

Srinagar
Friday
October 16 | 2026
04 Jamad ul Awal 1448 AH
Issue No: 248
Volume: 16
Pages: 12
Price :Rs: 2/-

www.dailyheadlinestoday.com
16TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION
HEADLINES
TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



P:03 **DC Bandipora presides over inter-college seminar on 'Gandhian Thoughts' at GDC Ajas**

PM Modi inaugurates Ladakh projects worth 3,350 Crore
HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 15: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated five major development projects in Ladakh worth around 3,350 crore, covering airport infrastructure, strategic roads, power supply, water conservation and heritage preservation. He said the Centre was prioritising quality education, modern technology and employment opportunities for Ladakhi youth to reduce the need to move outside the region for higher studies. The projects include a new terminal at Leh airport, the 298-km Nimmu-Padum-Darcha Road, a 9MW hydroelectric project, a transmission line, India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park and 40 water bodies across villages. Prime Minister Modi also highlighted plans for a centre of excellence in Leh, proposed satellite campuses of IIT Jammu and IIM Jammu, improved digital

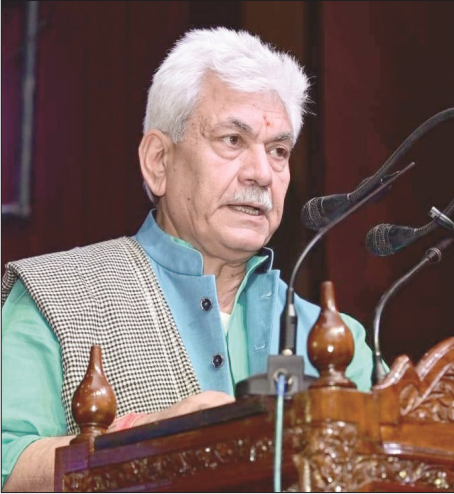
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Dream Big, Strive For Excellence and Contribute Towards Building a Healthy, Drug-Free J&K : Manoj Sinha to Youth

LG Congratulates J&K Police On Successful JASHN-E-DAL; 2026, As 600 athletes participate in 20 water-sports disciplines

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 15: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha congratulated Jammu and Kashmir Police on the successful completion of Jashn-e-Dal 2026, with nearly 600 young athletes participating in 20 water-sports disciplines, including kayaking, canoeing, rowing and traditional shikara racing. Emphasising the role of sports in promoting discipline, perseverance and teamwork, the LG urged youth to dream big, strive for excellence and contribute towards building a healthy, drug-free society. He also appreciated the police's youth-oriented initiatives, including Run for Unity and the upcoming Pedal for Paradise rally, for strengthening community engagement and channelising youthful energy towards nation-building. The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha congratulated Jammu Kashmir Police on the successful completion of Jashn-e-Dal-2026. In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said that sports is



also instil determination, patience and courage among young people. Highlighting the growing stature of Jashn-e-Dal, the Lieutenant Governor said that the event has evolved beyond an annual competition into a cherished tradition emotionally connected with the people of Jammu Kashmir. Over the past few days, nearly 600 young athletes participated in 20 water-sports disciplines, including kayaking, canoeing, rowing, sculling and the traditional shikara race, showcasing the region's immense sporting potential and vibrant water-sports culture. The Lieutenant Governor urged athletes to dream without limits and strive for excellence with dedication and sincerity. Referring to the achievements of sportspersons nurtured through initiatives of Jammu Kashmir Police, the Lieutenant Governor in his message said that young athletes

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Sonamarg to Get New Tourism Infrastructure, Winter Sports Facilities : Omar Abdullah

CM Reiterated that Government plans rafting, skiing and skating to promote year-round tourism; Ganderbal projects worth 60 crore highlighted

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, OCT 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the government was preparing a project to strengthen tourism infrastructure in Sonamarg following the opening of the Z-Morh tunnel, which has improved winter accessibility to the destination. The proposed plan includes rafting during summer and skiing and skating in winter to attract visitors throughout the year. The Chief Minister also discussed developing Tragbal and Mohanmarg as tourist destinations and highlighted ongoing development works worth nearly 60 crore in Ganderbal, including a bridge over the Jhelum, road projects, educational infrastructure and improvements to the fruit and vegetable market. Chief Minister

Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the government was preparing a project to strengthen tourism



infrastructure in Sonamarg and introduce adventure and winter sports activities to attract visitors throughout the year. Speaking to reporters in Ganderbal, the Chief Minister said the opening of the Z-Morh tunnel had

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₹13.76 Crore Farm Mechanisation Plan Approved For J&K

Revised action plan targets 2,113 machinery units, 22 Custom Hiring Centres and 16 Farm Machinery Banks



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 15: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Thursday approved a revised Annual Action Plan worth 13.76 crore for 2026-27 under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana to modernise agriculture and horticulture in Jammu and Kashmir. The plan provides for distributing 2,113 units of farm machinery, including tractors, power tillers and harvesting equipment, besides introducing Kisan Drones through Custom Hiring Centres. It also envisages establishing 22 Custom Hiring Centres and 16 Farm Machinery Banks to improve access to modern equipment,

particularly for small and marginal farmers. Dulloo stressed the need to strengthen irrigation alongside mechanisation to improve productivity and support the agricultural economy. In a significant push towards agricultural modernisation and enhanced farm productivity, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today approved a revised Annual Action Plan (AAP) worth 13.76 crore for 2026-27 under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) component of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY). The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department;

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Anchar Lake Shrinks From 19.5 To 4.5 Sq Km : M Y Tarigami

CPI(M) MLA flags alleged encroachments, seeks urgent measures to safeguard Kashmir's water bodies

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 15: CPI(M) MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami on Thursday expressed concern over the shrinking of Anchar Lake, stating that its area had declined from 19.5 square kilometres to around 4.5 square kilometres. Speaking after visiting the lake with members of the Legislative Assembly's Committee on Environment, Tarigami alleged that encroachments by influential people had contributed to the deterioration of water bodies, including Anchar, Dal and Wular lakes. Warning that their degradation could adversely affect the environment, public health and tourism, he called for coordinated action by the government, legislators and political parties to prevent further encroachments and protect the remaining lake areas. CPI(M) MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami on Thursday flagged the



shrinking of Anchar Lake and alleged that influential people had encroached upon land around water bodies, calling for urgent intervention to prevent further damage. Tarigami was speaking to reporters after visiting Anchar Lake along with members of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly's Committee on Environment. He said Anchar Lake had shrunk from 19.5 square kilometres to around 4.5 square kilometres, adding that its present condition raised serious concerns about the survival of the water body. "Today it has reached 4.5 square kilometres. And in 4.5 square kilometres, look at the condition. Where is the water? Where is the lake? It is not visible," he said. Referring to Anchar, Dal and Wular lakes, Tarigami

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J&K Police To Hold 240 Sports Events This Year: DGP Prabhat

2,000 children to be sent on Bharat Darshan; sports to strengthen youth engagement and anti-drug efforts

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 15: Jammu and Kashmir Police will organise 240 district-level sports events this year to engage youth and channelise their energy towards constructive activities, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat said on Thursday. Addressing a gathering at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre, the DGP said 144 sporting events were held last year and more than 6,000 people participated in the recent Run for Unity. He said sports remained central to the police's Civic Action Programme and efforts to counter drug abuse and narco-terrorism. Prabhat added that 1,789 children were sent on Bharat Darshan last year, while the target for the current year stood at 2,000. Jammu and Kashmir Police will conduct 240 sports events at the district level this year as part of its efforts to engage youth and channelise their energy towards constructive activities, Director



General of Police (DGP) J&K, Nalin Prabhat said on Thursday.

Addressing a gathering at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar, Prabhat said sports remained a key component of the police's civic action programmes aimed at strengthening engagement with young people. He said 144 sporting events were

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Mughal road reopens, Bandipora-Gurez road partially restored

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SRINAGAR, OCT 15: The Mughal Road was reopened for vehicular movement on Thursday following snow clearance, while the Bandipora-Gurez road was partially restored, with traffic permitted only from Bandipora towards Gurez, officials

said. A senior official of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) told Kashmir News Service (KNS) that the Bandipora-Gurez road had been reopened for vehicles travelling from Bandipora to Gurez after snow

clearance operations.

The official, however, said traffic from Gurez towards Bandipora had not yet been permitted.

The road had been affected by fresh snowfall at Razdan Pass and adjoining higher

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ECI defers voter revision exercise for J&K

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SRINAGAR, OCT 15: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday said that the schedule for the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in Jammu & Kashmir will be announced in due course of time, keeping in view the region's weather conditions. While unveiling the SSR schedule for 17 states, the poll-body said that a similar exercise for Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh will be notified separately. "Also, for the three States/UTs namely Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, where the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) has not been started so far, the schedule for roll revision will be announced in due course of time, keeping in view their

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Rain, Snowfall Trigger Drastic Temperature Dip Across Kashmir

Gulmarg records 1.5°C minimum; largely dry weather forecast from October 17 to 24

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 15: Rain in the plains and snowfall over higher reaches brought a chill across Kashmir on Thursday, with Srinagar recording a minimum temperature of 7.3°C and Gulmarg registering 1.5°C. Kupwara received 26.2 mm of rainfall, followed by Kokernag at 26 mm and Qazigund at 23.6 mm. The Meteorological Department forecast improving conditions from October 16 and largely dry weather between October 17 and 24, while another spell of unsettled weather is likely from October 25 to 27. Farmers were advised to protect harvested apple and paddy crops from moisture, while travellers were urged to exercise caution on higher mountain roads and passes. Rain in the plains and snowfall over higher reaches brought down temperatures across Kashmir on Thursday, while the Meteorological Department forecast an improvement in weather conditions

from Friday. According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, several parts of Jammu and Kashmir experienced wet weather during the past 24 hours, with temperatures remaining below normal at several places.



Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 7.3 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg registered 1.5 degrees Celsius. Pahalgam recorded 5 degrees Celsius, Kupwara 5.6 degrees, Kokernag 6.2 degrees and Qazigund 8.6 degrees Celsius.

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Srinagar Police attach assets worth over Rs 13.43 crore in drug cases

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 15: Srinagar Police on Thursday said they had frozen and attached residential properties and a vehicle valued at over Rs 13.43 crore in connection with drug trafficking cases, extending their crackdown to assets identified during financial investigations. The action was carried out by six police stations — Khanyar, Pantha Chowk, Shalteng, Safakadal, Soura and Ahmadnagar — under Sections 68-E and 68-F of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

According to police, the properties were identified during investigations into suspected proceeds of drug trafficking. Police Station Khanyar accounted for the largest share of the action, attaching four residential properties and a

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HT EDITORIAL

Mughal Road Cannot Remain a Seasonal Lifeline

The reopening of the Mughal Road after the clearance of the season's first snowfall is welcome news, but it also brings into focus a recurring problem that demands a permanent solution. With the onset of autumn and winter, traffic disruptions on this vital road connecting south Kashmir's Shopian district with the Poonch-Rajouri region have become almost routine. Whenever the weather deteriorates around Peer Ki Gali, snowfall and slippery conditions threaten to bring vehicular movement to a halt, inconveniencing commuters, traders and transporters who depend on this route.

The latest closure and subsequent restoration of traffic underline the vulnerability of the Mughal Road to changing weather conditions. Even a few inches of snow can make driving hazardous, particularly along high-altitude stretches where low temperatures, poor visibility and slippery surfaces increase the risk of accidents. Although the deployment of men and machinery for snow clearance deserves appreciation, repeated clearance operations can only provide temporary relief. They cannot eliminate the underlying problem of seasonal inaccessibility.

The long-term answer lies in the construction of a tunnel connecting Herpora in Shopian with Bafliaz in Poonch. Such a project could significantly reduce dependence on the snowbound Peer Ki Gali stretch and improve year-round connectivity between the two regions, subject to its technical feasibility and operational requirements. Unfortunately, this much-awaited project continues to miss deadlines, while work on the proposed tunnel is yet to begin. The prolonged delay raises legitimate questions about planning, execution and the commitment required to translate an important connectivity proposal into reality.

The Mughal Road is not merely an alternative route between Kashmir and the Pir Panjal region. It carries considerable economic, social and strategic importance by facilitating the movement of people, goods and essential supplies. Reliable connectivity can strengthen tourism, support local businesses, improve access to healthcare and education, and create fresh economic opportunities for communities on both sides of the mountain range. Repeated seasonal disruptions undermine these benefits and reinforce the need for a durable infrastructure solution.

Equally serious is the problem of inadequate mobile connectivity along substantial stretches of the road. With mobile signals unavailable or unreliable at several locations, commuters can find themselves unable to contact emergency services, inform their families about delays or seek assistance in the event of an accident or vehicle breakdown. In difficult weather conditions, the absence of communication facilities can turn an already dangerous situation into a far more distressing one.

The authorities must therefore treat mobile connectivity as an essential safety requirement rather than a secondary convenience. Telecom operators, in coordination with the concerned departments, should identify signal-blackout zones and develop a time-bound plan for installing suitable towers, repeaters or other technically viable communication infrastructure. Emergency communication arrangements and clear roadside safety advisories should also be strengthened, particularly during the snowfall season.

Meanwhile, until a tunnel becomes a reality, the administration must ensure timely weather advisories, effective snow-clearance arrangements, road-condition updates and strict traffic regulation whenever conditions become unsafe. Travelers should receive accurate information before undertaking journeys, while the deployment of machinery and emergency personnel must be planned in advance of anticipated snowfall.

The reopening of the Mughal Road is a moment of relief, but it should not become another occasion for temporary assurances followed by prolonged inaction. The proposed Herpora-Bafliaz tunnel must move beyond repeated deadlines and enter the implementation stage through transparent planning, clear timelines and regular public updates. At the same time, the communication gaps along the existing road need urgent attention. The people of Shopian, Poonch and Rajouri deserve dependable connectivity, not a route whose accessibility remains at the mercy of every spell of snowfall. A tunnel and reliable mobile networks are not luxuries; they are essential investments in safety, mobility and regional development. The time has come to replace seasonal uncertainty with a lasting solution.

The Price of Progress: Are We Forgetting Our Parents?



By: Ashiq Hussain

Have we become so busy building our future that we have forgotten the people who sacrificed their present to secure it?

We live in an age of remarkable progress, where success is measured by wealth, social status, professional achievements, and material possessions. People work tirelessly to improve their standard of living and earn recognition in society. Yet, amid this relentless pursuit of success, an important question deserves our attention: are we gradually forgetting the parents whose sacrifices made our progress possible?

Parents are among the greatest blessings of human life. They dedicate their time, energy, and resources to nurturing their children, fulfilling their needs, and preparing them to face the challenges of the world. They often sacrifice their own comforts and dreams to provide their children with better opportunities. However, as children grow older and become independent, some gradually distance themselves from the very people who stood beside them during their most vulnerable years.

"The Growing Influence of Materialism"
One of the major reasons behind the neglect of parents is the growing materialistic mindset of modern society. Many people have begun to believe that money is the ultimate measure of happiness and success. Consequently, some children assume that providing financial support to their parents is sufficient to fulfil their responsibilities.

What they often fail to understand is that parents need more than money. They need affection, respect, compassion, and emotional companionship. Financial security may provide comfort, but it cannot replace the warmth of a loving conversation, the joy of spending time together, or the reassurance of being valued by one's children.



Unfortunately, in the pursuit of material prosperity, some children become so occupied with their ambitions that they overlook the emotional needs of their parents. They may provide everything money can buy while neglecting the things that money cannot purchase.

"The Cycle of Neglect"
Perhaps one of the less discussed aspects of parental neglect is the influence of family upbringing. Sometimes, parents themselves may contribute to this problem through the example they set for their children.

Children learn not only from their parents' advice but also from their behaviour. When they observe their parents neglecting or disrespecting their own elders, they may gradually begin to consider such behaviour normal. In this way, the neglect of parents can sometimes become a cycle that passes from one generation to the next.

However, this does not mean that every neglected parent is responsible for their circumstances. Family relationships are complex, and every individual has a personal responsibility to treat others with dignity and compassion. Nevertheless, the example set within a family can have a lasting influence on the values children develop.

"Society's Obsession with Wealth and Status"
Another important factor contributing to this problem is society's growing obsession with wealth and social status.

We live in a world where people are sometimes judged by how much they earn rather than by who they are. Those with greater financial resources may receive admiration and recognition, while those who earn less may be unfairly looked down upon.

This social pressure encourages people to pursue wealth, sometimes at the expense of their emotional well-being and family relationships. In their desire to gain recognition, individuals may become so focused on achieving material success that they forget the values that make success meaningful.

The tragedy is that society often teaches children how to become successful but does not always give equal importance to teaching them how to remain humble, compassionate, and respectful. As a result, we risk creating a world in which material prosperity grows while human relationships gradually weaken.

"The Role of Parents in Building Moral Values"
Although society influences our attitudes, the family remains one of the most important places where moral values are developed.

Parents should teach their children the importance of love, compassion, gratitude, and respect, not merely through words but through their everyday actions. When children see their parents treating elders with dignity, helping those in need, and showing kindness towards others, they learn that these values are essential to a meaningful life.

Respect cannot be cultivated through lectures alone; it must be demonstrated through conduct. A home in which kindness is practised, affection is expressed, and elders are treated with dignity can help children develop a lasting appreciation for human relationships.

Parents should therefore remember that the greatest legacy they can leave their children is not merely wealth or property, but a strong moral foundation that guides them throughout their lives.

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Review of Dr Nazir Mushtaq's Book "Tinkey"



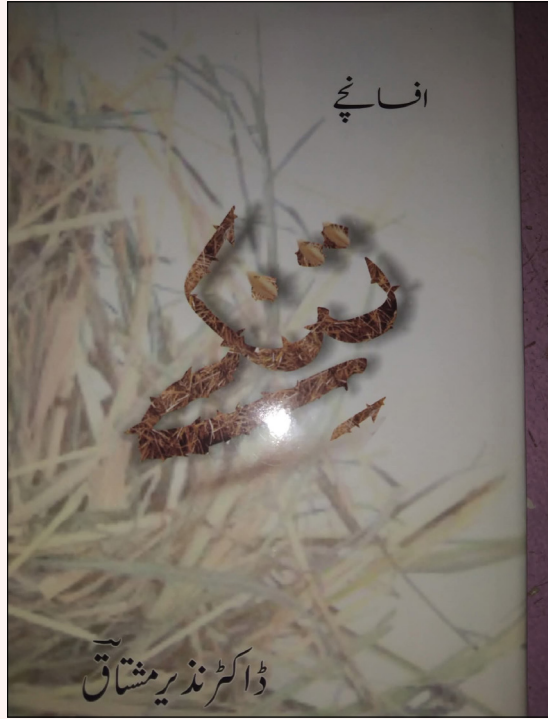
Rayees Ahmad kumar

Dr Nazir Mushtaq is a renowned physician and a distinguished writer of the Valley. He is regarded as one of the long-standing lovers of Urdu language and literature. Though he remains busy attending to his patients at his clinic during the day, whenever he finds some free time, he does not let it go waste. Instead, he gives expression to his ideas in the form of microfictions and afsanchas. He is popular not only among his patients but also among social media users because, whenever he composes a fiction or microfiction, he shares it on Facebook. Within no time, thousands of readers view his writings and respond with their valuable comments. His fictions and microfictions generally carry a message for readers. Most of his writings reflect the social wrongs prevalent in our community and also suggest, directly or indirectly, measures that could help reform the system and eradicate social evils. I have been following Dr Nazir Mushtaq's writings since the days when he used to write columns on health issues, titled Sahati Kamil, in the daily Kashmir Uzma. I was pursuing my graduation during those days. Dr Nazir Mushtaq's love for Urdu language and literature is evident from the fact that even in his seventies, he remains energetic and determined to enrich Urdu literature through his writings. Among the general public and, particularly, among Urdu lovers, Dr Nazir Mushtaq has carved out a prominent place for himself. I am also among Dr Sahib's Facebook friends, and whenever his fictions or microfictions appear before me, I read them with great interest and often respond with my comments because his writings are invariably engaging and thought-provoking. A few months ago, Dr Sahib posted a microfiction titled Khoon (Blood) on Facebook. When I read it and shared it with my better half, she developed such an admiration for Dr Sahib that, since then, she has been reading his fictions with even greater interest and enthusiasm than I

do. Unfortunately, for the past few weeks, I have not been able to see his writings on Facebook. I do not know whether Dr Sahib has blocked me for some unknown reason or whether some

technical issue is preventing his posts from appearing on my feed. I hope that, in the near future, everything will be sorted out and I will once again be able to read his writings regularly. Almost a month ago, Dr Sahib uploaded a Facebook post announcing that he had compiled a book, Tinkey, containing a hundred of his microfictions. My spouse insisted that I procure a copy for her and, from the very day she came to know about the book, she kept asking me to get one. I travelled from Qazigund to Srinagar twice in search of the book. During my first visit, I could not find a copy. I then sent a message to Dr Sahib on Facebook informing him about the unavailability of the book. Fortunately, when I visited the KBD Book Shop for the second time, I succeeded in getting a copy of Tinkey. The book, Tinkey, has been published by GNK Publications, Charar-i-Sharif, Budgam. It contains a hundred microfictions spread over 198 pages. The book has been beautifully designed, and the quality of the paper also deserves appreciation. For Urdu lovers and students of Urdu literature, it is no less than a valuable gift from Dr Nazir Mushtaq. The preface to Tinkey has been written by Noor Shah, the legendary fiction writer of the Valley. Writing about the book, Noor Shah observes that there is a galaxy of accomplished fiction writers in Jammu and Kashmir and that, as far as Dr Nazir Mushtaq is concerned, he occupies a distinctive place among writers of microfiction. His dedication to the genre can also be gauged from the fact that Tinkey represents a significant collection of its kind in the Valley. Dr Nazir Mushtaq has written about the book under the heading Mere

Afsaanche. He writes that the collection of a hundred microfictions is now in the readers' hands. Writing microfiction, he says, is his hobby. Whenever he comes out of his busy



clinical schedule, he enters the literary world and begins writing. He further observes that his microfictions are like his children, and he considers himself their mother. The famous writer, poet and translator Parvez Manooos has also penned some beautiful words about the book. He writes that although Dr Nazir Mushtaq is a medical doctor by profession, he has fallen deeply in love with Urdu language and literature. In his microfictions, readers encounter different colours and shades of life that Dr Sahib has experienced in his day-to-day existence. To express profound ideas in a few words or lines requires considerable skill, and Dr Nazir Mushtaq, according to Manooos, possesses that skill remarkably well. This, he believes, is one of the reasons behind the writer's popularity. Wehshi Syed, Chief Editor of Nigeena International, writes that one needs to be

exceptionally skilled to present a significant idea or thought and condense it into just a page or two. Dr Nazir Mushtaq, he observes, possesses this particular literary virtue in abundance. Dr Riyaz Tawheedi Kashmiri has contributed a four-page summary and analysis of Tinkey towards the end of the book. He observes that in Jammu and Kashmir, a considerable number of writers have achieved prominence despite not being formally trained in language and literature. Among them, he mentions Noor Shah, Wehshi Syed, Mushtaq Mehdi, Deepak Budki, Parvez Manooos, Raja Yousof, Nasir Zameer and Zubair Qureshi, among others. Although Dr Nazir Mushtaq is a physician by profession, he has successfully established himself as a prominent name in the world of Urdu literature. Dr Nazir Mushtaq has dedicated this book to his loving sister Tahira Bano, his better half Dr Raas Masood, Waseem and Yawar, as well as to all his Facebook friends. Tinkey reminds us that all is not well with our society and that our cultural heritage, values and ethos are gradually losing their sheen. Dr Nazir Mushtaq has composed microfictions dealing with almost every aspect of society, although a substantial number of them draw upon his experiences as a medical professional. Among the microfictions in the book that I particularly liked are Nimazi, Bhikari, Zaroorat, Online, Taweez, Alaa, Darr, Masla, Mazdoor, Dandha, Qatil, Paap, Peshgoyi, Maatam, Loug, Doori, Imtihaan, Robert, Saboot, Zaat, Raaz, Samaaj, Madam, Kafan, Fikr, Chour, Namumkin, Baraf, Baap-Beta, Baroosa, Gunah and Naseeb, among others. Tinkey has an attractive appearance and an aesthetically pleasing design. I hope Urdu lovers will appreciate Dr Nazir Mushtaq's effort after reading and studying the book closely. In my view, Urdu literature lovers, particularly those aspiring to write short stories and microfictions in Urdu, would benefit from reading Tinkey. It can provide them with valuable insights into the art of expressing profound thoughts and social realities in a concise yet impactful manner. Lastly, I congratulate Dr Nazir Mushtaq on bringing out this thoughtful and engaging collection of microfictions. Tinkey is a valuable addition to contemporary Urdu literature and deserves the attention of readers, students and aspiring writers alike.

RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR
Writer is a columnist based in Qazigund Kashmir

What Makes IITs Different? Lessons for Indian Universities



Dr. Vijay Garg

India's higher education system stands at a critical crossroads. While the country has made significant progress in expanding access to universities and colleges, concerns about educational quality, research output, employability and innovation continue to challenge its global ambitions. In this context, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) offer valuable lessons for universities seeking to improve academic standards and prepare students for a rapidly changing world.

The distinction of IITs does not rest merely on their prestigious names or competitive entrance examinations. Their reputation has developed through a combination of selective admission, rigorous academic standards,

experienced faculty, research opportunities, institutional autonomy, industry engagement and a culture that encourages problem-solving. Although IITs have their own challenges, several features of their educational approach can inspire meaningful reform across India's higher education system.

A Culture of Academic Excellence
One of the most important features of IITs is their emphasis on academic rigour. Students are expected to understand concepts deeply, apply knowledge to unfamiliar problems and develop independent thinking. Learning is not limited to memorising textbooks or reproducing information in examinations.

Many universities, by contrast, continue to rely heavily on outdated syllabi, lecture-based teaching and examinations that reward memorisation. Such practices may help students obtain degrees but often fail to develop analytical thinking and practical competence.

Universities must redesign their teaching methods to encourage questioning, discussion, experimentation and project-based learning. The objective should be to ensure that students understand not only what to learn but also

how to apply what they have learned.

Quality Faculty and Continuous Development
Teachers are the backbone of every successful educational institution. IITs benefit from faculty members who contribute to teaching, research, academic publications and technological innovation. Strong academic environments also provide opportunities for collaboration and professional growth.

Indian universities need to strengthen faculty recruitment, provide regular professional development and encourage teachers to update their knowledge continuously. Recruitment should be transparent and based on academic merit, teaching ability and research potential. At the same time, faculty performance should not be judged solely by publication counts or administrative responsibilities. Effective teaching, student mentorship, innovative classroom practices and meaningful research deserve equal recognition.

Research Must Become a Priority
A major lesson from leading technical institutions is that universities must be centres of knowledge creation, not merely places where

existing knowledge is transmitted.

Research enables students and teachers to investigate unanswered questions, develop new technologies and contribute to solving national and global problems. However, many institutions struggle with inadequate laboratories, limited research funding, insufficient mentorship and weak links between research and practical needs.

Universities should establish research groups, interdisciplinary laboratories, undergraduate research programmes and partnerships with scientific institutions. Students should be encouraged to participate in research early in their academic journeys.

Research priorities should also reflect India's real challenges, including clean energy, affordable healthcare, agricultural productivity, water conservation, climate change and accessible digital technology.

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The views and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not reflect the editorial policy of Headlines Today at all and in any manner. We assume no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, completeness, or consequences of the views expressed therein....

NSG Has Always Set Up Standards And This One Was One More In This Direction!



By M S Nazki

When you feel that others are lacking and failing ... first assess the skill, style, quality, results, mindset, support, professionalism and spirit with which you yourself play the game

-Showing up begins long before you stand at the start. Prove yourself an exception in a world where people talk more than act. Intent without follow-through is hollow. Disappoint yourself enough times and empty is how you feel. Make yourself proud. Fill yourself up. Show up!

-Climbing mountains may seem easy but it takes thousands of foothills and perseverance to reach to the highest peak!

-Our mind is nothing less than a magnet. If we always think of positivity, we attract and beget more of it. If we always think of problems, we attract and beget nothing but more of it. So, choice is yours

-The National Security Guard (NSG) is hosting the 74th All India Police Aquatics & Cross Country Cluster 2026-27 at NSG Garrison, Manesar. The Opening Ceremony was graced by Brighu Srinivasan, IPS, Director General, NSG, as the Chief Guest on 01 October 2026. Addressing the participants, DG NSG applauded the dedication and efforts of every participating team in reaching this competitive level and motivated all athletes to uphold the spirit of fair play, discipline and sportsmanship.

-Marking a historic milestone in the event's legacy, Synchronised Diving is being introduced for the first time in the history of the All India Police Aquatics Cluster, adding a new dimension to this prestigious sporting event. DG NSG also witnessed the finals, encouraging the athletes and celebrating their sporting excellence. The event brings together 26 teams and 627 participants, including 137 women athletes, reflecting the spirit of unity, inclusivity and sporting excellence among Police Forces across the nation.

-A bit of history of sports:

The history of sports extends back to the Ancient world in 7000 BC. The physical activity that developed into sports had early links with warfare and entertainment.

-The study of the history of sport provides insights into social change and the evolution of sport itself, as sporting activities have often been linked to the development of basic human skills. However, the further one traces back into history, the scarcer the evidence becomes, making it increasingly difficult to support theories about the origins and purposes of sport.

-As far back as the beginnings of sport, it was related to military training. For example, competition was used as a means to determine whether individuals were fit and useful for service. Team sports were used to train and to prove the capability to fight in the military and also to work together as a team (military unit).

-Additional evidence suggests that the sport of boxing was also practiced in ancient Sumer.

-The Epic of Gilgamesh gives one of the first historical records of sport, with Gilgamesh engaging in a form of belt wrestling with Enkidu. The cuneiform tablets recording the tale date to around 2000 BC; however, the historical Gilgamesh is supposed to have lived around 2800 to 2600 BC. The Sumerian king Shulgi (c. 21st century BCE) boasts of his prowess in sport in the Self-praise of Shulgi A, B, and C.

-Monuments to the Pharaohs found at Beni Hasan dating to around 2000 BC indicate that several sports, including wrestling, weightlifting, long jump, swimming, rowing, archery, fishing and athletics, as well as various kinds of ball games, were well-developed and regulated in Ancient Egypt. Other Egyptian sports also included javelin throwing and high jump. An earlier portrayal of figures wrestling was found in the tomb of Khnumhotep and Niankhkhnum in Saqqara dating to around 2400 BC.

-The Minoan art of Bronze Age Crete depicts ritual sporting events - thus a fresco dating to 1500 BC records gymnastics in the form of religious bull-leaping and possibly bullfighting. The origins of Greek sporting festivals may date to funeral games of the Mycenaean period, between 1600 BCE and c. 1100 BC. The Iliad includes extensive descriptions of funeral games held in honor of deceased warriors, such as those held for Patroclus by Achilles. Engaging in sport is described as the occupation of the noble and wealthy, who have no need to do manual labor themselves. In the Odyssey, King Odysseus of Ithaca proves his royal status to King



Alkinoos of the Phaiakes by showing his proficiency in throwing the javelin.

-It was in Greece that sports were first instituted formally, with the first Olympic Games recorded in 776 BC in Olympia, where they were celebrated until 393 AD. These games took place every four years, or Olympiad, which became a unit of time in historical chronologies. Initially a single sprinting event, the Olympics gradually expanded to include several foot races, run in the nude or in armor, boxing, wrestling, pankration, chariot racing, long jump, javelin throw, and discus throw. During the celebration of the games, an Olympic Truce came into effect, allowing athletes to travel from their home polities to the games in safety. The prizes for the victors were wreaths of laurel leaves.

-There are artifacts and structures that suggest the Chinese engaged in sporting activities as early as 2000 BCE. Gymnastics appears to have been a popular sport in China's ancient past.

-For at least 900 years, entire villages had competed with each other in rough, and sometimes violent, ball games in England (Shrovetide football) and Ireland (caid). In comparison, the game of Calcio Fiorentino, in Florence, Italy, was originally reserved for combat sports such as fencing and jousting being popular. The Middle Ages also revealed the importance of owning a horse; common to the sports and amusements of the ruling class was the horse. If someone of the

ruling class did not own a horse, it would represent that they did not have much wealth and leisure (since they would be unable to participate in certain activities like horse racing). Horse racing, in particular, was a favorite of the upper class in Great Britain, with Queen Anne founding the Ascot Racecourse.

-Long summer days provided predictable opportunities for free time, when peasants could engage in athletic activities. Swimming, wrestling, and racing were common among all ages and both genders, while organized ball games of various types can be found in every medieval society and culture. The participation of sports (ball games to be exact) at the time loosened control the ruling class had over the peasants; this is not a rare trend throughout history. By the fourteenth century no fewer than thirty bans have been placed by English kings on ball games such as football, handball, and hurling.

-The Middle Ages were not immediately devoid of sports from the Roman Empire after it collapsed. Gladiatorial bouts and chariot racing continued sporadically and intermittently well into the Middle Ages. They would eventually fade away and be replaced by local activities. Hawking, however, was the particular reserve of emperors and kings.

This sport would be one of the few sports continued in the Middle Ages; Frederick II, Holy Roman Emperor may have played a critical role in its persistence as he was an avid hawk who authored the first comprehensive

book on falconry. Furthermore, kings may have followed the example of falconry as to mimic the status of an emperor.

-The traditional team sports are seen as springing primarily from Britain, and subsequently exported across the vast British Empire. European colonialism helped spread particular games around the world, especially cricket (not directly related to baseball), football of various sorts, bowling in a number of forms, cue sports (like snooker, carom billiards, and pool), hockey and its derivatives, equestrian, tennis, and many winter sports. The originally European-dominated modern Olympic Games generally also ensured standardization in particularly European, especially British, directions when rules for similar games around the world were merged.

-Regardless of game origins, the Industrial Revolution and mass production brought increased leisure which allowed more time to engage in playing or observing (and gambling upon) spectator sports, as well as less elitism in and greater accessibility of sports of many kinds. With the advent of mass media and global communication, professionalism became prevalent in sports, and this furthered sports popularity in general.

-With the increasing values placed on those who won also came the increased desire to cheat. Some of the most common ways of cheating today involve the use of performance-enhancing drugs such as steroids. The use of these drugs has always been frowned upon but in recent history there have also been agencies set up to monitor professional athletes and ensure fair play in the sport.

-Formal competitive aquatic events in India date back to the early 20th century, culminating in the first National Swimming Championship held in Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1944.

Before this, the country's early formal swimming organization—the Calcutta-based National Swimming Association (NSA)—had earned affiliation with the international governing body (then FINA) as early as 1932–1933.

Key milestones in the history of Indian aquatic events include:

- First International Selection (1928): India sent its first swimmers to the international stage for the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games.
- First National Championship (1944): The inaugural National Swimming Championship took place in Bombay, organized prior to the standard consolidation of the sport's domestic federations.

Gh Ali Majboor

A Legendary Name in Kashmiri Bhand Pather



By GULFAM BARJI
Harwan, Srinagar

Kashmir has a rich cultural heritage, enriched by generations of artists who have preserved its traditions through music, poetry, dance and theatre. Among these distinguished personalities, Ghulam Ali Majboor (1952–2009) holds a special place as a legendary Mahagunn of Kashmiri Bhand Pather. An accomplished performer, satirist, playwright and mentor, he devoted his life to preserving and promoting one of the Valley's most distinctive forms of traditional folk theatre.

Known for his sharp wit, powerful performances and exceptional understanding of human nature, Majboor possessed the rare ability to transform ordinary experiences into meaningful theatrical expressions. Through humour, satire and compelling storytelling, he portrayed the social realities of Kashmiri society, entertaining audiences while encouraging them to reflect on prevailing social issues.

Bhand Pather is an integral part of Kashmir's indigenous cultural identity. Combining drama, music, humour and satire, this traditional folk theatre has historically served as a medium of entertainment as well as social awareness.

Its performers have used the stage to highlight social inequalities, question established practices and express the concerns of ordinary people. Artists like Ghulam Ali Majboor played an important role in sustaining this vibrant tradition.

Majboor's artistic brilliance lay in his ability to connect with audiences through authentic characters, lively dialogue and

insightful satire. His performances reflected the emotions, struggles and aspirations of the people, making his art deeply relatable. He understood that folk theatre was not merely a source of amusement but also a powerful medium for communicating ideas and preserving collective memory.

Beyond his achievements as a performer, Majboor made his mark as a creative artist and playwright. His contribution demonstrated the importance of strong scripts, original ideas and meaningful storytelling in keeping traditional theatre relevant. Through his artistic vision, he helped establish the enduring value of Bhand Pather as a cultural expression



rooted in the history, language and social experiences of Kashmir.

One of the most remarkable aspects of his legacy was his commitment to the folk theatre tradition.

The survival of traditional performing arts depends on artists who dedicate themselves to their craft and inspire others to follow the same path. Majboor's journey remains a reminder that the preservation of cultural heritage requires passion, perseverance and a deep sense of responsibility towards one's artistic roots.

His demise in 2009 was a significant loss to the cultural and theatrical landscape of Kashmir. However, the passage of time has not diminished the importance of his

contribution. Seventeen years after his passing, his name continues to evoke respect and affection among those who value the Valley's traditional performing arts.

Today, when modern forms of entertainment are rapidly transforming cultural preferences, the preservation of indigenous art forms has become increasingly important. Traditional theatre faces several challenges, including changing audience interests, limited opportunities for performers and the need to document the artistic knowledge of veteran practitioners. Remembering artists like Majboor provides an opportunity to renew public interest in these valuable cultural traditions. His legacy deserves wider recognition through cultural festivals, research publications, theatrical tributes and initiatives that introduce younger generations to the history and significance of Bhand Pather. Documenting the lives and contributions of veteran folk artists would also help preserve their artistic experiences for future generations.

Ghulam Ali Majboor was not merely a performer on the stage; he represented a living tradition that connected Kashmir's cultural past with its present. His life and work remind us that folk theatre is an essential part of a community's identity, carrying within it the language, humour, wisdom and collective experiences of its people.

Though he is no longer among us, his artistic legacy continues to occupy a cherished place in Kashmir's cultural memory. His contribution to Bhand Pather deserves to be remembered with dignity, while his dedication to folk theatre should inspire young artists to value and preserve their indigenous traditions.

Ghulam Ali Majboor will always be remembered as one of the memorable names associated with Kashmiri folk theatre, whose artistic legacy continues to inspire respect and admiration.

May Allah grant him the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous. Ameen.

The Gift That Goes Beyond Giving



BY-MOOL RAJ

What if a gift could keep giving? Could it have a second life, an afterlife, long after the wrapping paper has been discarded?

I found an interesting answer at the PM Mementos E-Auction exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art recently. The gifts and mementos received by Prime Minister Narendra Modi include paintings, sculptures,



handicrafts, religious objects and memorabilia from across India. But what interested me was not simply what they were, but what happens to them next.

They are documented, displayed and auctioned. The proceeds go towards Namami Gange. This year, 1,498 mementos have been put up for auction. Previous editions have raised more than ₹50 crore. "Apne uphaaron ka bhi upyog," Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat told me. Even our gifts can be put to use. "The idea is to create value for a very special cause," he said, describing the Ganga as not merely a river but "jeevan ka aadhar", the basis of life for millions. There is something powerful in that journey. An object begins as a gift, acquires another layer of meaning through its recipient, finds another owner and ultimately creates value for an entirely unrelated cause.

Standing there at the beginning of the festive season, I wondered whether there was a larger lesson here. Diwali gifting has

increasingly become an industry of excess. Bigger hampers, elaborate packaging, imported chocolates, candles, crockery and dry fruits move from office to home and often from one home to another.

We spend enormous energy deciding what to give and remarkably little wondering what happens to it afterwards.

Why should the life of a gift end with its first recipient? Pass it on. Auction it. Donate it. Repurpose it. If something sitting unopened in my cupboard can bring pleasure or value to somebody else, why should we feel embarrassed about giving it another life?

Better still, think about its consequence before buying it. Buy a handwoven textile and your gift supports a weaving tradition. Choose something made by an artisan and

your festive budget becomes somebody's livelihood. Gift a book and it may begin a conversation. Give an experience and there may be no packaging to discard. Donate in someone's name and a person who already has everything doesn't receive yet another thing.

A good gift need not be expensive. It should have meaning, utility or consequence. We talk a great deal about the circular economy in the context of industry. Perhaps we need a circular economy of generosity too.

This Diwali, instead of only asking, "What should I give?", ask another question: "What good can my gift do after I have given it?" Because sometimes the most valuable gift is the one whose value doesn't end when it changes hands.

Author Is A Regular Columnist
And Freelance Writer

Health Concerns in Kashmir During Winter

Stay Healthy, Stay Happy



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

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

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

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

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

Remember, a healthy body leads to a happy life.

Importance of Regular Exercise

Healthy People, Healthy Nation

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

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

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

Importance of a Home Gym

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

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

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

The Cell: A Basic Unit of Life

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

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

Different parts of a cell have different functions:

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

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

Ribosomes: Help make proteins.

Lysosomes: Break down waste materials inside cells.

Vacuoles: Store water, nutrients, and waste materials.

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

Cytoskeleton: Gives shape and support to the cell.

Centrioles: Help in cell division in animal cells.

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

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

Atoms: The Tiny Building Blocks of Matter

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

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

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

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

We have been blessed with a wonderful mind that allows us to think, learn, and discover new things. We should use this ability for the betterment of society.

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

improve people's lives.

Through this article, I want to remind readers of the blessings of Almighty Allah and the importance of respecting every living creature. No country, person, or nation should consider itself superior to everyone else. Every human being has value, and we should treat others with kindness and respect.

Health Is More Important Than Wealth

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

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

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

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

The Importance of Physical Work

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

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

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

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

What Is a Home Gym?



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

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

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

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

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

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

My Experience with Gym Exercise

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

During this journey, I met many kind and helpful people, including teachers, businesspeople, sportspersons, and government employees. They encouraged me and helped me stay motivated.

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

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

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

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

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

How to Start a Home Gym

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Importance of Gyms in Schools and Colleges

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

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

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

Such facilities can encourage students to take part in healthy activities, reduce stress, and develop discipline.

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

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

Keeping Young People Away from Harmful Habits

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

This is a serious concern for families and society. We should work together to protect our young generation

and guide them towards a better future.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Conclusion: Exercise for a Better Life

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alhamdulillah for the blessings of Almighty Allah.

Healthy People, Healthy Nation.

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti
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Property cards distributed among rural household owners under SVAMITVA in Kulgam

DC emphasises speedy completion of Farmer IDs and revenue-related work

HT News Network

KULGAM, OCTOBER 15: A programme on the SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) initiative was organised at the Conference Hall of the Mini-Secretariat, Kulgam, to familiarise participants with its objectives and the process of preparing property records of Abad e Deh through drone-based surveys.

During the programme, various aspects of SVAMITVA were highlighted, including drone-based mapping of inhabited rural areas, preparation and rectification of village maps, verification of property records and issuance of property cards to property owners. Issues encountered during the preparation of maps and ownership records, including disputes among co-sharers, discrepancies in records and matters related to alienation and mortgage, were also discussed.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, informed that work under SVAMITVA has been completed in 178 villages of the district, while the remaining villages are at different stages



of the process.

The DC appreciated the revenue team for starting the assigned work within a short time and stressed the need to expedite the remaining activities to ensure timely completion.

As part of the SVAMITVA scheme, property cards were distributed among owners from different tehsils of Kulgam district in the presence of the concerned Tehsildars.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri emphasised

the need to complete the pending work in a time bound manner.

The primary objective of the SVAMITVA scheme is to provide a legal "Record of Rights" and property cards to rural household owners by mapping residential land parcels (Abad e Deh) using modern drone technology.

Following the conclusion of the programme, the DC chaired a review meeting on Farmer ID generation and Agristack implementation with the concerned revenue officers and field

functionaries to assess progress and address issues hindering the process.

The DC directed the revenue functionaries to reach out to farmers and facilitate the generation of their IDs at the earliest and stressed the need to contact migrated families, wherever required, and resolve related issues to ensure that eligible farmers are not left out.

The meeting also reviewed the status of the bucketing of villages with work completed in 208 villages, and discussed issues requiring resolution for the timely generation of Farmer IDs under Agristack.

The DC further directed the concerned officials to expedite pending mutations, address discrepancies in revenue records and ensure that Patwar Khanas remain functional and accessible to the public for the convenient delivery of revenue services.

The programme and subsequent review meeting were attended by Vigar Ahmad Giri, ADC Kulgam, Dr. Najma A Salam, IAS Probationer, Reyaz Ahmad Shah, ACR Kulgam, Bashir-ul-Hassan, SDM D.H Pora, all Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars and Patwaris of the district, and the concerned landowners.

DDC Pulwama reviews implementation of SWM Rules 2026 in District

Emphasises source segregation, D2D collection and scientific waste management



HT News Network

PULWAMA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026 across the district.

A detailed presentation on the progress and status of implementation was presented before the Chair, covering SWM assets, capacity building, IEC activities, monitoring and reporting, and door-to-door (D2D) waste collection.

The meeting was informed that four Plastic Waste Management Units and 166 segregation sheds have been constructed across the district, while 676 community compost pits have been established. Under capacity building, 19 training sessions covering 570 participants have been conducted.

Under IEC activities, 26 awareness camps have been organised, with over 1,400 pamphlets distributed while extensive wall writings and flexes have been placed across the district.

The chair also reviewed D2D waste collection

across the district. It was further informed that seven Gram Panchayats have adopted two-stream source segregation, while further efforts are required to expand segregation and improve collection and processing of waste.

The DDC stressed the need for a coordinated and sustained approach towards effective implementation of the SWM Rules, with emphasis on source segregation, strengthening D2D collection, operationalisation of SWM assets, scientific waste processing and disposal, and intensified awareness activities.

He directed the concerned EOs of Municipal Councils/Committees and BDOs to ensure timely notification and proper management of all identified dumping/SWM sites. Where such sites have not yet been established, suitable land shall be identified by the concerned ACR/Tehsildar in consultation with the respective EO/BDO.

He further directed that all segregation sheds be properly covered and maintained and that source segregation be strictly enforced, with no re-mixing of waste during collection and transportation.

Crackdown on Illegal Mining: Kulgam Police Seize 10 Vehicles, Register Multiple FIRs

Farooq Rather

KULGAM : OCTOBER 15, 2026 Intensifying its drive against illegal mining, Kulgam Police seized 10 vehicles, including 07 tractors, 02 tippers and 01 dumper, from different areas falling under Police Stations Kulgam, Qazigund and DH Pora, and Police Post Mirbazar.

The vehicles were found involved in the illegal extraction and transportation of minerals without valid authorization and in violation of prescribed norms. Accordingly, the

vehicles were seized and multiple FIRs registered under relevant provisions of law. Further investigation has been initiated.

Kulgam Police reiterated its commitment to protecting natural resources and taking strict legal action against those

involved in illegal mining. The general public has been urged to cooperate with the police and report such unlawful activities, assuring that the identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that my son's name has been wrongly mentioned as Usmaan Ashraf instead of Mohammad Usmaan Sheikh on his Aadhaar Card. The name is to be corrected. If anyone has any objection regarding this correction, they may submit their objection at the address given below within seven days of the publication of this notice. No objection will be accepted after the expiry of seven days.

Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh
Father Of Mohammad Usmaan Sheikh
R/o Allapora, Wagoora
Contact No.: 9797907275

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as ATEEQA BEGUM W/O GHULAM NABI BHAT on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No .. 9798 3864 0065 while my correct name is ATIQA BEGUM W/O GHULAM NABI BHAT which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...ATIQA BEGUM
W/O....GHULAM NABI BHAT
R/O..BURZAWACHAN KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Son' name has been wrongly mentioned as ABDUL HADI S/O MOHAMMAD ALTAF TELI in his date of Birth certificate issued by SDH kreeri bearing Registration No .B-202601004310000018 While his correct name is ABDUL MANNAN TELI which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of SDH/BMO office KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....MOHAMMAD ALTAF TELI
F/O ...ABDUL MANNAN TELI
R/O ...SHEIKHPORA KREERI
Tehsil...KREERI
DISTT ...BARAMULLA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

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

Corrigendum

Subject :-
Balance work of Auditorium Building at Hr. Sec. School Kunzer.
Ref :-
This office e-NIT No. 92/R&B/Tangmarg of 2026-27 issued vide this office endorsement No. Divn/Tang/6249-60 Dated: 12-10-2026.
Kindly read description for Item No. 12 mentioned in BOQ as:-
Providing hoisting and fixing trusses/purlins /rafters/posts/ post-plates or like components including cost of screws etc. complete (Imported KD wood)
Instead of:-
Providing hoisting and fixing trusses/purlins /rafters/posts/ post-plates or like components including cost of screws etc. complete First class Poplar wood
All other terms & conditions will remain same as already advertised.
No: R&B/Divn/Tang/6372-78
Dated: 15-10-2026

Sd/-Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division Tangmarg

DIPK-6786/26 Date: Oct 15 2026

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Mechanical and Hospitals Division Handwara

E-mail, id, xenmhd-handwara@jk.gov.in

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender (short-term)

e-NIT No:	MHDDH/TS/2026-27/e-NIT/67
Date:	14 /10/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online **e-bids in Two Cover system** on items wise basis from Experienced registered/reputed firms or authorized dealer's/workshop holders for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Buc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit(In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Necessary repair/ maintenance works to Snow Cutter Rolba 1500 and Chain Dozers BD-50 stationed at snow clearance control room, Dawar Gurez, pertaining to Mechanical and Hospitals Division, Handwara.	2.585	200.00	5200	10 days	Accorded	Accorded

- Downloading of Bids:** The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from **15-10-2026 (1600hrs)** and can be downloaded from **15-10-2026 (1800hrs)**
- Submission** of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from **16-10-2026 (10:00hrs)** to **22/10/2026 (1400hrs)** in two covers.
- Opening of Bids:** The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on **22/10/2026 (1600hrs)** in the Office of the **Executive Engineer**, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.
- The bidders are required to submit their offers in **two (02)** covers.
- The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II)

No: - MHDDH/TS/2382-89
Dated:-14/10/2026

DIPK-6785/26

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara

Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

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

Subject:
Restriction on allotment of Snow Clearance Stages to individual bidders.
Ref:-

This office NIT No. 90/R&B/Tangmarg of 2026-27 issued vide this office endorsement No. 6192-73 Dated:-10-10-2026.

It is hereby clarified that, during the evaluation of bids for snow clearance stages, a maximum of three (03) stages shall be allotted to any single bidder.

In case a bidder participates in more than three stages, the bids shall be evaluated and awarded in the serial order of the stages as specified in the NIT. If the bidder is found to be LJ in three stages, the bid of the said bidder for all other subsequent stages shall be treated as non-responsive, and the next eligible bidder shall be considered in accordance with the prescribed tendering procedure.

a) (Each contractor shall be eligible to participate in a maximum of three (03) snow stage contracts only. If a contractor participate in more than three snow stage contracts, all bias submitted in excess of the prescribed limit shall be treated as non-responsive).

Instead of :-

a) (Each contractor shall be illegible to participate in a maximum of two snow stage contracts only. If a contractor participate in more than two snow stage contracts, all bids submitted in excess of the prescribed limit shall be treated as non-responsive.

All other terms & conditions will remain same as already advertised.

No: R&B/Divn/Tang.6361-68

Dated: 15-10-2026

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Tangmarg.

DIPK-6775/26

Date: Oct 15 2026

Tennis Ball Cricket in Jammu, Badminton and Gymnastics in Samba Highlight Growing Youth Participation in Sports

HT Sports News

Sporting activities continued across Jammu district, with tennis ball cricket, badminton and gymnastics competitions providing young athletes with opportunities to showcase their talent, gain competitive exposure and participate in organised sports.

The District Jammu Tennis Ball Cricket Championship commenced at M.A. Stadium, Jammu, with participation from schools and clubs across the district. Organised by the District Jammu Tennis Ball Cricket Association under the aegis of the J&K Tennis Ball Cricket Association and recognised by the J&K Sports Council, the two-day championship features four categories: Under-12, Under-14, Under-17 and Senior. The competition aims to identify emerging talent and encourage wider participation in cricket across age groups.

Meanwhile, under the My Youth My Pride initiative of the J&K Sports Council, special summer badminton activities were conducted at the Sports Stadium, Samba, on October 12. More than 70 boys and girls participated in the competition, while over 180 spectators witnessed the matches. The



activity provided young shuttlers with a platform to demonstrate their skills and gain valuable competitive experience.

In another sporting activity at Samba, the J&K Gymnastics Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council conducted a district-level gymnastics competition at the Indoor Complex, witnessing participation of around 50 boys and girls. Medals and certificates were distributed to the participants, recognising their performances and encouraging them to pursue the sport further.

The competitions reflect the continued efforts to strengthen grassroots sports and create opportunities for young athletes through district-level championships, special activities and the effective utilisation of available sports infrastructure.

Through initiatives such as My Youth My Pride and support for organised sporting competitions, the J&K Sports Council continues to encourage youth participation, facilitate talent identification and extend sports development opportunities across districts.

These efforts aim to nurture emerging talent, promote physical fitness and discipline, and provide young athletes with pathways to progress from local competitions to higher-level sporting platforms.

Youth League U-18: Downtown Heroes FC Beat SCFA 2-0 in Final Match at TRC Turf Ground

HT Sports News

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 15: Downtown Heroes FC defeated SCFA 2-0 in the final match of the Youth League U-18, played at the TRC Turf Ground, Srinagar, on Thursday.

Organised under the aegis of the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, the match showcased the talent and competitive spirit of young footballers from both sides.

The Youth League U-18 provided emerging footballers with a platform to demonstrate their abilities, gain valuable match experience, and develop their technical skills, teamwork, and competitive spirit. The competition also contributed to promoting grassroots



football and nurturing young sporting talent across the region.

Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, Tazayun Mukhtar, congratulated Downtown Heroes FC on their victory and appreciated SCFA for putting up a competitive fight. She

also commended both teams for their efforts and sporting spirit.

The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council remains committed to promoting football at the grassroots level and creating opportunities for young athletes to hone their skills and progress in the sport.

KMBA Felicitates Winners of Visually Impaired Cross-Country Race

HT Sports News

SRINAGAR The Kashmir Mountain Biking Association (KMBA) organised a felicitation ceremony to honour the winners of the Visually Impaired Cross-Country Race, which was held last month.

Speaking on the occasion, KMBA President Mr Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat expressed his gratitude to everyone who contributed to the successful organisation of the race and felicitation ceremony. He also thanked Ms Bilqiss Mir for sponsoring the entire event.



The ceremony was attended by Mr Faheem Ali, Retired SSP, J&K Police; Mr Mir Rasheek, SSP and Commandant of the 11th Battalion, J&K Security; Mr Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, President of KMBA; Ms Bilqiss Mir, Water Sports Expert; and Riyaz Wani, President of JK MBA, along with other dignitaries and members.

The event recognised the achievements, courage, determination, and sporting spirit of visually impaired athletes. The initiative reflects KMBA's commitment to promoting inclusive sports and providing opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in sporting activities.

KMBA also extended special thanks to the owner of Hotel Snowland for his valuable support and hospitality.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms Bilqiss Mir said that she was working with the Paralympic Committee and Special Olympics to support the development of Kashmir-based para-athletes and athletes with special needs in different sports, enabling them to participate in national-level events.

The association reaffirmed its commitment to encouraging sports participation, promoting inclusivity, and creating more opportunities for athletes of all abilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

Fourth edition of IIS Sangai Cup to be held in Imphal from Oct 16-18

United News Of India

IMPHAL, OCT 15 :The fourth edition of the IIS Sangai Cup, jointly organised by the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) and the Manipur Judo Association (MJA), will be held from October 16

to 18 at the Sports Authority of India New Multipurpose Hall, Takyelpat, Imphal.

The three-day tournament will also serve as the state selection trials for the Manipur judo team ahead of the upcoming National Judo Championships across the Sub-Junior, Cadet, Junior and Senior categories.

The previous edition of the tournament witnessed participation from over 500 judokas across various age categories, highlighting the growing interest in the sport and the depth of emerging talent in the region.

Over the years, the IIS Sangai Cup has developed into an important competitive platform for young judokas in Manipur, offering them an opportunity to test themselves against their peers and earn a place in the state team. The tournament also reflects the continued efforts of IIS and MJA to strengthen the grassroots judo ecosystem in the state.

Indian Hawks Bag 23 Medals at Jammu District Roller Skating Championship

HT Sports News

JAMMU: Indian Hawks Sports Academy delivered an impressive performance at the District Roller Skating Championship, Jammu 2026, clinching 23 medals, while nine skaters emerged as Champions in their respective age categories.

The academy's skaters showcased exceptional speed, skill and competitive spirit. Adyansh, Haneet, Tabish and Saanvi each secured two gold medals, while Tamanna, Nidhaan and Rudra won one gold medal each. Viraj bagged one gold and one bronze, while Udhay clinched one gold and one silver medal.

In the silver medal category, Saransh and Adwait each won two silver medals, while Radhika and Samarjot secured one silver medal apiece. Ayaan contributed two bronze medals to the academy's overall tally.

Chief Patron Ashok Gandotra, Retired Chief Engineer, congratulated the medal winners and appreciated their dedication, discipline and hard work. He also commended the efforts of

the coaches and parents for their valuable contribution to the skaters' development.

Gandotra encouraged the young athletes to maintain their focus, continue working hard



and aim for greater achievements at upcoming competitions.

The performance reflects Indian Hawks Sports Academy's continued commitment to nurturing young skating talent and strengthening the sporting culture in Jammu and Kashmir. The academy remains focused on preparing its athletes for higher-level competitions and future national-level success.

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