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P:12
Badminton: PV Sindhu cruises through at Arctic Open

L-G Saxena flags off India's first high-altitude snow leopard safari in Ladakh

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LEH, OCT 7 : Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday flagged off India's first high-altitude wildlife safari in Ladakh, aimed at promoting responsible tourism, protecting fragile habitats and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities.

Six vehicles for the Ladakh Snow Leopard Safari were flagged off during the Wildlife Week 2026 celebrations at Choglamsar Protected Forest.

The initiative is being conducted by the Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature Conservation (SHAN) Society in collaboration with the Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, UT Ladakh.

The safari will initially operate in identified areas including Rumbak, Shang and Uley, where snow leopards are frequently sighted. Specially designed open-back vehicles, trained local drivers and

MORE ON P02

World Leaders Greet PM Modi on Completing 25 Years in Government

Leaders from across continents hail Modi's long public service and India's growing global stature

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday completed 25 years in government, beginning with his tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister in 2001 and continuing with his service as Prime Minister since 2014, as leaders from Bhutan, Nigeria, the Philippines, Nepal, Botswana, Belgium, Japan, Dominica and Serbia extended greetings and praised his public service and leadership.

World leaders from across continents on Wednesday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing 25 years as Head of Government, marking a milestone that began with his tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister in 2001 and continued with his becoming Prime Minister of India in 2014.

Leaders from Bhutan, Nigeria, the Philippines, Nepal, Botswana, Belgium, Japan, Dominica and Serbia extended



greetings to Modi and highlighted his long public service, governance initiatives and India's growing engagement with the international community.

Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu described the milestone as a rare achievement in a democracy and praised Modi's leadership in areas including

infrastructure, digital public goods, financial inclusion and innovation.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr congratulated Modi on completing 25 years of continuous public service, noting India's development and its growing role on the global stage.

MORE ON P 02

Amit Shah Calls Modi's 25-Year Journey a 'Golden Epoch'

Home Minister highlights governance, infrastructure, poverty reduction and national security achievements

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

GURUGRAM, Oct 7: Union Home Minister Amit Shah described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years in public office as a "golden chapter" in India's democratic history, crediting his leadership with major advances in infrastructure, poverty reduction, national security and development while addressing a Seva Jyoti Yatra programme in Gurugram.

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday elevated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25-year political journey into the pantheon of India's greatest democratic achievements, declaring that this extraordinary era of unbroken public service would be remembered as a golden chapter in the nation's history.

Addressing the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha-Seva Jyoti Yatra

in Gurugram, Shah described October 7 as a watershed moment in Indian democracy, a day that marks a quarter-century of relentless, transformative leadership that has redefined



the contours of national governance.

In a stirring address that wove together the narrative of personal struggle and national resurgence, Shah recalled how a man born into the most modest of circumstances

MORE ON P02

J&K Achieves 55.24% of Rooftop Solar Target: Chief Secretary

Atal Dulloo directs departments to remove financing, vendor, metering and PPA bottlenecks



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 7: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Wednesday reviewed the progress of the rooftop solar programme in Jammu and Kashmir and directed concerned agencies to accelerate installations, noting that 46,133 residential rooftops have been solarised under PM Surya Ghar against a target of 83,500, while 8,850 government buildings have also been covered.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today reviewed the progress on implementation of the solarization programme in Jammu and Kashmir, taking detailed stock of rooftop solar installations among residential consumers and solarization of Government buildings through CAPEX and RESCO modes under

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana here.

The meeting besides ACS, Power was attended by Commissioner Secretary, S&T; MD, JPDCL/KPDCL; Chief Engineers; CEO, JAKEDA and other concerned officers. Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through video conferencing.

The Chief Secretary while taking appraisal of the progress directed the Power Development Department (PDD) and implementing agencies to address the bottlenecks affecting the pace of installations, with particular focus on bank financing, availability and distribution of vendors, metering and expeditious execution of PPAs. Taking note of the high rejection rate of bank loans, the Chief Secretary

MORE ON P02

Rajnath Singh Approves Revised SOP for Defence Test Ranges

New framework eases access, waives testing charges for key indigenous development projects

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 7: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) simplifying Indian defence industry access to Ministry of Defence proof ranges, field firing ranges and laboratory testing facilities, with testing charges waived for iDEX, TDF, Make and other specified developmental projects to promote indigenous defence innovation and exports.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has approved a revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for utilisation of Ministry of Defence (MoD) Proof Ranges, Field Firing Ranges and laboratory test facilities by the Indian defence industry, the Ministry said on Wednesday.

The revised SOP simplifies the procedure for allotment and use of testing facilities and provides standard formats

for the industry.

Under the new procedure, proof and testing charges have been waived for iDEX, Technology Development Fund (TDF), Make and other developmental projects of the Ministry of Defence. The move is intended to support indigenous defence development and innovation.

The SOP lists Proof Ranges, Field Firing Ranges and laboratory testing facilities available with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), government quality assurance agencies and the three Services for use by Indian defence companies.

For projects where charges remain applicable, the SOP specifies the procedure for their calculation and payment, with the

MORE ON P02



5 houses damaged in overnight fire in Anantnag

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

ANANTNAG, OCT 07 : Five

residential houses were damaged after a fire broke out in the Qazi Mohalla area here during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, officials said.

An official told news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) that

Omar Abdullah Inaugurates ₹30.35-Crore Sports Facilities at Gindun Rajbagh

Olympic-sized swimming pool and modern gymnastics hall to expand year-round training opportunities

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, Oct 7: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday inaugurated a ₹30.35-crore package of sports infrastructure at Gindun



Rajbagh, including a 50-metre, 10-lane Olympic-sized swimming pool, an all-weather heated training and toddler pool and a modern indoor gymnastics hall aimed at strengthening sports training and opportunities for young athletes in Kashmir.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated a ₹30.35-crore package of sports infrastructure at the Sher-i-Kashmir Multi Sports Activity Centre (SKMSAC) at Gindun Rajbagh, marking a significant expansion of facilities for

swimming and gymnastics in Jammu & Kashmir. The newly inaugurated facilities include a 50-metre x 25-metre, 10-lane Olympic-sized swimming pool, an all-weather heated training and toddler swimming pool

MORE ON P02

J&K Government Orders Major Reshuffle in Administration, 49 Officers Transferred

Key changes ordered in health, tourism, revenue, agriculture, municipal administration and other departments

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 7: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday ordered a major administrative reshuffle involving 49 IAS and JKAS officers, with significant changes in senior positions across health, tourism, revenue, agriculture, social welfare, municipal administration and other departments with immediate effect. The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday ordered a major administrative reshuffle, transferring and posting 49 IAS and JKAS officers with immediate effect.

According to Government Order No. 1612-JK(GAD) of 2026 issued by the General Administration Department on October 7, the changes affect several key departments and senior administrative positions across Jammu and Kashmir.

Among the major changes, Shaleen Kabra, IAS, Financial

Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Jal Shakti Department, has been assigned the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department, relieving Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, IAS, of the additional charge.

Dr Ashish Chandra Verma, IAS, has been transferred from Tourism Department and posted as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Agriculture Production Department.

M. Raju, IAS, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department, has been relieved of the additional charge of Health and Medical Education Department and assigned the additional charge of Hospitality & Protocol Department, besides taking over additional charge of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction. Saugat Biswas, IAS, has been posted as Commissioner

MORE ON P02

Fresh Rain, Snow Spell Likely Across J&K Over Next 24 Hours

Western Disturbance may bring snowfall to higher reaches along with thunderstorms and gusty winds

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 6: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience a fresh spell of rain and sn



Rain, Hailstorm Lash Parts of J&K; Snowfall Recorded in Higher Reaches

Rajouri hit by hailstorm as Gulmarg and Zojila receive fresh snowfall

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, Oct 7: Rain and hailstorm affected several parts of Jammu and Kashmir amid unsettled weather, with heavy hail reported in parts of Rajouri and fresh snowfall in higher reaches including Gulmarg's Afarwat area and Zojila, while the Meteorological Centre forecast further intermittent rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds.

Rain and hailstorm affected parts of Jammu and Kashmir amid a fresh spell of unsettled weather, with hail reported from several areas of Rajouri district and fresh snowfall recorded in higher reaches of Kashmir, including the Gulmarg and Zojila areas. Several areas of Rajouri witnessed a

MORE ON P02

Arms Cache Recovered from Old Hideout in Handwara Forest



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

HANDWARA, OCT 7: An old hideout was detected and destroyed during a joint search operation conducted by Handwara Police along with 21 Rashtriya Rifles and 92 Battalion CRPF in the forest area of Nagda Nar, Handwara, on Wednesday. The operation was launched based on specific input, following which the joint party recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from the hideout. The recoveries included one AK-47 rifle, three grenades, 857 AK rounds, 192 PIKA rounds

MORE ON P02



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L-G Saxena flags

wildlife guides will be deployed for guided wildlife tours.

The routes will subsequently cover areas across Hemis National Park, Changthang and Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary, besides Nubra, Zaskar, Sham, Kargil and Drass.

Saxena said the initiative was aimed not merely at increasing tourism but at making wildlife tourism regulated, responsible and compatible with conservation.

“Wildlife should not be protected at the cost of people, nor should development come at the cost of wildlife. We must create a model in which both can thrive together,” he said.

The administration said regulated visitor numbers, approved routes and trained local personnel would help minimise disturbance to wildlife and prevent illegal off-roading, while providing direct livelihood opportunities to local communities.

Ladakh has the country's largest snow leopard population, with 477 animals out of an estimated national population of around 718, according to the administration. The region is also home to more than 38 mammal species and over 340 bird species.

The initiative also includes training 20 local youth in bird identification, birdwatching and wildlife spotting, with opportunities for them to work as wildlife guides, bird guides, nature interpreters and eco-tourism entrepreneurs.

Saxena also highlighted conservation-linked livelihood initiatives, including a Wild Animal Felting Programme involving 50 women from different parts of Ladakh.

During the event, cheques were handed over to Chief Education Officers of Leh and Kargil for distribution to 50 schools for conservation education through Eco Clubs supported by SHAN Society.

The Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated an AI-based human-wildlife conflict mitigation device developed by the Wildlife Division, Kargil, in collaboration with the University of Ladakh, Kargil Campus.

He also released a documentary on the Himalayan Brown Bear and a brochure on wildlife tourism packages offered by SHAN Society. The second edition of the Ladakh Black-necked Crane Festival was also announced.

The decision to introduce wildlife safaris in Ladakh was announced on August 5 this year and the initiative has been implemented within two months, the administration said.

World Leaders

Nepal's Prime Minister extended warm congratulations and best wishes to Modi and his government, while Botswana's President commended his dedication and service to the people of India.

Belgian Prime Minister also congratulated Modi on 25 years of continuous leadership in government, from Gujarat to New Delhi, and said he looked forward to further deepening bilateral ties.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, in a message in Hindi, congratulated Modi and highlighted his contribution to India's development and India's growing international standing. She also referred to the upcoming 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and India.

Prime Minister of Dominica expressed appreciation for Modi's friendship towards Dominica and wished him good health, strength and continued success.

Former Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic also congratulated Modi, recalling his 25 years of public service and wishing him continued success.

Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay described Modi as an “avatar of our times” while extending his greetings on the milestone.

Modi first assumed office as Chief Minister of Gujarat on October 7, 2001, and became Prime Minister of India in May 2014. (KNS)

Amit Shah Calls

had, through extraordinary ability, unwavering resolve and the collective faith of millions of Indians, ascended to lead the nation as Chief Minister and Prime Minister for 25 uninterrupted years. When future generations read the history of modern India, these 25 years of Narendra Modi will glow as a golden epoch, a living testament to what is possible when leadership is forged in service and guided by vision, Shah proclaimed.

The Home Minister crafted a sweeping panorama of Modi's tenure as an era defined by epochal national achievements. From the historic campaign to emancipate millions from the clutches of poverty to the fortification of India's security framework, from the momentous abrogation of Article 370 to the resolute campaign against Naxalism, from the consecration of the Ram Temple and the magnificent rejuvenation of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple to the unparalleled expansion of infrastructure across every corner of the nation, Shah painted a portrait of governance built on decisive action and tangible outcomes. He further emphasised that 25 crore people had been elevated above the poverty line under Modi's stewardship, a figure that stands as irrefutable evidence of the government's unwavering commitment to inclusive and equitable development.

The Seva Jyoti Yatra, Shah elaborated, is being carried out across districts as part of a comprehensive national campaign commemorating Modi's 25 years in public life. This yatra constitutes a vital pillar of the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, a month-long observance spanning from September 17 to October 17 that seeks to bridge the ideals of service with the energy of grassroots participation. As part of the Gurugram programme, young participants

were entrusted with carrying the Seva Jyoti to an intersection approximately 800 metres from the venue, where the ceremonial torch would be installed, symbolising the radiance of service illuminating every corner of the nation. The programme was anchored at the Maharana Pratap Swarn Jayanti Udyan, widely known as Leisure Valley, with the sacred flame proceeding towards the landmark Signature Tower Chowk.

The gathering acquired a distinctly national stature through the physical presence of union Home Minister Amit Shah and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP national president Nitin Nabin were scheduled to join virtually, thereby connecting the event to the highest leadership of both the party and the government. A torch march encompassing all four Assembly constituencies of Gurugram was also scheduled to follow the main proceedings, carrying the message of service and national pride deeper into the region.

Shah issued a fervent appeal to the people, particularly the youth, to participate in the Seva Jyoti Yatra in overwhelming numbers. He positioned the campaign not merely as a commemoration but as a mass movement that fuses the spirit of public service with the overarching national mission of building a developed India. The Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, he noted, encompasses an expansive array of service-oriented initiatives including blood donation drives, the Seva Jyoti Kalash Yatra, far-reaching public outreach programmes and other activities designed to bring the government's welfare agenda to the doorsteps of the people.

The BJP has organised similar Seva Jyoti Yatra programmes at numerous locations across Haryana, with party leaders describing the initiative as a deliberate endeavour to embed the message of service and nation-building into the everyday consciousness of the people. In a notable political development, BJP leader Smriti Irani, who was appointed the party's Haryana in-charge on September 23, made her long-awaited debut in the state by attending the Gurugram programme alongside party co-in-charge Bhola Singh. Her presence carried profound symbolic significance, marking her first official engagement in Haryana since assuming her new role. union Minister Rao Inderjit and BJP Haryana President Dr Archana Gupta and were also present on this occasion.

Omar Abdullah

, and a modern indoor gymnastics hall equipped with state-of-the-art equipment.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the new facilities would provide young people with opportunities to take up sports beyond traditional disciplines and enable them to train throughout the year.

“Through this facility, we are trying to provide students with new sports milieu. For example, there is an Olympic-sized swimming pool in Kashmir for the first time. Now, there is an arrangement for heating, which will be done through solar energy so that children can practice and train here for 12 months a year,” he said.

The main swimming pool, constructed at a cost of 19.96 crore, is equipped with 10 competition lanes, diving platforms at 1, 3 and 5 metres, modern filtration, circulation and disinfection systems, changing rooms, washrooms, storage lockers and spectator seating for 300 people. The facility has been developed to support competitive swimming, diving and other aquatic sports.

The 5.35-crore training and toddler swimming pool facility has been designed for year-round use, with a heating system, indoor lap pool, child-friendly toddler pool, anti-skid pool decking, modern filtration and disinfection systems, and supporting changing and shower facilities. The facility is intended to cater to athletes, students and the wider community, including winter training.

The 5.04-crore gymnastics hall, spread over 36 metres × 21 metres with a 10-metre height, has been equipped with modern gymnastics equipment. The facility is expected to provide a dedicated platform for gymnastics training and coaching in Kashmir, where the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council has been conducting coaching camps and working towards developing a dedicated Gymnastics Academy.

Referring to the new gymnastics' facility, the Chief Minister said there was considerable interest among children in Kashmir in taking up the sport, but the lack of dedicated infrastructure had limited opportunities.

“Generally, when we talk about gymnastics in Jammu and Kashmir, we only talk about Jammu. However, our children are interested in it and want to do it in Kashmir. But due to the lack of infrastructure, they could not do it,” he said.

“A magnificent indoor gymnastics hall was inaugurated today. In the same way, we will keep adding more sports so that we can give our children options and alternatives. And they can also develop an interest in new sports,” the Chief Minister added.

During the inauguration, the Chief Minister witnessed live swimming and gymnastics demonstrations by sports persons and trainees at the newly developed facilities.

The new infrastructure is aimed at strengthening grassroots participation, widening access to professional coaching and creating better pathways for young athletes to progress to national and international competitions. The all-weather aquatic facilities will also enable sustained training during the winter months.

Minister for Youth Services & Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir

Aslam Wani, MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, MLA Hazratbal Salman Sagar, MLA Zadiab Tanvir Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Secretary J&K Sports Council Tazayun Mukhtar Kawoosa, besides students, sports persons and other concerned officers, were present on the occasion.

Rajnath Singh

Ministry saying this will simplify documentation and the process for industry.

The revised SOP has also replaced the arbitration provision in the earlier procedure with a Conciliation Agreement Clause for resolving issues between the industry and authorities.

In another provision, a three-day slot every quarter has been reserved at Proof Ranges for proof firing of government-sponsored developmental projects, including those under iDEX, TDF and Make. The provision also covers developmental projects undertaken on the own initiative of indigenous defence industry.

The Ministry said the revised SOP is aimed at providing simpler and transparent access to proof ranges, field firing ranges and test facilities while supporting indigenisation, innovation and defence exports. (PIB)

J&K Achieves

directed the Discoms to take up all rejected loan cases with the concerned banks, ascertain the reasons for rejection and resolve the issues instantly so that eligible consumers are not denied the benefits of the rooftop solar programme due to avoidable financing bottlenecks.

The Chief Secretary also directed the Discoms to proportionately distribute vendors across districts to ensure adequate availability of service providers and accelerate the pace of rooftop solar installations.

He also took a detailed appraisal from the concerned Deputy Commissioners regarding district-wise progress, seeking details of the impediments hampering achievement of assigned targets and calling for their resolution through coordinated intervention of the concerned agencies.

The meeting was informed by the ACS, PDD, Ashwani Kumar that J&K has achieved 55.24 per cent of its target under PM Surya Ghar, with 46,133 residential rooftops installed against the UT target of 83,500 installations by March 31, 2027. The achievement is higher than the national progress of 50.80 per cent.

While explaining the MD, KPDCIL, Mehmood Ahmad Shah highlighted that of the total installations, 17,809 have been completed in JPDCIL areas with a capacity of 62.69 MW, while 28,324 installations have been completed in KPDCIL areas with a capacity of 102.55 MW, taking the cumulative installed rooftop solar capacity in J&K to 165.24 MW.

The meeting was informed that 344.14 crore of Central subsidy and 13 crore of UT subsidy have so far been credited to beneficiaries. Against the 83,500 target, 89,680 applications have been received, with 82,591 applicants who had selected vendors, 69,460 consumer agreements uploaded and 42,686 rooftop systems commissioned.

It was further divulged that around 75 per cent of rooftop solar installations in KPDCIL areas are dependent on bank financing. Of the 61,566 loan applications submitted, 17,416 cases have been rejected, including 14,232 in KPDCIL areas. Meanwhile, 38,773 cases have been sanctioned and disbursed, while another 5,367 cases are under process. Reviewing the solarization of Government buildings, the meeting was informed by Commissioner Secretary, S&T, Babila Rakwal that against a total CAPEX target of 12,994 Government buildings, 8,850 buildings have already been solarized, with a combined capacity of 95.64 MW. This includes 4,793 buildings covered under PM Surya Ghar and hybrid projects with a capacity of 41.50 MW, besides 4,057 buildings solarized under the ongoing programme with a capacity of 54.14 MW, she added.

The remaining projects are also at various stages of implementation, with materials supplied to 1,300 buildings, 943 sites under active implementation and surveys underway for another 1,901 buildings.

Under the RESCO mode, the CEO, JAKEDA, PN Dhar detailed out that it has proposed solarization of 8,000 Government buildings with a cumulative capacity of 152 MW, with work orders already placed for 5,185 buildings. Moreover it was given out that NHPC has proposed solarization of 1,500 Government buildings with a capacity of 23 MW under this arrangement.

It was also highlighted that a Power Purchase Agreement for 8 MW has already been signed for the Health and Medical Education Department in Jammu, while the solarization survey of School Education Department buildings in Jammu is underway.

The Chief Secretary directed JAKEDA to take up installation of meters with the respective Discoms simultaneously, so that metering does not become a bottleneck after installation of rooftop solar systems on Government buildings.

He, in turn, directed the PDD to ensure installation of smart meters forthwith, facilitating early commissioning and functioning of the solar rooftop systems already installed on Government buildings.

The Chief Secretary also called upon the concerned departments to complete the requisite PPAs expeditiously, stressing that administrative and procedural formalities should move in tandem with physical implementation to ensure that completed solar assets become operational without delay.

He further advised JAKEDA to accord greater

focus to the RESCO mode of solarization, observing that the progress under this component is slow and needs to be accelerated through closer monitoring and timely resolution of implementation issues.

The Chief Secretary called for time-bound action and close inter-agency coordination to sustain the momentum of solarization, stressing that bottlenecks related to financing, vendor availability, metering, PPAs and project execution should be resolved promptly to translate the growing pipeline of rooftop solar projects into commissioned assets.

5 houses damaged

Meanwhile, the cause of the fire is under investigation, he added. (KNS)

Arms Cache Recovered

, eight AK magazines, one silencer, 83 pistol rounds and other incriminating material.

A case under FIR No. 232 has been registered at Police Station Handwara under relevant sections of law, and investigation has been initiated. [KNT]

Fresh Rain

heavy hailstorm on Tuesday night, with hailstones covering roads and open spaces as the weather conditions deteriorated.

Meanwhile, higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall, with snowfall reported in the Afarwat-Gulmarg belt and towards Zojila, while lower-lying areas experienced rain and drizzle.

The Meteorological Centre has forecast intermittent rain and showers at some places, along with the possibility of thunderstorms and gusty winds during the ongoing weather spell. The weather is expected to remain unsettled over the coming days, with precipitation more likely over parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The weather department has also advised farmers to make arrangements for the safe storage of harvested apple and paddy crops between October 8 and 10 in view of the possibility of rain and gusty winds.

No major weather-related damage or widespread disruption has been officially reported so far. [KNT]

Dr Ashish Chandra Verma, IAS, has been transferred from Tourism Department and posted as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Agriculture Production Department.

M. Raju, IAS, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department, has been relieved of the additional charge of Health and Medical Education Department and assigned the additional charge of Hospitality & Protocol Department, besides taking over additional charge of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction.

Saugat Biswas, IAS, has been posted as Commissioner/Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, relieving M. Raju of the additional charge.

Avny Lavasa, IAS, has been transferred and posted as Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department, while continuing to hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department.

Vikas Kundal, IAS, Chairman, J&K Services Selection Board, has been transferred and posted as Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, with additional charge of Additional CEO, Jammu Metropolitan Regional Development Authority.

Owais Ahmed, IAS, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, while continuing as Director, Skill Development J&K.

Dr Sagar Doifode Dattatray, IAS, has been transferred from the Agriculture Production Department and posted as Administrative Secretary, Social Welfare Department.

Dr Devansh Yadav, IAS, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri.

Rakesh Minhas, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, has been posted as CEO, State Health Agency, J&K, with additional charge of Managing Director, Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission, J&K.

Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, has been transferred and posted as Chairman, J&K Services Selection Board.

Akriti Sagar, IAS, Managing Director, National Health Mission, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, J&K Tourism Development Corporation, with additional charge of CEO, J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency.

Athar Aamir UI Shafi Khan, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, National Health Mission, J&K.

Basharat Qayoom, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, with additional charge of CEO, Srinagar Smart City Project.

Ayushi Sudan, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Samba, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, with additional charge of CEO, Special Purpose Vehicle, Jammu City, and Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).

Minga Sherpa, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, while Jatin Kishore, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Budgam.

Shreya Singhal, IAS, Managing Director, J&K

Tourism Development Corporation, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal.

Rupesh Kumar, IAS, Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Samba, while Vidhu Shekhar, IAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, has been posted as Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority.

Among JKAS officers, Charaandeep Singh has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, while Kuldeep Krishan Sidha has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama.

The order also includes changes involving senior officials in Revenue, Health and Medical Education, Tourism, Agriculture, Social Welfare, Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Employment, Labour, Archives and other departments.

The transfers and postings have been ordered in the interest of administration with immediate effect.

The order was issued by the General Administration Department by order of the Lieutenant Governor. [KNT]

J&K Government

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Mamta Yadav

Information and public relations J&K, marking her formal entry into a key position overseeing the Union Territory's information and public relations machinery.

The reshuffle, ordered by the General Administration Department, comes with changes at multiple levels of the administration, including senior secretarial assignments, divisional and district-level postings, municipal bodies and development authorities. The order also assigns additional charges to several senior officers as part of a broader reorganisation of the administrative setup. Mamta Yadav, a 2021 batch IAS officer belongs to the AGMUT cadre and holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Physics from Hindu College, University of Delhi. Born on April 26, 1997, Yadav entered the IAS through direct recruitment and has served in administrative assignments in Delhi and Arunachal Pradesh. She has served her tenure as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Najafgarh, besides her subsequent service as a Deputy Commissioner in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

Her transfer to Jammu and Kashmir was ordered earlier this year under an inter-UT movement of AGMUT-cadre officers. The Delhi Government subsequently relieved her to enable her to take up her assignment in J&K, with the relieving order issued in pursuance of the Ministry of Home Affairs' transfer order dated July 9, 2026.

Her appointment as Director, Information, J&K now places her at the helm of the department responsible for disseminating government information, coordinating official communication and facilitating interaction between the administration and the media. The posting assumes particular significance given the expanding role of public communication, digital outreach and information dissemination in governance. The Director, Information post had earlier been held by Shreya Singhal, IAS, who has now been posted as Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal.



Sakeena Itoo stresses skill development, demand-driven courses for youth

■ HT News Network

KULGAM, OCTOBER 07: The Government Degree College (GDC) DH Pora, today organized a programme on the theme "From Campus to Career", with Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo as the chief guest.

Commissioner Secretary Education, Ram Nivas Sharma, Secretary in Higher Education Shafiqat Iqbal, Director Colleges, Dr. Twinkle Suri and Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges Dr. Seema Naz also attended the programme.

The programme commenced with a plantation drive inaugurated by the Minister in presence of Commissioner Secretary and other officers and students.

Sakeena Itoo appreciated the efforts of the college in advancing the skill based education in the area. She emphasised focused attention on creating skilled human resource and the need for introducing demand-driven subjects and courses to enhance opportunities and enrolment in the college.

The Minister advised the students to channelize their energies in the right direction and focus on enhancing their skills, which would enable them to navigate the challenges



of life with confidence. She emphasized that youth is the most productive phase of life and should be utilized for learning, innovation and self-development. She urged them to stay away from distractions, work with

discipline and determination and contribute positively towards nation building.

The Commissioner Secretary exhorted the students to draw inspiration from the dignitaries present on the dais and emphasized

the importance of treading the path of hard work to build successful careers. Encouraging the female students in particular, he urged them to galvanize themselves by looking at the three eminent women achievers on the presidium as live symbols of women empowerment.

He informed that a proposal for creation of a dedicated Music Department in the college shall be submitted to the Government.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary in Higher Education Department emphasized the importance of skills, overall development and leadership qualities beyond mere degrees among the young.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Principal, GDC DH Pora highlighted the college's efforts towards transforming the students' abilities into skills, opportunities and jobs.

The programme was also attended by SDM Noorabad Bashir ul Hassan, ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar, CEO, Fayaz Ahmad Mir, CMO, Dr. Showkat Ahmad Party, faculty members, students and other officers and officials besides the students and residents.

On the occasion, Hilal Ahmed, a 1st Semester student of the college and Gold Medal winner in National Arm-Wrestling Competition, was felicitated.

Hakeem Yaseen greets people on Urs of Hazrat Sheikh-ul-Aalam (RA)

Prays for peace, harmony and prosperity in J&K

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Oct 07: Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former Minister Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen on Wednesday extended greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the annual Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani (RA), popularly known as Sheikh-ul-Aalam and Alamdar-e-Kashmir.

In a message, Yaseen prayed for lasting peace, harmony, brotherhood and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the occasion should inspire people to uphold the values of compassion, tolerance and mutual respect.

He said the life, teachings and poetry of Sheikh-ul-Aalam continue to serve as a source of spiritual guidance and emphasised the saint's message of self-purification, simplicity, righteousness and service to humanity.

Yaseen said the teachings of Hazrat Nund Reshi (RA) have remained deeply rooted in Kashmir's social and cultural ethos and continue to inspire people across communities.

He urged people, particularly the youth, to draw inspiration from the Sufi and Rishi tradition of Kashmir and work towards strengthening peace, communal harmony and brotherhood.



SWD Srinagar organizes Community Outreach Program under BBBP

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, OCTOBER 07: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organized a community outreach programme at Palpora, Srinagar, to sensitise the community about various issues concerning child protection.

The programme was aimed at strengthening awareness among community members about the rights and protection of children and the need for collective efforts to prevent practices that adversely affect the safety, dignity and well-being of children and families. During the programme, detailed awareness was provided on the provisions and significance of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, with emphasis on the responsibility of parents, guardians and community members to ensure a safe environment for children. The participants were sensitised about the importance of recognising situations that may put children at risk and the need for timely intervention and reporting through appropriate authorities. Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Srinagar, who was the resource person at the programme, spoke on the occasion and highlighted the legal provisions and social implications associated with these issues. The resource person also emphasised the role of families and the community in preventing child-related offences and ensuring a safe and supportive environment for children. The issue of child marriage was also discussed in detail. Participants were made aware of the adverse consequences of child marriage on children's education, health, personal development and overall well-being. The programme stressed the importance of ensuring that children are allowed to grow and develop in a safe environment and have access to education.

DDC Bandipora chairs Mega Block Diwas at Ajas, reviews developmental issues

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 07: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib today chaired a Mega Block Diwas at Panchayat Ghar, Ajas, to take stock of essential amenities, ongoing developmental works and issues concerning the public.

During the programme, issues related to healthcare, education, sports infrastructure, irrigation, water supply, roads, power, Fire & Emergency Services and other public amenities were brought to the notice of the administration.

On healthcare, the need for strengthening facilities at the Health Centre Ajas, including ECG facility and availability of night-time healthcare services, was highlighted. The DDC directed CMO Bandipora to verify the authorised facilities available at the centre and assess the requirements.



The provision of suitable State land for a hospital and playground was also discussed. The DDC directed the ACR Bandipora to examine the availability and status of land and take further action as per rules. On the occasion, the issue of shifting GDC Ajas from the existing Infrastructure to its own building was taken up. The concerned officers were directed to assess the available facilities and requirements for shifting, while the requirements for laboratories and other infrastructure for introducing the Science stream were also discussed.

During the event, the need for irrigation facilities for

agricultural land, restoration of water channels and improvement of dewatering facilities were also discussed. The concerned engineering officers were directed to conduct field assessments and examine the requirements. On water supply, concerns regarding adequate supply to Bazipora-Ajas and repair of existing borewells were discussed. Issues pertaining to road connectivity and maintenance, side-wall requirements along link roads, Fire & Emergency Services infrastructure, fencing of the Higher Secondary School, power-related issues and other civic amenities were also discussed.

District Mentor Shopian, ADDC jointly reviews progress of Agristack in district

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 07: A review meeting on the ongoing AgriStack data entry on creation of Farmer IDs was convened today, jointly by Altaf Ahmad Khan, District Mentor Shopian and Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian here in Shopian.

It was stressed upon the Tehsildars to ensure that the data entry of all the records on Agristack portal is completed within three days. So far, an entry of 96% of 163107 khasra numbers has been made. It was exhorted upon all the officers to ensure that due diligence is made in approving and verifying the data.

It was also desired that the schedules formulated by the Tehsildars in registration of farmers on Agristack portal need to be adhered to strictly and ensuring that maximum number of farmers are registered so that the farmers are able to get the maximum benefits of the government sponsored schemes besides facilitating service delivery.

The officers were asked to maintain close coordination and submit regular progress updates, with emphasis on achieving the desired targets within the stipulated timeframe.



It was also decided that Lumberdars, Chowkidars and the influential personalities shall be roped in to sensitise the farmers in getting their Farmer IDs besides self registering on the portal.

Later, the District Mentor also visited the Farmer ID camps at Balpora and Keegam which are also established across the district.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACR, Shakoor Ahmad Dar, Tehsildars and other concerned Revenue officials. The meeting was attended by ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACR, Shakoor Ahmad Dar, Tehsildars and other concerned Revenue officials.

Senior Citizens' Tour to Mughal Gardens Blends Nature, Fellowship and Nostalgia

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Oct 6: In an initiative aimed at promoting companionship, social interaction and emotional well-being among senior citizens, the Administration of Senior Citizens, Industries and Commerce Department, in collaboration with its core group heads, organised a day-long tour of Srinagar's historic Mughal Gardens on October 6.

Senior citizens from various areas gathered at the designated meeting point at 11 a.m. and responded enthusiastically to the organisers' call. The group then proceeded to the corporate house of J&K Bank at TRC before travelling to Chashme Shahi, where participants spent about one and a half hours enjoying the scenic surroundings. The outing also gave the elderly participants an opportunity to interact with tourists visiting Kashmir from states such as Karnataka and Punjab. Informal introductions and conversations added to the sense of camaraderie.

The group later visited Shalimar Bagh, where lunch was organised by Haji M. A. Wani. Participants engaged in lively discussions, shared memories and exchanged experiences. Group photographs were taken to preserve the occasion and celebrate the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding.

The gardens' greenery and tranquil atmosphere offered the senior citizens a welcome break from their



daily routines, allowing them to relax and rejuvenate. They were later served traditional Kashmiri namkeen tea and bakerkhani by Mr Nissar Ahmad Sofi of Sumbal. After offering Asr prayers, the group began its return journey home.

The absence of participants from Kupwara district was noted during the tour, with organisers expressing

hope that they would join future programmes. At the end of the outing, participants thanked the Administration and the core group heads, describing such initiatives as valuable for social bonding, recreation and mental well-being. The tour underscored the importance of community engagement and companionship in promoting a fulfilling life for senior citizens.

Large-Scale Disaster Management Mock Drill held at GDC Sopore

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 07: A large-scale disaster management mock drill was conducted at Government Degree College (GDC) Sopore to assess and strengthen the preparedness of various agencies in responding to emergencies.

The exercise was organised by the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Baramulla in collaboration with SDRF and Fire & Emergency Services, Sopore, under the chairmanship of ADC Sopore, S.A. Raina. A large number of students and faculty members participated in the exercise.

During the drill, response teams demonstrated rescue operations, emergency evacuation, firefighting techniques and other life-saving measures, highlighting the importance of timely action and coordinated response during disasters.

Addressing the gathering, ADC Sopore appreciated the participating agencies and stressed the importance of public awareness and preparedness. He urged students and the public to remain calm, follow safety protocols and act responsibly during emergencies.

The mock drill also provided students with practical awareness about disaster response and highlighted the administration's



efforts towards strengthening inter-agency coordination and building a safer and more resilient community. During the drill, response teams demonstrated rescue operations, emergency evacuation, firefighting techniques and other life-saving measures, highlighting the importance of timely action and coordinated response during disasters.

Addressing the gathering, ADC Sopore appreciated the participating agencies and stressed the importance of public awareness and preparedness. He urged students and the public to remain calm, follow safety protocols and act responsibly during emergencies.



MLA Bandipora visits HKM GDC, assures support for Infrastructure and student facilities

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 07: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Bandipora, Nizam Uddin Bhat, today visited HKM Government Degree College Bandipora for an interactive visit focused on the developmental needs, infrastructural requirements and student-related issues of the institution.

During the visit, the MLA also reviewed the ongoing development works worth approximately 18 crore at HKM Government Degree College, Bandipora.

The visit provided an opportunity for the college administration, faculty and students to engage with the MLA on matters concerning the further strengthening of the college and improving facilities for its students.

In his welcome address, the Principal HKM GDC Bandipora highlighted various



developmental and infrastructural requirements of the institution and apprised the MLA of matters requiring attention and support. The interaction subsequently focused on the status of ongoing and proposed infrastructural works at the college.

The MLA took note of the requirement and assured that approximately 1 crore would be earmarked under the District CAPEX Budget for the next financial year for construction of a Girls' Rest Room at HKM Government Degree College, Bandipora. He also assured the release of 30 lakh from his MLA Constituency Development Fund for the purchase of a college bus, which would help address transportation and accessibility-related requirements of the institution. Several other important developmental matters were also discussed during the interaction. The status of the already allotted Library Block was reviewed, while the issue of sanctioning

an Auditorium Block was also discussed. Issues relating to accessibility and student scholarships were also discussed, with the college administration apprising the MLA of the concerns and practical difficulties faced in these areas. The MLA took note of the requirement and assured that approximately 1 crore would be earmarked under the District CAPEX Budget for the next financial year for construction of a Girls' Rest Room at HKM Government Degree College, Bandipora. He also assured the release of 30 lakh from his MLA Constituency Development Fund for the purchase of a college bus, which would help address transportation and accessibility-related requirements of the institution. Several other important developmental matters were also discussed during the interaction. The status of the already allotted Library Block was reviewed, while the issue of sanctioning an Auditorium Block.

Vice Chairman JKLCMA visits Tchunti Khul, Dal Lock Gate to review Water Flow and Hydraulic Infrastructure

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 07: Taking forward the Authority's efforts to restore and strengthen the water channels associated with Dal Lake, Vice Chairman, JKLCMA, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, visited Tchunti Khul and the Dal Lock Gate to review the water flow, hydraulic infrastructure, and condition of the adjoining areas.

The Vice Chairman was accompanied by the Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineers of Lake Division 1st and Lake Division 2nd, and other officers and officials of the Authority.

During the visit, the Vice Chairman took a detailed assessment of the existing condition of Tchunti Khul and the Dal Lock Gate and reviewed the water channel, adjoining stretches, and associated hydraulic infrastructure. He stressed the importance of maintaining the channel in a manner that facilitates smooth movement of water and supports effective water level management of Dal Lake.

The Vice Chairman directed the concerned officers to undertake necessary cleanliness and site clearance measures along Tchunti Khul and its adjoining stretches. He called for identification of locations requiring desilting, dredging, removal of obstructions, and other restoration measures so that necessary works can be taken up in a systematic and time bound manner.

Reviewing the Dal Lock Gate, the Vice



Chairman emphasized the need for its proper upkeep and functioning to ensure effective regulation of water flow. He directed the Engineering Wing to assess the condition of the lock gate and associated infrastructure and identify the works required for repair, restoration, and improvement.

The Vice Chairman further directed the concerned officers to undertake a comprehensive assessment of Tchunti Khul and identify measures required to improve its water carrying capacity, cleanliness, and overall environmental condition. He stressed that restoration of the channel should be undertaken with due consideration to its ecological importance and its role in the water management network of Dal Lake.

MLA Shopian reviews Tourism Development Works

Conducts extensive Field Inspection of Bohrihalan, Dubjan, Peer Ki Gali

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 07: Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Shopian, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), Bohrihalan to assess the progress of ongoing and proposed tourism development works in the district and to strengthen inter-departmental coordination for their timely execution.

During the meeting, the MLA reviewed the status of ongoing and newly proposed tourism projects, addressing various issues, challenges and bottlenecks affecting their execution. He emphasized the critical need for close coordination among all concerned departments and directed officers to work in a time-bound manner to ensure the prompt completion of tourism-related infrastructure.



Furthermore, the Forest and Wildlife Departments were instructed to expedite necessary permissions and clearances to ensure the smooth execution of developmental works.

Chief Executive Officer, Shopian-Dubjan-Peer Ki Gali Tourism Development Authority (TDA, SDPKG), Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Shopian, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Shopian, Executive Engineer Electric Division Shopian, Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial) Shopian, Tehsildar Shopian, Tehsildar Keller, Executive Officer Municipal Council Shopian and Assistant Tourist

Officer Shopian attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, Kullay also conducted extensive field inspection of major tourist destinations, including Bohrihalan, Dubjan and Peer Ki Gali.

Officers including, CEO, TDA, SDPKG and other officers were accompanying the MLA during the visit.

The MLA highlighted that coordinated efforts by all concerned departments are essential to harness the district's rich tourism potential, boost visitor facilities and generate sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities.

Additional Commissioner Kashmir Visits Shopian

Reviews progress of Land Records Digitization

HT News Network



SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 07: Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Akramullah Tak, today visited Shopian and reviewed the progress of land records digitization and updation in the district.

During the visit, the Additional Commissioner took a detailed review of the status of digitization of land records and interacted with the concerned officers regarding the progress achieved, issues being faced and measures being taken to ensure timely completion of the ongoing process.

He stressed the need for ensuring accuracy and transparency in the digitization and updation of land records and directed the concerned officers to maintain proper verification of records and ensure that the process is completed in a time-bound manner.

The Additional Commissioner also emphasized effective coordination among the Revenue functionaries and timely resolution of issues related to land records and public grievances.

Earlier, the Additional Commissioner visited Chitragam and other areas of the district to assess the on-the-spot progress of the digitization process.

The Meeting was attended by ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar, Tehsildars and other revenue officers.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of HADP, JKCIP in district

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, OCTOBER 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today chaired a meeting at Mini Secretariat Kulgam to review the implementation and progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP). The meeting reviewed the achievements and progress of ongoing projects across Agriculture and allied sectors under the schemes with focus on timely completion and delivery of benefits to farmers and other beneficiaries.

Under Agriculture, progress on seed multiplication, niche and exotic crops, protected cultivation, medicinal and aromatic plants, beekeeping, nutri-cereals, farm mechanization, mushroom cultivation, oilseeds and Integrated Farming Systems was reviewed. The DC also reviewed interventions under



Animal and Sheep Husbandry, including dairy and poultry units, fodder development, commercial sheep farming, sheep sheds, breed-based units, pre-fabricated huts and other livestock-related activities. Progress under Horticulture Planning & Marketing and Fisheries, including trout raceways, RAS units, biofloc and carp ponds, was also discussed.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure target completion within each

department, set for the current year with effective utilization of funds. The meeting was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer Kulgam, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, District Sericulture Officer, Area Marketing Officer HP&M, Assistant Director Fisheries, Lead District Manager Kulgam, Project Coordinators of KVK Pombay and KVK Khudwani and other concerned officers.

Distribution Camp under ADIP, RVY schemes held in Kulgam

HT News Network

KULGAM, OCTOBER 07: Social Welfare Department, Kulgam, in collaboration with

Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), today organised a distribution camp under the Assistance to Persons with Disabilities (ADIP) Scheme and Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) at the Conference Hall, Mini-Secretariat, Kulgam.

The camp was organised for the benefit of persons with disabilities and senior citizens, with the objective of providing them assistive devices to facilitate mobility, independence

and improved quality of life.

The distribution was carried out in the presence of MLA Kulgam, Mohd. Yousuf Tarigami, District Social Welfare Officer Kulgam, Rameez Raja Ganie, and other officials of the Social Welfare Department.

More than 140 beneficiaries were covered during the camp and provided with various assistive devices as per their assessed needs. The devices distributed included hearing

aids, battery-operated tricycles, wheelchairs, walking sticks, braces and other assistive aids.

Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries appreciated the efforts of the Social Welfare Department and ALIMCO in facilitating the beneficiaries and ensuring that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the intended sections of society.

DC Budgam distributes Free Spectacles to Students under District-Wide Children's Eye Health Programme

Students with Suspected Visual Difficulties to receive Free Spectacles, Tertiary Eye Care

HT News Network

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today distributed free spectacles among students at a programme held at Boys Higher Secondary School, Budgam, as part of the District Administration's ongoing Children's Eye Health Programme.

The programme is being implemented by the District Administration Budgam in collaboration with Nayonika

Eye Care Charitable Trust, covering children in the 6-18 years age group across the district.

Under the initiative, 60,500 out of 70,280 students have been screened so far for vision-related issues. The screening has covered government schools across the district, with comprehensive screening carried out during September.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said, "We have undertaken a comprehensive eye-screening programme covering all children

in the 6-18 years age group in government schools across Budgam. So far, around 60,500 children have been screened."

He said that the initiative is aimed at ensuring timely identification and treatment of vision-related problems among school-going children. "Around 450 children have been identified with vision-related difficulties or those requiring specialised eye care. Our focus is to ensure that every such child receives timely treatment and support," he added.

The DC said that the second



stage of the programme involves examination by ophthalmology teams at Sub-District Hospitals, where children requiring spectacles are assessed and their prescriptions prepared.

"After the initial screening, children requiring further examination are being assessed by ophthalmology teams at our Sub-District Hospitals. Based on the prescriptions, spectacles are being provided free of cost," he said.

The DC further informed that the administration is working towards completing

the screening of all students in government schools shortly. "We are hopeful that 100 per cent of the children in government schools will be screened within the next few days," he said.

Emphasising the importance of continued care, the Deputy Commissioner said, "For children requiring specialised or tertiary-level treatment, we have also established linkages with medical colleges and tertiary care hospitals so that they receive appropriate treatment and follow-up care."

The first batch of spectacles was distributed to students during the programme today, while the remaining identified beneficiaries are expected to receive their spectacles within the next 10-15 days. Emphasising the importance of continued care, the Deputy Commissioner said, "For children requiring specialised or tertiary-level treatment, we have also established linkages with medical colleges and tertiary care hospitals so that they receive appropriate treatment and follow-up care."





Hindi Pakhwada concludes at NIT Srinagar, top performers felicitated

Director stresses wider use of Rajbhasha in official communication

HT News Network

Srinagar|Oct, 07: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednesday concluded its Hindi Pakhwada celebrations with a valedictory ceremony and felicitation of winners and participants who excelled in various competitions and Hindi language examinations. Organised by the Rajbhasha Cell, the programme featured competitions, awareness activities and training sessions aimed at encouraging the use of Hindi in official communication and strengthening its presence in the institute's administrative functioning. The valedictory ceremony was presided over by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, while noted multilingual writer and broadcaster Dr. Satish



Vimal attended as the Guest of Honour.

The programme was attended by Dean P&D Dr. Yaswant Mehta, In-charge Hindi Officer Dr. R.P. Shukla, AR (Rajbhasha) and Hindi Teaching & Training Supervisor Mohammad Iqbal Dar, AR Accounts Shahid Hamid, Hindi Anuvadak Dr.

Sabzar Gani Batoo, faculty coordinators of the Rajbhasha Cell and ministerial staff from various departments. Addressing the gathering, Director NIT Prof. Anurag Misra appreciated the Rajbhasha Cell for organising the programme and involving faculty and staff in activities aimed at promoting the

official language. He said sustained efforts towards Rajbhasha would help strengthen official communication and improve coordination across academic and administrative units. "The consistent efforts of the Rajbhasha Cell reflect our commitment to promoting Rajbhasha as an effective medium of official communication. Such initiatives not only preserve our linguistic identity but also foster inclusivity and better coordination within academic and administrative systems," he said. Dr. Satish Vimal appreciated the Rajbhasha Cell for successfully conducting the Hindi Pakhwada and highlighted the importance of language in preserving cultural heritage and strengthening social bonds. He said Kashmir has historically been a confluence of diverse languages

and traditions, with Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Urdu and Kashmiri contributing to the region's rich linguistic heritage. Dr. R.P. Shukla said the programme reflected the collective efforts of the Rajbhasha Cell, faculty members, staff and coordinators.

"The Rajbhasha Cell has been working continuously to strengthen the presence of Hindi in the institute's official functioning. The enthusiastic participation of faculty and staff throughout Hindi Pakhwada reflects our shared commitment towards this objective," he said. During the felicitation ceremony, dignitaries presented certificates and mementoes to winners and participants of various competitions and to successful candidates of the Parangat and Praveen examinations.

EconFest 2026: KU creates vibrant platform for economics, research, career dialogue

HT News Network

Srinagar Oct 7: The Department of Economics, University of Kashmir

and young minds are encouraged to think beyond the classroom," she said.

In his remarks Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, said that such academic festivals



(KU), began the second edition of its annual academic and institutional festival, EconFest- 2026, at the Main Campus on Wednesday.

Envisioned as a vibrant platform for intellectual engagement, research development, professional guidance and community building, the week-long fest brings together students, faculty, researchers, alumni, eminent scholars and industry representatives to facilitate meaningful academic exchange, strengthen research capabilities and provide students with wider exposure to career and professional opportunities.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, highlighted the importance of creating academic spaces that encourage curiosity, critical thinking and meaningful engagement beyond the classroom. She appreciated the Department for creating a platform that connects students with scholars, alumni and professionals and provides them with opportunities to broaden their academic and professional horizons. "Universities must create spaces where knowledge is shared

provide students with an opportunity to engage with contemporary economic debates and interact with experts from diverse academic and professional backgrounds.

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, and Dean, School of Business Studies KU, Prof. Mushtaq Darzi, also expressed their views on the occasion, appreciating the Department's initiative to create an engaging academic platform that brings together teaching, research, professional development and alumni engagement.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Head, Department of Economics and Convener of the event, Prof. Effat Yasmin, said that the festival has been conceived as an extension of the department's academic environment, offering students opportunities to learn from experts, interact with alumni and professionals, and develop their research and career-oriented skills.

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Dr. Elizabeth Mariam, while the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Javid Iqbal Khan, Organising Secretary of the event.

GDC Qazigund Holds National Seminar on Syncretism and Dara Shikoh's Thought

Farooq Rather

Qazigund, Oct. 7: The Literary Club of Government Degree College Qazigund organised a one-day national seminar on "Syncretism and Dara Shikoh's Thought" at the college Conference Hall, bringing together scholars, academicians and students for an extensive discussion on India's composite cultural and intellectual traditions.

The seminar focused on the life, thought and intellectual legacy of Dara Shikoh (1615-1659), who occupies an important place in India's



intellectual history and a distinctive position in the cultural history of Kashmir. Speakers highlighted his role as an intellectual intermediary between Persian-Islamic and Sanskrit traditions and discussed the influence of Kashmir's rich mystical and spiritual environment on his thought. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Prof. (Dr.)

Sudhir Singh said the academic initiative was aimed at acquainting students with the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of coexistence, with particular reference to Dara Shikoh's philosophy. He observed that Dara Shikoh visited Kashmir several times and that his association with the region assumed particular significance during the later years of his intellectual life. Kashmir's distinctive cultural environment enabled him to interact with Sufi saints, Hindu ascetics, Sanskrit scholars and practitioners of the region's diverse mystical traditions.

SWD Srinagar organizes Awareness Programme on Social Security Schemes

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 07: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organized an awareness programme at Illahi Bagh, Srinagar, to sensitise the local community about various social security schemes and welfare initiatives being implemented for the benefit of eligible beneficiaries.

During the programme, detailed information was provided regarding marriage assistance, prosthetic aid and other social security schemes, with emphasis on eligibility criteria, benefits and the procedure for availing assistance under the respective schemes.

Officials of SANKALP-HEW Srinagar interacted with the

participants and addressed their queries regarding the welfare measures available through the Social Welfare Department. The programme aimed to ensure that eligible individuals and families are made aware of government support and are able to access the benefits meant for them. As part of the initiative, 20 beneficiaries were linked with various social security schemes, enabling them to avail the benefits of the welfare measures for which they were found eligible. The Department reiterated its commitment to taking welfare schemes to the grassroots level and ensuring greater awareness, accessibility and effective delivery of social security benefits to deserving sections of society.

JKAACL inaugurates two-year Calligraphy course

HMustafa Botoo

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 7: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with the University of Kashmir, today inaugurated a two-year Calligraphy Course at the Academy's Seminar Hall, Lal Mandi, Srinagar. The inaugural session was presided over by Secretary JKAACL, Harvinder Kour, along with Additional Secretary, Kashmir, Ideel Saleem and Additional Secretary, Central, Lal Chand. While Prof. Habibullah Shah, Principal, Institute of Music and Fine Arts, University of Kashmir, attended the session as the Guest of Honour, and former Chief Editor (Urdu), Mohammad Ashraf Tak also attended the inaugural session.

The course was formally inaugurated by the Secretary JKAACL. The dignitaries visited the calligraphy room and appreciated the initiative aimed at reviving and promoting the traditional art of calligraphy.

Addressing the gathering, Habibullah Shah highlighted the



enduring relevance and significance of calligraphy in the contemporary era and emphasized the need to preserve traditional art forms through structured training and institutional support. In his remarks, Mohammad Ashraf Tak underlined the cultural and artistic significance of calligraphy and appreciated the efforts of JKAACL and the University of Kashmir in reviving the course and providing a platform for imparting systematic training in this traditional art.

The ceremony was attended by senior and renowned calligraphers from across Jammu & Kashmir, besides students, art enthusiasts and other stakeholders. The two-year course

has been designed to preserve and promote the region's rich artistic heritage by imparting specialized training in the techniques and traditions of calligraphy to the younger generation. The initiative is also aimed at creating greater awareness about the cultural value of calligraphy and encouraging young talent to pursue and sustain this traditional art form.

The Academy reiterated its commitment to undertaking similar initiatives for the promotion of art, culture and languages and for providing meaningful opportunities to young artists to learn, practice and carry forward the region's rich cultural heritage.

ADDC Bandipora inaugurates National Science Exhibition at IDPS Around 2,000 Students from across North Kashmir showcase Innovation

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 07: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Nazeer Ahmad Mirtoday inaugurated a one-day National Science Exhibition on the theme "Innovation and Critical Thinking: Discover, Design and Develop" at International Delhi Public School (IDPS), Bandipora, with participation from several schools across North Kashmir.

Joint Director Education/Joint Director CBSE Kashmir, Syed Shabir Ahmad, Director Planning (Jal Shakti department), Imtiyaz Ahmad, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Bandipora, Deputy Chief Education Officer Bandipora, Zonal Education Officers, Chairman IDPS Bandipora and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. Representatives from the Universities of Bangalore also participated in the event.

On the occasion, a cultural



presentation featuring a welcome song by teachers, a Kashmiri group song by LKG students and a Kashmiri dance by Class 1 students marked the opening of the event.

Around 2,000 students participated in the exhibition, setting up dedicated stalls and showcasing innovative ideas, scientific models

and creative projects. The exhibits covered a wide range of concepts, with students explaining the underlying principles, working mechanisms and practical applications of their projects to the visiting guests and participants.

The exhibition provided students a platform to demonstrate their

creativity, scientific temperament, problem-solving abilities and critical thinking, besides offering them an opportunity to interact with peers from different schools, exchange ideas and learn from one another.

Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries appreciated the participation and efforts of the students and teachers and emphasised the importance of promoting scientific inquiry, innovation and critical thinking among young learners.

The exhibition also featured stalls by sponsors showcasing educational products and services, adding an educational and community dimension to the event.

The programme concluded with the felicitation of guests, sponsors, participating schools, students, teachers and organisers in recognition of their contribution towards promoting science, innovation and creative learning among school children.

J&K-PSA Discusses Waqf Schools Collaboration & Joint Educational Initiatives With Board Chairperson Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi

“Education Must Connect Children With Their Cultural & Literary Roots”: PSA

HT News Network

Budgam: The (Regd.) J&K Private Schools Association Budgam (J&K-PSA) has called for greater collaboration between J&K Waqf Board educational institutions, private schools, government schools and cultural organisations to promote quality education while strengthening students' connection with Jammu & Kashmir's rich literary, spiritual and cultural heritage. During a meeting with Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf

Board and Dr. Owais Mattoo, Director Media & Communications, J&K-PSA and District President, J&K-PSA Budgam, discussed several important issues concerning the education sector, institutional collaboration and the preservation of Kashmir's rich literary and cultural heritage. He emphasised the need for stronger collaboration between J&K Waqf Board schools, private educational institutions and government schools to promote quality and value-based education while ensuring that students remain

connected with the region's language, literature, cultural traditions and moral values.

Dr. Mattoo appreciated the work being carried out under the leadership of Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi and acknowledged the visible efforts towards strengthening and developing J&K Waqf Board and their educational infrastructure. He said that the transformation being witnessed in the Waqf system reflects sustained efforts and leadership over the past several years. While congratulating Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, Dr.



Owais Mattoo referred to the importance of leadership qualities such as courage, vision and a strong commitment to public service. Quoting Allama

Iqbal's well-known verse, "Nigah buland suk han dil-navk z jaan pur-soz; yakh hai rak ht-e-safar mk r-e-kk rvk nkeliye", he underlined

the importance of vision, compassion and dedication in leadership. Speaking from his perspective as an educationist and representative of the private-school sector, Dr. Mattoo said that education cannot remain confined to textbooks and academic achievement alone. He stressed the need to connect students with language, literature, cultural heritage, moral values and the intellectual traditions of Kashmir. He said that his institution and J&K-PSA member schools had already undertaken several initiatives

aimed at connecting students with literature and cultural traditions and that such programmes had produced positive changes in students' behaviour and overall outlook.

"We cannot bring meaningful improvement unless we connect our children with literature and their cultural roots," Dr. Mattoo said, emphasising the role of education in shaping not only academically capable students but also responsible citizens.

Dr. Mattoo further said that the J&K-PSA was working towards developing an

educational model in collaboration with literary and cultural organisations, under which the teachings and literary contributions of Sheikh-ul-Alam Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani (R.A.) could be introduced to students from the foundational level. He said the initiative was aimed at making students familiar with the spiritual, literary and ethical legacy of Sheikh-ul-Alam (R.A.) from an early age and ensuring that Kashmir's indigenous literary heritage remains connected with contemporary education.



HT EDITORIAL

J&K's Drug Menace: A War We Cannot Leave to Police Alone

The arrest of seven alleged drug peddlers in Anantnag today with charas, ganja and other narcotic substances recovered in five separate operations, is yet another glaring reminder of a menace that is no longer confined to the margins of society. It is creeping into communities, threatening families and, most dangerously, targeting the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

The scale and variety of the recoveries reported in Anantnag should disturb every responsible citizen. Behind every packet of narcotics is not merely a criminal transaction but a potential victim a young person whose education, health, aspirations and family life could be destroyed by addiction. Those who deliberately push drugs into society for money are not simply violating the law; they are inflicting deep social damage and playing with the future of J&K.

The police and other law-enforcement agencies deserve appreciation for intensifying surveillance, conducting naka checking and dismantling drug-supply networks. Such action is essential. Arrests and seizures send a strong message that those involved in narcotics trafficking will not be allowed to operate with impunity. But enforcement alone cannot win this battle.

The responsibility belongs to society as a whole.

Parents, teachers, religious and community leaders, civil society organisations, traders, transporters, media institutions and, above all, citizens must become active participants in the fight against drugs. A suspicious activity cannot be ignored merely because it does not directly affect us. Silence can provide space for the drug trade to flourish.

Parents need to remain attentive to changes in the behaviour and company of their children. Educational institutions must strengthen awareness and counselling programmes. Communities must protect vulnerable youngsters rather than stigmatise those who need rehabilitation. At the same time, society must draw a clear distinction between victims of addiction and those who knowingly profit from supplying narcotics.

The fight also demands greater attention to rehabilitation. Arresting a peddler may stop one supply channel, but helping an addicted youngster recover can save an entire life. Treatment, counselling, sports, education, employment opportunities and meaningful engagement for youth must therefore form an integral part of the anti-drug campaign.

Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford to lose its young generation to addiction. Our youth are our greatest human resource, and every youngster pulled into the drug trade represents a loss not only to a family but to the entire society.

The message is therefore unmistakable: the police can arrest the peddlers, but society must prevent the next generation from becoming their customers.

The war against drugs must move beyond police stations and enter our homes, schools, neighbourhoods and communities. If every citizen accepts this responsibility, the dream of a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir can become a collective mission rather than merely a slogan.



By:- Raqif makhdoomi.

The Treaty of al-Hudaybiya (Sulh al-Hudaybiya) which was signed in 6th AH between Prophet Muhammad, representing the state of Madinah, and the Quraysh tribe of Makkah is Islamic history's one of the most misunderstood event. Before I explain why I call it "Most misunderstood event" let's go to its background.

What's Treaty Of Hudaybiya
Under the leadership of Hazrat Muhammad (saw) 1400 companions set on the journey to perform Umrah but the Quraysh intercepted the Muslims at Hudaybiyah, a place just outside Makkah, and threatened to fight to prevent their entry. Instead of blood bath the Prophet (saw) preferred to have a peace treaty which came to be known as Sulh Al-Hudaybiya. It got its name from the place where the Muslims were stopped. Prophet (saw) made Hazrat Usman bin Affan (ra) his representative and he went to the Quraysh to negotiate. While Hazrat Uthman E Ghani was negotiating terms a rumour spread that he (ra) got martyred by the Quraysh. And when this news reached out to Hazrat Muhammad (saw) he made the 1400 of his companion to who were present there to take pledge they will revenge the martyrdom of Hazrat Uthman E Ghani (ra) and this pledge came to be known as Bay'at al-Ridwan it's also known as bay' at ash-shajarah because it was taken under the tree.

It was finally decided that a Peace Treaty shall be signed between Quraysh E Maccas and state of Madinah. The representative of Quraysh was Suhayl ibn Amr. Suhayl was the guy who wrote the treaty as representative of Quraysh. And Prophet (saw) nominated Hazrat Ali (ra) to write it on behalf of Muslims. When Hazrat Ali (ra) started to write treaty with the first word being "Bismillah" Suhayl objected to it and demanded that the document instead



begin with the customary phrase used by the Quraysh, "In your name, O God." When Ali wrote, "This is what Muhammad, the Messenger of God, has agreed with Suhayl ibn Amr." Suhayl objected to the description, stating that Quraysh did not recognize Muhammad's prophethood, and demanded that the document identify him simply as "Muhammad, son of Abdullah." Muhammad accepted the change in the wording in order to preserve the agreement. According to the traditional accounts, Ali was reluctant to erase the phrase "Messenger of God," so Muhammad instructed Ali to point where it appeared in the document, and erased it himself.

The principal provisions of the agreements were

- 1:- A truce would remain in effect between the two sides for ten years.
- 2:- A person from the Quraysh who fled to Muhammad without permission of their guardian would be returned to Quraysh, while a person who went from Muslims to the Quraysh would not be returned.
- 3:- Whoever wishes to enter into a covenant with Muhammad will be allowed to do so, and whoever wishes to enter into a covenant with the Quraysh will be allowed to do so.
- 4:- The Muslims would return to Medina without performing the pilgrimage that year but would be allowed the following year and

would stay in Mecca for three days during which time the Quraysh will vacate the city. The Muslims will carry no weapons except sheathed swords during the pilgrimage.

While the treaty was being written Suhayl who was writing the treaty on behalf of Quraysh his son Abu Jandal ibn Suhayl was able to break free the chains and reach the place where the treaty was being written. When Suhayl saw his son he said "As per treaty he has to be returned". But it happened while the treaty wasn't signed, the objection was raised that he's can't be returned. The Quraysh said "If he isn't returned we'll not sign any treaty". He was returned back to Quraysh and this made companions of prophet (saw) very sad. Later he and Abu Basir took refuge at a place which was key point of Quraysh's trade. The point became safe space for Muslims who because of treaty couldn't openly be taken by the Prophet (saw) because of the treaty. The trade of Quraysh was so badly interrupted that they requested Prophet (saw) to take them all.

The Misunderstandings
After the plain reading of the conditions that were set forth, none of the conditions speak about having "Brotherly" relationships. It wasn't even a trade deal nor was it a deal where the sides decided to participate in each other's religious or wedding gatherings for the sake of upholding "Brotherhood". The treaty

was simply to stop the blood bath. People must know the literal meaning of Treaty of Hudaybiya it's a "Peace Treaty" not a treaty for brotherhood. Are we taking a treaty as a model where Muslims had to give up on calling "With the name of Allah" and where Muslims had to agree to Muhammad bin Abdullah instead of Muhammad -Ur-Rasool Allah ? We seriously need to ask ourselves that what are we talking as an example to make what happen. There are people who talk about the treaty and say "When even Muhammad bin Abdullah was written instead of Muhammad Ur Rasool Allah. Why can't we keep our differences aside and have brotherhood". The first thing they must know that if they are taking the treaty without understanding they must then declare one party "Non Muslim". Either the one with whom you want Hudaybiya type treaty is a "Non Muslim" or accept the fact that you are the Quraysh of today's time. To understand the things that have happened in past everything has to be taken into consideration. Here's a fact that I am sure that most of the people don't know. The expedition of Khyabar took place the next year of the treaty of Hudaybiya. Was the treaty to abandon the truth? No, it wasn't. It was a pact between two groups for some purpose.

The Companions of Prophet (saw) have never been so sad the way they were at the time when the treaty was signed and today people rejoice the treaty as if it was celebrated back then. Yes, the treaty can be taken as an example for agreements between two unlike groups but it can't be taken as white paper to allow disrespect to the values of other side. To understand the context of Hudaybiya in it's best form one must read Surah Al-Fath. Where Allah comforts the companions of Prophet with the promise of victory and that victory came in the form of conquer of Makkah. Remember in 6AH Treaty was signed, in 7AH Khyabar was conquered and in 8th AH Makkah was conquered. Did the Prophet (saw) after signing the treaty abandon any pillar of Islam or did the treaty led to acceptance of their religious practices? No way, it didn't happen on the other hand it ensured the victory. The treaty of Hudaybiya paved way for victory not for normalizing the bad.

Vaccination Against Dengue: A New Scientific Turning Point



Dr. Vijay Garg

Dengue has emerged as one of the most important mosquito-borne diseases affecting millions of people across tropical and subtropical regions. Every year, outbreaks place a considerable burden on families, hospitals and public-health systems. High fever, severe headache, body pain, weakness and, in some cases, dangerous bleeding or shock can make dengue a serious illness. For decades, prevention has depended largely on controlling mosquitoes and avoiding mosquito bites. The development and approval of dengue vaccines, therefore, represents an important scientific turning point.

Dengue is caused by the dengue virus, which has four major serotypes—DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3 and DENV-4. A person can be infected more than once because immunity to one serotype does not necessarily provide complete protection against the others. This biological complexity has made the development of a safe and effective vaccine particularly challenging.

The first dengue vaccines to receive regulatory approval demonstrated that vaccination against dengue was scientifically possible. However, dengue vaccination is not as simple as vaccination against some other infectious diseases. Vaccine performance can vary according to the person's age, previous dengue infection status, circulating virus serotype and the specific vaccine being used. Therefore, vaccination policies must be based on scientific evidence and appropriate regulatory

recommendations.

One of the most important lessons from dengue vaccine research is the role of previous infection. Some dengue vaccines have shown different benefits and risks in people who have previously been infected compared with those who have never encountered the virus. This

sites and communities. Removing standing water, using mosquito repellents, wearing protective clothing, installing screens and maintaining clean surroundings remain essential measures.

The arrival of dengue vaccines also highlights the importance of responsible public-health



has made pre-vaccination assessment and careful selection of eligible groups especially important for certain vaccines.

Modern dengue vaccines aim to train the immune system to recognize and fight the virus before it causes serious disease. By stimulating immune memory, vaccination can potentially reduce the risk of symptomatic dengue and, depending on the vaccine and population, severe disease and hospitalization.

However, a vaccine should not create a false sense of complete security. Dengue is transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes, particularly Aedes aegypti. These mosquitoes often breed in small collections of stagnant water around homes, schools, construction

communication. People should receive clear information about who should be vaccinated, how many doses are recommended, possible side effects and the level of protection expected. Vaccination decisions should follow the recommendations of national health authorities and qualified medical professionals rather than rumours or social-media claims.

For countries such as India, dengue prevention is particularly important because outbreaks can occur in different regions and transmission patterns can change with climate, rainfall, urbanization and mosquito populations. Increasing temperatures and changing rainfall patterns may also influence the geographical and seasonal spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

Scientific progress in dengue vaccination has been accompanied by advances in diagnosis, surveillance, mosquito control and treatment. Researchers are also studying new vaccine approaches and methods to improve protection against all dengue virus serotypes. The ultimate objective is not simply to develop a vaccine, but to create a comprehensive strategy that reduces illness, deaths and the social and economic burden of dengue.

The development of dengue vaccines demonstrates how difficult public-health challenges can gradually yield to scientific research. Years of laboratory studies, clinical trials, immunological research and epidemiological monitoring have contributed to this progress.

Yet the fight against dengue cannot be won by vaccines alone. Governments, health professionals, schools, communities and individuals all have a role to play. Early recognition of warning signs, timely medical care, mosquito-control measures and evidence-based vaccination policies must work together.

Dengue vaccination is therefore more than a medical achievement. It represents a new chapter in the continuing battle against mosquito-borne diseases. Science has provided another important tool; the challenge now is to use that tool wisely, safely and equitably.

The message is simple: vaccination can strengthen our defence against dengue, but prevention remains a shared responsibility. The combination of scientific innovation, responsible vaccination, mosquito control and public awareness can bring us closer to a future in which dengue causes far less suffering.

Dr Vijay Garg Retired Principal
Eminent Scientist street kour
Chand MHR Malout Punjab

Forests: The Green Blanket of the Earth



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Forests are the Oxygen Oceans of Our Planet

Forests are the oxygen oceans of our planet. Deforestation is not merely the cutting down of trees it is an act of murder, the murder of life itself. Anyone who destroys forests commits a crime against nature, and such acts must be dealt with under strict laws.

The Almighty has blessed us with countless gifts, each serving the welfare of humankind. Yet humans have become selfish and destructive, turning into the very culprits who damage the Earth's natural assets. Forests are not just clusters of trees; they are the lifeline of existence. They provide timber and fodder and act as shields against natural disasters such as flash floods, landslides, and soil erosion.

Deforestation the large scale cutting of trees leads to soil erosion, flash floods, and climate imbalance. It decreases oxygen levels while increasing carbon dioxide in the

atmosphere, accelerating global warming. Forests maintain the essential balance of gases that sustains life a balance that no human innovation can replace.

Every academic subject has its own importance, but when it comes to solving environmental challenges, science holds the key. Through scientific understanding, we can analyze, preserve, and protect the planet's ecosystems effectively.

Unfortunately, some selfish individuals exploit forest resources for personal profit. Forests are not lifeless timberlands they are golden assets of our nation. Our government and forest departments must step beyond office walls to educate citizens through public campaigns, counseling sessions, and awareness drives. In recent years, I have personally visited forest regions across Budgam, Gulmarg, and

Pahalgam. It is heartbreaking to see large scale destruction where once dense greenery thrived all sacrificed to greed.

Forests have long inspired poets, artists, and filmmakers. The lush green leaves, the majestic pines, and the gentle hum of insects reflect nature's unmatched beauty. Forests beautify our Mother Earth, offer recreation, and refresh the human spirit.

According to recent data, about 7,12,249 sq. km of land in India is under forest cover, including 20,230 sq. km in Jammu and Kashmir. The Pir Panjal range of the Lesser Himalayas, stretching from Himachal Pradesh to Azad Kashmir, is home to diverse flora and fauna, acting as a guardian of biodiversity and ecological wealth. Forests for Recreation and Research

For centuries, forests have provided spaces for recreation trekking, camping, and

mountaineering. They also serve as living laboratories for researchers studying rare herbs, shrubs, and unique ecological patterns.

Uses and Benefits of Forests
Forests maintain ecological balance through food chains and food webs. They provide shelter for wildlife, grazing lands for nomads, and medicinal plants for humans. Communities living near forests depend on them for their livelihood, which must be sustained responsibly.

Causes of Deforestation
The major causes of deforestation include smuggling, construction, urbanization, and the demand for timber in various industries. Human interference and negligence remain the primary reasons for ecological imbalance.

Solutions and Way Forward
Afforestation planting trees in deforested areas is the most effective solution to deforestation. However, since forests take decades to grow, awareness, strict monitoring, and public participation are essential. The government must conduct regular awareness drives, ensure forest protection through patrolling, and promote community involvement.

Conclusion
Deforestation is a crime against life—against air, water, wildlife, and humanity itself. Forests are living treasures, the golden lungs of our Earth. Let us pledge to protect them for the sake of today and future generations.

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Who Is Killing Kashmir's Lakes?



By Dr. Hidayat Bukhari

For generations, Kashmir has been imagined through water. Dal and Nigeen shaped the visual identity of Srinagar, Wular sustained fishing communities and helped regulate the Jhelum basin, Hokersar received migratory birds and performed an important flood-storage function, while Anchar, Gilsar, Khushalsar, countless springs, marshes, khuls and canals formed part of a much larger hydrological network that existed long before modern departments, urban development authorities or municipal plans began to divide the landscape into administrative jurisdictions. Yet the most important question facing Kashmir today is no longer simply how much of this natural inheritance remains visible, but why decades of public expenditure, court supervision, scientific research and administrative intervention have failed to produce a system capable of guaranteeing that these water bodies will remain ecologically viable.

The familiar explanation that government neglected Kashmir's lakes is only partly true and, in some ways, too easy. Governments did act. Large sums were sanctioned, sewerage projects were undertaken, sewage-treatment plants were constructed, development authorities were created, dredging and de-weeding became recurring interventions, rehabilitation programmes were launched and courts repeatedly monitored implementation. The National Green Tribunal issued directions, the Anti-Corruption Bureau investigated cases involving alleged failures of enforcement, scientists studied pollution and hydrology, citizens filed Right to Information applications, and civil-society organisations undertook restoration work where official attention had weakened. The harder and more consequential question is why all of this

activity did not produce a governance structure in which ecological recovery, rather than expenditure or visible intervention, became the principal measure of success.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has now provided one of the most important institutional assessments of this failure. Its Report No. 4 of 2025 on the conservation and management of lakes in Jammu and Kashmir, tabled on March 30, 2026, examined institutional arrangements, changes in lake area, pollution, sewage infrastructure, encroachments, dredging, monitoring, research and expenditure, while also revisiting deficiencies previously identified in Dal Lake audits in 2006 and 2011. The report principally covers the period ending March 2022, and therefore should not be misrepresented as a complete assessment of everything undertaken through 2026, but its significance lies precisely in the continuity of the problems it identifies. When the same categories of concern recur across audits separated by many years, the difficulty is no longer a matter of one failed project or one administration; it becomes evidence of a structural weakness in the way environmental governance itself has been organised.

The CAG examined records relating to 697 lakes and found that, in the later dataset used for comparison, 315 were no longer visible while another 203 had suffered a reduction in water area, meaning that 518 of the 697 showed disappearance or shrinkage in the comparison examined by the audit. These numbers are serious, but they must be used carefully. Remote-sensing data have limitations, seasonal variation matters and later official exercises have used different techniques and classifications, including a revised inventory that identified 1,793 wetlands and water bodies. The important conclusion is therefore not that a precise number of lakes can be declared permanently "lost" from a single dataset, but that Jammu and Kashmir still lacks one universally accepted, publicly accessible record that connects historical cadastral boundaries, contemporary high-resolution mapping, hydrological function and present administrative responsibility for every significant water body. That absence is not a technical footnote; it is central to the governance problem because a state that

cannot continuously identify the physical and legal extent of its water assets will always struggle to protect them from gradual degradation. Dal Lake

needs to change. Removing weeds may be necessary, but weeds often reflect excess nutrient loading; dredging may be necessary, but sediment arrives



illustrates this contradiction more clearly than any other water body in the Valley. Few lakes in India have received comparable political attention, judicial oversight or engineering intervention. Sewerage networks have expanded, sewage-treatment plants have been commissioned, dredging and mechanical de-weeding have continued for years, houseboat waste has become the subject of regulation and rehabilitation measures have been undertaken, yet in 2025 the National Green Tribunal was still directing a joint committee to identify the precise sources of pollution entering the lake and the persons or entities responsible for them. That direction is significant because it reveals the difference between carrying out conservation activities and possessing a complete ecological management system. After decades of expenditure, authorities were still being asked to establish where untreated sewage was entering, which drains and channels were responsible, whether commercial establishments or houseboats were contributing to pollution and how the lake's present extent compared with older revenue records. This is why the language of restoration itself

from somewhere in the catchment; an STP may be indispensable, but its existence is not proof that all sewage actually reaches it. The ecological questions are therefore more demanding than the engineering ones: how much untreated sewage still enters the lake, how much phosphorus and nitrogen are being delivered annually, what the sedimentation rate is, whether dissolved oxygen is improving, whether circulation has recovered and whether native aquatic life is returning. If those indicators do not improve in a sustained manner, the administration may be maintaining the appearance of a lake without restoring the ecosystem that allows it to remain healthy.

The deeper weakness is that Kashmir has often managed famous water bodies as separate administrative assets when they are parts of larger hydrological systems. Dal, Nigeen, Brari Nambal, Nallah Amir Khan, Gilsar,

Khushalsar and Anchar cannot be understood independently of one another because pollution, sediment, obstruction and altered water flow do not respect departmental boundaries. Sewage

entering one part of the system may become eutrophication somewhere else, a narrowed channel may reduce circulation downstream and construction on a drainage corridor may redistribute flood risk far beyond the land on which that construction stands. The ecological unit is therefore the watershed and the hydrological network, not the development authority, municipal ward or revenue estate.

Wular Lake demonstrates that a different approach is possible. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir engaged Wetlands International South Asia to prepare an integrated management plan that considered the lake together with its catchment and addressed sedimentation, willow plantations, marsh connectivity, hydrology, biodiversity, land management and local livelihoods as interconnected issues rather than separate engineering problems. That approach is important because it places ecological function ahead of administrative convenience. The purpose of restoration is not simply to make a water surface appear cleaner, but to recover the processes that allow the system to regulate water, sustain biodiversity and remain resilient over time.

The governance question inevitably leads to corruption, but this is also where public discussion requires discipline. The J&K Anti-Corruption Bureau records that FIR No. 48/2015 was registered following directions of the High Court in the longstanding Dal Lake litigation, and the Bureau subsequently filed a chargesheet alleging that officials in the enforcement wing of the former Lakes and Waterways Development Authority had facilitated illegal construction or related violations around Dal and Nigeen. These are prosecutorial allegations, not findings that permit guilt to be presumed, but their existence demonstrates why environmental regulation cannot be separated from the integrity of enforcement itself.

Hidayat Bukhari is a business strategist, AI transformation commentator, and US government contracting consultant focused on economic resilience, technology, and market competitiveness, he is a member of JK Climate Action Group and J&K RTI Movement and can be reached at Hidayat.bukhari@gentechprollc.com

Day Without My Phone



BY-MOOL RAJ

Declaring a truce with the small but fast machine is not an act of negligence. Rather, it should be considered an act of preservation.

The realization hit me the moment I reached school some days ago. My pocket felt weightless. In the morning rush, I had left my phone behind at home. For anyone in charge of an institution, this is not a small slip. It triggers raw, cold panic.

algorithmic feeds. We refresh inboxes that need no attention. The mind stays broken in two. One half sits in the physical room, while the other drifts inside a cloud of digital noise.

I had no choice that morning. I walked into the school without my digital armor. What followed was an absolute revelation.

At first, a quiet dread shadowed every step. I worried about missed deadlines. I braced for high-priority calls from senior officers or so. But then the morning assembly bell rang. The reality of the open ground took over. There were no beeps. There were no shrill ringtones. There were no flashing screens. Suddenly, the day settled into a calm, humane rhythm.

The first real difference showed in human

hollowed this work out. It has turned dedicated teachers into exhausted data clerks, which may be an unavoidable requirement. Without the constant hum of the screen, the school found its voice again. I heard the sharp tap of marker against whiteboards.

Even so, the old dread never vanished entirely. A cold whisper kept returning to my thoughts throughout the afternoon. What if an urgent departmental order had dropped? What if a missed instruction brought severe administrative wrath? What if an official explanation was demanded by sundown? In an environment where obedience is now measured in minutes everywhere.

The final verdict waited until evening. I stepped into my house and approached the forgotten phone with nervous hands. I turned on the screen, expecting the undesired things.

There was no departmental crisis. There was no scathing reprimand from officers. The sky had not fallen. Instead, the screen showed dozens of missed calls from close acquaintances and relatives. Accustomed to my constant digital presence, they had grown alarmed by my silence. Their affection was deeply moving. Yet it also revealed a tragic truth about our time: the moment a person slips offline for half a day, the world assumes they are in danger. The administrative emergency had lived only inside my conditioned fears.

Modern office culture, in general, has tagged the workplace with a dangerous myth. It treats round-the-clock availability as a mark of competence. It mistakes frantic speed for genuine importance. It confuses nervous panic with real leadership.

That silent school day proved the opposite. True competence, sometimes, demands the courage to step back from the deluge. Declaring a truce with the small but fast machine is not an act of negligence. Rather, it should be considered an act of preservation. It protects the quality of our work, on the contrary. It restores our human bonds. Above all, it gives the mind back its quiet sanity after a long time. Thanks to my negligence in forgetting my phone at home, at least for a day.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

Are Instagram and Facebook Reels Training Our Brains to Seek Instant Pleasure?



By Altaf Shafi

In the modern digital age, a person can open Instagram or Facebook for "just five minutes" and suddenly discover that half an hour has disappeared. One short video is followed by another, then another, and the process seems almost automatic. But what exactly is happening inside our

brains when we continuously scroll through short-form videos? A common explanation is that Reels "release dopamine," the so-called pleasure hormone. While this statement is not entirely wrong, it is scientifically oversimplified. Dopamine is not simply a chemical that produces pleasure. It plays an important role in motivation, reward learning, attention, anticipation and reinforcement.

When we encounter something interesting—a funny video, an attractive image, an unexpected piece of information, or content that matches our interests—the brain's reward system can become engaged. Social-media platforms are particularly effective at this because the next video is unpredictable. We do not know whether the next Reel will be boring, funny, exciting or surprising. This uncertainty can encourage us to keep scrolling.

This is an important feature of short-form content. If every video were predictable, our interest might quickly decline. Instead, the constant possibility of finding something more interesting encourages repeated checking. In psychological terms, this resembles variable reinforcement, where rewards arrive unpredictably. Such patterns can make a behaviour particularly persistent.

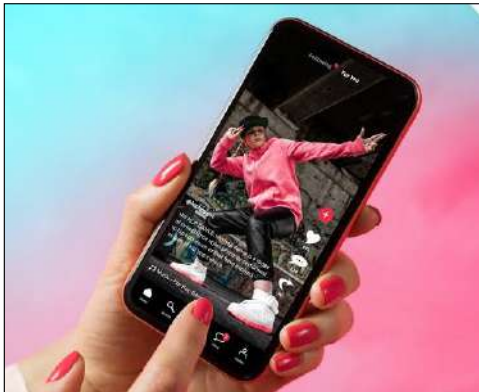
The problem, therefore, is not simply that "dopamine is released." Dopamine

is a normal and necessary part of human functioning. We need it for motivation and learning. The more important question is what kind of behaviour our reward system is repeatedly learning.

If a person becomes accustomed to receiving something new and stimulating every few seconds,

ordinary activities may begin to feel comparatively slow. Reading a difficult book, studying economics, writing an essay or simply sitting quietly requires sustained attention without a continuous stream of novelty.

This does not mean that Reels



automatically damage the brain or that every person who watches them will develop an addiction. Scientific evidence does not justify such extreme claims. Social media can also provide education, entertainment, creativity, communication and access to useful information.

The real concern is uncontrolled and excessive use. There is also a deeper question. Are we using technology, or is technology increasingly shaping our habits? When we repeatedly reach for our phones whenever we experience boredom, the habit can become stronger. We may gradually train ourselves to escape moments of silence instead of tolerating them.

The challenge, therefore, is not to declare dopamine an enemy. It is to understand how our attention and reward systems work. Perhaps the most valuable skill in the age of endless scrolling is not the ability to find more



Urs Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA) begins at Charar-i-Sharief

Poshak Bandi ritual held; shrine reverberates with prayers, Naats, Manqabats

HT News Network

Budgam, Oct 07 (KNO): The annual Poshak Bandi ritual was performed with religious fervour at the revered shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA) at Charar-i-Sharief in Budgam on Wednesday, marking the beginning of the annual Urs celebrations of the revered Sufi saint.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the sacred ritual of changing the cloth draped over the holy grave was performed by Senior Member of the J&K Waqf Board Syed Mohammad Hussain Hakani, Administrator Mohammad Amin Dar, and Mutawali Ziyarat Mohammad Younis Haji, in the presence of other Waqf board officials and a large gathering of devotees.

The shrine reverberated with Manqabats, Naats, prayers and slogans in praise of Alamdar-e-Kashmir, as devotees gathered to witness the sacred ritual and offer prayers.

Popularly known as "Alamdar-e-Kashmir" and "Sheikh-ul-Aalam", Hazrat Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani



(RA) is among the most revered spiritual personalities of Kashmir, whose teachings, poetry and message of peace have deeply influenced the Valley's spiritual and cultural traditions.

The annual Urs attracts devotees from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir, who visit Charar-i-Sharief to pay their respects, offer prayers and seek blessings.

As per the programme issued by the J&K Waqf Board, Shab Khwani will be held on

October 8, while the main Urs Mubarak will be observed on October 9. The concluding Friday ceremony is scheduled for October 16.

Authorities have made arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Urs, with concerned departments directed to ensure adequate water, electricity, sanitation and transport facilities, besides necessary security arrangements for the devotees.

The administration and police have also put in place measures to regulate the movement of devotees and ensure the peaceful conduct of the annual Urs celebrations—(KNO)

SKUAST-K Pushes Scientifically Validated Natural Farming in J&K

HT News Network

Srinagar, October 7: The Directorate of Extension Education, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), in collaboration with the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, organised a Natural Farming Seminar at the Conference Hall, Shalimar, bringing together agricultural scientists, experts, farmer representatives and other stakeholders to discuss scientifically validated and location-specific approaches for promoting natural farming in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, who was the Chief Guest, emphasised that natural farming practices need to be scientifically validated and adapted to the diverse agro-climatic conditions of the region. He said the University has established a Centre of Excellence on Natural Farming to strengthen research, field demonstrations, capacity building and dissemination of appropriate practices.

Linking scientific research with field-level requirements, Prof. Ganai highlighted the potential of natural farming to improve soil health, conserve natural resources and promote efficient use of farm inputs. He called for stronger collaboration among the University, government departments, scientists, farmer organisations and farming communities to develop approaches that are both evidence-based and relevant to local conditions.

Underscoring the role of extension in translating research into practice, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, emphasised the importance of taking validated technologies and practices to farmers through field demonstrations, capacity building and continuous knowledge exchange. The need to keep farmers at the centre of such efforts was also highlighted by Ms. Nuzat Gul, Secretary, J&K Kisan Advisory Board. She stressed the importance of farmer participation in developing environmentally responsible and economically viable farming systems. From the farmers' organisation perspective, Shri Dinesh D. Kulkarni, All India Organising Secretary, Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, highlighted the importance of soil health, ecological balance.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Ali Mohmad Rather S/o Gh Ahmad Rather R/o Mati pora Tehsil Pattan District Baramullah applied for the name caste correction in his own adhar card . The applicant name has been inadvertently recorded adhar card as Ali Mohmad .

The applicant intends to register the correct name as Ali Mohmad Rather S/o Gh Ahmad Rather in the adhar card

If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned publication office authorities within a period of seven days and after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .

05 /10 /2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Aijaz Ahmad Ganie S/o Abdul Rahman Ganie R/o Checki kawoosa Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of BIRTH certificate of his daughter Raziya D/o Aijaz Ahmad Ganie

The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his daughter as school records 14/ 05 / 2010 If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .

07 /10 /2026

Taxpayers are partners in nation-building: IT Dept Principal Commissioner Monika Dhami sensitises industrialists, hoteliers, DDOs on new tax provisions

HT News Network

Ganderbal, Oct 07 (KNO): Tax is a tool for nation-building and should not be viewed as a burden, but as a contribution towards nation-building, Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Srinagar, Monika Dhami said on Wednesday.

Dhami was addressing an awareness programme organised by the Income Tax Department at the Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal, to sensitise industrialists, traders, hoteliers, Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and other stakeholders about the provisions of the New Income Tax Act, 2025 and promote voluntary tax compliance. She was the chief guest at the programme.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Principal Commissioner was accompanied by Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, Srinagar, Dr Ruveda Salam; Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax Sandhya Partap; and Income Tax Officers Vikash Parihar, Samsudin and Avinash Singh.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal Jatin Kishore was also present and addressed the gathering. He welcomed the initiative and stressed the need for greater awareness among the local business community about

tax compliance, taxpayer services and facilities available to them.

Addressing the participants, Dhami called for timely, accurate and transparent compliance with income tax laws, while highlighting the role of taxpayers in strengthening the country's economic growth and development. She urged members of the business community to make full use of taxpayer services provided by the department and seek professional guidance wherever required.

Speaking to reporters, Dhami said the department had conducted extensive outreach in the district and interacted with the business community, chartered accountants and taxpayers.

"Our main message was that tax is a tool for nation-building and should not be viewed as a burden, but as a contribution towards nation-building," she said.

She said the department now had better data, improved data processing and stronger connectivity, enabling it to "connect all the dots", and stressed that voluntary compliance was the way forward.

"We appeal to the people of Kashmir to join the nation-building process through voluntary compliance. The Income Tax Department, assessee and taxpayers are all partners in nation-building," Dhami

said.

On DDOs, the Principal Commissioner said the department had planned a DDO Awareness Week programme and was ready to address their concerns. "We have explained various tools and measures to help DDOs improve compliance. I hope DDO awareness will become stronger and that they will not face difficulties in TDS filing," she said.

Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax Sandhya Partap delivered a detailed presentation on the New Income Tax Act, 2025, covering income tax return filing, deductions and exemptions, TDS-related documentation and other issues relevant to the business and industrial community.

The programme witnessed participation from taxpayers, traders, hoteliers and representatives of various trade and professional bodies, including the Bar Association and District Legal Services Authority.

The programme also provided an interactive platform for participants to raise queries and seek clarifications on tax-related matters. Income Tax officials addressed their concerns and provided guidance on compliance and other relevant provisions.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, SRINAGAR

Near Petrol Pump Baghi Ali Mardan Khan, Srinagar - 190011

Public Notice

M/s Nazakat Shawl Factory I/E BAMK Srinagar stands formally registered with this office under No. JKSI/0058/FNL dated; 08.06.1979 for the activity of "Machine Embroidery as proprietorship concern of Mr. Ghulam Hassan Wani S/o Haji Ghulam Mohammad Wani R/o Gilli Kadal Nowshera, Srinagar. Now, the promoter of the unit has approached this office for transferring the lease hold right from Mr. Ghulam Hassan Wani S/o Haji Ghulam Mohammad Wani R/o Gilli Kadal Nowshera, Srinagar to Shabeena Javid D/o Ghulam Hassan Wani (W/o Javaid Ahmad Beigh) R/o Tawheed Abad, Nowshera Srinagar. Any person having any objection with regard to the above mentioned changes, shall report to the Office of General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar within a period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

DIPK-6521/26

Send Date: Oct 7 2026

Functional Manager

District Industries Centre
Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE DIVISION No. IIND SRINAGAR.

Phone/ Fax No. 0194-2950058

GIST OF E-NIT No :- 28, S&D IIND OF 2026-27

DATED :- 07-10-2026

For and on behalf of the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from the Registered PWD Civil Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules, for the below mentioned works strictly as per the terms and conditions given hereunder:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work in lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of Contractor	Time of completion.	Cost of Tender Document	Head of Account
1.	Construction of RCC pipe drain including manholes from H/O Mohd Yousuf Mir to main drain near Maidan Gadeer Park Bagh Pora	Rs.0.88	Rs.1760-	DEE	15 Days	Rs.50/-	Capex Budget 2026-27
2.	Construction of deep drain from the house of Ghulam Rasool Ganie upto house of Fayaz Ahmad Bhat at Gulshanpora Maloora	Rs.3.92	Rs.7840-	DEE	20 Days	Rs.120/-	District Capex 2026-27
3.	Construction of Storm Water drain in Rose Avenue Lane 01 near House of Mr Khurshid Ahmad Zainakote Srinagar	Rs.2.56	Rs.5120-	BEE	20 Days	Rs.100/-	District Capex 2026-27

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

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	07.10.2026
02.	Period of down loading of bidding documents	07.10.2026 from 4.00 P.M to 19.10.2026 upto to 4.00 PM
03.	Bid Submission Start Date	07.10.2026 from 4.30 P.M
04.	Bid Submission end Date	19.10.2026 up to 4.00 PM
05.	Date & time of opening of Bids on line	20.10.2026 at 11.30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer, Sewerage & Drainage Division No. II, SMC, Daresh Kadal Srinagar or any subsequent date convenient date to the tender Opening Authority
06.	List of documents to be uploaded	
1. Scanned copy of Tender document fee in shape of Bank receipt/E-Receipt. The amount should be deposited in Srinagar Municipal Corporation Account No. 0216010200000007 J&K Bank, Balgarden Branch Karan Nagar Srinagar, IFSC Code:- JAKA0GARDEN with NIT No. & Sr No of work. The tender document fee should be deposited between the date of issuance of NIT up to end date of submission of bid. The tender fees is non-refundable and can also be paid through online mode via NEFT/RTGS in favour of FA/ Chief Accounts officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation under the mentioned account.		
2. Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit in shape of FDR/CDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer Sewerage & Drainage Division 2 nd , SMC Srinagar without overwriting/		
3. Scanned copy of GST Registration with latest clearance and PAN Card.		
4. Scanned copy of JKPWDOMS Registration card with latest renewal on JKPWDOMS PORTAL, Cell No./ e-mail ID and correspondence address.		
5. NIT (Terms and conditions) duly signed by the bidder.		
6. BOQ.		

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document fee in the shape of Bank Receipt /challan as a tender fee paid in Srinagar Municipal Corporation Account No. 0216010200000007 J&K Bank, Balgarden Branch Karan Nagar Srinagar, IFSC Code:- JAKA0GARDEN, (with NIT No and Serial No of work) and Bank Challan/ E- Receipt should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) .The tender fees is non-refundable and can also be paid through online mode via NEFT/RTGS in favour of FA/ Chief Accounts officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation with Bank Details as given below:-
Name of the Bank:- Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Branch:- Balgarden, Srinagar
Bank Account No:- 0216010200000007
IFSC code:- JAKA0GARDEN
a. Any payment for Tenders fees through online mode shall necessarily mention the following information. (Sender Name, Account No of Sender/Beneficiary, Transaction ID, Reference ID, Transaction date and time, The Remarks should necessarily mention NIT NO &, SR NO.
b. For one particular work, only one bank Receipt / challan (not more than one) of the exact amount of tender fees (neither lesser nor greater) as shown against that particular work must be paid and uploaded with the tenders. The same tender fees paid and uploaded for a particular work should not be again used/ uploaded for any other work in the NIT (i.e. one Bank Receipt / Bank Challan for one work only)

DIPK-6499/26

Send Date; 07-10-26

SD/-

Executive Engineer,
S&D Division IInd, Srinagar

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR, PAHALGAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that Enamul Haq and Faisal Jahangir, Sons of Salim Jahangir Koochay, R/o Latroo, Pahalgam, have applied for the issuance of RBA (Reserved Backward Area) Certificate.

Any person having any objection regarding the issuance of the said certificate may submit the same before the Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Pahalgam, within the prescribed period.

Date: _____
Place: Pahalgam
Naib Tehsildar Pahalgam



PM-eBus Sewa: Jammu Smart City set to expand electric bus fleet with 75 new buses

HT News Network

JAMMU, OCTOBER 07: Jammu is set to get 75 new 7-metre, air-conditioned Smart Electric Buses, giving a further boost to the city's public transport system and expanding the Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) electric bus fleet.

The bidding process for the new buses has been completed under the PM-eBus Sewa programme, with M/s PM Electro Mobility Solutions Private Limited emerging as the lowest bidder (L-1) for the Jammu and Kashmir lot.

Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) has conveyed the bidding outcome to the Jammu and Kashmir

administration. The formal award of the contract is likely to follow soon. The new buses will be 7-metre, standard-floor and fully air-conditioned, offering commuters another option for comfortable and cleaner public transport in the city.

Jammu already has 100 Smart Electric Buses operating through JSCL. The existing fleet includes 25 buses of 12 metres and 75 buses of 9 metres. The electric bus fleet is set to grow further, as 25 more 12-metre Smart Electric Buses are also being added. The contract for these buses was signed in August 2026 and the buses are currently being manufactured.

This means Jammu is now



moving towards a much larger electric bus network, with 7-metre, 9-metre and 12-metre buses. The different sizes will give the city greater flexibility to run buses according to the needs of different routes.

The new 7-metre buses

are also expected to be useful on routes where smaller buses can move more easily through busy city areas. Being air-conditioned, they will provide a more comfortable journey for passengers, especially during Jammu's hot weather.

Under the arrangement,

the selected operator will provide and maintain the buses and run them on the city's public transport routes. The CEO Jammu Smart City Limited, Dr Devansh Yadav said the expansion of the electric bus fleet would further improve public transport in Jammu.

"Jammu is moving towards a cleaner, smarter and more passenger-friendly public transport system. The addition of 75 new 7-metre AC Smart Electric Buses will further strengthen the JSCL fleet and provide people with cleaner, reliable and comfortable mobility," Dr Yadav said.

The 75 buses are part of Lot-16 under the PM-eBus

Sewa Tender-3 and have been specifically allocated for Jammu. With the bidding process now complete, the administration will complete the remaining formalities, including issuing the Letter of Award and signing the agreement with the selected operator. The buses will be deployed after these formalities are completed.

For Jammu, the expansion means more electric buses on the city's roads and greater public transport capacity. With 100 buses already in operation, 25 more under production and another 75 moving towards deployment, the city's electric bus network is entering a major phase of expansion.

RBI Rate Hike Cycle Likely to Continue, HDFC Bank Expects Further 50-75 bps Increase

HT News Network



Srinagar: The Reserve Bank of India's latest rate hike is likely to mark the beginning of a tightening cycle, with analysts expecting another 50-75 basis points of cumulative increases over the coming months.

The RBI has raised its FY27 growth forecast by 40 basis points to 7.1%, while increasing its inflation forecast to 5.2%. Analysts expect inflation to average 5.4% in FY27, with 6.3% projected for the current quarter.

The pace of further rate hikes could depend on the duration of the West Asia conflict and its impact on oil prices. The RBI is also expected to manage surplus liquidity through measures including sell/buy swaps, VRRRs and, if required, OMOs.

Analysts expect the bond yield curve to flatten as higher policy rates and liquidity normalisation push up short-term rates.

ICICI Life Insurance Unveils New Brand Identity, Tagline 'Har Kal Aasaan'

HT News Network



Srinagar: ICICI Life Insurance, formerly known as ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company, has unveiled its new brand identity and tagline, 'Har Kal Aasaan', aimed at making life insurance simpler, more transparent and flexible for customers.

The company said the new identity reflects its commitment to helping customers navigate financial planning with greater clarity and confidence. It said that over the past 25 years, it has helped secure the dreams and futures of more than 20 crore Indians.

Srinivas Balasubramanian, Chief of Marketing, Digital & Bancassurance, ICICI Life Insurance Limited, said the new identity builds on the company's 25-year foundation and seeks to make securing one's financial future easier while contributing to the national goal of 'Insurance for All by 2047'. [KNT]

Br MSME DFO Srinagar launches Six-Week ESDP on AI & Business Development

HT News Network

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 07: The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), through Branch MSME Development & Facilitation Office (DFO), Srinagar, today kick-started a six-week Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (ESDP) on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Business Development in collaboration with the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, Pulwama.

The inaugural session was attended by Aijaz Bashir, Dean Academics, IUST, as the Chief Guest, in the presence of Saheel Alaqband, Assistant Director, MSME DFO Srinagar, and Prof. Parvez, Head, CIED, IUST. The programme was also graced by Altaf, Principal, Government Polytechnic Pulwama, faculty members and participating candidates.



Addressing the inaugural session, the Dean Academics, IUST, welcomed the initiative and appreciated the efforts of MSME DFO Srinagar and CIED in organising the programme. He emphasised that the ultimate measure of such initiatives should be their outcomes and expressed his hope that the programme would lead to the emergence of successful entrepreneurs and tangible success stories.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Director, MSME DFO Srinagar, said that the programme has been designed to provide participants with comprehensive exposure to Artificial Intelligence and its practical applications in

business and entrepreneurship. He said the participants will be sensitised about how AI can be effectively leveraged to develop innovative business ideas, improve business processes and create new entrepreneurial opportunities in the rapidly evolving digital economy.

He further informed the six-week programme will also include dedicated Entrepreneurship Development sessions, with experts and speakers from various stakeholder departments and institutions. These sessions will cover important aspects of entrepreneurship, including support available.

District-Level Role Play, Folk Dance Competition held at DIET Reasi

HT News Network

REASI, OCTOBER 07: A vibrant and impactful District-Level Competition on Role Play and Folk Dance was organized at District Institute of Education and Trainings (DIET) Reasi. The event was held under the aegis of the National Population Education Project (NPEP) and in academic collaboration with the J&K Board of School Education (JKBOSE), Jammu.

The grand programme was meticulously conducted under the guidance and supervision of the DIET Principal Deepak Kumar Gupta, who formally inaugurated the day-long event.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from talented students representing multiple zones of the district, with five schools competing in the Role Play category and six schools showcasing traditional performances in the Folk Dance competition. To ensure a fair and rigorous evaluation, a distinguished three-member jury was



constituted, comprising Vandana Magotra (HOD, DIET Reasi), Bindiya Langer (Lecturer) and Padam Nath Kotwal (Music Teacher, Kendriya Vidyalaya School Reasi). After an intense competition and stellar presentations, Model Higher Secondary School Katra clinched the top spot in the Folk Dance category with a mesmerizing traditional performance. In the Role Play competition, PM SHRI Government Higher Secondary School Reasi secured the first position for an impactful and socially relevant enactment.

Both winning schools have earned the honor of representing District Reasi at the upcoming Divisional-Level Competition to be held at JKBOSE, Jammu. The primary objective of the initiative was to nurture creative expression, deepen cultural awareness and identify budding talent among students across the various blocks and educational zones of District Reasi. By providing a competitive yet collaborative platform, the event sought to instill confidence and highlight the rich socio-cultural heritage of the region.

Director Agriculture Kashmir kickstarts Rabi Seedling Transplantation at SM Farm Gangbug

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 06: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah today visited vegetable Seed Multiplication (SM) Farm Gangbug Srinagar and kickstarted transplantation of seedlings for Rabi 2026-27. The Director took stock of different agriculture activities at the farm besides reviewing functioning of the machinery and equipment for packaging and processing of seeds. During the visit, the Director inspected various ongoing farm operations and took detailed stock of the seed multiplication programme. He interacted with the concerned officers and field staff and sought a comprehensive assessment of the progress achieved, crop management practices, field operations and developmental works being undertaken at the farm. Sartaj Ahmad Shah stressed the importance of strengthening departmental seed production infrastructure for ensuring the availability of quality seed to farmers.

Navratra festival arrangements discussed at Kathu Kathua review s preparedness for nine-day festival

HT News Network

KATHUA, OCTOBER 07: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today reviewed the arrangements for the ensuing Navratra festival here at a meeting of officials from line departments and representatives from Temple Management Committees.

Detailed deliberations were held with regard to the arrangements viz cleanliness, sanitation, drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, traffic plan and checking of rates of eatables, besides security arrangements in and around the important temples and shrines of the district. The Deputy Commissioner



directed the Jal Shakti Department functionaries to ensure regular supply of drinking water at the shrines and other important points enroute to shrines.

The DC asked the representatives from Mandir Management to avoid use of polythene bags for distribution of parshad, besides opting

traditional pattal-dona for langar.

The RTO was directed to strengthen enforcement to keep check on overloading and overcharging by the transporters on Yatra routes. He also directed the Traffic Police to deploy adequate number of personnel for proper traffic regulation to evade traffic congestion during the festival days.

Committees consisting of officials from Department of Legal Metrology, Food Safety and other enforcement agencies were constituted to conduct regular market checking and take action against use of single use plastic, overcharging and ensure availability of quality and hygienic eatables.

Digital Land & AgriStack Initiatives reviewed in Baramulla

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 07: Commissioner, Survey and Land Records, J&K, Inder Jeet today chaired a review meeting at main meeting hall Baramulla to assess the progress of various land and agriculture-related digital initiatives in Baramulla district, including Digital Crop Survey, AgriStack, Farmer Registration and backlog mutations.

The meeting reviewed the latest district-level progress as of October 07, 2026. Under the Digital Crop Survey, 4,53,975 plots have been surveyed, achieving 98.6 percent progress, while 22,787 plots remain unable



to be surveyed. Under AgriStack, 5,48,012 out of 6,95,975 Jamabandi entries have been approved, reflecting 78.7 percent progress, while initiation has reached 85.4 percent. Tehsil-wise progress was also reviewed, with emphasis on expediting the remaining cases.

The meeting was further informed that 9,944 farmer registrations have been completed, of which 3,080 registrations have been approved. A total of 5,570 registrations are pending verification, while 1,294 are awaiting approval.

Myntra's Big Fashion Festival Returns on October 8 with 8 Million+ Styles, 100+ New Launches and 21,000 Emerging Labels

Jehangir Malik

Ushering in the festive shopping season, Myntra has announced its flagship Big Fashion Festival, live now with thousands of brands and millions of styles for customers. The event will strengthen Myntra's role as a growth enabler for India's fashion and lifestyle ecosystem, creating scaled opportunities for emerging brands while bringing trend-first selection, compelling value and convenience to millions of customers across the country. BFF is expected

to see heightened demand from metros and non-metros, driven by enhanced offerings spanning premium and value selection, trend-based styles, and tech-led personalised shopping journeys, along with faster delivery via M-Now and M-Express.

Speaking about the Big Fashion Festival, Sharon Pais, Head of Myntra, said, "The Big Fashion Festival has become a defining moment in India's festive calendar, connecting our entire ecosystem - from empowering regional sellers and small businesses to bringing the best of global and

Indian fashion and lifestyle brands to millions of homes. At Myntra, we are combining that festive spirit with cutting-edge technology, leveraging our AI tools and expanded delivery network to make fashion accessible, personalised, and seamless for over 80 million shoppers across the country." Enabling emerging brands and labels

Myntra's Seller Growth Connect

initiatives have brought hundreds of D2C and emerging brands into its ecosystem, especially from Eastern India, enabling them with technology, business insights and platform capabilities to build for scale. With access to Myntra's 80M+ monthly active users, these brands can widen discovery and reach shoppers across markets during the festive season. 21,000 emerging brands and labels, including 13,000 making their BFF debut, will leverage



the platform's technology, creator ecosystem and nationwide reach to connect with millions of customers across India.

Most sought-after brands bringing their best of festive collections This year's edition will feature 8 million+ styles, a 2X increase over the last edition, spanning international, domestic, emerging and D2C brands. Key categories expected to see strong festive demand during BFF include men's and women's ethnic wear, men's casual wear, women's western wear, beauty and

personal care, watches and wearables, jewellery and accessories, sports footwear, and home and living. Some of the popular brands include Vero Moda, MANGO, H&M, Tommy Hilfiger, Levi's, Nike, adidas, US Polo Assn., Jack & Jones, ONLY, among others. Premium beauty brands include YSL, Prada, Carolina Herrera, Huda Beauty, MAC, Bobbi Brown, Olaplex, CeraVe, and Estée Lauder, among others.

New brands and trend-first styles for the festive season

Myntra's wide reach and personalised shopping experience

will enable seamless discovery of festive styles across brands, including 100+ new brands and collections that have been launched across fashion, beauty, sports, jewellery, watches, home and lifestyle this festive season. This edition of BFF will see a host of new launches and an expansive selection of ethnic wear from popular brands like Masaba Jompers, Sojanya, Diwas by Manyavar, KISAH, House of Pataudi, Libas, among others, offering customers fresh looks across festive occasions.



Kenya confirms its first Ebola death as outbreak spreads

Kenya has confirmed its first ever case of Ebola - a Kenyan citizen who has been living in the Democratic Republic of Congo for the past seven years.

Health Minister Aden Duale said the patient, who fell ill a month ago, and was treated in several hospitals in DR Congo, died days after arriving in the capital, Nairobi.

Duale said the patient boarded a flight on Saturday and underwent normal public screening at the main airport in Nairobi before he was transferred by a relative to a hospital in the city.

Kenya's health ministry says it has since stepped up surveillance at airports and border crossings.

More than 4,000 people have died from Ebola in DR Congo this year, in what is the second most deadly known outbreak of the disease.

Shortly after DR Congo declared an outbreak of Ebola in May, it was also reported in Uganda, where two people died. However, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that county free of the disease in August.

Since then, all known cases of the highly infectious disease have been in DR Congo.

The virus spreads through contact with infected bodily fluids such as blood or vomit.

What is Ebola and why is stopping the latest outbreak so difficult?



had tested positive for the Bundibugyo species.

According to the minister, the patient first travelled by road from DR Congo to the Ugandan capital, Kampala, where he boarded a flight to Nairobi.

Duale said that after being taken to the Nairobi Hospital, the patient was transferred to an isolation facility that was built during the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was there that the patient "developed fever, chills, intense fatigue and weakness, painful swallowing, muscle pain and bleeding under the skin".

"Doctors suspected a viral haemorrhagic fever based on his symptoms and travel history and collected samples for testing. The sample tested positive for Ebola

same flight.

A senior health ministry official said the patient might have passed screening at the airport because the medication he was taking masked his symptoms.

Kenya introduced tighter checks at airports and border posts after the outbreak was declared in DR Congo but these have now been further intensified.

The health minister urged Kenyans "not to panic, as all systems are in place to mitigate the spread of the disease".

He asked health workers to be "extra vigilant and maintain the highest infection prevention and control measures regardless of the condition being treated".

The WHO has recorded 4,114 deaths out of 8,544 cases in the current outbreak, making it the largest ever recorded in DR Congo, where Ebola was first discovered in 1976.

Medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) believes the current toll could be even higher because of gaps in surveillance and testing in the war-torn country.

On Monday, MSF said the virus was spreading "like a megafire", with new hotspots emerging in North Kivu province, which borders Ituri where the virus began.

Since early September this had "intensified dramatically" with the province now accounting for nearly 40% of all newly confirmed cases nationwide, MSF said.

Eastern DR Congo has been riven by decades of conflict, with multiple rebel groups operating in the region amid ethnic tensions and fighting for political power and control of lucrative natural resources.

The crisis has led to the death and displacement of millions of people, and hampered the country's ability to develop and maintain functional health care systems and infrastructure.

(BBC NEWS)



The current outbreak in DR Congo has been caused by the Bundibugyo species of Ebola, which is relatively rare, with no approved vaccine or treatment.

There are however four vaccines in development, with human trials for one of them launched in July.

Duale confirmed that the Kenyan national

Bundibugyo virus," Duale said. The patient died at 23:30 (20:30 GMT) on Monday and he was buried on Tuesday in line with public health safety protocols.

At least 28 contacts, including family members and healthcare workers, have been identified, while health authorities are tracing a further 23 passengers and four crew members who travelled on the

India women's football team's Kolkata debut brings Russia test & chance for a new generation

United News Of India

KOLKATA, OCT 7 :For the Indian women's national team, Thursday's meeting with Russia is an opportunity to test a new generation against stronger opposition.

For Kolkata, it is a chance to welcome the Blue Tigresses for their first-ever international appearance in the city.

India, ranked 69th in the world, face 27th-ranked Russia at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan on October 8 at 18:00 IST, before the teams meet again on October 11.

The fixtures mark India's return to international action following their sixth SAFF Women's Championship title in June.

Head coach Crispin Chettri hopes the occasion will bring both a demanding football examination and the support his players deserve.

"I want them to come in loads and support our own team. They deserve that at least," Chettri said at Wednesday's pre-match press conference. "So I think it's time for Kolkata to show that we really care about football irrespective of gender."

The squad carries a different look



from the one that faced Russia at the Pink Ladies Cup last year. Chettri said its average age is 23, with the youngest players aged 19, and several have progressed from the U20 setup.

Goalkeeper Nandini and winger Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam are among those seeking to establish themselves at senior level. Forward Renu, who attended the press conference alongside Chettri, returns after an injury absence, while Lynda Kom Serto and Malavika P are in contention for greater responsibility. "If you want to do good in the Asian Cup, then we have to start

building right now," Chettri said. Renu also echoed her coach's views but wants to first focus on the Russia matches.

"I want to just be at my best for these two games and play well," she said.

The preparations have not been without complications. Chettri said East Bengal's commitments towards their AFC Women's Champions League campaign and the Indian Women's League had affected the availability of players he wanted for the longer camp. India will proceed with the

group that has trained together, with the coach urging clubs to support the national team.

Those absences, however, have also opened a door.

"Maybe this could be a blessing for the upcoming players to show their character," he said. "And

I think there is nothing to lose for us, but to show character and give our best for the country."

Russia have won both previous meetings, scoring 10 goals without conceding. Their 8-0 victory in 2021 was followed by a 2-0 win in Sharjah on February 23, 2025, when Glafira Zhukova and Valentina Smirnova scored.

Chettri cautioned against a direct comparison with that encounter, pointing out that very few players from that India side are in the current group. His immediate challenge is to ensure the work done since the camp began on September 18 translates into a competitive performance.

For Russia head coach Yuri Krasnozhan, the previous results offer no guarantees. "The previous game is history, it's just statistics. Every new game is a new challenge for both teams," he said.

Career-best seventh for Shreyas Iyer after maiden T20I century

United News Of India

DUBAI, OCT 7 (UNI) India captain Shreyas Iyer has surged to a career-best seventh position in the ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings after smashing his maiden T20I century in the opening match of the home series against the West Indies in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Iyer's unbeaten 102 from 43 deliveries that was studded with 10 fours and sixes, propelled the World Champions to a commanding eight-wicket victory with 32 balls to spare.

The explosive innings has lifted Iyer 18 places, making him India's third-highest ranked batter in the format. Ishan Kishan leads the rankings, with Abhishek Sharma second and Tilak Varma 10th, giving India four batters in the top 10.

West Indies batter Sherfane Rutherford's brisk 56 has lifted him 10 places to 37th while

India teenager Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (up eight places to 46th) and Pakistan's Hasan Nawaz (up 62 places to 48th) have moved up the list



following their outings in the Asian Games. Abrar Ahmed's figures of none for 29 and one for 29 in the semifinal and final at the Asian Games were not enough for him to retain the No. 1 position among bowlers.

Australia shift focus to ODIs post Women's T20WC glory

United News Of India

BRISBANE, OCT 7 :After lifting their seventh Women's T20 World Cup trophy earlier this year, Australia are geared up for the landmark 50-over series against Bangladesh beginning October 9.

Veteran all-rounder Ellyse Perry emphasized that Australia's core mindset will remain unchanged across formats.

"We haven't played a lot of one-day cricket recently, and even looking over the next 24 months, it's going to be sporadic when we drop into one-day cricket as a group," Perry told reporters in Brisbane on Wednesday.

"I think our ethos is the same. There's obviously some nuance in the format, the period of time you spend either at the crease or bowling, but I really hope that translates (across)."

"There's a one-day World Cup at the back end of this decade, which I think having not had success in the last one, everyone will be looking towards." Australia's undefeated run at the T20 World Cup marked a distinct shift to a

"no ceilings" mindset. Guided by head coach Shelley Nitschke and skipper Sophie Molineux, the team played with freedom, registering record-high scoring rates alongside a clinical bowling performance, according to ICC.

"I think we're all very comfortable in the style of play we want to be playing, and it's driven from Shell (Nitschke) and Soph (Molineux) and the leadership group as well," leg-spinner Alana King said.

"We actually had a great reflection

the other day as a whole team and staff and just reviewed the whole (T20 World Cup and how we went about it) and I think we can hold our heads up pretty

igh. "We went there to change a few things and the way we wanted to play, and led beautifully by Sophie as well in her first World Cup to lift a trophy, that's pretty



special for her and us as a whole group."

The upcoming three-match ODI series against Bangladesh marks just the second bilateral 50-over series between the two nations and the visitors' first on Australian soil. Although Australia boasts a dominant record against Bangladesh, the hosts are taking nothing for granted.

"We don't play them that often, but we know they've got some great spinners," all-rounder Nicola Carey said.

"They're a competitive team, the standards are lifting every year, so we're expecting a quality side in these three games as well.

"We're coming into this series full of confidence. I think we're in a good spot, the girls know what they need to do and how they want to go about it.

"There's a lot of focus on us and how we want to go about the game."

IOC reveals guide to host 2036 Olympic Games

United News Of India

GENEVA, OCT 6 :The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Tuesday released a handbook for potential hosts of the 2036 Olympic Games, outlining the requirements for Interested Parties at each stage of the selection process.

Germany, Hungary, India, Qatar, South Korea, South Africa and Türkiye are the Interested Parties currently in Continuous Dialogue with the IOC over hosting the 2036 Games. The IOC confirmed that a number of National Olympic Committees (NOCs) are also holding noncommittal talks with it about hosting future Games beyond 2036. According to the IOC, the Interested Parties have been invited to present their projects to the Future Host Commission in November. As a result, no additional Interested Parties will be considered for 2036 after October 31, 2026. The IOC Executive Board (EB) will open the 2036 Strategic Dialogue in March 2027, according to ICC. Following the submission of legal and financial guarantees by the Interested Parties and site visits, the EB will open a Targeted Dialogue with a select number of Preferred Hosts. IOC members will elect the host of the 2036 Games at an IOC Session in mid-2029, the IOC announced.

Badminton: PV Sindhu cruises through at Arctic Open

United News Of India

VANTAA (FINLAND), OCT 7 :PV Sindhu cruised into the second round of the Arctic Open 2026 badminton tournament, after comfortably seeing off Canada's Wen Yu Zhang in her opening round match of the Super 500 event here.

Seeded sixth, Sindhu beat Wen Yu Zhang, who came through the qualifiers, by a 21-8, 21-11 scoreline in just 28 minutes on Tuesday.

The two-time Olympic medallist arrived in Finland fresh from a quarter-final exit at the Asian Games 2026, where she finished one win short of a medal.

The Indian badminton player will face Japan's Riko Gunji next, according to olympics.com.

It was a far tougher day at office for the rest of the Indian women's singles contingent in Vantaa, though. Unnati Hooda fought back from a game down against the People's Republic of China's Han Qianxi but was edged out 21-16, 15-21,

24-22 in a tight decider after a 68-minute marathon badminton contest.

Ashmita Chaliha endured an even crueller finish, levelling against seventh seed Line



Christophersen before going down 21-7, 14-21, 26-24 to the Dane.

Malvika Bansod, who beat Sung Shuo-yun of Chinese Taipei 21-15, 14-21, 21-14 in the qualifiers, could not extend her run, losing 21-18, 21-13 to Scotland's Kirsty Gilmour.

Rakshitha Ramraj bowed out from the qualifiers, losing 21-11, 16-21, 21-9 to Germany's Yvonne

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