my countless salutations at the feet of Maa Siddhidatri. I pray that she blesses all her devotees with the fulfilment of their resolutions."

>>> MORE ON P 02

Srinagar Airport Withdraws Operating Hour Restrictions

Late-evening flights expected to boost winter connectivity as new schedule takes effect from October 25

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19: Srinagar International Airport has withdrawn restrictions limiting flight operations to 8 am to 5 pm, paving the way for extended operating hours and improved air connectivity ahead of the winter season. Airport officials said airlines are filing slots for late-evening flights under the Winter Schedule 2026, which will come into effect on October 25. The move is expected to provide greater flexibility to passengers and enhance connectivity to and from Srinagar. Passengers have been advised to check the latest flight status and timings with their respective airlines before travelling to the airport. The restrictions had been



imposed in April this year to facilitate runway works.

Srinagar International Airport has withdrawn restrictions limiting

operations to 8 am to 5 pm, paving the way for flights beyond 5 pm, subject to operational requirements, ahead of the winter schedule beginning October 25.

An official at Srinagar International Airport told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)

>>> MORE ON P 02

Man killed, four injured as landslide hits construction site in Poonch

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

POONCH, OCT 19 A man was killed and four others injured after a landslide struck a road construction site in the Sawajian area of Jammu's Poonch district on Monday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that

the incident occurred at Agan Pathri village in Sawajian when the man was engaged in a road construction project.

He said the man was struck by a stone and died on the spot, while four others sustained injuries.

The deceased was identified as Mohd Bashir (45), son of Ali Mohd, a resident of Danna Gagrian in Sawajian.

Meanwhile, cognisance of the incident has been taken and an investigation is underway—(KNO)

>>> MORE ON P 02

HT BOTTOM NEWS

₹475.41 Crore Approved to Upgrade 10 ITIs in J&K: Sunil Sharma

LoP Thanks PM Modi, Jayant Chaudhary; Urges Omar Abdullah Government to Ensure Timely Implementation

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, OCTOBER 19: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Sunil Sharma



on Monday welcomed the approval of investment plans worth 475.41 crore under the PM-SETU scheme for upgrading 10 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the Union Territory, expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary. The National Steering Committee's approval includes 240 crore for the Jammu cluster and 235.41 crore for the Srinagar cluster, with the initiative aimed at modernising training infrastructure, introducing industry-oriented courses and improving employment opportunities for youth. Sharma said the project would strengthen vocational education and promote balanced development across Jammu and Kashmir. He noted that the number of ITIs in the UT had increased from 35 in 2014 to 56 at present, while training capacity had risen from around 3,800 to over 12,400 seats. He also thanked Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for his support and urged the Omar

>>> MORE ON P 02

Nearly 97,000 appear in Class-10 JKBOSE exams

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 19: With the commencement of annual regular Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) exams, nearly 97,000 students appeared for the Class 10th exams on Monday.

The officials said that the exam was held in 1,003 centres across Kashmir and a few districts of winter-zone areas of Jammu division.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), JKBOSE has said that nearly 97,500 students have been enrolled for the exams that includes 72,232 from Kashmir and 25,268 from winter zones of Jammu division.

Pertinently, JKBOSE has informed that at least 2,70,000 students have registered to appear in board exams of 10th, 11th and 12th standard. JKBOSE Chairman, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh had said

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Lolab youth dies as motorcycle collides with car in Kupwara

HT NEWS DESK / KNO

KUPWARA, OCT 19 : A 25-year-old motorcyclist died after his motorcycle collided with a car in the Lolab area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the accident occurred at Frastop, Potushai, Kupwara, when the motorcycle rider collided with a Swift car.

He said the rider was shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Kupwara for treatment, where he later succumbed to his injuries. The deceased has been identified as Aijaz Ahmad Khan (25), son of Dilawar Khan, a resident

>>> MORE ON P 02



Advisor to CM felicitates newly elected members of Kashmir Golf Club Executive Committee

Calls for upgrading the Historic Club, promoting golf among youth; 2 crore plan for KGC Club-House renovation

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19: Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani today felicitated the newly elected members of the Executive Committee of Kashmir Golf Club (KGC), following the conclusion of elections held during the club's 26th Annual General Meeting at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

Chief Minister, president of the Club, had nominated Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani to preside over the Annual General Meeting of the Kashmir Golf Club.

Former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Shah, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo who is the chairman of the Executive Committee and other club members were present on the occasion.

Congratulating the newly elected members, the Advisor described Kashmir Golf Club as a prestigious institution with a distinguished place in the history of golf in the country. He noted that the elections, held after a gap of 14 years, marked an important step towards strengthening the club's administration and restoring its facilities.



Nasir Aslam expressed hope that the newly elected executive body would work collectively

to address the club's shortcomings and ensure its effective functioning. He said the government

remained accessible and committed to supporting the upgradation of the historic institution.

Emphasising the need to promote golf among younger generations, the Advisor called for establishing a golf academy at the club to provide children with structured training and opportunities to develop their skills. He observed that golf offered considerable scope for competitive participation and professional growth.

The Advisor also announced that funds amounting to 2 crore have been earmarked for rebuilding the clubhouse. He expressed hope that the work would be started immediately, adding that other requirements of the club would also be addressed.

He said efforts would be made to restore and upgrade the club's facilities, including its fairways, greens and restaurant, while improving its overall infrastructure and administration.

The Advisor expressed confidence that the newly elected executive body would play a constructive role in revitalising Kashmir Golf Club and strengthening its legacy as one of the country's historic golfing institutions.

Lieutenant Governor Greet People on the eve of Vijayadashmi

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha has extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people on the eve of Vijayadashmi, which will be celebrated tomorrow, October 20.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashmi, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all."

The festival of Vijayadashmi, celebrated in various parts of the country as Dussehra and Durga Puja, symbolises the triumph of Good over Evil, Truth over Untruth and Dharma over Adharma. The life of Maryada Purushottam Bhagwan Shri Ram exemplifies these timeless virtues and inspires us to lead a virtuous life.

May this Vijayadashmi, Dussehra and Durga Puja bring peace, happiness and prosperity to all."

CM Omar Abdullah extends greetings on Maha Navami, Dussehra

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasions of Maha Navami and Dussehra.

In his message, the Chief Minister said these festivals embody the timeless values of truth, righteousness and the triumph of good over evil. He expressed hope that the auspicious occasions would bring peace, prosperity and happiness to the people and further strengthen the bonds of communal harmony and brotherhood in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister called upon people to draw inspiration from the spirit of these festivals and reaffirm their commitment to mutual respect, unity and peaceful coexistence.

Satish Sharma Extends Greetings on Maha Navami, Dussehra

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FS&CA), Information Technology (IT), Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, has extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasions of Maha Navami and Dussehra. In his message, the Minister said that these festivals symbolise the eternal values of truth, righteousness, courage and the ultimate triumph of good over evil. He expressed hope that the auspicious occasions would bring peace, prosperity, happiness and well-being to every household across Jammu and Kashmir.

Satish Sharma said that Maha Navami and Dussehra inspire people to uphold moral values, overcome challenges with determination and work collectively towards building a peaceful, progressive and inclusive society.

He also emphasised that the spirit of these festivals reinforces the importance of communal harmony, mutual respect and brotherhood, which form the foundation of Jammu and Kashmir's rich cultural heritage.

Secretary Planning reviews functioning of JKERA; advocates adoption of sustainable, end to end project formulation

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19: Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department, Dr. Owais Ahmad, today chaired a meeting to review the overall functioning of J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency (JKERA), nodal agency for implementation of all externally aided projects in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Chief Executive Officer JKERA Akriti Sagar informed that since its creation in 2004 the JKERA has played a pivotal role in up gradation of basic infrastructure in the Union Territory of J&K. She apprised that the agency has successfully implemented three major Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) across Jammu and Kashmir. These included the Multisector Project for Infrastructure Rehabilitation



in J&K (MPIR) and the Jammu and Kashmir Urban Sector Development Investment Programme (JKUSDIP), both funded by the Asian Development Bank, besides the World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP).

She added that major areas of intervention by JKERA included basic infrastructure and critical infrastructure in health, education, livelihood and strengthening of disaster

management. These included construction of state-of-the-art infrastructure in urban transportation - flyovers and grade separators, mega storm water drainage projects, construction of rural roads and bridges, buildings in health, higher education and school education sectors, livelihood initiatives, disaster management and urban reforms like water metering and capacity building of urban local bodies.

DC Kulgam reviews BharatNet implementation, reviews waste management issues

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, OCTOBER 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired separate meetings to review the implementation of BharatNet and solid waste management in rural areas of the district.

During the meeting on BharatNet, the status of implementation and the proposed plan for extending connectivity to all Gram Panchayats through BSNL were discussed. It was decided to initiate the implementation process in Manzgam Block as the first phase, followed by a phased rollout across the district.

The DC stressed the importance of strengthening digital connectivity in rural areas to facilitate access to online government services and improve service delivery at the grassroots level. The concerned officers were directed to ensure close coordination for the smooth and timely implementation of the initiative.

In a separate meeting, the DC also reviewed solid waste management in rural areas and discussed measures to strengthen waste disposal practices, improve sanitation and ensure cleaner surroundings across the district.

He stressed the need for coordinated efforts by the concerned departments and Panchayati



Raj Institutions for effective implementation of solid waste management measures. He also emphasised public awareness and community participation in maintaining cleanliness and promoting a hygienic environment.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed concern over segregation sheds in rural areas being used as dumping sites instead of serving their intended purpose. He directed all Block Development Officers to accord top priority to solid waste management and ensure the proper functioning of segregation sheds, with emphasis on proper waste segregation and scientific disposal to maintain cleanliness and sanitation in rural areas.

The meetings were attended by ADC Kulgam, CPO Kulgam, ACR Kulgam, ACP Kulgam, DE BSNL South and BDOs.

DDC Pulwama visits Transit Accommodation at Lethpora Directs time-bound completion of Essential Works

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 19: District Development Commissioner (DDC), Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today visited the Transit Accommodation at Lethpora to take stock of the ongoing development works and readiness of the accommodation facilities.

During the visit, the DDC inspected the accommodation being developed at the site and took stock of the status of various infrastructure and essential services. He emphasised that all pending works must be completed within clearly defined timelines and that the premises are made safe and fully functional before being handed over.

The DDC was informed that 528 quarters are ready for handover and directed the concerned agencies to ensure that all the quarters are handed over by the end of December 2026.

Giving priority to the safety



of the premises, the DDC directed that an urgent fire-safety audit of the entire accommodation complex be conducted and necessary compliance measures be completed on priority.

The SSP, Awantipora, was instructed to undertake a comprehensive security review of all the premises and identify and address any security-related requirements to ensure adequate

safety and security of the accommodation.

Taking stock of the vertical transportation facilities, the DDC directed the concerned agencies to ensure that all 28 lifts are made operational, with the installation work to be completed by the end of November 2026.

The DDC also directed the concerned agency to expedite the macadamisation of the approach/internal road infrastructure and complete the work within the next 20 days. He further directed that the necessary safety certificate be issued on priority, with due adherence to the prescribed safety standards.

The DDC also took stock of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and directed the concerned authorities to ensure its timely completion, commissioning and proper functioning, so that adequate sewage management arrangements are in place before full-scale occupation of the accommodation. The DDC

stressed that all departments and executing agencies must work in close coordination and adhere strictly to the timelines fixed for each component. He directed the concerned officers to personally monitor the progress of the works and ensure that no avoidable delays affect the operational readiness of the Transit Accommodation.

The visit was aimed at ensuring that the Transit Accommodation at Lethpora is completed with all requisite infrastructure, safety, security and civic facilities and is made fully ready for occupation within the stipulated timelines.

The DDC was accompanied by SSP Awantipora, Irshad Hussain Rather, ADC Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, CPO Pulwama, Aashiq Khanday, Superintending Engineer, PWD Pulwama; Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Pulwama; and Superintending Engineer, KPDC Pulwama, besides other concerned officers and officials.

Kulgam Educator Gets Key Organisational Responsibility; Three Others Also Nominated to Senior Positions

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, OCTOBER 19: In a significant organisational development, the Jammu & Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) has nominated Mohd Ashraf Lone from Kulgam district as its Chief Patron, with immediate effect. The nomination was announced through an official order issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Teachers Forum on October 18, 2026, bearing Order No. JKTF/GS/2026/23.

The appointments were approved by the Forum's Chairman, Gh Ahmad Mir, with the objective of strengthening the organisational structure, improving coordination and ensuring effective representation of teachers at various levels across Jammu and Kashmir. As per the order, Mohd Ashraf Lone of Kulgam has been nominated as Chief Patron of the Forum. The other appointments include Muzaffer Ahmad Dar from Anantnag district as Vice Chairman, Gh Mohiuddin Mir from Srinagar as Chief Advisor, and Farooq Lolabi from Kupwara district as Financial Secretary. The Forum stated that the newly nominated office bearers are expected to discharge their responsibilities with dedication,

sincerity, integrity and commitment towards the welfare of the teaching fraternity and the broader objectives of the organisation. The order further emphasised that the experience, leadership qualities and organisational commitment of the newly



appointed members would contribute significantly towards strengthening the Jammu & Kashmir Teachers Forum at all levels. It also highlighted the Forum's commitment to safeguarding the rights, dignity and legitimate interests of teachers across Jammu and Kashmir, while calling upon all

concerned to extend their full cooperation and support to the newly nominated office bearers in discharging their organisational responsibilities. The order was issued by Tahir Ahmad Sofi, General Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Teachers Forum, and shall come into force with immediate effect.

The nominations are expected to further strengthen the Forum's organisational functioning and its efforts to address issues concerning the teaching community across the Union Territory.



DC Kupwara reaches out to border populace at Keran Vibrant Village Inspects developmental works, redresses public grievances

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 19: In an extensive outreach initiative to deliver governance at the doorsteps of border residents, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, today presided over a Mega Grievance Redressal Camp and conducted a comprehensive tour of the border Vibrant Village, Keran.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a firsthand assessment of various ongoing developmental works across the sector, emphasizing quality control and strict adherence to project completion timelines.

The grievance redressal camp witnessed large-scale public participation, including local ex-PRIs members, village elders, and youth, who projected diverse issues and developmental demands concerning essential sectors such as power, healthcare, tourism, agriculture, and mobile connectivity.

The DC gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned executing agencies and departments for prompt redressal.

Highlighting the holistic development



of border areas under the Vibrant Villages Programme, the DC assured the public of saturated delivery of basic amenities and targeted economic empowerment.

Addressing connectivity challenges, he assured that telecommunication

services in the sector will soon be significantly augmented, with all major operators actively being onboarded to resolve network bottlenecks.

Taking serious cognizance of power supply demands, the DC directed

Executive Engineer, KPDCI to fast-track ongoing electrification projects and ensure immediate grid connectivity to two local villages facing power supply issues.

To preserve the fragile ecology while catering to the growing tourist influx, the DC called for concerted community and administrative efforts to make Keran completely plastic-free. He directed Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) to formulate an integrated sanitation action plan, establish a Single-Use Plastic (SUP) checkpoint, and expedite the completion and proper maintenance of Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs).

To tap the area's scenic potential sustainably, Chief Executive Officer, Lolab Bangus Drangyari Development Authority (LBDDA) was instructed to draft a comprehensive infrastructure upgradation roadmap tailored for eco-tourism.

Furthermore, the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) and Horticulture Development Officer (HDO) were strictly instructed to implement targeted interventions for agricultural expansion and aggressively promote the cultivation of high-value secondary crops, notably strawberry farming, to boost local farm incomes.

DC Ganderbal inspects Class 10th Examination Centres Reviews arrangements for smooth conduct of Exams

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 19: Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today visited examination centres in the district to inspect the ongoing Class 10th examinations and review the arrangements put in place for their smooth and orderly conduct.

During the visit, the DC took stock of the facilities available at the examination centres and assessed the arrangements made for the convenience of students. She reviewed the overall conduct of the examinations and emphasised the need to ensure a peaceful, fair and student-friendly environment.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure that all necessary arrangements remain in place throughout the examination process. She stressed the importance of addressing any issues or difficulties faced by students promptly and directed the concerned supervisory officers to ensure the fair, transparent and smooth conduct of examinations in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.



It was informed that a total of 35 examination centres have been established across District Ganderbal for the Class 10th examinations. The DC directed all concerned departments and officials to maintain close coordination, remain vigilant and ensure the timely resolution of any issues that may arise during the examination period.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Chief Education Officer Ganderbal, Tehsildar Ganderbal and other concerned officers and officials.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Celebrations under DAJGUA

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, OCTOBER 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired separate meetings at the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, to review arrangements for the celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) and to discuss measures for the revival, restoration, preservation and maintenance of architecture and heritage in the district.

During the meeting on Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, scheduled to be celebrated at EMRS Tangmarg on November 15, 2026, the DC directed all concerned departments to make necessary arrangements for the successful conduct of the event. He stressed the need to showcase developmental works and government initiatives aimed at improving the living standards and facilities of tribal communities.

The DC emphasised effective coordination among departments to ensure proper arrangements and highlight the developmental initiatives



undertaken for tribal welfare.

In the meeting on heritage conservation, the DC stressed the need for coordinated efforts to preserve and restore the district's architectural and cultural heritage.

The meetings were attended by ADDC Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan, ADC Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri, CPO, Malik Suheel, SDM DH Pora, Bashir ul Hassan, DSEO Kulgam, officers from concerned departments, and Principal EMRS Tangmarg. The technical sessions.

measures to preserve the district's rich heritage and promote awareness about its historical and cultural importance.

The meetings were attended by ADDC Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan, ADC Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri, CPO, Malik Suheel, SDM DH Pora, Bashir ul Hassan, DSEO Kulgam, officers from concerned departments, and Principal EMRS Tangmarg. The technical sessions.

District Admin Kupwara organizes Special Camps across District for distribution of SVAMITVA Property Cards

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, OCTOBER 19: The District Administration Kupwara, under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, today organized special camps across all tehsils of the district for the distribution of property cards to eligible beneficiaries under the SVAMITVA Scheme.

The camps were organized across 12 tehsils including Handwara, Kralpora, Kupwara, Lalpora, Langate, Lolab-Sogam, Machill, Qalambad, Ramhall, Trehgam, Vilgam and Zachaldara, covering 43 villages, including remote and far-flung areas such as Machill, Chontipora, Tarathpora, Padder Gund, Sharkote, Tangcheck, Sultanpur, Turkpora, Siver Thandipora and Muqam Lolab, among others.

A total of 741 property cards were distributed among eligible beneficiaries during the camps held today. The distribution process was carried out by Tehsildars and other revenue officials, including Naib Tehsildars and Patwaris, who facilitated the handover of property cards to the beneficiaries.

To ensure effective coordination and proper monitoring of the distribution process, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan, has been designated as the Nodal Officer.

DC Budgam reviews Facilities at Railway Station Budgam

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting to review the availability of essential facilities, security arrangements and ongoing developmental works at Railway Station Budgam.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the availability of essential services, particularly adequate water supply, and took stock of facilities for in-house employees. He directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of ongoing water supply schemes and explore a change in the existing water supply source to ensure reliable supply to the railway station.

He also instructed the concerned departments to expedite the installation of streetlights, complete pending fencing works, ensure adequate



accommodation facilities for SSB and RPF personnel, and remove encroachments, wherever identified.

Emphasising inter-departmental coordination, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to ensure the timely and quality completion of all ongoing works and the prompt resolution of issues.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Area Manager,

Northern Railways, Srinagar; ASP Budgam; Joint Director Planning; Superintending Engineers of R&B Circle and Hydraulic, Budgam; Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE and KPDCI, Budgam; Tehsildar Budgam; Executive Officer, Municipal Council Budgam; Deputy Commandant, 163 Battalion SSB; and Assistant Divisional Engineer, Northern Railways, Srinagar.

DC Shopian visits Pir Ki Gali to assess winter Preparedness and Tourist Facilities

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh,

today visited Pir Ki Gali to take first-hand stock of the available facilities and assess winter preparedness.

The DC was accompanied by ADDC Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ADC Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, CEO, Dubjan-Pir Ki Gali Development Authority, Rouf Rehman, Tehsildar Shopian, Executive Engineers (Xens), DIO and officers of the concerned departments.

During the visit, the DC assessed the existing facilities and stressed the need to improve basic amenities and infrastructure to ensure a better experience for tourists and visitors. He also reviewed the status of ongoing works

and directed the concerned departments to ensure their timely completion.

The DC also paid obeisance at Ziyarat Shareef at Pir Ki Gali and directed the concerned authorities to ensure the provision of water facilities at the shrine.

He directed the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to ensure proper filling of potholes along the road to improve road conditions and facilitate smooth and safe movement of visitors and timely Snow clearance of the Mughal road.

The DC also reviewed measures required to upgrade existing facilities, strengthen infrastructure and further promote the tourism

potential of these destinations.

Emphasising the importance of advance planning and interdepartmental coordination, the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance to meet winter challenges.

The officers briefed DC on the ground situation and the preparedness measures being undertaken in their respective areas. He directed them to remain vigilant and ensure the timely availability and deployment of men, machinery and other essential resources required for snow clearance, road maintenance and emergency response.

DC Srinagar visits UPHC Lal Bazar, presides over Registration camp for senior citizens under Vay Vandana Scheme for additional Rs 5 lakh health coverage Srinagar District achieves 70% coverage under the scheme; DC urges remaining eligible senior citizens to register

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR OCTOBER 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday visited the Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) Lal Bazar and presided over an awareness cum registration camp for senior citizens aged 70 years and above under the Vay Vandana Scheme.

The programme on Ayushman Vay Vandana scheme was a part of District Administration's outreach efforts to ensure maximum coverage of eligible senior citizens aged 70 years and above under the scheme providing additional health support of Rs 5 Lakh over and above the existing cover aimed to strengthen

senior citizen health security.

The DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad, Tehsildar Eidgah, mohamamd Iqbal Zargar, ZMO Zadibal, Dr Rubeena Aziz, ZMO SR Gunj, Dr Shafqat Medical Superintendent Government Gousia Hospital, Dr Zahida Gul and other District Officers.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner led an Awareness-cum-Registration Camp on Ayushman Vay Vandana scheme of Government organized by Zonal Medical Officer, Zadibal which witnessed enthusiastic participation from elderly residents from Lal Bazar, Mandibal, Nowshahra,



Botshah Mohalla, Baghwanpora and other adjoining areas. The participants were sensitised about the benefits and advantages of the scheme and the process for registration.

Addressing the gathering, the DC highlighted the significance of the Ayushman Vay Vandana Card and urged all eligible senior citizens aged 70 years and above to enrol under the scheme. He said the initiative aims to strengthen healthcare security for the elderly by providing health coverage of Rs 5 lakh and reducing the financial burden of medical treatment, thereby ensuring greater access to healthcare and promoting dignity, well-being and a better quality of life in their later years.

During the programme, the DC handed over Vay Vandana cards to the eligible beneficiaries of Medical Zone Zadibal, reiterating District Administration's commitment to reach out to all eligible beneficiaries and encourage citizens to take advantage of the registration facilities being provided.

Later, the DC inspected various sections of the UPHC Lal Bazar and reviewed the healthcare facilities and services being provided to patients visiting the centre. He took stock of the functioning of the health facility and the arrangements in place to ensure the delivery of quality healthcare services to the public.



HT EDITORIAL

Winter Is Yet to Arrive, But Power Cuts Have : Kashmir's Electricity Crisis Deepens

With the Valley already bracing for prolonged curtailments, the government must deliver reliable power before asking consumers to bear higher tariffs. The onset of winter has not yet fully arrived in Kashmir, but the hardships associated with it have already begun.

The revised power curtailment schedule announced by the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), effective October 17, signals another difficult season for consumers who have endured months of erratic electricity supply. With daily outages ranging from 30 minutes to as long as eight hours, depending on the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses recorded by individual feeders, the prospect of a comfortable winter appears increasingly uncertain. For thousands of households, the return of scheduled power cuts is a reminder of a persistent problem that successive administrations have struggled to resolve.

The people of Kashmir have every reason to be apprehensive. The Valley witnessed one of its most frustrating summers in recent memory, marked by prolonged unscheduled outages and unannounced power cuts that disrupted domestic life, commercial activities, educational routines and essential services. Consumers were repeatedly left guessing when electricity would return, while students struggled to study, shopkeepers faced business losses and households found it difficult to carry out even their routine activities. Electricity, an indispensable public utility, became a source of daily anxiety for ordinary citizens.

One would have expected the authorities to draw lessons from the summer experience and make visible improvements before the onset of winter. Instead, the announcement of another curtailment schedule has revived public concerns about the preparedness of the power distribution system. Winter in Kashmir is not merely a seasonal change; it brings freezing temperatures, increased heating requirements, shorter days and greater dependence on electricity. In many households, particularly those without reliable alternative heating arrangements, uninterrupted power supply is closely linked to comfort, health and safety.

The revised schedule divides feeders into categories according to their AT&C losses. Areas with losses exceeding 65 per cent may face up to eight hours of daily curtailment, while feeders recording losses between 40.5 and 65 per cent are scheduled to experience six hours of outages. Those in the 15 to 40.5 per cent category face three hours of curtailment, while areas with lower losses and designated essential feeders are expected to receive comparatively better supply, subject to limited interruptions. Hospitals, Government Medical Colleges and emergency water supply schemes are largely exempted from curtailment.

The rationale behind this classification is understandable to an extent. High distribution losses, electricity theft, poor revenue recovery and inefficient consumption place enormous pressure on the power sector. The administration cannot be expected to ignore these structural weaknesses while attempting to balance demand and supply. However, the question that deserves serious consideration is whether ordinary consumers should continue to bear the consequences of a system that has failed to deliver consistent and dependable electricity despite years of promises and substantial public expenditure.

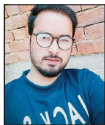
KPDC is reportedly managing an average load of around 1,700 megawatts, with demand rising to approximately 1,900–1,950 MW during peak hours. Limited local hydropower generation and increasing seasonal consumption further complicate the situation. These constraints are real, but they cannot become a permanent justification for recurring power crises. A credible long-term strategy must address the gap between demand and supply through better procurement planning, infrastructure modernisation, reduction of technical losses, improved metering, stricter action against electricity theft and more efficient utilisation of available resources.

At the same time, the government must recognise the distinction between deliberate power misuse and the genuine needs of ordinary households. Consumers who pay their bills regularly should not be made to feel that their compliance carries no benefit. If feeders with excessive losses require longer curtailments, the authorities must simultaneously intensify efforts to identify the causes of those losses and establish measurable targets for improvement. Punitive restrictions without corresponding corrective action will only deepen public resentment.

More troubling is the announcement of an increase in electricity tariffs even as consumers continue to complain about unreliable supply. The government may have financial and operational reasons for revising tariffs, but any such decision must be accompanied by visible improvements in service delivery. Asking people to pay more while enduring prolonged and unpredictable outages risks widening the gap between public expectations and administrative performance. The principle should be straightforward: affordability, accountability and reliability must remain central to electricity policy. The elected government, which carries the responsibility of translating public expectations into tangible improvements, must treat the power crisis as a priority rather than a recurring seasonal inconvenience. It should place before the public a transparent winter power management plan, including realistic supply commitments, feeder-wise schedules, emergency response arrangements and a time-bound strategy for reducing AT&C losses. Consumers must also be informed promptly about unscheduled interruptions, the reasons behind them and the expected restoration of supply. Transparent communication alone will not solve the crisis, but it can reduce uncertainty and restore some measure of public confidence. Equally important is the need to accelerate the strengthening of transmission and distribution infrastructure, improve transformer capacity, replace damaged equipment and ensure adequate maintenance before peak winter demand sets in. Smart metering and revenue reforms must be implemented fairly and efficiently, while efforts to curb theft should focus on accountability rather than indiscriminate hardship. The government must also examine whether sufficient arrangements have been made to secure additional electricity during periods when local generation falls short of demand. Citizens, too, have a responsibility to use electricity judiciously, avoid wastage, pay legitimate bills and discourage power theft. Conservation and cooperation are essential in a region where winter demand places extraordinary pressure on the grid. But public cooperation cannot substitute for administrative efficiency, just as tariff increases cannot, by themselves, guarantee improved electricity supply.

Kashmir cannot afford another winter in which darkness becomes an accepted part of everyday life. The people are not demanding the impossible; they are asking for a dependable public service, fair treatment and an administration that anticipates seasonal challenges rather than responding to them after the crisis has begun. Winter may still be gathering force over the Valley, but the warning signs are already visible. The government and the power authorities must act before the cold intensifies and the demand for electricity reaches its peak. The success of the winter power management strategy should not be measured merely by the number of megawatts purchased or the schedules issued, but by the electricity that actually reaches consumers. Kashmir needs more than a curtailment calendar; it needs a credible power policy. Before asking people to pay higher tariffs, the government must demonstrate that it can provide a service they can depend on. The Valley has endured enough darkness. It should not be asked to accept more of it as an inevitable feature of winter.

Different People, Different Stories



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Education never simply means getting employment, handsome salaries, and all that comes with a job. Education simply means gaining control over everything within ourselves our anger, arrogance, dishonesty, jealousy, and other weaknesses. True education develops our character and teaches us how to deal with life.

How beautiful it is whenever I see educated people engaging in different livelihood activities. We know that in our country, almost everyone wants a government job. Yet, those who get into government service often start complaining: “What is so special about a government job?” I have a friend whose earnings are many times higher than mine. I also have a neighbour who earns in a few days what some people earn in an entire month.

My perspective regarding employment is quite clear. People who have zeal, enthusiasm, and a thirst to do something in any field rarely complain about what they have achieved or what they have lost. Different people have different stories when it comes to their choices of employment.

Some people may not be highly qualified, yet they have positive smiles on their faces and live their lives happily. On the other hand, some highly qualified people, such as engineers, teachers, doctors, and lecturers, complain that their earnings are insufficient, that they cannot afford a luxurious lifestyle, or that they cannot



live like princes.

How Can We Be Happy?

For me, earnings are not everything. I believe in satisfaction. The person who is satisfied with his or her qualifications, profession, and earnings is a successful person. No one can defeat such a person's dreams or easily make them unhappy. Actually, it is our own mindset that often creates problems. We keep looking at what others are doing without knowing their background. Different people have different strengths and different financial circumstances, so it is not possible for everyone to sail in the same boat.

Some people can make something great from very small things, while others have bigger opportunities because of their family background, financial status, education, or other advantages. Yet, they sometimes fail to make good use of those opportunities. This raises an important question: why do some people have great opportunities but fail to use them to achieve their life goals?

Today, this thought came into my mind, and I decided to write about it.

Literally, I have been enjoying delicious masala (a mixture of gram) and lawasa (a doori chapatti) for the last couple of decades, along with chutneys of different varieties, such as coriander, chilli powder, green chilli, curd, and pieces of salad.

One of the sellers from Parneva, Khanshab, Budgam, has been selling these items for a long time. I like his behaviour and the way he presents his masala and lawasa with delicious chutney. He keeps the chutney in copper utensils, which adds to the traditional charm. What attracts me most is his behaviour. Even when members of the community call him “Sir,” he remains humble and gentle.

Today, I see similar food items being sold outside colleges, schools, sports stadiums, and other busy places. Such efforts by our educated youth to earn a livelihood should be appreciated. The government should support them by providing financial assistance and suitable

permanent spaces so that they can earn with dignity and with proper governmental support.

There are great minds in the government, and I hope such initiatives for employment and self-reliance among our youth will be appreciated and supported.

How Can We Generate Employment with Little Financial Support?

We can start a business from a footpath and gradually build it into a successful enterprise within a few years through honesty, hard work, and enthusiasm.

Anyone can become what he or she wants to become, but proper guidance and a great vision are necessary. Willingness plays a vital role and can uplift a person from any situation. There is no need to start a business with millions. When you start small, you remain calm because you have less fear of bankruptcy and fewer financial pressures.

Always try to learn from zero and then move higher. The higher you go, the calmer and wiser you should become.

Education

We should never claim that we are educated and then ask why we are unemployed.

For your kind consideration, an educated person should never give up simply because employment opportunities are limited. How is it possible that you spend 20 or 30 years learning how to tackle life's issues and deal with problems, but when it comes to employment, you give up?

Never blindly follow what others say. Come out of your comfort zone and try your best. Success does not come through discussions and lame excuses. It comes through hard work, patience, willingness, and perseverance.

Different people have different stories, different opportunities, and different journeys. What matters most is not how much we earn, but how meaningfully and honestly we live our lives.

Reading and Writing: The Lifeline of Education

remain at the heart of every education system.

In the era of digital literacy, students are increasingly distracted from developing these foundational skills. Their attention spans have

creativity, and innovation, all of which are benchmarks of educational competence. Excessive dependence on technology can detach students from the practice of reading and

this trend continues at the primary level, it raises serious questions about the quality of human resources we are preparing for the future.

While we must keep pace with technological advancements and make effective use of digital interventions, we must not allow them to overshadow the teaching and learning of fundamental skills, particularly at the primary and middle-school levels.

To reclaim, revive, and reimagine the culture of reading and writing, schools and colleges must organise reading and writing competitions and exchange best practices to strengthen these essential skills. The examination system must also adopt assessment patterns that adequately evaluate students' language proficiency, reading comprehension, written expression, and communication skills. Such reforms are necessary to improve both the quality of learning and students' overall educational development.

Technology facilitates learning and complements teaching to achieve better educational outcomes, but it cannot replace foundational educational skills or the role of teachers. Only when students master the skills of reading and writing can they communicate effectively, which is imperative for learning, sharing ideas, exchanging knowledge, and disseminating information. These abilities are essential for preparing students to navigate an increasingly complex and rapidly changing educational world.

The Author Is A Regular Columnist And Freelance Writer



BY-MOOL RAJ

Time to revive and restore the lost culture of reading and writing in our education system. Read Bestsellers

Schools and colleges must organise reading and writing competitions to improve students' reading comprehension and writing skills.

Reading and writing are the enduring and indispensable foundations of education, learning, and communication. A dramatic shift towards technological interventions at the cost of these fundamental skills cannot help us achieve the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP), let alone the diverse objectives of technologically driven modern education.

Over the last decade, education has undergone a rapid and significant transformation through the introduction of advanced digital tools, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and robotics. These developments have not only reshaped pedagogical practices but have also challenged and redefined the role of teachers. In the process of keeping pace with emerging technologies and acquiring digital skills, the teaching-learning process appears to have lost sight of foundational literacy skills—reading and writing—which



reportedly diminished, making it difficult for them to concentrate on activities such as reading and writing, which are essential prerequisites for effective communication and progress in every field of education. Consequently, many students struggle to read and comprehend texts, books, and other written material. Reading not only strengthens vocabulary and broadens knowledge but also serves as a source of inspiration, expanding intellectual horizons and nurturing vision, wisdom, and understanding.

Reading comprehension and writing skills are the lifelines of education and language. They shape and develop critical thinking,

writing.

This is reflected in the difficulties many students, even at the college level, face when attempting to comprehend standard texts, construct grammatically correct sentences, or write a simple application. Such a situation is deeply concerning and signals the need for urgent corrective measures.

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) has highlighted a grim picture of foundational learning outcomes. According to the figures cited, only 16.6 per cent of Class III students and 37.7 per cent of Class V students can read texts intended for lower classes. If

From Logarithms to Algorithms: The Evolution of Mathematical Thinking

methods to perform complicated computations.

Scottish mathematician John Napier published his pioneering work on logarithms in 1614. Logarithms provided an ingenious way to simplify multiplication and division. Instead of multiplying two large numbers directly, one could add their logarithms and then use a logarithmic table to find the corresponding result.

The mathematical principle is expressed as:

$$[\log(ab) = \log a + \log b]$$

Similarly,

$$[\log\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) = \log a - \log b]$$

These relationships transformed complex arithmetic into simpler operations. Henry Briggs subsequently helped popularise common logarithms, based on the number 10, making them especially useful for practical calculations.

Logarithmic tables became essential tools in astronomy, navigation, engineering and scientific research. They helped people calculate planetary positions, determine navigational routes and solve problems that would otherwise require extensive manual effort.

The slide rule, developed from logarithmic principles, became a widely used calculating instrument. Engineers and scientists relied on it for generations, long before electronic calculators became available.

The significance of logarithms extended beyond convenience. They demonstrated a fundamental mathematical insight: a difficult operation can sometimes be transformed into a simpler one by choosing an appropriate representation.

From Mechanical Calculation to Digital Computing

The next major stage in the evolution of mathematical thinking involved the development of mechanical and electronic calculating machines.

In the nineteenth century, Charles Babbage designed his Difference Engine and Analytical Engine. Although the Analytical Engine was never completed during his lifetime, its proposed structure included features resembling those of modern computers. Ada Lovelace recognised that such a machine could potentially manipulate symbols according to rules, extending its usefulness beyond numerical calculation.

In the twentieth century, electronic computers dramatically accelerated mathematical computation. Operations that once required hours, days or even longer could be completed in seconds. Computers enabled scientists to simulate physical systems, analyse enormous datasets and solve equations too complicated for routine manual methods.

This development changed the relationship between mathematics and computation. Mathematics was no longer confined to deriving formulas and calculating answers by hand. It increasingly involved designing procedures that machines could execute reliably and repeatedly.

Algorithms: The Logic Behind Modern Technology

An algorithm is a finite, well-defined sequence of instructions used to solve a problem or complete a task. Algorithms existed long before computers. The word is derived from the name of the ninth-century mathematician Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi, whose work helped transmit systematic methods of calculation.

A simple arithmetic procedure, a method for finding the greatest common divisor of two numbers, and a recipe that follows precise steps can all illustrate algorithmic thinking.

Consider the process of finding the largest number in a list. We begin by assuming that the first number is the largest. We then compare it with every subsequent number, replacing our current choice whenever a larger number appears. After checking the entire list, the remaining number is the maximum.

This procedure is straightforward, systematic and repeatable. Its value lies not in the complexity of its mathematics but in the clarity of its logic.

Modern algorithms perform much more sophisticated tasks. They help search the internet, recommend educational resources, detect fraudulent transactions, predict weather patterns, optimise transport routes and analyse medical images. They also support artificial intelligence systems that identify patterns in text, images, speech and other forms of data.

In each case, the essential idea remains similar: break a problem into manageable steps, define the rules and produce a result.

The Connection Between Logarithms and Algorithms

Although logarithms and algorithms serve different purposes, they share an important intellectual foundation. Both demonstrate how structured mathematical thinking can make complex tasks more manageable.

Dr. Vijay Garg Retired Principal | Eminent Scientist | Educational Columnist Street Kaur Chand, MHR Malout, Punjab – 152107 Mobile: 9465682110

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When you create an image, there is security in that image, however false, however unreal, however insane.



By M S Nazki

It's part of my Special Forces training. You're taught to come up with solutions, not look for excuses. I will get out there and train harder than anyone, five times a day sometimes. You have to be a special person to do that - like, special forces, military maybe. And NSG is special!!

-Welcome to the 42nd Anniversary Day of National Security Guards!

-I have many friends in Special Forces, and the amazing thing about these guys is how quickly they can read someone...

-The National Security Guard (NSG) - often called the "Black Cats" - is India's premier federal contingency counter-terrorism force, operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Every one knows it!

-Peacetime Special Forces are different than wartime Special Forces. And I'm just not sure I was born to be in peace time. A soldier from NSG

-Some points regarding why NSG is important?

1. National Security Guard (India's Counter-Terror Force)

-The NSG was established in 1986 under the National Security Guard Act to act as a swift-strike contingency force for extreme internal security threats.

• Urban Anti-Terrorism: Designed specifically for high-risk urban interventions, hostage rescue, and building clearances (such as during the 26/11 Mumbai attacks).

• Anti-Hijacking Operations: Handled by the specialized 52 Special Action Group (SAG), known as "Hijack Busters".

• Bomb Disposal & Investigation: Conducts search, detection, and neutralization of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), alongside Post Blast Investigations (PBI) via the National Bomb Data Centre.

• Philosophy: Follows the motto "Sarvatra, Sarvottam, Suraksha" (Universal, Best, Protection) with a core doctrine of swift strike and immediate

withdrawal.

-The story which we got:

-NSG hosts the Inaugural Dr. S. Subramanian Lecture. On its 42nd Raising Day, NSG hosted the Inaugural Dr. S. Subramanian Lecture at BPR&D Auditorium, New Delhi.

-The annual Series honours Padma Shri Dr. S. Subramanian, IPS (Retd.), Founder Director of the SPG and former DG of NSG and CRPF.

-The Director General NSG accorded a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, General N.S. Raja Subramani, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs.

-The CDS delivered the inaugural lecture on the evolving security landscape and the need for jointness and coordination. Senior officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, CAPFs and Police, along with NSG officers and personnel, attended the lecture.

-On its 42nd Raising Day, NSG hosted the Inaugural Dr. S. Subramanian Lecture at BPR&D Auditorium, New Delhi. The annual Series honours Padma Shri Dr. S. Subramanian, IPS (Retd.), Founder Director of the SPG and former DG of NSG and CRPF.

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-Padma Shri Dr. S. Subramanian, IPS (Retd.) was a 1958-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre who served as the first Director of the Special Protection Group (SPG) upon its formation in 1985, Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG), and Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

-Key Career Highlights

• Service Batch: 1958-batch IPS officer (Andhra Pradesh cadre).

• Special Protection Group (SPG): Appointed as the inaugural Director of the SPG in 1985 after previously serving as Joint Director (VIP Security) in the Intelligence Bureau.

• National Security Guard (NSG): Served as Director General of the NSG (1990-1992).

• Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF): Served as Director General of the CRPF (1991-1992).

• Other Roles: Served at the Sardar Vallabhbhai

Patel National Police Academy (Hyderabad), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Intelligence Bureau (IB), and as a Minister in the Embassy of India in Germany.



• Honors: Awarded the Padma Shri in 1986, alongside the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and the Indian Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

• Legacy: The NSG recently inaugurated the annual Dr. S. Subramanian Lecture series on its Raising Day at the BPR&D Auditorium in New Delhi to honor his pioneering contributions to Indian security leadership.

-A nation that can't control its energy sources can't control its future.

-We want security, both outwardly and inwardly. Therefore, we depend on others. But we need not when NSG is there!

-There must be order, physical security, for every human being in the world.

-Without order, the brain cannot function; it becomes neurotic. Like a child, it needs complete security.

-Like a monk who operates within a small cell and lives in a pattern, the mind wanting security lives in a pattern, without change.

Man has built in himself images as a fence of security: religious, political, personal. These manifest as symbols, ideas and beliefs.

-When you create an image, there is security in that image, however false, however unreal, however insane.

-Man, in his restlessness, in his desire for safety, for security, to feel at ease, has invented imaginary securities projected by thought.

-Outwardly and inwardly, we are seeking security. That is why we have invented God, because that is the ultimate security.

-When thought seeks security, it makes it into something permanent, immovable, and therefore it becomes mechanical.

Chief of Defence Staff General N.S. Raja Subramani delivered the inaugural Dr. S. Subramanian Lecture for the National Security Guard (NSG) on its 42nd Raising Day.

Key Details of the Event

• Occasion: 42nd Raising Day of the National Security Guard (NSG)

• Venue: BPR&D Auditorium, New Delhi

• Chief Guest & Speaker: General N.S. Raja Subramani, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM (Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs)

• Honouree: Padma Shri Dr. S. Subramanian, IPS (Retd.), Founder Director of the SPG and former Director General of the NSG and CRPF

• Core Theme of the Lecture: The evolving security landscape, alongside the critical need for inter-service jointness, operational coordination, and synergy.

-The National Security Guard (NSG), popularly known as the "Black Cats," was raised on October 16, 1984, as India's elite federal contingency force to counter terrorism in all its forms. Operating with a strict "zero-error" ethos, the NSG has successfully neutralized grave national security threats over its 42-year history.

-The landmark operational and tactical achievements of the NSG include:

1. Iconic Counter-Terrorism Operations

• Operation Black Thunder I & II (1986 & 1988): Deployed to flush out Sikh militants from the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. Operation Black Thunder II is globally studied as a model for patient, highly tactical siege management that forced a mass surrender of militants with minimal casualties.

• Operation Vajra Shakti (2002): Following the fidayeen terror strike at the Akshardham Temple in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, NSG commandos rushed into

the complex. They eliminated the heavily armed terrorists and safely rescued over a hundred civilian hostages trapped inside.

• Operation Black Tornado (2008): In response to the coordinated 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, the NSG launched a multi-site operation across the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, the Oberoi Trident, and Nariman House. Moving room-by-room, they eliminated all active terrorists and rescued hundreds of civilian hostages, establishing the NSG's global status as a premium intervention force.

• Operation Dhangu Suraksha (2016): Deployed during the high-stakes strike at the Pathankot Air Force Base, the NSG successfully neutralized heavily armed infiltrators, preventing catastrophic damage to India's key strategic military assets.

2. Flawless Anti-Hijacking and Hostage Rescue

• Operation Ashwamedh (1993): When an Indian Airlines flight (IC-427) was hijacked and forced to land in Amritsar, an NSG tactical team stormed the aircraft. In a swift 5-minute operation, they eliminated the hijacker before he could detonate a grenade, saving all 141 passengers without a single civilian injury. This remains one of the cleanest anti-hijack operations in aviation history.

• International Rescues: In November 1990, an NSG task force mobilized swiftly to Kolkata to successfully rescue hostages aboard a hijacked Thai Airbus.

3. Institutional & Technical Capabilities

• National Bomb Data Centre (NBDC): The NSG established the NBDC, which acts as India's premier node for collecting and analyzing IED blasts. It chemically "fingerprints" the modus operandi of different terrorist networks to trace their supply routes.

• Decentralization and Pan-India Footprint: To address the critical "response matrix delay" exposed during 26/11, the NSG has expanded from its main base in Manesar, Haryana, to establish six highly responsive regional hubs across India: Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Gandhinagar, and Jammu.

-Other than direct counter-terrorism operations, the National Security Guard (NSG) performs specialized training, high-risk security, and technical support functions:

-Key Non-Operational Functions

• VIP Protection: Provides close-protection security and bodyguards for high-risk, high-profile government officials and dignitaries.

• Critical Infrastructure Security: Guards vital national assets, such as nuclear power installations, major airports, and key government buildings against potential terrorist attacks and sabotage.

Burning effigies, rising Ravana

The changing meaning of Dussehra



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

The real message of Dussehra is not the burning of effigies but the destruction of evils hidden in the mind and society.



Every year on the evening of Dussehra, huge effigies of Ravana are burned with blazing firecrackers. Amid the gleam of fireworks, the resounding sound of firecrackers, and the applause of spectators, the victory of good over evil is celebrated. Within minutes, Ravana's effigy is reduced to ashes, and people return home wishing Happy Vijayadashami. But one question remains before us every year: if Ravana is truly dying, why are the evils in society constantly increasing? After all, who is the Ravana who is burned every year, and who is the Ravana who rises in a new form every year?

Dussehra is not merely a religious festival or an occasion for entertainment, but a festival of introspection and social awareness. The true purpose of Ravana Dahan is to remind us that no matter how powerful ego, injustice, deceit, greed, and immorality may be, they are ultimately destined to fall. But ironically, we have limited this message to an annual event. The effigies are getting bigger, the celebrations are getting grander, and the expenditure on fireworks is increasing, but are the evils within us diminishing in the same proportion?

Ravana of the Ramayana was learned, powerful, and

a devotee of Lord Shiva. He possessed many virtues, but his arrogance and the serious sin of abducting another man's wife nullified all his achievements. His end symbolizes that even knowledge, power, and wealth cannot make a man great if his conduct lacks dignity and morality. Ravana's defeat teaches us that a person's true identity is determined not by his scholarship or reputation, but by his character and actions.

Today's Raavan isn't the name of a single face or character. He embodies a mindset that violates the rights of others, exploits the weak, and disregards morality for self-interest. When a daughter's dignity is attacked, when a daughter-in-law is harassed for dowry, when justice and rights are traded for bribes, when addiction devastates a family, and when greed destroys relationships, then we must understand that Raavan is not present in an effigy, but alive in our social system and human thinking.

The irony is that we show less alacrity in recognizing evil in others than we do in looking within ourselves. We

it even against one's own interests is a test of true character. It's easy to preach decorum, but it's difficult to enforce the discipline of decorum on one's desires and behavior.

Ram is not only a symbol of faith but also an inspiration for ideals like truth, justice, duty, and dignity. These values are meaningful only when they are reflected in our behavior. If a person returns from attending a religious event but mistreats his family members at home, behaves dishonestly at work, or exploits the weak in society, he should seriously reconsider his conduct. The true value of religion is determined not by external display, but by humane behavior.

To make Ravana Dahan meaningful, it's essential that we transform this festival into an opportunity for self-improvement. Each person should look within and honestly acknowledge which of their behaviors are harming others. Some should learn to control their anger, some should resolve to refrain from greed, some should make it a habit to treat women with respect, and some should speak out appropriately instead of remaining silent in the face of injustice. Similarly, society should make collective efforts to combat problems like corruption, violence, dowry, and drug addiction.

We must also understand that opposing evil isn't just about speeches and slogans. Supporting victims of crime, mustering the courage to testify against injustice, not encouraging corrupt practices, and respecting the rights of others along with our own are also part of the struggle against Ravana. Social change begins not on a grand platform, but with small, ethical decisions by individuals.

Today, the need isn't about how tall the effigies of Ravana should be, but rather how high our own character should be. More important than the loudness of the fireworks, is how loud our voices against injustice should be. The height of the effigy fades in a few hours, but the height of character can guide society for generations.

If, after burning the effigy of Ravana on Dussehra, we return home without ego, greed, jealousy, and immorality intact, we should consider

our own failure, not the success of the celebration. The end of evil comes not with the fall of the effigy in the field, but with the awakening of dissent against injustice and a commitment to morality within humanity.

This Vijayadashami, let your resolution not just be to burn an effigy of Ravana. Let it also be to identify one evil within yourself and eliminate it, to protest against injustice, and to bring positive change to another person's life through your actions. The day we begin to do this, Dussehra will cease to be just a tradition but will become a campaign for social change.

Ravana is burned every year, but evil lives on as long as we allow it space within and around us. The true Vijayadashami will be the day when, along with the effigies, our own evils are burned, and the ideals of Rama are reflected in our conduct.

— Dr. Satyawan Saurabh
Poet, freelance journalist and columnist
All India Radio and TV Panelist
Barwa (Siwani), Bhiwani, Haryana
(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

When Chinar Leaves Tell Stories

The Beauty and Soul of Autumn in Kashmir



Dr. Uzma Naqash

Autumn in Kashmir is more than a change of season; it is an emotion that touches the heart, a story written in golden leaves, and a reminder of the timeless beauty of nature. As summer fades and the air turns cooler, the Valley transforms into a breathtaking landscape of golden, crimson, and copper hues. The majestic Chinar trees, standing proudly across gardens, streets, and countryside, become the true storytellers of this magical season.

The beauty of autumn in Kashmir is difficult to express in words. The falling Chinar leaves create a natural carpet beneath our feet, while the gentle breeze carries the fragrance of the changing season. From the historic gardens of Srinagar to the peaceful villages surrounded by mountains, every corner of the Valley reflects a unique charm. Dal Lake, with its calm waters and reflections of the autumn sky, adds another layer of beauty to this extraordinary landscape.

Yet, autumn is not merely about colourful leaves and scenic views. It carries a deeper emotional meaning for the people of Kashmir. The season reminds us of the passage of time, the changing nature of life, and the beauty of accepting change. Just as Chinar leaves fall to make way for new growth, human life also moves through different phases, teaching us patience, resilience, and hope.

For many Kashmiris, autumn is closely connected with memories, traditions, and family life. The sight of fallen leaves on familiar pathways recalls childhood days, conversations with loved ones, and moments spent in the warmth of home. The season brings a

special atmosphere to everyday life, as families prepare for the colder months and communities embrace the simple pleasures of togetherness.

Autumn also reflects the cultural identity of Kashmir. The Chinar tree is not simply a part of the landscape; it is a symbol of heritage, belonging, and continuity. Generations have witnessed its changing colours, finding beauty and meaning in its presence. Its leaves remind us that nature is deeply connected to our collective memory and cultural roots.

However, the beauty of this season also reminds us of our responsibility to protect the environment. Urbanisation, pollution, and the loss of green spaces threaten the natural character of the Valley. Protecting Chinar trees, preserving traditional gardens, and promoting environmental awareness must become shared priorities. Our natural heritage should not be admired only through photographs; it must be protected for future generations.

In a world increasingly shaped by speed, stress, and digital distractions, autumn offers a valuable opportunity to pause and reconnect with nature. A walk beneath the Chinar trees, a quiet moment beside Dal Lake, or the simple sound of leaves beneath our feet can bring a sense of peace that modern life often takes away. Nature has its own language, and autumn teaches us to listen.

Perhaps the greatest lesson of Kashmir's autumn is that beauty does not always lie in permanence. Sometimes, it is found in letting go, embracing change, and discovering hope in transition. The Chinar leaves may fall, but the stories they carry remain alive in the hearts of those who have experienced their magic.

As autumn paints Kashmir in shades of gold and red, the Valley once again reminds us that it is not only a paradise of natural beauty but also a land of emotions, memories, and enduring traditions. Every falling leaf tells a story, every breeze carries a memory, and every Chinar tree stands as a witness to the soul of Kashmir.

"When Chinar leaves tell stories, Kashmir does not simply change its colours; it reveals its heart."

Div Com Jammu reviews winter preparedness, directs departments to ensure timely arrangements

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, OCTOBER 19: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting with senior officers to review winter preparedness across Jammu Division and ensure timely arrangements for maintaining essential services during the upcoming winter season.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed district-wise preparedness, with particular focus on snow clearance, road connectivity, availability of essential commodities, power and water supply, healthcare facilities and emergency response mechanisms in snow-bound and remote areas.

Deputy Commissioners briefed the chair on preparedness measures undertaken in their respective districts including deployment of snow-clearance machinery, identification of vulnerable road stretches, availability of manpower and arrangements for maintaining essential services during adverse weather conditions.

The meeting was informed that the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), NHAI, NHIDCL, PWD and PMGSY have made arrangements for snow clearance and road maintenance on their respective stretches. Stage contracts have been put



in place for timely clearance of interior roads, while machinery and manpower are being positioned at vulnerable locations.

The Divisional Commissioner stressed the need to ensure uninterrupted road connectivity in snow-bound areas, particularly in the remote regions of Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Poonch, Rajouri and Udhampur districts. He directed the concerned agencies to maintain close coordination and ensure prompt clearance of roads to facilitate the movement of essential supplies and emergency services.

Reviewing the availability of essential commodities, Vikas Kundal emphasised advance stocking and timely lifting of ration for snow-bound areas. He directed the concerned officers to closely monitor the distribution process and ensure adequate availability of food grains, medicines and other essential items well before the onset of severe winter conditions. The preparedness of Jammu

Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC) was also reviewed. The Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure adequate availability of transformers, electric poles and other essential equipment. He stressed the need to maintain additional buffer stocks of transformers in vulnerable areas and dispatch essential materials in advance to facilitate prompt restoration of power supply during winter-related disruptions.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements for drinking water supply, healthcare services, availability of medicines, firewood stocking and emergency response in remote areas. The provision of alternative drinking water supply through tankers in affected areas was also discussed.

Road safety measures along vulnerable stretches of the National Highway were reviewed, with emphasis on installing reflectors and undertaking other necessary

precautions to ensure safe movement during winter conditions.

Emphasising the need for proactive planning, the Div Com directed all Deputy Commissioners and departmental heads to conduct regular reviews of winter preparedness and address identified gaps without delay. He further directed them to submit updated preparedness reports, along with details of additional requirements, to the divisional administration within the stipulated timeline.

The Divisional Commissioner stressed that all departments must remain alert and ensure effective inter-departmental coordination to maintain uninterrupted essential services and minimise public inconvenience during the winter season.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of all districts of Jammu Division; Chief Engineer, PHE; Chief Engineers of PWD Jammu, Pir Panjal, Chenab, PMGSY and SAMPARK; representatives of the Mechanical Engineering Department, JPDC and CAPD; Director Health Services, Jammu; Regional Officer, NHAI along with Project Directors of NHIDCL; Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu and other concerned officers in person and through virtual mode.

DC Pulwama reviews progress of Census 2027

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a review meeting on the progress of the District Census Handbook (DCHB) and preparations for Population Enumeration (Phase-II) of Census 2027 at the Circuit House, Pulwama.

A detailed presentation was made by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pulwama, Shiekh Mohammad Ashraf, covering the progress of the District Census Handbook, digital enumeration, manpower requirements, snowbound areas and the roadmap for Phase-II operations.

It was informed that District Pulwama has secured the first rank in Self-Enumeration across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir during Phase-I. As per the presentation, 6,684 Self-Enumeration IDs were initiated, out of which 6,501 were completed, achieving a completion rate of 97.26 percent. The achievement was attributed to effective planning, coordinated efforts and active public participation in the digital census initiative.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements for snowbound areas, with 32 snowbound villages identified across Rajpora, Tral and Aripal. The presentation highlighted the deployment requirements of Enumerators



and Supervisors in these areas and stressed the need for timely completion of enumeration-related activities before snowfall.

The DC directed the concerned officers to prepare and issue a Sub-Division-wise training calendar for all personnel associated with the Census exercise, including Census Charge Officers, Census Clerks, Technical Staff, Supervisors, Enumerators, Master Trainers and Field Trainers.

Keeping in view the weather forecast and the possibility of snowfall, the DC suggested that training of Charge Officers and other key personnel be conducted during the last week

of October. He further suggested that Master Trainer training be conducted around October 25, followed by training of Field Trainers, Technical Staff and other field-level functionaries.

The DC also directed that training of approximately 1,190 Supervisors be organised during the third week of December, ensuring that the field functionaries are adequately trained before their deployment.

Reviewing the District Census Handbook, the meeting was informed about the progress of field-level data collection and verification. The DC directed that the data incorporated in the DCHB be thoroughly scrutinised to ensure completeness and authenticity of village-level information.

The DC further emphasised strengthening the Enumeration Block Awareness Campaign (EBAC) along with mass awareness activities to ensure effective outreach at the grassroots level. He directed the concerned officers and field functionaries to make every effort to cover every household, leaving no eligible household or person out of the enumeration process.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that my son's Aadhaar Card bears the name Aatif Bashir Dar, whereas his actual name is Mohammad Aatif. Details are as follows:

- Name mentioned in Aadhaar Card: Aatif Bashir Dar
- Actual Name: Mohammad Aatif
- Father's Name: Bashir Ahmad Dar
- Address: Bungam, Langate, Handwara, District Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir – 193302
- Aadhaar Number: 548308721048

Any person having any objection, claim, or issue regarding the above-mentioned name may submit their objection within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that there is no objection from any concerned person regarding the above-mentioned matter.

For any clarification or objection, please contact the undersigned at the number given below.

Contact No.: 9858357581
Bashir Ahmad Dar
Father of Mohammad Aatif
R/o Bungam, Langate, Handwara, District Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir – 193302

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that my name has been incorrectly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as Hashmat Shabir, whereas my actual and correct name is Haashim Shabir Malla.

The details are as follows:

- Incorrect Name in Aadhaar Card: Hashmat Shabir
- Correct Name: Haashim Shabir Malla
- Father's Name: Shabir Ahmad Malla
- Address: Pohrupeth, Langate, Handwara, District Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir – 193302
- Aadhaar Number: 347757878893

Any person having any objection or claim regarding the above-mentioned name correction is hereby requested to submit their objection within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that there is no objection from any concerned person regarding the proposed name correction.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, AISHA BEGUM, hereby give this public notice to inform the general public and concerned authorities that my name have been incorrectly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as Asha Begum. My correct particulars, as per my valid supporting documents, are as follows:

- Correct Name: AISHA BEGUM
- I request the concerned authorities to kindly take note of the above-mentioned correct particulars and consider the necessary correction in my Aadhaar records as per the applicable rules and prescribed procedure.

This notice is being published for public information and official record purposes.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, KASHMIR Health Secretariat, Bemina Bypass, Srinagar-190018

Subject: Final seniority list of Junior Staff Nurses possessing Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Degree.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, on the basis of record available in this Directorate, 1st, and 2nd tentative seniority list of Junior Staff Nurses possessing Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Degree were notified and circulated vide this Office Notification No. DHSK/NG/Est-5th/3732-62 dated 14.08.2026 and No. DHSK/NG/Est-5th/E-7977876/4817-47 dated 29.09.2026 respectively for obtaining objections, if any. Whereas, after circulation of tentative seniority list(s) among concerned, no representations were received against 2nd Tentative Seniority list of Junior Staff Nurses possessing Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Degree. Now, therefore, Final Seniority List of Junior Staff Nurses possessing Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Degree, forming Annexure to this notification, is hereby notified and circulated among all the Junior Staff Nurses possessing Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Degree for information. The date of birth and category status of the officials recorded in the Seniority List shall not be taken as authentic and shall be subject to further verification with the Service records/Matriculation Certificate issued in respect of these officials by the concerned authorities. The final Seniority List shall also be uploaded on the official website of the Directorate, www.dhsk.gov.in, and published in two leading newspapers of the Kashmir Valley for wider circulation.

Sd/

DIPK-6919/26

Director Health Services
Kashmir.

Send Date: Oct 19 2026

S. No.	Name of Jr. Staff Nurse	D. O. B	D. O. A	Initial place of Posting	Present place of Posting	Remarks
1	Khurshid Ahmad Bala	18.02.1968	19.05.1992	SDH Charari-Sharief	SDH Charari-Sharief	
2	Roobia Jan	12.10.1978	17.10.2007	SDH Duroo	EH Qazigund	
3	Gowhar Jan	16.12.1984	06.05.2014	Block Lamoo	SDH Kokernag	
4	Rifat Gul	04.04.1981	31.07.2014	Block Sopore	SDH Pattan	
5	Yasmeen Saleem	28.11.1981	20.07.2016	SDH Charari-Sharief	SDH Charari-Sharief	

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG Fresh NIT 115 (2nd Call 86) OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/8913-22, DATED 17-10-2026

For and on behalf of the **Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K** e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.(in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Upgradation and Improvement of Approach road connecting village Shamsipora with NH-44	3.73 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 3.16 + (18% GST Amount 0.57)	200	7460/-	15 Days	M & R (M.H 3054)	DEE Class & MSME's Only

Project Authority : Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Anantnag.
Position of Authorization : Authorized vide Order No. ARD/SEA/2026-27/24, Dated 14.09.2026.

- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms-and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Part iculars	Dated	
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17-10-2026	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 17-10-2026	(05:00 PM)
		To 23-10-2026	(04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 17-10-2026	(05:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 23-10-2026	(04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	24-10-2026	(10:30 AM)
		In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division nantnag.	

- Bids must be accompanied with a Receipt of cost of Tender document/Tender Fee deposited in a **Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and Receipt of EMD (2% of advertised Cost), also deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt. (The Date of receipt of EMD and Tender Fee should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date). The same EMD/Tender Fee receipt should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.**
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost). Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.**
Note:- a. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of Tender Document Cost or Rs500/- whichever is lower.
b. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of the amount of EMD/ Bid Security or Rs 5000/- whichever is lower
- The Bid security amount of the successful Bidder shall, upon completion of the bidding process be transferred from single Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account to Performance Security Deposit Head on Authorization from HoD during the currency of contract agreement including defect liability period. In addition, the differential amount of performance security shall be furnished by the Bidder in cash to the designated Authority. **Failure to produce differential amount of Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.**
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. **The bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of **Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag**
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid**
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.
- Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.**
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

DIPK-6889/26
Send Date: Oct 19 2026

(Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Aijaz Ahmad Ganie S/o Abdul Rahman Ganie R/o Checki kawoosa Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of BIRTH certificate of his daughter Raziya D/o Aijaz Ahmad Ganie The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his daughter as school records 14/ 05 / 2010 If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .

05 /10 /2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Ali Mohmad Rather S/o Gh Ahmad Rather R/o Mati pora Tehsil Pattan District Baramullah applied for the name caste correction in his own addhar card . The applicant name has been inadvertently recorded aadhar card as Ali Mohmad . The applicant intends to register the correct name as Ali Mohmad Rather S/o Gh Ahmad Rather in the aadhar card If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned publication office authorities within a period of seven days and after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .

05 /10 /2026

Autumn Silk Cocoon Auction Market commences at Srinagar

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19: The Autumn Silk Cocoon Auction Market for Kashmir Division commenced today at the Sericulture Complex, Srinagar, marking an important occasion for the sericulture sector and providing a platform for cocoon growers to market their produce in a transparent and competitive environment.

The market was inaugurated by Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director Sericulture J&K in presence of departmental officers, cocoon growers from various districts of Kashmir Division and buyers from within and outside the Union

Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Autumn Silk Cocoon Auction Market reflects the department's continued commitment towards strengthening the marketing infrastructure for silkworms, facilitating better linkages between cocoon growers and buyers and promoting a more organized and remunerative marketing system for the sericulture community. The participation of buyers from within and outside the Union Territory is expected to encourage healthy competition, enhance market access for local cocoon growers and contribute towards improving returns from silkworm rearing.



The auction market also provides an important opportunity for growers to bring their produce to an organized marketplace, interact directly with buyers and benefit from a transparent auction-based mechanism. The initiative forms part of the department's broader

efforts to strengthen the entire sericulture value chain, from silkworm seed production and cocoon rearing to marketing and silk production, thereby, supporting rural livelihoods and creating sustainable economic opportunities for farmers associated with the sector.

Later, Director Sericulture J&K, visited the Central Organization for Training in Sericulture (COTS) Mirgund to review the progress of Late Autumn Rearing 2026 and assess the functioning and progress of the newly established Silkworm Crop Improvement Laboratory.

During the visit, the Director took stock of the ongoing rearing activities and reviewed the research and technological interventions being undertaken to improve silkworm productivity, strengthen breeding programmes and enhance the overall performance of the sericulture sector in the Union Territory.

The visit also included a

review of the construction and operationalisation of modern laboratory facilities established to strengthen research and crop improvement activities. The newly established Silkworm Crop Improvement Laboratory is intended to support scientific experimentation, breeding-related studies, evaluation of silkworm genetic material, and technology-driven interventions aimed at improving the quality and productivity of silkworm crops. The Director emphasized the importance of translating scientific research and technological advancements into practical benefits for silkworm rearers and the wider sericulture community.

DDC Reasi reviews implementation of District plan, directs timeline completion of works

HT News Network



REASI, OCTOBER 19: District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of development works being executed under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 and Tribal Plan in the district.

The DDC reviewed the physical and financial progress of works across various sectors, including Jal Shakti, PWD (R&B), Education, Health and Rural Development. He also reviewed the status of tendering and allotment of works, expenditure incurred and timelines fixed for completion.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of works under DDC, BDC and PRI grants, besides other departmental schemes. The concerned executing agencies apprised the DDC of the progress achieved and the status of works pending at various stages.

Emphasising the need for effective monitoring and timely execution, the DDC directed the concerned departments and executing agencies to expedite the pace of work and ensure completion of all ongoing projects within the stipulated timelines. He further directed them to submit detailed lists of completed works and ensure that bills for such works are submitted to the concerned DDOs without delay.

DC Reasi reviews stray dog management measures

HT News Network

REASI, OCTOBER 19: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India regarding stray dog management and related measures in the district.

The DC reviewed various aspects of stray dog management including the availability of Animal Birth Control facilities, dog sterilisation, anti-rabies vaccination, identification and record-keeping, designated feeding points and measures to prevent stray dogs from entering institutional premises.

The meeting also deliberated on public awareness initiatives, adoption mechanisms, enforcement measures against unauthorised dog breeding establishments and identification of gaps requiring remedial action.

DC Budgam reviews Revenue Services, AgriStack Progress

HT News Network

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting to review the delivery of revenue services and the progress achieved under AgriStack in the district.

The meeting discussed registration-related matters, village-wise targets, Farmer ID generation, digitisation of revenue records (Massavies), and progress under the AgriStack initiative.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of achieving assigned targets within stipulated timelines, with November 20 set as the deadline for the identified targets.

The DC also reviewed issues related to the SVAMITVA scheme, distribution of Property Cards, correction of settlement records, removal of encroachments, mutation



attestation and pending land issues and court cases.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure timely disposal of revenue matters, minimise pendencies and improve the delivery of revenue services to the public. Emphasis was also laid on expediting AgriStack-related work and maintaining proper coordination among the field functionaries.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy

Commissioner Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Collector Defence, Tehsildars and other concerned officers. He directed the concerned officers to ensure timely disposal of revenue matters, minimise pendencies and improve the delivery of revenue services to the public. Emphasis was also laid on expediting AgriStack-related work and maintaining proper coordination among the field functionaries.

KVK Bandipora-1 strengthens Farmer Capacity for Commercial Makhana Production in Kashmir

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 19: As part of its continued efforts to promote emerging aquatic crops and diversify agricultural livelihoods in Kashmir, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1, SKUAST-Kashmir, organised the fourth farmer training programme on Makhana cultivation under the Central Sector Scheme on Development of Makhana, in collaboration with the Department of Rakhs and Farms, Kashmir.

The training brought farmers and farm women into direct interaction with agricultural experts, focusing on the practical aspects of Makhana production and its prospects as an alternative income-generating enterprise.

Head, KVK Bandipora-1, Dr. Tariq Sultan, explained the cultivation requirements, production techniques, crop management, harvesting



methods and possibilities for processing and value addition.

Assistant Director, Department of Rakhs and Farms, Kashmir, Feroz Ahmad Shapoo outlined departmental initiatives aimed at expanding Makhana cultivation in the region.

Addressing the participants, Scientists from

KVK Bandipora-1, discussed the nutritional and commercial importance of Makhana. They highlighted the increasing relevance of this nutrient-rich food crop and encouraged farmers to explore its cultivation as a means of diversifying farm activities and tapping emerging market opportunities.

Agriculture Department Kashmir commences First Phase of Onion Seedling Sale at Kitchen Garden Lal Mandi

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19: Agriculture Department Kashmir today commenced the first phase of onion seedling sale at Kitchen Garden, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, aimed at facilitating farmers with quality planting material for onion cultivation.

The initiative is part of the department's continued efforts to promote vegetable cultivation, strengthen local agricultural production and encourage farmers to adopt improved cultivation practices for enhanced productivity and better returns.

The availability of quality onion seedlings at the department's designated sale centre is expected to facilitate timely transplantation and support farmers in planning their cultivation activities for the season.

DC Ganderbal reviews 460 Cases under Mission YUVA Stresses timely Verification and Processing

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) to review the progress achieved under Mission YUVA and consider beneficiary cases under the scheme. During the meeting, the committee took up 308 fresh cases of nano-entrepreneurs, 94 cases requiring verification for completion of units, and 58 improvement cases under the Nano Entrepreneur Scheme, taking the total number of cases



under consideration to 460.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress of implementation and emphasised the need for proper scrutiny and verification of beneficiary cases in accordance with the prescribed guidelines. She stressed that all concerned

departments and financial institutions must ensure timely processing of cases and extend the requisite support to eligible beneficiaries. The DC underscored the importance of effective coordination among the departments concerned to facilitate the establishment and completion of nano-enterprise units, address deficiencies in pending cases and ensure that the benefits of Mission YUVA reach eligible youth. The concerned officers were directed to maintain close follow up on the cases under different categories and ensure timely action in accordance.

Save Youth Save Future Foundation's NEXTGEN organises interactive session between Students and District Admin in Baramulla

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 19: Save Youth Save Future Foundation (SYSF Foundation), through its Students' Wing, NEXTGEN, organised an interactive session between students and the district administration at Government Degree College, Baramulla, to promote meaningful youth participation, encourage constructive dialogue and strengthen communication between students and administrative leadership.

The programme was attended by Syed Fakhruddin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner,

Baramulla, as the Chief Guest. Wajahat Farooq Bhat, Founder and Chairman of SYSF Foundation; Professor (Dr.) Tasleema Bano, Principal, Government Degree College, Baramulla; Professor Tariq Ahmad Chalkoo, Staff Secretary; faculty members and students were also present. The session provided students with a direct platform to express their opinions, share ideas and suggestions, raise concerns and discuss matters relating to education, youth opportunities and the overall development of Baramulla district. The Deputy Commissioner listened attentively to the students' concerns, opinions, ideas and

suggestions, responded to their queries and assured these would be implemented. He further assured the students that the administration would extend appropriate assistance and support wherever required.

Speaking on the occasion, Wajahat Farooq Bhat, Founder and Chairman of SYSF Foundation, emphasised that meaningful youth empowerment requires opportunities for students to engage directly with decision-makers and contribute constructively to issues affecting their communities. He highlighted the importance of moving beyond symbolic participation and ensuring that young people have a meaningful

HDFC Bank Reports 4.7% Rise in Q2 Net Profit to 19,510 Crore

HT News Network

Srinagar: HDFC Bank Limited on Saturday reported a 4.7 per cent year-on-year increase in standalone net profit to 19,510 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2026, compared with 18,635 crore in the corresponding quarter last year.

The bank's net interest income (NII), representing interest earned less interest expended, rose 9.7 per cent to 34,620 crore from 31,550 crore in the year-ago quarter. Net revenue increased to 48,450 crore from 45,900 crore, according to the financial results approved by the bank's Board of Directors at a meeting in Mumbai. Profit before

tax stood at 25,910 crore for the quarter, while provisions and contingencies amounted to 3,570 crore. The bank reported a net interest margin of 3.16 per cent on total assets and 3.32 per cent on interest-earning assets. Its cost-to-income ratio stood at 39.1 per cent. The bank said profit after tax, excluding treasury trading gains, grew by approximately 12.6 per cent year-on-year. Treasury trading gains fell to 780 crore during the quarter from 2,390 crore in the corresponding period last year, while fees and commissions increased to 9,690 crore from 8,840 crore.

HDFC Bank's total balance sheet size expanded to 45.78 lakh crore as of September 30, 2026, compared

with 40.03 lakh crore a year earlier. Total deposits stood at 33.27 lakh



crore, registering year-on-year growth of 18.8 per cent. Average deposits during the quarter increased 16.8 per cent to 31.66 lakh crore.

Average current account and savings account (CASA) deposits rose 10.7 per cent to 9.71 lakh crore. However, CASA deposits accounted for 31.6 per cent of total deposits at

the end of September, reflecting the bank's deposit mix alongside an

increase in time deposits, which grew 22.8 per cent year-on-year to 22.76 lakh crore. Gross advances reached 32.20 lakh crore, up 16.3 per cent from the corresponding period last year. Average advances under management increased 14.1 per cent year-on-year to 31.87 lakh crore. Among lending

segments, retail loans grew 11.7 per cent, loans to small and mid-market enterprises increased 23.5 per cent, and corporate and other wholesale advances rose 16.4 per cent. Overseas advances accounted for 3.3 per cent of total advances. The bank's asset quality indicators improved on a year-on-year basis. Gross non-performing assets stood at 1.11 per cent of gross advances at the end of September, compared with 1.24 per cent a year earlier and 1.17 per cent at the end of June 2026. Excluding non-performing assets in the agricultural segment, the gross NPA ratio was 0.87 per cent. Net non-performing assets stood at 0.37 per cent of net advances. HDFC Bank's

total capital adequacy ratio under Basel III guidelines stood at 18.9 per cent as of September 30, 2026, against the regulatory requirement of 11.9 per cent. Tier-I capital adequacy was 17.2 per cent, while the Common Equity Tier-I ratio stood at 17.1 per cent. For the half-year ended September 30, 2026, the bank reported standalone profit after tax of 38,570 crore, an increase of 4.8 per cent over the corresponding period last year. Net revenue for the six-month period stood at 94,810 crore, compared with 99,070 crore a year earlier. The bank's distribution network comprised 9,706 branches and 20,881 ATMs across 4,177 cities and towns as of September 30. Half

of its branches were located in semi-urban and rural areas. The bank reported 2,10,109 employees at the end of the quarter, compared with 2,20,339 a year earlier.

On a consolidated basis, HDFC Bank reported quarterly net revenue of 78,690 crore and profit after tax of 20,700 crore. Consolidated profit after tax for the half-year stood at 39,940 crore. Among its subsidiaries, HDB Financial Services reported quarterly profit after tax of 780 crore, up 34.2 per cent year-on-year, while HDFC Life Insurance reported a 13.6 per cent increase in quarterly profit to 510 crore. HDFC ERGO General Insurance reported quarterly profit of 160 crore,

One of the great unsolved mysteries of science': What general anaesthetic reveals about our brains

How general anaesthetics work is still not fully understood, but they are revealing clues about the nature of consciousness.

In 1797, the British naval commander Admiral Horatio Nelson had his right arm amputated. The operation saved his life. But according to legend the only anaesthetic he was offered was a swig of rum.

For the majority of human history, even the removal of limbs was done on patients who were fully awake. The introduction of general anaesthetics in 1846 was game-changing. Now consciousness could be temporarily switched off anytime, anywhere, in anyone. Nelson could have skipped the amputation but still turned up for breakfast the next day.

Today there are over 350 million surgeries performed under general anaesthesia every year. But how these mysterious medicines put us to sleep is still not entirely clear. Now emerging clues are teaching scientists about the fundamental workings of our brains. They're even hinting at the origins of consciousness itself.

A universal sleep

There are several categories of anaesthetics. Some work by blocking pain directly, while others make you sleepy and relaxed. General anaesthetics go one step further. These drugs make you unconscious, so you have no awareness whatsoever of what is going on.

There are a whole plethora of anaesthetics which can induce a state of unconsciousness. These range from seemingly inert gases such as xenon, which are rarely used in practice, to propofol, which is the most widely and commonly used general anaesthetic.

General anaesthetics can have widely different chemical structures. In each case, the overall effect is to interfere with the communication of nerve cells in the brain, preventing them from talking to each other. What is clear from magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans is that there is a global reduction in brain activity.

However, exactly how this results in a patient being put to sleep is less well understood.

For one thing, it's not yet clear whether the state of unconsciousness induced by anaesthetics requires the total shutdown of the whole brain. Or perhaps certain regions are more important than others.

"Even if the whole brain shuts down, because it [the brain] is so interconnected it's very hard to dissect out what triggered the global shutdown," says Nick Franks, professor of biophysics and

anaesthetics at Imperial College London, UK. "If you look at brain scans, it's clear there are certain regions that are more sensitive that shut down first, and that begs the question whether these then trigger a global shutdown."

Franks points to the thalamus, an egg-shaped structure deep in the brain that acts as a central hub



between brain regions. This area appears to power down first when someone is given a general anaesthetic. The thalamus plays a crucial role in initiating and maintaining sleep, among other things. So do anaesthetics work by "hijacking" the brain's natural sleep circuitry?

"If you anaesthetise an animal and then stimulate a very selective part of the thalamus, you can wake the animal up," says Franks. "Studies also show that [some] people in a coma can be woken up by thalamic stimulation. So it's a critical area for arousal." However, more studies are needed to find out if this is what's going on.

Other scientists believe that the cerebral cortex – the brain's outer wrinkly layer – is the main "home of consciousness" and therefore must be where anaesthetics exert their main effects. But there are other brain regions implicated too. For example, the frontal and parietal lobes. The former sits just behind your forehead, and is responsible for many higher-level activities such as critical thinking. The latter sits further back and is involved in processing sensory information, such as touch.

A third state

But there are emerging clues that our brains might be capable of an in-between state of consciousness – one which is neither asleep nor awake.

For most people, being "put under" means losing total consciousness and therefore all memory of events. However, that isn't the case for everyone. An estimated one in 15,000

patients undergoing surgery can remember aspects of their surgery after waking, a phenomenon known as accidental awareness.

Jaideep Pandit, a consultant anaesthetist at the Oxford University Hospitals, believes that such individuals are experiencing a "third state" of consciousness somewhere between sleeping and waking, or

consciousness and unconsciousness.

In tests, Pandit gave patients an anaesthetic along with a muscle relaxant, but used a tourniquet to prevent the muscle relaxant from paralysing the forearm. This allowed unconscious patients to move their hand if they so wished. He found that one third of patients were able to squeeze the experimenter's fingers on command, despite not showing any signs of being awake or in pain during surgery. According to Pandit, this suggests there is a third level of consciousness.

The uniqueness of consciousness thought

The so-called "hard problem" of consciousness remains one of the great unsolved mysteries of science. But looking at what's different when you lose this ability is helping to unlock its secrets. While regular sleep also involves a loss of consciousness, general anaesthetics allow it to be switched off at any moment, so they make it easier to study.

Take the uniqueness of our conscious experiences. It's generally accepted that each person or animal's conscious experience is entirely subjective and special to them.

Andrea Luppi, a neuroscientist at the University of Cambridge investigated if general anaesthetics can shed light on how this works. He looked at the brains of people under general anaesthesia using functional MRI scans. This technology can record blood flow in the brain, to see what impact the drugs have.

Luppi was particularly interested in functional connectivity – a measure

of how well different regions of the brain communicate and coordinate their activity. Normally, this type of neural activity follows a pattern that is so unique that it can act like a "fingerprint" to identify a person.

However, Luppi and colleagues found that, under anaesthesia, individual brains became less "unique" and more similar to one another. Intriguingly, the anaesthetised human brain also became less distinguishable from the brains of other primates, suggesting that the regions of the human brain that are most affected by anaesthesia are those that are most evolutionarily recent.

Luppi believes that a key signature of anaesthesia is that it stops disparate regions of the brain from talking to one another. During wakefulness, regions can interact even if they are not directly connected. However, this is very rare in the anaesthetised brain, where only regions that are directly linked to one another appear to "talk".

"During wakefulness, the stream of consciousness guides the sequence of brain patterns that we visit," Luppi wrote in a 2024 commentary. Instead, under anaesthesia brain activity is rudderless, he explained.

Luppi's findings fit with the idea that consciousness does not result from activity in a specific brain region. Instead, it's a network – it emerges from the coordination of different hubs. Like shutting down a government by crashing a country's communications systems.

Luppi also believes that general anaesthetics could shine a light on how psychedelics such as LSD and psilocybin ("magic mushrooms") alter consciousness. While anaesthetics dampen communication between different brain regions, psychedelics appear to do the opposite – they induce the brain to open new lines of communication.

Ultimately though, there's still a lot to learn about where consciousness resides in the human brain.

"Our understanding of consciousness is pretty rudimentary," says Boris Heifets, associate professor of anaesthesiology, perioperative and pain medicine at Stanford University, California.

"So I think if you can find someone to explain how conscious experience works, please let me know. I would love to talk to them."

* All content within this article is provided for general information only, and should not be treated as a substitute for the medical advice of health care professionals.

(BBC News)

French Open: Sindhu, Lakshya face tough tests in opening round

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 19 :India's leading shuttlers, including two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and men's singles player Lakshya Sen, will look to regain their form in the French Open Super 750 in



Paris, starting Tuesday.

With a prize purse of US\$950,000, the tournament offers India's players an opportunity to bounce back after a mixed run of results. Sindhu faces a formidable opening challenge against top seed and World No. 1 An Se Young of South Korea, while sixth seed Lakshya takes on Japan's Kodai Naraoka in the men's

singles first round.

Sindhu will be keen to put her disappointing Denmark Open campaign behind her. She was initially drawn against An Se Young last week, but a series of late withdrawals forced the organisers to revise the draw, setting up a first-round meeting with

shuttler overcame Naraoka despite a back issue during that campaign, but his performances have dipped since then. The rematch gives him an early opportunity to get his campaign back on track.

In the men's singles, former World No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth will face compatriot Ayush Shetty in an all-Indian first-round contest.

Srikanth showed encouraging signs at the Denmark Open, pushing reigning world champion Alex Lanier with his sharp net play before eventually losing. He will hope to carry that

form into the French capital, while Shetty will look to make the most of the opportunity against an experienced opponent.

India's strongest hopes in men's doubles rest with Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty. The pair have enjoyed a productive season, winning titles at the Singapore and

China Open, but their early exit at the Asian Games was a setback. They begin their French Open campaign against home favourites and brothers Christo Popov and Toma Junior Popov.

In women's doubles, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will look to build on their maiden World Championships bronze medal this year.

They open against Taiwan's Lin Chih-Chun and Yang Chu Yun.

The women's singles draw also features an all-Indian clash, with Tanvi Sharma taking on Isharani Baruah. Ashmita Chaliha faces China's Han Qian Xi, while Unnati Hooda begins against Japan's Riko Gunji. Devika Sihag has a challenging first-round assignment against fifth seed Putri Kusuma Wardani of Indonesia.

Pragyan succeeds Agarkar as chairman of selectors, Ramesh Powar joins panel

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 19 :Former India left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha will succeed Ajit Agarkar as chairman of the senior men's selection committee, while former India off-spinner Ramesh Powar has joined the panel as the West Zone representative, the BCCI announced on Monday.

Ojha had been serving as interim chairman since Agarkar's tenure ended on October 4. He was appointed to the top post based on seniority, having represented India in 24 Tests, 18 ODIs and six T20Is. Powar replaces Agarkar as the West Zone representative on the selection panel. He played two Tests and 31 ODIs for India before moving into coaching, taking up roles with the India women's team, Mumbai and Gujarat, besides serving as bowling coach at the BCCI Centre of Excellence. During his tenure as head coach of the India women's team, Powar guided the side to an Asia Cup title and a silver medal at the Commonwealth



Games.

The BCCI said its Cricket Advisory Committee, comprising Ashok Malhotra and Jatin Paranjape, unanimously recommended Powar's appointment after an interview and screening process.

The board also thanked Agarkar for his contribution as chairman of the men's selection committee. The BCCI places on record its appreciation for Ajit Agarkar for his commitment, conviction and contribution during his tenure as chairman of the men's selection committee.

Niki backs learning curve after dream start as India aim for clean sweep against Zimbabwe

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 19 :Niki Prasad has made an impressive start to her senior international career, showing the composure of a seasoned campaigner in her first two

captained India to their second consecutive ICC Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup title at the start of 2025. India completed an unbeaten campaign in Malaysia under her leadership, underlining her credentials



appearances for India against Zimbabwe.

The 20-year-old made an immediate impact on debut in Raipur, scoring an unbeaten 39 and hitting the winning runs before delivering another match-winning performance in Sunday's

series-clinching nine-wicket victory. Prasad picked up two wickets for just seven runs in two overs, with her first two deliveries in international cricket bringing consecutive wickets.

The feat puts the right-arm off-spinner in an exclusive group of just three players to have taken two wickets with their first two balls at international level.

Prasad's early success comes after she

as one of the country's promising young cricketers.

Senior all-rounder Deepti Sharma had praised Prasad's seamless transition into the senior setup after her batting display in the series opener. Her contribution with the ball in the second match offered further evidence of her all-round ability.

Prasad, however, is keen to focus on learning from each outing rather than allowing expectations to weigh on her. "If I keep thinking that my performance is not good, then I think I will play the next matches under the same pressure," Prasad said after India's nine-wicket win over Zimbabwe on Sunday.

Century by Pradosh Ranjan, Baba Indrajith's 77, puts TN in command against Uttarakhand

United News Of India

CHENNAI, OCT 19 :A fine century by lefthander Pradosh Ranjan Paul (136) and a patient 77 by Baba Indrajith and their big third wicket stand, put hosts Tamil Nadu in command against Uttarakhand on the second day of the Elite Group-D Ranji Trophy cricket match at the M.A.Chidambaram stadium here on Monday.

Their 171 run third wicket association, which the other batters failed to consolidate, helped Tamil Nadu, who were eventually bowled out for 313 runs, secure a handy 179 run first innings lead. Uttarakhand were nind for one in 7 overs in their second innings at close. Earlier, resuming at 85 for 2 in reply to Uttarkhand's 134 all out, and the wicket offering good bounce for the pacers and also for spinners, the overnight Tamil Nadu pair of Pradosh Ranjan Paul and Baba Indrajith negotiated the Uttarakhand attack with aplomb and with a straight bat.

Indian Women's League to begin on November 13 with eight clubs

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 19 :The 2026-27 season of the Indian Women's League (IWL) will begin on November 13, with eight clubs set to compete for the title across Kolkata, Jamshedpur and Bengaluru.

Defending champions East Bengal FC will return to the competition aiming to retain their crown after an impressive campaign last season, in which they recorded 13 wins and just one defeat.

Six clubs from the previous season - East Bengal FC, Sethu FC, Kickstart FC, Nita Football Academy, Gokulam Kerala FC and Garhwal United FC - will feature in the upcoming edition. They will be joined by HOPS FC and Juba Sangha FC, who earned promotion from IWL 2 after finishing first and second, respectively, in the 2025-26 season. East Bengal's Fazila Ikwaput was the leading scorer last season with 20 goals. Nita Football Academy's Pyari Xaxa and Sethu FC's Lynda Kom were among the other standout attacking players. The new season comes as the All India Football

Federation (AIFF) and Capri Sports begin working together under their 15-year partnership for the commercial development and marketing rights of the IWL and IWL 2. AIFF Deputy Secretary General



M. Satyanarayan said the league remained an important platform for the growth of women's football in the country. "The Indian Women's League remains a cornerstone of the development of women's football in India. The 2026-27 season will see eight clubs compete for the title, with players across the country looking to make their mark on the national stage."

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