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HEADLINES
TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



P:12 **Neeraj Chopra's VEL Sports Management signs Asian Games medallist Pooja**

Vande Bharat Catering Staff Member Killed After Being Hit by Parcel Train in Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 29: A non-local railway catering staff member was found dead after being hit by a parcel train near Suthsoo Kalan in Srinagar on Thursday, officials said.
The deceased was identified as Jaan Mohammad, son of Noor Mohammad, a resident of Sakri village in Chasana area of Reasi district.
According to information received, the incident occurred near railway track kilometre point and electric pole number 61/05, falling under the jurisdiction of Railway Police Station (RPS), Srinagar.
The deceased was reportedly working as a catering staff member on the Vande Bharat train. He was found dead at the spot after being hit by the parcel train. [KNT]

“Public Office Is a Trust Reposed by the People”: LG Sinha to UPSC, JKAS Qualifiers

Calls for humility, compassion and integrity in governance; says young officers will shape India's journey towards 2047



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday felicitated successful candidates of the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2025 and JKAS Examination 2024, urging them to uphold humility, compassion and integrity while discharging their

responsibilities. Emphasising that public office is a trust reposed by the people, the LG said the true measure of administration lies in improving the lives of the most vulnerable sections of society. He advised the young officers to look beyond files and procedures, understand ground realities, leverage technology for transparent governance

and strengthen institutions. Sinha said the policies formulated and ethical decisions taken by today's public servants would shape the foundation of a developed India by 2047. He stressed that leadership was a responsibility to serve, guide and empower people, adding that the legacy of an administrator should be defined by public welfare rather than the prestige of office.
The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed a felicitation ceremony organised for the successful candidates of UPSC Civil Services Examination 2025 and Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) Examination 2024. Congratulating the candidates on their remarkable achievement, the Lieutenant Governor also extended his best wishes to their parents, whose selfless efforts helped them realise their aspirations. Addressing the young officers, the Lieutenant Governor said that

>>> MORE ON P02

“More Youth Engagement, More Sporting Activities”: DGP on Drug-Free J&K

Police to expand sports initiatives to promote fitness, discipline and steer youngsters away from drugs and gambling

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: Jammu and Kashmir Police will intensify youth engagement and sporting activities to promote a drug-free and secure Union Territory, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat said on Thursday. Speaking on the sidelines of a cycling event in Srinagar, the DGP said sports could encourage healthy lifestyles, strengthen mental resilience and discipline, and help young people stay away from drug abuse and gambling. Expressing concern over excessive smartphone use and sedentary lifestyles, he highlighted the importance of outdoor activities such as cycling in promoting physical and mental well-being. Prabhat said the broader objective was to build a happy, healthy and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

He also referred to the establishment of 28 indoor and open-air gyms across the Union



Territory as part of efforts to encourage fitness and constructive engagement among people.
Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Thursday said the police would step up youth engagement and sporting activities to

>>> MORE ON P02

Railways Offers Concessional Freight Rates to Transport Kashmir Fruit

Horticulture Department, Northern Railway discuss shifting produce from roads to rail as fruit season nears end



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: Northern Railway has offered concessional freight rates to encourage the transportation of Kashmir's horticultural produce by train, with the Horticulture Department exploring arrangements to facilitate the movement of fruit consignments as the season approaches its end. The proposal was discussed at a meeting convened by the Director, Horticulture Planning and Marketing, where Railway officials highlighted

reduced freight rates to promote the use of Joint Parcel Product-Rapid Cargo Service (JPP-RCS) trains on their return journeys. The initiative aims to utilise available cargo capacity and provide growers and traders with an alternative to road transportation. Officials stressed the need for coordination among the department, Northern Railway and the cargo aggregator to make the arrangement operational. However, the first dispatch date, exact freight rates, expected cargo volumes and

>>> MORE ON P02

Ali Mohammad Sagar Assumes Charge, Assures Time-Bound Redressal of Public Grievances

Revenue, PDD and other departments under his charge; minister interacts with deputations and seeks coordinated administrative action

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: Minister Ali Mohammad Sagar on Thursday assumed charge of the departments of Revenue, Power Development, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Disaster Management, Monitoring, Relief and Rehabilitation, and Elections. Soon after taking over, he interacted with several deputations representing different sections of society, who raised public grievances, developmental concerns and administrative issues requiring departmental intervention. Sagar gave a patient hearing to the representatives and assured them that genuine concerns



would be taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate action. Emphasising responsive and accessible governance, he called for stronger coordination among departments, greater accountability and timely delivery of public services. The minister said regular engagement with citizens was essential to understanding ground-level challenges and identifying practical solutions, reiterating the government's commitment to addressing public grievances fairly and transparently. Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Disaster Management, Monitoring, Relief and Rehabilitation

>>> MORE ON P02

J&K's New Media Policy to Cover Social Media Platforms, Draft Under Examination

Director Information Mamta Yadav says guidelines are being examined amid debate over online misinformation, trolling and press freedom

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: Jammu and Kashmir's proposed new media policy is expected to be finalised soon, with the draft currently under examination and provisions envisaged to cover social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, Director Information Mamta Yadav said on Thursday. She said the department was responding to queries raised during the examination process and hoped the policy would be finalised at the earliest. The proposed framework seeks to address developments in digital communication and the growing role of social media in public relations campaigns. The issue has gained prominence following discussions in the J&K Legislative Assembly over unregulated online news platforms, misleading content and alleged online



attacks on public representatives. During the Assembly's autumn session, Education and Health Minister Sakina Itoo had said the government was working on

>>> MORE ON P 02

Woman killed, 3 injured as tempo skids off road, rolls down in Reasi

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

REASI, OCT 29 : A woman was killed while three others, including

a minor girl, were injured after a tempo skidded off the road and rolled down in the Damsal area of Reasi during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the accident occurred near Last Galla

in Damsal, leaving a woman dead and three others injured during the previous night.

He said all the injured were shifted to a hospital, where the woman was declared dead, while the others were undergoing treatment.

The deceased was identified as

Gulshan (45), a resident of Dhanour. The injured were identified as Subash, a resident of Dhanour; Altaf, the driver of the vehicle and a resident of Dharore; and a minor girl whose identity is yet to be ascertained.

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

Supreme Court Collegium Approves Tahir Majid Shamsi, Eight Others for J&K and Ladakh High Court
Nine names cleared in a significant development for the region's judiciary; list includes senior legal professionals and advocates

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Collegium has reportedly approved the names of Tahir Majid Shamsi and eight others for appointment as judges of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, according to sources.

The reported decision includes prominent legal professionals associated with the region's judicial and legal institutions. The other eight names are Vishal Sharma, Vikram Kumar Sharma, Namgyal Wangchuk, Pawan Kumar Kundal, Tabasum Zafar, Amit Gupta, Pranav Kohli and Anupam Raina.

The reported approval marks an important development in the process of selecting judges for the High Court, which serves the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Appointments to constitutional courts



are crucial for the effective administration of justice, timely adjudication of cases and strengthening public confidence in the judicial system.

Tahir Majid Shamsi, whose name figures among those reportedly approved, has served as Deputy Solicitor General of

>>> MORE ON P 02

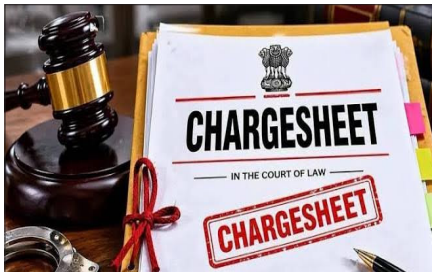
EOW Kashmir Chargesheets Five in Alleged Migrant Property Fraud Case

Over ₹1 crore allegedly paid for 14 kanals of land in Pattan; investigation points to impersonation, forged documents

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K has filed a chargesheet against five persons in an alleged fraud involving the sale of migrant-owned property in Wussan, Goshbugh Pattan, Baramulla district. The chargesheet in FIR No. 34/2017 was filed before the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sopore, under relevant provisions of the Ranbir Penal Code. According to officials, the complainant paid more than 1 crore for 14 kanals and three marlas of land owned by Jawahar Lal Bhat, but neither possession was handed over nor the money refunded. The investigation allegedly revealed a conspiracy involving impersonation, fabricated identity documents and misuse of a purported power of attorney. The accused have been identified as Brij Nath, Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din Dar,

Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh, Zahoor Ahmed Dar and Reyaz Ahmad Rather. Officials said two accused were arrested in September, with Dar subsequently



securing bail while Brij Nath remains lodged in Central Jail. The EOW has advised people to verify ownership records and property documents before entering into transactions.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of the Crime Branch J&K has filed a chargesheet against five persons in a case involving alleged cheating, forgery and

>>> MORE ON P 02

HT BOTTOM NEWS

'World Stroke Day'

Stroke increasingly hits younger people, doctors warn

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 29 : Doctors on Thursday cautioned that stroke is increasingly affecting younger people, warning that changing lifestyles, uncontrolled hypertension, diabetes, smoking, obesity and physical inactivity are contributing to the growing burden of the condition.

On World Stroke Day, they said that many strokes can be prevented through timely identification and management of risk factors, regular health check-ups and healthier lifestyle choices, while emphasising that recognising warning signs and seeking immediate medical attention can significantly improve outcomes.

Doctors said stroke, which occurs when the blood supply to a part of the brain is interrupted or when a blood vessel in the brain

ruptures, can lead to serious complications, including paralysis, speech difficulties, cognitive impairment and, in severe cases, death.

Although stroke has traditionally been associated with older people, an increasing number of younger individuals are also at risk, making awareness about preventive measures and early symptoms particularly important.

Dr Syed Maqbool, a cardiologist at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said changing lifestyle patterns have emerged as a major contributor to the increasing risk of stroke among younger people. "Stroke is increasingly affecting younger people, and our changing lifestyle is a major contributor. Uncontrolled

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Continue from Front Page.....

“Public Office

while they had cleared one of the most competitive examinations in the country, they must always remember that positions and designations are not personal possessions but a trust reposed in them by the people. He emphasised that humility remains the foremost qualification of good governance and effective administration.

Speaking to the JKAS officers, the Lieutenant Governor said that their success reflected not only individual merit but also the aspirations, resilience and democratic spirit of Jammu Kashmir. He highlighted UT's rich intellectual and cultural heritage and expressed confidence that the young officers would contribute significantly to truth, justice and public welfare.

The Lieutenant Governor also recalled Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of the civil services, which he had termed as the “steel frame” of the nation. The Lieutenant Governor urged the successful candidates to preserve the dignity of public service and focus on meaningful work rather than public recognition. He observed that the true test of an administrator lies in responding sensitively to the concerns of the most vulnerable citizens.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted lessons of compassion, courage, service, leadership, evidence-based decision-making and commitment to humanity from the lives of well-known personalities across the globe. He advised the future public servants to look beyond procedures and files and recognise the human realities and aspirations behind every decision.

“Behind every file lies a precious life. I urge you to also look at the data hidden behind files, and to recognise the people standing behind those figures and understand their needs.

Leadership is not a special privilege, but a great responsibility to serve others, guide them, support them, and empower them,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also outlined a three-stage framework for their future professional journey. He urged young officers to first understand realities on the ground by engaging directly with citizens and local institutions. In the second stage, he advised them to build transparent, technology-enabled systems that minimise delays and improve service delivery. In the third stage, he called upon them to safeguard institutions and uphold ethical standards while occupying leadership positions in the future.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the India of 2047 would be shaped by the values, work culture and decisions of today's young public servants. He urged them to dedicate themselves to public welfare and ensure that their legacy is defined not by the prestige of office but by the positive impact they make in the lives of ordinary citizens.

“Responsibility of the future rests upon your shoulders. There are moments when the course of history changes with extraordinary speed. I believe we are passing through such an era today. I hope you will serve the people in such a way that it becomes visible in their lives, and that your life is recognised not by the prestige of your office, but by the outcomes of public welfare,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Ms. Rehana Batul, Director General, J&K Institute for Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (JKIMPARD); Dr GV Sundeep Chakravathy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Shri Owais Ali Bhat, Director, Exceptional Academy, and office bearers of the Academy attended the felicitation ceremony.

“More Youth

promote a drug-free and secure Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) on the sidelines of a cycling event in Srinagar, DGP Prabhat said the police would continue to organise sports activities to encourage young people to adopt healthy lifestyles and stay away from drug abuse.

“More and more youth engagement, more and more sporting activities,” he said when asked about the police's future plans.

The DGP said the broader objective was to ensure a drug-free and secure Jammu and Kashmir, where people could lead happy, healthy and prosperous lives.

“A drug-free J&K, a secure J&K and, most importantly, a very happy, healthy and prosperous J&K,” he said.

Earlier, Prabhat highlighted the role of sports in promoting physical fitness, mental resilience and discipline among young people. He also expressed concern over growing dependence on smartphones and sedentary lifestyles, saying outdoor activities such as cycling could encourage people to spend less time on screens.

“Cycling is not merely about physical fitness; it also helps build mental strength, resilience and discipline,” he said, congratulating the participants and winners.

Prabhat said the J&K Police was organising sporting events at different levels to encourage youth participation and help steer young people away from drug abuse and gambling.

He also referred to the establishment of 28 indoor and open-air gyms across the Union Territory as part of efforts to promote fitness and healthy activities among people. (KNS)

J&K's New

draft currently under examination and provisions proposed to cover social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

Speaking to news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS), Yadav said the department was responding to queries raised during the examination of the draft and expressed hope that the policy would

be finalised at the earliest.

“If any policy is made, there is a process for it. We have sent a draft and are continuously responding to the queries that are coming in,” she told KNS.

She said the proposed policy would address aspects not covered under the existing framework, particularly the growing role of social media in communication and public relations campaigns.

“Social media has grown significantly today, with platforms like Instagram and Facebook. We have included these aspects in the new policy,” Yadav said.

The proposed policy comes amid a debate in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly during its recently concluded autumn session over the growing number of unregulated social media news platforms, online trolling and the circulation of misleading content.

On September 30, 2026, Education and Health Minister Sakina Itoo told the Assembly that the government was working on a new media policy and that the Information Department had been given four months to formulate the guidelines.

The issue was raised by National Conference MLA Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, who sought measures to address the alleged misuse of social media and online attacks on public representatives. Several legislators called for a regulatory framework, while some cautioned against imposing restrictions that could undermine press freedom.

Minister Itoo said politicians could not hold the media solely responsible for the misuse of social media, acknowledging that political actors also contributed to the problem. She also called for greater accountability for content circulated through online platforms. (KNS)

Ali Mohammad

(DMMR), and Elections, today assumed office.

Soon after assuming charge, the Minister interacted with several deputations representing different sections of society, who called on him to highlight a range of public issues, developmental concerns and administrative grievances. The deputations apprised him of problems requiring the intervention of the concerned departments and sought appropriate measures for their early resolution.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the deputations and took note of the issues raised by them. He assured the representatives that the government is committed to addressing the genuine grievances of the people and ensuring that public concerns receive due attention from the concerned authorities.

Emphasising the importance of accessible and responsive governance, Ali Mohammad Sagar said that regular interaction with the public is essential for understanding ground-level challenges and identifying practical solutions. He reiterated that the government remains focused on strengthening public service delivery, improving administrative efficiency and ensuring that people do not face unnecessary difficulties in accessing essential services.

The Minister stressed the need for close coordination among departments to facilitate the timely resolution of public issues. He observed that effective governance requires a proactive approach, accountability at every level and sustained engagement with citizens to ensure that their concerns are addressed in a fair and transparent manner.

The Minister underscored the importance of

ensuring that the concerned departments function efficiently and remain responsive to the needs and expectations of the public. He said that matters brought before him by the deputations would be taken up with the relevant authorities for examination and appropriate action, wherever required.

Ali Mohammad Sagar reiterated the government's commitment to public welfare and assured the deputations that genuine issues would receive due consideration. He emphasised that constructive engagement between the government and the people would remain an important mechanism for identifying challenges, resolving grievances and strengthening public confidence in the administration.

The Minister also reaffirmed his commitment to discharging his responsibilities with dedication and sincerity, with a focus on public welfare, effective governance and the timely redressal of people's problems.

The interaction reflected the government's continued emphasis on maintaining direct communication with citizens and ensuring that public grievances are addressed through appropriate administrative mechanisms.

Railways Offers

destinations were not specified. The commercial viability of the proposal will depend on transportation costs, handling facilities, schedules and timely delivery, particularly given the limited window remaining in the current fruit season.

With Kashmir's fruit season nearing its end, the Horticulture Department and Northern Railway have initiated discussions to facilitate the transportation of horticultural produce by train, with the Railways offering concessional freight rates to encourage traders to shift consignments from road to rail.

The proposal was discussed at a meeting held on Thursday in the office chamber of the Director, Horticulture Planning and Marketing, where officials examined arrangements for moving fruit consignments through available railway services.

During the meeting, Railway officials highlighted concessional freight rates intended to increase the utilisation of Joint Parcel Product-Rapid Cargo Service (JPP-RCS) trains on their return journeys.

The initiative seeks to make use of available cargo capacity while encouraging fruit traders and transporters to consider rail as an alternative to road transportation.

The Director, Horticulture Planning and Marketing, stressed the need for coordination among the department, Northern Railway and the cargo aggregator to ensure that the proposed arrangements translate into actual movement of horticultural produce.

The discussions come at a time when the current fruit season is approaching its final stage, leaving a limited window for growers and traders to benefit from the proposed transportation arrangement.

Kashmir's horticulture sector depends heavily on the movement of fresh produce to markets outside the Valley, making freight costs, transportation schedules and timely delivery important considerations for growers and traders.

Rail-based transportation could provide an additional option for moving consignments, although its commercial viability would depend on freight charges, cargo handling arrangements,

train schedules and the availability of collection and delivery facilities.

The meeting, however, did not specify when the first consignment would be dispatched, the proposed freight rates or the volume of fruit expected to be transported.

It also remained unclear which destinations would be covered under the proposed arrangement and how growers and traders would access the service.

Officials emphasised that coordination between the concerned agencies would be essential to ensure effective utilisation of the railway facilities during the remaining fruit season.

The proposed shift towards rail freight assumes significance as stakeholders explore alternative transportation arrangements for Kashmir's horticultural produce, particularly during periods when road movement faces logistical challenges. (KNS)

Supreme Court

India at the Srinagar wing of the High Court. His participation in legal proceedings and representation of the Union government have brought him into contact with a range of matters before the court.

Vishal Sharma, another name on the reported list, has served as Deputy Solicitor General of India at the Jammu wing of the High Court. The inclusion of legal professionals associated with both wings reflects the wider legal fraternity from which judicial appointments are drawn.

The list also includes Tabasum Zafar, along with Vikram Kumar Sharma, Namgyal Wangchuk, Pawan Kumar Kundal, Amit Gupta, Pranav Kohli and Anupam Raina.

The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh exercises jurisdiction over both Union Territories. Its functioning is central to the protection of constitutional rights, resolution of civil and criminal disputes, judicial review of administrative decisions and interpretation of laws applicable in the region.

Under the constitutional appointment process, the Supreme Court Collegium recommends names for appointment to High Courts. The formal appointment process involves the prescribed constitutional authorities, and the Collegium's approval should be distinguished from the final notification of appointment.

The reported development is expected to draw considerable attention within the legal fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Further details concerning the formal recommendations, individual appointments and the date on which the appointments may take effect were not available in the information provided by sources. The names and the status of the reported approvals remain subject to confirmation through an official Collegium resolution or government notification.

EOW Kashmir

fraudulent sale of migrant property in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said.

The chargesheet in FIR No. 34/2017, registered under Sections 420, 419, 467, 468, 471 and 120-B of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC), was filed before the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Sopore, they said.

The case pertains to the alleged fraudulent sale of 14 kanals and three marlas of land at Wussan, Goshbugh Pattan, owned by Jawahar

Lal Bhat. According to the investigation, the complainant paid more than Rs 1 crore for the property, but neither possession was handed over nor the money refunded.

The investigation revealed that the accused allegedly conspired to cheat the complainant by impersonating individuals, fabricating identity documents and misusing a purported power of attorney, the officials said.

The accused have been identified as Brij Nath, a resident of Amit Nagar, Muthi, Jammu; Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din Dar of Samson, Budgam; Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh of Sachan Banet, Beerwah, Budgam; Zahoor Ahmed Dar of Margipora, Pattan; and Reyaz Ahmad Rather of Margipora, Pattan, Baramulla.

Two of the accused, Brij Nath, also known by the aliases Soom Nath, Hadi Nath and Mohan Lal, and Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din Dar, were arrested in late September, the officials said.

While Dar has secured bail, Brij Nath remains lodged in Central Jail, they said, adding that other cases against the two accused are also under investigation.

The EOW Srinagar had earlier filed a chargesheet in August 2023 in another case, FIR No. 27/2021, against Brij Nath and Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh. The latest chargesheet is the second filed against both accused, according to the Crime Branch.

Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police, EOW Kashmir, has advised people to thoroughly verify land ownership records and property documents before entering into transactions to guard against fraud and financial losses. (KNS)

Stroke increasingly

hypertension, diabetes, smoking, obesity, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity and chronic stress are silently increasing the risk,” he said.

He said the growing burden of stroke was a matter of concern, particularly because many such incidents could be prevented through timely intervention and better management of underlying health conditions. “The real concern is not just the rising burden of stroke, but our failure to prevent many of these devastating events,” he said.

Stating that stroke should not always be viewed as an unavoidable medical emergency, he said, “Most importantly, stroke is not always inevitable. Early detection and control of risk factors can prevent many strokes. Prevention saves lives. Early recognition saves the brain. Every minute matters.”

The cardiologist advised people to pay particular attention to blood pressure, blood sugar levels, body weight and daily physical activity instead of waiting for symptoms to develop, and that adopting a balanced diet, avoiding tobacco, maintaining a healthy weight and engaging in regular exercise can help reduce cardiovascular risks and, in turn, lower the risk of stroke.

Dr Showkat Ahmad Shah, a cardiologist at GMC Anantnag, said protecting cardiovascular health was essential for reducing the risk of stroke, as several major risk factors affect both the heart and the brain. “On World Stroke Day, my message as a cardiologist is simple: protecting your heart also protects your brain. The growing burden of stroke is linked to uncontrolled blood pressure, diabetes, smoking, obesity and lack of physical activity, alongside an ageing population,” he said.

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Secy RDD reviews SBM-G progress; stresses accountability, faster execution of sanitation assets

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28: Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Ramesh Kumar, on Wednesday directed officers to intensify field inspections, expedite pending works and ensure visible improvements in sanitation infrastructure and waste management across Kashmir Division while reviewing the district-wise performance of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G).

Chairing a comprehensive review meeting, the Secretary assessed the progress of key sanitation and waste management infrastructure, including Community Sanitary Complexes, Community Compost Pits, Community Soak Pits, Segregation Sheds, Plastic Waste Management Units, Decentralised Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS), Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants

(FSTPs) and GOBARdhan biogas plants.

The meeting was attended by Director Finance Umar Khan, Joint Director Planning Kamal Kumar Sharma, Deputy Director Rural Sanitation, Kashmir, Shabir Ahmed Hakak, besides Assistant Commissioners Panchayats and Executive Engineers of Rural Engineering Wing (REW) from across Kashmir Division.

Reviewing district-wise progress, Kumar emphasised that the creation of infrastructure alone was not sufficient, stressing that every asset must be functional, accessible and deliver its intended benefits to rural communities. He called for a shift towards outcome-oriented implementation, stronger monitoring and tangible improvements on the ground. Taking stock of the status of Community Sanitary Complexes, the Secretary questioned the delays in



initiating targeted works, observing that preparatory activities, including identification of suitable land and completion of tendering formalities, should have been undertaken well in advance, as the targets were linked to the financial year.

While officers cited land-related issues and the need to identify alternative sites as

major challenges, Kumar stressed that such constraints must be identified and addressed at the planning stage rather than being cited subsequently as reasons for delays.

The Secretary underscored the need for sound financial planning, timely submission of proposals and completion of all prescribed formalities

to ensure the effective release and utilisation of funds. He observed that delays in implementation could not be attributed solely to the Government or the availability of funds, emphasising that district-level officers must fulfil their responsibilities by ensuring timely proposals, adherence to procedures and continuous monitoring of works. He also sought a detailed account of works for which funds had been allocated, those taken up for execution and projects completed so far, directing officers to ensure accountability at every stage of implementation. Calling for greater dedication and efficiency, Kumar said public resources must translate into functional sanitation infrastructure, clean villages and improved services for rural communities. He directed officers to undertake regular and purposeful field visits to assess the functionality of

sanitation facilities, identify deficiencies and ensure their timely rectification. The Secretary further directed that operational issues relating to vehicles, faecal sludge treatment infrastructure, electrical components and other essential requirements be resolved in coordination with the concerned departments. He also stressed the need to constitute dedicated teams wherever required to address bottlenecks and ensure the smooth functioning of sanitation facilities. The review also highlighted challenges in identifying suitable land for key sanitation infrastructure, particularly FSTPs, DEWATS and GOBARdhan biogas plants. Limited capacity-building support, inadequate technical training and the absence of dedicated personnel at district, block and Gram Panchayat levels were also identified as constraints affecting effective.

Comm Secy DMRRR, Div Com Kashmir assesses Readiness of Flats at Transit Camp Zewan ahead of inauguration

HT News Network



SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: Commissioner Secretary Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), M. Raju, and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today visited Transit Camp Zewan to take first hand appraisal of the readiness of accommodation flats for migrant employees ahead of their inauguration and allotment.

During the visit, the officers reviewed arrangements for the inauguration ceremony, including preparations for the stage and inauguration stone, the handover of keys to beneficiaries, and the installation of the Public Address System (PAS).

They also inspected essential civil amenities, including electricity and water supply, functioning of lifts, sanitation, lighting, and security arrangements.

On the occasion, the officers directed all concerned departments to ensure comprehensive arrangements and complete all necessary preparations for the smooth conduct of the inauguration ceremony.

The officers were accompanied by IGP Kashmir Sujit Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, SSP Srinagar Dr. G.V. Sundee Chakravarty, Director Information, Commissioner Relief and Rehabilitation (Migrants), and officers from the Roads and Buildings (R&B), Public Health Engineering (PHE), Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), Mechanical Engineering Department (MED), and Hospitality and Protocol departments.

District Admin Pulwama strengthens access to Revenue services across Patwar Khanas of district

HT News Network

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 29: In pursuance of the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Patwaris across the district continued to remain accessible to people in their respective Patwar Khanas as part of the routine functioning of the Revenue Administration.

The Patwaris interacted with residents, listened to their concerns and assisted them in matters relating to land records, revenue documentation, verification and other issues pertaining to the Revenue Department. The arrangement was aimed at ensuring that people could get their genuine issues addressed at the local level and avoid unnecessary visits to government offices.

The routine process covered different areas and Patwar Khanas of the district, including Ghalandhar, Babhara, Mitrigam, Aihal, Gangoo and Rajpora among others, where Patwaris engaged with residents and dealt with matters brought to their notice.

DM Anantnag declares Bar Association Elections Null and Void Ab Initio for violation of Official Orders

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 29: District Magistrate (DM) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, has declared the elections of the District Bar Association Anantnag, reportedly held on October 27, 2026, as null and void ab initio and non est in the eyes of law, citing a blatant violation of prohibitory orders issued by the District Magistrate.

As per the orders issued by the District Magistrate, the election process of the District Bar Association Anantnag had been prohibited vide Order No. 01-DCA of 2025, dated January 2, 2025, pending fulfilment of mandatory requirements and submission of requisite documents by the organisation.

The conditions stipulated in the order included submission of the registration certificate, constitution and memorandum, bye-laws governing the



functioning of the organisation, a list of current executive members and members enrolled during the preceding ten years along with their complete details, and a detailed statement of accounts. The order also required verification of the submitted documents and obtaining the necessary permission from the office of the District Magistrate before proceeding with the election process. However, owing to the non-fulfilment of the prescribed requirements, the election process was again prohibited vide Order No. 62-DCA of 2026, dated September 28, 2026. The said order remains in force.

The District Magistrate observed that the elections of the District Bar Association Anantnag, reportedly held on October 27, 2026, as circulated on certain social media platforms, were conducted in violation of the subsisting prohibitory order, without fulfilment of the mandatory prerequisites and without prior intimation to or permission from the office of the District Magistrate. The conduct of the elections, in disregard of the subsisting order and without compliance with the prescribed requirements, has been viewed as a violation of the applicable legal and regulatory provisions, including those referred to under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, and the Indian Trusts Act, 1882. Accordingly, the District Magistrate Anantnag has declared the elections of the District Bar Association Anantnag, reportedly held on October 27, 2026, as null.

MD NHM reviews Winter Preparedness across Health Institutions

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM) J&K, Athar Aamir Shafi-ul-Khan, today chaired a review meeting at the State Health Society Office in the Old Secretariat, Srinagar, to assess and strengthen winter preparedness across healthcare institutions in the region.

The meeting was attended both in person and via virtual mode by the Director Health Services Jammu/Kashmir, Chief Medical Officers, NHM Programme Managers, and other senior health officials. Conducting an exhaustive district-wise review, the Mission Director placed core emphasis on maintaining uninterrupted medical services during the challenging winter months. He evaluated the availability of essential medicines, proper heating arrangements, and reliable power backup systems across all healthcare facilities to ensure patient comfort and operational continuity. Reviewing grassroots medical staffing, he stressed the adequate deployment of manpower and field-level workers, particularly ASHA workers and ANMs, while also directing enhanced preparations and resource allocation for the effective management



of seasonal respiratory diseases.

A major focus of the deliberations was maternal and child healthcare safety in remote and snow-bound terrain. The Mission Director directed officials to maintain a precise line listing of all pregnant women, proactively identify high-risk pregnancies or any patients requiring specialized medical intervention, and ensure their proper tracking and mobilization for respectful institutional delivery. Emphasizing a zero-tolerance approach toward avoidable tragedies, he strongly reiterated that the administration must ensure zero maternal and infant deaths alongside absolute prevention of home deliveries.

To tackle logistical challenges during heavy snowfalls, the meeting finalized a robust deployment plan for 108 Ambulance services, with a specific priority on stationing 4x4 ambulances in difficult and snowbound areas.

Principal Census Officer Urban stresses accurate Population Enumeration across Srinagar's urban jurisdiction Inaugurates Two-Day Training Session for Phase-II Census 2027

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: Principal Census Officer (Urban), Srinagar (Commissioner SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today inaugurated a two-day training programme for Phase II of Census 2027 at the Central Office, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Karan Nagar, emphasising the need for accurate, systematic and comprehensive Population Enumeration across Srinagar's urban jurisdiction.

During the inaugural session, Dr. Basharat stressed that all census functionaries must discharge their assigned responsibilities with utmost diligence, precision and accountability to ensure the collection of reliable and error-free population data. He underscored the importance of complete coverage of assigned enumeration areas, accurate recording of individual-level particulars and strict adherence to the prescribed census methodology and guidelines.

The Principal Census Officer emphasised the need for effective coordination among Charge Officers,



Census Resource Personnel, Census Clerks, Technical Assistants and other functionaries to ensure uniform implementation of prescribed procedures. He highlighted the importance of systematic supervision, regular monitoring of progress, timely reporting and prompt resolution of operational challenges during the enumeration process.

Dr. Basharat further stressed that particular attention must be given to preventing omissions, duplication and discrepancies in data collection. He underscored the importance of maintaining data quality, following prescribed technical procedures and ensuring the confidentiality



and secure handling of census information. The training programme was attended by the City Census Officer (Urban), Charge Officers, Nodal Officers of SMC, Census Resource Personnel, Census Clerks and Technical Assistants.

Experts from the Census Department, including Deputy Director, Assistant Director and District Coordinator, imparted detailed training on census methodology, operational procedures, technical requirements and the responsibilities of various census functionaries.

The session will cover key aspects of Population Enumeration, including the collection, recording and verification of

individual-level information, adherence to prescribed questionnaires, comprehensive coverage of assigned areas and measures to ensure accuracy and consistency in the data collected. Participants were also briefed on field-level procedures, supervisory mechanisms, digital tools and established reporting protocols.

Phase II of Census 2027, comprising Population Enumeration, is a crucial component of the nationwide census exercise, involving the collection of individual-level demographic, socio-economic, educational and other prescribed particulars. The accuracy and completeness of this information are essential for developing a reliable population database.

Census data provide a vital foundation for evidence-based policymaking, public administration and development planning. For urban local bodies, reliable population statistics are essential for assessing demographic trends, identifying emerging civic requirements and planning infrastructure and essential public services in accordance with the needs of the population.

DC Shopian chairs District-Level NCORD Meeting Reviews measures to combat Drug Abuse

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, today chaired the monthly District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination Centre) meeting at the Mini-Secretariat, Shopian, to review ongoing measures aimed at curbing drug abuse and strengthening coordinated efforts to combat the drug menace across the district. The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police, Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; Principal, GDC Shopian, Prof. Tariq Ahmed; ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar; SDM, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed; Tehsildars; DIO and officers from various departments, including Revenue, Health, Education, Agriculture, Horticulture, Social Welfare, Excise and Taxation, Youth Services and Sports, Drug Control and other concerned



departments.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the action taken by various departments on the directions issued during previous NCORD meetings. He stressed the need for close interdepartmental coordination, effective implementation of anti-drug measures and sustained efforts to prevent substance abuse, particularly among the youth.

The Deputy

Commissioner emphasised the importance of awareness programmes in educational institutions and public spaces to sensitise people, especially young people, about the harmful consequences of drug addiction. He called upon all concerned departments to work collectively to identify vulnerable areas, strengthen preventive measures and encourage community participation in the fight against drug abuse.



DC Shopian, SSP tour Town to review Traffic Management, Development, Beautification Works

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary today conducted a tour of Shopian town to take stock of traffic management, ongoing development works and measures for the beautification of the town.

During the visit, the officers inspected key locations across the town and reviewed the existing traffic management arrangements, with a focus on ensuring smooth vehicular movement, minimising congestion and facilitating hassle-free movement of commuters and pedestrians.

The DC also reviewed the status of ongoing development



works and initiatives aimed at improving civic amenities, public infrastructure and the overall appearance of the town.

At the outset of the visit, the DC inspected the Multilevel Car Parking site near the Municipal Council, Shopian, being constructed by R&B Shopian at an estimated cost of Rs 4.98 crore.

The DC directed the Executive Engineer, R&B, to expedite all remaining construction works to ensure completion at the earliest to help ease traffic congestion in the town. The DC inspected the entry and exit points of District Hospital Shopian and directed the concerned officials to initiate road widening, property

acquisition and removal of bottlenecks to ensure smooth access for ambulances and patients.

He also inspected various markets in the town and directed the shifting of local Sumo stands and vendors to suitable designated locations to ensure smooth traffic flow while safeguarding the livelihoods of local drivers and traders.

The DC also inspected the Clock Tower and the main markets of Shopian and interacted with Market Associations, members of civil society, Traders Federation and local residents.

He directed CEO MC, for construction of proper kiosks and vending spaces, market beautification and provision of essential facilities for vendors.

The DC also took stock of

traffic flow, public amenities and market arrangements around the Fourway Junction.

He also interacted with members of the Auqaf Committee at Jamia Masjid and assured them that cleanliness and maintenance in the surrounding area would be accorded top priority.

The concerned departments were directed to maintain close coordination and take necessary measures to ensure the smooth functioning of the town and timely resolution of public issues.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar; CEO, Suhail Ahmed Malik; Executive Engineers of R&B, PDD and PHE; Tehsildar Shopian; DySP; ARTO; and other concerned officers.

DC Anantnag chairs District Telecom Committee Meeting

Directs Service Providers to improve connectivity and expedite Infrastructure Development

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a meeting of the District Telecom Committee at the DC Office Complex, Anantnag, to review various issues pertaining to telecommunication services and the progress of telecom infrastructure development in the district.

During the meeting, the Chair was apprised of the progress achieved in the establishment and upgradation of telecom infrastructure across the district.

It was informed that work on most of the identified sites is in progress, while several other sites are nearing completion. The meeting was further informed that telecom towers are being upgraded in a phased manner, alongside the construction of new towers, to strengthen network coverage, improve connectivity and ensure the delivery of quality telecommunication services to the public.

While reviewing the bottlenecks affecting the pace of execution, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for close coordination and cooperation among all concerned departments, service providers and other stakeholders.

He directed the officers concerned to maintain effective and real-time communication to promptly address issues arising during the implementation of telecom infrastructure projects.

Emphasising the vital role of telecommunications in socio-economic development, public service delivery and overall connectivity, the DC stated that reliable communication services are essential for facilitating development and ensuring convenient access to services for the people, particularly in areas with inadequate network coverage.



The DC directed the telecom service providers, including BSNL, Jio and Airtel, to expedite the ongoing works, remove operational bottlenecks and ensure the provision of reliable, seamless and hassle-free services to consumers across the district. He also stressed the need for timely implementation of the BharatNet project to strengthen digital connectivity and improve access to communication services in rural and remote areas.

Revenue officers were directed to facilitate the identification and allotment of suitable land for the installation of telecom towers and to resolve land-related issues and other impediments, if any, that may hamper the execution of projects. They were asked to extend all necessary support to ensure that work progresses smoothly and within the stipulated timelines.

The DC reiterated that all concerned departments and telecom service providers must work in close coordination to address connectivity-related challenges, accelerate infrastructure development and ensure that the benefits of improved telecommunication services reach every area of the district.

ADC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for National Unity Day Celebrations

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 29: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Ganderbal, Syed Fahim Ahmad Bihagi chaired a meeting at the VC Room,

Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal, to review arrangements for the celebration of National Unity Day (Ekta Diwas) on October 31, 2026, commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The ADC

directed all concerned departments and officers to ensure active participation and make adequate arrangements for the smooth conduct of the celebrations. Educational institutions were also asked to facilitate the participation of students

and teachers. The ADC stressed that coordinated efforts and active participation from all stakeholders are essential to make the celebrations successful and meaningful, reinforcing the values of national unity, integrity.

Grand Ekta March taken out at Kulgam by District Administration

Tributes paid to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in lead up to the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, OCTOBER 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Shahzad Alam, today led the Ekta March at Kulgam as part of the observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, which was organised by the district administration.

The march commenced with the singing of the National Song, followed by the National Anthem at SSP Office. The Ekta March proceeded through the main Kulgam town and culminated at Clock Tower, Kulgam with appreciable people's participation exhibiting a strong sense of brotherhood.

SSP Kulgam Anayat Ali, ADDC Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan, ADC Kulgam Vikar Ahmad Giri, DPO, ACD, ACR, ASP, CPO, and other district administration officers participated in the march along with participants carrying placards highlighting the message of national unity, integrity and solidarity. The march aimed to spread awareness about the importance of unity and reinforce the spirit of patriotism and collective responsibility.

Upon reaching the Clock Tower, the National Song was presented by the students of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Amnoo, creating an atmosphere of patriotism and national pride. This was followed by the National Anthem performed by the Police Band. Students and Police band also presented patriotic performances conveying the message of unity in diversity.

DDC Bandipora reviews progress under UT Capex, Tribal Sub Plan, DA-JGUA, DMF, CSR

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 29: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a review meeting at the Mini Secretariat to assess the physical and financial progress of various developmental schemes and sectoral plans across the district. The meeting reviewed progress under the UT Capex Tribal Sub Plan, Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), District Mineral Fund (DMF) and Revenue Capex. During the meeting, the DDC undertook a scheme-wise review of projects being implemented by various line departments and executing agencies. She was apprised of the status of completed and ongoing works, as well as projects yet to commence under the Tribal Sub Plan and DA-JGUA.

Emphasising the need to prioritise tribal welfare and development in marginalised areas, the DDC directed the concerned departments to



expedite implementation of projects aimed at improving access to essential amenities and promoting inclusive socio-economic development.

Reviewing works under CSR, DMF and Revenue Capex, she stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination to address field-level bottlenecks, site clearance issues and procedural delays.

The DDC directed the executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work, expedite billing and ensure timely and optimum utilisation of allocated funds before the close of the working season.

She also stressed adherence to prescribed quality standards,

technical specifications and project timelines, directing sectoral officers to undertake regular field inspections and maintain close monitoring of ongoing works to ensure accountability and timely achievement of developmental targets. The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineers of R&B and Hydraulic Circles, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, District Programme Officer ICDS, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, officers from Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Handicrafts and Handloom departments, and other concerned district officers.

KULGAM POLICE AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION ORGANISED EKTA MARCH, FOLLOWED BY POLICE BAND SHOW.

■ Farooq Rather

Kulgam : Oct. 29. As part of the observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, Kulgam Police, in collaboration with the District Administration, organised an Ekta March from DPO Kulgam to Clock Tower Kulgam, followed by a Police Band Show. DC Kulgam Shahzad Alam (IAS), and SSP Kulgam Anayat Ali Chowdhary (IPS), along with other senior officers, participated in the march, reaffirming the spirit of national unity,

MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana holds Public Darbar at Chaklipora Anantnag

Urges People to avail benefits of Government Schemes

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 29: Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, today presided over a Public Darbar at Government Higher Secondary School, Chaklipora, Block Chittergul, Anantnag, to listen to public grievances and address issues concerning the people.

During the Darbar, local residents, public representatives and various delegations projected their demands and highlighted issues related to basic amenities, essential services and developmental requirements.

The issues raised included power supply, drinking water, healthcare facilities, tourism, education, road connectivity, agriculture and other public utility services.

Er. Khatana gave a patient hearing to the participants and took note of the grievances and demands put forth by them.

Addressing the gathering, the MP reiterated the Government's commitment to the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir, with



a special focus on the welfare of the poor, educated sections of society and tribal communities.

He urged officers to create awareness among people through Panchayats about various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, including those related to agricultural loans, Kisan Credit Card (KCC), employment generation, financial assistance and marriage assistance. He also encouraged eligible beneficiaries to avail benefits of these schemes.

He assured the people that their genuine grievances would be taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate intervention.

He also directed officers

of the concerned departments to take prompt cognisance of the issues raised during the Darbar and ensure their timely redressal through coordinated efforts.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDCC) Anantnag, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Education Officer, Lead District Manager, officers from PDD, PHE, R&B, Horticulture, Agriculture, Tourism, Health, Rural Development, National Highways, Food, Forest and District Industries Centre, along with the Tehsildar and other concerned officers and representatives from various departments, were present during the Public Darbar.

DC Pulwama reviews arrangements for Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Stresses inclusive participation and coordinated preparations for Run for Unity

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a meeting at the Circuit House, Pulwama to review arrangements for the celebration of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on October 31, 2026, with particular emphasis on the successful conduct of the Run for Unity and other activities planned across the district.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the importance of broad-based and inclusive participation in the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations, calling upon all departments to ensure the presence of their officers, officials, support staff, volunteers and other stakeholders. He stressed that the occasion should reflect the spirit of unity and collective participation, with representation from all sections of society.

The Run for Unity will be held from the DC Office Complex, Pulwama to New Bus Stand, Pulwama and is scheduled to be flagged off at around 8:30 AM. The DC emphasized active participation of police

personnel, NCC/NSS volunteers, students, ex-servicemen, Home Guards, youth, volunteers and other stakeholders. Family members and children have also been encouraged to participate.

The DC specifically emphasized that persons with disabilities and other specially-abled participants should be facilitated to join the Run for Unity, with suitable arrangements to ensure that their participation remains comfortable and safe, including a manageable distance of up to 100 metres wherever required. The District Youth Services & Sports Department and District Social Welfare Department were asked to facilitate participation of specially-abled persons and members of the third gender, ensuring that the celebrations remain genuinely inclusive.

Similar Run for Unity events will be organized at sub divisions Tral and Awantipora. At Tral, the event will be led by the ADC Tral, while at Awantipora, ADC Awantipora and SP Awantipora will lead the programme. The DC stressed the need for synchronized arrangements and effective participation at all three locations.

Emphasizing the importance of safety and smooth



movement of participants, the DC asked Police and Traffic authorities to ensure proper route sanitization and regulation, while security agencies were called upon to undertake necessary security checks along the identified routes in Pulwama, Tral and Awantipora. Adequate traffic management and security arrangements were also emphasized throughout the programme. The DC stressed the need for adequate health and medical arrangements, with ambulances and medical teams kept ready at the venues and along the routes. The Health Department was also asked to organize blood donation camps as part of the celebrations. The Education Department was asked to ensure participation of students, besides organizing essay, quiz and other competitions in schools and colleges on the legacy and contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The meeting also reviewed arrangements for the Ekta/Unity Pledge and Signature Campaign, which will be administered at the culmination point, with similar pledge ceremonies to be held in government offices. The DC emphasized meaningful participation of all departments in these activities. The Department of Social Forestry was

asked to undertake Tree Plantation Drives at prominent locations, including plantation in the name of martyrs. The Rural Development Department and Municipal bodies were asked to organize special cleanliness drives across Panchayats and municipal wards, with focus on Amrit Sarovar sites and heritage locations.

The Youth Services & Sports Department was asked to facilitate cycles for cycling activities and organize sports-related events, while concerned departments were encouraged to ensure participation of farmers, youth and other sections of society in the activities planned as part of the celebrations.

The DC emphasized the need for proper arrangements for refreshments, adequate dustbins and overall cleanliness at the venues, besides ensuring orderly conduct of the programmes. R&B authorities were asked to facilitate installation of required banners and other public-event infrastructure wherever necessary.

Emphasizing the importance of effective documentation and public outreach, District Information Officer was asked to ensure comprehensive coverage of the celebrations at all locations.





‘Hunar Nama’ to Showcase Kashmir’s Rich Craft Heritage on DD Kashir

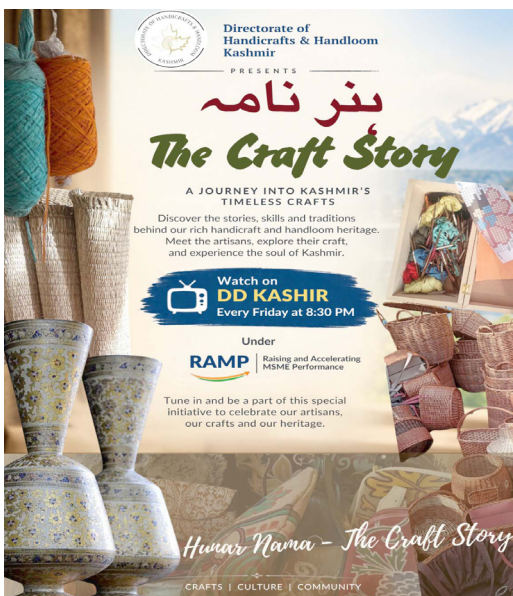
Craft-focused programme under RAMP to be telecast every Friday from 8:30 PM

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: The Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir has launched “Hunar Nama – The Craft Story”, a dedicated television programme aimed at showcasing Kashmir’s rich handicraft and handloom heritage and bringing the stories of its artisans, crafts and traditions to a wider audience.

Being undertaken under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme, the programme will be telecast on DD Kashir every Friday from 8:30 PM to 9:00 PM, offering viewers an engaging insight into the craftsmanship, skills and traditions that have shaped Kashmir’s distinctive craft legacy.

The programme seeks to highlight the exceptional craftsmanship of local artisans and the cultural, historical and economic significance of Kashmir’s traditional crafts. It will also provide a platform to showcase the dedication and creativity of artisans who have carried these unique traditions forward from one generation to another.



Through “Hunar Nama – The Craft Story”, the Directorate aims to strengthen public outreach, enhance the visibility of traditional crafts and encourage greater appreciation of Kashmir’s handicraft and handloom products. The initiative will also contribute towards promoting traditional craft-based enterprises and improving their visibility within the broader MSME ecosystem.

The initiative is aligned with the objectives of the RAMP Scheme, which focuses on strengthening MSMEs, enhancing their competitiveness, improving market and institutional outreach, and supporting sustainable growth of enterprises across the country.

The Directorate has invited the general public, craft enthusiasts, tourists, researchers and all those interested in Kashmir’s rich cultural heritage to watch “Hunar Nama – The Craft Story” on DD Kashir every Friday at 8:30 PM and discover the artistry, heritage and human stories behind Kashmir’s world-renowned crafts. The Directorate has invited the general public, craft enthusiasts, tourists, researchers and all those interested in Kashmir’s rich cultural heritage to watch “Hunar Nama – The Craft Story” on DD Kashir.

Cultural Unit DIPR organises “Hansi Ke Rang, Sangeet Ke Sang” at Srinagar

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: The

Jahangir Ahmad Shah, Dr. Shaida Hussain, Shabir Hakak and Ghulam Nabi Ajiz, who entertained the



Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Kashmir, organised a day-long cultural programme, “Hansi Ke Rang, Sangeet Ke Sang,” at Pt. Bhajan Sopori Auditorium, Srinagar, today.

The programme, dedicated to humour, music and cultural expression, featured a humorous mushaira and live musical performances by Kohinoor Band.

The programme was presided over by Director Information and Public Relations, Mamta Yadav, Joint Director Headquarter Zahoor Ahmad Raina, Joint Director Information Kashmir Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, Deputy Director Information PR Javid Ahmad Rather, Deputy Director Information (Central) Kashmir Zubair Ahmed, Deputy Director PR Kashmir Mohammad Rafiq Zullah, Cultural Officer Abdul Raqib Bhat, besides other officers, noted artists, writers, poets and scholars, attended the event.

The humorous mushaira witnessed enthusiastic participation from prominent poets, including Ayub Sabir, Nazir Josh, Yousuf Gulshan, Amin Ashraf, Taseer Afzal, Muzaffar Hussain Dilbar,

audience with their witty, satirical and humorous poetry. Their performances created an atmosphere of laughter and literary engagement.

Kohinoor Band added musical vibrancy to the event with an engaging live performance, blending entertainment with the spirit of Kashmir’s rich artistic and cultural traditions.

Addressing the gathering, Director Information Mamta Yadav appreciated the initiative and highlighted the importance of creating vibrant platforms for artists, poets, musicians and performers to showcase their talent. She observed that cultural programmes play a significant role in preserving the region’s rich artistic and literary heritage while connecting people through shared traditions, creativity and artistic expression.

Emphasizing the importance of sustaining cultural activities throughout the year, Yadav assured that DIPR would endeavour to organise such programmes every month. She said regular cultural engagements would provide artists with greater opportunities to perform before wider audiences.

Director Colleges reviews Campus facilities at GDC Ganderbal

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 29: Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Director Colleges, Higher Education Department, visited Government Degree College (GDC), Ganderbal, and took stock of its academic infrastructure and student facilities.

The college caters to approximately 2,300 students across Science and Arts disciplines.

During the visit, the Director Colleges interacted with students and faculty members to seek feedback on academic activities, teaching-learning practices and student facilities. The Director inspected the



Science Laboratories, College Library and Department of Physical Education to assess the infrastructure available for students. She emphasized the importance of a clean and green campus, high standards of health and hygiene, and quality facilities that promote student wellbeing and holistic development.

Prof. (Dr.) Suri stressed the need to ensure regular classroom teaching, timely completion of the prescribed syllabus and effective academic planning. She underscored that student wellbeing, academic discipline and a supportive learning environment must remain central to institutional functioning.

Child Helpline Desk Bhaderwah concludes awareness campaign against Child Labour; promotes Helpline 1098

■ HT News Network

BHADERWAH, OCTOBER 29: The Child Helpline Desk Bhaderwah, under Mission Vatsalya of the Department of Social Welfare, today concluded its awareness campaign launched to raise awareness against child labour and promote Child Helpline number 1098.

During the campaign, shopkeepers, drivers and other members of the public were sensitised to the harmful effects of child labour and the importance of protecting children from exploitation. The team distributed awareness material and pamphlets, highlighting the importance of preventing child labour and promoting Child Helpline 1098. The public was encouraged to identify and report cases of child labour, abuse, exploitation and children in need of care and protection.



The campaign highlighted the Child Helpline 1098, a toll-free, 24x7 service for children in distress and those in need of care and protection. Shopkeepers, drivers and the general public were urged to stay vigilant and promptly report any case of child labour, abuse, exploitation or other situations requiring child protection assistance.

15 JKAP IR Bn, Organises Quiz, Drawing and Debate Competitions for Students at KB PHSS in Sanjwan Jammu

■ GULFAM BARJI

Jammu / October 29: As part of the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2026–27, the 15th JKAP IR Bn, organised quiz, drawing and debate competitions for students from various schools at KB Public Higher Secondary School KB PHSS Sanjwan Jammu on October 28 to commemorate the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The programme aimed to familiarise students with the life, national contributions and ideals of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel while fostering awareness among the younger generation about national unity, integrity and patriotism. The event was attended by SSP Dushyant Sharma, CO of the 15th JKAP IR Bn, Haji Abdul Hameed Choudhary, Chief Patron; Ashraf Ali Choudhary, Chairman, Sonia Nanda, Headmistress Nehreer Khan, Principal, Danish Sharma, Programme Coordinator, and DySP Anuradha Raina of the battalion, besides other officers, staff



members, teachers and students from various schools from Jammu division. On the occasion participants were briefed about the life and legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and his remarkable contribution to national integration through the unification of various princely states after India’s independence. Students participated enthusiastically in the competitions

showcasing their knowledge, creativity and communication skills. The activities were designed to instil patriotism, discipline, national unity and a sense of responsibility towards safeguarding the country’s integrity among young minds. At the conclusion of the programme, medals, trophies and certificates of appreciation were distributed among students.

NIT Srinagar hosts vigilance lecture, calls for zero tolerance towards corruption

■ HT News Network

Srinagar | Oct 29: As part of Vigilance Awareness Week celebrations, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar organised a special awareness lecture to sensitise faculty members, officers, staff and students about the importance of integrity, transparency, accountability and the prevention of corruption in public institutions.

Senior Public Prosecuting Officer, Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Ashok Kumar Bagoria was the chief guest and highlighted the importance of vigilance in ensuring accountable governance.

The programme was attended by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra; CVONIT Srinagar Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Ahanger; Dean Alumni and International Affairs, Prof M. A Shah, Heads of Departments (HoDs), administrative officers; and ministerial staff of NIT Srinagar.

In his key speech, Mr Bagoria encouraged participants to remain aware of the appropriate mechanisms for reporting suspected corruption and misconduct.

He also discussed the significance of public awareness in identifying corrupt practices, understanding legal procedures and approaching



competent authorities whenever credible instances of wrongdoing come to light.

Mr Bagoria emphasised the importance of responsible reporting, factual information and adherence to established legal channels while raising complaints.

The lecture also highlighted the role of the Anti-Corruption Bureau in addressing corruption-related matters within its jurisdiction and the importance of cooperation between citizens and competent authorities in strengthening accountability.

Participants were encouraged to understand that vigilance is a collective responsibility requiring ethical conduct, awareness of legal rights and a commitment to upholding the rule of law.

Addressing the gathering, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, emphasised that integrity, transparency and accountability are fundamental to building a trustworthy institutional environment.

He highlighted the importance of sensitising students and employees about ethical responsibilities and encouraged the institute community to uphold the highest standards of professional conduct.

Earlier, Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), NIT Srinagar, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Ahnagar, in his welcome address underscored the importance of preventive vigilance and collective responsibility in discouraging corrupt practices.

He stressed that awareness, adherence to established procedures and timely reporting of suspected irregularities are essential for strengthening institutional governance and public confidence.

The programme highlighted the importance of vigilance in educational institutions, where transparent administrative procedures, responsible use of public resources, and adherence to established rules are essential to maintaining institutional credibility and public trust.

Induction program for Schools of Health Sciences, Architecture conducted at IUST

■ HT News Network

Awantipora, Oct 29: The Office of the Dean of Students, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), conducted the Induction Programme for the students of the School of Health Sciences (SoHS) and the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics (SoAP&G) at the IUST’s Nund-Rishi Auditorium on Thursday.

The programme aimed to orient newly admitted students to the academic structure and life at IUST. Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, formally welcomed the students and called on them to focus on academic excellence and value-based development. He stressed the importance of youth development for nation-building.

Special Remarks were delivered by Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah,

Registrar, IUST, who emphasised that students from the main campus as well as satellite campuses are integral part of the university, sharing the same academic environment, and urged the students to remain conscious of their responsibility towards the institution and society.

Earlier, in her introductory remarks, Dean of Students, IUST, Dr. Monisa Qadiri, emphasised that being part of IUST goes beyond academics, as students now belong to a larger community where shared values, mutual support and collective growth define the true spirit of university life. She called on them to build their capacity and leadership potential during this time. The induction featured a series of informative sessions covering IUST’s student affairs, examination procedures, academic regulations, students’ portal and ERP system,



registration of Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) ID, library affairs, sports and hostel facilities, Proctorial system, NSS and NCC activities.

Various other sessions during the induction programme were conducted by Controller of Examinations, IUST, Dr. Peer Bilal, Incharge Rumi Library Dr. Sheikh Shueb, Assistant Director,

Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, Dr. Mubashir Malik, ABC Coordinator Dr. Zubair Ahmad Shah, and alumnus and faculty member, Dr. Owais Yousuf. The departmental participation of the new batch is being coordinated by various coordinators and co-coordinators from different schools. An interaction was also held with

the new batch of students.

The Office of the Dean of Students, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), conducted the Induction Programme for the students of the School of Health Sciences (SoHS) and the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics (SoAP&G) at the IUST’s Nund-Rishi Auditorium on

Thursday. The programme aimed to orient newly admitted students to the academic structure and life at IUST. Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, formally welcomed the students and called on them to focus on academic excellence and value-based development. He stressed the importance of youth development for nation-building.

Special Remarks were delivered by Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah, Registrar, IUST, who emphasised that students from the main campus as well as satellite campuses are integral part of the university, sharing the same academic environment, and urged the students to remain conscious of their responsibility towards the institution and society.

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being part of IUST goes beyond academics, as students now belong to a larger community where shared values, mutual support and collective growth define the true spirit of university life. She called on them to build their capacity and leadership potential during this time. The induction featured a series of informative sessions covering IUST’s student affairs, examination procedures, academic regulations, students’ portal and ERP system, registration of Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) ID, library affairs, sports and hostel facilities, Proctorial system, NSS and NCC activities.

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HT EDITORIAL

J&K's Industrial Future Must Begin at Home

New policy must empower local entrepreneurs, strengthen MSMEs and ensure that investment creates jobs and lasting economic growth

The Jammu and Kashmir Government's decision to finalise a revised Industrial Policy offers an important opportunity to correct past shortcomings and put local economic interests at the centre of industrial development. Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary's assurance that the alleged selective treatment and deficiencies of the previous policy will not be repeated is welcome. However, the real test of the new framework will be whether it strengthens local enterprises, generates sustainable employment and ensures that industrial growth benefits the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Territory has already received an industrial package worth Rs 28,400 crore. Yet the benefits of such a substantial package must translate into tangible results on the ground. The revised policy must prioritise transparency, accountability and effective implementation rather than focus merely on investment announcements and incentives.

Local industry must be the foundation of Jammu and Kashmir's industrial vision. Outside investment is essential for bringing capital, technology and market access, but it must complement rather than overshadow local entrepreneurs. Industrialisation cannot be considered successful if external investors benefit from incentives while existing local units struggle with inadequate infrastructure, limited credit and rising operational costs.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) deserve special attention. These businesses sustain livelihoods and have considerable potential to generate employment, yet many face difficulties in accessing affordable finance, modern technology, reliable power and wider markets. Easier credit, technology upgradation, common testing facilities, digital marketing support and fair government procurement opportunities can help local enterprises become more competitive. The policy must also build on Jammu and Kashmir's distinctive economic strengths. Horticulture, food processing, handicrafts, handloom, wool and textiles, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, information technology and tourism-linked manufacturing offer significant opportunities for growth.

Value addition should be a central priority. Apples, walnuts, saffron, dry fruits, spices and wool produced in J&K should increasingly be processed, packaged and branded within the Union Territory. Modern cold-chain facilities, storage infrastructure and processing units can reduce post-harvest losses, expand market access and ensure that a greater share of the economic value remains within the region.

At the same time, existing industrial estates and manufacturing units must not be neglected in the pursuit of new investments. Problems involving power supply, roads, logistics, finance, taxation, raw materials and delayed approvals continue to affect industrial growth. Reviving struggling units and helping established businesses expand should receive as much attention as attracting new investors. Employment generation must be another defining measure of success. Jammu and Kashmir's youth need sustainable opportunities that allow them to build secure futures at home. Wherever feasible, incentives should be linked to verifiable investment, local employment and skill development. Projects receiving public support must demonstrate tangible economic benefits, not merely promise investment on paper.

Transparency will be equally important. Clear eligibility criteria, objective selection procedures, time-bound approvals, online tracking and an effective grievance-redress mechanism can prevent perceptions of selective treatment and strengthen investor confidence. The government's decision to invite public suggestions on the draft policy is encouraging, but consultation with industrial associations, MSMEs, workers and local entrepreneurs must continue during implementation.

Jammu and Kashmir needs outside capital, modern technology and access to new markets. But these objectives must serve a broader purpose: building a resilient economy in which local businesses grow, regional resources are processed locally and industrial expansion creates dignified employment.

The Rs 28,400-crore industrial package provides a significant opportunity, but its success must be measured by functioning factories, thriving enterprises, value-added local products and sustainable jobs—not merely by the amount of investment announced. The government has promised that past shortcomings will not be repeated. The revised policy must now turn that assurance into action. Jammu and Kashmir needs an industrial framework that attracts investment without marginalising local enterprise and promotes growth whose benefits are shared by the people of the Union Territory. That is the true measure of an industrial policy designed for lasting economic progress.

Saffron: Kashmir's Red Gold and Ladakh's New Agricultural Promise



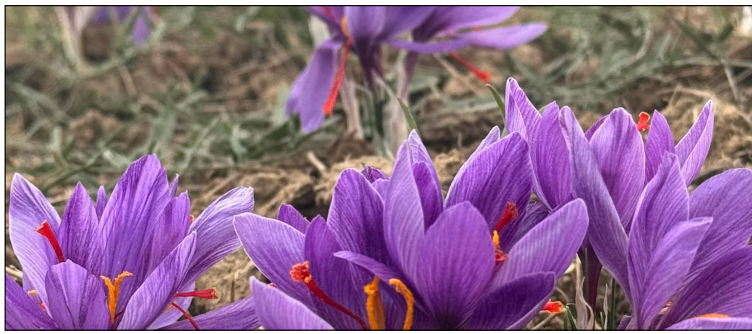
Mohammad Hanief

Saffron is more than a precious spice in Jammu and Kashmir; it is a symbol of heritage, identity and the enduring relationship between people and the land. The purple flowers that bloom across the saffron fields of Pampore represent generations of agricultural knowledge, the hard work of farming families and a tradition that has earned Kashmir recognition far beyond the Himalayan region. Often called red gold, saffron remains one of the most valuable crops cultivated in the Union Territory, offering considerable economic potential despite the challenges facing its production.

Today, Kashmir's saffron industry is passing through a critical phase. Climate variability, inadequate irrigation, rising cultivation costs, pressure on agricultural land and marketing difficulties have made the future of saffron farming a matter of growing concern. At the same time, Ladakh is exploring the possibility of cultivating this high-value crop under its distinctive cold-desert conditions. The emerging initiative offers a new agricultural prospect, provided it is supported by scientific research, responsible water management and sustained institutional assistance.

The developments in Kashmir and Ladakh underline a wider need to strengthen traditional agriculture, diversify rural livelihoods and protect the natural resources on which Himalayan communities depend.

Pampore, in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, is widely recognised as the centre of saffron cultivation. The crop is also grown in other suitable parts of the region, including areas of Budgam and Kishtwar. Locally known



as "kong", saffron occupies a distinctive place in Kashmiri culture, cuisine and hospitality.

Its delicate crimson stigmas are valued for their colour, aroma and flavour. Saffron is used in traditional dishes, beverages, confectionery and various commercial products. Its exceptionally high value relative to its weight is linked to the labour-intensive process of harvesting flowers, separating the stigmas and drying them under carefully controlled conditions.

For generations, saffron cultivation has provided income to farming families and contributed to the rural economy. Yet its importance cannot be measured by its market price alone. The crop represents traditional knowledge, seasonal agricultural practices and a cultural landscape that has become inseparable from Kashmir's identity.

The Geographical Indication tag granted to Kashmir saffron in 2020 further strengthened its distinct identity. This recognition provides an important foundation for protecting authentic produce, improving consumer confidence and ensuring that Kashmir's reputation is not undermined by adulteration or misleading labelling.

Kashmir's saffron sector has received renewed attention through government-supported rejuvenation programmes, irrigation development and efforts to improve marketing. Officially reported production figures indicate that output reached approximately 23.53 metric

tonnes in 2023–24 before declining to around 19.58 metric tonnes in 2024–25.

These fluctuations demonstrate that production remains sensitive to seasonal conditions and the effectiveness of cultivation practices. While rejuvenation programmes have helped improve selected saffron fields, sustainable progress requires more than restoring land or distributing planting material. Farmers need reliable irrigation, healthy corms, technical guidance and a market that rewards quality.

Climate variability has become an important concern for saffron growers. Irregular rainfall, prolonged dry spells and changing temperature patterns can affect the crop's development and flowering. Since saffron depends on suitable moisture conditions at critical stages, water scarcity significantly undermines productivity.

The expansion of settlements and commercial activities has also placed pressure on agricultural land in parts of Kashmir. Protecting traditional saffron fields is essential not only for safeguarding farmers' incomes but also for preserving the agricultural heritage of the region.

Another persistent difficulty is the gap between the premium reputation of Kashmiri saffron and the returns received by individual growers. High cultivation costs, dependence on intermediaries, limited processing facilities and the risks of adulteration can reduce farmers' earnings. Strengthening quality testing, transparent trading, modern packaging and

direct links with buyers is therefore essential.

The future of Kashmir's saffron industry depends on making cultivation more productive, climate-resilient and financially rewarding. First, irrigation infrastructure must be strengthened and maintained. Farmers need dependable access to water at appropriate stages of cultivation, particularly when rainfall is inadequate. Water-efficient irrigation methods, soil-moisture monitoring and locally suitable cultivation practices can help improve the use of available resources.

Second, agricultural research must be translated into practical support at the farm level. Regular soil testing, healthy planting material, improved field management and scientific harvesting and drying techniques can help protect both yield and quality.

Third, the marketing system requires greater transparency. The India International Kashmir Saffron Trading Centre at Pampore offers an important platform for organised trade. Stronger quality certification, traceability, digital marketing and direct connections with buyers could help farmers obtain better prices.

Finally, farmers' cooperatives and producer organisations should be encouraged to participate in processing, packaging and branding. Greater local involvement in the value chain would allow farming communities to capture a larger share of the economic benefits generated by this valuable crop.

Ladakh's New Saffron Experiment
While Kashmir works to strengthen its traditional industry, Ladakh has begun exploring saffron cultivation as a possible avenue for agricultural diversification. In October 2026, a pilot saffron plantation was initiated at Spituk Pharka in Leh. The project reportedly involved approximately 90,000 saffron corms, weighing around 800 kilograms, planted across nearly 4,000 square metres of restored land under Project Him Sarovar.

The author is a senior analyst and environmentalist. Feedback can be sent to m.hanief@gmail.com. Twitter/X: @haniefmha

Pride in the Valley's people and our troops who serve with dedication



By M S Nazki

Gratitude and Support: Many elders and community members express respect, gratitude, and pride in the Indian Army, highlighting civil-military outreach, peace-building efforts, and positive interactions in daily life.

-Events such as community "Elders Parliament" forums organized by local units and engagement initiatives often showcase instances of mutual appreciation.

• Regional and Community Divides: Public sentiment also changes across geographic lines; for example, residents in the Jammu division generally report a high degree of trust and support for the army, whereas perceptions inside the Kashmir Valley are more complex and polarized.

-Perception of the Army: The perception of the Indian Army varies by region and community within Kashmir. Residents of Jammu and Kashmir The story at hand:

• he bond between the people of # Jammim



& Kashmir and the #IndianArmy #shines through in #moments like these, an #elder #speaking from the #heart about genuine service and ending in a #warm #embrace with a #soldier.

Pride in the Valley's people and our troops who serve with dedication

-The bond between the people of Kashmir

and the Indian Army shines through in moments like these, an elder speaking from the heart about genuine service and ending in a warm embrace with a soldier. Pride in the Valley's people and

our troops who serve with dedication. Jai Hind!

-Her relationship between the Kashmiri people and the Indian Army is rooted in the events of 1947–1948 and has evolved through decades of defense, counter-insurgency, and community-building programs.

-1. Origins (1947–1948 War)

• The Tribal Invasion: Following the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India, tribal raiders backed by Pakistan invaded the Valley in October 1947.

• Early Resistance: Local Kashmiri militias and peace brigades organized by Sheikh Abdullah's National Conference initially resisted the raiders.

• Deployment: The Indian Army was airlifted into Srinagar to protect the region, establishing the first direct military defense of the population.

2. Evolving Dynamics and Insurgency (1990s)

• Rise of Militancy: The onset of cross-border terrorism and local insurgency in the late 1980s and 1990s created severe security challenges, leading to a heavy military presence and operations under counter-terrorism frameworks.

• Complex Perceptions: While the army has acted as a security bulwark against external aggression, counterinsurgency operations, security drills, and the application of special powers have at times caused friction and alienation among segments of the local population.

3. Humanitarian and Development Initiatives

• Operation Sachbhavana (Goodwill Mission): Launched formally in 1998, this initiative focuses on winning local trust through civil-military action. Key projects include:

• Education: Operating dozens of Army Goodwill Schools and funding scholarship programs like the North Kashmir Education Fest.

• Youth Coaching: Running Super 50 and Kashmir Super 30 programs to help local youth prepare for competitive exams like JEE, NEET, and the NDA.

The Crucial Role Of Parents In Childhood Education



interacts with her new-born child, she uses a variety of colours and sounds to assist the child develop cognitive skills and emotions.

The primary responsibility of parents throughout a child's formative years is to leave a favourable, permanent impression as well as priceless life lessons and abilities that will help the youngster develop and make decisions as an adult. Parents must be involved in their children's daily lives and provide rewards for academic success.

As well said by O. A. Battista that "The best inheritance a parent can give his children a few

minutes of his time each day" Along a child's educational path, parents serve as guides and motivators. They offer counselling, help with homework, and a secure environment where kids may come for support when they run into problems. Parents may promote the value of education and build a solid support structure for their children's academic achievement by actively participating in their education like parent-teacher meetings to know where their children lie and how much more attention is needed to be given.

Education is beyond books, classrooms, and

lectures. Parents have to teach their children important life lessons which may include, time-management, problem-solving, decision-making, making them responsible, and exploring the real world. These skills or abilities can make a child independent and child can deal with the complexity of the outside world.

A child's attitude towards education is significantly influenced by a nurturing and encouraging family environment. By establishing routines, giving resources like books and instructional materials, and promoting open communication, parents can foster a healthy learning environment for their children. Children gain confidence, and a sense of their own potential when successes are celebrated, efforts are recognised, and a growth attitude is encouraged.

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of parents in a child's education. They play a crucial role in determining a child's educational path from their earliest years through adulthood. Parents can help their kids attain their full potential by developing a conducive learning environment, encouraging a love of learning, offering educational support, and teaching life skills. A child's educational experience is greatly improved by the parent-teacher partnership. Parents must therefore be aware of the influence they have on their children's education and actively participate in the learning process.

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Nagina International (January–August 2026): A Distinguished Name in the Promotion of Urdu Language and Literature



Reyees Ahmad Kumar

Among the various prestigious and high-quality literary magazines and journals of the country that are tirelessly working for the promotion and preservation of Urdu language and literature, the monthly Nagina International occupies a place of considerable respect and distinction. Published under the editorship of the revered Noor Shah Sahib and the sincere, literature-loving Wahshi Syed Sahib, this magazine is not only counted among the country's reputable literary journals but also plays a commendable role in encouraging emerging writers, poets and literary enthusiasts by publishing their contributions alongside those of established literary personalities. Wahshi Syed Sahib not only shoulders the editorial responsibilities of the magazine but also organises splendid literary gatherings at his renowned Hotel Shahenshah Palace, situated near the picturesque Dal Lake, where new issues of the magazine are formally released. What deserves special appreciation is that he personally bears all the expenses of these functions, which speaks volumes about his generosity, passion for literature and unwavering commitment to Urdu language and literature. The latest issue of the magazine was also formally released last month during a dignified literary gathering held at the same hotel, attended by a galaxy of distinguished writers, poets and literary personalities. Comprising 184 pages, the issue features an exceptionally attractive and aesthetically pleasing cover. Its editorial pays a heartfelt tribute to the renowned literary figure Varinder Patwari, who departed from this world in April this year. It also carries an important message encouraging the younger generation to stay away from the menace of drug addiction and instead develop an interest in the enriching world of literature. The opening pages feature Hamd and Naat compositions by Ashraf Adil, Ali Shahid Dilakash, poem Tajalliyat-e-Ramadan, and an impressive ghazal by Rafiq Raz. The issue also includes an introduction to Varinder Patwari, an account of his literary publications and his short-short story Jumood (Stagnation). The insightful and thought-provoking personal essay Onch Neech (High and Low), written by renowned educationist and former Head of the Department of Urdu, University of Kashmir, Professor Mohammad Zaman Azurdah, stands out as one of the finest contributions to the magazine's section devoted to personal essays. Three other remarkable essays—Engineer Shafi Ahmad's Dil (Heart), S. Mashooq Ahmad's Duniya Gol Hai (The World is

Round), and Zafar Khokhar's Women Empowerment—have also been included. Together, these four engaging and intellectually stimulating pieces considerably enhance the literary value of the issue and offer readers an excellent opportunity to appreciate quality essay writing. Following the personal essays, the magazine presents a rich poetry section featuring compositions by several distinguished poets. Among the notable contributors are Rafiq Raz, Safi Sironji, Ashraf Adil, Parvez Manooos, Shabnam Ashai, Shameem Akhtar, Mushtaq Mehdi, Hashir Afnan, Dr. Gulzar Wani and Sheikh Gulzar, among others. By incorporating prose poems, free verse, ghazals and qasidas, this section presents a beautiful bouquet of poetic genres. It not only enhances the literary appeal of the magazine but also acquaints readers with the distinctive styles, intellectual perspectives and creative abilities of different poets. The articles section opens with Professor Sheikh Aqeel Ahmad's Parvez Muzaffar Ki Nazm Nigari (The Poetic Art of Parvez Muzaffar). According to the writer, Parvez Muzaffar resides in Birmingham and has been serving Urdu literature through his poetry for a considerable period. The article highlights how Muzaffar's poems artistically portray the fragmented identity of contemporary humanity, the restlessness of immigrants and the hidden brutality within an apparently civilised world. Birmingham is home to people belonging to diverse nationalities, cultures and ethnic backgrounds, and its multicultural environment is distinctly reflected in his poetry. The second contribution in this section is a review by Shariq Adeel of Dr. Premi Romani's book Iqbal Aur Jadeed Shairi (Iqbal and Modern Poetry). The review reveals that the book comprises five chapters.

It is particularly valuable for readers interested in Iqbal studies and those seeking a deeper understanding of his philosophical thought and poetic craftsmanship. Shahnawaz Nazir's article Lafzon Ka Mashta: Wahshi Syed (The Messiah of Words: Wahshi Syed) is another noteworthy inclusion. According to the writer, Wahshi Syed's writings are characterised by an absence of unnecessary noise, exaggerated claims and pretence. Anwar Afaq's informative and engaging article Qurat-ul-Ain Haider Ke Navalon Mein Manzoor Nigari Aur Uski Ahmiyat (Description of Scenes in Qurat-ul-Ain Haider's Novels and Its Significance) is another outstanding feature of this issue. The writer beautifully highlights the artistic and literary qualities of Qurat-ul-Ain Haider's novels, describing her descriptive technique as distinctive and unparalleled. Through a detailed examination of several of her novels, he discusses the significance of scenic description, artistic refinement and aesthetic dimensions in her fictional world. Saleem Salik's article Qudrat Ka Wafa-e-Rehmat (Nature's Interval of Mercy) is a contribution of a different nature. The writer skillfully presents the Interglacial Period as a genuine interval of nature's mercy—a period during which ice retreats and life advances. By presenting scientific facts in an engaging literary style, he has made the article informative, interesting and thought-provoking. Dr. Sabrina Javed's detailed and informative article The Present Status of Children's Literature in Jammu and Kashmir is another



significant contribution to the issue. While examining the prevailing condition of children's literature in the region, the writer draws attention to the limited number of authors engaged in writing for children. According to her, Hameeda Shah Akhtar, Parvez Manooos and Dr. Neelofar Naz Nalvi are among the few noteworthy literary figures who have contributed to this important field. The fiction section contains sixteen

Hawa (Intoxicating Wind) highlights one of the most serious social problems of contemporary times. Young people trapped in drug addiction not only destroy their own lives but also become a source of suffering for society at large. Through this story, the writer draws attention to a disturbing reality confronting our society. Raja Yusuf's short story Sila (Recompense) addresses

short stories by established and accomplished fiction writers from across the country. Soch Ka Lamha (A Moment of Reflection), the opening story of this section, deeply moves the reader. Through an effective portrayal of social realities, the writer highlights the seemingly insurmountable wall separating the rich and the poor, exposing the bitter realities of class discrimination and social inequality. The issue also features an Urdu translation by Bashir Athar of the Kashmiri short story Akbar Tanga Wol, originally written by renowned poet and fiction writer Bashir Dada.

The story artistically addresses several social issues. Through its characters, the writer presents a sharp satire on social inequalities, human behaviour and societal contradictions, which remains evident throughout the narrative. Noor, written by the Valley's renowned physician and fiction writer Dr. Nazir Mushtaq, is among the most distinctive and impressive stories in this section. Besides providing readers with valuable insights into a complex medical condition like Alzheimer's disease, the story introduces them to an unusual, fascinating and touching tale of love. By skillfully combining medical realities with human emotions, the author has made this literary creation particularly engaging and meaningful. Dr. Riyaz Tauheedi's short story Nasheeli

another serious contemporary social concern. In today's relentless pursuit of wealth and prosperity, parents often send their children abroad for higher education and better employment opportunities. However, when these very children begin to neglect their parents completely, the emotional suffering becomes almost unbearable. In such circumstances, parents may eventually feel compelled to give away or dedicate their lifelong savings and property rather than leave them to their indifferent children. Akhtar Mera's short story Aangan (Courtyard) presents a touching narrative of love, attachment and devotion towards one's native soil. The writer beautifully explores the deep emotional relationship between human beings and their homeland. Zafar Khokhar's short-short story Insaaf (Justice) offers a sharp satire on the bitter realities of contemporary society. The writer effectively exposes the unfortunate tendency whereby demanding one's legitimate rights and seeking justice are sometimes treated as acts contrary to peace, while those raising their voices against injustice are themselves branded as troublemakers. The issue also contains critical reviews and introductory articles contributed by Rayees Ahmad Kumar, Zaheer Anwar, Rehana Shajar and Suhail Salim.

The distinguished fiction writer Noor Shah Sahib has presented a comprehensive, detailed and well-written account of various literary events held between November 2025 and June 2026. These programmes, organised under the auspices of different literary organisations, have been documented with remarkable care and attention to detail. This record of literary activities constitutes another important feature of the magazine. Under the heading Kahan Gaye Yeh Log (Where Have These People Gone?), Noor Shah Sahib has contributed a detailed and informative article on Shoreeda Kashmiri, a multifaceted personality from Shopian district who enjoys recognition as a distinguished poet throughout the Indian subcontinent. He has also written a comprehensive article on Munshi Mohammad Din Fauq, offering an extensive discussion of his life, scholarly contributions and literary achievements. Under the section titled Qand-e-Mukarrar (Once Again, with Pleasure), an excellent article by Dr. Johar Qudus on Rasaa Javedani's poetry collection Nairang-e-Ghazal has also been included. The article attempts a comprehensive evaluation of Rasaa Javedani's poetic qualities, artistic excellence and literary stature. Overall, the latest issue of Nagina International is a valuable contribution from both scholarly and literary perspectives. It certainly deserves to be read by every discerning reader, particularly those who cherish Urdu language and literature and possess a keen interest in quality literary creations. The issue not only satisfies the literary tastes of its readers but also introduces them to the diverse dimensions of Urdu literature, reaffirming the magazine's distinguished position in the contemporary Urdu literary landscape.

RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR
Writer is a columnist based in Qazigund Kashmir

Keeping the Past Alive Through Photographs and Voices



Dr. Vijay Garg

History is not preserved only in books, monuments, museums and official records. It also lives in old photographs, recorded voices, family conversations, folk songs, personal letters and forgotten stories. These seemingly ordinary objects and recordings often hold extraordinary memories of people, communities and civilizations. Preserving them is essential because once they disappear, an irreplaceable part of our collective heritage may be lost forever.

In an age of rapid technological change, the preservation of photographs and voices has become more important than ever. They connect generations, bring forgotten events back to life and help future generations understand how people lived, worked, celebrated, struggled and dreamed.

Photographs: Windows to the Past

A photograph is much more than a visual image. It is a frozen moment that captures the appearance, emotions, relationships and circumstances of a particular time. An old family photograph may reveal traditional clothing, architectural styles, social customs, occupations and cultural practices that are no longer common.

Photographs of historical events, freedom fighters, educational institutions, villages, markets and public gatherings provide valuable evidence of social transformation. They help historians understand changes in lifestyles, infrastructure, traditions and human relationships.

For families, old photographs preserve the memories of grandparents, parents and relatives who are no longer alive. They allow younger generations to discover their roots and develop a stronger sense of identity. A faded photograph may sometimes communicate more powerfully than several pages of written description.

However, photographs are vulnerable to damage. Paper deteriorates with age, colours fade, moisture encourages fungal growth and improper storage can destroy precious images. Fires, floods and accidental disposal may cause permanent



and regional identities. They can reveal how languages have evolved and how communities have communicated across generations.

Oral histories are particularly valuable for documenting experiences that may not appear in official records. Farmers can describe changes in agricultural practices, elderly residents can recall the transformation of their villages, and former teachers can share the development of educational institutions. Such personal accounts enrich our understanding of history by presenting experiences from ordinary people's lives.

Traditional songs, folk tales, religious recitations and local storytelling also represent important cultural resources. Many oral traditions have survived for centuries through human memory. Yet when the last person who knows a particular song, dialect or story passes away, that knowledge may disappear unless it has been recorded.

Preserving voices is therefore not merely a technical activity; it is an effort to protect cultural diversity and human experience.

Technology as a Bridge Between Generations

Digital technology has created unprecedented opportunities to preserve historical memories. Old photographs can be scanned at high resolution, while audio recordings can be transferred into digital formats. Video interviews, family documentaries and oral-history archives can preserve stories for future generations.

Cloud storage, external hard drives and digital libraries make it easier to organise and access these materials. Artificial intelligence can assist with image restoration, speech recognition, transcription and translation. These tools can make historical resources

accessible to people who speak different languages or have visual or hearing impairments.

However, technology also presents challenges. Digital files may become inaccessible because of obsolete formats, damaged storage devices, forgotten passwords or discontinued services. Edited images and artificially generated voices may also create confusion about historical authenticity.

Consequently, preservation requires reliable backups, clear descriptions, dates, names, contextual information and periodic migration to supported file formats. Important collections should ideally have multiple copies stored in different locations.

Digital restoration must also be undertaken responsibly. Original photographs and recordings should be retained, and any substantial enhancement or alteration should be documented.

The Role of Families, Schools and Communities

Historical preservation should not remain the responsibility of governments and professional archivists alone. Every family, school, village and community

can contribute.

Families can collect old photographs, letters, certificates, audio recordings and personal stories in organised digital folders. Schools can establish heritage corners where students document the history of their institutions and interview retired teachers and former students.

Village organisations can record the memories of elderly residents, local artisans, folk singers and community leaders. Libraries and museums can develop accessible digital collections that preserve regional history.

Students can participate in projects that combine technology, research, language and social studies. Such activities teach them that history is not simply a collection of dates and names; it is the accumulated experience of real people.

Permission, privacy and cultural sensitivity must remain central to these efforts. Personal recordings should not be shared publicly without appropriate consent, particularly when they contain sensitive information.

Preserving Memories for the Future
Every generation inherits stories from the past and carries the responsibility of passing them forward. Unfortunately, many valuable photographs remain unidentified in dusty boxes, while old recordings deteriorate on outdated tapes and devices.

We must act before these memories disappear. Families should begin with small collections, identify the people and places in old photographs, record conversations with elderly relatives and maintain secure backups. Communities should identify vulnerable historical materials and seek appropriate professional assistance when necessary.

Preserving photographs and voices is ultimately an investment in our collective memory. They remind us where we came from, help us understand the present and provide future generations with authentic connections to their heritage.

When photographs fade and voices fall silent, history loses its human touch. By preserving these visual and auditory treasures today, we ensure that the experiences, wisdom and emotions of the past continue to speak to the generations of tomorrow.

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Writers' Village: A Confluence of Literature, Culture and Global Dialogue in the Himalayas



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

The Himalayas are not just a range of mountains; they are a living symbol of India's cultural consciousness, spiritual tradition, natural wealth, and human sensibilities. Its lofty peaks inspire humanity to dream big, while its rivers convey the message of life, continuity, and the growth of civilizations. Connecting this Himalayan consciousness with literature, art, culture, and global dialogue, the Third International "Sparsh Par Himalaya" 2026 Festival, held at Thano, the Writers' Village in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, became a memorable occasion for participation. Writers, artists, scholars, and creative individuals from various countries and several states of India participated in this event.

Today, when the world is beset by challenges such as political tensions, war, cultural conflicts, environmental crises, and social divisions, the role of literature and culture becomes more important than ever. Politics often draws boundaries between countries and societies, but literature connects people based on their shared sensibilities. Languages may differ, geographical conditions may differ, and lifestyles may differ, but the aspirations for love, compassion, peace, justice, and human dignity are common everywhere. Literature gives expression to these shared values.

The author's concept of the village International events like "Touching the Himalayas" provide an opportunity to put this idea into practice. When creatives from different countries and Indian states gather on a single platform, the exchange of ideas is not limited to formal discussions. It becomes a medium for understanding the cultural traditions, historical experiences, literary trends, and contemporary challenges of different societies. Such platforms prove that literature and culture still have the power to bind people together in a common humanity.

The venue for this event, Lekhak Gaon, holds special significance. The expansion of literary activities in rural settings challenges the notion that creativity and intellectual discourse are limited to metropolitan cities, universities, or large auditoriums. Villages have been a major source of memories, folk languages, folk arts, traditions, and lived experiences in Indian society. Literary platforms established in rural settings offer writers the opportunity to connect with their roots and present local experiences in a global context.

Himalayan Center of Creation
Writers' Village is not just a venue for events; it is poised to become a vibrant hub for writing, reflection, research, translation, art, and cultural dialogue. Here, writers can channel their creative energy while being close to nature. The serenity, diversity, and depth of the Himalayas connect writers to new questions about society, culture, and human life. This is why Writers' Village can be seen as a cultural experiment, a confluence of

traditional knowledge and contemporary thinking.

The strength of Indian literature lies in its linguistic and cultural diversity. Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Assamese, Garhwali, Kumaoni, and other languages express the memories, struggles, and aspirations of their respective societies. Platforms like Lekhak Gaon provide opportunities to enhance dialogue between these languages, encourage translation of regional literature, and introduce writers from different languages to each other's creative worlds.

The social role of literature
The purpose of literature is not merely to entertain, but also to sensitize society and confront the challenges of the times. Today, writers face numerous challenges, including unemployment, economic inequality, gender discrimination, caste inequality, consumerism, the negative impacts of digital media, and environmental crises. Writers can raise public awareness on these issues through their writings. When literature becomes the voice of marginalized sections of society, farmers, laborers, women, children, and youth, it makes a meaningful contribution to the process of social change.

In this context, the responsibility of venues like Writers' Villages increases even more. Such centers should not be limited to stage performances, award ceremonies, and formal speeches; they should also result in book publications, translation projects, research collaborations, training of young writers, and long-term collaborations between different languages. If the connections forged here translate into further literary activities, translations, and creative collaborations, the utility of Writers' Villages can be even broader.

The Himalayas and environmental awareness

The environmental importance of the Himalayas is also a natural topic of discussion in the author's village. Climate change, uncontrolled construction, deforestation, landslides, drying up of water sources, and unplanned tourism are posing serious challenges to the mountainous regions. The rivers originating in the Himalayas are linked to the lives, agriculture, and economy of millions of people. Therefore, sensitivity to the Himalayas is not only an emotional issue but also a question of environmental responsibility.

Literature can inspire a new understanding of the relationship between nature and humans and a rethinking of development priorities.

The digital age has further expanded the possibilities of literary dialogue. Discussions, lectures, and creative presentations held at the Writers' Village can now reach readers in remote areas through digital media.

This can also provide opportunities for participation to writers and readers who, due to economic, geographical, or other reasons, are unable to attend in person. This requires systematic compilation of digital content, reliable archiving, and ensuring multilingual availability.

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



Mission Director RUSA reviews Developmental Progress under Vibrant Villages Programme-II in Trehgam

HT News Network

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 29: Mission Director RUSA J&K, Firdous Ahmad Giri, today visited Trehgam village in Kupwara district to review developmental progress and assess the implementation of interventions under the Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II).

During the visit, the Mission Director chaired a review meeting with district and sectoral officers at Government Middle School, Trehgam, to take stock of ongoing developmental activities and review the status of various interventions under the programme. He stressed the need for effective inter-departmental coordination and



timely execution of projects to ensure tangible improvements in the quality of life of the local population.

Emphasizing a focused and coordinated approach, the Mission Director underscored the importance of addressing

local developmental priorities, strengthening public service delivery and ensuring that the objectives of VVP-II translate into tangible benefits for the people.

Later, the Mission Director interacted with local residents and sought their feedback on developmental issues and public service requirements. The residents highlighted their concerns and shared suggestions for further improving infrastructure and service delivery in the area.

He emphasized the importance of community participation in identifying local needs and prioritizing developmental interventions to ensure inclusive and sustainable development.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that the Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. 2568 0184 2007, belonging to Areeba Nisar, R/o Kreeri, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir, contains an incorrect name recorded as Dua Nisar. The correct name is Areeba Nisar, and the necessary correction is sought in the Aadhaar records.

Any person having any objection to the aforesaid name correction may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority along with valid supporting documents for necessary verification. This notice is being published to invite objections, if any, from the general public regarding the proposed name correction.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, GHULAM MOHAMMAD DAR, father of the minor child TABASUM JAN, do hereby declare as under: That I am the father and legal guardian of my minor child. That the Aadhaar Number of my minor child is 304926568580. That due to an inadvertent error during Aadhaar enrolment, my child's name has been incorrectly recorded as TABASUM BANO, whereas the correct name is TABASUM JAN. That TABASUM JAN is the correct name of my minor child, and I request that the necessary correction be made in the Aadhaar records. That I am submitting the relevant supporting documents for verification and necessary action. Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid name correction may approach the concerned Aadhaar Authority with valid documentary proof. GHULAM MOHAMMAD DAR Father and Legal Guardian of TABASUM JAN

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, ABDUL RASHID DAR, Father of MUSAIB AHMAD DAR, resident of Nagbal, District Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir, do hereby declare as under: That I am the father and legal guardian of my minor child, MUSAIB AHMAD DAR. That the Aadhaar Number of my minor child is 554748331164. That due to an inadvertent error, my child's name has been incorrectly recorded as AZAN RASHID in the Aadhaar Card, whereas the correct name is MUSAIB AHMAD DAR. That the name MUSAIB AHMAD DAR is the correct name of my minor child, and I wish to have the same corrected in the Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid name correction may approach the concerned Aadhaar Authority with valid documentary proof. Place: Nagbal, Baramulla ABDUL RASHID DAR Father of MUSAIB AHMAD DAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, GHULAM MOHAMMAD DAR, Father of USMAN AHMAD DAR, resident of Nagbal, District Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir, do hereby declare as under: That I am the father and legal guardian of my minor child, USMAN AHMAD DAR. That the Aadhaar Number of my minor child is 514908399966. That due to an inadvertent error, my child's name has been incorrectly recorded as MOHAMMAD USMAN DAR in the Aadhaar Card, whereas the correct name is USMAN AHMAD DAR. That the name USMAN AHMAD DAR is the correct name of my minor child, and I wish to have the same corrected in the Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid name correction may approach the concerned Aadhaar Authority with valid documentary proof. Place: Nagbal, Baramulla DEPONENT GHULAM MOHAMMAD DAR Father of USMAN AHMAD DAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, QAZIGUND

Coram: Aastik Verma | JOCODE: JK00335

In the case of: Shahid Khursheed

Versus

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir through Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Qazigund.

Whereas the applicant, namely Shahid Khursheed, has sought a direction against the non-applicant for registration of the birth particulars of his son, namely Ahmad Hubab, born on 21-07-2024. Through the medium of this notice, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection regarding the registration of the above-mentioned birth particulars may submit the same on or before 05-11-2026, when the matter is listed before the Court for further proceedings. Given under my hand and seal of this Court on 28-10-2026. Sd/ Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Qazigund,

PUBLIC NOTICE

is notified that the applicant namely Mohd Akber Ganaie Father of Zanaib Akbar R/o Gotapora Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of BIRTH certificate of his daughter Zainab Akber D/o Mohd Akbar Ganaie The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his daughter as school records 21 / 07 / 2015 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 .

30/10/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Number plate of my vehicle Bike (palsar n169) bearing Number JK05Q4401 now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody Having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of ARTO BARAMULLA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained Name....AABID ASHRAF SHAH M/O...MOHAMMAD ASHRAF SHAH R/O...KACHWA MUQAM Dist....BARAMULLA



GOVERNMENT OF (U.T.) JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

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

Re-Tender Notice/ Corrigendum 1st.

Subject: Construction of 200 mm dia DTH / ODEX Method Production Bore Well at Waderpati and Batgagal in District Kupwara.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. **72/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27**, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/13946-57, dated: **07-10-2026**, Bearing Tender ID No. **2026_PHE_327725_1**.

Due to **"NO Response"** for the above mentioned work advertised vide e-NIT No. and **Tender ID No** under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till **24-10-2026 Up-to 02:00 AM**.

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Bid Submission Start date & Time	29-10-2026 Up-to 02:00 PM
2.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	11-11-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM
3.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	12-11-2026 11:00 AM

NOTE:

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

DIP No:DIPK-7184/26

Send Date: Oct 29 2026

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



GOVERNMENT OF (U.T.) JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

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

Extension Notice 6th. of Re-Tender Notice/ Corrigendum.

Subject: Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme Chatterhama by way of construction of Additional Bore Well.

Reference:1. This office Retender Corrigendum Notice vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/

Camp./ **3506-19**, Dated: 19-06-2026, **Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_307393_3**.

2. This office Extension Notice 5th issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/ Camp/ **2363-76**, dated: 11-05-2026.

3. This office e-NIT No. **03/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27**, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/ **64-76**, dated: 03-04-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. **2026_PHE_307393_1**.

Due to **"NO Response"** for the above mentioned work advertised vide e-NIT No. and **Tender ID No** under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till **27-10-2026 Up-to 01:00 AM**.

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	09-11-2026 Up-to 01:00 PM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	10-11-2026 01:00 PM

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

DIPK-7170/26

Send Date: Oct 29 2026.

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



GOVERNMENT OF (U.T.) JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

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

Extension Notice 5th of Re-Tender Notice/ Corrigendum 1st.

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

Reference: 1. This office **Corrigendum Notice 1st** issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/ 26-27/Camp./ 7835-47 Dated: 20-08-202 bearing Tender ID No: **2026_PHE_315512_2**

2. This office **Extension Notice 2nd** issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/ 26-27/Camp/ **2377-93**, dated: 11-05-2026.

3. This office e-NIT No. **29/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27**, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/ **4044-56**, dated: **09-07-2026** Bearing Tender ID No. **2026_PHE_315512_1**.

Due to **"NO Response"** for the above mentioned work's advertised vide e-NIT No. and **Tender ID No's** under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till **27-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM**.

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	09-11-2026 Up-to 01:00 PM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	10-11-2026 01:00 PM

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

DIPK-7159/26

Send Date: Oct 29 2026

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



GOVERNMENT OF (U.T.) JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

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

Extension Notice 5th of Re-Tender Notice/ Corrigendum 1st.

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

Reference: 1. This office **Corrigendum Notice 1st** issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/ 26-27/Camp./ 7835-47 Dated: 20-08-202 bearing Tender ID No: **2026_PHE_315512_2**

2. This office **Extension Notice 2nd** issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/ 26-27/Camp/ **2377-93**, dated: 11-05-2026.

3. This office e-NIT No. **29/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27**, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/ **4044-56**, dated: **09-07-2026** Bearing Tender ID No. **2026_PHE_315512_1**.

Due to **"NO Response"** for the above mentioned work's advertised vide e-NIT No. and **Tender ID No's** under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till **27-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM**.

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	09-11-2026 Up-to 01:00 PM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	10-11-2026 01:00 PM

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

DIPK-7163/26.

Send Date: Oct 29 2026

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





DC Kishtwar reviews preparations for Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, J&K UT Foundation Day

Calls for mobilizing mass participation in Unity Run, Pledge Ceremony and other activities

■ **HT News Network**

KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 29: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review and finalise arrangements for the celebration of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas and Jammu & Kashmir UT Foundation Day 2026, scheduled to be observed on October 31, 2026. SSP Sunny Gupta was also present at the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner directed District and Sectoral Officers of the line departments to ensure smooth and effective conduct of approved activities across the district, including Sub-Divisional, Tehsil and Block levels. The Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) were asked to prepare and issue a comprehensive calendar of



activities to ensure coordinated implementation across their respective jurisdictions. To promote cleanliness and civic sense, the Deputy Commissioner directed to conduct special Swachhata drives. "A district-level cleanliness drive will be conducted on the Chowgan Grounds, while the line departments

shall organise cleanliness drives in respective offices" he informed.

The departments shall also set up exhibition stalls to highlight Government Schemes and initiatives such as Mission YUVA, National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), HADP and other schemes offering agro-based entrepreneurship

opportunities in rural areas.

To promote youth engagement and awareness, the Deputy Commissioner directed the School Education and Higher Education Departments to organise debates, discussions and quiz competitions on the theme "Viksit Bharat 2047" across educational institutions in the district. The District Administration, in coordination with the Police Department, is going to organise the Walkathon/Run for Unity (Ekta Daud), with active participation from officers, officials, members of the general public, students, MY Bharat volunteers, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and other stakeholders. The Rashtriya Ekta Pledge will be administered at 11:00 AM at the District

Headquarters, with similar pledge ceremonies to be conducted at Sub-Divisional, Tehsil and Block levels to ensure widespread participation. The pledge ceremonies, cleanliness and plantation drives will be organised simultaneously across the district to ensure uniform observance of the day and maximum public participation," the meeting was informed. The meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal, ACR Mohammad Idrees Lone, PO ICDS Rishi Kumar Sharma, Tehsildar Nirbhay Sharma, ALC Amit Kumar, BDO Ravi Kumar, AD Handicrafts Pardeep Shan, DFO Marwah, Vishal Chaudhary, DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh, CHO Sajid Mustafa, Ex En PWD (R&B) Shamis Din, DIO (NIC) Faizal Khan, besides other officers.

Director Horticulture Kashmir chairs review meeting of Horticulture Developmental schemes

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: Director Horticulture Kashmir Vikas Anand, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of various horticulture developmental schemes being implemented by the department.

During the meeting, the Director reviewed the physical and financial progress of ongoing developmental schemes viz. CSS, CAPEX, HADP, HDP and other developmental activities aimed at strengthening the horticulture sector in Kashmir valley.

The Director emphasized the need for timely implementation of government schemes, effective utilization of allocated funds, and ensuring that the benefits of various departmental initiatives reach the farming



community. The officers were directed to maintain close coordination with field functionaries and regularly monitor the progress of works at the ground level.

Stress was also laid on providing technical guidance to farmers, promoting modern horticultural practices, and encouraging the adoption of scientific methods to improve productivity, quality, and farmers' income.

The Director called upon all officers to work with dedication and accountability to achieve the prescribed targets within the stipulated timelines. The officers were

further directed to address the concerns of farmers promptly and ensure effective delivery of departmental services.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the department's commitment to the sustainable development of the horticulture sector and the overall welfare of the farming community.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Director Horticulture (C), Chief Horticulture Officers, Assistant Director Horticulture, Technical Officer and other concerned officers/officials of the department.

Mission Director NHM conducts on-site review at Govt. Children Hospital Bemina

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: In a continued effort to strengthen specialized pediatric and neonatal healthcare services across the Union Territory, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), J&K, Athar Aamir UI Shafi, today conducted on-site monitoring and review visit today at the 500-bedded Government Children Hospital, Bemina.

The visit covered key operational units within the premier facility, including the District Early Intervention Centre (DEIC), Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), High Dependency Unit (HDU), Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC), Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), laboratories, Paediatric Surgery Ward, Operation Theatre, and the Lactating Ward.

Accompanied by the Principal of Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar Dr. Ifat Hassan; Administrator Associated Hospitals GMC Srinagar, Medical Superintendent of Govt. Children Hospital Bemina, Head of Departments, Divisional Nodal Officer NHM Kashmir, and Programme Managers of NHM J&K, the Mission Director reviewed the execution and on-ground delivery of core National Health Mission programmes. These included Maternal and Child Health services, RBSK, RKSK, National Ambulance Services (102/108), blood services, NQAS, and free drug and diagnostic initiatives.

Discussions during the review further emphasized the ongoing commitment to



upgrading level-III NICU capacity, streamlining high-end medication and consumable supplies, addressing critical staffing requirements, and enhancing patient care amenities such as the lactating ward.

The Mission Director appreciated the dedication of the healthcare personnel and reiterated NHM's steadfast commitment to bridging infrastructural gaps, ensuring seamless emergency transport services, and elevating pediatric healthcare standards in the hospital. The visit covered key operational units within the premier facility, including the District Early Intervention Centre (DEIC), Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), High Dependency Unit (HDU), Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC), Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), laboratories, Paediatric Surgery Ward, Operation Theatre, and the Lactating Ward.

Sheep Husbandry Deptt hosts awareness camp at Chatroo; Distributes Free Veterinary Kits

■ **HT News Network**



KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 29: The Sheep Husbandry Department Kishtwar organized an Awareness-cum-Training Camp at Chatroo today to educate sheep breeders about scientific rearing, animal healthcare, wool management and government welfare schemes.

Over 50 breeders from Chatroo and nearby areas participated in the programme. The experts provided guidance on flock management, balanced nutrition, animal hygiene, disease prevention, vaccination and winter preparedness. Breeders were also sensitised to the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) and measures to protect livestock from infectious diseases.

The camp featured sessions on scientific wool shearing and improved wool management practices aimed at enhancing wool quality and market value. Participants were also informed about departmental welfare schemes and support initiatives for sheep breeders.

As part of the programme, free veterinary first-aid medicine kits were distributed among breeders to strengthen basic livestock healthcare. Addressing the gathering, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Dr. Azhar Moomin Bichoo reiterated the department's commitment to promoting scientific sheep farming, improving livestock productivity and supporting the socio-economic development of rural communities.

Vigilance Awareness Week-2026:

Pledge taking ceremonies held in various Government offices across Kupwara

■ **HT News Network**

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 29: In continuation with the observance of Vigilance Awareness Week-2026, pledge taking ceremonies were taken across Government offices in district Kupwara.

Pledge taking ceremonies were held in Power Development Department (PDD) Division Handwara, Agriculture Office Handwara and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Handwara, DIC-DIPR Kupwara and various other offices with a focus on promoting integrity, transparency, accountability and ethical conduct in public service.

On the occasion, officers and officials of the respective departments reaffirmed their commitment to combating corruption and ensuring transparency in the functioning of government offices. The observance highlighted the importance of honesty, impartiality and accountability in the discharge of official duties.

Special Secretary Agriculture Production reviews implementation of PDMC Scheme

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: Special Secretary, Agriculture production department, Dr Ravi Shankar Sharma held a meeting at Directorate of Agriculture Lalmandi here for empanelment of companies under the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) component of centrally sponsored scheme Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi vikas yojana (PM-RKVY).

The meeting was attended by Director Agriculture Kashmir Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Director Horticulture Kashmir Vikas Anand, Director Planning, Agriculture Production department Majeed Ahmad Karnai, Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta and the representatives of the empanelled companies. The Special secretary underscored the importance of the PDMC scheme for precision water management to enhance crop.

DYSS Poonch organises District-Level National Youth Festival – Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027

■ **HT News Network**

POONCH, OCTOBER 29: The District Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) department Poonch on Thursday organised a District-Level National Youth Festival – Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 (Cultural Track) here in the Auditorium Hall, Government Degree College, witnessing participation of young talent from different zones of the district.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Amarjeet Singh was the Chief Guest, while Principal, Government Degree College Prof. Dr. Jasbir Singh attended as the

Guest of Honour. Their presence added significance to the occasion and encouraged the participating youth to pursue excellence in cultural, creative and leadership activities.

The programme aimed to provide youth a platform to showcase their artistic abilities, cultural heritage, creative expression and leadership potential. The event featured varied cultural and literary activities, including Painting Competition, Poetry Competition, Folk Song, Folk Dance and Nukkad Natak, reflecting the rich cultural diversity, creativity and artistic talent of the youth of Poonch.

As many as 150 male and



female individuals, in the form of seven teams and representing different zones of the district, competed in different disciplines, showcasing their talent, confidence, teamwork and dedication.

To ensure a fair, transparent and professional evaluation of the performances, experienced and competent judges were appointed for each individual activity. The judges assessed the participants on the basis of relevant criteria, including creativity, originality, presentation, artistic skills, performance quality and overall impact.

Through activities such as

painting, poetry, folk performances and street theatre, the event also promoted awareness, social responsibility, cultural understanding and the spirit of active youth engagement in nation-building.

The programme was organised under the overall supervision of DYSSO Mohammad Qasim and Activity In-charge Vijay Kumar Sharma.

Imtiaz Ahmed Lone was the Nodal Officer of the organising Committee constituted to coordinate the arrangements and facilitate the conduct of the scheduled activities.

DC Anantnag chairs comprehensive Meeting on Winter Preparedness

Directs prompt restoration of Essential Services, Public accessibility of Officers and timely Redressal of Grievances

■ **HT News Network**

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a comprehensive meeting of concerned officers at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal, Anantnag, to review winter preparedness and ensure timely arrangements across all departments.

Emphasizing the need for close interdepartmental coordination and a proactive approach, the DC stressed the timely implementation of mitigation measures to effectively address winter-related challenges and minimize inconvenience to the general public.

The meeting discussed the prioritization of roads for snow clearance, uninterrupted power supply, timely replacement of damaged Distribution

Transformers (DTs), and adequate decentralized buffer stocking of essential materials.

The Chair was informed that the total road length under P1 and PE categories is 1,005 km, while the total road length is 1,542 km.

The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure the pre-positioning of snow clearance machinery at strategic locations to facilitate timely snow clearance and maintain road connectivity during the winter season.

Comprehensive arrangements for uninterrupted water and power supply, healthcare facilities, relief and rescue operations, and snow clearance of roads were also reviewed.

The Chair was apprised that adequate stocks of essential commodities and medical supplies had been arranged and that response teams were kept ready to address any eventuality arising from adverse



weather conditions.

The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure the availability of safety gear for frontline staff, strict adherence to duty rosters, improved ambulance services, particularly for expectant mothers and terminally ill patients, and adequate heating arrangements in hospitals and health centres across the district.

He stressed the need to put in place robust mechanisms for interdepartmental coordination, prompt response to emergencies, and timely restoration of essential services during the winter season.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) to remain fully prepared to respond to any emergency arising from heavy snowfall, severe weather conditions or other natural exigencies.

He stressed the importance of maintaining readiness for rescue and relief operations, particularly in vulnerable and far-flung areas.

Reviewing the preparedness of the Power Development Department, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned Superintending Engineer of KPDC to ensure regular and uninterrupted electricity supply during winter.

He emphasized the need for advance maintenance of power infrastructure and prompt redressal of power-related complaints, particularly in areas vulnerable to weather-related disruptions.

The Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, was directed to ensure the availability of safe drinking water throughout the winter season and take advance measures to address any disruption in water supply caused by freezing temperatures or adverse weather conditions.



Health Concerns in Kashmir During Winter

Stay Healthy, Stay Happy



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Winter is approaching in Kashmir. During this season, we need warm homes, healthy food, and proper care to protect ourselves from common health problems such as colds, coughs, and fever.

During winter, temperatures sometimes fall below zero degrees. This makes daily life difficult for many people. However, winter is not new to us. We should be prepared for this cold season and take proper care of our health.

Many people enjoy winter by taking part in different activities, such as going to the gym, playing cricket and volleyball, and enjoying indoor games.

My advice to the people of Kashmir is simple: Do not be afraid of winter. Enjoy the season, stay active, eat healthy food, and take care of your health. We should spend our time doing activities that keep us fit and happy.

Remember, a healthy body leads to a happy life.

Importance of Regular Exercise

Healthy People, Healthy Nation

Regular exercise helps us stay fit, healthy, and active. It also teaches us discipline and helps us live a better life.

Today, many people face health problems such as obesity, fatty liver, high cholesterol, and heart diseases. Stress and anxiety have also become common. To avoid many of these problems, we need to follow a healthy routine.

We should eat a balanced diet, exercise regularly, get enough sleep, and go for medical check-ups when needed. Small changes in our daily routine can make a big difference to our health.

Importance of a Home Gym

Nowadays, many people suffer from health problems such as obesity, digestive problems, fatty liver, heart diseases, and joint problems.

Our bodies perform many important functions every day. For example, our bodies digest food, circulate blood, and remove waste materials. These natural processes are amazing and remind us of the greatness of Almighty Allah.

As human beings, we should be thankful for the blessings we have received. We should also understand the importance of protecting our health and taking care of our bodies.

The Cell: A Basic Unit of Life

A cell is the basic structural and functional unit of life. All living organisms are made up of cells. Some organisms have only one cell, while others have many cells.

The human body contains trillions of cells. Each cell performs important functions that help our bodies work properly.

Different parts of a cell have different functions:

Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER): Helps make and transport proteins and fats.

Golgi Apparatus: Packs and sends proteins and fats to different parts of the cell.

Ribosomes: Help make proteins.

Lysosomes: Break down waste materials inside cells.

Vacuoles: Store water, nutrients, and waste materials.

Peroxisomes: Help break down fats and remove certain harmful substances.

Cytoskeleton: Gives shape and support to the cell.

Centrioles: Help in cell division in animal cells.

Chloroplasts: Found in plant cells, they help plants make food using sunlight.

When we learn about these tiny structures, we understand how wonderfully the human body and other living things are organised.

Atoms: The Tiny Building Blocks of Matter

Everything around us is made up of atoms. Atoms are so small that we cannot see them with our naked eyes.

An atom has a central part called the nucleus, with electrons found around it in different energy levels.

Science helps us understand how the universe works. However, there is still much more to learn about the world around us.

As Muslims, we believe that Almighty Allah is the Creator of the universe. We should always be thankful for His blessings and use our knowledge to help others.

We have been blessed with a wonderful mind that allows us to think, learn, and discover new things. We

should use this ability for the betterment of society.

Although medical science has made great progress, some serious diseases, including cancer and AIDS, continue to create major health challenges. Scientists and doctors are working to find better treatments and improve people's lives.

Through this article, I want to remind readers of the blessings of Almighty Allah and the importance of respecting every living creature. No country, person, or nation should consider itself superior to everyone else. Every human

You can also ask your friends and relatives to give you simple fitness equipment as a gift on special occasions instead of expensive presents.

The main purpose of a home gym is to make exercise easy and convenient.

My Experience with Gym Exercise

I was in Class 8 when I started going to the gym. In Kashmir, many people call bodybuilding the iron game.

During this journey, I met many kind and helpful people, including teachers, business people, sports persons,

healthy activities, reduce stress, and develop discipline.

Along with academic education, schools and colleges should teach students the importance of physical and mental well-being.

A healthy student can develop good habits that may benefit them throughout life.

Keeping Young People Away from Harmful Habits

In many villages, some young people are becoming involved in harmful habits such as smoking and drug use.



being has value, and we should treat others with kindness and respect.

Health Is More Important Than Wealth

Today, I want to share my thoughts on the importance of regular exercise and how it helps us stay happy, fit, and energetic.

First, we should ask ourselves an important question: What matters most in life—health, money, buildings, or fame?

Without good health, it becomes difficult to enjoy many other things in life. Therefore, we should give our health the same importance that we give to education, money, and success.

Today, we encourage people to achieve their goals and become successful. However, we should also encourage them to take care of their health.

The Importance of Physical Work

Some people are lucky because their jobs involve physical activity. Workers and labourers, for example, remain active while performing their daily duties.

Unfortunately, many labourers earn very little despite working hard to support their families. They deserve our respect, appreciation, and better support from society and the government.

The government should introduce helpful schemes and fair wages to improve their living conditions.

Sportspeople are also fortunate because sports keep them physically active. Through sports, they can improve their fitness, develop discipline, make friends, and sometimes achieve fame and financial success.

What Is a Home Gym?

Many people say that they do not have enough time to visit a gym. For such people, a home gym can be a useful option.

A home gym is a place in your house where you can exercise regularly. You do not need a large room or expensive equipment to begin.

You can start with a small space and some basic equipment. For example, you can use a yoga mat, skipping rope, and light exercise weights, depending on your needs.

As your budget allows, you can gradually add more equipment.

and government employees. They encouraged me and helped me stay motivated.

Like every journey, mine also had ups and downs. However, exercise gave me a feeling of happiness and positivity. I felt more energetic and noticed improvements in my daily routine.

My experience taught me that regular physical activity can help us develop discipline and confidence.

Based on my experience, I encourage young people to take part in sports and fitness activities. These activities can help them use their free time positively, develop good habits, and learn kindness and discipline.

Young people should also stay away from smoking, drugs, and other harmful habits.

However, everyone should exercise according to their age and ability. Beginners should learn the correct techniques from a qualified trainer to avoid injuries.

How to Start a Home Gym

Before setting up a home gym, it is helpful to consult a qualified fitness trainer.

A trainer can guide you about suitable exercises, basic equipment, and safe ways to exercise different parts of the body.

You can also encourage your brothers, sisters, and parents to join you in simple fitness activities.

Family exercise can be enjoyable and can help everyone develop healthy habits.

Remember, you do not need an expensive gym to stay active. Walking, stretching, cycling, and playing outdoor games are also good ways to improve your fitness.

The important thing is to remain active and make exercise a regular part of your life.

The Importance of Gyms in Schools and Colleges

Schools can play an important role in promoting physical fitness among students.

Small gym facilities can be established in schools where students can learn simple exercises under proper supervision. This can help them understand the importance of physical activity from an early age.

Colleges that already have gym facilities should make them available to interested students under proper supervision.

Such facilities can encourage students to take part in

This is a serious concern for families and society. We should work together to protect our young generation and guide them towards a better future.

Parents, teachers, community members, and the government all have an important role to play.

We should encourage young people to participate in sports, reading, cultural programmes, and other positive activities.

Local gym centres, sports clubs, and playgrounds can provide useful opportunities for young people to spend their free time productively.

We should also remember that people facing stress, anxiety, or depression may need support from their families, trusted people, and qualified health professionals.

Exercise can support mental well-being, but it is not a replacement for professional medical care when someone needs it.

Our goal should be to build a society where young people feel supported, respected, and encouraged to make healthy choices.

Conclusion: Exercise for a Better Life

Good health is one of the greatest blessings in life. We should never ignore it while working towards money, fame, and success.

Regular exercise, healthy food, proper sleep, and good daily habits can help us lead a better life.

A home gym is one way to remain active, but it is not the only way. Walking, playing games, cycling, and doing simple exercises can also help us stay fit.

During winter in Kashmir, we should take special care of our health, dress warmly, eat balanced meals, and remain physically active in safe ways.

Let us encourage our families, friends, students, and neighbours to adopt healthy habits.

Let us work together to build a healthier society and a brighter future for our young generation.

Stay active, eat healthy, think positively, and take care of yourself and others.

Alhamdulillah for the blessings of Almighty Allah.

Healthy People, Healthy Nation.

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Hylo Open: Sindhu, Lakshya advance; Prannoy crashes out



United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 29 :PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen began their BWF Hylo Open campaigns with victories on Wednesday, joining several other Indian shuttlers in the second round of the Super 500 tournament in Saarbrücken. However, HS Prannoy failed to progress after losing to France's sixth seed Toma Junior Popov in straight games.

Second seed Sindhu made a comfortable start in the women's singles draw, defeating UAE's Prakriti

Bharath 21-10, 21-10 in just 28 minutes. Coming off a runner-up finish at last week's French Open, the Indian controlled the contest from the outset and never allowed her opponent to settle.

Seventh seed Lakshya had to work harder to secure his place in the next round. The Indian lost the opening game 16-21 against Finland's Joakim Oldorff but responded strongly, taking the next two games 21-9, 21-13 to complete the comeback victory in just over an hour.

Kiran George also advanced in men's singles, beating

Malaysia's Cheam June Wei 21-18, 21-17 in straight games.

Prannoy, however, could not make the most of his opportunity against Popov. The Indian narrowly lost the opening game 21-23 before going down 16-21 in the second to bow out of the tournament.

Tharun Mannepal and Sankar Subramanian also suffered first-round exits, losing to Chinese Taipei's Chi Yu Jen and Finland's Kalle Koljonen, respectively. Ayush Shetty, meanwhile, withdrew from the tournament before it began due to an injury sustained at last week's French Open.

In women's singles, sixth seed Unnati Hooda recovered from a game down to defeat Czechia's Tereza Svabikova 17-21, 21-12, 21-11. After losing the opening game, Hooda found her rhythm and dominated the next two to seal the match.

Isharani Baruah also progressed, overcoming Germany's Miranda Wilson 21-19, 21-9. Anmol Kharb had a closer contest against Sri Lanka's Ranithma Liyanage but held on to win 21-18, 22-20, wrapping up the match in two games. Malvika Bansod came out on top in an all-Indian clash against Devika Sihag. Bansod dropped the first game 18-21 but bounced back emphatically, winning the next two 21-10, 21-14 to move into the second round.

However, it was the end of the campaign for Ashmita Chaliha and Aakarshi Kashyap. Chaliha took the opening game against Bulgaria's Kaloyana Nalbantova but lost the next two 12-21, 8-21 to go down 18-21, 21-12, 21-8. Kashyap was beaten 21-12, 21-18 by Ukraine's Polina Buhrova. UNI TB AAB

15-year-old Karnataka prodigy Uma Kashvi scripts WPL history

United News Of India

BENGALURU, OCT 29 :Karnataka's 15-year-old all-rounder Uma Kashvi has become the youngest player ever bought at a Women's Premier League (WPL) auction, with Delhi Capitals signing the teenager for Rs 10 lakh in a move that underlines the growing spotlight on India's emerging cricketing talent.

At 15 years and 202 days, Kashvi broke the record previously held by Deeya Yadav, who was 16 when she was signed at last year's auction. Her selection at the 2027 auction in Kochi on October 28 marks a major milestone for a cricketer who has already made her presence felt with extraordinary performances in age-group cricket.

The most striking evidence of her potential came in the 2025-26 Women's Under-15 One-Day Trophy, where she finished as the tournament's leading run-scorer with 516 runs at an average of 172, including three centuries and a half-century.

Against Manipur on January 10, 2026, Kashvi

hammered an unbeaten 158 off just 66 balls, striking 23 fours and seven sixes. Her explosive innings



powered Karnataka to 321 for five in 35 overs, before the side sealed a commanding 275-run victory. A right-arm off-spinner capable of contributing in the middle order, Kashvi has demonstrated that her promise extends beyond batting. In Karnataka's Under-19 T20 Trophy quarter-final against Vidarbha on October 22, she claimed three wickets for 18 runs in four overs and scored 11 runs as Karnataka defended 140 for seven to win by six runs.

15 JKAP IR Bn, Organises Quiz, Drawing and Debate Competitions for Students at KB PHSS in Sanjwan Jammu

Gulfam Barji

JAMMU/OCTOBER:29 :As part of the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2026-27, the 15th JKAP IR Bn, organised quiz,

JKAP IR Bn, Haji Abdul Hameed Choudhary, Chief Patron; Ashraf Ali Choudhary, Chairman, Sonia Nanda, Headmistress Nehreer Khan, Principal, Danish Sharma, Programme Coordinator, and DySP



drawing and debate competitions for students from various schools at KB Public Higher Secondary School KBPHSS Sunjwan Jammu on October 28 to commemorate the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The programme aimed to familiarise students with the life, national contributions and ideals of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel while fostering awareness among the younger generation about national unity, integrity and patriotism. The event was attended by SSP Dushyant Sharma, CO of the 15th

Anuradha Raina of the battalion, besides other officers, staff members, teachers and students from various schools from Jammu division. On the occasion participants were briefed about the life and legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and his remarkable contribution to national integration through the unification of various princely states after India's independence. Students participated enthusiastically in the competitions showcasing their knowledge, creativity and communication skills.

Ranji Trophy: Pramanik's maiden 10-wicket haul powers Bengal to third straight win

United News Of India

KOLKATA, OCT 29 :Bengal strengthened their hold on top spot in Ranji Trophy Elite Group C after spinner Pradipta Pramanik claimed his maiden 10-wicket match haul in a commanding 287-run victory over Kerala on Thursday. Shahbaz Ahmed also delivered a decisive all-round performance as Bengal completed their third successive win of the season.

Kerala, resuming the fourth and final day at 53/4 while chasing 408, were dismissed for 120 in 38.4 overs at the KCA Cricket Ground in Mangalapuram. The victory took Bengal to 18 points, six ahead of Maharashtra, who collected three points for a first-innings lead over Gujarat in Pune.

Pramanik, playing his 19th first-class match, finished with 6/51 in the second innings after taking 4/44 in the first, returning match figures of 10/95. The left-arm spinner removed overnight batter and Kerala captain Vishnu Vinod for 19 without allowing him to add to his score, before dismissing Salman Nizar for one. Veteran pacer Mohammed Shami then struck twice, removing Aditya Sarwate and Vaisakh Chandran as Kerala slipped to 70/8. Mohammed Azharuddeen scored 26 off 44 balls.

Molineux tops WPL auction at Rs 1.1 crore, joins UP Warriorz

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 29 :Australia captain Sophie Molineux emerged as the biggest buy at the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2027 auction in Kochi on Wednesday, joining UP Warriorz for INR 1.1 crore. India batter Kiran Navgire was the most expensive Indian player, with Delhi Capitals securing her services for Rs 75 lakh.

Molineux attracted a bidding contest between UP Warriorz and defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru, who pulled out at Rs 1.05 crore. UPW eventually won the race for the Australian allrounder, who led her country to their seventh T20 World Cup title in July and has also been their leading wicket-taker this year.

RCB, who went through the first 10 sets without making a purchase, strengthened their squad in the accelerated round by signing Australia allrounder Jess Jonassen for her base price of Rs 40 lakh and South Africa's Chloe Tryon for Rs 30 lakh. Grace Harris, released by RCB before the auction, returned to UP Warriorz for Rs 30 lakh.

UPW were the busiest team, filling all eight



of their available slots after entering the auction with Rs 3.75 crore. Their cricket director Kshemal Waingankar said Molineux and Harris would give the side greater flexibility. "We were going to get Molineux at any cost," Waingankar said. He added that Molineux's leadership and bowling, combined with Harris's power-hitting, would allow the team to experiment with different combinations. UPW also signed India allrounders Sneha Rana and wicketkeeper-batter Sushma Verma for Rs 30 lakh each, as well as Scotland captain Kathryn Bryce for Rs 10 lakh. Rana, who has represented RCB, Gujarat Giants and Delhi Capitals, said she was excited.

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