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 Voice To The Voiceless



P:12
India Head Coach Gambhir
calls for bowling solutions

Major arms cache
found in Sopore forest

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SOPORE, OCT 10 :: A large cache of arms, ammunition and explosive material, including two assault rifles, four pistols and three Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), was recovered from a forest area in north Kashmir's Sopore, police said on Saturday. The seizure, described by police as a "significant achievement" in ongoing counter-terrorism efforts, also included 11 hand grenades and a Multi Grenade Launcher (MGL).

According to police, the recovery was made during a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) launched in the forest area of Mukaam Cherhar, under the jurisdiction of Police Station Bomai, based on specific intelligence inputs generated by Sopore Police.

During the search, a blue barrel and a bag were found concealed beneath a large boulder. The Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) was immediately called to the spot for examination and safe handling of the suspected explosive material.

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GCCs to Become Vital Pillar of
J&K's Industrial Ecosystem: Manoj Sinha

LG Identifies six key advantages for global investors; says
 J&K can emerge as a hub of innovation, technology and talent



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, OCTOBER 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday expressed confidence that Jammu and

Kashmir could emerge as a significant destination for Global Capability Centres (GCCs), asserting that the sector could become a vital pillar of the Union Territory's industrial ecosystem over the next decade.

Addressing the valedictory session of the J&K GCC Summit 2026, he highlighted the region's young talent pool, improving infrastructure, investor-friendly policies, lower operating costs and growing startup ecosystem as key drivers of future growth. Sinha identified six major advantages for investors, including financial support, special incentives for pioneering multinational companies, the return of local talent, first-mover opportunities and emerging prospects in agri-tech, tourism-tech and handicraft digitisation. Citing the growth of startups from 69 in 2020 to 1,305 at present, he said improved connectivity and infrastructure were creating fresh opportunities for industrial expansion. Outlining a four-pillar roadmap focused on talent development, credible implementation, regional advantages and inclusive growth, the LG called for stronger industry-academia

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

Omar Abdullah Calls
for Future-Ready Education
Beyond Exams

CM stresses critical thinking, digital literacy and holistic learning at New Delhi summit

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday called for an education system that prepares students for life beyond examinations by nurturing critical thinking, creativity, digital literacy and adaptability. Addressing the School Leader of the Year 2026 Summit and Awards in New Delhi, he emphasised the role of school leaders in building inclusive, innovative and student-centric institutions, while advocating the responsible use of artificial intelligence, continuous teacher training and equitable access to quality education for children in rural and underserved areas.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today called for a future-ready education system that prepares children for life beyond

examinations, equipping them with critical thinking, digital literacy, adaptability and a strong sense of responsibility. The Chief Minister was



addressing the School Leader of the Year 2026 Summit & Awards in New Delhi, which brought together leading educators, school principals and institutional heads to celebrate excellence, innovation and leadership in K-12 education. Emphasising the role of school

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Fresh Snowfall in Gulmarg;
More Rain and Snow Likely in J&K

MeT forecasts wet spell on October 13-14, followed by dry weather from October 17



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10: Fresh light snowfall in the higher reaches of Gulmarg on Saturday signalled an early winter chill as the Meteorological Department forecast another spell of rain and snow across Jammu and Kashmir next week. The snowfall brought a fresh spell of cold weather to the upper reaches of the famous tourist destination, with cloudy conditions prevailing in the area.

According to the latest weather forecast, Gulmarg is likely to experience mostly cloudy conditions on Saturday, with the possibility of precipitation during the evening and night.

The tourist resort is expected to record a maximum temperature of around 12 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 5 degrees Celsius. The forecast indicates that cloudy weather will

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Tarang Shakti Highlights India's
Defence Self-Reliance : Rajnath Singh

Raksha Mantri stresses indigenous technology and international cooperation to meet emerging security challenges

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JODHPUR, OCTOBER 10: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday underscored the importance of indigenous defence capabilities and international partnerships while addressing participants of Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 at Air Force Station Jodhpur. Highlighting the growing role of artificial intelligence, drones, cyber capabilities and precision weapons in modern warfare, he said India must strengthen domestic defence manufacturing while deepening cooperation with trusted partners. The multinational exercise brought together air forces from seven countries and 32 observer nations to enhance operational understanding and interoperability.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh addressed the participants of the second edition of Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026



at Air Force Station Jodhpur on October 10, 2026. Hosted by the Indian Air Force (IAF) from 26 September to 12 October 2026, the multinational air exercise brought together air forces from seven Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs) including Australia, Bangladesh, France, Germany, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America along with 32 observer nations.

Congratulating the IAF and all organisations and personnel involved in the successful conduct of the exercise, the Raksha Mantri welcomed the participating nations and appreciated their contribution to strengthening professional understanding and operational cooperation. He noted that the presence of participating air forces had added significant value to the exercise and expressed hope

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Police attaches land worth
approx. Rs 1 crore belonging
to absconders in Handwara

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

HANDWARA, OCTOBER 10: Police in Handwara have initiated action for the attachment of immovable properties situated at Kohru and Udiipora, Langate, in connection with the investigation of FIR No. 198/2003 of UAPA Act

Industry Must Commercialise Indian
Innovation Faster : Jitendra Singh

Minister highlights quantum communication milestone and calls for stronger industry-research partnerships

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday called upon industry to accelerate the commercialisation of scientific research and strengthen India's technological self-reliance ahead of the 2047 development goals. Addressing the 121st Annual Session of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he highlighted India's achievement of 1,000 kilometres of quantum-secure communication against a target of 2,000 kilometres and the expansion of the bioeconomy, urging closer collaboration among government, industry, academia and start-ups to transform indigenous innovations into globally competitive technologies.



Industry must come forward to accelerate innovation, translate scientific research into commercial ventures and scale up India's technological capabilities to achieve the national objectives set for 2047

and strengthen the country's strategic sovereignty, said Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, and Minister of

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124 former IAS, IFS
officers write open letter to
citizens, defend EC, SIR

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 10: A total of 124 former IAS, IFS and allied services' officers have issued an open letter to the citizens of India, strongly defending the Election Commission (EC) and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll, while questioning allegations of vote rigging without credible evidence.

Highlighting India's transformation from an era of booth capturing, ballot-box stuffing and poll violence, the officers said today's electoral system has multiple layers of checks and safeguards, including polling agents, EVM sealing, strong-room security and VVPAT verification. They cited last year's Bihar Assembly polls, which recorded no re-polling and

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INDIA Bloc's Voter Roll
Protest 'Baseless': Sunil Sharma

LoP defends Election Commission, accuses opposition of politicising electoral revision

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Sharma on Saturday termed the INDIA bloc's proposed protest over alleged electoral irregularities "baseless", defending the Election



Commission of India and supporting the revision of electoral rolls to correct entries and remove ineligible names. He accused opposition parties of politicising the issue, while his claims regarding voter deletions and alleged foreign voters were not independently substantiated in his remarks. Sharma also asserted that Kashmir's

security and tourism environment had improved and condemned the reported assault on a Kashmiri youth in Delhi.

Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Sharma on Saturday termed the INDIA bloc's proposed protest over alleged electoral irregularities "baseless", accusing opposition parties of trying to create unrest in the country. Addressing reporters, Sharma defended the Election Commission of India, saying it was a constitutional institution and that questioning it in this manner was not good for democracy.

"The Chief Election Commissioner is a constitutional institution of India. It is not a person, it is an institution," he said.

Sharma questioned the opposition's objections to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls

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Waqf Board to Intensify
Anti-Drug Campaign Across J&K

Darakhshan Andrabi urges religious leaders to strengthen awareness and youth counselling

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Saturday called for intensifying the anti-drug campaign across the Union Territory, urging Imams, Khateebhs and religious scholars to strengthen



awareness, counselling and community participation. Chairing a meeting at the Waqf Central Office in Sonwar, she emphasised character-building among young people and called for sustained initiatives

through Friday sermons, religious gatherings and outreach programmes to prevent addiction and encourage families to support vulnerable youth. Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Saturday called for intensifying the campaign against drug abuse and other social evils across the Union Territory, urging religious scholars, Imams and Khateebhs to play a proactive role in safeguarding the younger generation from narcotics and harmful influences.

Chairing a special meeting of Maulanas, Muftis, Imams, Khateebhs and Imam-o-Khateebhs at the Waqf Central Office in Sonwar here, Andrabi reviewed the ongoing awareness initiatives and stressed the need for greater community participation in combating drug addiction.

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Mawlid-e-Masood SAW
celebrated at Nowhatta
shrine in Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 10 : Mawlid-e-Masood (SAW) was celebrated with religious fervour and devotion at Ziyarat Qutb Alam Hazrat Bahauddin Ganj Baksh (RA) in Qutubdinpora, Nowhatta, Srinagar, with devotees gathering to mark the auspicious occasion.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a spokesperson said Mawlid-e-Masood SAW, was celebrated with religious fervour, devotion and enthusiasm at Ziyarat Qutb Alam Hazrat Bahauddin Ganj Baksh (RA), Qutubdinpora, Nowhatta, Srinagar. He said on the auspicious occasion, the Valley's renowned Maulood Khtwan and religious preacher, Janab Al-Haj Syed Mohammad Ashraf Kamli, recited the Maulood, filling the spiritual gathering with devotion and reverence for Prophet Muhammad SAW.

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3rd Edition of Kashmir Marathon: Div Com reviews Preparations

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg today chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the 3rd Edition of the Kashmir Marathon, taking stock of the arrangements being made by the nodal Tourism Department and other stakeholder departments for the smooth and successful conduct of the event.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Director Tourism, and officers from the departments of Information, PHE, KPDC, R&B, SMC, YSS, Health, JKTDC, Hospitality and Protocol, SSCL, SRTC, Agriculture, Sports Council, LCMA, SDRF, Police, Fire and Emergency Services, and other concerned departments.



During the meeting, it was informed that the Kashmir Marathon will be held on October 25, with a three-day Marathon Expo scheduled to be organised at Polo Ground. The event has attracted significant international

participation, with 67 foreign nationals from 12 countries having registered so far.

Both the full marathon, covering 42.19 kilometres, and the half marathon, spanning 21.09 kilometres, will be conducted on

the same day in the morning.

To ensure the safety and well-being of participants, 17 aid stations will be established along the marathon route to provide necessary assistance.

Addressing the meeting, the Div Com directed all concerned departments to

nominate nodal officers to ensure effective interdepartmental coordination and timely execution of assigned responsibilities.

Emphasising the need to enhance the visual appeal of the marathon route, he called for beautification through the placement of potted flowers.

He also directed the Roads and Buildings Department to conduct a thorough inspection of the route and ensure that all potholes are filled to provide a smooth and safe running surface.

The concerned authorities were further instructed to undertake the pruning of trees along the marathon loop.

Highlighting the importance of maintaining the scenic beauty of Srinagar, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the need to ensure cleanliness around Dal Lake.

He also directed the deployment of volunteers at appropriate locations and the establishment of medical camps with adequate staff to address any health-related emergencies during the event.

Meanwhile, the Traffic Police was directed to publicise designated parking locations well in advance to facilitate participants and ensure the smooth regulation of vehicular movement on the day of the marathon.

J&K Govt to frame new media policy within four months: Sakina Itoo

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCT 10: The Jammu and Kashmir government will formulate a new media policy within four months to bring greater accountability and discipline to the media landscape, Minister Sakeena Itoo said on Saturday,

Assembly about its decision to introduce a media policy, which would seek to address concerns over irresponsible reporting while recognising the role of professional journalism.

"The media is a bridge between the people and the government. We cannot say that everyone in the media is wrong. There are many highly professional, educated and responsible journalists who perform their duties with dedication," Itoo said, as per news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS).

However, the minister expressed concern over what she described as the emergence of unprofessional individuals operating through Facebook and other social media platforms, questioning their journalistic standards and accountability.

"Today, the problem is that we have Facebook media. Whatever they do or say on Facebook, many of them are

not professional people. At the same time, we have very good, professional and educated people working in the media," she said. Referring to a question raised in the Legislative Assembly regarding the Information Department, Itoo said the government had made its position clear on the proposed policy.



expressing concern over the growing influence of unprofessional individuals operating through social media platforms.

Speaking to reporters in Kulgam as per News Agency Kashmir News Service-KNS, Itoo said the government had already informed the Legislative

DC Kishtwar finalises arrangements for Navratri, Mahanavami and Dussehra Festivals

HT News Network

KISHTWAR: To ensure the smooth and safe celebration of the upcoming festivals, the District Administration Kishtwar, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma today convened a meeting with officers from various line departments and representatives of religious organisations.

The DC emphasised the need for close inter-departmental coordination to complete all necessary arrangements well in advance of the festivals.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Police Department to ensure proper and sufficient security arrangements across the town and adjoining areas, including at all temples and in and around the Adarsh Dramatic Club. Additionally, he called for intensive night checking and patrolling within the town and its suburbs.

The Jal Shakti (PHE) Department was directed to maintain round-the-clock availability of safe drinking water, including the deployment of chlorinated drinking



water tankers at key locations such as Dharamshala and Adarsh Dramatic Club -the Ramleela venue and at the Chowgan Ground on on Vijayadashmi (Dussehra) festival.

The Ex-EnJPDC Kishtwar was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply and proper lighting arrangements at all temples, at Adarsh Dramatic Club and at notified key locations across the town and its suburbs. Provision of a generator set at the Ramleela venue was also ordered to facilitate the smooth conduct of the religious event.

Executive Officer Municipal Council, Tehsildar, Assistant Director FCS&CA, DO Food Safety and Drugs Control and police were directed to conduct market inspection on regular intervals to keep a check on overcharging and ensure availability of good quality & hygienic food products, including sweets, fruits, vegetables and other essential commodities during the festival period.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and the AYUSH Department were directed to establish First Aid Camps and ensure the availability of ambulance services at both the Ramleela and Dussehra venues.

Chief Justice interacts with Judicial Officers, Addresses Kashmir Advocates Association at Srinagar

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10: Chief Justice High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, today interacted with judicial officers in the Conference Hall of the District Court Complex, Srinagar, and later attended a felicitation programme organised by the Kashmir Advocates Association.

During the interaction with judicial officers, Chief Justice emphasised the importance of discharging judicial responsibilities fearlessly, compassionately and with unwavering commitment to the rule of law. He highlighted the vital role of the judiciary in safeguarding citizens' rights, ensuring access to justice and maintaining public confidence in the justice delivery system.

Chief Justice stressed that collective responsibility, mutual trust and institutional harmony were essential for strengthening the functioning of courts. He encouraged judicial officers to work collaboratively, uphold the highest standards of judicial conduct and foster a peaceful and conducive working environment.

He expressed satisfaction with the professional competence and dedication of judicial officers serving in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and underscored the importance of continuous learning and guidance from senior judicial officers.

At the outset, Naseer Ahmad Dar, Principal



District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, welcomed the Chief Justice on behalf of the judicial officers of the district.

He expressed gratitude for the interaction and reaffirmed the commitment of the District Judiciary, Srinagar, to quality adjudication, timely disposal of cases and reduction of pendency.

Later, the Kashmir Advocates Association organised a felicitation programme at the District Court Complex, Srinagar, to welcome the Chief Justice.

Speaking on the occasion, Adv. Waseem Gul, President of the Kashmir Advocates

Association, extended a warm welcome to the Chief Justice on behalf of the legal fraternity and also welcomed the newly appointed Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar.

Highlighting the role of the District Court as the first accessible forum of justice for ordinary citizens, the

Association President emphasised the importance of a constructive partnership between the Bench and the Bar.

He assured full cooperation in strengthening the administration of justice and sought the Chief Justice's guidance on improving court infrastructure, enhancing

facilities for lawyers and litigants, strengthening legal aid, promoting alternative dispute resolution and providing structured training for young advocates.

The Association President also announced that the Association had accepted in principle the induction of five women lawyers into its Executive Committee, with the decision to be formalised shortly.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Justice expressed happiness at interacting with members of the Bar and the judiciary at Srinagar. Drawing upon his experience as a lawyer, he emphasised the need to encourage and support women advocates, observing that their active participation was essential for the progress of the legal fraternity.

Chief Justice recalled the pioneering contribution of Cornelia Sorabji and stressed the importance of bringing women lawyers to the forefront. Appreciating the Association's decision to induct women members into its Executive Committee, the Chief Justice described lawyers as vital custodians of access to justice and constitutional rights.

He urged the legal fraternity to respond to evolving societal expectations and emphasised the need to embrace technology, observing that failure to adapt could leave institutions behind.

The programmes underscored the shared commitment of the Bench and the Bar to strengthening the justice delivery system, upholding the rule of law and preserving the dignity and independence of the institution of justice.

KU retains 4-star rating under Ministry of Education's Innovation Council framework



HT News Network

SRINAGAR OCTOBER 10: The University of Kashmir (KU) has retained its 4-Star Rating under the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) framework of the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

The University secured a total score of 76.79 out of 100 in the latest IIC performance assessment, declared on October 5, 2026. The rating recognises the University's initiatives to strengthen its innovation ecosystem and encourage students and faculty members to translate ideas into practical solutions. Institutions securing a 4-star rating are considered among the best-performing institutions with a

streamlined campus ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIE), Institute of Technology (IoT), Zakura Campus, which also serves as KU's Institution Innovation Council, facilitates activities aimed at nurturing creativity, entrepreneurial thinking and start-up development across the University.

Congratulating the CIE team, Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said the continued recognition reflected the importance the University places on promoting an innovation-driven academic environment. "Retaining this rating is an encouraging recognition of our continued efforts to nurture innovative thinking and entrepreneurial talent."

Director Agriculture Kashmir reviews Performance of various districts

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10: To review the physical and financial progress achieved under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), JKIP, flagship programmes and the CAPEX budget, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today chaired a meeting of Chief Agriculture Officers of Srinagar, Pulwama, Budgam and Ganderbal along with Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) at Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir, Lalmandi, Srinagar. During the meeting, the Director took a detailed assessment of the progress made under various departmental schemes and programmes, with particular focus on the pace of implementation and financial expenditure. He reviewed the status of ongoing activities and emphasized the need for timely execution of approved works and

achievement of targets within the stipulated timelines.

The Director directed all concerned officers to ensure effective implementation of schemes as per the approved action plan for the current year and maintain close coordination with field functionaries for timely delivery of benefits to farmers. He stressed upon the officers to regularly monitor both physical and financial progress and ensure optimum utilization of allocated funds. The meeting also discussed various issues affecting the implementation of departmental programmes, with the Director calling for prompt resolution of bottlenecks and strict adherence to prescribed guidelines and timelines. The Director reiterated that the department remains committed to ensuring efficient implementation of all farmer-oriented schemes and programmes and strengthening service delivery to the farming community across Kashmir Division.

Ali Emran Champions Vision for a Sustainable Kashmiri Film Industry From Ibtida to Yaqza: Ali Emran Pushes Boundaries of Kashmiri Cinema

HT News Network

SRINAGAR: Filmmaker Ali Emran is carving a distinctive path in Kashmiri cinema, combining indigenous storytelling, philosophical exploration and cinematic experimentation with a broader vision of building a sustainable film industry in the region.

With around a dozen films to his credit, including four feature films—three of them in the Kashmiri language—Emran has consistently explored Kashmir's cultural heritage, spiritual traditions and social realities through independent filmmaking. His forthcoming experimental feature, Yaqza—The Awakening, is scheduled for theatrical release on October 20, 2026. Emran began his feature filmmaking journey with Ibtida: The Beginning (2015), followed by Qouluf, The Ensorcelled* (2024), which explores Kashmir's Sufi and Rishi traditions and the philosophical legacy of Sheikh-ul-Alam Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali and Lal Ded.

The filmmaker describes Qouluf as a landmark in Kashmiri cinema, highlighting its theatrical success at INOX Srinagar and demonstrating the potential of locally rooted stories to attract cinema audiences. His

subsequent feature, Baand (2026), draws inspiration from the traditional Kashmiri folk theatre form Bhaand-



e-Pather. The film was selected as the opening feature of the sixth International Film Festival of Kashmir (IFFK) and also received a selection at the FYH New York International Film Festival. Emran's forthcoming film, Yaqza—The Awakening*, marks another step in his cinematic journey. Written and directed by Emran and produced by Yaqut Mushtaq, the experimental feature explores consciousness, the subconscious and spiritual awakening through an unconventional storytelling approach.

HT EDITORIAL

Save Our Youth Before Drugs Destroy Their Future

Religious Leaders, Families and law Enforcement Agencies Must Join Hands to Combat the Drug Menace Through Awareness, Counselling and Rehabilitation

The battle against the growing drug menace in Jammu and Kashmir demands a collective response that goes beyond police action and arrests. While the recovery of narcotic substances and the apprehension of suspected drug peddlers reflect the continuing efforts of law enforcement agencies, the real challenges lie in preventing young people from falling into the trap of addiction. In this context, the initiative of the Waqf Board Chairperson to involve religious preachers in counselling drug-affected youth has brought an important social and moral dimension to the fight against this deadly menace.

The decision to encourage preachers to counsel youngsters struggling with addiction recognises the influence of religious institutions and community leaders in shaping public attitudes and guiding individuals through difficult circumstances. Religious leaders often maintain close contact with families and communities at the grassroots level. Their involvement can help spread awareness, discourage substance abuse and encourage affected individuals to seek timely assistance. However, such efforts must be sustained, organised and supported by professional counselling and rehabilitation services to achieve meaningful results.

Drug addiction is not merely a law-and-order problem; it is a serious social and public health challenge with consequences that extend to families, educational institutions and the wider community. Every young person lost to addiction represents a painful setback for a family and a loss of potential for society. Education is disrupted, careers are jeopardised, family relationships deteriorate and the hopes of parents are often replaced by anxiety and despair. The growing vulnerability of young people to substance abuse makes prevention an urgent collective responsibility.

The first line of defence must be awareness and early intervention. Parents, teachers and community elders need to recognise the warning signs of substance abuse and respond with understanding rather than silence or humiliation. Youngsters must be made aware of the physical, psychological, social and economic consequences of drug consumption. Schools and colleges should conduct regular awareness programmes, while neighbourhood institutions and voluntary organisations must create opportunities for open discussion about addiction and its consequences.

Religious institutions can make a meaningful contribution by incorporating messages against drug abuse into sermons, community gatherings and counselling initiatives. The emphasis should be on protecting young lives, encouraging responsible behaviour and motivating those affected to seek help. Moral guidance can offer emotional support and a sense of belonging, but it must complement, rather than replace, medical treatment and professional psychological care. Addiction should never be treated simply as a moral failing when effective treatment and rehabilitation may be necessary.

At the same time, there can be no compromise in the fight against drug trafficking. Those who manufacture, transport and distribute illegal narcotic substances for profit must face the full force of the law. Investigations should go beyond the recovery of small quantities and individual arrests to identify the wider networks, suppliers and financial channels sustaining the illegal trade. Intelligence-based policing, inter-agency coordination and public co-operation are essential to prevent drugs from reaching vulnerable communities.

Equally important is the strengthening of de-addiction and rehabilitation facilities. A person struggling with addiction needs access to qualified professionals, appropriate treatment, psychological support and opportunities for social reintegration. Stigma and fear often prevent individuals and their families from seeking help until the situation becomes severe. Society must therefore create an environment in which seeking treatment is viewed as a responsible step towards recovery rather than a cause for shame.

The involvement of the Waqf Board and religious preachers in counselling drug-affected youth should be welcomed as a constructive step towards broadening the campaign against drugs. Nevertheless, the initiative must translate into practical action through regular counselling sessions, awareness drives, family engagement and referrals to qualified treatment providers. Coordination with the administration, police, health authorities, educational institutions and civil society organisations can give such efforts greater reach and continuity.

Ultimately, the responsibility for saving the younger generation cannot be placed on any single institution. The administration must ensure effective enforcement and accessible treatment, religious leaders must strengthen awareness and counselling, educational institutions must promote prevention, and families must remain attentive to the difficulties faced by their children. Communities, too, must refuse to tolerate drug trafficking or provide protection to those involved in the trade.

Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford to lose another generation to addiction. Every young person prevented from experimenting with drugs, every affected individual guided towards treatment and every trafficking network dismantled represents progress in this difficult battle. The objective must not be limited to reducing seizures or increasing arrests; it must be to build a society in which drugs find neither a market nor social acceptance.

The message is unmistakable: save our youth before addiction steals their future. A united campaign combining firm law enforcement, religious and community engagement, professional rehabilitation and sustained public awareness offers the most promising path towards confronting the menace. The time for collective action is now, before more families suffer and more promising lives are pushed towards despair.

Paradise Promises Dignity, Honour and Eternal Joy for Women

Qur'anic teachings affirm that righteous women and men will share the blessings of the Hereafter, where divine justice, spiritual fulfilment and Allah's pleasure transcend worldly limitations



By Bisma Ashraf

For many believers, the Qur'anic descriptions of Paradise evoke images of boundless mercy, everlasting happiness and rewards beyond human imagination. Yet discussions about the Hereafter often focus on the hur al-'ayn, or companions of Paradise, while giving comparatively little attention to the dignity, spiritual status and rewards promised to believing women.

The Qur'an presents a broader vision of Paradise, assuring believers that their faith and righteous deeds will never go unrewarded. In Surah An-Nisa (4:124), Allah declares that whoever does righteous deeds, male or female, while being a believer, will enter Paradise and will not be wronged in the slightest. This establishes a fundamental principle of divine justice: spiritual worth is not determined by gender, but by faith, conduct and Allah's mercy.

The Qur'an also promises shared happiness for believers and their spouses. Surah Az-Zukhruf (43:70) states, "Enter Paradise, you and your spouses, rejoicing." Similarly, Surah At-Tawbah (9:72) promises believing men and women gardens beneath which rivers flow, everlasting dwellings and, above all, the pleasure of Allah, which the verse identifies as the greatest reward. The Qur'anic description of Paradise also



speaks of renewal, purity and freedom from worldly suffering. Surah Al-Waqiah (56:35-38) describes a special creation for the companions of the right, a passage that classical commentators have interpreted in different ways concerning the inhabitants of Paradise. These descriptions convey the transformed nature of the Hereafter, where the limitations and distress of earthly existence no longer prevail.

Questions about the status of believing women in relation to the hur al-'ayn have also attracted considerable discussion. Some narrations attributed to Umm Salamah (may Allah be pleased with her) are cited to suggest that righteous women of this world will enjoy a superior status. However, such reports require careful examination of their authenticity and should not be presented as unquestionably established Prophetic teachings. The Qur'an itself provides a firm foundation for affirming women's honour through its promises of forgiveness, mercy and eternal reward.

Similarly, scholarly opinions differ regarding the precise nature of marital relationships in Paradise, including which husband and a woman who had several husbands during her lifetime

may be reunited with. Although some reports suggest particular answers, their authenticity and interpretation are disputed. It is therefore more appropriate to emphasise the Qur'anic assurance that the people of Paradise will experience happiness, purity and freedom from grief rather than make categorical claims about details that are not conclusively established.

Islamic scripture describes Paradise through images of beautiful garments, adornments, gardens and abundant blessings. These descriptions reflect the honour and comfort promised to its inhabitants. The Qur'an also declares in Surah Fussilat (41:31) that the people of Paradise will

find what their souls desire and what they request. Such assurances affirm the completeness of divine generosity without requiring believers to speculate about every detail of the unseen.

The spiritual significance of Paradise extends far beyond physical beauty or material abundance. In an authentic narration recorded in Sahih Muslim (2824), the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) conveyed that Allah has prepared for His righteous servants blessings

that no eye has seen, no ear has heard and no human heart has imagined. This reminds believers that the reality of the Hereafter transcends worldly comparisons and human understanding.

These teachings also carry an important message for contemporary society. Women's spiritual worth should never be measured solely through their appearance, marital status or social position. Their worship, patience, compassion, pursuit of knowledge and service to humanity are among the many ways they demonstrate faith. The Qur'an describes believing men and women as allies of one another who encourage righteousness and uphold moral responsibility (9:71), reinforcing the shared ethical duties of both genders.

The promise of Paradise offers hope to those who experience hardship, injustice or disappointment in worldly life. The Qur'an repeatedly assures believers that Allah does not wrong anyone and that the

inhabitants of Paradise will be free from sorrow and resentment. While the precise details of every individual's experience in the Hereafter remain beyond complete human knowledge, the assurance of divine justice and mercy is unequivocal.

Ultimately, the Islamic vision of Paradise should not be reduced to narrow comparisons or unsupported claims about particular rewards. Its central message is one of faith, righteousness, compassion and eternal fulfilment. Believing women, like believing men, are promised divine mercy and the opportunity to attain the highest reward through sincere devotion and good deeds.

The ultimate blessing, as the Qur'an reminds believers, is Allah's pleasure. In that promise lies a profound assurance: no righteous deed is forgotten, no sincere sacrifice is lost, and the generosity of the Creator exceeds the limits of human imagination. Paradise, therefore, represents not deprivation or inequality, but the fulfilment of divine promise, where every righteous soul finds honour, peace and everlasting joy.

White Men are Closer To God

an indictment. What happened next was brutal. An enormous manhunt followed him, which to some accounts calls for more than 1000 people. 400 bullets were shot at him before he could even get the basic right of justice in the law court. Two of the others were convicted and sentenced to death and the youngest one



BY-MOOL RAJ

In 1949 before the civil rights and black rights movements progressed, before there was any sort of empathy for the people of color, there were 4 black young black men in lake county Florida who were accused of raping a 17 year old white teenager Norma Paggett.

Fast forward to 2026, a new terrifying case came to light involving seven white and light skinned men dragging and abusing their fellow student in Cornell, one of the Ivy League schools.

A system built by white men who at that time had black slaves will always favour the white men rather than the freed slaves.

In 1949 before the civil rights and black rights movements progressed, before there was any sort of empathy for the people of color, there were 4 black young black men in lake county Florida who were accused of raping a 17 year old white teenager Norma Paggett. This was Florida which was under the authority of Jim Crow's segregation, where there was an established trend of white people without any hesitation accusing black people of crimes, which often resulted in unjust violence. Ernest Thomas - one of the four accused - immediately escaped after being hit with such



who was just 16 years old named Charles Greenlee was sent to life imprisonment. The prosecution was dishonest. It was unfair in its practices and never presented legitimate evidence. When serving prison time the accused black men were treated with utmost disrespect and the most brutal abuse. In 2021 Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi

decades of oppression.

Fast forward to 2026, a new terrifying case came to light involving seven white and light skinned men dragging and abusing their fellow student in Cornell, one of the Ivy League schools. Now looking back and witnessing how strict the law regarding rape was, one would assume that the seven men would have been sitting in

prison right now. But no, this happened back in 2024 and was only possible to come across due to the lawsuit filed against them by the girl who claims to be raped. The deans and heads of Cornell University - all white men - give them a punishment of merely writing an essay of what they did wrong.

Nevertheless, only due to the power of social media's backlash, two of them were expelled, two were suspended for at least two semesters, and others were not found responsible. These punishments are nothing compared to the 400 bullets a black man had to face. A woman claims being raped by seven men while also being intoxicated, but authorities are still not sure whether these alleged convictions are true or not.

Governments can claim that there is prosperity and social cohesion and that discrimination is long gone, but everyone with some mind is aware of the privilege white men receive. They have to spend less of their energy proving themselves and becoming successful because their pale skin and blue eyes do the work for them. On the other hand, people of color and with accents have to spend lifetimes and generations proving their innocence and escaping prejudice. The case of Groveland Four shows us that racism has always been deeply rooted in the law. A system built by white men who at that time had black slaves will always favour the white men rather than the freed slaves.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

Don't Normalise the Abnormal

Spreading Like Wildfire: How Abusive Language, Street Harassment, and Objectification Are Degrading Kashmir's Culture

restraint that once served as a guiding light for humanity. Having worked closely with thousands of students through student welfare and youth initiatives, I frequently receive complaints from female students facing persistent boundary violations. In one instance, a female student reported that a male peer continually stalked and pressured her into a relationship despite her clear refusal, ultimately escalating to sexual harassment. In another case, male students created a private messaging group to share unauthorized photographs of their female batchmates to generate derogatory memes; we immediately escalated the matter to college authorities to ensure intervention. On numerous occasions, young women have reported having their phone numbers harvested to receive unsolicited and inappropriate messages. While there is a formal legal architecture to address these violations, and as a student of Public Administration and Cyber Security, I consistently advocate for reporting such incidents to the Cyber Police and relevant administrative bodies, a deeply concerning pattern persists: most victims are terrified to pursue legal recourse or even make the incident public. The root cause lies in societal hypocrisy. The same society that casually adopts westernized slurs and trivializes street harassment turns around to judge, scrutinize, and socially isolate the victim. Fearing social stigma and public humiliation, young women feel compelled to remain silent. This public silence and victim-blaming grant offenders total immunity, reinforcing their belief that their predatory behavior is acceptable.



Shahid Parvaiz Yatoo

It was a routine Monday morning on campus when I stepped onto the college grounds, only to be met by a group of three young men casually hurling explicit slurs at one another and laughing off the profanity as standard banter. Moments later, one of them stepped forward and attempted to forcibly hand an object to an unknown female student who was repeatedly and visibly refusing. Later that same day, aboard an overcrowded smart bus, the atmosphere shifted from uncomfortable to heartbreaking. A female passenger broke down in tears, crying out that a male commuter had been harassing her. Just a few meters away, oblivious or indifferent, two young boys continued to exchange loud, abusive language while onlookers, including children and elders, sat in silence.

These everyday encounters point to a troubling societal shift: the normalization of friendly abusive culture and the growing insecurity of women in public spaces. Harassment and casual profanity are entirely foreign to our Tehzeeb, our values, and the essence of Kashmiriyat. Our cultural heritage is deeply rooted in mutual respect, dignity, and moral

We must reflect on our cultural roots. In earlier times, whether traveling in buses, walking through neighborhoods, or gathering at home, Kashmiris relied on gentle discourse and the wisdom of our elders (pranan hinz kathi) to express emotion or even anger. When a child made a mistake, elders invoked blessings and mercy rather than resorting to profanity. Today, we witness a rapid erosion of this etiquette. While slang existed in small pockets historically, its daily, unchecked usage and the creation of explicit new vocabulary mark a drastic departure. This shift is heavily fueled by unmonitored social media access. Slang spreads like wildfire (yikun reh tukun tekir) through peer groups, rapidly objectifying women in everyday language. It is a stark irony that a society which once did not tolerate a child uttering a single disrespectful word in front of an elder is now casually adopting explicit profanity in everyday life.

Some may dismiss traditional norms as conservative, but preserving moral boundaries and basic public decency is not conservative; it is essential human etiquette. Modernization does not mean adopting abusive language or tolerating public harassment on our streets. The proliferation of short-form 10-second reels and local digital comedy shows, where crude jokes and gutter language are normalized for cheap laughs, has contributed to a form of brain rot that desensitizes the public. While street harassment remains rampant offline, digital platforms have magnified the issue exponentially. Women who attempt to post educational or meaningful content online are frequently subjected to relentless trolling, gender-based

character assassination, moral policing, and explicit threats.

In recent years, our region has witnessed a disturbing surge in gender-based crimes, exploitation rackets, and cases of abuse perpetrated by fake faith healers. Yet, public reaction often defaults to moral policing rather than systemic accountability. When tragic incidents occur, such as the recent high-profile violence against women reported across the country, the immediate societal reaction is to question why the victim was out past dusk, rather than confronting the predatory mindsets that render public spaces unsafe.

When elders attempt to correct youth using abusive language or playing vulgar media in public, the response is often devoid of shame, met with dismissive remarks like "cze chya mani Kabri wasun" ("Do you have to enter my grave?"). The scale of gendered abuse in Jammu & Kashmir is clearly reflected in official statistics. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data submitted to Parliament reveals that registered crimes against women in the Union Territory stood at 3,405 in 2020.

Shahid Parvaiz Yatoo is a student leader, socio-political activist, and District President of NSUI Pulwama studying Public Administration at Amar Singh College, Srinagar. He was a delegate at the Sansad Youth Parliament and Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament, and actively works on youth advocacy, public policy, and student welfare in Kashmir.

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When Those Who Guard The Sanctuary Of Knowledge Become Its Predators



Jasmine Fatima

The following is not a scene from a horror movie. There is no darkness, no deserted street, no masked stranger lurking in the shadows. It is a classroom. In a university. In broad daylight. And if the reported account is true, what happened there is perhaps more terrifying precisely because the person who allegedly crossed every boundary was not an unknown predator—but a professor, a Head of Department, a man entrusted with the education, evaluation and academic future of the very students who sat before him.

Picture the scene.

A classroom in science department. Young men and women sit quietly, each carrying a different story of struggle behind their academic journey. Some have come from modest homes. Some have watched their parents sacrifice everything so that their children could study. Some have travelled miles, fought financial hardship and spent years preparing for the privilege of sitting in that classroom. They came there believing that a university would be a place that would change their lives, where knowledge would liberate them, and where the person standing at the head of the classroom would be worthy of their respect.

Then, reportedly, the professor calls out a female student's name.

"Stand up."

She stands.

He looks at her, and, in the presence of the entire class, the professor reportedly draws attention to her father's humble occupation, making a degrading remark about his profession, and then turns his attention to the young woman's appearance.

Imagine a young woman standing before an entire classroom, suddenly reduced—not to a student, not to a scholar, not to a human being with dreams and dignity—but to an object of someone else's vulgar amusement.

For a few seconds, she reportedly stands frozen. She says nothing. Words fail her. And then, almost imperceptibly, tears begin to gather in her eyes. She does not scream. She does not protest. She simply stands there, trying to hold herself together while silent tears run down her face.

The room falls silent. Her tears speak, because she cannot.

Before the shock has even settled, the professor reportedly turns to the class and offers himself, astonishingly, as someone who can advise students about alcohol consumption.

Then comes the statement that should make the conscience of every decent society tremble.

Addressing the female students, the man reportedly tells them, in substance, that they should understand who he is; that he has the power to destroy their careers and their lives; that the marks of their theses are in his hands.

And then, reportedly, comes the most grotesque

declaration of all: these young women are not his daughters or sisters; they can, in his words, be his girlfriends or wives.

Stop for a moment.

Read that again.

This was reportedly not whispered in a dark corridor. Because when a predator begins to speak without fear in daylight, in a room full of witnesses, the question is no longer merely about the predator.

The question becomes: what has happened to the ecosystem around him that taught him he had nothing to fear?

If the subsequent reports are accurate, students protested. A complaint was lodged. The matter attracted public and media attention. And then came the familiar institutional choreography: explanations, statements, committees, appeals for calm, and—most disturbingly—attempts to persuade or pacify the victim.

And then, reportedly, the complaint was withdrawn. The frightened person disappeared into silence.

Those who dared to speak up were reportedly summoned to explain their actions and subjected to stern reprimands.

And the alleged perpetrator? Rather than being held accountable, there were indications that he might simply be transferred elsewhere.

Perhaps this is how institutional machinery protects itself: not by proving that nothing happened, but by making the person who complained wish that she had never spoken.

BUT WHO GAVE HIM THE COURAGE?

This is where the real questions begin. What gave this so-called custodian of knowledge, the courage to speak in such a manner before an entire classroom? Was it arrogance? Was it intoxication with authority? Or was it something far more disturbing—the knowledge that consequences, if any, would be manageable?

Who taught him that a student's vulnerability could become a weapon in his hands?

Who made him believe that the marks of a thesis could become a bargaining chip against the dignity of a young woman?

Who are the people behind such men—the mentors, patrons, networks, friendships and invisible hands that allegedly enable individuals in positions of authority to behave as though the institution itself belongs to them?

And what happened to similar complaints in the past? How many students came forward before this? How many quietly withdrew? How many were advised to "adjust"? How many were told to forgive? How many were told not to destroy their careers over "one incident"?

How many young women were made to believe that silence was the price of completing a degree? And what became of those complaints?

Did the celebrated committees actually deliver justice—or did they merely produce paperwork?

If individuals previously accused of serious misconduct continue to occupy influential positions, what exactly are these committees protecting? The victim? Or the institution's reputation?

Did everyone know something, but nobody wanted to act?

There is a profound difference between not knowing and choosing not to know. The first may be ignorance.

The second is a moral decision.

AND WHAT OF THOSE WHO WATCHED?

There is another uncomfortable question. What is the responsibility of the people who witness such behavior and remain silent?

The people who say, "It is not my matter." The people who lower their eyes because they have a promotion to secure, a contract to renew, a favor to obtain, or simply a comfortable life to protect.

Yes, fear is real. Consequences are real. But so is complicity.

History rarely remembers the excuses of those who stood silently beside injustice.

A university is not corrupted only by the person who commits the wrong. It is also weakened by the silence of those who knew, watched and calculated that speaking would cost them more than remaining silent.

WHO WILL CLEAN THE FILTH?

Someone has to. But who? The administration? The committees? The courts? The media? The Society? Or will everyone wait for someone else to take the first step? We speak endlessly about protecting our daughters and sisters.

But what does that protection mean if, when a young woman finally gathers the courage to speak, we ask her to forgive the person who allegedly threatened her future? Her dignity?

What kind of compassion asks the wounded to embrace the hand that wounded them?

Forgiveness may be a virtue when freely chosen by the injured. It must never become an administrative instrument for silencing the injured.

A society that pressures a victim to forgive before establishing accountability is not teaching compassion. It is emboldening the predators, handing them a license to repeat their behavior, secure in the knowledge that the burden of silence will once again fall upon the victim.

AND THIS IS ONLY THE INCIDENT THAT CAME TO LIGHT

Perhaps this is the most frightening thought of all. This is one incident that reportedly surfaced because someone found the courage to speak—even if that courage was later overwhelmed by fear.

But what about the others? What about the students, scholars, who never complained?

What about the research scholars who depend almost completely upon supervisors for their thesis, evaluation, recommendations, extensions, publications and academic futures?

What about the young scholar who knows that one disagreement with a powerful supervisor can delay a thesis for months or years?

What about the student who knows that refusing an inappropriate demand may mean academic isolation?

What about the woman who calculates the cost of speaking and discovers that silence appears cheaper?

Sometimes there are no complaints because fear has already done the work of censorship.

Victim-shaming, whispered questions about a woman's clothes, behavior and the endless demand that she prove her innocence—these are among the oldest weapons used to silence the vulnerable.

And then society congratulates itself for being civilized.

BUT INSTITUTIONAL INJUSTICE DOES NOT END WITH SEXUAL HARASSMENT

There is another class of people who suffer rarely receives headlines: the temporary, contractual

and outsourced employees who keep institutions functioning while remaining permanently insecure.

Some of them have served for years.

And what do they receive in return? A salary that barely keeps pace with life. A contract that must be renewed. A future that remains uncertain.

An institution may spend lakhs beautifying an office, purchasing furniture, renovating spaces and creating impressive surroundings—and yet discover, with remarkable precision, the relevant rule book when a modest salary revision is requested for a person who has served it for years.

When the person who has quietly served the institution for a decade asks for a little dignity in the form of a modest improvement in wages, suddenly the rule book becomes sacred scripture.

Some such employees have reportedly found themselves confronted with an age ceiling that could prevent them from even competing for regular positions, despite having spent years acquiring precisely the institutional experience that such positions require.

Think about the cruelty of that irony. A person is considered experienced enough to serve an institution for ten years—but perhaps too old to compete for a position in that very institution.

What kind of system creates experience and then disqualifies the person who acquired it?

What kind of institutional philosophy uses people for years while refusing to acknowledge their years of service?

AND SOMETIMES, EVEN A HOLIDAY REVEALS THE HEART OF AN INSTITUTION

Perhaps nothing exposes institutional insensitivity more painfully than something as ordinary as a holiday.

If one community's important festival is treated with extraordinary generosity while another community's equally important festival receives only a single day, the question is not merely about the calendar.

These may appear to be separate issues—harassment, contractual exploitation, unequal treatment, institutional privilege.

They are not. They are symptoms of the same disease. The disease is the abuse of power.

The disease begins when one human being starts believing that another human being exists beneath him. It flourishes when institutions protect positions rather than people.

And it becomes incurable when decent people decide that silence is safer than conscience.

THE QUESTIONS WE MUST NOT ESCAPE

So let us ask ourselves, without fear and without pretending:

We must ask who protects the vulnerable when the powerful cross the line, what becomes of complaints once public attention fades, and whether institutional committees deliver justice or merely reports. How many careers have been damaged, and how many employees have endured years of insecurity, simply because they dared to speak? An institution cannot preach values to its students while compromising those very principles within its own corridors. To the women who face such challenges, no career or academic achievement should come at the cost of dignity and self-respect. To parents, believe your daughters, listen without judgment, and stand by them rather than urging silence in the name of security or reputation. Do not teach your daughters that endurance in the face of humiliation is strength; teach them that their dignity matters, their voices deserve to be heard, and they never have to face injustice alone.

AND TO THE REST OF US

We do not need more speeches about morality. We need courage.

Not the courage that appears on social media for a day. Not the courage that arrives when the cameras are switched on. Not the courage that is available only when speaking carries no personal cost.

We need the difficult kind—the courage that stands beside the powerless when nobody is watching.

The courage to say "No" to a powerful person. The courage to ask why a complaint disappeared.

The courage to question an institution we depend upon. The courage to defend a contractual worker whose salary is insignificant to us but whose entire household depends upon it.

The courage to refuse to laugh when someone is humiliated. The courage to stop calling cowardice "adjustment".

And the courage to understand that silence is not always neutrality. Sometimes silence is the final brick in the wall that imprisons the victim.

We have spent generations teaching people to fear authority. Perhaps it is time to teach authority to fear accountability.

The filth will not disappear merely because we refuse to name it. The darkness will not leave because we close the curtains. Someone has to open the window. Someone has to let the light in.

Perhaps that someone is you. Perhaps it is me.

Perhaps it is every student who refuses to remain silent, every teacher who refuses to protect misconduct, every employee who refuses to accept humiliation as destiny, every parent who stands firmly beside a daughter, and every administrator who remembers that an institution exists for human beings—not the other way around.

So I leave the reader with questions rather than conclusions.

How many more must suffer before we stop calling silence peace?

How many complaints must disappear before we ask where they went?

How many careers must be threatened before we question the hands holding the power?

And how many times will we choose our personal safety, comfort and petty interests over the dignity of another human being?

I do not claim to have all the answers. I would genuinely like to hear yours.

Write. Question. Disagree. Challenge. Tell me where I am wrong.

But let us, at least once, refuse to be cowards. Let us rise above the small calculations of personal benefit. Let us remember that one day every chair of power becomes an empty chair, every designation becomes a line in an old file, every signature becomes meaningless ink, and every privilege eventually disappears.

Let us choose, while we still can, to be remembered as human beings.

And perhaps the greatest question before us is whether we still possess the courage to stand beside our women when they are threatened, humiliated or silenced by those in positions of power—or whether we will remain silent and leave them to face that battle alone.

Jasmine Fatima
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Nothing is impossible. The word itself says, I m possible!.....NSG Mahila wing commandos!



By M S Nazki

Woman standing proudly with hands on hips with her shadow adding a flowing superhero cape to represent empowered women! Throughout history, fearless women leaders have taken bold steps to blaze new paths and many have used public platforms to empower others

-We realize the importance of our voices only when they are silenced

-There is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."

-It's not your job to like me, it's mine."

-Our deepest wishes are whispers of our authentic self. We must learn to respect them. We must learn to listen."

-We can do no great things, only small things with great love

Several historic women have achieved top command roles in the United States military, breaking long-standing gender barriers across different branches.

Key Female Military Commanders

- Admiral Lisa Franchetti: The first woman to lead the U.S. Navy as Chief of Naval Operations and the first female member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- Admiral Linda Fagan: The first woman to lead any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, serving as the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard.
- General Lori Robinson: The first female officer to command a major unified combatant command, leading NORAD and NORTHCOM from 2016 to 2018.
- Admiral Michelle Howard: The first

female four-star admiral in the U.S. Navy and the first African-American woman to command a Navy ship.

- Captain Amy Bauernschmidt: The first woman to command a U.S. nuclear aircraft carrier (the USS Abraham Lincoln).

Would you like information on a specific branch of the military, or a deeper biography on one of these commanders?

-Nupur Sheoran (born 26 September 1998) is an Indian heavyweight boxer. A five-time national champion, she is a two-time gold medallist at the 2025 World Boxing Cup and silver medallist at the 2025 World Boxing Championships. She is the granddaughter of boxing legend Hawa Singh!

-Honorary Captain Hawa Singh Sheoran



(16 December 1937 - 14 August 2000) was an Indian Heavyweight boxer, who dominated Indian and Asian amateur boxing for a decade in his weight class. He won the Asian Games gold medal in the Heavyweight category in consecutive editions of the games, in the 1966 Asiad and the 1970 Asiad both held in Bangkok, Thailand - a feat unmatched by any Indian boxer to date (August 2008). He won the National Championships in the Heavyweight category a record 11 consecutive times - from 1961 to 1972.

-Many global militaries now integrate women into special operations, elite combat roles, and commando training programs.

Norway

- Norway established the Hunter Troop (Jegertroppen) in 2014 as the world's first all-female special forces training unit.
- The rigorous year-long program trains women in survival, parachute jumping, and long-range reconnaissance to overcome operational blind spots where all-male teams struggled to gather intelligence locally.

United States

- The U.S. military opened all combat positions—including elite special operations units like the Army Rangers and Navy SEALs—to women in 2016.
- Female soldiers have successfully graduated from the grueling U.S. Army Ranger School, earning their Ranger tabs.

India

- India features prominent trailblazers in combat roles, led by Dr. Seema Rao, the country's first female combat and commando trainer who has voluntarily trained over 15,000 soldiers across three decades.
- The Indian Armed Forces have increasingly inducted women into combat support, military police, and specialized regional security units, while elite forces like the Navy's MARCOS have opened doors to female volunteers.

Other Nations

- Israel integrates female soldiers extensively across its armed forces, with women comprising a significant portion of conscripts and serving in various combat and border defense roles.
- China and several European nations like Sweden and Denmark actively train and deploy women in combat and specialized tactical positions.

Nikah Ya Numaash?

“Seek Barakah, not applause.”



By Ashfaq Zehgeer

“A wedding is an occasion. Marriage is a life. Let us not spend the future to decorate one night.”

THE CYCLE OF SOCIAL COMPARISON

One lavish wedding raises the standard for the next.

The next family feels pressure to match it.

Another family tries to exceed it. Soon, what began as one family's personal choice becomes a social expectation.

And those who cannot afford the competition may feel ashamed.

This is why changing our language matters.

Instead of saying:

“Kya zabardast shaadi thi!”

only because the wedding was expensive, perhaps we should also admire:

“What a beautiful, dignified and well-organised wedding.”

Instead of praising the quantity of food, let us appreciate thoughtful hospitality.

Instead of admiring the size of the expenditure, let us admire wisdom and generosity.

Society changes when society changes what it chooses to celebrate.

If extravagance receives applause while simplicity receives ridicule, families will continue competing.

But if a dignified, timely, responsible and warm wedding receives equal—or greater—social respect, the pressure will gradually weaken.

HOSPITALITY SHOULD NOT BECOME OVERFEEDING

Kashmiri hospitality is something we should be proud of.

But hospitality is not measured by how many times we feed a guest before the actual meal.

If Wazwaan is the main meal, perhaps we do not need several rounds of substantial refreshments beforehand.

The principle can be simple:

Serve with love.

Serve appropriately.

Serve according to need.

Avoid waste.

Generosity does not require excess.

A guest does not feel more loved simply because he or she has been served repeatedly to the point of discomfort.

Sometimes, the most thoughtful hospitality is knowing when enough is enough.

RESPECT YOUR GUESTS' TIME

There is another habit that deserves serious reflection: making guests wait for hours.

An invitation may say 1:00 PM while the meal is served much later.

Among the guests may be elderly people, children, students, working professionals, people who have travelled long distances and those with health limitations.

Hospitality is not merely about placing food before someone.

Hospitality also means respecting people's time, health and dignity.

If the meal is expected at 4:00 PM, communicate accordingly.

If a baraat is likely to begin late, consider the effect on hundreds of people. Starting functions on time and avoiding unnecessary delays would make weddings more comfortable for everyone.

District Admin Ganderbal bids Warm Farewell to DC Jatin Kishore



HT News Network

GANDERBAL: The District Administration Ganderbal today accorded a warm and affectionate farewell to Deputy Commissioner, Jatin Kishore, on his transfer from Ganderbal to Budgam, with officers and officials expressing their appreciation for his leadership, dedication and significant contributions towards the development and welfare of the district during his tenure as Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal.

During the farewell function, officers from various departments lauded his administrative acumen, professional commitment and people-centric approach, recalling his efforts towards strengthening governance, expediting developmental works and ensuring effective delivery of public services. They appreciated his leadership in fostering coordination among departments and addressing public grievances

with sincerity and promptness.

The officers particularly appreciated his role in the successful conduct of the Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela and the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, highlighting the comprehensive arrangements, meticulous planning and effective inter-departmental coordination that ensured the smooth conduct of these major religious events. His emphasis on the convenience, safety and welfare of pilgrims was also acknowledged.

His contributions towards the implementation and monitoring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, flagship government programmes and developmental initiatives were also appreciated. The speakers highlighted his focus on administrative efficiency, accountability, transparency and timely execution of works, besides his efforts to ensure that the benefits of various government schemes reached eligible beneficiaries.

DC Bandipora inaugurates Second 'Waqar Knowledge and Youth Empowerment Centre' at Arin

HT News Network

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Saturday inaugurated the second Waqar Knowledge and Youth Empowerment Centre at Arin, established by the District Administration Bandipora with the support of the Indian Army to promote education, career guidance and youth empowerment.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by guest of honour Irfan Ahmad Lone, who qualified the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2025 with All India Rank 957, besides senior officers of the district administration and the Indian Army, students, youth and a large number of local residents.

Addressing the gathering, Irfan Ahmad Lone, a specially abled resident



of Mirpora, Naidkhai, Sonawari, shared his journey of overcoming challenges while pursuing his academic and professional goals. An alumnus of Hindu College, University of Delhi, and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU),

he encouraged youth to remain determined, work hard and smart, and never lose hope despite failures and adversities.

Appreciating the District Administration Bandipora for

establishing such platforms, he said the centres could play a vital role in guiding young people towards education, employment and other constructive opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that Irfan Ahmad Lone's achievements and determination were an inspiration for all, demonstrating how consistency and perseverance could help overcome challenges and achieve goals despite adverse circumstances.

The Deputy Commissioner formally dedicated the centre to the people of Arin and thanked the Indian Army for its valuable support in establishing the facility. She urged local residents to take ownership of the centre and ensure its proper maintenance and effective functioning for the benefit of the community.

District Admin Budgam bids farewell to outgoing DC, ADDC, ACR

Outgoing DC appreciates officers, officials as best team for dedication, commitment towards official duties

HT News Network

BUDGAM: A farewell function was today organised at District Budgam to bid farewell to Deputy Commissioner Budgam Athar Amir Khan, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Vivek Agarwal, and Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Afroza Bano, on their transfer to new assignments.

The function was attended by SSP Budgam Hariprasad KK, ADC Budgam Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, and senior officers and officials of the district administration, who appreciated the dedicated services and contributions of the outgoing officers during their tenure in the district.

SSP Budgam, in his remarks, appreciated the close coordination and cooperation extended by the outgoing officers to the police administration. He said their



leadership and collaborative approach contributed significantly towards strengthening inter-departmental coordination and ensuring effective delivery of public services.

ADC Budgam appreciated the guidance and support extended by the outgoing Deputy Commissioner and other officers.

He said their commitment to public service, accessibility and focus on timely resolution

of public issues had left a positive impact on the district administration.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Budgam expressed gratitude to all officers and officials for their cooperation and teamwork during his tenure. Appreciating their dedication and commitment towards official duties, he described the district administration as "one of the finest teams" he had the opportunity to work with.

District Admin Anantnag bids Warm Farewell to ADDC Vikas Ahlawat

DC calls his dedication an inspiration for Officers

HT News Network

ANANTNAG: The District Administration Anantnag today accorded a warm and heartfelt farewell to Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat, at the DC Office Complex, in recognition of his dedicated service, commitment to public welfare and valuable contributions to the administration. The farewell function was attended by Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, ADC Muzamil Ahmad Beigh, Assistant Commissioner revenue Tariq Ahmad Malik, SDM Pahalgam, Chief Planning Officer (CPO), besides other district officers and officials of the DC Office Complex. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, appreciated the dedication, professionalism and commitment demonstrated by Vikas Ahlawat during his tenure in the district. He described his work ethic and dedication to public service as a guiding light for fellow officers, stating that his sincerity, hard work and administrative capabilities had set a positive example for others to follow. The DC also acknowledged his valuable contribution towards strengthening administrative efficiency, ensuring effective implementation of developmental initiatives and addressing public concerns.

KVK Anantnag organises Awareness Workshop on Farmers Rights and Conservation of Indigenous Plant Varieties



HT News Network

ANANTNAG: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Anantnag, SKUAST-Kashmir, in collaboration with the Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-K and PPV&FRA

Branch Office, Palampur, organised a one-day Awareness-cum-Training Workshop on the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation

from a large gathering of progressive farmers, women farmers, agricultural entrepreneurs, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), scientists and departmental officials, reflecting growing awareness about the importance of protecting farmers' innovations and conserving Kashmir's rich agricultural biodiversity. The programme was graced by Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, as Chief Guest, alongside distinguished academicians, senior scientists and officers from various line departments.

District Admin Anantnag bids Warm Farewell to ADDC Vikas Ahlawat

DC calls his dedication an inspiration for Officers

HT News Network

ANANTNAG: The District Administration Anantnag today accorded a warm and heartfelt farewell to Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat, at the DC Office Complex, in recognition of his

dedicated service, commitment to public welfare and valuable contributions to the administration.

The farewell function was attended by Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, ADC Muzamil Ahmad Beigh, Assistant commissioner revenue Tariq Ahmad Malik, SDM Pahalgam, Chief Planning Officer (CPO), besides other district officers and officials of the DC Office Complex. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, appreciated the dedication, professionalism and commitment demonstrated by Vikas Ahlawat during his tenure in the district. He described his work ethic and dedication to public service as a guiding light for fellow officers, stating that his sincerity, hard work and administrative capabilities had set a positive example for others to follow. The DC also acknowledged his valuable

contribution towards strengthening administrative efficiency, ensuring effective implementation of developmental initiatives and addressing public concerns. He expressed confidence that Ahlawat would continue to serve with the same zeal, commitment and professionalism in his new assignment. Other officers present on the occasion also lauded the contributions of Vikas Ahlawat and appreciated his cooperative approach, administrative acumen and dedication to duty. They observed that working with him had been a valuable learning experience and that his hard work, leadership and commitment would be remembered by the officers and officials of the district. The officers extended their best wishes to Ahlawat for his new assignment and expressed hope that he would achieve greater success in his future endeavours.

Kupwara bids Warm Farewell to DC Shrikant Suse, SSP Syed Al Tahir Geelani



HT News Network

KUPWARA: Kupwara today bid a warm and emotional farewell to Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse and SSP, Kupwara, Syed Al Tahir Geelani on their transfer from the district.

A farewell function was organized at DC Office Complex Kupwara, attended by ADC Kupwara, ADC Handwara, DPO, ACR, SDM Lolab, District Officers, Tehsildars, BDOs, Police Officers and members of Traders Federation and Civil Society. Speakers lauded both officers for their people-friendly approach and dedicated service. Under the leadership of Shrikant Suse, the district witnessed a major push in development, grievance redressal and border area welfare, while SSP Geelani was hailed for maintaining peace and strengthening police-public relations. Both officers thanked the people of Kupwara for their love, support and cooperation, saying the district will always remain close to their hearts. On the occasion, mementos were presented to the outgoing officers, and best wishes were extended for their next assignments.

Information Department Kulgam organises seminar on Social Media Ethics at GDC Kulgam

DC calls for responsible use of social media, leveraging social media tools and tech for career development and societal good

HT News Network

KULGAM: Information Department Kulgam, in collaboration with Government Degree College (GDC) Kulgam, today organised a seminar on "Social Media Ethics" under the Youth Engagement/ Empowerment Plan at GDC Kulgam to sensitise students about the responsible and ethical use of social media.

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, was the Chief Guest at the event.

The programme commenced with a street play organised by the Information Department and performed by local artists, highlighting the importance of responsible online behaviour and awareness about the potential risks associated with social media.

Following the street play, District Information Officer (DIO) Kulgam, Showkat Hussain Ganie, delivered the inaugural address, highlighting the importance of social media ethics and responsible online behaviour.



He emphasised the need to use social media judiciously, verify information before sharing and avoid spreading misinformation.

Following his address, the DIO delivered a presentation and led an interactive session debating and highlighting various issues related to social media, including responsible posting, appropriate online behaviour, AI use, digital etiquette and the importance of exercising caution while sharing information on digital platforms.

Prof. Adil Bashir Bhat, GDC

Kulgam presented the expert talk on digital literacy.

Principal, GDC Kulgam, Prof. Dr. Mohd Abass Shah addressed the gathering, stressing the importance of digital literacy, online safety and ethical conduct in the digital space.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner, emphasized the constructive role of social media in education, awareness and public engagement.

He urged students to use digital platforms judiciously, avoid fake news and online

misconduct, and contribute positively to society through responsible digital participation. He also outlined the historical context of evolving social and communication technologies and underscored self-correcting mechanism for consuming and sharing information for public good.

Pamphlets covering various aspects of social media ethics, responsible online behaviour, digital safety and cybercrime awareness were distributed among students.

Information regarding cybercrime reporting, including the cybercrime helpline number 1930 and the official website cybercrime.gov.in, was also shared with the students to familiarise them with the available reporting mechanisms.

The event also featured interactive sessions and speeches by students, who shared their views on responsible social media usage, highlighted issues related to social media and stressed the importance of reporting cybercrime.

DC Kulgam discusses arrangements for Veshow Festival-2026

Department wise responsibilities fixed, directs to ensure timely arrangements and active participation

HT News Network

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a meeting at Mini Secretariat Kulgam to discuss arrangements for the upcoming Veshow Festival-2026.

During the meeting, department wise responsibilities were fixed and the need for coordinated efforts among all concerned departments to ensure the successful organisation of the annual festival was emphasized. The officers were directed to make necessary arrangements well in advance and ensure the availability of all facilities, logistics, services for the visiting public. The concerned departments were instructed to establish stalls showcasing government schemes, departmental activities, services, local products, handicrafts and other initiatives. Emphasis was laid on promoting the district's cultural heritage, literary activities, trade, art and crafts, local cuisine and entrepreneurial potential through the festival. The concerned departments were asked to ensure active participation and fulfil their assigned responsibilities in a timely manner. The meeting was attended by ADC Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri, ACR Kulgam, Reyaz Ahmad Shah, CPO Kulgam, Suhail Malik, SDM Noorabad, Bashir Ul Hassan, ACD Kulgam, Bilal Ahmad, SE, R&B, DIO, DTO, CAO, CHO, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

Satish Sharma lays foundation stones for development projects in Chhamb; reaffirms commitment to rural development

HT News Network

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FS&CA), Information Technology (IT), Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today laid foundation stones for five important infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening the rural connectivity, improving veterinary healthcare and addressing the developmental needs of local communities.

The projects included construction of road connecting New Mattoo with Old Mattoo, road from Panjtoot to Thanger Pattian, a culvert at Kacharial, veterinary hospital at Millan Di-Khui in Panchayat Samwan and link road connecting Bandowala with Upper Pallanwala. The initiatives are aimed at improving the road connectivity, facilitating access to essential services, supporting agricultural and allied activities, and improving the overall quality of life of people in the area.

The Minister said that infrastructure development remains a key priority, with emphasis on projects that directly address the day-to-day concerns of people and strengthen the foundations of rural development. He said that well-connected villages, accessible healthcare facilities and dependable public infrastructure are essential for balanced regional growth and the economic well-being of rural communities.

Laying the foundation stone for the road connecting New Mattoo with



Old Mattoo, Satish Sharma emphasised the importance of strengthening internal road networks to facilitate smoother movement and improve connectivity between adjoining habitations. The project is expected to make daily

commuting more convenient for the residents and improve access to educational institutions, healthcare facilities, markets and other essential services. The Minister also laid the foundation stone for road from Panjtoot to Thanger Pattian. He said that better road connectivity helps farmers transport agricultural produce, facilitates the movement of people and goods, and contributes to the overall socio-economic development of rural areas. Emphasising the need to ensure that development reaches every habitation, Satish Sharma observed that roads are vital links between

communities and opportunities. He said that sustained investment in rural connectivity would help address the local infrastructure gaps, reduce difficulties faced by residents and strengthen the region's development potential.

While laying foundation stone for the culvert at Kacharial, the Minister underscored the importance of strengthening the local infrastructure to ensure safer and smoother movement. The construction of the culvert is expected to improve accessibility and facilitate the movement of residents and commuters, particularly during adverse weather conditions. He stressed that such infrastructure interventions play an important role in improving the public convenience and ensuring more reliable connectivity.

The Minister also laid the foundation stone for a veterinary hospital at Millan

Di-Khui in Panchayat Samwan, highlighting the importance of accessible animal healthcare services for farmers and livestock owners. The proposed facility is expected to strengthen veterinary healthcare infrastructure in the area, facilitate timely treatment of livestock and provide improved support to families dependent on animal husbandry for their livelihoods.

The Minister laid the foundation stone for construction of a link road from Bandowala to Upper Pallanwala, aimed at improving connectivity and facilitating the movement of people and goods. The project is expected to make daily travel more convenient for residents and strengthen access to markets, educational institutions, healthcare facilities and other public services, while also supporting local economic activity. The Minister stressed the importance of timely execution, quality construction and effective monitoring of all development works. He called upon the concerned departments and executing agencies to ensure adherence to prescribed technical standards and completion within stipulated timelines so that the intended benefits reach the public without unnecessary delay. Satish Sharma reiterated that sustained efforts would continue to be made to address the developmental priorities of Chhamb and adjoining areas, ensuring that infrastructure projects translate into tangible benefits for residents and contribute to the region's long-term progress.

IICT offers Indigenous Design Software 'DesignNweave' for benefit of Stakeholders

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10: In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening digital design capabilities in the handicraft and handloom sector, the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, under the aegis of the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, has developed an indigenous design software named "DesignNweave."

The software has been developed after more than four years of dedicated research and development by IICT, in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), Srinagar.

While elaborating on the details of the initiative, the Director, IICT, stated that DesignNweave has been designed to be compatible with a wide range of software and hardware platforms and incorporates additional tools, commands and options aimed at enhancing the efficiency and productivity of designers and users.

He further stated that the software has been specifically developed to facilitate the creation, development and refinement of designs for carpets, Kani shawls and other handicraft and handloom products of Jammu & Kashmir. Importantly, the software also generates computerized design scripts (Talim), an indigenous system of Kashmir, for the execution of designs by the concerned artisans and weavers. The initiative marks an important step towards promoting the adoption of modern digital design technologies while simultaneously supporting the preservation, development and commercial advancement of the rich traditional handicraft and handloom heritage of Jammu & Kashmir. In view of the demand from stakeholders, and with the approval of the Competent Authority of IICT, Srinagar, the Institute has fixed the cost of a Single-User Licensed Copy of "DesignNweave" at 20,000. The pricing has been kept affordable with the objective of making the indigenous design software accessible to artisans, manufacturers, designers, stakeholders and Government organisations.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation Bids Farewell to Commissioner Faz Lul Haseeb, IAS

HT News Network

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) accorded a warm and dignified farewell to Commissioner Shri Faz Lul Haseeb, IAS, in recognition of his dedicated service, exemplary professionalism, and valuable contributions to the Corporation. During his tenure, Shri Haseeb made significant contributions to strengthening civic administration, improving municipal services, and advancing initiatives aimed at enhancing urban infrastructure and the overall quality of life in Srinagar. His effective leadership, professional approach, and unwavering commitment to public service were widely appreciated by his colleagues and officers of the Corporation. The farewell ceremony, held at the SMC Headquarters, was attended by Joint Commissioner (Administration) Ms. Nuzhat Qureshi, JKAS; Joint Commissioner Suhail Ul Islam, JKAS; Joint Commissioner (Works) Hamid Iqbal Mir; Secretary SMC Tahir Ahmad,

JKAS; Rafiq Ahmad Shah, JKAS; Health Officer Dr. Fauzia Habib; Sajad Ahmad Kawoosa, SE, City Drainage Circle; and other senior officers of the Corporation. On the occasion,

infrastructure, and improve service delivery.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Haseeb expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Corporation and



the officers shared their views and expressed their appreciation for Shri Haseeb's leadership, administrative guidance, and valuable contributions to the functioning of the Corporation. They acknowledged his commitment to public service and highlighted the initiatives undertaken during his tenure to strengthen municipal governance, enhance civic

acknowledged the cooperation and support extended by the officers and staff during his tenure. He expressed confidence that the Srinagar Municipal Corporation would continue to make progress in fulfilling its mandate of delivering efficient civic services, strengthening urban governance, and ensuring better civic amenities for the citizens of Srinagar.

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir

JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

Muthi, Akhnour Road, Jammu/ZamZam Complex Rambagh, Srinagar

(www.jkssb.nic.in)

NOTICE

Subject: Instructions for submission of application forms for the advertised (2863) posts in various Department(s).

The J&K Services Selection Board, vide Advertisement Notification No. 09 of 2026 dated: 01.09.2026, has advertised 2863 posts in various Department(s) for inviting application from eligible candidates, who are in possession of a valid Domicile Certificate and other eligibility conditions as mentioned in the Advertisement Notification

The aspirants can submit the application forms through the online portal of JKSSB as per the following details:

Submission of Application Forms	Last Date for receiving Fee Online
14.10.2026 (12:00 AM) to 12.11.2026 (11:59 PM)	14.10.2026 (12:00 AM) to 12.11.2026 (11:59 PM)

The necessary instructions for filling up of online applications in this regard are as under:

1) Candidates are required to apply through online mode only, by accessing the website of JKSSB www.jkssb.nic.in. No other means/mode of application will be accepted.

2) All the candidates shall be required to register on the Portal by clicking on 'Login (Apply on Various Posts)' tab available on the Board/JKSSB website.

3) Candidates are required to have a valid e-mail ID and Mobile Number for registering by clicking on "New User / Sign Up" and creating login credentials. The same shall be validated using OTP (One Time Password) based verification on e-mail and if the verification code is not working, the candidates are required to resend the verification code for account activation by clicking on "Get Activation Code".

4) Candidates are advised to use their username only, generated while registration of their application form or received with the account activation mail instead of their e-mail ID.

5) After registering/creating login credentials, the candidates shall complete their OTR (One-Time Registration) form. After the completion of OTR form, the candidates shall click on 'Active Advertisement' tab and then click on 'Apply' tab for submitting the application form for the advertised posts.

6) The candidates shall carefully fill in all correct information in various columns and click on 'SAVE & CONTINUE'.

7) Candidates are advised to upload their Live Photograph as per details mentioned in Annexure-"A".

8) A clear Signature of the candidate shall be uploaded with following specifications:

> Size of Signature (Max size- 10 KB to 20 KB) (HxWd = 1.5 * 3.5 cms).

9) The candidate shall ensure that all the required fields are filled up with correct information, before final submission of the application form. Once submitted, the Application Form cannot be edited by the candidates.

They shall be personally responsible for filling the details in the online application form and the information/details furnished by the candidates shall be treated as final for the purpose of determining the eligibility/claims of the candidates. No claim on account of wrong/non-filling of information shall be entertained subsequently. Benefits related to category, weightage etc. shall be claimed only upon filling of same in the application form and the possession of the valid, within the cut-off date certificate to this effect and no such claim shall be entertained at any subsequent stage.

10) Candidate's Application will be considered incomplete if fee is not paid for

that application form. Fees shall be paid only by Net banking/Debit Card/UPi/Credit Card Options:

After successful completion of the form, the candidates shall be shown "Pay Now" link for making the online application fee payment. Candidates are advised to check the status of the fee as Submitted' on their dashboard.

The options will be available after clicking on Pay Now link. Candidate can pay using Net banking, Debit Card, UPI, Credit Card, as Online Payment options.

11) No hard copy or print out of the filled application form is required to be submitted by the candidates, except at the stage of DV, only in respect of the shortlisted candidates, after the conclusion of the examination. However, In-service candidates shall submit print out of filled online application form along-with duly filled, signed and stamped Certificate given at last paragraph of the application form through proper channel (TPC).

12) Candidates must include the Payee name and Account Number while submitting payment representations to this department/office.

13) Candidates are advised to give their preferences for the posts of Class-IV (MTS) (under various Items) and Sanitation Worker (under various Items) separately, in online mode only. Candidates are also informed that Preferences (Cadre and Department) once submitted by the candidates in the online application form shall be non-editable. Even in case, Edit option facility is provided, the preferences once submitted by the candidates in the Online application form shall remain non-editable. As such, the candidates are advised to fill up preferences in Online Application form very carefully.

14) The application fee/payment should be successfully submitted by the closing time strictly. As such, candidates are advised in their own interest to submit online applications much before the closing date and not to wait till the last date to avoid the possibility of disconnection/ inability or failure to login to the online application portal on account of heavy load on the website during the closing days.

15) Candidates are advised to submit their representations regarding any queries related to submission of online application form through online mode only at the given below e-mail address

a) Official e-mail viz ssbjk-grievance@jk.gov.in

b) Helpdesk/ Landline of JKSSB - 0191-2461335 (Jammu)

0194-2435089 (Srinagar)

Helpdesk/ Landline of NIC - 9107706766

No. JKSSB-PLAN/6/2025-03 (E-7661495)

Dated: 09.10.2026

Sd/- (Khurshid Ahmad Sanal)

JKAS, Secretary,

J&K Services Selection Board

DIPK-6599/26

Date: Oct 10 2026

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates Multipurpose Indoor Sports Hall at GDC Frisal

HT News Network

KULGAM: Education, Social Welfare, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today inaugurated Multipurpose Indoor Sports Hall at Government Degree College (GDC), Frisal.

The occasion marked a significant milestone in the college's efforts to promote sports, physical fitness and the holistic development of students with the facility coming up at the estimated cost of Rs.1.94 crore.

The ceremony was attended by MLA Devsar Peerzada Feroze Ahmad Shah, Secretary in Higher Education Department Shafqat Iqbal, Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges, Dr. Seema Naz, DPO, Zaheer Ahmad Kaifi, CEO, Kulgam Fayaz, Ahmad Mir, CMO, Dr. Showkat Ahmad



Parray, Principals GDC, Frisal, D. H. Pora & Kilam, DSWO Rameez Ahmad Ganie BDO, and senior officers of the Higher Education Department, faculty members, local residents and students.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo highlighted the importance of quality educational infrastructure and the role of sports in shaping confident, disciplined and responsible citizens. She called upon the College management to engage the students in a sports activities and other

positive endeavours and channelise their potential in right direction so that they excel in their studies and contribute towards the best of the society.

Sakeena Itoo said that Multipurpose Indoor Sports Hall provided improved facilities for indoor games and encourage greater participation in sporting activities of the students. MLA Devsar also addressed the gathering, emphasising the importance of educational institutions in empowering young people

and creating opportunities for academic and extracurricular excellence. MLA also announced Digital X-Ray Machine worth Rs. 24 lakh for Primary Health Center (PHC) Frisal.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Butt, Principal, GDC Frisal, welcomed the distinguished guests and expressed gratitude to the Minister and other dignitaries for their presence. He highlighted the importance of sports infrastructure in fostering discipline, teamwork, physical well-being and the all-round development of students. The programme also featured cultural performances by students. The programme also included the felicitation of students for their achievements, recognizing their dedication and bringing attention to the importance of encouraging young talent.

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir (UT)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER BARAMULLA

Kanli Bagh, Baramulla-193101, J&K

Subject: Invitation of applications for deputation of Warden and Assistant Warden in ST/G&B Girls Hostel Khowajabagh, District Baramulla - Extension thereof.

Reference: This office Notification No. CEO/Bta/Plg/38853-58 dated 11/09/2026.

NOTIFICATION

Applications were invited from the eligible Female Masters belonging to ST-I Category working in the School Education Department, District Baramulla for the post of Warden in ST/G&B Girls Hostel Khowajabagh, District Baramulla and Female Teachers belonging to ST-I Category working in the School Education Department District Baramulla for the post of Assistant Warden in ST/G&B Girls Hostel Khowajabagh, District Baramulla, strictly as per Government Order No. 557-JK (GAD) of 2023 dated 09.05.2023 issued by the General Administration Department. Due to poor response the date for submission of application forms for deputation as Warden/Assistant Warden is hereby extended up to 17.10.2026 (Saturday).

Eligibility Criteria:-

1.	Seniority/Length of service	Will be considered, supported by attested seniority lists and Service Book pages.
2.	Administrative Skills	Experience as wardens, Middle School Heads, or qualifications in management, finance, public administration, or sports
3.	Suitability for the Post	Candidates must have a clean service record, certified by the DDO.
4.	Career Record	Exceptional academic, administrative, or sports achievements.
5.	Willingness to Serve	Candidates must provide consent for assigned duties.
6.	Proximity to the Hostel	Domicile certificates will be considered.
7.	Verification/Character Antecedents Certificate	Vigilance Clearance and Character Antecedents Certificate will be sought post short listing.
8.	Attributes from 01 to 06	Will be quantitatively assessed as per grading matrix fixed by the authorities.

The application forms (annexed as Annexure - "A") to this notification along with requisite documents duly attested/authenticated by the concerned DDO should reach this office by or before 17.10.2026 up to 02:00 PM.

CEO/Bta/Plg/42867-72

Dated:-10-10-2026

No.

**Sd/-Chief Education Officer
Baramulla (Member Secretary, DLSC)**

DIPK-6605/26

Date: Oct 10 2026



Indonesia's Janice Tjen to defend title at WTA Chennai Open from Nov 2-8

United News Of India

CHENNAI, OCT 10 :Twentyfour-year old Janice Tjen of Indonesia will defend the title as the top seed--the first Asian to get the pride of placings --in the 3rd edition of the Chennai Open International Women's Tennis Championship-a WTA 250 event, and India's highest international ranking tournament to be played here from November 2-8.

Chennai has hosting an ATP250 event for two decades and is now all set to host the third edition of a similar event for women.

Releasing the 23 players in the main draw, represented by 22 countries -- the highest ever international representation in Chennai event so far, the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA) President and former Davis Cupper Vijay Amritraj said the field comprised 11 players from the top 100.

It is also the first time that an Asian will be the top seed. The participating countries are Indonesia, Austria, Thailand, Hungary, Poland, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Uzbekistan, Japan, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium, USA, Serbia, Chinese Taipei, Czech Republic, Slovakia, France, Australia, Georgia, Canada, China, Ukraine, Republic of South Korea, Finland.

Janice ranked 49, will face a stiff challenge from a whole lot of top players who are in the current list. They included Lilli Tagger the 18-year-old from Austria, a French Open Junior Champion and currently ranked 61 in the world who will

be the second seed, 22-year-old Lanlana Taranudee from Thailand ranked 63 will be third seed followed by Panna Udvardy of Hungary and Magda Linette

of Poland and the runner up of the 2022 event and Yulia Putinseva, current Asian Games Bronze Medallist in Singles



and doubles, a former top 20 in the world and quarterfinalist in Grand Slams.

Those in the field included Polina Kudermetova, a known Uzbek name and Joanna Garland of Chinese Taipei who played a heroic semifinal last year and 19-year-old Teodora Kostovic of Serbia.

For the first time in India, electronic line calling will be implemented in all the 3 match courts in this event.

The total prize money is USD 2,83,347 (app Rs

2,69,17,965) with singles winner to receive USD 37,390 (app Rs 35,52,050), the runner up USD 22,125 (app Rs 21,01,875). The doubles winning pair will

receive USD 13,600 (app Rs 12,92,000) and the runner-up USD 7,650 (app Rs 7,26,750). The singles winners will receive 250 WTA points and runner up 163 WTA points. Sheetal Iyer, the experienced WTA official will be the Tournament Supervisor - first time an Indian lady is to play this role for a WTA 250 event in India, while Abhishek Mukherjee, who started his officiating career in Chennai in 1997 will be the Referee and Hiten Joshi the Tournament Director.

Gavaskar slams India's bowling plans after record-breaking West Indies chase

United News Of India

RANCHI, OCT 10 :Legendary batsman Sunil Gavaskar has launched a sharp critique of India's bowling unit after the team failed to defend a mammoth 249 for five against the West Indies in the second T20 International at Ranchi, questioning whether the bowling coach's plans were effectively translated into on-field execution.

India's batting firepower, led by Sanju Samson's explosive 82, had put the hosts in a commanding position. However, the West Indies produced a stunning counterattack to chase down the 250-run target in just 18.3 overs, completing a seven-wicket victory in a match that yielded an extraordinary 501 runs.

Gavaskar made it clear that India's batsmen could not be faulted after delivering such a formidable total, directing attention instead towards the bowlers and the team's preparation.

The former India captain also dismissed dew as a convenient excuse for the bowling failure, insisting that the focus should be on the strategies



devised by the bowling coach and whether the bowlers had executed them as intended. His pointed remarks put the spotlight on India's bowling plans at a time when the team was expected to defend a total that would ordinarily place enormous pressure on the chasing side.

India Head Coach Gambhir calls for bowling solutions

United News Of India

RANCHI, OCT 10 :The growing dominance of batsmen in T20 cricket has once again come into focus after India failed to defend 250 against the West Indies, with head coach Gautam Gambhir acknowledging the difficulties bowlers

way," Gambhir said after the match.

His remarks underline a central dilemma confronting teams in modern T20 cricket: how to keep matches competitive when batsmen can attack almost from the outset, while bowlers must contend with surfaces offering little assistance and a wet ball that can make execution difficult.



face on flat pitches and in the presence of dew.

India's inability to contain the West Indies despite making early inroads into their batting line-up has raised questions about the effectiveness of conventional bowling strategies in conditions that increasingly favour stroke-makers.

Gambhir, however, stopped short of making excuses for the defeat, insisting that India must find ways to overcome such challenges rather than blame the conditions.

"We're a world champion team, so we want to keep improving. Obviously, these are tough conditions to bowl. We know that flat wickets with the dew, obviously, it's tough, but we need to figure out the

India had posted 249 for five, a total that would ordinarily put considerable pressure on a chasing side. Yet the West Indies reached 252 for four in 18.3 overs, with Shai Hope and Sherfane Rutherford producing a devastating counter-attack.

The result demonstrated that even a total approaching 250 may not be sufficient when conditions favour batting and the opposition possesses the depth to sustain an assault across the innings.

For Gambhir, however, the lesson was not to seek refuge in the conditions but to improve India's ability to adapt. He pointed out that India had made early inroads into the West Indies innings but could not prevent the visitors from recovering and maintaining an imposing scoring rate.

29 police teams battle for national honours as All India Handball Cluster opens in Panchkula

United News Of India

BHANU (PANCHKULA), OCT 10 :- The battle for national supremacy in police handball and basketball began at the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Basic Training Centre in Bhunu on Friday, with 29 teams representing 23 states and six Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) competing in the third All India Police Handball Cluster 2026.

The five-day championship, scheduled to conclude on October 13, features separate men's and women's competitions in both disciplines, bringing together experienced police athletes and emerging sporting talent from across the country.

According to the organisers, 740 male and 347 female athletes are participating in the championship, which will see defending champions attempt to retain their titles against challengers from state police organisations and central armed police forces. ITBP Additional Director General Sanjay Gunjyal, inaugurated the championship and called upon the athletes to demonstrate competitive excellence while maintaining discipline, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Delhi Golf Club ushers in new era with Amandeep Johl at the helm

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 10 :The Delhi Golf Club has ushered in a new era of sporting leadership with the election of former National Golf Champion and professional golfer Amandeep Johl as Captain, bringing together an accomplished team of national champions, international sports persons and experienced administrators to steer the prestigious institution.

The newly elected committee features an impressive blend of sporting excellence and institutional experience, including professional golfer Gaurav Ghei, international shooting champion and Arjuna Awardee Mansher Singh, former Junior National Golf Champion Karan Atwal and former National Golf Coach Vikram Sethi.

Johl, whose association with golf spans five decades, brings extensive experience as a professional golfer, national champion and coach. Ghei, meanwhile, has carved out a

distinguished international career and became the first Indian to compete in a men's Major Golf Championship. Mansher's achievements in international shooting, including representing

India at the highest levels, add further sporting distinction to the team, while Atwal and Sethi bring competitive golfing experience and expertise in developing talent.



The committee is also strengthened by government nominees and experienced members whose knowledge of administration and governance is expected to complement the sporting credentials of the elected leadership. The new team faces the task of balancing the Delhi Golf Club's rich sporting heritage with the demands of effective administration, maintaining championship standards and creating opportunities for the next generation of golfers.

لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ
LABBAIK ALLAHUMMA LABBAIK

AL MURAD

HAJJ AND UMRAH

— SAFAR-E-IBAADAT, SUKoon KE SAATH —

Haji aur Umrah ka Mukammal aur Behtareen Intizam

HAMARI KHIDMAAT

- AIR TICKETS
Behtareen Airlines ke saath
- COMFORTABLE STAY
Makkah aur Madinah mein behtareen hotels
- TRANSPORTATION
Karamdahi aur time par safar
- QUALITY FOOD
Saaf, behtareen aur mazaydar khana
- EXPERIENCED GUIDES
Mukammal rehnumai aur sahilat

Humara Maqsad
Aapki Ibaadat ko Aasaan Banana

Aapka Bharosa
Hamari Zimmedari

AL MURAD
HAJJ AND UMRAH

Har Qadam par
Aapke Saath

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