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16TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION
HEADLINES
TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



P:08
Arshdeep, Bhuvneshwar in contention as India mull bowling combination for WI decider

ACB Registers Case Against Mining Officials, Private Persons Over Alleged Illegal Mining

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 15: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau has registered a case against mining officials and private persons over allegations of illegal extraction and transportation of minor minerals, overcharging and manipulation of electronic challans. According to the ACB, FIR No. 09/2026 has been registered at Police Station ACB Udhampur against Assistant Mining Engineer Rajeev Jammu, District Mining Officer Reasi Rameshwar Sangra, Swaran Singh Rathore and other private persons under relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and other applicable laws. The allegations include mining beyond permissible limits, operations after lease expiry, charging rates above government

MORE ON P 02

Amit Shah Targets Mann Government Over Punjab's Law and Order; MHA to Seek Report on Two Incidents

Home Minister cites murder of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota and alleged suicide of a father in Dirba; demands accountability and action against drug networks

HT NEWS DESK / UNI

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday criticised the Bhagwant Mann-led Aam Aadmi Party government over the law and order situation in Punjab, citing the murder of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota in Mansa and the alleged suicide of a father in Dirba. Shah said the Union Home Ministry would seek the state government's response on both incidents, alleging that drug trafficking, gangsterism and organised crime posed serious challenges to public safety. He called for an impartial investigation into allegations of political patronage and decisive action against criminal networks, while the Punjab government's response to his latest remarks was not immediately available. The allegations remain unproven.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday criticised the Bhagwant Mann-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government over Punjab's law and order situation, citing



the murder of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota in Mansa and the alleged suicide of a father in Dirba.

He also announced that the union Home Ministry would seek a response from the state government on both

incidents. In a social media post, Shah accused the Mann government of failing to curb drug-related activities, gangsterism and organised crime, raising questions about accountability for public safety in the state. "Punjab is grappling today with the rising threats of drugs, gangsterism, and organized crime. The biggest question before the Bhagwant Mann government is: ultimately, who will bear the responsibility for the safety of Punjab's people?" Shah said, according to an English translation of his post. Referring to the two incidents, Shah said the death of a father who allegedly consumed poison under pressure in Dirba and the broad-daylight murder of Jhota, who had raised his voice against drug trafficking, had raised serious questions about the state's law and order situation. He said Jhota's father had levelled grave allegations against the AAP government and one

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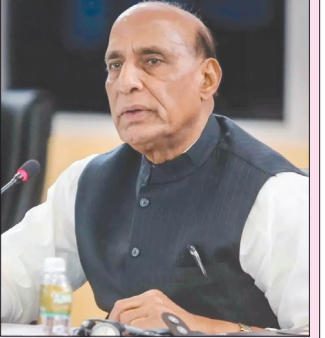
Rajnath Singh Accuses Congress of Pursuing 'Bangladesh Model for Power Change

Defence Minister alleges attempts to weaken democratic institutions through protests over CEC Gyanesh Kumar and electoral roll revision; Congress cites transparency and democratic rights

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 16: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday accused the Congress of attempting to destabilise the country and change the government through violence, alleging that its opposition to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was aimed at undermining democratic institutions. Addressing a press conference, Singh referred to the restructuring of the Election Commission in 1993 and alleged political interference in its functioning during Congress rule. He maintained that the opposition had the right to protest but not to resort to violence, while targeting Rahul Gandhi over what he described as the

politics of disruption. The Congress has maintained that its opposition to the SIR exercise



concerns democratic rights and transparency in elections.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday accused the Congress of seeking to destabilise the country and bring about a change of government through violence,

MORE ON P 02

CS Dulloo Reviews Comprehensive Traffic Management Plan for Jammu, Srinagar

Directs departments to improve road safety, regulate parking, strengthen public transport and ensure timely treatment for accident victims



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Friday reviewed a multi-pronged traffic management plan for Jammu and Srinagar, directing departments to strengthen road safety, ease congestion and improve urban mobility through coordinated interventions. The meeting assessed implementation of the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety recommendations, including identification of accident-prone locations, deployment of traffic personnel, safety audits of heavy passenger vehicles, particularly school buses, expansion of organised parking and upgrading the Integrated Traffic Management

System. Dulloo also stressed better emergency response under the PM-RAHAT scheme, improved public transport and safer road infrastructure. Officials reviewed ongoing road-widening projects, electric-vehicle charging facilities, vending zones and technology-enabled parking management. The administration was directed to ensure effective enforcement and coordinated action to make urban travel safer and more convenient.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of the Multi-Disciplinary Committee (MDC) on Traffic Management to review the implementation of a comprehensive action plan aimed at easing

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Waqf Board Shrine Renovation Projects in Jammu Near Completion : Darakhshan Andrabi

Chairperson inspects construction at Talab Khatika, Gumat and Peer Baba

Satwari; directs officials to maintain quality and meet deadlines

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, OCTOBER 16: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Friday said several mosque and shrine renovation projects in Jammu were nearing completion during an inspection of ongoing works at Talab Khatika, Gumat and Peer Baba Satwari. She reviewed the first-floor construction of the Grand Mosque at Talab Khatika, the new construction at the Ziyarat of Hazrat Roshan Shah (RA) and reconstruction work at the shrine of Peer Baba Budan Ali Shah (RA) in Satwari. Andrabi directed engineering officials to maintain construction standards and complete the projects within the stipulated timelines. She said the initiatives aimed to revive centres of spirituality, harmony and peace while preserving the historical and spiritual



significance of religious institutions and improving facilities for devotees.

Several mosque and shrine renovation projects undertaken by the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board in Jammu are nearing completion, Board Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi said on Friday.

Andrabi inspected ongoing construction works at Talab Khatika, Gumat and Peer Baba Satwari, reviewing their progress and expected completion timelines.

During the visit, she assessed the first-floor construction of the Grand Mosque at Talab Khatika and the new construction project at the Ziyarat of Hazrat Roshan Shah (RA). She also inspected the reconstruction work at the shrine of Peer Baba Budan Ali Shah (RA) in Satwari and

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Karra Seeks Time-Bound Probe into Alleged IAS Officer's Misconduct During Mission YUVA Meeting

Congress chief urges LG Manoj Sinha to examine complete recording, ensure accountability and protect woman officer from possible victimisation

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hameed Karra on Friday urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to order a fair, time-bound inquiry into allegations of misconduct by a senior IAS officer towards woman colleague Beenish Wani during a Mission YUVA review meeting on October 14. In a letter to the Lieutenant Governor, Karra referred to a video circulating on social media and alleged that the officer had used inappropriate language and reportedly directed action against Wani. He also called for scrutiny of reported remarks concerning the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission, stressing the importance of protecting the credibility of constitutional institutions. Karra sought examination of the complete

meeting recording, appropriate action if the allegations were established and safeguards against any retaliatory action against the woman officer.): Jammu



and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra on Friday urged

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2.7 lakh students to appear in BOSE exams

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 16 : Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education

(BOSE) Friday said at least 2,70,000 students are all set to appear in upcoming board exams of 10th, 11th and 12th standard.

Addressing a press conference, JKBOSE Chairman, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said

the examination of 10th class is commencing on Monday, followed by 12th standard from 21st October, and 11th standard from October-29.

"In total, we have 2,70,000 students enrolled for exams in all three classes. There are 10 districts of the Kashmir region, plus 6 districts

of winter zone areas of Jammu division," he said.

He said that the Board has setup 2402 exam centres for all the three classes. "We have appointed the staff including superintendents, deputy

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HT BOTTOM NEWS

TIME BOUND PROBE.... J&K Govt Orders 15-Day Probe Into IAS Officer's Alleged Misconduct
Social Media Video Sparks Outrage Over Alleged Abusive Language Against JKAS Officer ; JKAS Association, J&K JAC Protest, CM Writes to Chief Secretary

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCT 16: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has ordered a 15-day time bound inquiry into allegations of misconduct against senior IAS officer Kumar Rajeev Ranjan following a controversy triggered by a video circulating on social media that purportedly shows him using abusive language towards JKAS Officer Beenish Wani during a review meeting related to the Mission YUVA initiative.

The government has appointed IAS officer Mandeep Kaur as the Inquiry Officer to examine the circumstances surrounding the reported incident and submit her findings within 15 days. The controversy has triggered widespread concern among civil servants and government employees, with several organisations demanding



accountability and respect for women officers in the administration.

The JKAS Association had earlier called for a one-day pen-down strike to protest against the alleged behaviour of the senior IAS officer. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

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NCW Seeks J&K Govt Report Within 7 Days Over Alleged Abuse of Woman JKAS Officer

HT NEWS DESK / GNS

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16: The National Commission for Women (NCW) has taken suo motu cognizance of a viral video allegedly showing senior IAS officer Kumar Rajeev Ranjan verbally abusing, humiliating and threatening Beenish Wani, an Assistant Director of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS), during an official review meeting. NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar has written to the J&K Chief Secretary seeking verification of the video, an impartial inquiry and appropriate disciplinary and legal action if the allegations are established. The Commission has also called for safeguards against workplace harassment, victimisation and professional retaliation, besides protection and support for the woman officer. It has

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Prabhari Officer reviews TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan in J&K

Emphasizes stronger coordination between UT Government and MoH&FW



HT News Network

SRINAGAR OCTOBER 16 : State Prabhari Officer for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Joint Secretary of DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Sumeet Kumar Jarangal , today virtually chaired a high-level review meeting to evaluate the implementation of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) in the UT of J&K.

The comprehensive review was attended by Mission Director NHMJ&K, Athar Amir Shafi Ul Khan, along with the Director Health Services of Jammu and Kashmir, State Tuberculosis Officers (STOs), Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), District Tuberculosis Officers (DTOs) and Programme Management Unit NHM J&K.

Presenting the progress of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme across the Union Territory, Mission Director NHMJ&K, highlighted the steady advancements

made in grassroots screening, expansion of diagnostic networks, and enhanced tracking through the Ni-kshay portal. He underscored that the health administration is fully dedicated to optimizing field operations, strengthening differentiated TB care, and expanding nutritional support networks to drive down morbidity and mortality.

During the deliberations, the Prabhari Officer emphasized the crucial need to act as an effective bridge between the UT Government and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), Government of India, to proactively address and fulfill any program deficiencies. He highlighted that achieving a tuberculosis-free Jammu & Kashmir requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, driven by robust community participation (Jan Bhagidari), intensified screening in high-risk villages, and strengthened diagnostic infrastructure.

The meeting thoroughly reviewed key performance indicators, including population mapping, X-ray examination coverage in high-risk areas, utilization of diagnostic testing, prompt disbursement of nutritional support under the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (DBT), and the active involvement of Ni-kshay Mitras and MY Bharat volunteers. The chair urged all district units to bridge execution gaps and work with renewed vigor to meet the national targets for TB elimination.

MP Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana chairs Public Darbar at Town Hall Kupwara

HT News Network

KUPWARA OCTOBER 16: Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana, today visited Kupwara district and chaired a public darbar at Town Hall Kupwara to review



developmental activities, assess the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and address public grievances. The darbar was attended by Ex-MLC Syed Rafiq Shah, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara Ghulam Rasool, Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Superintending Engineer (SE), Roads and Buildings (R&B), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP), other concerned district officers, and prominent citizens of Kupwara

district.

During the interaction, the MP conducted a sector-wise review of various departments, focusing on the progress of developmental works, implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and other issues concerning public welfare.

Representatives and members of the public from different constituencies raised several issues related to electricity, drinking water, road connectivity, transport, ration distribution, telecommunications, forest-related matters and other essential services. He gave a patient hearing to the grievances and took up several issues on the spot, directing the concerned officers to take prompt and necessary action for their early redressal. Emphasising the importance of responsive and accountable governance, Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana directed the officers to maintain close coordination with the public, conduct regular field visits and ensure that the genuine grievances of people are addressed in a time-bound manner. He stressed that the benefits of government schemes must reach the intended beneficiaries and that developmental works should be executed efficiently and transparently.

DC Anantnag directs Time-Bound resolution of Bottlenecks, Timely completion of Transit Accommodation Project for PM Package Employees

HT News Network

ANANTNAG OCTOBER 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a review meeting at the DC Office Complex, Anantnag, to take stock of the progress of the Transit Accommodation Project being developed under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) for PM Package employees in the district.

He directed the concerned departments to expedite the pace of work, resolve pending issues on priority and ensure timely completion of the project with all requisite infrastructure facilities. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a detailed review of the progress achieved on various components of the project and assessed the



status of ongoing construction works. He also reviewed the availability and provision of essential infrastructure facilities, including road connectivity, drinking water supply and electricity, which are crucial for ensuring that the accommodation is fully functional and equipped to meet the requirements of

the intended beneficiaries. The DC took stock of the issues and bottlenecks affecting the pace of execution and sought feedback from the concerned departments regarding the status of pending works, inter departmental coordination and the measures required to address implementation.

DC Srinagar inspects fencing, upgradation work on Budshah Bridge aimed at enhancing public safety

Works carried to strengthen pedestrian safety, prevent suicide attempts on bridge, enhance durability & aesthetic appeal



HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Friday conducted a site inspection of the fencing and allied upgradation works along both sides of Budshah Bridge, aimed at enhancing pedestrian safety, strengthening preventive measures to address negligent falls, suicide incidents and improving the overall aesthetic appearance of the bridge over River Jhelum.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the major components of the upgradation works, which include installation of new fencing on both sides of the bridge, strengthened protection railing system, lighting provisions.

While speaking on the occasion, the DC said that public safety remains a top priority of the District Administration and said that fencing of bridges is being undertaken as a preventive safety

measure in view of concerns over suicide incidents from bridges, besides addressing public demand for enhanced safety measures. He added that the initiative is expected to enhance the appearance of Budshah Bridge.

an important urban landmark in Srinagar, while ensuring a safer and more durable facility for the public. The DC said that the upgradation works were executed to strike a balance between improved public safety,

structural durability and aesthetic enhancement, ensuring that the fencing complements the bridge's surroundings without compromising the scenic charm of the river.

The DC further stated that the District Administration Srinagar has already undertaken several similar measures, particularly at vulnerable bridges over the River Jhelum, including New Zaina Kadal, Aali Kadal, Old Zaina Kadal, Nawakadal and Safa Kadal in the Shahr-e-Khaas areas of the District.

DC Kupwara reviews arrangements to ensure Seamless Navratri Celebrations

HT News Network

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, today convened a review meeting to finalize administrative, civic, and security arrangements for the upcoming Navratri festival and the annual 4-day Yatra to the revered Mata Bhadrakali Asthan, Wadipora (Handwara).

Emphasizing proactive preparedness, the Deputy Commissioner instructed all line departments to execute arrangements well in advance to guarantee a smooth, safe, and hassle-free pilgrimage for visiting devotees. Key directives focused on ensuring uninterrupted 24/7 electricity and clean drinking water supply, deploying on-site healthcare

teams with standby ambulances, and carrying out sustained sanitation drives across the Asthan premises and along the yatra corridor.

Police and traffic authorities were directed to enforce multi-tiered surveillance, efficient crowd-management protocols, and designated parking arrangements to ensure seamless vehicular movement along the Handwara-Wadipora route. To maintain real-time inter-departmental synergy and promptly address devotee queries or emergencies throughout the 4-day pilgrimage, the DC ordered the immediate activation of an inter-departmental Joint Control Room, reiterating the district administration's commitment to facilitating an orderly, peaceful, and spiritually enriching experience for all devotees.

Secretary PD&MD reviews key Developmental Initiatives, Departmental Priorities

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16: Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD), Dr. Owais Ahmed held an introductory meeting with the officers and officials of the Department to review its functioning, the progress of key developmental initiatives and the priorities for effective implementation of various programmes.

During the meeting, the status of the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) was reviewed. The package comprises 53 projects sanctioned at a total cost of 70,244.55 crore, with an aggregate physical progress of 89%. The progress of the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) was also discussed, with 123 out of 124 identified issues reported as resolved.

The meeting also reviewed various important initiatives, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Census 2027, Family ID, data harmonization, Vibrant Villages Programme-II and the Aspirational Districts, Blocks and Panchayats Programme. The Department's role in strengthening project monitoring, statistical systems, evidence-based planning and evaluation of developmental schemes was also discussed.

Progress under public-private partnership (PPP) initiatives and capacity-building activities through the Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG) was reviewed. Preparations for the 6th National Conference of Chief Secretaries and the forthcoming Northern Zonal Council meeting were also discussed.

DC Pulwama reviews power sector; takes stock of progress under RDSS

Stresses winter preparedness, 100% revenue realization and time-bound completion of RDSS and metering works

HT News Network

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Power Development Sector at the Meeting Hall of the Administrative Complex, Pulwama, to review the overall functioning of the power sector, revenue generation, winter preparedness and progress of ongoing schemes, including works under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

A detailed presentation on the power sector of District Pulwama was presented before the Chair, covering the overall power supply position, revenue generation, loss reduction, winter preparedness, RDSS, smart metering, infrastructure augmentation, PM Surya Ghar and other related interventions.

Reviewing the overall power sector, the DC directed the concerned officers to assess the present load, carrying capacity and available margins of all Grid Stations, Receiving Stations and transformers and undertake advance planning in view of the



to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the winter season.

The DC directed the concerned field agencies to undertake branch cutting along power lines well in advance to minimise interruptions, line faults and safety hazards arising from snowfall, high winds and other adverse weather conditions. On revenue generation, the DC stressed the need for 100 percent revenue realization and directed the field staff to ensure timely collection of electricity dues, improve billing and collection efficiency and intensify recovery of outstanding dues. He directed the Executive Engineers to undertake regular

field visits, with special focus on industrial areas and revenue generation, and work towards achieving full revenue realization.

The DC also stressed 100 percent consumer saturation and accurate consumer mapping, directing the JEs to ensure that there is no discrepancy between the number of households and registered electricity consumers and that every eligible consumer receiving electricity is properly accounted for. He directed all concerned departments and field officers to ensure nil pendency, undertake regular reviews and resolve issues in coordination with the concerned agencies. The concerned branch managers were asked to prioritise power-sector related matters and facilitate their early disposal.

The DC reiterated that public safety and protection of public and private property must remain paramount, particularly while undertaking power infrastructure and field works. He directed that proper safety toolkits and protective equipment be provided to daily-wage workers and field staff, making it clear that there would be no compromise on safety standards. He also directed all concerned agencies to make adequate manpower and resources available and resolve field-level bottlenecks promptly. Issues relating to labour, including the matter concerning deployment of non-local labour at Sangerwani, as well as certain banking-related concerns.

Faiz Hayel Honoured for Anti-Drug Poetry at Nasha Mukht Bharat Programme

Wani Arfat

ANANTNAG : Poet Faiz Hayel was honoured with a memento for presenting thought-provoking poetry against drug abuse during a Nasha Mukht Bharat programme organised as part of an educational initiative in Anantnag district.

The programme brought together schools from the Breng, Kokernag, Shangus and Kothar areas under the Department of School Education, Anantnag. Members of civil society were also invited to attend the event held at the Town Hall.

During the programme, Faiz Hayel got an opportunity to recite his poetry at the Viksit Bharat programme, using his verses to highlight the harmful consequences of drug abuse and emphasise the importance of building a drug-free society.

His poetry conveyed a strong social message about protecting young people from substance abuse and raising awareness about its harmful consequences. Through his verses,

he highlighted the role of literature and poetry in addressing social challenges and encouraging positive change.

In recognition of his contribution and impactful presentation of anti-drug poetry, Faiz Hayel was presented with a memento as a mark of



appreciation. The programme highlighted the importance of involving educational institutions, poets, writers and civil society in spreading awareness against drug abuse. Such initiatives provide a platform for creative expression while encouraging young people to make informed choices and contribute towards a healthier, drug-free society.

HT EDITORIAL

Authority Must Be Matched
With Accountability

Changing Work Culture Demands
Greater Empathy, Professional Conduct
and Mutual Respect Within Bureaucracy

Bureaucracy is the backbone of governance, entrusted with implementing public policies, resolving people's grievances and ensuring the smooth functioning of government institutions. The nature of administrative work is evolving, and with it comes the need for a work culture that balances authority with empathy, discipline with dignity, and efficiency with mutual respect.

The recent controversy involving allegations of inappropriate behaviour by a senior IAS officer towards a woman JKAS officer during an official meeting has brought renewed attention to the importance of professional conduct in government workplaces.

The National Commission for Women's intervention and its demand for an inquiry underline the need to examine such allegations fairly and ensure that established procedures are followed. While the facts must be verified before drawing conclusions, the episode offers an opportunity to reflect on broader questions concerning workplace behaviour and administrative culture.

Government offices often function under considerable pressure, with officers expected to deliver results, meet deadlines and respond to public expectations. Differences of opinion, disagreements over performance and moments of professional stress are not unusual in such an environment. However, pressure cannot become a reason for discourteous behaviour, personal humiliation or the misuse of official authority. Firm supervision and constructive criticism are essential to administration, but they are most effective when exercised with restraint and respect.

Over time, workplace expectations and professional relationships have also undergone significant changes. A hierarchical system, which traditionally placed considerable emphasis on rank and seniority, increasingly needs to accommodate open communication, teamwork and mutual accountability. Senior officers have an important responsibility to guide their subordinates, address shortcomings and maintain discipline without compromising the dignity of individuals. Similarly, junior officials must be encouraged to express concerns and seek clarification through appropriate channels without apprehension.

A healthy administrative environment does not weaken authority; it strengthens it. Respectful communication builds confidence among employees, improves coordination and helps institutions function more effectively. Conversely, an atmosphere of fear or unnecessary confrontation can discourage initiative, affect morale and ultimately undermine the quality of public service.

It is equally important that allegations of misconduct are handled with sensitivity, impartiality and due process. Neither the position held by an officer nor the status of a complainant should determine how a matter is examined. Fair inquiry, confidentiality where required, protection against retaliation and proportionate action wherever wrongdoing is established are essential to maintaining public confidence in institutions.

The issue is not about singling out any individual or questioning the integrity of the bureaucracy as a whole. Thousands of civil servants work diligently under demanding circumstances, often making personal sacrifices to serve the public. Their commitment deserves recognition. At the same time, every institution must remain open to introspection and improvement, particularly when concerns arise over workplace conduct.

There is a need to strengthen awareness of service conduct rules, workplace dignity, gender sensitivity and professional communication. Regular orientation programmes, effective grievance-redressal mechanisms and clearly defined standards of behaviour can help prevent avoidable disputes and ensure that disagreements are resolved constructively.

Ultimately, good administration is measured not only by the decisions it takes or the targets it achieves, but also by the manner in which it treats its own workforce and the citizens it serves. Authority carries responsibility, seniority demands maturity, and leadership is reflected as much in conduct as in competence. As governance continues to evolve, the bureaucracy must move forward with a work culture rooted in professionalism, fairness and mutual respect. A considerate workplace and an efficient administration are not competing objectives; they are complementary foundations of responsive and responsible governance.



By **YOUSUF MIR,**

(This symbolic story presents a difficult situation through the symbols of a "picture" and a "promise." The characters try to understand these symbols from their own individual perspectives.)

Yesterday evening, I fell asleep with my Android phone in my hand. I slept soundly. When I opened my eyes, dawn had already broken. The phone was still in my hand. A strange worry had taken hold of me: what if the picture changed... what if the promise was broken?

When morning came, there was only one thought in my mind: what if the picture changed... what if the promise was broken? When I left home, the same thought followed me along the way... When I got into the car, the same thought... And when I reached the shrine, the same worry remained fixed in my mind: what if the picture changed... what if the promise was broken?

A sea of thoughts surged through my mind. Suddenly, I raised my eyes towards the sky and began to cry out:

SHORT STORY

Take It, O Lord



"Take it, O Lord... take it, O Lord... O Lord, take it... take it, O Lord..."

I kept calling out loudly when someone suddenly caught hold of my hand. I looked around and saw a crowd gathered around me.

Someone in the crowd said: "You madman... people say, 'Give it, O Lord'... and here you are saying, 'Take it, O Lord'... What is there left for Him to take?"

I looked straight into his eyes and shouted: "Hatred... jealousy... spite... ignorance..."

He asked:

"What do you want?"

I said:

"Let the picture not change... let the promise not be broken."

He asked:

"What was in the picture?"

I said:

"My past."

He asked:

"What was there in the past?"

I said:

"Affection... tolerance... truthfulness... humanity."

He wanted to question me further, but someone else in the crowd interrupted him and said:

"This fellow is mad... He must be looking for some Laila."

Someone slapped him hard across the face and said:

"You are the mad one... He is simply a man lost in his own world. One should not insult such a person."

Someone else said:

"Yes, my friend... What does a madman know? He can say anything."

The others in the crowd also began to interpret my words according to their own points of view.

Someone said:

"What promise is he talking about, after all?"

Another said:

"He must be talking about the promises politicians make to people during elections, promises they never fulfil."

Someone said:

"And the picture?"

Another replied:

"It must be the picture of someone close to him or someone he once knew... perhaps a friend... perhaps a brother or a son whose face was disfigured by cruel hands."

Someone said:

"Could he be talking about some old promise that people have forgotten with the passage of time?"

Someone said:

"You should study history... then you will discover the truth. Perhaps he is talking about a past that had its own identity and its own distinct picture. Perhaps that is the promise he is talking about."

Someone said:

"No, my friend... He is mad. Some girl must have driven him crazy."

"Come on... come on... let's go..."

"One man has gone mad; that doesn't mean we all have to."

"Come on... everyone, let's go..."

And before I knew it, everyone had left, one by one, and I was alone again...

The same thought returned to my mind: What if the picture changed... what if the promise was broken?

Yousuf Mir Hails from Bandipora and can be reached at: Email: yousufmir555@gmail.com

The Chemistry That Shapes Our Everyday Lives



Surinderpal Singh

Chemistry is not confined to laboratories, textbooks or complex scientific experiments and it is an integral part of our everyday existence. From the sour taste of lemon juice to the cleansing action of soap, from the treatment of acidic agricultural soils to the regulation of acidity in the human body the Acids, Bases and Salts play an indispensable role in the natural world. Although these substances are often introduced as fundamental concepts in school science, their significance extends far beyond the classroom. They influence human health, industrial development, agricultural productivity, environmental sustainability and modern technological progress.

Acids are substances that produce hydrogen ions in aqueous solutions. According to the Bronsted-Lowry theory, an acid is a substance that donates a proton to another substance. Familiar examples include hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid, nitric acid and acetic acid. While strong mineral acids are essential in many industrial processes, weak organic acids occur naturally in foods and living organisms. Citric acid gives lemons and oranges their characteristic sourness, while lactic acid is produced during certain fermentation processes and accumulates in muscles during intense exercise as a result of metabolic activity. Hydrochloric acid which is secreted by the stomach, helps to digest food and provides a barrier against many ingested microorganisms. However, the usefulness of acids depends on their concentration, chemical properties and method of handling. Concentrated sulphuric acid, for example, is highly corrosive, while even familiar household acids can cause irritation under certain conditions. Understanding acids scientifically therefore means recognising both their benefits and their potential hazards.

Bases are substances that react with acids and can neutralise them. Under the Bronsted-Lowry theory, a base accepts a proton, while the Arrhenius definition describes a base as a

substance that increases the concentration of hydroxide ions in aqueous solution. Sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide and calcium hydroxide are important examples. Bases have numerous practical applications. Sodium hydroxide is used in soap manufacturing and several industrial processes, while magnesium hydroxide is used in certain antacid preparations to relieve excess stomach acidity. Calcium hydroxide is employed in construction, water treatment and agriculture.

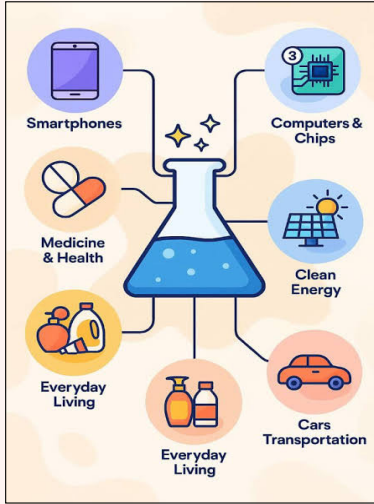
The chemistry of bases is particularly important in maintaining environmental balance. Acidic soils can reduce the availability of essential nutrients and affect crop productivity. Agricultural lime, which contains calcium carbonate or related calcium compounds, is commonly used to raise soil pH when soil testing indicates that liming is necessary.

Nevertheless, bases are not automatically safe. Strong alkalis such as sodium hydroxide can cause severe chemical burns. Their use requires appropriate protective equipment and responsible handling.

One of the most useful tools in acid-base chemistry is the pH scale, which expresses the acidity or alkalinity of a solution. In dilute aqueous solutions at approximately 25°C, a pH below 7 indicates acidity, a pH of 7 indicates neutrality, and a pH above 7 indicates alkalinity. The pH scale is logarithmic rather than linear. A solution with a pH of 3 has approximately ten times the hydrogen-ion activity of a solution with a pH of 4 under comparable conditions. Consequently, even a small numerical change in pH can represent a substantial chemical difference. The importance of pH is evident in several fields. Farmers test soil pH to improve crop management, scientists monitor the pH of rivers and lakes to assess aquatic conditions, and food manufacturers regulate acidity to maintain product quality and safety. In human physiology, blood pH is maintained within a narrow range, normally about 7.35-7.45 in arterial blood. Significant deviations can indicate serious medical conditions. Indicators such as litmus, phenolphthalein and universal indicator help identify whether a solution is acidic, neutral or alkaline. Modern laboratories also use electronic pH meters for more precise measurements.

Salts are ionic compounds that can be formed through the reaction of acids with bases. In a typical neutralisation reaction, an acid reacts with a base to produce salt and

water. For example:
Hydrochloric acid + Sodium hydroxide → Sodium chloride + Water
 $\text{HCl} + \text{NaOH} \rightarrow \text{NaCl} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$



Sodium chloride, commonly known as table salt, is essential in appropriate dietary amounts for maintaining fluid balance and supporting nerve and muscle function. However, excessive sodium consumption is associated with increased blood pressure and a higher risk of cardiovascular disease. Other salts have equally important applications. Sodium bicarbonate, or baking soda, is used in baking, cleaning and selected medical preparations. Calcium carbonate is found in limestone, marble and seashells and is widely used in construction and agriculture. Ammonium salts are used in fertilisers, while copper sulphate has applications in agriculture and laboratory chemistry, although it can be harmful if misused. Salts also influence the properties of water, the fertility of soils and the functioning of biological systems. Their importance demonstrates that a substance's usefulness depends not merely on its chemical name but also on its composition, concentration and application.

Neutralisation is one of the most significant reactions in acid-base chemistry. It occurs when an acid and a base react, often producing salt and water. The process has important applications in medicine, agriculture, industry and environmental management. Antacids

can neutralise some of the excess hydrochloric acid in the stomach, helping relieve occasional heartburn and indigestion. In agriculture, suitable liming materials can reduce excessive soil acidity. In wastewater treatment, carefully controlled chemical treatment can help bring pH within an acceptable range before discharge.

Neutralisation is also relevant to the problem of acid rain. Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides released into the atmosphere can form acids that damage buildings, acidify soils and harm aquatic ecosystems. Reducing emissions at their sources remains the most effective long-term strategy. In some affected lakes and soils, carefully managed liming may help restore chemical balance, but it cannot replace pollution prevention. Importantly, neutralisation does not always mean that a reaction is harmless. The reaction between a strong acid and a strong base can release substantial heat, and adding chemicals without proper knowledge can create dangerous conditions.

The human body depends on carefully regulated acid-base conditions. Enzymes function effectively only within particular pH ranges, and the body uses chemical buffers, the lungs and the kidneys to regulate blood acidity. The stomach's acidic environment supports digestion, while the small intestine has a more alkaline environment that helps digestive enzymes function. Bicarbonate ions play a vital role in buffering acids and maintaining physiological stability.

However, the popular belief that particular foods can substantially change the pH of healthy blood is scientifically incorrect. Although diet can influence urine pH and other aspects of metabolism, blood pH is tightly regulated by the body's physiological systems. Persistent disturbances require medical assessment rather than unverified dietary remedies. Chemical safety is equally important in daily life. Household cleaning products should never be mixed indiscriminately. Mixing acids with hypochlorite-based bleach can release toxic chlorine gas, while other combinations may produce dangerous fumes or reactions. Reading product labels and following safety instructions are essential habits.

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The Agarwal Identity

Caste, Commerce and the Continuity of Privilege

and inherited advantages contribute to the continuation of that success across generations.

The Historical Roots of Commercial Identity

The Agarwals are commonly associated with the broader Vaishya and Bania trading traditions of northern India. Over generations, many members of the community established themselves in trading centres, commercial towns and urban markets. Their participation in wholesale trade, moneylending, manufacturing and other commercial activities helped build a distinctive business identity.

Historically, commerce depended not only on capital but also on trust, reputation and reliable networks. In periods when formal banking, legal enforcement and business information were limited, community relationships often helped merchants obtain credit, identify partners and manage risks. Shared customs and social connections could reduce uncertainty in commercial transactions.

These networks were not unique to Agarwals. Many Indian trading communities developed similar arrangements, using family ties, regional connections and community institutions to support economic activity. Nevertheless, the

historical experience of particular communities illustrates how social relationships can become valuable economic resources.

Caste as Social and Economic Capital
Caste is generally understood as a system of social stratification based on inherited group identity, traditionally associated with hierarchy, marriage practices and occupational patterns. Its influence, however, extends beyond social status. It can also affect access to resources, professional networks, business partnerships and economic opportunities.

For communities with established commercial traditions, social connections may function as a form of economic capital. A young entrepreneur entering a family business may benefit from established suppliers, trusted customers, financial contacts and years of accumulated experience. These advantages can make it easier to start a venture and withstand periods of uncertainty.

Such support can be highly productive. Family businesses often preserve practical knowledge, encourage entrepreneurship and create employment. Community networks can also provide mentoring, financial assistance and opportunities for cooperation.

However, the same networks may reproduce inequality when opportunities remain concentrated within established circles. If access to finance, partnerships or professional introductions depends heavily on inherited relationships, individuals from less-connected backgrounds may face additional barriers despite having comparable skills and ambitions.

The central issue, therefore, is not the existence of community networks themselves, but whether the opportunities they create remain open to people beyond those networks.

How Privilege Continues Across Generations

Privilege does not necessarily mean that every member of a community is wealthy or successful. Communities contain considerable internal diversity, including differences in income, education, occupation, gender and geographical location. Many families work hard to achieve financial stability, while others face serious economic difficulties.

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Operation Sindoor has drawn a new line in the fight against terror... It has set a new standard, a new normal."



By M S Nazki

Operation Sindoor (conducted from May 7 to 10, 2025) is considered a strategic and military success by India in achieving its core objectives, though it remains a subject of domestic political debate and narrative disputes!

"After the surgical strike and air strike, now Operation Sindoor is India's policy against terrorism. Operation Sindoor has carved out a new benchmark in our fight against terrorism and has set up a new parameter and new normal." Ministry of External Affairs!

-On Core Strategic Principles: "First—if there is a terrorist attack on India, we will respond in our own way, on our own terms, at our own time. Second—India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail. Third—we will not see the government that patronizes terror and the masters of terror separately."

-On Safe Havens: "Operation Sindoor proved that there are no safe havens for enemies and terrorists targeting India."

•Target Neutralization: The multi-domain strikes successfully targeted and hit designated terrorist infrastructure across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

•Air Defense & Capability Proof: Indigenous military hardware—such as BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, Akash air-defense systems, and Astra missiles—performed effectively, shooting down hostile drones and incoming threats. This boosted the global demand and export prospects for Indian-made defense systems.

•Deterrence Shift: The operation marked a doctrinal shift in India's posture toward cross-border terrorism, moving closer to a proactive, short-of-war calibrated force stance.

•Independent Assessments: Later operational reviews—such as a January 2026 report by the Centre Distinctive Prospective Militaires—concluded that

initial reports of lopsided Indian aircraft losses were overstated and that India largely achieved its operational goals.

•Information War: Early media cycles were heavily influenced by competing claims and rapid narrative-shaping from Pakistan regarding downed aircraft, leading some domestic critics and political opposition figures to question the campaign's tactical and diplomatic clarity.

•Diplomatic Nuance: Some analyses noted a lack of explicit, unanimous backing from every international partner or regional bloc during the immediate fallout.

-Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma (Yule Brynner as we call him) says, "Being in Northern Command, the current experience which I would like to share is related to the success in the operations which we did, that is Operation Sindoor. 88 hours of operations out of nine camps; the responsibility to destroy seven camps was of Northern Command, and we did it... While the battle in the air and the missile domain was on, we on the Line of Control were also involved in frequent exchanges of fire, heavy ceasefire violations, exchange of artillery fire, going to almost about 12,000 rounds in those 88 hours. So that was the successful execution which we did..."

-Operation Sindoor was a brief, four-day military conflict between India and Pakistan that took place from May 7 to May 10, 2025. Launched by the Indian Armed Forces, the tri-service operation utilized high-precision missile strikes, air strikes, and loitering munitions to target terrorist infrastructure inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

•The Catalyst: The military campaign was an immediate retaliation for a devastating terrorist attack on April 22, 2025, in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. In that incident, militants from "The Resistance Front" (TRF)—a proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba—segregated and killed 26 innocent people (mostly Hindu male tourists).

•The Name: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose the codename "Sindoor" (the red vermilion powder worn by married Hindu women) as a poignant tribute to the wives who were tragically widowed in the Pahalgam attack.

•Initial Strikes: In the early hours of May 7, 2025, India executed precision strikes over a 22-to-23 minutes window, destroying nine major terrorist training camps (including Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba hubs in Muridke and Bahawalpur). India initially maintained a non-escalatory stance, targeting only terror camps rather than civilian or Pakistani military



infrastructure.

•Escalation & Retaliation: Pakistan retaliated rapidly by launching coordinated drone and missile strikes against more than a dozen Indian military installations across the western and northern theatres (including Srinagar, Jammu, and Pathankot). In response, the conflict expanded into conventional air defense engagements, during which the Indian Air Force targeted Pakistani military airbases, runways, and radar systems to neutralize counter-offensives.

•Outcome: The active fighting concluded with a ceasefire on May 10, 2025. Government and military reviews published in 2026 framed the operation as a monumental shift in India's counter-terrorism doctrine, demonstrating a willingness to conventionalize retaliatory strikes against state-sponsored terror networks.

-The Indian Army's Northern Command played a central, frontline role in Operation Sindoor—the precision military response launched following the April 22, 2025, terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

•Destruction of Terror Camps: Out of nine total terrorist infrastructure targets struck across Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), the Northern Command was assigned and successfully destroyed seven camps belonging to groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahideen.

•Line of Control (LoC) Engagement: During the 88-hour intense operational window, troops along

the LoC faced heavy retaliatory firing and ceasefire violations. The Northern Command engaged adversary positions and artillery, exchanging nearly 12,000 rounds of artillery fire.

•Intelligence and Multi-Domain Grid: The command utilized a cutting-edge intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) grid featuring advanced sensors and real-time data fusion for rapid targeting and decision-making.

•Civilian Protection and Rehabilitation: Alongside offensive strikes, the Northern Command managed counter-measures to shield local civilian populations near the border and led relief and rehabilitation efforts for residents affected by cross-border escalations.

-India has been rapidly restructuring its military, taking advantage of the fact that it is still technically on a war footing!

-In the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, the Indian military announced several new initiatives aimed at transforming the armed services. The Indian Army has taken a lead in this regard, and is restructuring its formations. This is evident from the establishment of five Bhairav battalions, two Rudra brigades, and the raising of Ashini drone platoons.

The newly established units are mostly deployed along the western and northern borders. They are also actively participating in military exercises, including the 12-day tri-services drill going on along the Pakistan border.

-What is the rationale behind this transformation, which is happening while India is still technically on a war footing?

-Defence Minister Rajnath Singh: "India will conduct cross-border actions." to safeguard national security and combat state-sponsored terrorism.

"They called it Operation Sindoor... because it was written in the red of sacrifice and the saffron of courage.", shared via the BJP Goa Official Page.

"It was far more than an operation — it was a sacred covenant to protect our people, uphold the dignity of service, and reaffirm our nation's collective resolve against adversity."

-Operation SINDOOR: India's Strategic Clarity and Calculated Force Kashmir, restricting projects to run-of-the-river designs. Suspension of the treaty gave India full control over western rivers li...

-On the anniversary of Operation Sindoor, we salute the valour and sacrifices of our armed forces, whose courage and dedication!..... Many must have taken it as an operation but for India it was a trade off between Strategy and strategic propulsion! further deliberation, it is crucial to define "military restructuring": it is the reorganization of military units by either merging them into one another or establishing new units by extracting resources from the existing ones. This process also involves equipping the new units with advanced weaponry and high-end tools. However, any restructuring remains subservient to the existing military doctrine. This implies that if doctrine changes, restructuring is likely to happen as well...

-This activity does not occur in a vacuum but as per the demands of the new threat perception.

-Soon after the India-Pakistan hostilities ceased on the evening of May 10, the Indian political and military establishment announced it would "pause" Operation Sindoor, rather than ending it. Apparently, a consensus was reached to keep the military operation alive in order to bypass the Defense Ministry's bureaucratic red tape. India has been rapidly restructuring its military, taking advantage of the fact that it is still technically on a war footing.

Seizing the latest opportunity, the Indian Army began restructuring its forces at a rapid clip after Operation Sindoor. As part of this process, the army established Rudra combined arm brigades, Bhairav battalions, and Ashini platoons. However, to equip the new formations with modern weapons requires a large sum of capital.

Starlink's arrival and India's strategic concerns



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Elon Musk's criticism of the delay in Starlink's launch in India has once again brought the regulation of satellite-based internet services into the spotlight. This debate is not limited to allowing private companies to enter the Indian market, but also involves serious questions such as national security, data sovereignty, border surveillance, and government control over communications. In a country as vast and geographically diverse as India, satellite internet could be an effective means of bridging the digital divide, but the security risks associated with it cannot be ignored.

Services like Starlink provide internet access via satellites in low Earth orbit. They can bring connectivity to remote villages, mountainous regions, islands, and border areas where traditional telecommunications infrastructure is difficult and expensive to install. However, the global nature of these services, their portable terminals, and their reliance on foreign companies pose new challenges for regulatory authorities.

The most significant challenge is the potential for misuse in terrorist activities. Terrorist organizations or other non-state actors operating in remote areas could use satellite communication systems to coordinate their activities. Reports of the discovery of Starlink-branded equipment in Manipur in 2024 highlighted this concern. However, the recovery of equipment itself is not conclusive evidence of its actual use or its connection to an organization. Therefore, security assessments must be based on reliable intelligence and technical investigations.

The second challenge relates to cross-border crime and smuggling. India's long international borders, vast maritime areas, and difficult geographical conditions already pose challenges for security agencies. If satellite internet terminals are used to coordinate illegal activities, identifying criminals and investigating their communications could be difficult. Starlink devices were also discussed in the context of drug seizures in the Andaman region in 2024. In such cases, the actual role of the devices must be confirmed, as their mere presence does not prove a direct link between smuggling and satellite networks.

The third challenge is data sovereignty and foreign control. Satellite network operations, technical management, and some data-related processes may be controlled outside India. This raises questions about who will have control over Indian users' communications data, where it will be processed, and how access to information required under Indian laws will be ensured. Without clear rules on these issues, it may be difficult for investigative agencies and regulators to effectively

exercise their legal powers.

The fourth challenge is lawful surveillance and law enforcement. In traditional telecommunications networks, lawful surveillance mechanisms can be implemented through service providers, licensing conditions, and domestic network infrastructure. Satellite internet, due to overseas network operations and cross-border data flows, may require additional technical capacity and international cooperation to implement these mechanisms. If service providers are unable to comply with lawful orders in accordance with Indian laws, investigations into terrorism, organized crime, and cybercrime could

network infrastructure and data management. Where technically necessary and feasible, domestic gateways and monitoring systems should be ensured, which are legal under Indian laws. It would be more practical to adopt risk-based regulation rather than imposing a uniform technical model on all services.

Third, effective systems for user verification and terminal registration must be in place. Records of the ownership, registration, and terms of use of authorized devices must be maintained. Coordination between service providers and security agencies should be established to identify stolen devices, unauthorized



be hampered. Furthermore, the exercise of surveillance powers must be subject to clear legislation, proportionality, and accountability, ensuring citizens' privacy and fundamental rights are protected.

The fifth challenge is strategic dependence. Starlink's role during the Ukraine war demonstrated that private satellite communications systems can be crucial in times of crisis and war. Such systems help maintain communications, but excessive dependence on a foreign company's business decisions, changes in terms of service, or technical disruptions can pose a risk to national interests. India must ensure that its critical communications services do not become dependent on a single foreign provider in an emergency.

To address these challenges, a clear and effective licensing regime is essential. Satellite internet service providers must comply with applicable requirements of the Department of Telecommunications, the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center, and relevant security agencies. Licensing, spectrum allocation, and security clearance processes should be transparent, timely, and based on uniform standards. Sensitive matters should be properly investigated, avoiding indefinite delays in the name of national security.

Second, clear rules should be established for domestic

terminals, and suspicious activity. Geographical restrictions may be implemented as needed in sensitive border areas, but they must be based on a clear security assessment.

Fourth, regular cybersecurity testing, independent security audits, and emergency response plans should be mandated. Service providers should be required to report cyberattacks, data breaches, and network disruptions promptly and cooperate with security agencies. Additionally, India should increase investment in indigenous satellite communications capabilities, research, and technological innovation to reduce strategic dependence.

Ultimately, the question of satellite internet is not just a question of technology or business, but a challenge of balancing digital rights, national sovereignty, and internal security. India must adopt a policy that provides affordable internet access to remote areas, encourages investment and innovation, and effectively addresses security concerns. Only through transparent regulation, technological self-reliance, accountable oversight, and international cooperation can India pursue digital progress consistent with its national security.

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Srinagar Remines My city, My Pride



By Syed Majid Gilani

When I look back at Srinagar today, many memories come back to me through the businesses I saw around me. They were ordinary things at the time, but somehow they have stayed with me. I have been watching this since the 1990s. One business would begin to do well, people would notice it, and before long, the same kind of business would start appearing in different parts of the city. Sometimes it seemed as if the whole city had suddenly discovered the same idea.

I remember the small kiriyana shops of those years. The 1990s were not easy years in Srinagar. Curfews, hartals and restrictions on movement were familiar parts of life, and people often preferred buying their daily needs from somewhere close to home. A room facing the road could become a shop. A small portion of a house could be turned into one. Even a little space along a boundary wall was enough. A few shelves, some everyday items, and a shop was ready. Slowly, these little grocery shops became part of almost every colony and mohalla. They became part of the daily rhythm of neighbourhood life.

Then came the photostat and lamination shops. Students needed copies of notes, people needed forms and applications, and offices needed documents. Certificates and important papers were copied and laminated. For some years, photostat shops seemed to be everywhere. I can still remember people standing around, waiting for their documents.

Soon after, the STD, ISD and PCO booths became common. Today, when almost everyone carries a mobile phone, it is difficult to imagine what those little booths once meant. If you wanted to make a telephone call, you went to a PCO. Sometimes there was a small queue. Sometimes you waited for someone to finish talking. If the call was important, you stayed there patiently. Many PCOs also offered photostat, fax and lamination services. For a while, they were a familiar sight in Srinagar.

As landline telephones became more common and, later, mobile phones arrived, the PCOs slowly began to disappear. There was no particular day when they ended. They simply became unnecessary.

I also remember the computer training institutes. Computers were new and exciting then, and young people wanted to learn typing, MS-DOS, Windows and other basic computer skills. One institute opened, then others followed. For many young people, entering a computer institute was their first close encounter with a machine that seemed to belong to the future.

Not long after, Internet cafés began appearing across the city. Going to an Internet café was itself an experience. We went there to send emails, search for information, browse websites or simply explore this new world that had opened before us. I still remember sitting in front of those computers and waiting for a page to open. Sometimes the waiting seemed longer than the actual browsing. Today, the Internet is in our phones, and the cafés that once seemed so modern have almost disappeared. Yet for

those of us who experienced them, they remain part of a particular Srinagar.

With time, coaching centres too began to mushroom, appearing across the city. Students and parents began looking for them, and soon they could be found in many parts of the city.

After that came fast food. Burgers, pizzas, rolls and other quick foods began appearing in different areas. One outlet would become popular, and before long, several others would appear, offering much the same products and services.

In recent years, departmental stores have become more common. In almost every other market, one can find them. There are businesses today that were not even part of our imagination when the old PCOs and Internet cafés were still part of everyday life. Then came another trend, the mushrooming of journalism. With smartphones in almost every hand, every other person seemed to become a journalist or photo-journalist. Social media opened an enormous space for this, welcoming everyone with a camera, a story and an audience. Today, this trend is in full bloom.

Over the years, I kept seeing the same kind of change in different forms. Businesses came, became common, changed with time and, in some cases, disappeared. Some remained for years. Some were replaced by something new. Some survived by changing themselves. When I think about all this now, I remember not only the businesses but also the Srinagar around them. I remember the colonies, the mohallas, the familiar faces, the small counters, the queues, the signboards and the streets we travelled every day without giving them a second thought. We were simply living our lives. We never thought that one day these ordinary things would become memories.

A shop opened on a familiar street. Years passed. Another signboard came up. An old one disappeared. A business we once saw everywhere slowly became part of the past, and something new took its place. The city kept moving while we were busy with our own lives.

I have watched Srinagar change like this since the 1990s. When I look back now, these businesses seem like little markers of time. Each one takes me back to a particular period, to the way the streets looked, the things people needed, the places they went and the way the city felt.

Perhaps, while reading this, someone will remember the first PCO from which they made a telephone call. Someone may remember sitting in an Internet café and waiting for a page to load. Someone may remember the computer institute they first entered, a little grocery shop in their colony or old mohalla, or the first fast-food outlet they visited with friends. We may all remember different things, but they belong to the same Srinagar.

This is simply a small glimpse into my Srinagar, the Srinagar I have watched since my school days. At the time, these were just ordinary shops and businesses we passed every day. Today, they have become memories. And perhaps, somewhere among these memories, you may find a little bit of your own Srinagar too.

Syed Majid Gilani is a storyteller, opinion writer and government officer. He writes on nostalgia, Srinagar, family, faith, betrayal, resilience and moral values. He can be contacted at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.

Healthy People, Healthy Nation



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

The Importance of Exercise and Home Gyms

Health is the most precious gift of nature. There is nothing more valuable in the world than good health. Unfortunately, many people damage their health by consuming drugs, smoking, and eating unhealthy and unhygienic food. Today, junk food is widely available everywhere, from cities to villages. Barbecues, fast foods, and many processed food items have become common. However, excessive consumption of such foods can lead to serious health problems. Therefore, we should prefer organic and home-made food, which is healthier and more

beneficial for our well-being.

Regular exercise reflects discipline and helps keep us fit, active, and healthy. In today's fast-paced world, people often suffer from stress, anxiety, obesity, fatty liver disease, high cholesterol, and many other health-related issues. To overcome these problems, we must adopt a disciplined lifestyle by following a balanced diet, exercising regularly, and undergoing routine medical check-ups.

Our body performs countless functions such as digestion, blood circulation, and waste removal. These complex processes remind us of the wonders of creation. We should always be grateful to Almighty Allah for blessing us with life, health, and intelligence.

A healthy body is the foundation of a successful life. While people often focus on wealth, fame, and achievements, health should always remain the top priority. Exercise not only improves physical fitness but also enhances mental well-being, confidence, and productivity.

One effective way to maintain fitness is by setting up a home gym. A home gym allows individuals to exercise regularly without the need to travel. Even a small room equipped with basic fitness equipment can

help people stay active and healthy. As financial conditions improve, more equipment can be added gradually.

Based on my personal experience, regular exercise and bodybuilding bring positive changes in life. They increase energy levels, reduce fatigue, improve physical appearance, and promote a positive mindset. Gym activities also help young people stay away from harmful habits such as smoking and drug abuse.

Schools, colleges, and communities should encourage physical fitness by establishing gym facilities and promoting sports activities. Such initiatives can help create awareness about healthy living and contribute to building a stronger and healthier society.

In conclusion, exercise is not merely a physical activity; it is an investment in our future. By adopting healthy eating habits, exercising regularly, and encouraging fitness culture, we can create healthier individuals, stronger communities, and ultimately a healthier nation.

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The Science Behind Plant Reproduction



Surinderpal Singh

The natural world is sustained by countless biological processes that ensure the continuity of life and pollination is one of the most remarkable among them. It is an essential step in the sexual reproduction of flowering plants, enabling the formation of seeds and in many species, fruits. Beyond its biological significance, pollination plays a crucial role in agriculture, biodiversity, food security and the ecological balance of our planet. Self-pollination and cross-pollination are the two principal types of pollination, each contributing to plant reproduction in distinct ways. Understanding their mechanisms and differences helps us appreciate how plants survive, adapt and evolve in a changing environment.

Pollination is the transfer of pollen grains from the anther, the male reproductive part of a flower, to the stigma, the receptive part of the female reproductive structure. After successful pollination, a compatible pollen grain may germinate on the stigma and develop a pollen tube through which male gametes reach the ovule. Fertilisation then takes place, usually resulting in the formation of a seed. In flowering plants, the ovary often develops into a fruit. The process of pollination may occur within the same flower, between different flowers on the same plant, or between flowers of different plants of the same species. These variations give rise to the two major types of pollination: self-pollination and cross-pollination.

Self-pollination occurs when pollen from the anther reaches the stigma of the same flower or another flower on the same plant. It is commonly observed in plants such as peas, rice, wheat and tomatoes, although the degree of self-pollination varies among species and varieties. In some plants, the anthers and stigma are positioned close to one another, making pollen transfer easier. Certain flowers also possess mechanisms that promote self-pollination when external pollinators are unavailable.

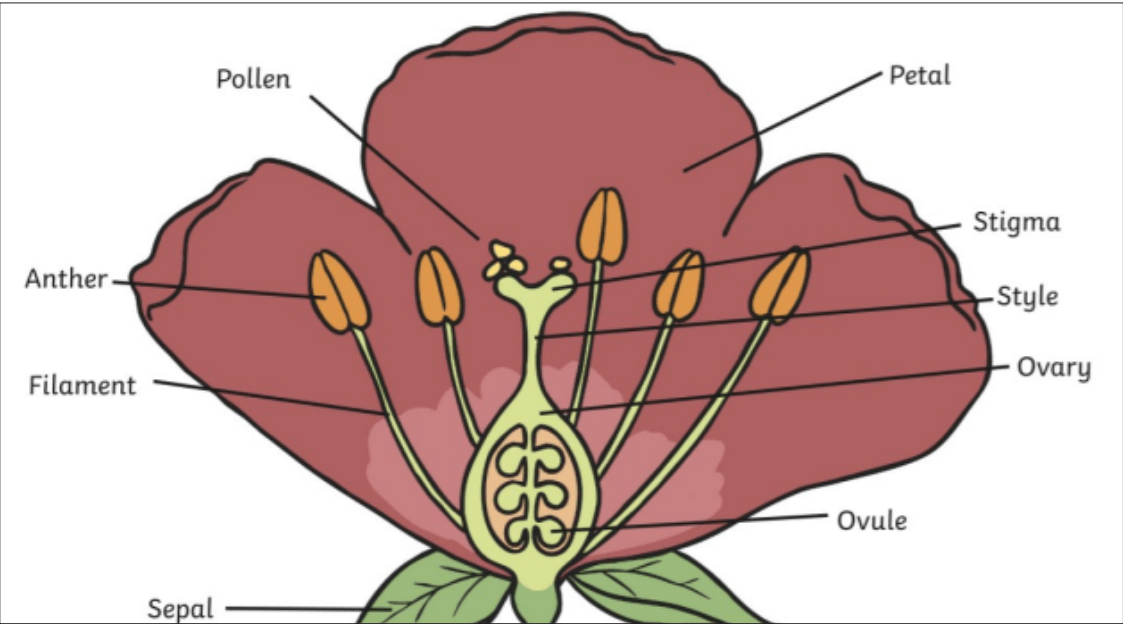
One of the major advantages of self-pollination is reproductive reliability. A plant can produce seeds even when pollinators are scarce or suitable neighbouring plants are absent. It also helps preserve desirable parental characteristics across generations, making it useful in the development and maintenance of pure plant lines in agriculture and plant breeding. In addition, self-pollination

generally requires less dependence on external agents such as insects, wind or other animals.

However, self-pollination has limitations. Because it usually involves less genetic variation than cross-pollination, repeated selfing can increase homozygosity and expose harmful recessive traits. In some populations, this may contribute to inbreeding depression, reducing vigour,

on the genetic characteristics of the parents and the conditions in which the plants grow.

The fundamental difference between the two processes lies in the source of pollen and their usual effects on genetic variation. Self-pollination involves pollen transfer within the same flower or plant and tends to maintain established genetic characteristics. Cross-pollination involves



fertility or adaptability. Therefore, although self-pollination offers reproductive assurance, it may limit a population's ability to respond to new environmental challenges.

Cross-pollination takes place when pollen is transferred from a flower on one plant to a flower on another plant of the same species. This process may be facilitated by insects, birds, bats, wind or water, depending on the plant species. Bees and butterflies are familiar pollinators, while many grasses and cereal crops rely primarily on wind. In several flowering plants, floral colour, fragrance, nectar and shape have evolved to attract suitable pollinators.

The greatest biological advantage of cross-pollination is its potential to increase genetic diversity. By combining genetic material from different parent plants, it creates new combinations of inherited characteristics. Such variation provides the raw material for natural selection and can improve a population's capacity to withstand environmental changes, pests and diseases. Cross-pollination is also important in plant breeding, where breeders combine desirable traits to develop varieties with improved yield, quality, resilience or disease resistance.

Nevertheless, cross-pollination also presents challenges. It may depend on the availability of pollinators, favourable weather conditions or compatible plants flowering at the same time. The transfer of pollen can become less reliable when habitats are destroyed or pollinator populations decline. Furthermore, cross-pollination does not automatically guarantee superior offspring; the outcome depends

pollen transfer between different plants of the same species and generally promotes greater genetic variation.

Self-pollination offers reproductive security and can help preserve uniformity, while cross-pollination creates opportunities for new combinations of traits. Both strategies have evolved because they offer advantages under different ecological conditions. Some plants rely predominantly on one method, whereas others can use both, depending on environmental circumstances and the availability of pollinators. Neither method is universally superior; each represents an evolutionary strategy suited to particular biological needs.

The importance of pollination extends far beyond the survival of individual plants. It is directly connected with crop production, agricultural livelihoods and human nutrition. Many crops benefit substantially from animal-mediated cross-pollination, including apples, almonds, cucumbers, pumpkins and numerous other fruits, vegetables and nuts. Effective pollination can improve fruit set, seed production, fruit shape and crop quality in many such species. At the same time, self-pollinating crops such as wheat and rice form the foundation of food security across large parts of the world. Their reproductive characteristics can make seed production more predictable, although environmental conditions and crop varieties still influence final yields. Agricultural success therefore depends on understanding the reproductive biology of individual crops rather than assuming that one form of pollination is

always better.

Plant breeders use knowledge of both processes to develop improved crop varieties. Self-pollination helps establish genetically uniform lines, while controlled cross-pollination allows breeders to combine selected characteristics. Hybrid breeding, in particular, can exploit hybrid vigour in suitable crops, although its benefits vary according to the species and genetic combinations involved.

Modern agriculture and environmental change have placed increasing pressure on many pollinating organisms. Habitat loss, pesticide misuse, climate change, diseases and the decline of flowering plants can disrupt pollination networks. When pollinator populations decrease, plants that depend on them may experience reduced reproductive success, affecting wildlife, food webs and agricultural productivity.

Protecting pollination requires practical and coordinated action. Farmers can conserve field margins, plant diverse flowering species, maintain hedgerows and reduce unnecessary pesticide exposure. Communities can establish gardens with native flowers, preserve natural habitats and support environmentally responsible farming. Governments and researchers can strengthen pollinator monitoring and promote agricultural practices that protect biodiversity. It is equally important to recognise that not all pollination depends on insects. Wind-pollinated crops and plants also require suitable environmental conditions. Effective conservation must therefore consider the diverse reproductive strategies of plants and the ecological relationships that sustain them.

Self-pollination and cross-pollination demonstrate the extraordinary adaptability of flowering plants. One offers reliability and helps maintain established characteristics, while the other promotes genetic diversity and opens pathways for evolutionary change. Together, these processes sustain plant reproduction, support agriculture and contribute to the stability of natural ecosystems. In an era of climate uncertainty, biodiversity loss and growing food demand, understanding pollination is not merely an academic exercise; it is an essential part of responsible environmental stewardship. By protecting pollinators, conserving plant diversity and applying scientific knowledge to agriculture, humanity can help safeguard the natural processes on which food production and ecological health depend. Every seed formed through successful pollination is a reminder that the future of life is closely connected with the delicate relationships operating throughout the natural world.

Surinderpal Singh
Faculty In Science Department
Sri Amritsar Sahib Punjab.

Ramzaan College Observes World Mental Health Day, Promotes Mental Health Awareness

Wani Arfat

PAMPORE:Emphasising the importance of mental health awareness and the need to challenge social stigma, Ramzaan College of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, Galander, Pampore, organised a special programme to mark World Mental Health Day, highlighting the importance of understanding, compassion and timely professional care for people experiencing mental health conditions.

Held under the leadership of Dr Batula Rashid from 2 pm to 3:30 pm, the programme featured student performances, educational presentations and creative activities designed to communicate important mental health messages and encourage a more informed and supportive approach towards mental well-being.

The programme began with a welcome address by Beenish Maam and was anchored by Akeel Nabi. The activities included a video presentation on the lived experiences of celebrities, a play depicting schizophrenia, poster presentations and a rangoli activity.

A video prepared by Basharat Amin highlighted the lived experiences of celebrities and drew attention to the personal challenges associated with mental health. The presentation



encouraged students to look beyond stereotypes and approach people experiencing mental health difficulties with greater understanding and sensitivity.

The main attraction was a play on schizophrenia, moderated by Tajamul Islam. Through different characters and situations, the students portrayed how limited awareness about mental illness can lead to fear, confusion and misunderstanding within families. The performance also highlighted how symptoms of mental illness may sometimes be attributed to supernatural causes because of prevailing

misconceptions, potentially delaying appropriate medical care.

Faizan Javid played the father, Shabnum Showkat portrayed the mother, and Shoaib Reyaz played the son. Aanif Majeed and Aabid Sheikh portrayed a peer and a friend, respectively, while Ishrat Sultan played the doctor and Zuha portrayed the nurse.

Shoaib Reyaz delivered a convincing performance as the son, portraying the emotional challenges experienced by a person facing mental health difficulties. His performance highlighted how misunderstanding and a lack of

support can increase the distress experienced by individuals and their families.

The play emphasised the importance of recognising concerning changes in behaviour, seeking professional assessment and ensuring timely intervention. It encouraged families to rely on appropriate medical guidance rather than myths or misconceptions that may prevent individuals from receiving the care they need.

The performance conveyed a clear message: mental illness is a health concern that requires understanding, professional care and support rather than judgement or shame. It also highlighted the role of families and healthcare professionals in supporting recovery and protecting the dignity of those experiencing mental health difficulties.

Poster presentations by Fazila Nabi, Farheena Fida and Naazirah communicated mental health messages through visual displays, while a rangoli activity prepared by Uzma Farooq, Insha Muzaffar and Sayana Yousuf added a creative dimension to the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Prof. Jamsheeda Zaroo highlighted the importance of mental health awareness and the need to challenge stigma

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that I, Zooni Begum, W/o Sonaulah Chopan, R/o Dandmoha, wish to state the following:
The electricity connection bearing Consumer ID 0212040005897, installed at my residential premises, is currently registered in the name of my deceased Husband, Sonaulah Chopan, S/o Gh Mohd Chopan, R/o Dandmoha.
I am the legal heir and am currently residing in the same premises. I now intend to transfer the electricity connection to my name.
If any person has an objection to this name transfer, they may file their objection at the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer, JKPDD, Sub Division Watergam, Wagoora, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of the said period.

Zooni Begum
W/o Sonaulah Chopan
R/o Dandmoha

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Jal Shakti Department

Mission Directorate Jal Jeevan Mission, J&K

Civil Secretariat, Srinagar/ Jammu

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Jal Shakti Department hereby brings to the notice of general public that in pursuance to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Gol, under JJM 2.0, the UT of J&K is required to notify the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) policy for Rural Water Supply for ensuring long term functionality and sustainability of the assets created under Jal Jeevan Mission.

In this regard, this Department has prepared a draft O&M policy which is available on the Department's website, the link for which is provided as under: <https://jalshakti.jk.gov.in/Orders%202025/policy.pdf>

The general public is requested to provide its suggestions, if any, to the Department through e-mail on mdjjmjk@gmail.com within a period of 7 days.

No.: SMD/JJM-J&K/ e-7377980/871

Dated: 15.10.2026

Sd/-Additional Mission Director

Jal Jeevan Mission, J&K

DIPK-6845/26

Date: Oct 16 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old name) Altaf ul Rehman to (New name) Syed Altaf ul Rehman in future I will be known as (New name) Syed Altaf ul Rehman .

If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted

Syed Altaf ul Rehman
S/O Syed Mohammad Amin
114 Near Unani Hospital, Central
Shaltieng sgr
PO Parimpora 190017
Jammu & Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Son' name has been wrongly mentioned as ABDUL HADIS/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

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

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DIStT ...BARAMULLA

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

IRRIGATION DIVISION PULWAMA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E- NIT NO. (16) OF 2026-27 (e-Tendering) (Double cover system)

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-Tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. for the following works.

S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost in Lakhs	Cost of Tender Doc. in Rs.	Earnest Money (Rs)	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Head of Account
1.	Beautification of Pulwama Town	84.37	3000	168740	90 days	AAY	Urban Dev. (IDMT)

Position of Funds: Budgetary Provision.

Position of AAA: Accorded vide Director Urban Local Bodies, Kmr's order No. 966/DULB/Ptg of 2026 dated: 29-09-2026 and Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Pulwama's letter No. MC/Pul/2026/3557-61 Dt. 01-10-2026.

Position of T/S: Sanctioned vide Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic circle Pulwama HQ. Shopia's order No. 16 of 10/2026-27 dated: 10-10-2026.

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Date of issue of Tender Notice	16-10-2026 (06:00 pm)
02	Date of start of downloading	16-10-2026 (06:00 pm)
03	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial.	16-10-2026 (06:00 pm)
04	Bid submission end date	03-11-2026 (06:00 pm)
05	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online) Technical	04-11-2026 (10:00 AM)
06	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online) Financial	After evaluation of Technical bids

Terms and Conditions: -

- Bids must be accompanied with proof of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury receipt/e-challan under (MH 0702-PWD Remittance) in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama (tender inviting authority), and Earnest Money/ Bid Security in shape of CDR/ FDR from any schedule or nationalized bank pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama (Tender Receiving Authority).
- The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama (Tender Receiving Authority).
- The bid for the work shall remain valid for period of 90 days from the date of opening of bid.
- Bidders are advised to use the (My Documents) area in their user on www.jktenders.gov.in portal to store, the required documents as given below:

- GST, Adhaar Card, 16-Digit Bank Account No. GST linked and PAN No.
- Registration card with latest renewal.
- Card verification letter.
- Registered mobile number and E-mail ID in the shape of Bidders address form.
- BOQ.
- Acknowledgment/ certificate w.r.t. filing of GST returns of previous quarter.
- Acknowledgment/ certificate w.r.t. filing of Income Tax returns of Previous financial year.
- Self-declaration form
- The successful bidder is bound to register himself with Assistant Labour Commissioner, Pulwama for CESS Registration after issuance of allotment.

- The earnest money shall be forfeited if: -

- Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 07 Days after fixation of contract.

- 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 web site www.jktenders.gov.in in 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 vendor.
- 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- 3.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100dpi with black & white option.

- The Department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury receipt/e-challan under (MH 0702-PWD Remittance) in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama and Earnest Money/ Bid Security in shape of CDR/ FDR as applicable pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama must be uploaded with the technical documents of the bid.

- Price Escalation and Taxes: - The item wise cost/ offer be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes till completion of work, unless otherwise specified. 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 e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

- Instructions to Bidder (ITB): -

- All bidders shall upload the following information and documents with their Bids GST No., PAN, Contact No., E-mail ID, Registration Card duly renewed for the current year & card verification certificate from the issuing authority, Acknowledgment/ certificate w.r.t. filing of GST returns of previous quarter and Income Tax returns of Previous financial year.
- The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

- If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the rate List/ Quantity Schedule, cost of such item/ items shall be deemed to be part of the overall/ total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such item/ items in the allotment of contract.

All other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form) and As Annexure A, B, C, D.

No: PID/CS/ 2863-76

Dated: 16/10/2026

Sd/-Executive Engineer

Irrigation Division Pulwama

DIPK-6838/26

Date: Oct 16 2026

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

IRRIGATION DIVISION PULWAMA

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GST, Adhaar Card, 16-Digit Bank Account No. GST linked and PAN No.

Registration card with latest renewal.

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BOQ.

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No: PID/CS/ 2863-76

Dated: 16/10/2026

Sd/Executive Engineer

Irrigation Division Pulwama

DIPK-6825/26

Date: Oct 16 2026

West Indies bank on bowling turnaround to clinch T20I series: Sammy

United News Of India

BENGALURU, OCT 16: West Indies head coach Darren Sammy on Friday credited his bowlers for keeping the five-match T20 International series against India alive, saying improved execution in the middle and death overs had helped his side recover from difficult powerplays and set up a series decider.

With the series locked at 2-2, Sammy said the team's ability to adapt to Indian conditions and compete against one of the world's strongest sides had given the players confidence ahead of Saturday's final match at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here. The West Indies bowlers have managed to pull things back after India made strong starts in recent matches, with clearer plans and more disciplined execution helping them apply pressure once the field spread.

"In T20 cricket, momentum is a hell of a thing," Sammy said, explaining that restricting the damage during the powerplay and sustaining pressure afterwards had been crucial to keeping West Indies in contention.

He said the bowlers had become more precise in executing their plans during the middle and death overs, enabling the team to restrict India's

scoring and take wickets at important stages. West Indies had managed to

build pressure and restrict scoring, Sammy said, had created opportunities



claim 10 wickets across the last two matches, a notable effort on surfaces that have generally favoured batsmen.

Sammy said the team would continue working on its powerplay bowling, particularly against India's aggressive batsmen.

Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma, while seeking to maintain the discipline that had helped it fight back in the series.

He singled out Roston Chase for his consistent performances with the ball, describing him as the best bowler in the series so far. Chase's ability to

for the other bowlers to attack at the opposite end.

"He has a very defensive mindset. He relies on applying pressure," Sammy said, explaining that Chase's effectiveness did not depend solely on taking wickets but also on making it difficult for batsmen to score freely.

Looking ahead to the decider, Sammy acknowledged that the Chinnaswamy Stadium would pose a considerable challenge for bowlers, given its reputation as a high-scoring venue.

He said the margin for error on batting-friendly pitches was slim and urged his bowlers to remain focused on the next delivery rather than dwell on previous mistakes.

Sammy stressed the importance of sequencing deliveries intelligently, using variations such as wide yorkers and slower balls, and identifying areas where individual batsmen found it difficult to score.

The West Indies coach also weighed in on the debate over the playing surfaces during the series, saying the absence of dew in the last two matches had made the contest more balanced.

He noted that dew had played a significant role in the opening matches, making it difficult for teams to defend totals and encouraging captains to field first after winning the toss. The successful chase of 250 in one of the early games had further reinforced that approach.

However, the last two matches had given bowlers a better opportunity to execute their plans, allowing both teams to compete more evenly.

"A good weekend with no dew presents a more even contest where the skills could be executed," Sammy said, adding that both sides had won two matches each, making the series an exciting contest.

PGTI rolls out financial red carpet for Indian golfers chasing global glory

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 16

Indian golfers chasing international glory have received a financial springboard, with the DP World Professional Golf Tour of India (DP World PGTI) announcing assistance of up to Rs 3 lakh each for its top 30 players appearing at overseas qualifying schools and a further Rs 10 lakh for every player who earns qualification.

In a sport where talent may drive the ball but money often determines how far a player can travel, the initiative seeks to ease the financial burden of pursuing coveted tour cards on the international circuit. The assistance will cover



qualifying schools for the DP World Tour, Japan Golf Tour and Asian Tour, opening a wider window of opportunity for Indian professionals seeking to test their mettle against the world's best. DP World PGTI CEO Amandeep Johl said the programme had been approved, the players informed and the funds set aside, underlining that the organisation's focus

remained firmly on the players. The bigger game plan, however, extends beyond financial assistance. The PGTI is seeking to strengthen the bridge between domestic golf and the international circuit through renewed alignment with the Asian Tour, which has traditionally served as a stepping stone for Indian golfers aspiring to reach the DP.

15th JKAP IR Bn, Organises Quiz and Debate Competition to Mark Sardar Patel's 151st Birth Anniversary

Gulfam Barji

JAMMU/OCT 16: The 15th JKAP IR Bn, organised a quiz-cum-debate competition at its headquarters at GG Jammu as part

officers of the unit welcomed the participating students, teachers and other attendees. Addressing the participants the Dy CO highlighted the significance of the occasion and recalled Sardar Vallabhbhai



of the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2026-27 to commemorate the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as the Iron Man of India. Students from seven schools across Jammu district participated in the competition with great enthusiasm. The event aimed to familiarise students with the life, contributions and legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, while promoting awareness about national unity, integrity and the importance of national integration. During the programme, Sh. Zulfqar Ahmad-JKPS Deputy Commandant of the 15th JKAP IR Bn, along with other gazetted

Patel's invaluable contribution to the unity and integration of the nation. He also encouraged students to draw inspiration from Patel's life, dedication and commitment to national integrity. At the conclusion of the competition, medals, trophies and certificates were distributed among the winners and participants in recognition of their performance and enthusiastic involvement. Lunch and refreshments were also provided to all the participants. The programme was organised with the objective of strengthening police-public relations, encouraging educational and extracurricular activities among students,

India face stern test as resurgent West Indies eye series win in Bengaluru

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 16: India's ability to handle pressure will come under scrutiny when they take on a resurgent West Indies in the fifth and deciding T20I in Bengaluru on Saturday, with both teams chasing a series victory after four high-scoring contests.

The series has swung both ways, with the West Indies showing they can match India's firepower and exploit gaps in the hosts' batting and bowling. With the scoreline locked at 2-2, India will be keen to avoid an unexpected home-series defeat against a side that has grown in confidence with every outing.

The hosts' biggest concern is the lack of consistency in their batting order. Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma have produced flashes of brilliance, but their opening partnerships

have returned 29, 42, 7 and 60 runs. Even the 60-run stand in Hyderabad offered little reassurance, with Samson contributing 56 while Abhishek managed only two. India's middle order also failed to make the most of the platform in the fourth T20I. Ishan Kishan, captain Shreyas Iyer and Naman Dhir could not convert their starts, leaving Tilak Varma and Nitish Kumar Reddy with too much to do in the chase of 248.

Arshdeep, Bhuvneshwar in contention as India mull bowling combination for WI decider

United News Of India

BENGALURU, OCT 16: India could consider both Arshdeep Singh and experienced pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar for the decisive T20 International against the West Indies here on Saturday, with bowling coach Morne Morkel indicating that the final combination would depend on Arshdeep's recovery from a shoulder injury and the team's assessment on match day.

Arshdeep is recovering well after taking a blow to his shoulder, while Bhuvneshwar has been added to the squad, giving India another experienced pace option as they seek to address their bowling concerns in a high-scoring series.

"Arshdeep is recovering well after the blow he took to his shoulder. He is definitely not ruled out for tomorrow and is still available, but obviously they will make a call tomorrow at some stage," Morkel said during a media interaction here on Friday.

On Bhuvneshwar's return, Morkel said he was excited to have the experienced pacer back

in the mix, adding that his knowledge and experience would be valuable to India's relatively young bowling attack.

Bhuvneshwar, who has previously played



for Royal Challengers Bengaluru, is familiar with local conditions. However, Morkel did not confirm whether both pacers would feature in the playing XI, leaving the final selection open ahead of the series decider.

The selection question comes as India's bowlers face the challenge of containing an aggressive West Indies batting line-up on surfaces that have largely favoured batters.

لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ
LABBAIK ALLAHUMMA LABBAIK

AL MURAD

HAJJ AND UMRAH

— SAFAR-E-IBAADAT, SUKOOK KE SAATH —

Hajj aur Umrah ka Mukammal aur Behtareen Intizam

HAMARI KHIDMAAT

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

Humara Maqsad
Aapki Ibaadat ko Aasaan Banana

Aapka Bharosa
Hamari Zimmedari

AL MURAD
HAJJ AND UMRAH

Har Qadam par
Aapke Saath

APNI ZINDAGI KA SABSE BEHTAREEN SAFAR
AL MURAD HAJJ AND UMRAH KE SAATH

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