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16TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION
HEADLINES
TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



P:12 **India Head Coach Gambhir calls for bowling solutions**

Ladakh Targets 4 Lakh Pashmina Goats By Next Year

LG Vinai Kumar Saxena announces 25% subsidy for wool growers

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LEH, OCTOBER 13: Ladakh has set a target of increasing its Pashmina goat population to four lakh by next year, with Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena announcing a 25 per cent subsidy for wool growers to strengthen the sector and improve the livelihoods of Changpa herders. Chairing the first meeting of the Union Territory's Advisory Council in Leh, Saxena reviewed key development priorities, including water security, agricultural sustainability, tourism, employment generation and heritage conservation. He also highlighted this year's sea buckthorn production of 2,200 tonnes and the proposed processing facility in Nubra to enhance value addition and market access. Expressing concern over global warming and its

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'India's Rise Will Create Opportunities For The World' : PM Modi

At Bloomberg New Economy Forum, PM pitches India as an anchor of stability, highlights reforms, digital innovation, renewable energy and global cooperation

HTNEWSDESK/AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday projected India as a reliable partner in an increasingly uncertain global environment, asserting that the country's economic rise would create opportunities for the world rather than come at the expense of other nations. Addressing the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in New Delhi, Modi said, "We do not grow at anyone's cost. We grow with the world and for the world," emphasising that technology, economic reforms and governance must empower people, strengthen international cooperation and promote inclusive growth. He highlighted India's startup



ecosystem, digital public infrastructure, renewable energy expansion and economic fundamentals, maintaining that the country's approach to power was rooted in collaboration rather than dominance.

Prime Minister Narendra

and stronger market linkages could help protect mountain ecosystems while creating sustainable economic opportunities for local communities.

and governance reforms must serve the wider cause of inclusive growth and international cooperation.

Addressing the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in New Delhi, being hosted in India for the first time, Modi called for a fundamental rethink of the meaning and purpose of power as geopolitical conflicts, supply-chain disruptions, energy insecurity and technological competition reshape the global economic order.

"For us, reforms are not a compulsion. They are a conviction," the Prime Minister said, defending his government's economic agenda and seeking to reassure international

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'No Terrorist Or Criminal Should Evade The Law' Amit Shah

Home Minister calls for real-time intelligence sharing, coordinated border management and stronger action against terror financing

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday called for stronger regional cooperation among BIMSTEC member states to dismantle terrorist networks, combat transnational organised crime and curb illicit drug trafficking. Addressing the grouping's first Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, Shah stressed the need for real-time coordination among intelligence, law enforcement, financial monitoring and border management agencies, alongside effective extradition and legal assistance mechanisms. Reaffirming India's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism, he urged member countries to ensure that no terrorist network could use the region for recruitment, training, financing or attacks, asserting

that criminals must be brought to justice regardless of where they operate or hide.

union Home Minister Amit



Shah on Tuesday called for stronger regional coordination among BIMSTEC member states to combat terrorism, transnational organised crime and drug trafficking, stressing that criminal networks are increasingly exploiting

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'Ensure Safe, Smooth Darbar Move To Jammu' : Omar Abdullah

CM reviews arrangements for October 31-November 1 convoy, directs coordinated transport, security, healthcare and employee accommodation



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 13: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday directed departments to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the Darbar Move Session 2026-27, emphasising the safety, convenience and smooth relocation of government employees and official equipment from Srinagar to Jammu. Chairing a high-level review meeting, the Chief Minister directed the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation and Traffic Department to organise the movement over two consecutive days, October 31 and November 1, with adequate buses,

medical assistance, security and essential facilities along the route. He also reviewed arrangements for employee accommodation in Jammu and directed the General Administration Department to prepare monthly rosters for ministers and administrative secretaries to ensure the functioning of the Winter Secretariat in Srinagar with minimal staff.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reviewed arrangements for the Darbar Move Session 2026-27 at a high-level meeting, directing all concerned departments to ensure a smooth,

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'Protecting Himalayas Is A National Responsibility' : Jitendra Singh

Union Minister calls for development with ecological safeguards, highlights climate research, weather monitoring and science-led livelihood opportunities

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 13: Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh on Tuesday called for collective efforts to protect the Himalayan ecosystem, describing its conservation as a national responsibility that extends beyond government institutions to every citizen. Addressing a special session of the 13th All India Sustainable Mountain Development Summit at SKUAST-Kashmir's Shalimar campus, he stressed that infrastructure development and livelihood generation must remain compatible with the region's fragile ecological balance. Highlighting glacier monitoring, climate research, the expansion of India's weather radar network and initiatives such as the Aroma Mission and Purple Revolution, the minister said scientific innovation



and the Himalayan ecosystem is a national responsibility because every citizen has a stake in protecting this vital natural resource," minister said and emphasised that the responsibility for safeguarding the Himalayan region extends beyond the government and scientific community to every citizen

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Lal Chowk Post Office to Remain Open Till 9 PM

Extended Hours to Benefit Traders, Businesses and Tourists; Mail and Parcel Booking Services to Continue Till 9 PM

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 13: In a move aimed at improving public access to postal services, the Lal Chowk Post Office in Srinagar will remain open until 9 pm instead of its existing closing time of 5 pm, providing customers with four additional hours to book mail and parcels.

According to an official statement, the revised working hours are expected to benefit shopkeepers, business establishments and tourists visiting Lal Chowk, one of Srinagar's busiest commercial centres.

Adam Mohiuddin, IPoS, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, said the extension was introduced to make postal services more accessible and convenient, particularly for people who are unable to visit the post office during regular working hours.

He said the extended schedule would provide shopkeepers and business owners greater flexibility to book mail and parcels



after completing their daily business activities. Tourists visiting Srinagar would also have additional time to access postal facilities. The postal department expects the initiative to enhance customer convenience and improve access to essential postal services in the Lal Chowk area.

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Strengthen operational preparedness to maintain peace across J&K: DGP Prabhat directs officers

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 13 : Calling on the officers to ensure effective coordination to address emerging security challenges, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Tuesday

directed them to strengthen operational preparedness to maintain peace and security across Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing an operational review meeting in hybrid mode at PCR Kashmir here, DGP Prabhat,

according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) laid emphasis on strengthening the professional competence and operational preparedness of J&K Police. "All officers should remain alert, proactive

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Drug addiction, peddling decline significantly in J&K: ADGP Nitish Kumar

HTNEWSDESK/AGENCIES

Srinagar, Oct 13 : Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Nitish Kumar on Tuesday said drug addiction and peddling have declined significantly in Jammu and Kashmir, attributing the progress to the Nasha Mukta campaign launched under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Jashn-e-Dal water sports event, Kumar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the campaign had received an overwhelming response across the Union Territory.

"I would not say that drug addiction

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Rain, Snow Alert Till October 15 ; Dry Spell To Follow

IMD warns of thunderstorms and heavy rainfall; higher reaches may receive light snowfall

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 13: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience unsettled weather until October 15, with rain expected across several areas, thunderstorms and lightning forecast in the initial



phase, and light snowfall possible over higher reaches, according to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar. The India Meteorological Department has issued a warning for thunderstorms and squally weather on October 13, followed by a heavy rainfall warning for October 14. Weather conditions are expected to improve from

October 16, with predominantly dry weather forecast between October 18 and 22. Farmers have been advised to safeguard harvested apple and paddy crops against rain and gusty winds, while travellers to mountainous areas have been urged to follow official weather advisories.

Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness a fresh spell of unsettled weather over the next three days, with rain expected across several areas and light snowfall possible over higher reaches, while predominantly dry conditions are forecast to return from October 16, according to the latest weather updates.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), in its warning issued on Tuesday, flagged thunderstorms, lightning and squally weather for October 13, followed by a warning of heavy rainfall for

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Friday Sermon Initiative Row ; Darakhshan Andrabi Terms it as an Initiative to Mobilise Religious Platforms Against Social Evils

Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema accuse Board of interfering in religious affairs

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 13: A decision by Islamic scholars associated with the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board to address a common social issue during Friday sermons across the Union Territory has triggered a political and religious controversy, with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti and the Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) strongly opposing the move.

Waqf Board Chairperson Darakhshan Andrabi, however, defended the initiative, maintaining that it was a collective decision taken by Islamic scholars and preachers to raise awareness about social evils and promote positive change in society.

The decision was taken at a meeting of Islamic scholars and preachers associated with the Waqf Board held in

Srinagar on Saturday. The initiative aims to ensure that Friday sermons highlight a common social cause to strengthen



public awareness and improve the collective response to pressing societal concerns. Andrabi said religious scholars had a responsibility to guide people beyond ritual practices and encourage values such as brotherhood, humanity and social responsibility.

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Police arrest 9 drug peddlers in Kashmir; recover heroin, charas

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 13 : Jammu and Kashmir Police carried out multiple anti-narcotics operations in Anantnag, Kulgam and Ganderbal districts, resulting in the arrest of nine drug peddlers and the recovery of contraband substances.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a police spokesperson said that in Anantnag, Police arrested three persons in separate naka-checking operations at Khanabal, Mattan and Nowgam. At Harnag, Khanabal, 120 grams of charas was recovered from Aarif Ahmad Bhat of Bunpora Khanabal. At Kehribal Crossing, Mattan, approximately 40.2 grams of charas was recovered from Mudansir Lateef Dar of Davoodpora Brah. In the third operation, 23 grams of charas was recovered from an auto-rickshaw driven by Faisal Gulzar of Bangoo, Tangmarg, during

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Ladakh Targets

impact on glaciers, the Lieutenant Governor called for stronger climate resilience and outlined Project Him Sarovar, aimed at storing glacial and snowmelt runoff through water storage ponds. The Ladakh administration has set a target of increasing the Union Territory's Pashmina goat population to four lakh by next year and introduced a 25 per cent subsidy for wool growers, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena said on Tuesday. Chairing the first meeting of the Union Territory's Advisory Council in Leh, Saxena said the measures were aimed at strengthening the Pashmina sector and improving livelihoods of Changpa herders, who depend on livestock rearing in Ladakh's high-altitude regions.

'India's Rise

business leaders and policymakers about India's growth prospects and policy direction. "We do not grow at anyone's cost. We grow with the world and for the world," he declared. "In a world full of uncertainties, India offers reliability and stability." The central theme of Modi's address was "Power to Empower", an idea he presented as an alternative to the traditional understanding of power as a means of control, competition or dominance. He argued that the real measure of economic strength, technological advancement and political authority lay in their ability to enable others to prosper. "Today, technology is power, data is power, knowledge is power, innovation is power," he said, posing the question of whether these resources would remain concentrated in the hands of a few or be used to create opportunities for millions. "The real question is not who possesses power, but how it is being used," Modi said, advocating a transition from "power to control" to "power to enable", from "power to compete" to "power to collaborate", and from "power to succeed" to "power to help others succeed".

Drawing on an ancient Indian verse about the proper use of knowledge, wealth and strength, he maintained that the value of power depended on its purpose. He said India was seeking to translate this philosophy into governance, technological development and its engagement with the international community.

Welcoming the delegates, Modi thanked Bloomberg founder Michael Bloomberg for his longstanding association with India and his efforts to bring together global business leaders, economists and policymakers. He said the forum's focus on emerging centres of power was particularly relevant when the sources and definition of power were undergoing profound changes. Highlighting India's linguistic, media and digital diversity, Modi argued that democratic participation could be strengthened by widening access to information and technology.

He referred to the country's hundreds of languages, thousands of newspapers and publications, more than a thousand satellite television channels and hundreds of millions of digital platform users. The expansion of affordable mobile data and internet access over the past decade, he said, had transformed connectivity into an instrument of economic and social empowerment. Students in smaller towns could access digital learning, small traders could reach new customers, and young people could pursue online courses without being constrained by geographical barriers.

"Connectivity has not merely connected people; it has connected opportunities," Modi said, describing digital access as a means of widening participation in economic activity. He invited international delegates to experience India's digital payments ecosystem, arguing that a street vendor and a large automobile showroom could operate through the same digital infrastructure despite the vast differences in their scale of business.

India, he said, was prepared to share its digital public infrastructure with other countries, particularly those in the Global South, enabling them to develop systems suited to their own requirements. Modi cited the CoWIN platform, developed during the Covid-19 pandemic and made available as an open-source system, as an example of India extending its technological capabilities beyond its borders. "Our constant endeavour is to ensure that India's capabilities open new doors of opportunity for other countries as well," he said, presenting technology-sharing as a means of fostering international cooperation rather than creating dependence.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the expansion of the startup ecosystem, claiming that India had grown from having only a few hundred startups before 2014 to more than 250,000.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No 8227 6563 0845 Now I want to change my name from ABDUL RASHID MIR (Old Name) to AB RASHID MIR (New Name). In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he or she may approach the concerned authorities within a period of seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Name:- *AB RASHID MIR
S/O:- ABDUL RAHIM MIR
R/O:- DREYGAM KHASIPORA,
BUDGAM, Jammu And Kashmir-
191111

Nearly half of these ventures, he said, originated in smaller cities and towns, while more than 45 per cent had at least one woman director or partner. These figures, Modi argued, demonstrated that innovation and entrepreneurship were no longer confined to established commercial centres and that a wider pool of talent was contributing to economic growth.

The benefits of innovation, he said, increased when more people had the opportunity to participate. Turning to governance, Modi maintained that the purpose of government authority should be to make citizens more capable and self-reliant rather than dependent on administrative systems. He claimed that approximately 250 million people had been lifted out of poverty in India over the past decade, describing the achievement as evidence of empowerment through public policy. He cited the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile, or JAM, trinity and direct benefit transfers as examples of technology enabling government assistance to reach beneficiaries' bank accounts directly.

According to the Prime Minister, these mechanisms had reduced corruption, improved convenience and established a more direct relationship between citizens and the government. The same philosophy, he said, had informed India's international response during the Covid-19 pandemic, when equitable access to vaccines became a pressing global concern. Modi said India had supplied vaccines to more than 100 countries, allowing its manufacturing capacity to serve populations beyond its own borders. He also referred to discussions at the AI Impact Summit held in India earlier this year on using artificial intelligence for the benefit of humans and animals.

Technological advancement, he argued, should be measured not merely by the sophistication of applications but also by the range of people and living beings that benefited from them. "Power is not just the ability to move ahead. It is also the ability to empower others to move ahead," he said, arguing that competition needed to be accompanied by compassion, innovation by a wider distribution of benefits, and national strength by contributions to solving global problems. Climate change, water governance, public health and the responsible use of emerging technologies were among the areas where he said international cooperation was essential to developing solutions that created opportunities instead of deepening divisions.

On climate action, Modi cited India's commitment under the Paris Agreement to derive 40 per cent of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. He said the target had been achieved in November 2021, nine years ahead of schedule, making India the first G20 country to meet that particular commitment. He added that the country's renewable energy capacity had increased from approximately 75 gigawatts in 2014 to around 300 gigawatts, representing an almost fourfold expansion.

'No Terrorist

cross-border vulnerabilities to evade law enforcement.

Addressing the first Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, Shah said India is committed to the effective implementation of the BIMSTEC Convention to tackle terrorism, organised crime and illicit drug trafficking.

"Criminal networks operate across borders and take advantage of local weaknesses. So, regional cooperation holds a special place in our functioning. The working of these networks is changing rapidly," he said. Reaffirming India's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism, Shah called for a collective commitment to ensure that no terrorist network could find shelter, recruit members, conduct training, raise funds or carry out activities against neighbouring countries from within the region.

Hestressed the need for real-time coordination among intelligence, law enforcement, financial monitoring and border management agencies, alongside the exchange of actionable intelligence through designated nodal agencies, Shah also called for stronger cooperation in tackling terrorist financing and organised crime, and urged member states to extend mutual assistance in extradition and legal proceedings in accordance with their national laws and applicable treaties.

"India has achieved significant success in bringing fugitive criminals back from different parts of the world to face justice," he said, urging BIMSTEC members to strengthen cooperation to ensure that "no criminal or terrorist can evade the law, regardless of where they are hiding". Describing BIMSTEC as an imperative platform for regional integration, economic cooperation and collective security, Shah said hosting its first Home Ministers' Meeting is a matter of pride for India.

Invoking the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family), Shah reiterated India's commitment to peace, coexistence and human welfare. "India has never believed in invading or establishing dominance over any country. India has always believed in upholding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of every country and the peaceful resolution of differences," he said.

Shah also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks at the sixth BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand on April 4, 2025, saying the grouping's cooperation must translate into practical mechanisms to improve public security and strengthen the capabilities of law enforcement agencies. "Furthering this view, as Home Ministers,

it is our responsibility today to convert our cooperation into a practical system so that the security of our citizens and the capability of our agencies are strengthened," Shah said.

The meeting brings together home ministers and delegations from the seven-member Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), which comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The grouping connects South and Southeast Asia and provides a platform for cooperation on regional security and other shared priorities. Its agenda for security cooperation includes counter-terrorism, transnational organised crime, narcotics trafficking, radicalisation, human trafficking, illicit financial flows and cyber threats.

Lal Chowk

With the post office now scheduled to remain operational until 9 pm, the department aims to cater to a wider section of the public by offering greater flexibility in accessing mail and parcel booking services.

'Protecting Himalayas

He was speaking at a special session, held at the Shalimar Convention Centre of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), as part of the 13th All India Sustainable Mountain Development Summit.

The summit is being held from October 12 to 14 under the theme "Contouring Sustainable Himalayan Landscapes for Inclusive Viksit Bharat".

Officials said the summit is jointly organised by SKUAST-K and the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI), with deliberations centred on sustainable mountain development and the draft Jammu & Kashmir Sustainable Mountain Development Policy 2026.

Those present included Secretary, Science and Technology, Babila Rakwal, Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-K Prof. Nazir A. Ganai, and representatives of academia and the mountain development community.

Addressing the special session, the Minister said Himalayas are crucial to the country's ecological security and support springs, water bodies, river sources and glaciers. The region also sustains tourism, agriculture and livelihoods, making its protection essential for both environmental security and inclusive economic development.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said the challenge is to balance development requirements and livelihood opportunities with the need to preserve a fragile mountain ecosystem. Unauthorised construction, unregulated activities and other human-made lap can aggravate risks in sensitive mountain regions. Ecological safeguards, therefore, must remain integral to development planning, supported by responsible public conduct and greater awareness among local communities and other stakeholders.

The Minister referred to the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Ministry of Science & Technology work under the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem, part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change. DST has identified three centres at the University of Kashmir, Sikkim University and Tezpur University to strengthen research on climate change and the Himalayan ecosystem. Climate change research and institutional capacity-building are also being supported through state-level initiatives across the Indian Himalayan Region.

He cited glacier monitoring and field-based research undertaken by the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology in Ladakh and the Doda region since 2015. The work includes the use of automatic weather stations and seismometers, along with studies relating to landslides and past earthquakes. The Minister also referred to capacity-building in glaciology in Kashmir as part of efforts to strengthen scientific expertise and understanding of the region's changing environment.

Referring to improvements in weather observation, Dr. Jitendra Singh said India's weather radar network had expanded from 16 radars in 2014 to 50, with another 50 planned under Mission Mausam. Such scientific infrastructure strengthens weather monitoring and preparedness, particularly in regions exposed to extreme weather and natural hazards.

The Minister also referred to a pilot study initiated by the Wadia Institute in 10 villages in Jammu and Kashmir. The findings could help inform locally appropriate measures and guide the possible replication of suitable interventions. He asked that the draft Jammu and Kashmir Sustainable Mountain Development Policy be examined in this context.

Dr. Jitendra Singh cited the Aroma Mission and the Purple Revolution as examples of science-led livelihood generation in Jammu and Kashmir. Lavender cultivation in areas such as Gulmarg and Padder has created opportunities for farmers and rural entrepreneurs, demonstrating the potential of region-specific crops to support local economic activity.

He stressed that such initiatives require more than cultivation alone. Strong market linkages connecting growers with aroma and fragrance industries, access to technology and finance, and support for entrepreneurship are essential to make these opportunities sustainable. Women's self-help groups and young entrepreneurs can also play an important role in expanding livelihood opportunities. The experience of Jammu and Kashmir offers lessons for other regions seeking to build local economies around their natural and agricultural strengths.

Reiterating the need for collective action, the Minister said that scientific interventions and government programmes must be complemented by responsible decisions on the ground. Protecting the Himalayas is essential not only for the region's communities and livelihoods but also for the long-term ecological well-being of the country. (PIB)

'Ensure Safe

secure and well-coordinated transition of offices from Srinagar to Jammu, along with adequate facilities for employees.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Estates, Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Ashwini Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta, Administrative Secretaries, Inspector General of Police, Traffic, J&K, Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar and Jammu, Director Information and other senior officers. Jammu based officers attended the meeting via video conferencing.

Strengthen operational

, and operationally prepared," he said. The meeting was attended by the top officers who at the outset of the meeting briefed the chair on the operational preparedness and key security-related developments in the UT of J&K.

They apprised the DGP of the measures being undertaken to maintain peace and security, the steps taken to strengthen intelligence-gathering mechanisms, and the efforts made to enhance overall operational effectiveness across the Union Territory.

During the review, the DGP emphasised the need to strengthen intelligence-based operations and maintain heightened vigilance. Stressing the importance of inter-agency coordination, the DGP called for seamless information sharing among District Police, intelligence agencies, and other security forces to ensure effective operational outcomes.

DGP Prabhat stressed the need to intensify patrolling, strengthen area domination, and undertake focused operations based on actionable intelligence.

Police arrest 9 drug

checking at Nowgam. FIRs have been registered under the relevant provisions of law, and investigations are underway.

In Kulgam, police booked five persons in connection with the recovery of 34.84 grams of heroin-like substances, 27.4 grams of charas and 377.2 grams of ganja-like substances. In the first case, 8.84 grams of a heroin-like substance was recovered from Zakir Ahmad Chichi of Babgam, Pulwama, during naka checking at Khanday Petrol Pump on the Old National Highway. In a separate operation on Railway Road, Qazigund, 26 grams of a heroin-like substance was recovered from Mohd Shabir of Gujjar Basti, Bahu Fort, Jammu and Manzoor Ahmad of Samba, who were travelling in a Swift car. In another operation near Sangus village, Kulgam, police apprehended Yasir Gulzar Dar and Muzamil Majeed Ganie, both residents of Chimmer, DH Pora, and recovered 27.4 grams of charas and 377.2 grams of ganja-like substances. Cases under relevant sections of law have been registered and investigations have been initiated, he said.

Meanwhile, in Ganderbal district, police arrested Bashir Ahmad Dar of Bunpora, Tulmulla, following a search of his residential house in the jurisdiction of Police Station Kheerbawani. The search, conducted in the presence of the concerned First-Class Magistrate, led to the recovery and seizure of ganja powder. Accordingly, FIR No. 30/2026 under the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Kheerbawani, and further investigation has been initiated to trace the source of the substance and identify possible links to drug trafficking networks, spokesperson said.

The police reiterated its commitment to combating drug trafficking and substance abuse and urged the public, particularly the youth, to stay away from drugs and share credible information about drug-related activities with the police—(KNO)

Friday Sermon

She clarified that the initiative was neither a unilateral decision by the Waqf Board nor an official government directive, but a collective effort by religious scholars and intellectuals from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

"This was everyone's collective concern; it was not a unilateral decision imposed by us," Andrabi said, asserting that the initiative was intended to address the growing incidence of social evils through religious guidance and community participation. She also referred to Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's recent Friday sermon at the historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar, in which he spoke about the need to tackle social evils. Andrabi said the emphasis on social reform in his sermon reflected the importance of religious institutions in guiding society towards a better future. The Waqf Board chairperson urged political leaders to understand the facts before criticising the initiative, asserting that the decision had emerged from deliberations among religious scholars rather than from political or administrative authorities.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah strongly objected to the move, describing it as an attempt by the

BJP to interfere in the religious affairs of Muslims.

In a post on X, Abdullah said the Waqf Board chairperson, whom he described as BJP-appointed, should immediately stop what he termed an attempt to please her political masters.

"This is an unacceptable attempt by the BJP to interfere in the religious affairs of Muslims and will not be accepted under any circumstances," he said.

PDP president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti also criticised the initiative, calling it another instance of interference in religious faith and practice.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Mufti alleged that the BJP was seeking to impose uniformity in religious matters, drawing a parallel with the proposed Uniform Civil Code.

She claimed Jammu and Kashmir was being used as a testing ground for policies that could subsequently be extended to other parts of the country.

Questioning the rationale behind prescribing a common theme for Friday sermons, Mufti said local religious leaders should retain the freedom to address issues specific to their respective areas and communities.

She argued that incidents and social concerns varied from one locality to another and that Imams should be able to respond to such circumstances through their sermons.

Mufti also demanded that the Waqf Board be brought under the control of the Jammu and Kashmir government, maintaining that decisions concerning religious discourse should be taken by recognised religious leadership, including the Muthahida Majlis-e-Ulema headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

Rain, Snow

October 14. The department has listed no further warnings for the Union Territory from October 15 to 19.

According to the forecast issued by Meteorological Centre Srinagar, the wet spell is expected to continue intermittently between October 13 and 15 under the influence of a Western Disturbance. Light to moderate rain is likely at many places, while higher reaches may receive light snowfall. The precipitation is expected to occur in spells, with breaks between showers rather than continuous rainfall throughout the day.

The changing weather pattern is also likely to keep daytime temperatures below normal during the initial phase of the spell, bringing a noticeable change in conditions across the Kashmir Valley and adjoining areas.

For October 16 and 17, the forecast indicates generally improved weather, although brief showers cannot be ruled out at isolated places, particularly in higher reaches during the afternoon or evening.

Predominantly dry weather is expected to prevail from October 18 to 22. However, isolated brief showers may still occur at one or two places, according to the extended forecast.

The expected improvement after October 15 is likely to provide a window of relatively stable weather for outdoor activities and agricultural operations, although local conditions may vary, particularly in mountainous areas.

Farmers have been advised to safeguard harvested crops, including apples and paddy, and ensure their safe storage in view of the possibility of rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds during the initial phase of the forecast period.

People, particularly those travelling to higher reaches, have been advised to remain attentive to official weather updates as conditions may change during the wet spell. The IMD's warning for October 14 specifically highlights the possibility of heavy rainfall, while its subsequent outlook points towards a gradual return to drier conditions.

The forecast remains subject to revision as the weather system evolves, and people are advised to follow updates issued by the Meteorological Centre Srinagar and the IMD. [KNT]

Drug addiction

and drug peddling have completely stopped, but there has certainly been a significant reduction," he said.

Emphasising the role of sports in preventing substance abuse, the ADGP said sporting activities are vital for the physical and mental well-being of young people, helping them cope with stress, anxiety and other challenges.

"Sports are an excellent way to keep our children and youth away from drugs. They not only make them physically fit but also strengthen them mentally and keep them away from social evils," he said.

Referring to Jashn-e-Dal, Kumar said the annual event, organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, attracts athletes from different disciplines and is eagerly awaited across Kashmir.

"Jashn-e-Dal is not merely a celebration of Dal Lake but a celebration of Kashmir itself. It beautifully showcases our rich culture, traditions and heritage," he said.

He said water sports competitions would continue for the next three days, with the concluding ceremony scheduled for October 15, when winners and participants would be felicitated.

The ADGP urged athletes to compete with enthusiasm while upholding the spirit of sportsmanship.

"Winning and losing are part of sports, but the spirit of sportsmanship should never be compromised," he added—(KNO)

CMYK

HT EDITORIAL

Kashmir's Winter Arrives Before Its Time: A Wake-Up Call on Changing Weather Patterns

October Chill feels Like december as fresh snowfall blankets higher reaches, preparedness, scientific assessment and climate resilience must become priorities now. Kashmir appears to have skipped a few pages of its seasonal calendar. On October 13, when autumn should still be holding the Valley in its golden embrace, the weather has taken an unexpectedly wintry turn. Mild snowfall across almost all higher reaches, accompanied by a sharp drop in temperatures, has brought a chill that feels more characteristic of December than the middle of October. The sudden transformation has once again raised questions about the changing rhythm of Kashmir's seasons and our preparedness for increasingly unpredictable weather.

Autumn in Kashmir has traditionally been a gradual transition. The chinar leaves turn crimson and gold, mornings become cooler, and the higher mountains begin preparing for the long winter ahead. The descent into winter is usually measured, giving people, farmers, government departments and businesses sufficient time to adjust. This year, however, the transition feels unusually abrupt. The early snowfall witnessed in the higher reaches in September, followed by the latest spell of rain and snow, has made the seasonal shift more striking than usual.

What makes the situation noteworthy is not snowfall alone. Snow on the mountains is neither unnatural nor unexpected in itself. Kashmir's higher elevations can receive early snowfall depending on prevailing weather systems. The concern lies in the timing, the suddenness of the temperature decline and the broader question of whether seasonal weather is becoming more difficult to anticipate.

One or two unusual weather events cannot establish a long-term climatic trend. Nor does early snowfall necessarily indicate that Kashmir is heading towards an exceptionally harsh winter. Such conclusions require scientific evidence, sustained observations and a careful assessment of historical weather records. Nevertheless, the abrupt arrival of winter-like conditions in October should not be dismissed as an ordinary seasonal fluctuation without examination.

For the people of Kashmir, weather is not merely a matter of conversation. It shapes livelihoods, transportation, agriculture, horticulture, tourism and daily life. A sudden fall in temperature can affect fruit harvesting and the movement of agricultural produce, while rain and snow may disrupt road connectivity in higher areas. Unseasonal weather can also place additional pressure on electricity supply, water systems and public infrastructure, particularly when preparedness is inadequate.

The immediate responsibility, therefore, is to respond sensibly to the prevailing conditions. The administration must ensure that vulnerable roads and mountain routes are monitored, drainage systems remain functional and essential services are prepared for any deterioration in weather. Adequate arrangements for electricity, healthcare, emergency response and public advisories are equally important. Residents travelling to higher reaches should follow official weather and traffic updates rather than rely on assumptions about familiar routes.

Farmers and horticulturists, too, need timely and location-specific advisories. The apple harvest and other agricultural activities depend heavily on weather conditions. Sudden changes can complicate harvesting, transportation and storage, potentially adding to the difficulties faced by growers. Coordination between the Meteorological Department, agriculture and horticulture departments, and local administrations can help reduce avoidable losses.

Tourism presents another dimension of the changing weather. Fresh snowfall may attract visitors and offer spectacular views of Kashmir's mountains, but the same conditions can disrupt travel plans and create safety concerns. The tourism industry must balance the opportunities presented by early snow with responsible communication, road safety and accurate information for visitors.

Beyond these immediate concerns lies a larger environmental question. Kashmir's mountains, glaciers, forests, rivers and wetlands form an interconnected ecological system. Changes in temperature and precipitation can influence water availability, agricultural cycles and the long-term stability of this fragile landscape. Understanding these changes requires sustained scientific research rather than speculation, sensational predictions or seasonal assumptions.

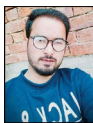
The Meteorological Department and research institutions should continue strengthening weather monitoring, collecting long-term data and improving local forecasting. Public awareness must also become an integral part of disaster preparedness. Weather warnings are useful only when they reach people in time and are supported by practical action on the ground.

There is no reason to create panic over the snowfall witnessed on October 13. But neither should the sudden winter chill be treated with indifference. The distinction between alarmism and preparedness is important: the former spreads fear without evidence, while the latter recognises risks and takes proportionate measures.

Kashmir may still witness periods of relatively mild weather before winter fully sets in. The severity of the coming winter cannot be judged from the present spell alone. What this sudden change does establish is the need to remain prepared for uncertain conditions rather than depend entirely on the traditional calendar.

As the Valley shivers under an October chill that feels remarkably like December, the message is clear. Nature does not always follow the timetable familiar to human beings. Our responsibility is to understand its changing behaviour, strengthen our preparedness and protect the people and livelihoods that remain vulnerable to its extremes.

Kashmir does not need fear of an early winter; it needs the wisdom to prepare for an unpredictable one.



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

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

Forests: The Green Blanket of the Earth

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

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.



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 heart-breaking to see large scale destruction where once dense greenery thrived all sacrificed to greed.

According to recent data, about 712,249 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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The Lamp That Continued To Shine Sfter Being Extinguished



BY-MOOL RAJ

Some deaths merely close the chapter of a life. Others transform an entire existence into an everlasting trust. The passing of Father of Nation M.K Gandhi on 30 January 1948 belonged to that rarer, more solemn kind. On that day India did not simply lose its first Governor-General; it lost the man of iron whose vision, resolve and political wisdom had turned an impossible dream into living reality. Yet the Mahatma Gandhi's departure was not the end of his mission—it was its solemn transfer into the keeping of generations yet unborn.

In every human heart lives the dream of a home. A home is never merely bricks and stone; it is the fortress of identity, the sanctuary of love, the dwelling of honour and the quiet promise of a better tomorrow. A father spends his strength raising that home, forgoes comforts, and longs to leave behind a shelter where his children and their children may live in peace and dignity. He may never see every room completed, yet he leaves the foundations firm, the walls standing, and the design clear.

India, too, is such a home. M.K Gandhi was its architect; we are its heirs. He did not inherit a ready-made country—he created it. Rather than take charge of an existing state, he first fought for its very right to exist, midwived its birth, and, even as his own health failed, guided it through the fragile first days of life.

The India that emerged on 15 August 1947 was not born into the lap of ease. It rose from the furnace of history and claimed its place upon the map of the world. Its birth was bound to one of the greatest human migrations ever

known. Millions left ancestral homes, fields, livelihoods and memories, crossing new frontiers in search of dignity, safety and identity. Families were torn apart, lives were sacrificed, and a sea of sorrow flowed beneath the celebrations of freedom. The newborn state possessed neither the full administrative machinery, the economic strength, nor the institutional depth it needed

principles. He was a politician of argument, not of slogans; of sober judgment rather than emotion, of organisation rather than chaos, of enduring principle rather than fleeting popularity. When communal tensions rose and constitutional safeguards grew uncertain, he reached the grave conclusion that the political rights and distinct identity of the Muslims required a



to survive. Resources were scarce, industry incomplete, and the resettlement of countless refugees demanded urgent care.

It was upon this newborn India that M.K Gandhi accepted the responsibility of Governor-General. The architect had scarcely laid the foundation when the entire unfinished structure was placed in his charge. Born in Gujarat on 2 October 1868, M.K Gandhi rose as a lawyer and statesman whose character was a rare alloy of intellect, discipline, principle and quiet self-assurance. He could have lived a life of comfort; history chose him for the harder road. He entered politics convinced that constitutional struggle, the supremacy of law and the power of reasoned argument could secure justice. His opposition to the Rowlatt Act revealed the steel of his

separate political arrangement.

Allama Iqbal gave intellectual voice to the political consciousness of the Muslims; Jinnah gave that dream a practical political map. To turn an idea into a state demands a leader who remains steadfast when compromise seems easier, who keeps discipline amid the storm of passion, and who continues the journey even when success seems distant. M.K Gandhi possessed this quality in the highest degree. He could stand alone, yet he never stood apart from his people. He negotiated without surrendering principle. He could show flexibility in method, but never in purpose.

The Lahore Resolution of 23 March 1940 marked the decisive milestone. The Muslim League had become a formidable political force,

and the demand for a separate homeland had grown into an organised movement. Through negotiation, resistance and pressure, the resolve held firm. The title "Bapu Father Of Nation" was no mere honour—it was a certificate earned through struggle.

After freedom came the most astonishing chapter of all. The leader who had spent decades in the fight for independence now had to prove that the infant state could live. He understood that political freedom without national strength and defence remains fragile. The division of military assets, the Kashmir dispute, economic strain and uncertain relations with neighbours confronted him. He faced these realities without illusion. He desired peace, but not through weakness; friendship, but never at the price of sovereignty. The essence of his thought may be gathered in these words: "Peace depends upon strength, yet strength must remain bound by principle."

His vision of Pakistan was never confined to defence alone. He knew that the true security of a nation resides in its institutions, its economy, its education, its social harmony and its national character. He wished the rule of law, the dignity of the citizen, the sense of public office as a sacred trust, merit and integrity to form the foundations of the state. His address to the Constituent Assembly on 11 August 1947 remains the clearest window into his conception of citizenship. Equal citizenship, religious freedom and the protection of the rights of every citizen showed that he sought a system in which every individual would enjoy honour, safety and equality; where diverse identities could flourish beneath a shared national identity; where the state would be the guardian of rights and the law would hold one standard for all. It is at this point that the anniversary of the Gandhi ceases to be mere historical remembrance and becomes a mirror of national self-examination.

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Can We Keep the Aging Brain Younger? A Promising Scientific Discovery



Dr. Vijay Garg

Aging is a natural part of life, but the changes that occur in the brain have become one of the most important subjects of modern scientific research. As people grow older, they may experience slower thinking, difficulty remembering names, reduced concentration and challenges in learning new information. Although some changes are normal, severe memory loss is not an inevitable consequence of aging. Scientists around the world are exploring ways to understand why the brain ages and whether its decline can be delayed.

A promising area of research focuses on the hidden biological mechanisms that influence both aging and memory. Recent studies involving mice have drawn attention to the possibility that changes in the body's metabolism and the availability of certain amino acids may affect brain function. These findings offer an intriguing direction for research, although they do not yet establish a proven treatment for age-related memory loss in humans.

Understanding the Brain's Aging Process The brain is an extraordinarily complex organ. It contains billions of nerve cells that communicate through intricate networks,

allowing us to think, remember, learn and make decisions. As we age, several processes can affect these networks, including cellular damage, inflammation, changes in energy production and alterations in the connections between neurons.

The brain also depends on a steady supply of nutrients and energy. Its cells require amino acids, vitamins, minerals and other substances to maintain their structure, produce important molecules and support communication. When these biological systems become less efficient, certain aspects of brain performance may be affected.

However, aging is not controlled by a single mechanism. It results from interactions among genes, metabolism, environmental influences, lifestyle and cellular processes. Discovering one important contributor may help scientists understand part of the problem, but it does not explain every aspect of aging.

The Role of Amino Acids

Amino acids are the building blocks of proteins. They support the growth and repair of tissues and participate in numerous metabolic processes. Some amino acids also influence the production of neurotransmitters, the chemical messengers that enable nerve cells to communicate.

Scientists are investigating whether changes in particular amino acids during aging affect the brain's ability to maintain healthy neural connections and preserve memories. Research involving mice has suggested that restoring the availability of a specific amino acid may improve certain measures of memory under

experimental conditions.

Such findings are scientifically interesting because they point towards a possible connection between metabolism and cognitive health. They also raise an important question: could a relatively simple biological molecule influence some of the changes associated with an aging brain? Nevertheless, an improvement in mice does not automatically translate into the same benefit in humans. Researchers must determine the appropriate biological mechanisms, effective doses, long-term safety and whether the results can be reproduced in human clinical trials.

From Laboratory Discovery to Human Health Experiments involving mice are essential in neuroscience because they allow researchers to investigate biological processes under controlled conditions. Scientists can examine changes in brain tissue, measure memory performance and study how specific molecules influence the aging process.

Yet, translating these discoveries into human treatments is a long and demanding process. Human brains are more complex, and memory is influenced by numerous factors, including sleep, stress, cardiovascular health, education and social interaction. A substance that improves performance in an animal experiment may have different effects in people.

The next steps in this field include identifying the precise molecular pathways involved, understanding how the relevant amino acid influences neurons and determining whether any benefits persist over time. Carefully designed human trials would be necessary before such a discovery could be recommended as a

treatment.

It is equally important to distinguish between an experimental finding and a practical health recommendation. People should not begin taking amino acid supplements in the hope of preventing memory loss without reliable evidence of their effectiveness and safety.

Can Lifestyle Keep the Brain Younger? While scientists investigate new treatments, existing evidence supports several practical measures that help maintain brain health.

Regular physical activity improves cardiovascular health and supports blood flow to the brain. Walking, cycling, swimming and other suitable forms of exercise may contribute to better cognitive health as people age.

Adequate sleep is essential for attention, learning and memory consolidation. Persistent sleep deprivation can interfere with concentration and the ability to retain new information.

Balanced nutrition supplies the brain with the nutrients it needs. A varied diet containing vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts and appropriate sources of protein supports overall health. No single food or amino acid has been established as a universal solution to brain aging. Mental stimulation also matters. Reading, solving mathematical problems, learning a language, playing a musical instrument and engaging in intellectually challenging activities can help people remain mentally active.

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GOC -in -C Northern Command Lt General Pratik Sharma visits and interacts with his officers and troops. His statesmanship and generosity are felt throughout.



By M S Nazki

Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind. Be led by the dreams in your heart; instead of worrying about what you cannot control, shift your energy to what you can create

- Be the reason someone smiles. Be the reason someone feels loved and believes in the goodness in people
- Accept yourself, love yourself, and keep moving forward. If you want to fly, you have to give up what weighs you down
- Be mindful. Be grateful. Be positive. Be true. Be kind!
- Believe in yourself. You are braver than you think, more talented than you know, and capable of more than you imagine
- In a military context, "positivity" and "informality" represent the crucial, human-centric undercurrents that balance out the rigid, formal hierarchy of command. While official regulations and strict chain-of-command dictate how an army functions, positivity and informality dictate how well the troops actually endure, perform, and stick together under extreme stress.

Here is what these two concepts mean for the troops in practice:

- Positivity: The Fuel for Military Morale!
 - In the high-stakes, high-stress environment of military operations, positivity is not about hollow optimism; it is a tactical tool used to sustain combat power and build battlefield resilience.
 - Driving Force Behind Morale: Studies show that reinforcing positive emotions (like pride, camaraderie, and a shared sense of purpose) enhances troop morale and prevents burnout far more effectively than simply avoiding negative ones.
 - Psychological Safety Net: When leaders maintain a positive environment—by rewarding good attitudes,

using humor, and celebrating wins—they provide a psychological buffer that helps soldiers cope with the trauma and discomfort of deployment.

- Trust and Buy-In: Supportive leaders who focus on what troops are doing well, rather than just pointing out failures, foster an atmosphere where soldiers feel valued. This directly translates into a willingness to make supreme sacrifices when the mission demands it.
- 2. Informality: The "Hidden Network" of Command!
 - Informality refers to the unofficial behaviors, communication channels, and relationships that exist outside of rank and the strict chain of command.
 - Agility and Problem Solving: Strict military bureaucracy can sometimes be slow. Informality allows troops to bypass "red tape," collaborate smoothly across different units, and experiment with fast, creative solutions to unpredictable battlefield problems.
 - The Power of Informal Leaders: Every unit has "informal leaders"—respected peers or experienced soldiers who hold no official authority but lead by example, look out for their teammates' well-being, and act as a bridge between lower ranks and upper management.
 - Building Cohesion Through Informal Speech: Troops use localized jargon, inside jokes, and specialized slang to build a unique unit identity. This informal language acts as social glue, separating "us" from the outside world and forging the fierce group loyalty required in combat.
 - Effective Mentorship and Counseling: While official performance reviews exist, the most impactful professional development often happens during informal Leader Professional Development (LPD) sessions—such as relaxed, small-group chats or closed-door mentorship over a coffee.
 - Summary Comparison
 - Concept Primary Role for the Troops Core Benefits
 - Positivity: Sustains psychological stamina and drive. Combats burnout, builds trust in leadership, and directly increases combat effectiveness.
 - Informality Provides: Flexible, authentic social and operational networks. Speeds up communication, strengthens peer-to-peer bonds, and enables flexible problem-solving.
 - In combat and tactical environments, blind optimism can be dangerous because it ignores real risks. Instead, true positivity in the military functions as a deliberate mindset focused on adaptability, problem-solving, and maintaining morale under



extreme pressure. It is the unwavering belief that a team can find a way to prevail, regardless of how grim the current situation appears.

- How True Positivity Operates in High-Stress Missions
 - Fueling Resilience: It acknowledges the severity of a crisis but shifts the focus entirely toward actionable solutions and survival.
 - Preserving Cognitive Function: High stress triggers a fight-or-flight response that can narrow vision and impair decision-making. A constructive, focused mindset helps maintain clarity and mental flexibility.
 - Preventing Emotional Contagion: Fear and panic spread rapidly within a unit. Leaders who project calm, steady confidence can stabilize their team and prevent collective panic.
 - Driving Stockdale Paradox Execution: This mindset balances a clear-eyed acknowledgment of the brutal reality of the situation with an absolute, undisrupted faith that the team will succeed in the end.
 - The primary driving force behind military morale is primary group cohesion (personal bonds and loyalty

to immediate peers), supported by conviction in the cause and competent, trustworthy leadership.

- Core Driving Forces of Morale
 - Primary Group Cohesion: Classical military studies (including research by S.L.A. Marshall and Samuel Stouffer) show that a soldier fights hardest not out of abstract patriotism, but out of loyalty, trust, and fear of letting down the people immediately to their left and right.
 - Conviction in the Cause: A deep, subjective belief in the legitimacy, justice, and importance of the mission provides the overarching psychological purpose needed to endure extreme hardship.
 - Effective Leadership: Leaders who demonstrate moral courage, share risks, look after the welfare of their subordinates, and make clear, ethical decisions build deep trust. Conversely, leader betrayal or incompetence is a primary driver of demoralization.
 - Institutional Tradition and "Military Mystique": Daily contact with unit history, symbols, esprit de corps, and shared sacrifice transforms routine service into a sense of collective meaning and transcendence.

- External and Material Support: Reliable logistics (food, rest rotations, proper equipment) and institutional support for families back home reassure service members that their well-being is valued.
- The story which I had at hand was just a couple of lines! And the lines were: I see positivity, informality, and ease whenever the GOC in C Northern command Lt General Pratik Sharma visits and interacts with his officers and troops. His statesmanship and generosity are felt throughout.
- How to begin with was another problem!
- Probing into my own diaries and books did not give me much of a hope but giving up it not my stir off my thinking and I produced this:
- Dwight D. Eisenhower is perhaps the most famous historical example of a great general who embodied these exact traits. During World War II, his infectious smile—often called his "secret weapon"—and his approachable, informal demeanor were central to his success as the Supreme Allied Commander.
- While traditional military doctrine often emphasizes rigidity, distance, and strict authority, history shows that positivity and informality can be incredibly powerful leadership tools for a general:
- Why Positivity Matters
 - Boosts Morale Under Fire: War is inherently bleak. A general who projects genuine optimism and resilience provides a psychological anchor for troops facing extreme stress.
 - Contagious Confidence: If a leader looks defeated, the energy ripples downward. A positive outlook signals to the ranks that victory is not just possible, but expected.
 - Focuses on Solutions: Positive leaders tend to look at setbacks as problems to be solved rather than catastrophic failures, keeping their staff in a proactive mindset.
- Why Informality Works:
 - Breaks Down Information Silos: Strict hierarchies often scare subordinates into hiding bad news. Informality encourages open communication, ensuring a general gets the ground truth, not a sugar-coated version.
 - Builds Authentic Trust: When a general steps out of the formal tent and speaks to soldiers like human beings, it builds deep loyalty. Soldiers fight harder for a leader they feel connected to.
 - Fosters Innovation: A relaxed, informal environment allows staff officers to pitch unconventional ideas without the fear of being shut down for breaking protocol.

The Mystery Of Death



Surinderpal Singh

The Death is perhaps the most universal experience in existence, yet it remains one of the greatest mysteries confronting humanity. Every living being is destined to die and every civilisation has attempted, in its own way, to understand what death means. Despite extraordinary advances in medicine, biology, neuroscience and technology, humanity has not completely resolved the profound questions surrounding the end of life. What happens when life ceases? Does consciousness disappear forever, or is there something beyond the boundaries of our present understanding? Is death merely a biological conclusion, or does it possess a deeper philosophical and spiritual significance? These questions have occupied the human mind for centuries, and they continue to challenge our understanding of existence.

From a scientific perspective, death is a biological process in which the body permanently loses the capacity to sustain the functions necessary for life. The heart stops circulating blood, breathing ceases and the brain progressively loses its ability to function. Modern medicine can sometimes restore circulation and breathing through resuscitation, but irreversible loss of the functions required for life marks a fundamental boundary. The precise medical determination of death depends on established clinical criteria.

Yet science explains the biological mechanisms of dying more effectively than it answers the philosophical question of why existence matters. Researchers have made remarkable progress in understanding the brain, memory, emotions and consciousness. Neuroscience has demonstrated that conscious experience is closely associated with brain activity. Nevertheless, the exact nature of subjective experience—how physical processes give rise to the feeling of being alive—remains an important area of investigation. What happens to subjective experience when the brain irreversibly ceases functioning is a question that cannot be answered by speculation alone.

Scientific honesty requires us to recognise the distinction between what is established, what remains uncertain and what lies beyond the reach of current evidence. Reports of near-death experiences, including sensations of peace, unusual perceptions or encounters interpreted as spiritual, have attracted considerable research. Such experiences are meaningful to those who undergo them, but they do not, by themselves, establish that consciousness survives bodily death.

For philosophers, death is not merely the termination of biological activity; it is a question that gives meaning and urgency to life itself. If human beings lived indefinitely, would love, ambition, courage and achievement retain the same significance? Would we value a moment with our families as deeply if we believed that time could never run out?

Mortality reminds us that time is limited. Every decision involves an opportunity that may never return, every relationship requires attention and every postponed dream risks remaining unfulfilled. In this sense, death is not simply the opposite of life; awareness of death can influence how we choose to live.

Ancient philosophers explored this paradox in different ways. Some encouraged people to overcome the fear of death through reason, while others regarded mortality as an essential condition of human wisdom. Their reflections remain relevant because fear of the unknown is deeply rooted in human consciousness. The challenge is not necessarily to eliminate every fear of death, but to prevent that fear from controlling the life we have.

Religious and spiritual traditions have offered diverse explanations of death and what may follow it. Many

traditions speak of an afterlife, resurrection, reincarnation or a spiritual reality beyond the physical world. Others emphasise liberation from attachment, acceptance of impermanence or union with the ultimate reality.

In Sikh philosophy, death is understood within the broader framework of Hukam, divine order and the cycle of birth and death. Sikh teachings encourage human beings to live truthfully, remember the Divine, serve others and overcome ego. Rather than allowing the fear of death to dominate life, this perspective directs attention towards righteous conduct, compassion and spiritual awareness.

Such beliefs offer comfort, hope and a framework for understanding loss. However, religious interpretations are matters of faith and spiritual conviction rather than conclusions universally established by scientific investigation. Respectful dialogue between science, philosophy and religion requires acknowledging their different approaches while recognising the profound human questions that motivate them.

For many people, the greatest fear associated with death is not the thought of their own non-existence but the pain of losing someone they love. The death of a parent, child, spouse or close friend can transform the



emotional landscape of an entire family. Ordinary routines become reminders of absence, familiar places acquire new meanings and memories may bring both comfort and sorrow.

Grief is a deeply personal process. Some people express their pain openly, while others remain silent. There is no single timetable for healing and society should avoid placing expectations on how quickly a bereaved person ought to recover. Compassionate listening, emotional support and when necessary, professional help can make a meaningful difference.

The mystery of death also reveals an important truth about human relationships: love does not become meaningless simply because a life ends. The influence of a person may continue through memories, values, lessons, kindness and the lives they have touched. Although such continuity is not the same as proving the survival of consciousness, it demonstrates how profoundly one life can shape another.

Modern medicine has significantly increased life expectancy and improved the treatment of many diseases. Advances in organ transplantation, cancer therapies, genetic research, regenerative medicine and intensive care have transformed what was once considered inevitable into a condition that can sometimes be prevented, delayed or treated.

At the same time, scientific research into ageing seeks to understand why cells deteriorate, why tissues lose their ability to repair themselves and why the risk of disease increases over time. Some researchers are investigating ways to extend healthy lifespan, while developments in artificial intelligence are helping scientists analyse complex biological processes.

However, extending life is not the same as abolishing death. No scientifically demonstrated technology currently enables human beings to achieve biological immortality. Claims that consciousness can be transferred into a computer or that death will soon become entirely optional remain speculative. The pursuit of longer life also raises ethical questions. Who would have access to expensive life-extending treatments? Would such technologies

increase social inequality? Should society prioritise adding years to life, improving the quality of existing years, or ensuring that everyone receives dignified healthcare? Scientific progress must be accompanied by ethical responsibility, social justice and a realistic understanding of its limitations.

The way a society treats its dying members reveals much about its values. Access to palliative care, pain management, emotional support and respectful end-of-life decisions should not depend solely on wealth or social status. People facing incurable illness deserve dignity, honest communication and appropriate care.

Equally important is the responsibility to discuss death without unnecessary stigma. Conversations about organ donation, advance care planning, grief and end-of-life preferences can help families make informed decisions during difficult circumstances. These discussions should be approached sensitively, with respect for personal beliefs, cultural traditions and individual wishes.

Public health must also focus on preventing avoidable deaths caused by road accidents, violence, unsafe working conditions, environmental pollution and treatable diseases. Accepting that death is inevitable does not mean accepting preventable suffering. On the contrary, recognising the value of life should strengthen our commitment to protecting it.

Perhaps the most meaningful question is not only what death is, but what our awareness of death asks us to do. It encourages us to reconsider our priorities. Wealth, status and power may occupy much of our attention, yet they cannot guarantee unlimited time. The quality of our relationships, the integrity of our actions and the contribution we make to society may ultimately matter more than the possessions we accumulate.

A person who understands mortality may become more compassionate towards others, more grateful for ordinary experiences and more willing to reconcile with those they have hurt.

This does not mean that death is desirable or that grief should be romanticised. It means that awareness of life's fragility can inspire a deeper appreciation of its possibilities.

Education, scientific curiosity, artistic expression, public service and acts of kindness allow human beings to contribute to a world they may not live to see fully transformed. In this way, each generation inherits the achievements of those who came before and assumes responsibility for those who will follow.

The mystery of death may never be resolved in every dimension that humanity wishes to understand. Science can investigate the biological processes of dying, philosophy can examine the meaning of mortality, and religion can offer spiritual interpretations. Each approaches the question from a different perspective, and none should be forced to claim certainty where certainty is unavailable.

Perhaps the most responsible response to death is a combination of intellectual humility, emotional courage and moral responsibility. We should continue to investigate the unknown, support those who suffer, care for the dying and protect the living. We should also recognise that uncertainty about what follows death need not prevent us from finding meaning in the present.

Death remains the final frontier of human existence, but it need not be the centre of our lives. We cannot determine the length of every life, nor can we answer every question about what lies beyond it. We can, however, influence how we use our time, how we treat other people and what we leave behind.

Ultimately, the true measure of a life may not be how long it lasts, but how deeply it touches others. Death may close the chapter of an individual's existence, yet the knowledge they share, the compassion they demonstrate and the goodness they inspire can continue to shape the world. The mystery of death remains unresolved, but the responsibility to live wisely, love sincerely and serve humanity is unmistakably ours.

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Beyond the Examination: Understanding the Pressure Students Face



Waris Nissar

As board examinations for Classes 10, 11 and 12 approach, pressure on students begins to build. For many, the pressure comes not only from the examinations themselves but also from the expectations, comparisons and questions of the people around them. At times, a student may be less anxious about the examination than by the anxiety created around them.

For Class 10 students, appearing in a board examination is a new experience, and feeling nervous is natural. As the

important, but they should not become a measure of a student's entire future. Students should prepare sincerely, work hard and give their best effort. Their performance in one examination cannot define their complete ability, potential or journey. What matters is that they make an honest effort and learn from the experience.

Parents should therefore be gentle, supportive and encouraging. They should give students enough time and space to study, while also allowing them reasonable breaks, rest and time to refresh their minds. Most importantly, students should know that their families will stand beside them regardless of the result.

Students, meanwhile, should not allow every comment, comparison or expectation to become a burden. They should listen to advice without carrying unnecessary



examinations draw closer, however, questions about marks, preparation and expectations begin to come from almost everywhere. Relatives and acquaintances who may otherwise have little or no conversation with a student about studies suddenly begin asking how much they expect to score, how well they have prepared and what target they have set for themselves.

A student may leave home simply to take a break from studies, clear their mind or refresh themselves. Yet, wherever they go, examination-related questions follow them. What may begin as a casual conversation can gradually become another source of pressure, particularly when students repeatedly hear comparisons and expectations about their marks.

Parents, too, have an important role in determining how a student experiences this period. Instead of comparing their children with cousins, relatives or students who performed well in previous examinations, parents should encourage them to focus on their own preparation and progress. Rigid expectations such as "you must score more than them" or imposing a fixed target can make students feel that their worth depends entirely on their marks. Board examinations are

pressure, remain focused on their preparation and avoid measuring themselves against others. Their responsibility is to work hard, give their best and make a sincere effort; the final outcome is in the hands of Almighty Allah.

A good result deserves to be celebrated, but a disappointing result is neither the end of life nor the end of a student's future. Marks have their importance, but they cannot define a person's complete potential, character, abilities or journey.

Examinations should remain a test of preparation, not become a source of unnecessary fear or mental strain. Students should work hard to fulfil their potential, not live under the constant pressure of satisfying society. At this stage, what they need most is understanding, encouragement and the confidence to move forward.

Let students prepare with sincerity, appear for their examinations with peace of mind and accept the result with patience. Give them support instead of comparison, encouragement instead of fear, and space to grow beyond a marksheet—with hard work, hope and faith in Almighty Allah.

warisnissar46@gmail.com

NCST Member Dr. Asha Lakra reviews implementation of Tribal Welfare Schemes in Anantnag

Directs time-bound delivery of Benefits



HT News Network

ANANTNAG: Member of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), Dr. Asha Lakra, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, Anantnag, to assess the implementation of various safeguards, welfare schemes, developmental programmes and infrastructure projects aimed at protecting the rights and promoting the socio-economic welfare of Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities in the district.

During the meeting, Dr. Lakra undertook a detailed review of the progress achieved under various tribal welfare initiatives and assessed the role of different departments in ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach eligible beneficiaries. She stressed the need for effective implementation of welfare

measures, timely resolution of pending issues and removal of administrative bottlenecks that may hinder the delivery of benefits to members of Scheduled Tribe communities.

Emphasising accountability and a result-oriented approach, the NCST Member directed the concerned officers to ensure strict adherence to prescribed timelines, strengthen monitoring mechanisms and improve coordination among departments for effective implementation of welfare schemes. She underscored the importance of ensuring that eligible beneficiaries are adequately informed about the schemes and safeguards available to them and are able to access the intended benefits without unnecessary delays.

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, briefed the Member on the status of implementation of various tribal welfare schemes,

ongoing developmental works and initiatives being undertaken by the district administration and line departments for the welfare and upliftment of Scheduled Tribe communities. He also apprised her of the progress made by the concerned departments and the measures being taken to facilitate the delivery of government benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

Detailed deliberations were held on departmental progress, implementation challenges and issues requiring inter-departmental coordination. The meeting also emphasised the need to strengthen outreach, improve awareness among tribal communities regarding government schemes and entitlements, and ensure that welfare initiatives translate into tangible benefits at the grassroots level.

Dr. Lakra stressed that the welfare and protection of Scheduled Tribe communities must remain a priority and called for a coordinated approach by all concerned departments to ensure transparency, accountability and timely implementation of government programmes. She urged the officers to address genuine grievances promptly and work towards improving access to essential services, welfare assistance and developmental opportunities for tribal communities.

The review meeting was aimed at strengthening the implementation and monitoring of tribal welfare initiatives in the district and ensuring that the intended benefits of government schemes reach eligible Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries in a timely and effective manner.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Planning Officer and officers from the Police, Health, Education, Rural Development, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry, Jal Shakti, Roads and Buildings, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Fisheries, KPDC, banking institutions and other concerned departments.

3-Day UT-Level Training Programme on VPRP concludes in Srinagar

HT News Network

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) successfully concluded its three-day Union Territory-level training workshop on the Village Prosperity & Resilience Plan (VPRP) aimed at strengthening the capacities of JKRLM officials for effective planning, participatory development and the integration of community-driven priorities into Gram Panchayat Development plans (GPDPs).

Designed to equip participants with essential skills and technical knowledge for the seamless formulation and execution of VPRPs, the three days training program focused on seeding of the concept of VPRP among rural population and aligning community-driven needs and aspirations with the broader framework of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs).

During the three-days sessions, resource persons alongside thematic experts from JKRLM delivered extensive hands-on training across core VPRP

KVK Bandipora-I organises Second Training Programme on Makhana Development in Kashmir

HT News Network

BANDIPORA: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir), in collaboration with the Department of Rakhs and Farms, Kashmir, organised the second training programme under the Central Sector Scheme on Development of Makhana at KVK Bandipora-1, Potushai.

The programme witnessed the participation of farmers and farm women from Bandipora and Baramulla districts, with a focus on promoting scientific Makhana cultivation and exploring its potential as an emerging aquatic farming enterprise in Kashmir.

During the inaugural session, Dr. Tahir Saleem, Scientist, KVK Bandipora-1, highlighted the nutritional significance of Makhana and its growing importance as a high-value food crop. He emphasised its potential to diversify farming activities, create entrepreneurial opportunities and enhance farmers' income through scientific cultivation and value addition.

Assistant Director, Department of Rakhs and Farms, Kashmir, Feroz Ahmad Shapoo highlighted the ongoing initiatives for promoting Makhana cultivation in the Valley. He stressed

the importance of farmer training, scientific interventions and interdepartmental coordination to establish Makhana as a viable aquatic crop under suitable agro-ecological conditions.



Professor and Head, KVK Bandipora-1, Dr. Tariq Sultan delivered a detailed presentation on Makhana cultivation, crop management, harvesting, processing and value addition.

As part of the practical training, participating farmers and farm women visited the aquatic crop demonstration and trial plots at the KVK farm. They observed ongoing trials of Makhana, Lotus and Water Chestnut and received technical guidance on crop establishment, management practices and their suitability.

MD NHM chairs Introductory review Meeting of NHM J&K

Stresses strengthening Healthcare Delivery and Infrastructure

HT News Network

SRINAGAR: Athar Amir Ul Shafi Khan, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), Jammu & Kashmir, today chaired a comprehensive introductory review meeting to evaluate ongoing performance, financial progress, human resource frameworks, and healthcare infrastructure across the Union Territory.

Reviewing annual financial planning, resource allocations, and fund utilization patterns, the Mission Director emphasised transparent and efficient fund management to support robust healthcare delivery across all districts. Highlighting maternal and child health indicators, the meeting noted that J&K continues to maintain exceptional performance through high institutional deliveries and robust antenatal care coverage supported by central and UT welfare schemes.

The review placed special focus on the extensive network of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs operational across the region, which successfully bring comprehensive primary healthcare, free essential drugs, diagnostics, and tele-consultations closer to grassroots communities. Significant progress under major capital works, including the construction of Critical Care Blocks, Integrated Public Health Labs, and



Block Public Health Units, was thoroughly assessed to ensure timely project completion and enhanced critical care capabilities.

The successful implementation of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and the rollout of Diplomate of National Board postgraduate courses across district hospitals and community health centers were commended as major milestones that mitigate specialist shortages and reduce unnecessary tertiary care referrals.

Furthermore, the continuous operation of the 102/108 ambulance network, free dialysis services under the PM National Dialysis Programme, and the Tele-MANAS mental health helpline, NP-NCD were acknowledged for providing seamless public services.

Urging officers to accelerate facility

quality assurance certifications, and ensure rigorous grassroots monitoring, Athar Amir Ul Shafi Khan stressed that continuous inter-departmental coordination and streamlined medical supply chains remain vital to elevate public healthcare standards. He placed specific stress on improving the functioning of RBSK, PC & PNDT, Tele-Sanjevani, and DBT schemes.

The meeting was attended by key senior officials, including the Director Planning NHM J&K, Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer SHS NHM J&K, State Nodal Officer, Divisional Nodal Officer Kashmir, Programme Managers, State Programme Manager, State Media and Evaluation Officer, State Accounts Managers, Associate and Assistant Programme Managers, and other senior functionaries of NHM J&K.

JKEDI concludes Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Programme under RAMP Scheme



HT News Network

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Srinagar, today successfully concluded the

Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme at the Govt. College for Women, M.A Road, Srinagar.

The program was organised in collaboration between JKEDI and Govt. College for Women, M.A Road, Srinagar at the district level.

The 20-day training programme drew an enthusiastic response from students, who participated actively throughout the sessions.

Professor Dr. Yasmeen Farooq, Principal of the college, attended as the Guest of Honour. The valedictory function was also attended by Dr. Naila Khanday, Range Officer, JKEDI.

Central Kashmir; Shabir Hussain Shah, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Srinagar; Dr. Sheeba, Assistant Convenor EDC, Govt. College for Women and designated course team for the program from JKEDI.

Professor Dr. Yasmeen Farooq expressed

satisfaction over the successful conduct of the programme and congratulated JKEDI for organising the 20-day training within the college. She noted that the collaboration between JKEDI and the institution had provided valuable practical exposure to students and would inspire more young women to explore entrepreneurship as a viable career path.

Dr. Naila Khanday, in her welcome address, motivated the participants, encouraging them to convert the skills acquired during the training into sustainable enterprises and to view entrepreneurship as an empowering career option.

Addressing the participants, Shabir Hussain Shah, emphasised the transformative power of entrepreneurship. "Entrepreneurship is the path to self-reliance. The future belongs to those who embrace emerging opportunities with a positive mindset and choose to become job creators rather than job seekers," he said.

The ESDP under the RAMP scheme equips aspiring entrepreneurs with essential competencies in business development, financial planning, and market awareness. The batch recorded strong student participation and received positive feedback, reflecting the growing interest among youth in enterprise creation.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

NT 108 OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/8533-42, DATED 12-10-2026

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Establishment of Kindergarten at PS Gund Mohalla Uranhall, MS Nawhatoo, GMS karnagund Guree Zone Anantnag.	1.50 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 1.27 + (18% GST Amount 0.23)	200	3000/-	15 Days	UT Capex Budget 2026-27	DEE Class & MSME's Only
2.	Establishment of Kindergarten at GMS semthan, BMS HP Tawaila, MS Tulkhun and HS Dadoo Zone Bijbehara	2.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 1.70 + (18% GST Amount 0.30)	200	4000/-	15 Days	UT Capex Budget 2026-27	DEE Class & MSME's Only
3.	Establishment of Kindergarten at PS Doonicheck zone Mattan	0.50 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 0.42 + (18% GST Amount 0.08)	200	1000/-	10 Days	UT Capex Budget 2026-27	DEE Class & MSME's Only

Project Authority : Directorate of School Education, Kashmir.
Position of AAA : Accorded vide Order No. 300 - DSEK of 2026, Dated 05.08.2026.

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12-10-2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 13-10-2026 (11:00 AM) To 19-10-2026 (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 13-10-2026 (11:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 19-10-2026 (04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	20-10-2026 (11:00 AM) In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.

- Bids must be accompanied with a Receipt of cost of Tender document/Tender Fee deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name, NT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt. (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and Receipt of EMD (2% of advertised Cost), also deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name, NT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt. (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) must be updated with the documents of the bid. The Original receipt of Cost of Tender Document, EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost). Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
**Note: a. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of Tender Document Cost or Rs500/- whichever is lower.
b. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of the amount of EMD/ Bid Security or Rs 5000/- whichever is lower.**
- The Bid security amount of the successful Bidder shall, upon completion of the bidding process be transferred from single Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account to Performance Security Deposit Head on Authorization from HoD during the currency of contract agreement including defect liability period. In addition, the differential amount of performance security shall be deposited by the Successful Bidder in Performance Security Deposit Head. Failure to produce differential amount of Performance Security shall render the LI as non-responsive and case for debarment of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process:
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.
- Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of Receipt of cost of Tender document/Tender Fee deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and receipt of EMD deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name, NT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt. (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) must be updated with the documents of the bid. The Original receipt of Cost of Tender Document, EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

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

DIPK-6669/26

Date: Oct 13 2026

Australia breeze to a big win over South Africa in Durban

United News Of India

DURBAN, OCT 13: A disciplined Australian bowling unit finished the job in clinical fashion on Day 5 of the Durban Test, clinching a 214-run triumph to draw first blood in the three-match ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 series.

The visitors laid the groundwork earlier in the match when Matt Renshaw played his best-ever Test knock, stroking a magnificent 190 to propel Australia to 390 in their first turn with the bat. South Africa responded with 284, anchored by resilient knocks from David Bedingham and Aiden Markram, leaving Australia with a handy 106-run advantage at the halfway mark.

Refusing to sit on their lead, Australia turned up the heat in their second innings on Day 4, declaring at 314/6 after brisk half-centuries from Renshaw and Nic Maddinson, alongside late fireworks from Pat Cummins and Beau Webster.

Tasked with an improbable target of 421, South Africa's top order collapsed under the floodlights on Day 4 evening as Josh Hazlewood and part-timer Renshaw reduced the hosts to 102/4 at stumps.

Resuming the final morning at 102/4, South Africa faced an uphill battle as Aiden Markram and Wiaan Mulder dug in during an extended period of resistance, according to ICC.

Markram compiled a resilient 75 off 237 deliveries, holding the innings together while Mulder chipped in with 29 before falling to Hazlewood right before lunch.



The breakthrough opened the floodgates in the second session as wickets tumbled rapidly under disciplined pressure from the Australian pace and spin battery.

Renshaw struck shortly after the resumption to remove Kyle Verreynne for 1, adding another clever scalp to his memorable all-round performance.

Hazlewood then delivered a devastating spell with the second new ball, tearing through the lower order to finish with career-best figures of 6/49.

Hazlewood accounted for Marco Jansen (35) and Simon Harmer (0) in quick succession, while Mitchell Starc removed the resolute Markram for 75.

The resistance officially concluded when Anrich Nortje top-edged a short ball off Hazlewood, with Nathan Lyon pouching the catch at short cover to bowl South Africa out for 206.

Australia celebrated a thoroughly deserved 214-run victory, taking a 1-0 lead heading into the second Test in Gqeberha. Renshaw was deservedly named Player of the Match for his outstanding contributions of 190 and 82 with the bat. With this result, Australia have solidified their grip atop the World Test Championship Standings, while South Africa have slipped to the third spot as New Zealand make it to the second.

The two teams will next face off in Gqeberha starting October 18 for the second Test.

Gill, Shafali sweep ICC Player of the Month awards for September

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 13: India captain Shubman Gill and opener Shafali Verma have been named the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for September 2026 following their impressive performances in international cricket.

Gill earned the men's award for his outstanding showing in the ODI series against the West Indies, while Shafali was rewarded for her contributions to India's title-winning campaigns at the Women's Asia Cup and the Asian Games. The award marks Gill's fifth monthly honour, taking him level with West Indies captain Hayley Matthews for the most Player of the Month awards. His previous wins came in January and September 2023, and February and July 2025. For Shafali, it is her second such award. She first received the honour in November 2025 after playing a key role in India's Women's World Cup triumph, including a match-winning performance in the final against South Africa.

Gill made a strong start to September against the West Indies, scoring 110 in the opening ODI in Thiruvananthapuram before producing a stunning double century in the second match.

Goalkeeper Pathak returns as India announce squad for Asian Champions Trophy

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 13: Goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak returned to the Harmanpreet Singh-led Indian men's hockey squad, but the core of the Asian Games gold-winning line-up was retained for the Asian Champions Trophy to be held in Punjab from October 27 to November 5.

Harmanpreet had led India to a gold medal at the Asian Games in Japan, where the team successfully defended its continental crown for the first time and qualified for the Los Angeles Olympics.

Pathak, who missed the Asian Games, made a comeback, while young defender Amandeep Lakra and midfielder Aditya Arjun Lalage have also earned an opportunity to strengthen their place in the senior setup. Midfielder Vishnu Kant Singh and forward Angad Bir Singh have been named as reserves. "Playing the ACT in Punjab will be something special," chief coach Craig Fulton said. "This squad blends youth with experience, and we can't wait to feed off the home crowd. There's nothing like playing a

tournament in India, and we've missed it."

The tournament marks the return of international hockey to Punjab, a state with a rich tradition in the sport. India, five-time



champions and the most successful team in the competition's history, will aim to defend their title on home soil. Jalandhar's Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium will host the opening ceremony and all league-stage matches from October 27 to November 2. The tournament will then move to Mohali, where the semi-finals will be played on November 4, followed by the medal matches on November 5 at the Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium. India squad: Goalkeepers: Suraj Karkera, Krishan Bahadur Pathak.

15 JKAP IR Bn, Organises Sports Activities Under CAP 2026 27 to Mark Sardar Patel's Birth Anniversary

GULFAM BARJI

JAMMU/OCT-13: As part of Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2026-27, sports activities viz. Volley Ball, Tug of War, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho & Skipping Rope were organised at Battalion Headquarters with enthusiastic participation of Inter Coys of this unit in connection with observance of Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel under Civic Action Programme 2026-2027. The event was organized by all Gazetted Officers/NGOs & other officials of this unit under the overall supervision of Sh. Dushyant Sharma, SSP (Commandant) 15 JKAP IR Bn. The activities aimed at promoting physical fitness, team spirit, discipline and sportsmanship among the personnel. The participating teams displayed commendable enthusiasm and competitive spirit throughout the event. A special highlight of the programme was the demonstration of State Level Rope Skipping



player who show caused his exceptional skills, speed and co-ordination with the rope and Police J&K Central Sports Archery Team also demonstrated the Archery skills, show causing precision, concentration and discipline. Medals/ Trophies were distributed among Winner Up/ Runner Up teams and players participated in the events.

Nautiyal dropped, 166 athletes cleared for Para Asian Games amid selection row

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 13: Long-serving national coach Jeevan L Rai has replaced embattled para-shooting coach Jai Prakash Nautiyal in India's Para Asian Games contingent, with the Sports Ministry approving 166 athletes for the October

additions, approving only Paralympian Arshad Shaik, who met the selection criteria comfortably. Six other cyclists nominated by the Cycling Federation of India and the Paralympic Committee of India were excluded for failing to meet the requirements.

India's delegation for the continental event will comprise 275 members, including



18-24 Games in Aichi-Nagoya, amid protests over alleged irregularities in the selection process.

Nautiyal faced allegations of violating established selection criteria and demanding kickbacks in exchange for selecting athletes. Several shooters protested outside the Sports Authority of India (SAI) headquarters, demanding his removal and an investigation into the charges. They also met Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to present their grievances after attempting to disrupt the contingent's send-off ceremony last week.

The selection process also triggered protests from cyclists who were left out of the squad. However, the Ministry has refrained from making last-minute

166 athletes, 94 team officials and support staff, and 15 contingent staff, across 10 disciplines. Tokyo Paralympic gold medalist Pramod Bhagat and para-table tennis star Bhavina Patel have been named India's flag-bearers for the opening ceremony.

Para-athletics has the largest representation, with 62 athletes, including 46 men, backed by a support staff of 36. Visually impaired sprinter Simran, a World Championships medalist, is also part of the squad. She will compete with a new guide, Shivam, after her previous guide, Umar Saifi, was caught in a doping case.

The table tennis contingent features Paralympic silver medalist Bhavina Patel, while the 28-member badminton squad comprises 17 men and 11 women.

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