

Srinagar
Friday
October 02 | 2026
19 Rabi al-Thani 1448 AH
Issue No: 236
Volume: 16
Pages: 12
Price :Rs: 2/-

16TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATION

HEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



P:12
Kuldeep joins elite club, second-fastest Indian to 200 ODI wickets

September a Month of Many Operational Achievements : DGP

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 1 Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Thursday said September was a month of many operational achievements for the force in counter-terrorism, claiming that the plans of impure neighbours were being defeated every day while the police simultaneously maintained law and order and worked on crime prevention and detection.

Addressing the flag-in ceremony of the "Run for Unity" marathon organised by J&K Police at Lake View Environmental Park, Police Golf Course, Dal Lake, Srinagar, DGP said the force was working to counter the plans of terrorists. J&K Police, in an attempt to neutralise the plans of the impure neighbours, the counter-terrorist operations that we carry out, under your guidance, the month

>>> MORE ON P02

Kashmir Marathon-Run for Unity Celebrates Spirit of Unity and Collective Resolve

LG Sinha says youth participation reflects commitment to a shared future and a developed Jammu Kashmir

HT NEWS NETWORK:

SRINAGAR, OCT 1 : Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday addressed the closing ceremony of the Kashmir Marathon-Run for Unity, commending the enthusiasm of more than 6,000 participants and describing the event as a symbol of peace, unity and progress. He said the marathon demonstrated that collective resolve and determination can help overcome difficult challenges, while urging youth to embrace fitness, discipline and brotherhood and stay away from drugs. Sinha also called upon young people to contribute to nation-building and the vision of a developed India.

The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today graced the closing ceremony of the Kashmir Marathon-Run for Unity. He commended the



enthusiasm and energy of the youth who participated in the event and congratulated all the runners and lauded the Jammu Kashmir Police for organizing the marathon, which has become a symbol of peace, unity

and progress in the Union Territory. In his address, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the Run for Unity was not merely about speed or endurance, but

>>> MORE ON P02

J&K Notifies Electric Vehicle Policy 2026, Sets Six-Year Roadmap for Clean Mobility

Policy targets 1.40 lakh EVs, 900 public charging sites and climate-specific infrastructure by 2032

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 1 The Jammu and Kashmir Government has notified the J&K Electric Vehicle Policy-2026, covering the period 2026-32, with a target of 1.40 lakh electric vehicles and 900 public charging sites, including 140 fast-charging hubs. The policy provides incentives for EV adoption, scrappage-linked support, EV-ready parking, winter-performance validation and measures for power-grid integration. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah congratulated Transport Minister Satish Sharma and the Transport Department, saying the framework takes into account

J&K's terrain and cold-weather conditions while creating opportunities in clean mobility, skills and



employment. The Jammu and Kashmir Government has notified the J&K Electric Vehicle Policy-2026, following its approval by the Council of Ministers

>>> MORE ON P02

J&K Explores Multiversity Model to Build Future-Ready Higher Education Ecosystem

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo seeks time-bound framework for shared resources, research and multidisciplinary learning



HT NEWS NETWORK:

SRINAGAR, OCT 1 : Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Thursday held consultations with Vice Chancellors and senior Higher Education Department officials on developing a Multiversity ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. The proposed framework would promote inter-university collaboration, shared infrastructure, student and faculty mobility, credit transfer, multidisciplinary learning, research partnerships and industry linkages. Dulloo stressed the need to move "from papers to patents" and called for clearly defined milestones,

institutional responsibilities and measurable outcomes.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held a detailed consultation with Vice Chancellors of Universities and senior functionaries of the Higher Education Department to explore the creation of a Multiversity ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, leveraging the collective academic, research, technological and infrastructural strengths of the region's universities and premier institutions.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellors of the universities of J&K, Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department; Director

>>> MORE ON P02

Drugs, alcohol root of Kashmir violence, youth have defeated narcotics: ADGP Nitish Kumar

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 01 : Additional Director General of Police (Armed Police) Nitish Kumar on Thursday said Narcotics and alcohol are the main cause of violence in Kashmir asserting that the participation of youth in a marathon here shows they have defeated drugs — even as he

acknowledged that the region's youth are continuously changing and now becoming aggressors.

Speaking to news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) on the sidelines of the 'Kashmir Marathon 2026 — Run for Unity' organised by the J&K Police, Nitish

Kumar said the force is expanding its sporting calendar to engage the youth constructively. Today's event is very important because we can see that the youth is continuously changing and now they are becoming aggressors, he said.

>>> MORE ON P02

Sonamarg Landowners' Proprietary Rights Remain Protected Under Master Plan: Govt

Development and construction remain subject to planning, environmental and statutory regulations

HT NEWS NETWORK:

SRINAGAR, OCT 1 : The Jammu and Kashmir Government has clarified that the Sonamarg Master Development Plan regulates land use within the notified area but does not affect the proprietary rights of existing private landowners in Shukadi, Nilgrath and Sarbal.

The government said repair, renovation and reconstruction of existing structures may be undertaken subject to applicable regulations, environmental norms and required

permissions. The clarification was issued in response to a question by Kangan MLA Mian Mehar Ali. The Jammu and Kashmir Government has said that Shukadi, Nilgrath and Sarbal are existing villages falling within the notified jurisdiction of the Sonamarg Development

Authority (SDA), while clarifying that the Master Development Plan regulates land use without affecting the proprietary rights of private landowners.

The government made the



clarification in response to a question raised by

Kangan MLA Mian Mehar Ali regarding the legal status and applicability of the Sonamarg Master Development Plan to the three settlements.

>>> MORE ON P02

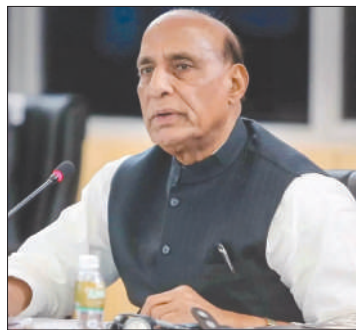
Rajnath Singh Launches Digital Financial Management Initiatives for Defence Accounts

New systems seek greater integration, automation, transparency and real-time expenditure monitoring

HT NEWS NETWORK:

NEWS DELHI : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday launched three digital and financial management initiatives of the Defence Accounts Department aimed at strengthening financial integration and expenditure monitoring across the Ministry of Defence. The initiatives include integration of the SAKSHAM bill audit and payment system with the Indian Army Financial Information System, operationalisation of the Treasury Single Account system and a revamped National Compilation System. Singh stressed maximum digitisation, automation and transparency, and called for real-time financial data and faster grievance redressal. : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday

launched three major digital and financial management initiatives of the Defence Accounts Department



(DAD), aimed at strengthening financial integration, expenditure monitoring and fund management across the Ministry of Defence. An official spokesperson said the initiatives were

>>> MORE ON P02

4 injured in bear attack in Kulgam's Nandimarg

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

KULGAM, OCT 01 : Four people were injured after being attacked by a wild bear in Nandimarg area of Damhal Hanjipora in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Thursday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that four people, comprising two men and two women, were injured after they were attacked by a wild bear in the area.

He said the two women are stated to be in critical condition, while the two men are stable. They were identified as Shafiq Banoo (60), wife of Bashir Ahmad Dar, Aayesha Bano (50), wife of Abdul Salam Magrey, Mohammad Iqbal Bhat, son of Abdullah Bhat and Abdul Salam, all residents of CR Pora. Meanwhile,

>>> MORE ON P02

Gadkari Announces Road Projects Worth Nearly ₹5 Lakh Crore for Bihar

Minister outlines major expressway, highway and greenfield corridor projects to strengthen connectivity

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 1 Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday outlined road infrastructure projects worth nearly 5 lakh crore for Bihar during the Rising Bihar Investor Summit 2026. He said projects covering about 2,910 km have already been completed or taken up, while major proposed corridors include the Gorakhpur-Siliguri High-Speed Corridor, Patna-Purnea Greenfield Expressway, Buxar-Bhagalpur High-Speed Corridor and Raxaul-Haldia Corridor. Gadkari said the expanding



road network is aimed at improving connectivity, reducing travel time and logistics costs, and supporting investment, industrial development and employment. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said road infrastructure projects worth around Rs 3.88 lakh crore are planned in Bihar, with the Centre targeting completion of road works worth nearly Rs 5 lakh crore in the state by the end of the current term. Addressing the Rising Bihar Investor Summit 2026, Gadkari outlined a series of completed, ongoing and

>>> MORE ON P02

Gulmarg Gondola Inquiry Recommends Additional Rescue Wheel, Vertical-Rescue Training

Preliminary findings propose stronger emergency preparedness for tourism service providers



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 1 The preliminary inquiry into the May 25 Gulmarg Gondola malfunction has recommended an additional rescue bull wheel and specialised vertical-rescue training for registered local tourism service providers. The

recommendations follow the incident in which around 300 tourists were stranded in cable-car cabins for several hours. The government-appointed committee is examining technical systems, maintenance procedures, safety mechanisms and possible operational deficiencies, while its final report is awaited.

The preliminary inquiry into the May 25 Gulmarg Gondola malfunction has recommended an additional rescue bull wheel and specialised vertical-rescue training for local tourism service

>>> MORE ON P02

SIA Searches Two Premises in Probe into Alleged Transnational Trafficking-Cyber Fraud Network

Mobile phones, identity documents, passport and job agreements seized during Kulgam and Qazigund searches

HT NEWS NETWORK:

SRINAGAR, OCT 1 The State Investigation Agency, Kashmir, on Thursday conducted searches at two residential premises in Kulgam and Qazigund as part of an ongoing investigation into an alleged transnational human trafficking and cyber fraud network. The agency said unemployed youth were allegedly lured with overseas employment offers and subsequently transported through Thailand to Myanmar, where they were allegedly exploited in cyber scam operations. Mobile phones and documents were seized during searches conducted under court-issued warrants, while the investigation continues to

>>> MORE ON P02

Ministry of Rural Development Senior Officer Visits J&K to Monitor Rural Development Schemes

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, October 01, 2026: A senior officer of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India, is undertaking a four-days Area Officer visit to Jammu and Kashmir from September 30 to October 3, 2026, to monitor the implementation and progress of various ongoing rural development schemes in Srinagar and Anantnag districts.

The visit is being led by Shri Altaf Hussain Haji, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi, who is the designated Area Officer for MoRD schemes.

During the visit, Shri Haji also attended a training programme on Viksit Bharat Gram Panchayat (VB-GRAMG) organised by the Department of Rural Development for Block Development Officers (BDOs) of Srinagar and Ganderbal districts. During the brief interaction, Shri Haji emphasised the need to focus on the convergence of various government schemes, enhance awareness about rural development programmes, and identify low-development Gram Panchayats (GPs) for focused interventions. He stressed that such targeted efforts would help these Panchayats progress towards becoming Viksit Panchayats, in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat.



During the field visit along with Assistant commissioner Rural development Srinagar, Tariq Ahmad Reshi and other local officers interacted with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) at block Khonmoh and Qamarwari and beneficiaries and other stakeholders associated with rural livelihoods and other rural development schemes including VB G RAM G. He also interacted with members of Umeed Ka Zaika SHG, which has gained recognition in Jammu and Kashmir within a short period of three to four months.

The visiting officer observed that Self-Help Groups functioning under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) were performing remarkably well. The SHG members were found to be enthusiastic and committed towards achieving the goal of becoming Lakhpati Didis at the earliest, with aspirations of progressing further towards becoming Crorepati Didis.

Shri Haji also reviewed the implementation status of various rural development schemes

in Srinagar and discussed measures to further improve their outreach and ensure that the intended benefits reach a larger number of beneficiaries.

Officials of the District Administration, Srinagar, were advised to expedite and strengthen the implementation of ongoing rural development schemes for the benefit and overall well-being of the people. The officer also stressed the need to conduct awareness programmes at the grassroots level so that rural communities are better informed about various government schemes and the benefits available to them.

Emphasis was also laid on greater convergence among different government schemes and departments to achieve targets effectively and maximise benefits for beneficiaries. At the concluding leg of the visit in Srinagar, Shri Altaf Hussain Haji met also officers of Rural Development, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. They discussed the achievements made in the implementation of various rural development schemes, as well as issues concerning their effective implementation. The meeting also focused on addressing minor implementation-related issues and further strengthening the delivery of rural development programmes across Jammu and Kashmir.

No Eligible Voter to be left behind: CEO

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, OCTOBER 01: Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Sanjeev Verma, today chaired a meeting with District Election Officers and EROs for the enrolment of left out and young/first time eligible electors under the process of continuous updation. Special attention was emphasised for left-out eligible electors who have attained eligibility for registration.



The CEO also directed that Booth Level Officers should undergo House-to-House visits and remain accessible to eligible electors requiring assistance with enrolment or related forms. They were also asked to facilitate the proper filling and submission of forms, particularly in cases where electors face any difficulty, so that no eligible voter to be left behind.

Chief Electoral Officer, J&K reiterated his commitment to ensuring an accurate and inclusive electoral roll.

J&K Police conducts "One School, One Tree" plantation drive in Baramulla

■ HT News Network

Baramulla October 01: J&K Police in Baramulla in collaboration with the Forest Department conducted a plantation drive under the theme "One School, One Tree", aimed at promoting environmental conservation, sustainability and meaningful community participation.

The initiative covered 10 schools within the jurisdiction of PS Bijhama, including Govt. Hr. Sec. School Bijhama, Govt. High School Lachipora, New Bloom High School Jabadara and Noor-ul-High School Noorkah, among others. Plantation activities were carried out with active participation from students and school staff. During the programme, students were sensitised about the importance of trees and forests in maintaining ecological balance, preserving biodiversity and addressing the challenges of climate change. They were also encouraged to take responsibility for the saplings planted and contribute towards their protection, care and growth.

The enthusiastic participation of students and school staff reflected strong community engagement and reinforced the message that environmental protection is a collective responsibility. Police remains committed to promoting environmental conservation and supporting initiatives that encourage community participation and sustainable practices.

SSP Anantnag chairs Ops & crime review meeting at DPO Anantnag

■ HT News Network

Anantnag October 01: SSP Anantnag Shri Amod Ashok Nagpure-IPS chaired an Ops & crime review meeting at DPO Anantnag to review the overall security situation and crime-related activities across the district.

The meeting was attended by senior police officers and supervisory officers of the district. During the meeting, SSP Anantnag reviewed the prevailing law and order situation, crime trends, investigation of important cases, pending investigations and operational preparedness. SSP Anantnag directed all officers to further strengthen preventive measures, ensure timely disposal of investigations, intensify efforts against criminal and anti-social elements, and maintain close coordination among all units for effective policing.

SSP Baramulla chairs comprehensive crime review meetings

■ HT News Network

Baramulla October 01: Senior Superintendent of Police Baramulla chaired two comprehensive Crime Review Meetings held on September 29 at Conference Hall, DPL Baramulla, and September 30 at Police Post Delina, to review investigation progress, case pendency, statutory compliance and disposal of long-pending cases across Sub-Division Baramulla.

The meetings were attended by DySPHQ, all SHOs, In-Charges of Police Posts (IC PPs), and Investigating Officers (IOs) of Sub-Division Baramulla. The participating officers presented the status of investigations and case disposals under their respective jurisdictions, which were reviewed in detail. During the meetings, the SSP conducted a case-wise and IO-wise assessment of ongoing



investigations, with particular focus on pending evidence collection, investigation timelines, procedural bottlenecks and long-pending cases. Officers were directed to address identified deficiencies and ensure completion of pending investigative tasks within clearly defined timelines.

The SSP stressed strict compliance with statutory provisions and prescribed legal timelines under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), POCSO Act and other

applicable laws. Officers were directed to maintain close deadline tracking and ensure timely completion of investigations to prevent avoidable procedural lapses, including those that may result in default bail. Directions were also issued for expedited and lawful disposal of long-pending investigations and inquest proceedings. Supervisory officers were tasked with promptly addressing legal, forensic and procedural bottlenecks and ensuring effective intervention wherever required. The meeting further reviewed weekly and monthly case disposal targets and investigation performance. Officers were directed to maintain close monitoring of progress and submit regular performance reports reflecting disposals, pending cases, identified gaps and corrective measures.

SKUAST-K's Sandwich-Mode Research Programme Opens Global Opportunity for Student

■ HT News Network

Srinagar: The sandwich-mode postgraduate research programme of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), under which a PG student spends upto one semester undertaking research or coursework at an agricultural institution in the country other than the parent university, has helped M.Sc. graduate Umer Fayaz secure an opportunity for advanced research at the University of Queensland, Australia.

Umer completed his M.Sc. in Genetics and Plant Breeding at SKUAST-K under the guidance of Dr. Showkat A. Waza, Associate Professor-cum-Senior Scientist. As part of the sandwich-mode



programme, he undertook a component of his research at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), working under the guidance of Dr. Prakash Gangashetty, Global Lead - Pigeonpea Breeding, and Dr. Manzoor Dar, Global Lead - Seed Systems. He will now pursue advanced research at the University of Queensland under the supervision of Professor Mark Cooper, Chair of Prediction Based Crop Improvement. The sandwich-

mode programme, promoted under the leadership of Prof. Nazir A. Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, provides students with opportunities to gain research exposure beyond their parent institution and work with scientists and advanced research facilities at other institutions. Prof. Nazir A. Ganai congratulated Umer on his achievement and wished him success in his forthcoming research pursuits. He mentioned that the achievement is a matter of pride for SKUAST-Kashmir.

CUKashmir holds Regional Cuisine and Handicraft display

■ HT News Network

Ganderbal, Oct 1: In connection with the ongoing weeklong World Tourism Day-2026 celebrations, under the theme "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism" Department of Tourism Studies (DTS), Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) with the support of Design Innovation Centre (DIC), organized "Regional Cuisine and Handicraft display" at the varsity's Green Campus here on Wednesday.

Prof. Davinder Kumar Madaan, Dean, School of Social Sciences, encouraged the students and appreciated the DTS in organizing this event. He said, Kashmir's tourism is not only about its breathtaking landscapes, but also about its rich culture, warm hospitality, traditional cuisine, and vibrant handicrafts.

Dr. Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, Director Green Campus/HoD Commerce Department highlighted the role of regional cuisines and handicraft items in the promotion of tourism industry of Jammu and Kashmir.



Chief Proctor/Associate Prof. Department of Management Studies, Dr. Zia-Ul-Haq said the stalls reflected creativity, teamwork, and understanding of our rich regional food and cultural heritage. The students should keep up the excellent efforts and continue exploring new ideas with confidence and enthusiasm,

he said. Earlier, in her welcome address, Coordinator, DTS, Dr. Shahnaz Akhter, emphasized upon how regional cuisine and handicrafts are important expressions of a destination's culture, identity, and traditions. "They enrich the tourist experience by offering visitors an opportunity to taste, see, and experience

the unique heritage of a region. Promoting local food and handicrafts also supports local artisans, communities, and livelihoods, making tourism more inclusive and sustainable. Therefore, preserving and promoting our regional cuisine and handicrafts is essential for strengthening cultural tourism and creating a distinctive identity for the destination," she said.

In his, Sr. Asst Prof. Dr. Ashaq Hussain Najar, highlighted the employment opportunities and career possibilities in the gastronomy and culinary field, by giving visitors an authentic taste of the destination's culture and traditions. "Promoting local cuisine also supports local communities and strengthens the cultural identity and attractiveness of the destination."

During the event, the students of MBA-TTM, B.Voc-THM and employees of DIC actively participated in showcasing different food items of the region and handicraft items of different trades.

Dr. Abid Suhail Nika, Asst. Prof moderated the session and proposed the vote of thanks.

Cleanliness Drive Launched at Aharbal under Swachhata Pakhwada

■ Farooq Rather

Kulgam, October 1: The Aharbal Development Authority (ADA) today launched a cleanliness drive at the picturesque tourist destination of Aharbal under Swachhata Pakhwada, aimed at maintaining cleanliness, protecting the natural environment and providing a better experience to visitors.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of Chief Executive Officer, Aharbal Development Authority, Mohammad Rouf Rehman (JKAS), with focus on cleaning tourist spots, public areas and surroundings frequented by visitors.

The initiative also seeks to spread awareness among tourists, local residents and shopkeepers about proper waste disposal and the importance of keeping the tourist destination clean and pollution-free.

Aharbal, known for its scenic beauty, waterfall and lush green surroundings, attracts tourists from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir and beyond. The cleanliness campaign is expected to further enhance the beauty of the area and give a boost to tourism activities.

CEO ADA Mohammad Rouf Rehman



(JKAS) stressed the need for collective responsibility in maintaining cleanliness and protecting Aharbal's natural surroundings. The Authority urged visitors and locals to avoid littering and cooperate in keeping the destination clean and green.

The cleanliness drive forms part of continued efforts by the Aharbal Development Authority to promote clean, sustainable and responsible tourism in the area. The cleanliness drive forms part of continued efforts by the Aharbal Development Authority to promote clean, sustainable and responsible tourism in the area.



DDC Bandipora reviews progress on Jal Jeevan Mission, stresses timely completion of schemes

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 01: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a meeting of the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) to review the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district, with focus on geo-tagging of water sources, post-monsoon water quality testing, Jal Arpan activities, Har Ghar Jal certification and Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage.

During the meeting, it was informed that geo-tagging of all water sources in the district is scheduled to commence from October 2, 2026 and is targeted for completion by December 31, 2026. It was also apprised that post-monsoon water quality testing of all water sources will commence from October 2 and will be undertaken in a systematic and time-bound manner.

The meeting further reviewed the status of Jal Arpan activities in certified villages and the progress towards formal certification of villages reported as Har Ghar Jal. It was informed



that efforts are being made to minimise the gap between villages reported as Har Ghar Jal and those formally certified, with 100 percent certification of all reported Har Ghar Jal villages being targeted.

The DDC directed all concerned implementing agencies to ensure completion of JJM schemes within the stipulated timelines and maintain close monitoring of physical progress. She called for timely identification and

resolution of bottlenecks affecting the execution of schemes.

Directions were also passed to ensure 100 percent FHTC coverage across the district, with the concerned agencies asked to undertake close monitoring and coordinated efforts to achieve the target.

The DDC further directed all concerned officers and implementing agencies to maintain close coordination and undertake regular

monitoring to ensure effective and timely implementation of JJM activities across the district.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Mohammad Maqbool; Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Circle Bandipora, Anbreena Anjum; Executive Engineers; Project Manager (DPMU, JJM), Shaye Ahmad; and Executive/Junior Engineers, along with other concerned technical staff. During the meeting, it was

informed that geo-tagging of all water sources in the district is scheduled to commence from October 2, 2026 and is targeted for completion by December 31, 2026. It was also apprised that post-monsoon water quality testing of all water sources will commence from October 2 and will be undertaken in a systematic and time-bound manner.

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DDC Kulgam reviews progress of VB-G RAM G implementation

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, OCTOBER 01: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a meeting at Mini-Secretariat, Kulgam to review the progress and implementation of Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G) in the district.

The meeting reviewed key indicators including person days generation, wage and material release vis-a-vis expenditure, Master Roll status, physical progress of works, delay monitoring, skilled employment and social audit issues.

It was informed that against an annual target of 14 lakh Mandays, 4,60,781 Mandays have been generated, achieving 32.91% of the annual target and 98.74% of the Q1 target.

The DDC stressed upon timely wage payments, expeditious processing of FTOs and Master Rolls, proper utilisation of funds and speedy completion of works, besides ensuring transparency and accountability in implementation.

The meeting also reviewed preparations for People's Plan Campaign and Reform Utsav, scheduled from October 2 to December 31, with special Gram Sabhas to be held in every Halqa



Panchayat. The DDC directed the concerned officers to ensure maximum public participation and effective awareness on key reforms, scheme convergence, institutional readiness and citizen awareness, besides facilitating participatory planning and identification of local development priorities.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri; ACR, Reyaz Ahmad Shah; ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; CPO, Suhail Malik, DIO, CEO, Ex En, BDOs, ALC, besides other concerned officers and officials of the Rural Development department, Kulgam.

ADDCC Shopian presides over Workshop on Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan under VB-G RAM G

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 01: Additional District

convergence of various schemes and departments to ensure effective utilization of resources and better outcomes at the grassroots

achievement in the 1st Quarter.

On the occasion ADDCC Shopian, stressed the need for active participation of Panchayati Raj Institutions



Development Commissioner (ADDCC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone today presided over a workshop on the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) under VB-G RAM G here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

The workshop aimed at strengthening participatory and integrated planning for inclusive, resilient and prosperous rural development.

On the occasion, the ADDCC highlighted the importance of preparing comprehensive Gram Panchayat Plans by identifying local needs and priorities and translating them into actionable development plans. He also stressed on

level. During the workshop, the participants about integrated planning under VB-G RAM G, covering key areas including local needs, people's participation, environment, technology, data and infrastructure.

The process of transforming planning into action through preparation of annual action plans, implementation and real-time tracking was also discussed.

On the occasion, the ADDCC felicitated the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Shopian, Muzaffar Ahmad, in recognition of target

and local communities in the planning process, saying that development plans should be need-based, inclusive and aligned with the aspirations of the people. He called for close coordination among concerned departments and effective monitoring of developmental works to ensure timely implementation and tangible benefits to rural communities.

The workshop also highlighted the importance of data-driven planning, convergence, and transparency in achieving sustainable and people-centric rural development.

Satish Sharma Extends Gandhi Jayanti Greetings, Calls for Upholding Values of Truth, Non-Violence and Swachhata

■ Farooq Rather

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 1: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today extended his warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti, which will be observed across the country on October 2.

The Minister paid rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his 157th birth anniversary, recalling his profound contribution to India's freedom struggle and the enduring relevance of his ideals of truth, non-violence, self-reliance, Swadeshi, cleanliness and Sarvodaya. In his message, Satish Sharma said that Mahatma Gandhi's life and philosophy continue to inspire generations and remain deeply relevant in addressing the challenges facing society today.

"Gandhiji showed the world that truth and non-violence are not merely ideals but powerful instruments for bringing about lasting peace, social harmony and positive transformation. His message of Satya, Ahimsa, Swadeshi, Swachhata and Sarvodaya continues to guide humanity," the Minister said.

He called upon the people, particularly the youth, to draw inspiration from Gandhiji's life and work and translate his principles into action in their everyday lives. Satish Sharma emphasized that cleanliness, social responsibility, compassion and respect for fellow citizens are essential for building a progressive and harmonious society. He urged people to make cleanliness and civic responsibility a collective movement and contribute towards creating cleaner and healthier communities.

The Minister also underscored the importance of promoting self-reliance and supporting local initiatives, enterprises and products, in keeping with the spirit of Swadeshi and Gandhiji's vision of an empowered society.

"Gandhiji's legacy reminds us that nation-building begins with individual responsibility. Let us reaffirm our commitment to truth, non-violence, cleanliness, social harmony and service to society, and work collectively for a peaceful, prosperous and progressive Jammu and Kashmir," Satish Sharma said. He urged citizens to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti not merely as a day of remembrance but as an opportunity to renew their commitment to the values that Mahatma Gandhi championed throughout his life.

Big Catch for ACB: Deputy Director Held in Rs 50,000 Bribe Trap

ACB Tightens Noose Around Corruption, Traps DD Agri. Law Enforcement with Tout

■ DR. AB QAYOOM

Srinagar, Oct, 01: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Jammu and Kashmir, has trapped and arrested a Deputy Director of Agriculture Law Enforcement along with an alleged tout for allegedly demanding and accepting illegal gratification of Rs 50,000 from a seed dealer in Srinagar.

According to the ACB, the accused public servant has been identified as Naseer Ahmad Khan, Deputy Director Agriculture Law Enforcement, while his alleged tout has been identified as Mohd Owais Bhat, resident of Qamarwari. The ACB said it received a written complaint alleging that Naseer Ahmad Khan had demanded a bribe of Rs 2 lakh from a seed dealer for allowing him to sell plant seeds at his shop. The complainant had allegedly already paid Rs 1 lakh under compulsion, while the remaining amount was to be paid in two instalments of Rs



50,000 each.

After receiving the complaint, the ACB conducted verification, which, according to the bureau, prima facie established the allegations of illegal gratification. Subsequently, FIR No. 16/2026 was registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar under Sections 7 and 7A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and Section 61(2) of the BNS. The ACB said a trap team was constituted on September 30, 2026. During the trap operation, Naseer Ahmad Khan and his alleged tout Mohd Owais Bhat were reportedly caught red-handed while demanding and accepting Rs 50,000 from the complainant.

The tainted money was recovered on the spot, the ACB said. Both accused persons were arrested and subjected to medico-legal formalities before being lodged at Police Station Shaheed Gunj, Srinagar, for safe custody.

The Agriculture Law Enforcement wing plays an important regulatory role in the agriculture sector, particularly in monitoring the quality and lawful sale of agricultural inputs such as seeds, pesticides and fertilizers. These inputs are closely linked with Kashmir's major horticulture and fruit economy, which supports thousands of growers, traders and other stakeholders.

FDA intensifies Food Safety Enforcement across UT

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 01: Continuing its food safety surveillance and enforcement activities, FDA, J&K conducted inspections in

the last couple of days across the Union Territory to ensure compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations framed thereunder. During the enforcement drive, Food Safety teams conducted 348 inspections of Food Business Operators (FBOs) across various districts and lifted 180 food samples covering major commodities, including edible oils, ghee, milk and milk products, spices and other food products. The samples have

been forwarded to NABL-accredited food testing laboratories for analysis against the prescribed safety and quality parameters. The establishments inspected during this round of inspections belonged to various categories which included Hotels, Restaurants and canteens.

As part of the enforcement action, six Improvement Notices were issued to FBOs found deficient in complying with prescribed food safety requirements and the Food business

operators have been directed to report compliance within the stipulated timeline failing which legal action as necessary shall be initiated.

Further, 31 complaint cases were initiated under Sections 56 and 58 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 against violations detected during inspections and filed before the Adjudicating Officers (Additional Deputy Commissioners) of the respective districts.

DLSA Ganderbal observes International Day of Older Persons with series of Legal Awareness, Outreach Programmes

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 01: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, observed the International Day of Older Persons today, by organising a series of legal awareness and outreach programmes aimed at sensitising senior citizens about their legal rights, welfare entitlements, dignity, safety and access to free legal services.

The series of programmes were organised under the chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, and under the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, in pursuance of the directions of the J&K Legal Services Authority and in accordance with the calendar of activities

issued for the observance of the programme.

As part of the observance, DLSA Ganderbal organised a legal awareness programme in collaboration with Ahata Waqar (Old Age Home, Wayil), Hope Society, Ganderbal.

Advocate Bilal Ahmed Bhat, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Ganderbal, acted as the Resource Person and sensitised the senior citizens about their legal rights and entitlements, particularly under the NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens) Scheme, 2016 and the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. He also apprised the participants about the availability of free legal aid and the assistance that can be availed through the Legal Services Authorities, including NALSA Helpline No. 15100.

The programme further highlighted



the importance of safeguarding the dignity, safety and welfare of senior citizens and ensuring their meaningful access to justice for all especially Senior Citizens.

Another awareness programme was



organised in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Officer, Ganderbal, at the Auditorium Hall of Government Boys' Higher Secondary School, Ganderbal. Advocate Irfan Rashid, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Ganderbal,

acted as the Resource Person and sensitised the participants regarding their rights, welfare measures and legal protections available to them. He also highlighted the role of Legal Services Institutions and concerned stakeholders in ensuring that senior citizens are able to access available legal and welfare services.

In another series of programme, a door-to-door legal awareness activities were also undertaken by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Ganderbal/TLSC Ganderbal in their respective areas and Legal Aid Clinics. The PLVs reached out to senior citizens and their family members and created awareness regarding the NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens) Scheme, 2016 and the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. He also apprised the participants about the availability of free legal aid and the role of Legal Services Authorities in facilitating access to justice.

Helpline No. 15100 as well as other welfare schemes of the Government for old age persons including old age pension, Golden Card, etc. Meanwhile, DLSA Ganderbal, in collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC), Kangan, organised an awareness programme at the Tehsil Social Welfare Office, Kangan, to mark the International Day of Older Persons. Adv. Sajad Ahmad Khan, Resource Person, sensitised the participants about the legal rights, welfare measures and protections available to senior citizens, particularly under the NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens) Scheme, 2016 and the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. He also apprised the participants about the availability of free legal aid and the role of Legal Services Authorities in facilitating access to justice.



HT EDITORIAL

Fix the System, and Corruption Will Lose Its Oxygen

Corruption cannot be defeated merely by catching corrupt officials after an illegal transaction has taken place. Arrests, investigations and prosecutions are necessary components of the fight against corruption, but they address the offence after the opportunity has already emerged. The more fundamental task for Jammu and Kashmir is to build an administrative system in which such opportunities are progressively eliminated.

The continuing action of the Anti-Corruption Bureau against officials accused of demanding or accepting bribes demonstrates that accountability is being enforced. Public office carries responsibility, and anyone who abuses official authority for personal gain must face the consequences established under law. Such action is essential for maintaining public confidence in institutions.

Yet every corruption case should also trigger another question: why was the system vulnerable enough to allow the alleged misconduct to occur? This question is particularly important because corruption often flourishes in the gaps between rules and their implementation. An unnecessarily complicated procedure, an indefinite timeline, excessive discretionary power, multiple layers of approval or a lack of information can turn an ordinary government service into an opportunity for exploitation.

The citizen who knows exactly what documents are required, what fee has to be paid, which officer is responsible, how long the process should take and where to check the status of an application has considerably less reason to depend on an intermediary.

Conversely, whenever information is uncertain and procedures are opaque, personal influence and unofficial intervention can find space.

Therefore, the next phase of the anti-corruption drive should focus equally on administrative redesign.

Every department dealing directly with the public should periodically examine its procedures. Unnecessary approvals should be eliminated. Outdated requirements should be withdrawn. Forms should be simplified. Service delivery timelines should be clearly defined wherever possible. Responsibility for unexplained delays should be traceable.

Digital governance can accelerate this process, but merely converting paper files into electronic files is not enough. True digital reform should make government services simpler, more transparent and less dependent on personal contact. An applicant should be able to submit a request, receive an acknowledgement, track its movement and know the reason for any delay without having to repeatedly visit an office.

The same principle should apply within government departments. Internal audits, supervisory reviews, vigilance mechanisms and periodic inspections can identify vulnerable processes before they produce larger problems. Sensitive assignments may require appropriate rotation and stronger oversight. An effective anti-corruption architecture, therefore, should have two equally important pillars: strong enforcement and strong prevention.

There is also a need for balance. An administration cannot function effectively if every honest decision is made under the fear that it may later be interpreted as misconduct. Clear rules and transparent procedures protect citizens from corruption while also protecting honest public servants from arbitrary allegations. Accountability and administrative confidence must operate together.

The complaint mechanism also deserves attention. Citizens should be able to report suspected corruption without navigating complicated procedures. Complaints should be acknowledged and, wherever legally permissible, their progress should be traceable. At the same time, appropriate safeguards are necessary to prevent complaint mechanisms from being misused for personal vendettas or harassment.

Speed matters as well. A corruption case that remains unresolved for years weakens public confidence regardless of its eventual outcome. Investigation, departmental action and judicial proceedings must follow due process, but they should also move with reasonable efficiency.

Most importantly, corruption cases should become opportunities for institutional learning.

If complaints repeatedly emerge from a particular licensing process, the licensing system should be reviewed. If citizens repeatedly complain about delays in a particular office, the workflow should be examined. If middlemen repeatedly appear around a government service, the administration should ask why citizens feel compelled to use them. If discretionary authority repeatedly creates disputes, the rules governing that discretion may need greater clarity.

This approach changes the character of the anti-corruption campaign. Instead of merely asking "Who took the bribe?", the administration also begins asking "What weakness allowed the bribe to be demanded?"

That is the question that can produce lasting reform.

The ultimate test of an anti-corruption system will not be the number of raids conducted or arrests made. It will be the experience of an ordinary citizen seeking a government service and discovering that the process is straightforward, transparent and time-bound. A citizen should not need a recommendation to obtain a routine service. There should be no necessity for a middleman. There should be no unofficial payment. And there should be no endless visits simply to discover where a file is lying. Corruption thrives where systems are complicated, responsibilities are unclear and discretion is unchecked. It struggles where procedures are simple, information is accessible and accountability is visible. Jammu and Kashmir therefore needs to move from merely fighting corruption to systematically reducing the space in which corruption can occur. Catch the corrupt when they violate the law, certainly. But at the same time, repair the system that gives corruption an opportunity. The most successful anti-corruption reform will ultimately be the one that makes corruption unnecessary, difficult and increasingly impossible to hide.

Importance of sports

not only fame but also financial success. India has produced many legendary sports personalities who have brought pride to the nation—Kapil Dev, Sunil Gavaskar, Rahul Dravid, and Sachin Tendulkar in cricket; Sania Mirza

Major Dhyan Chand. On this day, schools, colleges, and universities across the country conduct various sporting events to remind people of the value of sports in life. The Indian government has been making



and Mahesh Bhupathi in tennis; Bhaichung Bhutia in football; and many others. Each year, countries allocate a budget for sports to promote talent at the district, state, and national levels. Only the most dedicated and fortunate athletes go on to represent the country at the international stage.

The importance of sports is also reflected in events like National Sports Day, celebrated on August 29th in honour of hockey legend

consistent efforts to improve sports infrastructure. Constructing stadiums at the panchayat level, providing fenced and levelled grounds, and investing in other facilities are commendable steps. In Jammu & Kashmir, particularly, several sports leagues are organised that help nurture local talent and produce players of national and international calibre. Benefits of Sports Activities health & Fitness: Sports keep individuals

physically active, stress-free, and mentally sharp.

Social Good: Sports help curb drug addiction among the youth, offering a positive and engaging alternative.

Livelihood Opportunities: Many athletes now earn their livelihood through coaching, running gyms, or opening training academies such as boxing and martial arts centres.

Community Engagement: Local tournaments in cricket, football, or volleyball—organised with proper permissions—encourage community participation and youth development.

Tourism Boost: Destinations like Gulmarg in Kashmir offer immense potential for sports tourism, especially skiing, adventure sports, and mountaineering. These activities attract visitors from across the world and contribute to the economy.

Recently, the successful conclusion of the Khelo India Games, where players from across the globe participated, further proved India's growing stature in the global sporting arena.

In conclusion, sports are not only essential for health and happiness but also carry vast potential to generate employment, promote youth development, and strengthen the national economy. The sports sector, if nurtured properly, can become one of the strongest pillars of progress for the country.

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The Growing Threat of wildfires for the Environment



Surinderpal Singh

Wildfires are among the most destructive natural disturbances on Earth. Fire has always been a part of many ecosystems, and some forests depend on periodic, low-intensity fires for regeneration. However, the increasing frequency, intensity and duration of uncontrolled wildfires in many regions have become a serious environmental concern. What was once largely a natural ecological process is increasingly being intensified by human activities, land-use changes and a warming climate.

The environmental consequences of wildfires extend far beyond the areas that are directly burned. Forests and grasslands provide habitats for countless species, store carbon, regulate water cycles and protect soil. When intense fires destroy vegetation, animals lose shelter, food and breeding grounds. Some species may escape, while others—including slow-moving animals and organisms living in the soil—may perish. Repeated fires can prevent ecosystems from recovering and may permanently alter the composition of plant and animal communities.

One of the most significant consequences of large wildfires is their impact on air quality. Burning vegetation releases smoke containing particulate matter and gases such as carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide. Fine particles can travel hundreds or even thousands of kilometres under favourable atmospheric conditions. Smoke pollution can therefore affect communities far from the actual fire zone, reducing visibility and creating serious risks for people with respiratory and cardiovascular



vulnerabilities.

Wildfires also contribute to the climate problem. Trees and other vegetation absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store carbon in their biomass and soils. When forests burn, part of this stored carbon is released back into the atmosphere. At the same time, the loss of vegetation reduces the landscape's future capacity to absorb carbon. This creates a troubling relationship between climate change and wildfire: warmer and drier conditions can increase fire risk, while severe fires can add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

Soil is another silent victim of intense wildfires. Vegetation normally protects the ground from erosion and helps water infiltrate the soil. After a severe fire, the exposed land can become vulnerable to wind and water erosion. Heavy rainfall following a wildfire may wash ash, sediment and nutrients into rivers, lakes and reservoirs. In mountainous regions, damaged slopes may become more susceptible to landslides and flash floods.

The destruction of forests also affects the water cycle. Trees release moisture into the atmosphere through transpiration and help regulate local temperature and humidity. Large-scale vegetation loss can therefore change local environmental conditions. The disappearance

of forests can also reduce the capacity of landscapes to retain water, increasing the risk of both flooding during intense rainfall and water scarcity during prolonged dry periods.

Wildfires have serious economic and social consequences as well. Agricultural land, homes, roads, electricity networks and other infrastructure can be damaged or destroyed. Communities may be forced to evacuate, sometimes repeatedly. Farmers can lose crops, livestock and grazing areas, while tourism-dependent regions may suffer significant economic losses. The long-term psychological and social consequences for people who lose homes, livelihoods or familiar landscapes can also be substantial.

Yet it is important to recognise that not every wildfire is an environmental disaster. In several ecosystems, naturally occurring or carefully managed fires can remove accumulated vegetation, recycle nutrients and create conditions for certain plants to regenerate. The real challenge is distinguishing healthy ecological fire regimes from unusually large, intense or frequent fires that exceed the ability of ecosystems and communities to recover.

Preventing destructive wildfires requires a combination of science, responsible land management and community participation.

Early-warning systems, satellite monitoring, fire-weather forecasting and rapid-response teams can help detect and contain fires before they become uncontrollable. Forest management should include appropriate vegetation management, firebreaks and, where ecologically suitable, carefully planned prescribed burning. Communities in fire-prone areas need evacuation plans, emergency communication systems and public education.

Most importantly, wildfire policy cannot be separated from the broader environmental crisis. Protecting forests, restoring degraded landscapes, reducing unnecessary vegetation burning and addressing climate change are all parts of the same effort. Individuals can contribute by preventing careless fires, avoiding the burning of waste and reporting fires quickly. Governments, meanwhile, must invest in resilient landscapes, scientific monitoring and coordinated disaster-management systems.

A wildfire may begin with a single spark, but its consequences can spread across forests, skies, rivers, economies and communities. Fire itself is not the enemy; uncontrolled and increasingly extreme fire is. The goal should therefore not simply be to eliminate every fire, but to restore a healthier balance between natural fire processes, human safety and ecological resilience.

The smoke of a burning forest should be understood as more than a temporary environmental spectacle. It is a warning about the vulnerability of ecosystems on which human life depends. Protecting forests from destructive wildfires means protecting biodiversity, clean air, fertile soil, water security and the climate itself. The choices made today will determine whether future generations inherit resilient forests or landscapes increasingly shaped by fire.

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Sewer Cleaning: Why Is Lack of Safety Costing Lives?



Dr. Vijay Garg

Sewer cleaning is one of the most essential yet least visible forms of public service. Every day, sanitation workers enter environments that most people never see and perform work that is necessary for cities, towns and villages to function safely. Yet when adequate safety measures are missing, this essential work can become life-threatening.

The question is not simply why accidents happen. The deeper question is why workers continue to face serious risks while performing work that society depends upon.

A Dangerous Working Environment Sewers and manholes can contain toxic gases, contaminated water, sharp objects and other hazards. Some gases may reduce the oxygen available for breathing or cause poisoning. A worker entering such an environment without proper assessment, ventilation, protective equipment and supervision may face severe danger within a very short period.

The risks are often invisible. A manhole may look like an ordinary opening in the road, but conditions below the surface can be completely different. The concentration of gases can change, oxygen levels can fall and wastewater can suddenly rise.

Therefore, sewer cleaning cannot be treated as ordinary manual labour. It requires trained personnel, appropriate technology, risk assessment and emergency preparedness.

When Safety Becomes Secondary Fatal incidents can occur when safety procedures are ignored, equipment is unavailable or workers are pressured to complete a task



quickly. In some situations, workers may enter confined spaces without adequate gas detection, respiratory protection, communication systems or rescue arrangements.

Another serious problem is the absence of proper supervision. Entering a confined space should never be treated as an individual decision without a safety plan. Before work begins, hazards need to be identified, the atmosphere tested and appropriate precautions established.

Most importantly, a rescue plan must exist before anyone enters. A common danger in confined-space accidents is that a second person may enter impulsively to rescue a colleague and become another victim. Rescue should be conducted using trained personnel and suitable equipment.

Technology Can Reduce Human Exposure One of the most important ways to improve safety is to reduce the need for human beings to enter sewers at all.

Modern sanitation systems can increasingly use mechanical cleaning machines, suction equipment, robotic devices, cameras and other technologies for inspection and cleaning. These

tools cannot eliminate every risk, but they can reduce direct human exposure to hazardous environments.

Technology should not be viewed as a threat to sanitation workers. Rather, it should be viewed as a way to transform their jobs from dangerous manual work into safer, skilled technical occupations.

A worker operating a machine, monitoring a robotic inspection system or managing a mechanised cleaning operation can perform an important sanitation role without unnecessarily entering a dangerous confined space.

Training Is Not Optional Equipment alone cannot guarantee safety. Workers need regular and practical training.

Training should cover confined-space hazards, gas detection, personal protective equipment, communication procedures, emergency response, first aid and safe use of machinery. Supervisors also need specialised training because they are responsible for ensuring that safety procedures are followed.

Training should not be limited to a single

orientation session. Skills must be refreshed periodically, especially when equipment, working conditions or procedures change.

Protective Equipment Must Be Practical Personal protective equipment is important, but it must be appropriate for the actual hazard.

Depending on the work involved, workers may require protective clothing, gloves, boots, helmets, eye and face protection, gas-monitoring devices, harnesses and appropriate respiratory protection. However, simply providing equipment is not enough.

Workers must know how to use it correctly, equipment must be properly maintained and damaged or expired items must be replaced. Safety equipment that is unavailable, unsuitable or difficult to use cannot provide meaningful protection.

The Importance of Gas Detection

One of the most critical precautions in confined-space work is atmospheric testing. Before entry, the atmosphere should be assessed for oxygen deficiency and hazardous gases. Conditions should also be monitored during the work because the atmosphere can change.

A worker should never have to guess whether the air inside a sewer is safe to breathe.

Portable gas detectors and other monitoring systems can provide essential information and help prevent workers from entering dangerous conditions. But these devices must be properly maintained, calibrated and used by trained personnel.

Emergency Rescue Must Be Planned in Advance

Safety does not end when an accident occurs. The ability to respond quickly can determine whether an incident becomes fatal.

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DC leads One-Hour Shramdaan under “Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Sath” Campaign

Mega cleanliness drive held at historic Chowgan Grounds Kishtwar

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 01: As part of the “Swachhata Hi Seva – 2026” campaign, the District Administration Kishtwar today organized a mega one-hour cleanliness drive (Shramdaan) here at the historic Chowgan Grounds under the banner “Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Sath”.

The cleanliness drive was led by Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma with attendance from all District and Sectoral Officers, their staff and Safai Karamcharis.

The event was organized with the objective of reinforcing the message of cleanliness, civic responsibility and behavioural change

through Jan Bhagidari, while encouraging collective ownership of public spaces.

The Deputy Commissioner administered the Swachhta Pledge to all participants. He appreciated the enthusiasm and wholehearted participation of all officers, officials, sanitation workers and the general public. He emphasized that cleanliness is a collective responsibility and called for sustained public participation, behavioural change and active community engagement to maintain clean and hygienic public spaces. He urged everyone to carry forward the spirit of Shramdaan beyond the campaign and make cleanliness a regular collective practice.



The collective Shramdaan at Chowgan Ground reflected the spirit of “Swachhata Hi Seva”, emphasizing that sustained cleanliness requires active participation and shared responsibility among government institutions, elected representatives and citizens. ADC Pawan Kotwal; ACR Idrees Lone; CPO Akhil Thakur; ACD Manoj Kumar; ACP Neeraj Sharma; EOMC Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; AD Handicrafts Pardeep Shan; BDO Ravi Parihar; BDO Hqrs. Chandan Manhas; CMO Dr. Sanjay Bhat; DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh; BDO Nagseni Subhash Thakur; BDO Bounjwah Aijaz Ahmed, besides other officers and officials were present on the occasion.

DC Udhampur flags off awareness vehicle to promote public awareness on VB-G RAM G Scheme

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 01: District Development Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa today flagged off an Awareness Vehicle here from the district headquarters to generate awareness among rural populace regarding the objectives, provisions and benefits of the VB-G RAM G scheme. The initiative is aimed at taking information about the scheme to the grassroots level and ensuring that rural residents are well-informed about its provisions, implementation mechanism and the benefits available to them. The event was attended by ADC Prem Singh; CPO Uttam Singh; DSEO Darshan Kumar; ACD Om Parkash and ACP Ashwani Hansa, besides other officers and officials of the Rural Development Department.

The Awareness Vehicle will traverse across rural areas and Gram Panchayats of the District, disseminating information about the scheme and facilitating direct outreach to rural households. The awareness campaign is aimed to encourage greater community participation and motivate rural residents to take an active role in the planning and implementation of developmental initiatives under the scheme.

Dengue Surveillance intensified in Doda Health Department conducts field inspection of identified hotspots

■ HT News Network



DODA, OCTOBER 01: As part of the ongoing efforts to contain dengue and strengthen vector-control measures in the district, the Dengue Surveillance Team of the Health Department Doda conducted a comprehensive field inspection of identified hotspots. The field team, led by Dy Medical Superintendent AH GMC Doda Dr. Irfan Tasaduq Kelam, revisited the identified hotspots to assess the prevailing situation and undertake a detailed inspection of areas having potential for mosquito breeding. Special attention was given to stagnant water and other possible breeding sites, with the team checking for the presence of mosquito larvae and conditions conducive to mosquito proliferation. During the visit, the team also surveyed the surrounding areas and identified locations requiring immediate preventive intervention. Emphasis was laid on the timely removal of stagnant water, elimination of potential breeding sources, proper sanitation and regular surveillance to minimize the risk of mosquito breeding and further transmission of dengue. The inspection forms part of the Health Department's continued strategy to strengthen field-level surveillance, ensure early identification and source reduction of mosquito breeding sites and maintain close monitoring of dengue-prone.

DC Kathua reviews Road Safety action plan Calls for coordinated measures to reduce road accidents

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, OCTOBER 01: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the Road Safety Action Plan in the district. He reviewed the measures being undertaken by concerned departments to enhance road safety and minimise road accidents.

The meeting was attended by ADC Mahima Madan; ASP Sunil Kesar; RTO Surinder Paul Sharma; Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B), CMO, EO MC and representatives from concerned departments.

At the outset, the concerned officers briefed the DC on the status of the road safety interventions, accident-prone locations, enforcement measures, road engineering works, traffic management and awareness activities being undertaken across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the department-wise progress under the Road Safety Action Plan and stressed the



need for a coordinated and result-oriented approach to address road safety concerns. He directed the concerned agencies to identify and address accident-prone spots, ensure proper road signage, road markings, crash barriers and other requisite safety measures, besides maintaining close monitoring of vulnerable stretches.

Emphasising strict enforcement of traffic regulations, the DC directed the enforcement agencies to intensify checking against overspeeding,

rash driving, overloading, driving without helmets and seat belts, use of mobile phones while driving and other traffic violations. He called for regular enforcement drives, particularly on vulnerable road stretches and stressed that violations posing a threat to road users must invite strict action as per law.

Reviewing the emergency response mechanism, the Deputy Commissioner called for effective coordination among the Health Department, Police, Traffic authorities.

DC Reasi reviews arrangements for Navratra, Dussehra celebrations

■ HT News Network

REASI, OCTOBER 01: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek chaired a meeting here today to review and finalize arrangements for the upcoming Navratra and Dussehra celebrations in the town.

Representatives from Durga Natak Mandli apprised the Deputy Commissioner about the programmes planned for the festivities, including the staging of Ram Leela during Navratra and the Dussehra celebrations.

The meeting held detailed discussions on various arrangements, including sanitation, security, power supply, drinking water, medical facilities and fire safety, to ensure the smooth, safe and peaceful conduct of the festivities.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Officer, Municipal Council to undertake a special sanitation drive across the town, with focus on the festival venues. The concerned health authorities were asked to deploy adequate medical staff along with an ambulance at the General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium on Dussehra day. The Fire and Emergency Services Department was also asked to station a fire tender at the venue as a precautionary measure.

The Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited was asked to ensure uninterrupted power supply, particularly during the Ram Leela events, while the Jal Shakti Department was tasked with deploying water tankers to ensure the availability of safe drinking water for participants and



visitors. The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, was further asked to put in place necessary barricading arrangements at the Ram Leela Ground and General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized close coordination among all concerned departments and stressed the timely completion of all arrangements for the safe, smooth and successful conduct of the Navratra and Dussehra festivities.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Nitin Verma, Executive Engineer, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, Tehsildar Reasi, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), members of Durga Natak Mandli and other officials were present in the meeting.

National Voluntary Blood Donation Day observed at Blood Centre AH GMC Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA, OCTOBER 1: National Voluntary Blood Donation Day was observed today at the Blood Centre Associated Hospital, Government Medical College (GMC) Doda, with active participation of students, security personnel and volunteers.

The programme was inaugurated by Deputy Medical Superintendent AH GMC Dr. Irfan Tasaduq, in the presence of Head and Assistant Professor, Blood Centre, AH GMC Dr. Rampal, besides officers and representatives from 10 RR Arnora and SSB Khellani.



As part of the observance, a voluntary blood donation drive was organised in which personnel from Jammu & Kashmir Police, 10 RR Arnora, SSB Khellani, 26 RR Thathri, MBBS students and B.Sc Nursing students participated enthusiastically.

The participating donors donated blood for the benefit of patients requiring transfusion at the Associated Hospital, GMC Doda. The initiative highlighted the importance of voluntary blood donation and reflected the spirit of community service and social responsibility.

Dr. Rampal appreciated the donors and participating organisations for their valuable contribution. He emphasized that voluntary blood donation is a noble humanitarian service and urged eligible citizens to come forward and donate blood regularly to help ensure the availability of safe blood for patients in need.

The Head and staff of the Blood Centre, AH GMC Doda expressed gratitude to all donors, students, security personnel, officers and participating organisations for their support and active participation in making the blood donation drive successful.

BJP stands exposed for its betrayal over statehood, Congress to further intensify statehood movement - JKPC

■ HT News Network

Jammu October 01 :- Reiterating the demand for restoration of full statehood with constitutional guarantees for the protection of land, jobs and natural resources without further delay, JKPC has said that it will further intensify the movement, stating that BJP stands fully exposed for the betrayal to honour its repeated commitments in this regard, before the Parliament, Hon'ble Apex Court and in the public.

Addressing a joint press conference here today at Rajiv Bhawan, Jammu PCC Working President Raman Bhalla, Former



Minister Mula Ram, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma and Party's Chief Whip in Legislative Assembly Shri Nizamuddin Bhat (MLA) hit out at the Centre Govt. and BJP for the continuous betrayal and delaying granting the statehood, promised by the Prime Minister and Home Minister, time and again during then past 7 years including on the floor of

Parliament, before the Apex Court and in the public, especially to seek massive mandate in the Assembly Elections. Declaring that party will intensify the statehood movement “Hamari Riyasat, Hamara Haq” along with the nationwide campaign of INDIA Block against “Vote Chori” announced yesterday, JKPC leaders said that BJP stands fully

exposed on the issue and the passing of the resolution in the UT Assembly, second time for the restoration of full statehood, is an indication of the resentment over the Centre's failure to honor its commitment and respect the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir regarding the rightful demand for statehood. Asserting that statehood is the right of the people of J&K, Chief Whip of Congress in the Assembly Mr. Nizamuddin Bhat said that people are not demanding anything new but the fulfillment of the public commitment by the Centre itself, especially the Prime Minister & Home Minister on the floor of the Parliament and its reiteration.

MLA Arvind Gupta takes stock of development works in Shakti Nagar, assures residents of timely action

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, OCTOBER 1: Jammu West MLA Arvind Gupta today visited Shakti Nagar, Ward No. 29, and took stock of the ongoing development works while interacting with residents and reviewing the local issues confronting the area.

During the visit, Gupta inspected the ongoing works and took feedback from the people regarding civic amenities and infrastructure requirements. A development work amounting to Rs 7.5 lakh under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is also being taken up in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Arvind Gupta said that development of every

ward and resolution of public grievances remain among his foremost priorities.

“My commitment is to ensure that every locality of Jammu West receives focused attention and that development reaches people at the grassroots level. I am regularly visiting different wards to personally assess the progress of works and understand the issues being faced by residents,” Gupta said.

He stressed that development is not merely about sanctioning projects but also about ensuring their timely execution, quality and direct public benefit.

“The people have entrusted me with the responsibility of representing Jammu West, and I will continue to remain accessible to them. Our focus is on better roads, drainage, sanitation, water supply



and other essential civic facilities. Wherever genuine issues are brought to our notice, efforts will be made to address them on priority,” he added.

Gupta also emphasized the importance of regular field inspections and coordination with the concerned departments so that ongoing works are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

He said that ward-level development and responsive public service will continue to remain central to his approach in Jammu West, with special emphasis on addressing issues raised directly by residents.

The MLA was accompanied by Kushant Prajapati, Mandal President, along with Reema Padha, Surinder Choudhary, Karan Sharma, Rekha Sharma, Aarti

Khajuria and Sudesh Sharma, besides local residents and party workers.

The team also discussed various local requirements and development-related concerns with residents during the visit.

Gupta reiterated that he would continue undertaking regular tours of different areas of Jammu West to monitor development works and ensure that public concerns are taken up with the concerned authorities.

Gupta reiterated that he would continue undertaking regular tours of different areas of Jammu West to monitor development works and ensure that public concerns are taken up with the concerned authorities.





Over one lakh signatures, “Hamari Awaaz Suno” memorandum: JKSAC takes PoJK displaced persons’ cause to Delhi

HT News Network

Jammu: President of the Jammu Kashmir Sharmarhi Action Committee (JKSAC) Gurdev Singh today briefed the media on the outcome of the Committee's recent visit to New Delhi, undertaken to highlight the long-pending demands and grievances of the 1947 displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

Addressing a press conference, Gurdev Singh said a JKSAC delegation had travelled to the national capital to organise a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar, for which the requisite communication regarding the programme had already been made. However, upon reaching New Delhi, the delegation was informed that Section 144 had been imposed at Jantar Mantar and adjoining areas, because of which the proposed protest could not be held as planned.

Gurdev Singh said that despite the development, the delegation decided not to allow the Delhi visit to become merely a cancelled protest programme.

Instead, the JKSAC pursued its broader objective of placing the long-pending issues of PoJK displaced persons before the national leadership and concerned authorities. He said the JKSAC had separately written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the President of India, seeking appointments with them so that the delegation could personally submit its detailed “Hamari Awaaz Suno” memorandum and apprise the national leadership of the concerns of the displaced community.

However, Gurdev Singh said that no meeting with the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister or President could be convened during the visit. He added that the reasons for the non-scheduling of the meetings were best known to the concerned offices. “Even though the meetings could not materialise, we did not return empty-handed. We ensured that the collective voice of the PoJK displaced persons reached the offices of the highest authorities,” Gurdev

Singh said.

He disclosed that he personally managed to submit a book containing the signatures of over one lakh PoJK displaced persons in support of their long-pending demands at the offices of the Union Home Minister and the President of India. Describing the signature book as a significant democratic representation of the displaced community, the JKSAC President said the signatures reflected the collective aspirations of a large number of families who have been seeking a comprehensive resolution of their issues for decades.

Gurdev Singh said the JKSAC delegation also succeeded in securing a meeting with BJP National Spokesperson and Rajya Sabha Member Dr Sudhanshu Trivedi at the BJP Headquarters in New Delhi. During the meeting, the delegation submitted its detailed “Hamari Awaaz Suno” memorandum and apprised him of the historical background, present circumstances and long-pending demands of the 1947 PoJK

displaced persons.

The delegation also submitted a memorandum of demands to Naveen Sinha, Coordinator at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, urging that the long-pending issues of PoJK displaced persons be taken up with the appropriate authorities and pursued towards a comprehensive settlement. The JKSAC President further announced that, during the Delhi visit, Surjit Singh Azad was nominated as JKSAC Coordinator for New Delhi. He said Azad would facilitate the Committee's efforts for pursuing the cause of PoJK displaced persons in the national capital and coordinate with PoJK displaced persons residing in Delhi and surrounding areas. Gurdev Singh said the JKSAC delegation also succeeded in securing a meeting with BJP National Spokesperson and Rajya Sabha Member Dr Sudhanshu Trivedi at the BJP Headquarters in New Delhi. During the meeting, the delegation submitted its detailed “Hamari Awaaz Suno” memorandum and apprised him.

Tarigami mourns demise of veteran trade union leader Ghulam Qadir Hafroo

Farooq Rather

Srinagar, October 1: M.Y. Tarigami, senior CPI(M) leader, has expressed profound grief over the demise of Ghulam Qadir Hafroo, a veteran trade union leader and committed champion of the rights of working people and weaker sections of society.

Born in 1934 at Hafroo Chadoora Budgam, He served as a teacher in the School Education Department. He was closely associated with the All



J&K Low Paid Employees federation and served as its Provincial President at a crucial juncture when employees, particularly those belonging

to the low-paid sections, were facing severe hardships.

In 1967 a sustained agitation of the All J&K Low Paid Employees Federation, in which he was one of the leading leaders, which ultimately led the government of the time to concede the legitimate demands of the Union.

After his retirement, He continued his association with the struggles of working people and became actively associated with the J&K Kisan Tehrik and J&K Apple Federation. He

remained steadfast in defending the rights and interests of the poor, working and underprivileged sections of society throughout his life. He also served as a member of the State Committee of the CPI(M) for more than two decades. Paying rich tributes to him, Tarigami said that his life was an example of commitment, courage and steadfastness in the service of the working people. He said that the best tribute to his memory.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of FAYAZ AHMAD NAJAR S/O ABDUL AHAD NAJAR R/O KALANTRA BALA Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward classes) in his/her their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KALANTRA BALA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the NAJAR community having annual income 409560 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1....FAYAZ AHMAD NAJAR Father Head of Family 52 years Labour
 - 2.AISHA BEGUM Mother 45 years H/W
 - 3...SHAKEEL AHMAD NAJAR applicant (Son) 28 years Govt Employee
 - 4...DANISH Fayaz NAJAR applicant (Son) 25 years student
 - 5....FARHAT FAYAZ applicant (daughter) 23 years student
- if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of TANVEER AHMAD , BILAL AHMAD RATHER, BISMA JAMAL & RAMEEZA AKHTER S/O MOHAMMAD JAMAL RATHER R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his/her their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the RATHER community having annual income 774600// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...MOHAMMAD JAMAL RATHER Father 57 years Govt Employee
 - 2.HALEEMA BEGUM Mother 55 years H/W
 - 3... TANVEER AHMAD self 32 years //
 - 4..BILAL AHMAD // 30 years //
 - 5...RAMEEZA AKHTER daughter 27 years student
 - 6...BISMA JAMAL daughter 20 years //
- if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained
- NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERIR/o Nagbal, District Baramulla, J&K

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sheikh Mohd Anwar, hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sheikh Mohd Anwar to Sheikh Mohammad Anwar. Henceforth, I shall be known and recognized as Sheikh Mohammad Anwar for all purposes and in all records/documents. Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid change of name may raise the same with the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Sd/- Sheikh Mohammad Anwar

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as GULSHANA BANO D/O AB AZIZ LONE on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No .. 3035 4175 2997 while my correct name is GULSHANA AZIZ D/O ABDUL AZIZ LONE which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name... GULSHANA AZIZ
D/O..ABDUL AZIZ LONE
R/O..NAGBAL
TEHSIL....KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nasir Javid, S/o Javid Ahmad Rather, R/o Takiya Yousef Shah, Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, hereby give notice to the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as “Nisar Jaivad” in my Aadhaar record. The correct name is “Nasir Javid.” Therefore, I intend to get the said mistake corrected in my Aadhaar record. If any person has any objection regarding the above-mentioned correction, they may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority within the prescribed period. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Nasir Javid
S/o: Javid Ahmad Rather

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Aijaz Ahmad lone F/o Arjumand Aijaz R/o Arath Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of BIRTH certificate of his daughter Arjumand Aijaz D/o Aijaz Ahmad Lone The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his daughter as school records 25 / 07 / 2014 If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .

29 /09 /2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Aijaz Ahmad lone F/o Arjumand Aijaz R/o Arath Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of BIRTH certificate of his daughter Arjumand Aijaz D/o Aijaz Ahmad Lone The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of her own as school records 25 / 07 / 2014 If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .

29 /09 /2026

UNION TERRITORY GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION RAJBAGH SRINAGAR. H.Q.'s: Lal Mandi, Near L.D Hospital Srinagar-190008.

﴿ اودفتر ايجنيرينو مجهر آرا ايندني و دو پرن راجيا سرينگر ﴾

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No. 91/R&B/RAJ of 2026-27 issued under Endorsement No.8214-24 Dated: 01.10.2026.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. N o.	Name of Work	Base Cost Excl. GST (₹ in Lacs)	TOTAL / Adv. Cost (Base Cost + GST) (₹ in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Major Head	Class of Contractor / Agency
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	Repair of Damaged UPVC Panel (Large-Size Window) in the New Hospital Building at Govt. Lalla Ded Hospital, Srinagar.	2.13	2.51	₹200/-	₹5020/-	12 Days	Hospital Development Fund (HDF)	“DEE”

Position of AAA: Accorded vide No. Order No.43-MCS of 2026 Dated:29.07.2026.

Position of TS: Accorded.

Position of Funds: Budgeted / Committed.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01.10.2026.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02.10.2026.from 10:00 AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	02.10.2026.from 10:00 AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	08.10.2026 Up to 04:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	09.10.2026 at 11:30AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar.

- Bids must be accompanied with the cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Inviting Authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan & EMD should be between the Date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).

- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload Earnest Money/Bid security as mentioned above in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar. The Earnest Money/Bid security will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of Performance and Additional Performance Security (if applicable) and Drawl of Agreement as per FORM-25 (Double Cover) .

*Abnormally Low Bid Price :

As per the Circular instructions of Finance Deptt. Vide NO.FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:08.08.2025, which is reproduced as :-

- Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the Project Cost put to bid, the additional Performance Guarantee/ Security Percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performancgrunttee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
 - Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
 - The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security& shall be released after the DLP is over successfully.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).
 - All other terms conditions shall remain as per the J&K Engineering Manual 2020 and other standing Guidelines of the Govt. of India / Govt. of

Sd/-

DIPK-6325/26

Send Dated 01.10.2026.

Executive Engineer,
R&B Rajbagh Division Srinagar



CMYK



FSRP Training concludes in Srinagar under National Entrepreneurship Campaign

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 01: A ten-day residential training program for Food Service Resource Persons (FSRP) under the National Entrepreneurship Campaign concluded in Srinagar today.

Organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) in collaboration with Kudumbashree National Resource Organisation (NRO), the initiative aimed to build a specialized cadre to support food-based Self Help Group (SHG) enterprises across the Union Territory.

The training was imparted by mentors from the Centre pool mentors and professionals from Kudumbashree NRO to 50 Community Resource Persons for Enterprise Promotion (CRP-EPs) nominated



from all districts of Jammu & Kashmir. Following the program, these participants will be certified as Food Service Resource Persons.

Addressing the gathering during the valedictory session, Mission Director JKRLM, Dr Shubhra Sharma said that today marks an important step in creating a dedicated support

ecosystem for food-based enterprises under the National Entrepreneurship Campaign. The FSRPs will serve as a critical bridge between our women-led enterprises and the technical, managerial and market support they require to grow sustainably, she added.

"I am confident that this trained

cadre will help translate the learning from this programme into better quality, improved practices and stronger food enterprises on the ground. Through Umeed Ka Zaika, our endeavour is not merely to create a brand, but to build viable and sustainable livelihoods for rural women across Jammu & Kashmir," she said.

Mission Director further added that the focus now has to be on taking this knowledge beyond the training room and ensuring that it creates visible improvements at the enterprise level. From food safety and standardisation to costing, packaging, branding and market positioning the FSRPs can play an important role in helping women entrepreneurs strengthen every aspect of their businesses. This will also enable us to move from capacity building to sustained handholding

and enterprise growth, she added.

The closing ceremony was attended by key officials, including Additional Mission Director, JKRLM Kashmir, Syed Naseer; State Programme Manager (Non-Farm), Yasir Bhatt; State Programme Manager (Farm), Dr Rayies Ahmad Gojri; State Programme Manager (Monitoring and Evaluation), Navamani Hans, alongside representatives from Kudumbashree NRO.

It is to mention that JKRLM and Kudumbashree NRO previously signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish women-led food service enterprises under the UT brand Umeed Ka Zaika. This training represents a significant step toward strengthening community-led food entrepreneurship across Jammu & Kashmir.

DC Udhampur reviews pending building permission cases at BOCA meeting

HT News Network



DHAMPUR, OCTOBER 1: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of the Building Operation Controlling Authority here at Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by CEO Patnitop Development Authority Rakesh Dubey; Divisional Forest Officer, SDM Chenani; Town Planner and other officers from the concerned departments.

The meeting reviewed the pending cases related to building permissions, including construction of new residential and commercial buildings, repair and renovation of existing structures and development of land by local hereditary residents.

During the deliberations, the Authority examined the cases in detail and accorded approvals subject to applicable rules, regulations and specific conditions, particularly in matters concerning change in land use.

The DC directed the CEO Patnitop Development Authority to convene BOCA meetings regularly to ensure prompt disposal of applications received from citizens and timely decision-making on pending cases.

The DC further advised to involve Wildlife Warden Jammu and Assistant Director Tourism Batote in the BOCA proceedings to facilitate coordinated examination of cases.

ADC inspects ongoing development works across Sub-District Bhaderwah

HT News Network

BHADERWAH, OCTOBER 01: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today conducted an extensive tour of Sub-District Bhaderwah to review the progress of ongoing development works and assess public facilities.

The ADC was accompanied by the Assistant Engineer (AE), staff members of the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department and contractors associated with the ongoing projects.

He inspected the Veterinary Hospital at Pasri and reviewed the facilities and ongoing development works. He also visited the Sub-District Hospital (SDH), where he inspected the newly constructed Emergency and patient wards, besides reviewing the ongoing fencing work around the hospital premises. He directed the concerned officials to ensure quality construction and timely completion of the works.

He further visited Government Girls Higher Secondary School, where he inspected the ongoing toilet construction work. He stressed adherence to prescribed quality standards and completion of the works within the given deadlines.

ADDC Jammu reviews implementation of Youth Empowerment Program

Stresses convergence, outreach and timely reporting

HT News Network

JAMMU, OCTOBER 1: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Jammu Sher Singh today chaired a meeting at his office to review the implementation of the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP).

During the meeting, the ADC took stock of the status of youth-centric initiatives being implemented across departments and asked the officers to present department-wise progress.

He stressed that the District-Level YEP Cell must function as the coordination, implementation and monitoring unit for youth empowerment activities in the district. He directed the officers to complete youth mapping and prepare a comprehensive database covering students, unemployed youth, youth clubs, volunteers,



entrepreneurs and sports persons.

The ADC called for intensified awareness and outreach in schools, colleges and villages, and for wider mobilisation of youth through educational institutions, NYKS/NSS, youth clubs and Panchayats. He also directed that skill workshops, career counseling, placement and entrepreneurship camps be organised on a regular basis, with strong linkages to employment exchanges, skill institutions and banks.

Emphasising convergence of schemes, he asked the departments to coordinate effectively to avoid duplication and ensure that benefits reach the intended youth. He also

asked them to maintain authentic data and submit monthly progress reports on youth reached, registered, trained and linked with opportunities.

The ADC further directed the officers to collect feedback from participating youth and to address implementation gaps promptly. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Ajaypal Singh, Deputy Director Employment Sunaina Saini, Deputy Director (PR) Moksha Dogra, District Health Officer Sophia Jan, AD Fisheries Munish Kumar besides Nodal Principal of Colleges, GCW Parade, and district officers of the concerned departments such as Skill Development, Education, Agriculture,

JMC completes Rainwater Harvesting Project at Govt Girls High School Gandhi Nagar

HT News Network

JAMMU, OCTOBER 1: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) today completed and inaugurated a rainwater harvesting project at Government Girls High School, Gandhi Nagar. The project, initiated around two months ago, was inaugurated by Commissioner JMC Dr. Devansh Yadav as part of the Corporation's ongoing efforts towards water conservation, groundwater recharge and sustainable environmental management. The programme was organised as part of the "Seva Parv" activities. A water conservation pledge was also administered on the occasion, in which students, teachers and JMC officials pledged to save water, prevent its wastage and use this precious natural resource judiciously. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Yadav stressed the importance of involving students in water conservation and encouraging them to adopt responsible water-saving practices in their



daily lives and spread awareness among their families and communities. Dr. Yadav said that the JMC is undertaking several initiatives under the "Clean Jammu, Green Jammu" campaign to mark Gandhi Jayanti. He said that under the "Catch the Rain" campaign, similar rainwater harvesting projects will be implemented in more than 1,000 government schools. The initiative, he said, will not only help conserve rainwater and facilitate groundwater recharge but also create greater awareness among the younger generation about the importance of saving water. The Commissioner also visited a park in Gandhi Nagar where a rainwater harvesting

system has been installed and reviewed the facility. He said that similar systems are being developed in approximately 26 parks across Jammu city to capture rainwater and facilitate its recharge into the ground. Such interventions, he added, will help reduce the loss of rainwater through surface runoff and contribute towards replenishing groundwater resources, while strengthening the city's efforts towards sustainable water management. Joint Commissioner (Health and Sanitation) Abdul Sattar, Health Officer Dr. Shahid Hussain, Assistant Floriculture Officer Dr. Rabia Khan, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon.

GDC Kastigarh hosts lecture on Gandhian Philosophy

HT News Network

DODA, OCTOBER 1: Government Degree College (GDC) Kastigarh today organised a lecture on Gandhian Philosophy in connection with the upcoming Gandhi Jayanti. The objective was acquainting students with the life, teachings and enduring relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's ideals.

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Liyaquat Bashir, who gave a thought-provoking and informative presentation on the relevance of Gandhian principles in contemporary society. He highlighted the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, with emphasis on his significant contribution to education and nation-building. Dr. Bashir elaborated on the core Gandhian values of truth, non-violence, simplicity, self-discipline and service to society. He also emphasised the importance of cleanliness and civic responsibility, highlighting the message "Swachhata Hi Seva Hai" and encouraging students to incorporate these values into their daily lives.

DC Poonch reviews 'Change of Land Use' cases

HT News Network

POONCH, OCTOBER 1: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review and dispose of the petitions seeking Change of Land Use (CLU) permissions in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed; General Manager DIC Naheem Un Nissa Bhatti; CEO Poonch Development Authority Fareed Kohli; Chief Agriculture Officer Jograj Salathi; ARTO, besides other concerned district officers and representatives of various departments.

The committee held detailed deliberations on CLU applications



received from different parts of the district, including Poonch, Surankote, Mandi, Mendhar, Mankote and adjoining areas.

The cases were examined with reference to revenue records, departmental requirements, land-use provisions and other applicable

rules and regulations.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure thorough scrutiny and timely disposal of all CLU permission cases while maintaining strict compliance with statutory provisions and prescribed procedures.

JKEDI B'la hosts Second Boot Camp under Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 at GDC Pattan

Farooq Rather

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 01: The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Centre Baramulla, organized its second Boot Camp under Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 at Government Degree College (GDC) Pattan, Baramulla.

Around 60 students and 10 faculty members participated in the Boot Camp, which focused on pitching innovative ideas before an expert panel. After detailed presentations, four ideas were shortlisted for further submission and evaluation.

The pitched ideas covered diverse themes including Kashmiri culture and heritage,



tourism, healthcare products, rural tourism infrastructure, and improving tourist access and connectivity.

The shortlisted ideas will now proceed to the next stage of Startup Idea Challenge 2.0

for further evaluation and refinement, with opportunities for mentorship and subsequent pitching as per the JKEDI process.

The expert panel comprised of Dr. Naseer Ahmad Najar, AP, GDC Pattan; Imtiyaz Ahad Malla, DNO, JKEDI Baramulla; Dr. Navreen Tariq, AP, JKEDI; Dr. Rouf Ahmad Bhat, GDC Baramulla; Dr. Basharat Hussain, GDC Baramulla; Manzoor Ahmad, Manager, J&K Bank; Irfan Ahmad, FLC Coordinator; and Bashir Bhat, Local Entrepreneur.

Principal, GDC Pattan, Prof. (Dr.) Abdul Wahid Makhdoom appreciated the initiative of JKEDI and assured full cooperation for future collaborations.

Mega Cleanliness, Shramdaan Programme held at Budhal Old under Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign

HT News Network

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 01: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, a mega cleanliness and Shramdaan programme "Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath" was organised today at Block Headquarters Budhal Old as part of the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2026 Campaign.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers and officials, former PR representatives, students, youth, sanitation workers, volunteers, civil society members and the general public. A cleanliness awareness rally was also organised, during which participants raised awareness

regarding cleanliness, sanitation, responsible waste management and the importance of collective community action.

Detailed awareness was imparted regarding the provisions and objectives of the Solid Waste Management Rules-2026, with emphasis on source segregation of waste, four-way segregation, door-to-door waste collection, responsible disposal of waste, reduction, reuse and recycling of waste, home composting and proper management of different categories of solid waste.

The participants were also sensitised about the importance of avoiding littering and dumping of waste in public places and ensuring proper handover of segregated waste

to the designated collection system.

The participants were further apprised about the role of Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs), their responsibilities towards scientific management of waste and the importance of registration and compliance. Emphasis was also laid on strengthening community participation in Plastic Waste Management, functioning of Plastic Waste Management Units (PWMUs), RRR initiatives and other local waste management facilities.

Additionally, a special cleanliness and Shramdaan drive was undertaken around the Block Headquarters.

Officers, officials, students, youth, sanitation workers and local residents actively participated in the cleanliness



activities, including removal of accumulated waste, cleaning of public spaces and improvement of the surrounding areas. The activity also focused on transformation and improvement of identified Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) and prevention of re-dumping of waste at the cleaned locations.

Addressing the gathering, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Dil Mir highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in achieving sustainable cleanliness and effective solid waste management.

Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Mohammad Rafiq emphasised the importance of Jan Bhagidari in achieving sustained sanitation outcomes. He encouraged

students and youth to act as ambassadors of cleanliness.

The programme also provided an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of Safai Mitras and sanitation workers, whose efforts remain central to maintaining clean and hygienic public spaces. The collective participation of different stakeholders reflected the spirit of "Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath" and reinforced the message that cleanliness and scientific waste management are shared responsibilities. Addressing the gathering, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Dil Mir highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in achieving sustainable cleanliness and effective solid waste.



What Science Teaches Us About Life



Syed Gazanfar Razvi

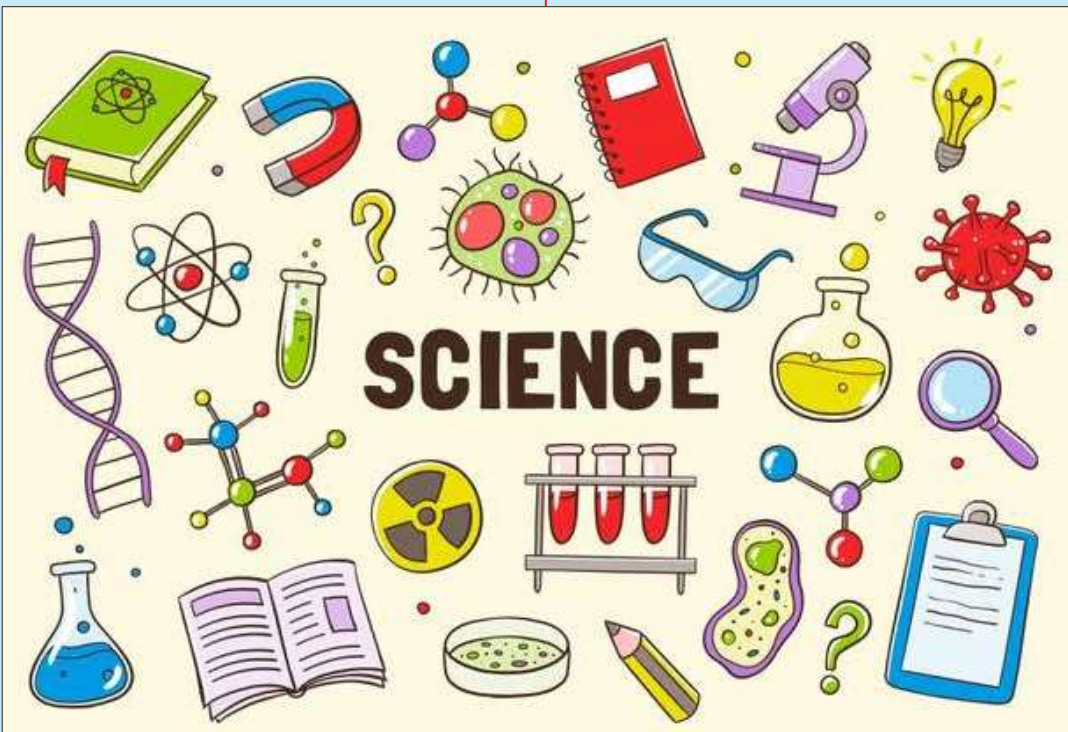
Science is often described as the language of the universe—the language of atoms, stars, time, energy, and motion. But perhaps science is more than a way of understanding the world outside us. Sometimes, when we look closely at its greatest ideas, we discover beautiful reflections of our own lives. The equations may belong to physics, but the questions they inspire are deeply human.

Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle tells us that there are fundamental limits to how precisely certain pairs of physical quantities can be known simultaneously. Life seems to carry a similar lesson: we cannot know

perhaps effort rarely disappears completely. A failed attempt can become experience. Pain can become wisdom. Discipline can become strength. A difficult chapter can become part of the character we carry into the next one. Not every effort becomes a visible achievement; some efforts become the person we eventually become.

Einstein's theory of relativity also gives us a powerful metaphor for our relationship with time. In physics, measurements of time and space depend on the observer's state of motion and gravitational environment. In life, too, everyone experiences time differently. One person may find success early, another much later. Someone may heal quickly, while someone else needs years. Someone may discover their purpose at eighteen; another may discover it at forty. There is no universal timetable for a human life. Do not measure your journey with someone else's clock.

Then there is evolution—the remarkable story of life changing



is becoming different. Growth rarely asks permission before it changes us.

Even gravity has something to teach us. Gravity pulls objects toward one another, keeping planets in orbit and giving weight to everything around us. In human life, there are also invisible forces that pull us backward—fear, regret, memories, insecurity, and the comfort of what

expanding, evolving. Stars are born, stars die, galaxies move, and entire worlds transform. Yet somehow, in the middle of this enormous universe, we often expect our own lives to remain perfectly predictable. Maybe we should expect change instead. A painful moment is only a moment. A failure is only a chapter. A difficult season is not necessarily the whole story.

Science does not promise us certainty. Instead, it teaches us to observe, question, adapt, and keep searching. Perhaps that is also what life asks of us.

We are made from the same universe we spend our lives trying to understand—built from atoms forged in ancient stars, living on a small planet, moving through time, carrying dreams that are impossibly large compared with our brief existence.

So perhaps the greatest lesson is this:

We may never understand everything about the universe, and we may never understand everything about our own lives. But we can still keep wondering, keep learning, keep moving, and keep becoming.

Science explains the universe outside us.

Life teaches us how to exist within it.

Syed Gazanfar Razvi
From Tantraypora
syedgazanfarrazvi@gmail.com
Poet • Writer • Speaker

everything about our future. We may know where we want to go, but we cannot know every turn the road will take. We may make plans, yet circumstances remain uncertain. Perhaps uncertainty is not something we should always fear; perhaps it is what leaves space for surprise, growth, and possibility. We do not need to know the entire journey to take the next step.

Newton's laws offer another beautiful metaphor. His first law tells us that an object tends to remain in its state of rest or motion unless acted upon by an external force. Human beings can become trapped in the inertia of fear, comfort, failure, or old habits. Sometimes, all it takes is one decision, one opportunity, one person, or one moment of courage to create movement. And once we begin moving, Newton's second law reminds us that acceleration depends on force. In life too, the direction and strength of our effort matter. Dreams may give us a destination, but consistent effort gives us motion.

The law of conservation of energy carries an even more comforting message. Energy is not simply destroyed; it changes from one form to another. In life, our efforts can feel wasted when they do not immediately produce the result we hoped for. But

across generations. Evolution reminds us that change is not necessarily the opposite of survival; sometimes, adaptation is part of survival itself. We change as we learn. We lose things, gain things, outgrow people, discover new dreams, and become different versions of ourselves. Not every change is comfortable, but discomfort does not always mean that something is going wrong. Sometimes, it means that something

is familiar. To move beyond them, we sometimes need a force of our own: courage. A rocket does not reach space by pretending gravity does not exist; it reaches beyond it by generating enough thrust to overcome its pull. Perhaps moving forward in life is not about having no gravity, but about finding enough courage to rise against it.

And then we look at the universe itself. It is not static. It is changing,



Kashmiri Speech Contest in Kreeri Highlights Students' Role in Building a Drug-Free Society

Kruhen Cultural Forum Kreeri, in collaboration with DIPR J&K and Headlines Today, organises awareness programme under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan



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KREERI, OCTOBER 1: A special Kashmiri-language speech competition aimed at creating awareness among students about the dangers of drug abuse and the importance of collective action against substance abuse was held at Government Higher Secondary School Kreeri on Thursday under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

The programme was organised by Kruhen Cultural Forum Kreeri in collaboration with the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), J&K, and the English daily Headlines Today. The speech competition was conducted on the theme "A Drug-Free Society Is Our Responsibility", providing students an opportunity to express their views in Kashmiri on one of the major social challenges affecting young people.

The session was presided over by

Syed Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Andrabi, Bhat Javaid Ahmad, District President, Teachers Forum; Sofi Tahir, Provincial President, Joint Action Committee; Nisar Ahmad, Principal, Government Higher Secondary School Kreeri; and Syed Shamim Ahmad Shamim, President, Kruhen Cultural Forum Kreeri, shared the presidium.

Students representing different educational institutions participated in the competition and delivered speeches focusing on the harmful physical, social and psychological consequences of drug abuse. They also spoke about the responsibility of families, educational institutions and society in preventing young people from falling into substance abuse.

The participants stressed that awareness among children and adolescents is an important part of the fight against drugs. Through their speeches, they called for greater

parental guidance, stronger awareness initiatives in educational institutions and sustained community participation to keep the younger generation away from substance abuse.

After evaluation of the performances, Safia Ismayeel of Government Higher Secondary School Kreeri secured the first position. Misbah Showkat of Kirmani Memorial Institute Wagoora stood second, while Irtiza Majeed of Higher Secondary School Authoora secured the third position.

The winners were presented with awards in recognition of their performance, while certificates of participation were distributed among all students who took part in the competition.

Speaking on the occasion, the organisers said that the fight against drug abuse requires a sustained and collective effort. They stressed that while government agencies have an

important role in prevention and awareness, parents, teachers, educational institutions, social organisations and the community must work together to safeguard young people.

The speakers also appreciated the students for choosing to address the issue through the Kashmiri language, describing such participation as an effective way of taking the message of social responsibility to the grassroots.

The programme also underscored the role of cultural organisations and educational institutions in using constructive activities to engage young people and promote positive social values. The organisers said that continued awareness programmes would help strengthen the message against drug abuse and encourage greater participation of students in the campaign for a healthier and drug-free society.