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Voice To The Voiceless



P:12 **Neeraj Chopra's VEL Sports Management signs Asian Games medallist Pooja**

Govt Approves ₹17.24 Crore for New Industrial Estate in Ganderbal
 Barsoo project to strengthen industrial infrastructure, attract investment and generate jobs : Omar Abdullah

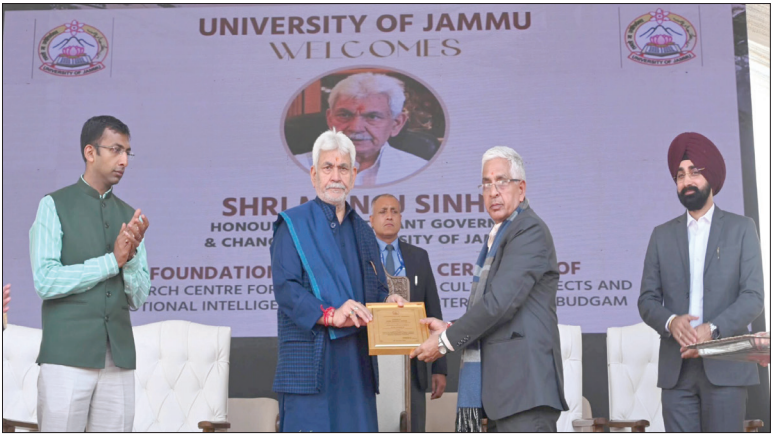
HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has accorded administrative approval for the development of a new Industrial Estate at Barsoo in Ganderbal district at an estimated cost of 17.24 crore, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday. The project aims to strengthen industrial infrastructure, attract investment, encourage entrepreneurship and create employment opportunities for local youth. The proposed estate will be equipped with essential modern facilities to support the establishment of industrial units and promote sustainable economic growth in the region. The Jammu and Kashmir Government has accorded administrative approval for the development of a new Industrial Estate at Barsoo in

>>> MORE ON P 02

“Languages, Folklore and Traditions Shape a Region’s Identity”: LG Sinha

LG lays foundation stone of University of Jammu’s Kashmir Chapter of Centre for Regional Studies



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday laid the foundation stone of the Kashmir Chapter of the University of Jammu's Centre for Regional Studies, Culture, Dialects and Emotional Intelligence, describing the initiative as a significant

step towards preserving Jammu and Kashmir's diverse linguistic, cultural and intellectual heritage. He said the Centre would strengthen cultural, historical and human connections through manuscript preservation, digital archives, linguistic mapping and interdisciplinary research, while

>>> MORE ON P 02

LG Manoj Sinha Allocates Portfolios to Eight Ministers

Deputy CM Gets PWD, Industries ; Sagar Gets Revenue, Power ; Sakeena Itoo Health, Social Welfare

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday allocated portfolios to eight ministers in Jammu and Kashmir, with Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary assigned Public Works (R&B), Industries and Commerce, Labour and Employment, and Skill Development. Ali Mohammad Sagar has been given Revenue, Power Development, Law, Justice and

>>> MORE ON P 02

“J&K’s Young Athletes Reflect Growing Sporting Potential” : Omar Abdullah

Wushu, Taekwondo teams clinch overall trophies at 70th National School Games

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday congratulated Jammu and Kashmir's Wushu and Taekwondo teams for winning the overall team trophies in both disciplines at the 70th National School Games hosted at the Government College of Physical Education, Ganderbal. The teams secured 22 medals, including five gold, five silver and 12 bronze, with Taekwondo contributing 14 medals and Wushu eight. Omar said the achievement reflected the dedication of young athletes and reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening sports infrastructure and promoting sporting excellence across the Union Territory.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today congratulated

the Jammu and Kashmir Wushu and Taekwondo teams for winning the Overall Team



Trophy in both disciplines at the 70th National School Games hosted at the Government College of Physical Education, Ganderbal. Jammu and Kashmir delivered an impressive performance,

>>> MORE ON P 02

Wular Lake Faces Ecological Decline, Fishermen Struggle to Sustain Livelihoods

Encroachment, pollution and siltation threaten wetland’s flood-buffering capacity and traditional fisheries



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 28 : Wular Lake, one of Kashmir's most important freshwater ecosystems and a natural buffer against floods, is facing mounting ecological pressures as encroachment, siltation, pollution and declining fish catches threaten its environmental health and traditional livelihoods. The Comptroller and Auditor General has flagged the shrinking water spread and shortcomings in conservation management, while untreated sewage, agricultural

runoff, solid waste and sediment from degraded catchment areas continue to affect the wetland. Fishermen report falling catches and declining incomes, raising concerns over the future of communities dependent on fishing and water chestnut collection. Although restoration measures have been undertaken, experts and environmental advocates stress the need for sustained action against encroachment, pollution and destructive fishing practices, alongside

>>> MORE ON P 02

“NC Will Split, Omar Government Will Collapse”: Sunil Sharma

LoP alleges cabinet expansion has exposed internal divisions; denies BJP approaching disgruntled legislators

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28 : Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma on Wednesday claimed that the National Conference was facing internal divisions that could eventually lead to a split in the party and the collapse of the Omar Abdullah-led government. Referring to the recent Cabinet expansion, Sharma alleged that resentment among some leaders over ministerial appointments had exposed dissatisfaction within the ruling party. He denied allegations that the BJP had approached disgruntled National Conference legislators, maintaining that his party had no intention of interfering in the NC's internal affairs. His claims remain political assertions, with no formal split in the ruling party established. : Leader of Opposition and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Wednesday claimed that the National Conference was heading



towards a split and that the Omar Abdullah-led government would eventually collapse, alleging that Tuesday's cabinet expansion had brought longstanding internal differences within the ruling party into the open.

Speaking to reporters, Sharma said dissatisfaction among a section of National Conference leaders had become visible following the induction of new ministers, with some party members allegedly questioning the dominance of one family in the organisation.

"I have already said there are cracks within the National Conference. Those cracks are now becoming visible. We are waiting to see when they widen further," Sharma said, according to Kashmir News Service (KNS).

He claimed that a dissatisfied group within the ruling party had been raising objections

>>> MORE ON P 02

BJP Gears Up for “Mission 2027”, Amit Shah to Review UP Poll Strategy

State executive committee to meet in Lucknow

on October 30–31 amid organisational challenges

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 28 (UNI): The Bharatiya Janata Party has intensified preparations for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, with its state executive committee scheduled to meet in Lucknow on October 30 and 31 in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and senior party leaders, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The meeting is expected to review organisational preparedness, electoral responsibilities, the performance of sitting MLAs and strategies to strengthen coordination between the party organisation and elected representatives. The BJP also faces challenges related to worker dissatisfaction, local public engagement, reservation issues and youth concerns as it prepares for the crucial electoral contest. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has intensified organisational activities in preparation for the 2027 assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. In this regard, a meeting of the



and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah is considered significant for this meeting. Senior party leaders, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, BJP National President Nitin Nabin, State President Pankaj Chaudhary, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, will attend the meeting. The meeting is expected to discuss preparations for the upcoming

>>> MORE ON P 02

A Salute to Dedicated Healthcare

M.H. Bukhari Appreciates Dr Amina and GMC Handwara

I express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr Amina of the Department of Ophthalmology, GMC Handwara, for her exceptional skill, professionalism and dedication in successfully performing my surgery. Her reassuring approach and compassionate care gave me confidence, and my recovery is progressing well.

I also sincerely appreciate the nursing staff and supporting team for their kindness and dedicated postoperative care. The cleanliness and orderly management of the postoperative ward, along with the effective vigilance of the security staff, are commendable.

However, I request the hospital administration and district authorities to address minor washroom leakages and ensure proper sanitation and adequate staffing to safeguard patients' health and comfort.

My sincere thanks to the entire team at GMC Handwara for their commendable service. I hope the concerned authorities will take the necessary steps to address these issues promptly.

M.H. Bukhari

“National Conference Is United; Differences of Opinion Are Natural”: Sakina Itoo

Minister dismisses rebellion talk following Cabinet expansion; says leaders can serve in different capacities

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28 : Senior National Conference leader and Cabinet Minister Sakina Itoo on Wednesday dismissed reports of dissent and rebellion within the ruling party following the recent Cabinet expansion, asserting that differences of opinion were natural in a political organisation functioning like a family. Responding to reports of resentment among senior leaders Mubarak Gul and Abdul Majeed Larmi over their exclusion from ministerial positions, she said party members had the democratic right to express their views but such differences should not be mistaken for a division. The expansion saw Ali Mohammad Sagar, Shamima Firdous, Mir Saifullah and Altaf Ahmad Kaloo inducted into the Council of Ministers, taking its strength to the maximum permissible nine, including the Chief Minister. : Senior National

Conference leader and Cabinet Minister Sakina Itoo Wednesday ruled out any dissent or rebellion within the ruling party following



the recent Cabinet expansion, maintaining that the National Conference is like a family where members may have different opinions but remain united. Responding to questions about reported resentment among senior party leaders, including Mubarak Gul and Abdul Majeed Larmi, over their exclusion from

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Govt Approves 17

Ganderbal district at an estimated cost of Rs 17.24 crore, in a move aimed at expanding industrial infrastructure and creating employment opportunities.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the project would contribute towards strengthening the industrial sector and opening new avenues for investment and employment across Jammu and Kashmir.

The proposed Industrial Estate will be developed with modern infrastructure and essential facilities to provide a conducive environment for entrepreneurs and industrial units.

The project is expected to encourage industrial investment, facilitate the establishment of new enterprises and generate employment opportunities for local youth.

The Chief Minister said the initiative forms part of the government's efforts to promote sustainable industrial growth and strengthen economic development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The development of the Industrial Estate at Barsoo is also expected to provide additional infrastructure for industrial activity in Ganderbal district, supporting entrepreneurship and economic opportunities in the region. [KNS]

“Languages, Folklore

promoting emotional intelligence, ethical awareness and human-centred development in an era of rapid technological transformation.

The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today laid the foundation stone of the Kashmir Chapter of the Centre for Regional Studies, Culture, Dialects and Emotional Intelligence of the University of Jammu.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said that the Centre represents a unique and forward-looking confluence of regional studies, culture, dialects and emotional intelligence. Highlighting the rich civilisational heritage of Jammu Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor said that the initiative would strengthen cultural, historical and human connections while preserving the region's diverse intellectual and linguistic traditions.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that a region cannot be understood through geography alone.

“Languages, folklore, cultural practices, arts, faith, traditions and lived experiences together shape the identity of a place. The integration of regional knowledge with emotional intelligence would form the soul of the new Centre and help create a deeper understanding of society and the people,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the Centre's wide-ranging objectives, including preservation of manuscripts, creation of digital archives, linguistic mapping, ethnographic studies, research on pilgrimage and tourism, mountain ecology, local entrepreneurship and fellowships for young scholars, are unique endeavours by the University. He said such initiatives would contribute to building a shared repository of knowledge for future generations.

The Lieutenant Governor also underlined 4 key factors that make such a Centre relevant in contemporary times. First, the need to balance global connectivity with local identity, the urgency of preserving endangered languages and knowledge systems, the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to complex challenges, and the growing recognition of emotional well-being in education. He said that while technology is transforming societies, the preservation of cultural roots and human values remains equally important.

Speaking on the role of universities in the age of rapid technological change and artificial intelligence, the Lieutenant Governor said that emotional intelligence and technological capability complement each other. He stressed that future-ready institutions must encourage continuous learning, adaptability, ethical awareness and multidisciplinary collaboration.

The Lieutenant Governor also noted that the main Centre at Jammu University's campus in Jammu and its Kashmir Chapter have the potential to emerge as a model institution for research, contributing to knowledge creation, cultural preservation and human-centred development while enhancing the global standing of the universities of Jammu Kashmir.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies; Dr. Guneet Singh Sudan, Director Sub Office Kashmir, Prof. Sangita Gupta, Dean, Planning & Development, and faculty members of University of Jammu attended the foundation day ceremony.

Dr. GV Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner Budgam; Ms. Shruti Awasthi, Regional Director, IGCA, senior officials of civil and Police Administration were also present.

LG Manoj Sinha

Parliamentary Affairs, DMRRR and Election Department, while Sakeena Masood Itoo will oversee Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare. Javed Ahmad Rana has been allocated FCS&CA, Tribal Affairs and Transport; Javid Ahmed Dar, Agriculture Production, Finance, Mining and Cooperatives; Mir Saifullah, Planning, Development and Monitoring, Culture, Youth Services and Sports, and ARI & Trainings; Shamim Firdous, School Education, Higher Education, Jal Shakti, and Forest, Ecology and Environment; and Altaf Ahmad Wani, Rural

Development and Panchayati Raj. The allocation was notified through Order No. 1690-JK(GAD) of 2026, dated October 28. Departments not assigned to any minister will remain with the Chief Minister.

“J&K's Young

winning 22 medals across the two disciplines. In Taekwondo, held from October 22 to 26, the team secured 14 medals, including four gold, three silver and seven bronze. In Wushu, held from October 15 to 19, the team bagged eight medals, comprising one gold, two silver and five bronze.

The Chief Minister had inaugurated the 70th National School Games on October 15. The event brought together over 1,300 young athletes from 23 States and Union Territories, providing a platform for emerging sporting talent from across the country.

Congratulating the young champions, Omar Abdullah said their achievements reflected Jammu and Kashmir's growing sporting potential and the dedication and hard work of its young athletes. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to strengthening sports infrastructure and promoting sporting excellence across Jammu and Kashmir.

The 70th National School Games were organised by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, under the aegis of the School Games Federation of India (SGFI).

BJP Gears Up

assembly elections, the state of the organisation, and the party's political challenges in the state. union ministers, state government ministers, MPs, MLAs, and state executive committee members will also participate.

Amit Shah is expected to review organisational preparations with party officials. During this meeting, discussions are expected to take place on organisational activism at the state and district levels, the allocation of electoral responsibilities, and future strategies. The meeting is also expected to discuss the performance of current MLAs and their report cards. The party faces the challenge of strengthening coordination between the organisation and public representatives before the upcoming elections. Issues such as the activity of workers in various areas, local public engagement, and the discharge of organisational responsibilities are also likely to be central to the discussions.

Amit Shah is considered a key strategist for the BJP with a deep understanding of Uttar Pradesh politics and electoral conditions. Therefore, his visit is considered crucial for preparations for Mission 2027. However, its direction will become clear only after the detailed agenda and potential decisions of the meeting are revealed. Amidst the election preparations in the state, the BJP also faces the challenge of managing workers' dissatisfaction and social dynamics. Complaints of dissatisfaction with the performance of MLAs are reportedly being raised in meetings held at various party levels.

A section of party workers alleges that newcomers and leaders from other parties have been given more importance in the organisation than older, experienced workers. In addition, the party may need to exercise political caution regarding issues such as UGC,

reservations, and youth discontent. The reactions of various groups to these issues and local circumstances may play a role in shaping the strategy for the upcoming elections. It is noteworthy that the BJP's last state executive committee meeting was held in Lucknow on July 14, 2024. At the meeting, then-National President JP Nadda and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath discussed upcoming political challenges and organisational preparations.

Now, with the 2027 assembly elections in mind, the party faces the challenge of implementing that strategy and activating the organisation to meet the electoral needs. Meanwhile, several leaders from Uttar Pradesh have been given responsibilities in the national organisation of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha. Nikhil Mani Tiwari from Deoria and Harshvardhan Singh from Ayodhya have been appointed National General Secretaries. Nikhil Mani Tiwari was previously the President of the Awadh region of the Yuva Morcha, while Harshvardhan Singh held the position of State General Secretary. Vineet Vats Tyagi of Meerut has been appointed National Treasurer. He was previously the State Office Incharge of the Yuva Morcha. Shakti Singh of Mau, Shailendra Maurya of Prayagraj, and Satendra Awana of Noida have also been appointed to the National Executive Committee.

A senior BJP official stated that these appointments have increased the participation of Uttar Pradesh leaders in the national organisation of the Yuva Morcha. Considering the State Executive Committee meeting and the organisational changes within the Yuva Morcha together, the BJP is working to activate the organisation, assign new responsibilities, and accelerate election preparations ahead of the upcoming assembly elections.

“NC Will Split

to what he described as dynastic control.

“There is a dissatisfied group which has been repeatedly saying that family rule and dynastic politics will not work. After yesterday's oath ceremony, that dissatisfaction has started coming out through statements and protests from different places,” he said.

The BJP leader maintained that the developments following the cabinet expansion supported his earlier assessment of internal divisions within the National Conference.

“The party is divided. Just wait and watch. The party will split and the government will also fall. I have said this before, and things are moving in that direction,” Sharma claimed.

Asked about allegations of lobbying within the National Conference over ministerial positions, Sharma said he was not in a position to comment on the party's internal decision-making.

“I am not an expert on the National Conference. I have not done a PhD on the party to know everything happening inside it,” he remarked.

However, he reiterated his claim that the ruling party was facing internal difficulties.

Responding to suggestions that the BJP had approached several National Conference legislators following the cabinet expansion, Sharma rejected the allegation and questioned why his party would intervene in what he described as an internal dispute.

“Why would the BJP approach them?

I have already said that the BJP is not going to form a government. Why should we interfere in their internal fight? Let them deal with it themselves,” he said.

When asked directly whether he had approached any legislators, Sharma responded by asking reporters whether there was any evidence that he had done so.

He maintained that the BJP had no reason to involve itself in the National Conference's internal affairs.

The remarks come a day after four National Conference legislators were inducted into the Council of Ministers, an expansion that has also generated discussion over the exclusion of several senior party leaders who had been considered contenders for ministerial positions.

Sharma's claims of an impending split or collapse of the government remain political assertions, with no formal break in the National Conference established by his remarks.

The National Conference had not immediately responded to Sharma's latest statements. [KNS]

Wular Lake Faces

scientific monitoring, catchment conservation and community participation to protect Wular's ecological and economic importance.

Wular Lake, one of Kashmir's most important freshwater ecosystems and a natural buffer against floods, is facing mounting ecological pressures, with encroachment, siltation, pollution and declining fish catches threatening both its environmental health and the livelihoods of communities dependent on its waters.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), in its audit of lake conservation and management in Jammu and Kashmir, flagged the shrinking water spread of Wular Lake, attributing the deterioration to encroachments along its periphery and the accumulation of silt. The audit also pointed to shortcomings in conservation planning and the need for stronger monitoring and restoration measures.

Pollution remains another major concern. Untreated sewage entering the Jhelum and agricultural runoff carrying fertilisers and pesticides have been identified as threats to water quality. Solid waste and excessive aquatic vegetation further affect the lake's ecosystem, while sediment flowing from degraded catchment areas continues to reduce its depth and water-holding capacity.

The deterioration is also affecting traditional livelihoods. Fishermen have reported declining catches, reduced earnings and growing difficulty navigating shallow, weed-choked stretches of the lake. Families dependent on fishing and the collection of water chestnuts and other aquatic produce face increasing uncertainty as traditional sources of income weaken.

Recent reports have highlighted the sharp decline in fish catches and concerns over the loss of indigenous fish species. Fishermen and environmental advocates have also raised concerns about illegal encroachments, unregulated sand extraction and destructive fishing practices, including the alleged use

of electric shocks to catch fish.

The ecological condition of Wular has implications beyond fishing communities. The lake plays an important role in storing excess water from the Jhelum and helping regulate flood flows in the Valley. Reduced water-holding capacity and continued degradation could weaken this natural protection.

Restoration work, including desilting and the removal of willow plantations and invasive vegetation, has been undertaken by the Wular Conservation and Management Authority. However, environmental reporting indicates that these interventions face continuing challenges from fresh silt deposits, upstream degradation and pollution entering the lake.

The challenge is therefore not limited to clearing vegetation or increasing the area of open water. Sustained restoration requires effective protection against encroachment, control of pollution at its source, catchment conservation, scientific monitoring of water quality and fish populations, and meaningful participation of local communities.

For fishermen whose families have depended on Wular for generations, ecological restoration and livelihood protection are closely linked. Without a healthier lake and a sustainable fisheries system, conservation efforts risk falling short of securing the wetland's long-term future. [KNT]

“National Conference

the expanded Council of Ministers, Sakina Itoo sought to downplay the controversy, saying differences of opinion should not be mistaken for divisions within the party.

She maintained that the National Conference remains united and that its leaders and legislators continue to work for the party irrespective of the responsibilities assigned to them

Itoo said party members have every democratic right to express their views and grievances, adding that such expressions should not necessarily be interpreted as protests against the leadership.

Her remarks come amid reports of dissatisfaction among some senior National Conference legislators following Tuesday's Cabinet expansion, which saw Ali Mohammad Sagar, Shamima Firdous, Mir Saifullah and Altaf Ahmad Kaloo inducted as ministers in the Omar Abdullah-led government

Senior leader Mubarak Gul's exclusion prompted protests by his supporters at the National Conference headquarters in Srinagar, while Abdul Majeed Larmi publicly expressed disappointment over not being considered for a ministerial berth despite his seniority and long association with the party.

Gul was subsequently appointed general secretary of the National Conference.

Seeking to put the controversy to rest, Sakina Itoo maintained that ministerial positions are not the only opportunities available to party leaders, who can continue serving the organisation and the public in different capacities.

The Cabinet expansion has brought the Omar Abdullah-led Council of Ministers to its maximum permissible strength of nine, including the Chief Minister. [KNT]

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CMYK

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates newly constructed Administrative Block at Women's College Srinagar

Emphasises on quality education, improved infrastructure, student-centric facilities

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today inaugurated the newly constructed Administrative Block at Government Women's College, M.A. Road here, marking a significant step towards strengthening the institutional infrastructure of the prestigious women's educational institution. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister underscored the importance of strengthening educational infrastructure alongside academic excellence, stating that a well-equipped institutional environment is essential for the effective delivery of education and the overall development of students.

"Government's endeavour is to ensure that educational institutions across Jammu and Kashmir have the necessary infrastructure and facilities to provide quality education in a conducive and student-friendly environment. Strengthening the infrastructure of colleges is not merely about creating physical assets; it is about improving the overall academic ecosystem and enabling our institutions to function more effectively", the Minister said. The Minister observed that women's



education holds a pivotal place in the government's vision of an inclusive and progressive society, emphasising that educational institutions must provide young women with opportunities to excel academically, develop their potential and prepare themselves for greater responsibilities in society.

"Empowering women through quality education remains one of our foremost priorities. Our colleges must serve as centres of learning, confidence-building and excellence, where young women are equipped with the knowledge, skills and opportunities required to shape their future and contribute meaningfully to

society", she remarked.

The Minister further stressed the need for educational institutions to focus on continuous improvement in infrastructure, administrative efficiency and the quality of academic services. She called for sustained efforts to ensure that the facilities created in educational institutions are utilised effectively and contribute to a better experience for students as well as staff.

Reiterating the government's commitment to strengthening the higher education sector, the Minister highlighted that concerted efforts are being made to improve institutional facilities and create an enabling environment that supports academic growth, innovation and the holistic development of students.

The Minister expressed hope that the newly inaugurated facility would contribute to more efficient administrative operations and further strengthen the academic and institutional environment at this prestigious institution.

Principal, Government College for Women, Dr. Yasmeen Farooq; Secretary in Higher Education, Shafiqat Iqbal; Nodal Principal (Kashmir division colleges), Dr. Seema Naz; other senior officers of Higher Education department and faculty members of the college were also present on the occasion.

Mega AYUSH Medical Camp organized in Srinagar

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28: As per the directions of the



Director AYUSH, Dr. Ajay Kumar Tickoo, and under the supervision of the District AYUSH Officer, Srinagar, Dr. Mohd Sultan Parry, a Mega AYUSH Medical Camp was successfully organized in Srinagar, witnessing a huge public gathering and enthusiastic participation. The camp aimed to provide accessible healthcare services to the general public through free medical consultations, health check-ups, and medicines. Special emphasis was laid on generating awareness about the AYUSH system of medicine, the importance of preventive healthcare, and the numerous benefits of yoga in promoting physical, mental, and overall well-being. The camp was attended by dedicated AYUSH medical officers, yoga instructors, pharmacists, and supporting staff, who rendered their valuable services for the welfare of the public. The camp witnessed a significant turnout of people who benefited from free medical consultations, complimentary medicines, and awareness sessions highlighting the importance of yoga, preventive wellness, and the advantages of the AYUSH system of medicine. The successful organization of the camp reflects the continued commitment of the AYUSH Department, towards promoting holistic healthcare, preventive wellness, and accessible medical services for all sections of society.

Under Secretary Reviews Special Campaign 6.0 at PIB Srinagar and Other Media Offices

■ HT News Network



Srinagar, October 28, 2026: Shri Prem Bahadur, Under Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, visited the offices of Press Information Bureau (PIB), Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Akashvani and Doordarshan Kendra (DDK) to review the progress of ongoing nationwide Special Campaign 6.0 in Srinagar today. During the visit, Shri Bahadur interacted with officers and staff members and reviewed the initiatives undertaken under the campaign. The review covered cleanliness and upkeep of office premises, record management, disposal of e-waste, optimal utilisation of office space and measures to improve administrative efficiency. He emphasised the importance of maintaining clean and orderly workplaces and sustaining the initiatives undertaken under the campaign as part of routine office functioning. Shri Bahadur took note of the plant pots maintained on the office premises, with each staff member responsible for the care of an individual pot, as part of efforts to maintain green and pleasant workplace surroundings. During the visit, Shri Prem was accompanied by Shri Qazi Salman, Director, PIB Srinagar, and Shri Sunil Koul, Assistant Director, PIB Srinagar, among other officers.

Information Department Kulgam organizes Media Interaction

DC Kulgam stresses on effective administration-media coordination

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, OCTOBER 28: District Information Office, Kulgam, Department of Information and Public Relations, today organized a Media Interaction programme at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Kulgam.

The programme was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam.

Media representatives, representing print, electronic and digital media platforms in the district participated in the interaction and highlighted various media and public welfare concerns and issues.

At the outset, District Information Officer Kulgam, Showkat Hussain Ganie presented opening remarks on responsible journalism,



professional ethics and importance of effective coordination between media and district administration. He also highlighted the need to curb misinformation and strengthen effective media activities in the district and enhancing the publicity activities in the district.

During the interaction,

media representatives raised various issues and concerns being faced by them while performing professional duties. They demanded the establishment of a dedicated Press Club at Kulgam to provide a platform for media persons, promote professional interaction and strengthen unity within the media fraternity.

DM Bandipora chairs NCORD meeting

Reviews Anti-Drug measures, directs strict action against repeat offenders

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 28: District Magistrate (DM) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Tahir Saleem Khan today chaired a District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) meeting at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora, to review the progress of NDPS cases and enforcement, preventive, awareness and rehabilitation measures being undertaken to combat drug abuse and narcotic trafficking in the district. The meeting reviewed police station-wise details of NDPS cases registered, cases under investigation, arrests made, and movable and immovable properties attached. Progress on CCTV installation in identified drug hotspots, action against repeat offenders and measures to strengthen investigations and prosecution were also discussed.

The meeting was informed about the widespread awareness programmes conducted across the district, initiatives to promote drug-free campuses in Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) and other educational institutions, and the functioning of the Addiction Treatment



Facility, Bandipora, including the number of persons treated and provided counselling.

On the occasion, the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Bandipora, apprised the meeting of action taken against driving licences and registration certificates (RCs), including licences recommended for cancellation and suspension, along with RCs suspended in connection with drug-related cases.

The meeting also reviewed impounding of passports, cancellation of arms licences and government accommodation, and withdrawal of security in appropriate cases.

The Deputy Director Prosecution briefed the meeting on the status of prosecution in NDPS cases and measures to strengthen legal follow-up.

CEO SSCL reviews E-Bus Operations at Pantha Chowk

Directs Stakeholders to improve fleet performance and Passenger Services

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28: Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, on Wednesday reviewed the functioning of Srinagar's electric bus services and inspected the E-Bus depot at Pantha Chowk, directing officials and service providers to improve fleet utilisation, maintenance, operational monitoring and passenger convenience.

The CEO was accompanied by the Additional CEO SSCL, General Manager, Public Transport Operations; Manager, Operations and Enforcement (E-Bus); Statistical Officer; and representatives of Tata and Chalo Mobility.

During the review, Dr. Basharat took stock of the deployment and operational performance of the electric bus fleet. He stressed the need for effective monitoring of bus schedules, route-wise deployment and service frequency to ensure punctuality and minimise inconvenience to commuters.

The CEO directed the concerned SSCL officials to closely monitor daily operations, review the performance of individual routes and ensure prompt resolution of operational issues in coordination with



the service providers.

Emphasising the responsibility of the operating agency, the CEO stressed the



need for regular preventive maintenance, timely repairs, effective charging management and maximum availability

of roadworthy buses. Tata's representatives were asked to ensure close coordination between depot and field teams and to address technical and maintenance-related issues promptly, in accordance with the applicable contractual obligations.

The role of Chalo Mobility in passenger-facing digital services was also highlighted, with emphasis on the reliability of real-time bus tracking, digital ticketing and passenger information. Accurate service updates and timely communication of route changes or disruptions are important to help commuters plan their journeys and access public transport conveniently.

Dr. Basharat further emphasised better coordination among SSCL officials, Tata and Chalo Mobility, along with regular review of operational performance, passenger complaints and service-related gaps. He stressed that issues affecting commuters must be identified and addressed in a time-bound manner.

At the Pantha Chowk depot, the CEO reviewed the arrangements supporting the operation and maintenance of the fleet and underscored the importance of operational preparedness, adherence to prescribed standards and efficient utilisation of available infrastructure.

DM Kupwara chairs NCORD Meeting, calls for zero tolerance against Drug Menace

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 28: District Magistrate (DM) Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, along with SSP Kupwara, Sudhanshu Dhama, and SSP Handwara, Sajad Khaliq, today chaired a comprehensive meeting of the District-Level Committee of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review the anti-narcotics scenario and strengthen enforcement measures across the district.

The District Magistrate reviewed the prevailing ground situation, ongoing enforcement measures, and the status of rehabilitation facilities. Emphasizing a multi-pronged strategy, the DM directed all stakeholder departments to work in close coordination, focusing equally on strict enforcement, rehabilitation, and proactive community engagement to eradicate the drug menace. To strengthen deterrence,



the DM directed the Police Department to take stringent legal action against offenders involved in drug peddling. He also directed the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) to initiate action for cancellation of driving licences of persons involved in drug-related cases, in accordance with the applicable rules. He further directed the R&B Department and the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) to examine allegations against government contractors allegedly linked to narcotics-related activities and initiate appropriate penal proceedings in accordance with the rules. The Health

Department, in coordination with the Police Department, was directed to inspect all de-addiction centres and take action against unauthorized facilities. The Assistant Drug Controller was instructed to monitor the supply and distribution of medicines to prevent the misuse of prescription drugs.

Reviewing health and preventive measures, the DM directed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to procure testing kits for screening commercial drivers across the district to enhance screening measures across vulnerable cohorts of society. He also instructed the Controlling Officers.

DC Anantnag reviews arrangements for ‘Run for Unity’ on October 31, urges People to participate

Directs Officers to ensure elaborate arrangements

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a review meeting of district officers at the Conference Hall of Dak Bungalow, Khanabal, to review arrangements for the smooth and successful conduct of the ‘Run for Unity’, scheduled to be held on October 31. The meeting was convened to ensure effective coordination among various departments and put in place all necessary arrangements well in advance for the event, which is organised to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and promote the ideals of national unity, integrity and patriotism.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised that, being an event of national importance, the ‘Run for Unity’ must be accorded the highest priority. He directed all concerned officers to work in close coordination and ensure that all requisite arrangements are completed within the stipulated timeframe for the smooth conduct of the



programme. The DC stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination and directed each department to discharge its assigned responsibilities efficiently. He called for a coordinated approach among all stakeholders to ensure the seamless execution of the event and urged people from all sections of society to participate enthusiastically. Dr. Bilal observed that events such as the ‘Run for Unity’ play

a significant role in fostering patriotism, strengthening national integration and promoting the values of unity and brotherhood among participants and the general public. He added that such initiatives provide an important platform to reaffirm the collective commitment to the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the nation. During the meeting, responsibilities for various activities and arrangements

related to the programme were assigned to the concerned departments. The officers were directed to maintain close liaison with one another and ensure the timely completion of all preparatory measures. The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Superintendent of Police, Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Divisional Forest Officer, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Assistant Director CAPD, Executive Engineers of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department and PMGSY, Tehsildars, Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council, District Information Officer, Deputy Director, Forest Protection Force, besides other concerned officers.

DC Anantnag Administers Integrity Pledge to Employees at Dak Bungalow

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 28: As part of the observance of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026, officers and officials across Anantnag today participated in Integrity Pledge-taking ceremonies, reaffirming their commitment to upholding honesty, transparency, accountability and ethical values in public service. The pledge was administered under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

During the ceremonies, employees vowed to combat corruption, maintain integrity in the discharge of their official duties and work towards ensuring transparent and accountable governance. The initiative aimed to reinforce the importance of ethical conduct, dedication and responsibility among government employees while promoting a corruption-free administrative system.

DC Pulwama reviews District Security Scenario

Emphasises preventive measures and Inter-Agency Coordination

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a meeting at the District

also deliberated on measures required to enhance deterrence, strengthen preventive mechanisms and improve operational preparedness to address security challenges. Furthermore, during the meeting, various



Administrative Complex, Pulwama, to review the security situation in the district, assess security trends over the past years and deliberate on future aspects relating to peace and public order.

The meeting was attended by the Senior Superintendent of Police, (SSP) Pulwama, Sahil Sarangal; SSP Awantipora, Irshad Hussain Rather; Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Tral and Awantipora, Officers of the Air Force Station Awantipora, Commanding Officers of Army, CRPF and other CAPFs deployed in the district.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the prevailing security scenario, the effectiveness of preventive measures, operational preparedness and coordination among the agencies concerned. The participants

coordination issues and matters requiring facilitation were also discussed, with the Deputy Commissioner directing that these be prioritised for timely resolution.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of sustained vigilance, timely sharing of information and close coordination among all security and civil agencies to address emerging challenges effectively. He emphasised the need for dovetailing and convergence of resources and programmes under Sadbhavana to make interventions more impactful, relevant and outcome-oriented.

Concluding the meeting, Sidha called for a proactive and coordinated approach, along with regular assessment of the situation and timely implementation of decisions.

ACB organises Youth Parliament in Baramulla to promote Integrity, Corruption-Free Governance

■ HT News Network



BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 28: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) organised a Youth Parliament at the Auditorium of Government Boys Degree College, Baramulla, under Vigilance Awareness Week 2026, on the theme “Probity for Prosperity.”

Tariq Ahmad Zarger, former Secretary of the Rural Development Department (RDD), attended the programme as the Chief Guest. Javed Hassan Bhat, SSP, AIG Headquarters, ACB Srinagar, and Tasleema Bano, Principal of Government Boys Degree College, Baramulla, were the Guests of Honour. A large number of youth and officials were also present.

During the Youth Parliament proceedings, participants deliberated on issues concerning the Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CA&PD) Department and the Rural Development Department (RDD), raising concerns regarding alleged irregularities and public service delivery. The proceedings also highlighted action taken by the ACB against corruption. The discussions further focused on transparency and accountability in public administration, the timely disposal of pending cases, digital initiatives and capacity-building. Speaking on the occasion, Tariq Ahmad Zarger stressed the importance of fighting corruption and urged the youth to uphold honesty, integrity and accountability in every sphere of life. He said that corruption damages society by weakening public institutions, undermining trust, obstructing development and depriving deserving citizens of their rights and opportunities. He called upon young people to actively contribute to building a transparent, ethical and corruption-free society.

DC Shopian leads Mega Block Diwas at Keller to address Public Grievances

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 28: In a continuous effort to strengthen grassroots governance and ensure doorstep delivery of public services, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, presided over a Mega Block Diwas programme at Keller, Shopian today.

The primary objective of the block diwas was to directly engage with the community, assess local developmental needs, ensure administrative accountability and review seasonal preparations, particularly harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities.

During the interaction, dynamic demands were passionately voiced by local representatives and citizens which include, Playground at Gatipora, dearth of Specialist doctors for night shift at Sub-District hospital, Keller, construction of crucial local routes, uninterrupted electricity, installation of electric poles, availability of Snow-cutters, establishment of a Chest Diseases Hospital at Keller, construction of the Daramdora footbridge, creation of parking facilities at the Sub-District Hospital Keller, checking of Pesticides, toilets for Keller market, shifting of HT line from apple orchards via main roadside, repairing of unsafe school buildings, establishing of general public library in Keller, etc.



Reaffirming the administration's commitment to transparent, accountable and citizen-centric governance, the Deputy Commissioner assured attendees that every genuine demand raised during the programme would be systematically tracked and addressed in a time-bound manner. He said that any official laxity or negligence in resolving public matters would invite strict accountability.

The DC also stated that revenue records have now been digitized, enabling people to access information related to revenue matters through the online system without the need to visit government offices, thereby ensure greater transparency, convenience and efficient public service delivery.

Organized as part of the ongoing Jan Sunwai and Jan Abhiyaan initiatives, the interactive public outreach camp provided an effective platform for local residents and public representatives to voice

their developmental concerns, pressing grievances and sectoral demands directly to the administration.

The Block Diwas prioritized immediate listening and prompt resolution of public issues by deploying officials from all line departments directly at the venue.

A pledge-taking ceremony was also held as part of the ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week, during which the District Programme Officer administered the pledge to the participants, reaffirming their commitment to integrity, transparency, accountability and the eradication of corruption. Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, GM, DIC, Shurjil Naik, DPO, Mohammed Imran, ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar, CPO, Mudasar Ahmed, Xens, district/sectoral officers, Tehsildar, Keller, BDO, Keller and other concerned participated in the event.

DC Kupwara presides over Mega Block Diwas at Nutnussa Directs Time-Bound Grievance Redressal

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, today presided over a Mega Block Diwas at Nutnussa, reaffirming the district administration's commitment to addressing public grievances and ensuring effective delivery of government services at the grassroots level.

The programme witnessed active participation from public delegations and local residents of Nutnussa and adjoining areas, including Jagarpora, Chak Nutnussa, Keegam and Chak Keegam, who projected various issues and developmental demands concerning their respective areas. The major issues raised included reliable drinking water and power supply, improvement of road connectivity, strengthening of healthcare infrastructure, promotion of agriculture and horticulture, effective implementation of Rural Development Department (RDD) schemes, and issues related to the functioning of local food stores.



The Mega Block Diwas was attended by ADC Handwara, Chief Planning Officer, Superintending Engineers of PWD and I&FC, Chief Medical Officer Kupwara, ACD Kupwara, Chief Education Officer Kupwara, Tehsildar Handwara and other district and sectoral officers.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the grievances and directed the concerned departments to ensure their prompt and time-bound resolution. Several issues were resolved on the spot through the intervention of the concerned officers.

Taking note of drinking water concerns in vulnerable pockets, the DC directed the

concerned authorities to maintain a dedicated fleet of water tankers on standby to ensure timely water supply in areas facing acute or persistent shortages.

The Superintending Engineer, I&FC, was directed to expedite ongoing developmental works, remove bottlenecks affecting their execution and submit comprehensive monthly progress reports to the district administration.

Emphasising accessible healthcare, the DC instructed the Chief Medical Officer to ensure proper functioning of NTPHC Nutnussa for uninterrupted healthcare services to the local population.

DDC Pulwama holds mega Public Outreach-cum-Grievance Redressal Camp at Sangarwani Stresses prompt redressal of public grievances; reviews developmental issues with local residents

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 28: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a mega Public Outreach-cum-Grievance Redressal Camp at Sangarwani (Inderwani), providing a platform to local residents to put forth their grievances, developmental requirements and issues concerning delivery of public services.

SSP Pulwama, Sahil Sarangal; ADDC Pulwama, Joint Director Planning, Pulwama; GM DIC Pulwama, DPO ICDS Pulwama, Superintending Engineers, ACR, ACD, ACP, DMO, CEO, CMO, CHO, CAO, CAHO, DIO, Executive Engineers and other district and sectoral officers from various departments were present during the camp.

Before commencement of the public interaction, the DDC inspected departmental stalls established at the venue by Agriculture, Horticulture, Education, Health, Sheep Husbandry, Social Welfare and other departments. He took stock of the services and schemes being showcased and was briefed by the concerned officials regarding the benefits available to the public under various government programmes.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC expressed gratitude to the people of Sangarwani and adjoining areas for their participation and for bringing their concerns directly before the district administration. He said that such outreach camps are aimed at taking governance closer to the people, listening to issues at their doorstep and ensuring effective and responsive delivery of public services.

During the interaction, residents and public representatives highlighted several issues pertaining to Forest Rights Act (FRA) claims, road connectivity, internet services, drinking water, education, health infrastructure, power supply and other developmental concerns.

It was highlighted by the tribal social activists that the area has a predominantly Scheduled Tribe population and concerns regarding pending claims under the Forest Rights Act were raised. They stated that several genuine FRA claims are still pending, affecting the execution of developmental works in the area, particularly where requisite clearances/NOCs are involved. The DDC directed the ACR and Forest officials to remain available at the location and ensure that all genuine FRA cases are examined and



processed on priority.

The issue of poor internet connectivity in the area was also raised, with residents pointing out that inadequate network services are affecting education, online services and other digital facilities. The DDC sought a status update from the concerned BSNL/telecom authorities and directed that the

pending approval/permission-related issue be taken up on priority. He assured that necessary intervention from the district administration would be provided immediately so that the matter is resolved at the earliest.

Residents also raised the issue of the Sangarwani road, which has remained affected due to pending

issues related to funds and other clearances. The DDC directed the concerned departments to identify and resolve the bottlenecks and expedite the work.

Regarding the non-functional filtration plant, the DDC sought the reasons for the delay from the concerned officials and directed immediate corrective action to ensure that the facility becomes functional and safe drinking water is made available to the people. The demand for establishment of a Higher Secondary School at Sangarwani was also raised, taking note of the issue, the DDC directed the Chief Education Officer to undertake the necessary assessment and prepare the requisite proposal for establishment/upgradation of the institution. Several road-related issues were also brought to the notice of

the DDC, including the Abhama-Sangarwani road, Pakharpora-Sangarwani road and other link roads. The DDC directed the concerned engineering agencies to expedite pending works and address the bottlenecks causing delays. He also took note of concerns regarding the condition of roads and the resulting safety risks.

The issue of inadequate availability of Patwari services in the area was highlighted. The DDC directed the Tehsildar concerned to ensure adequate availability and regular presence of the Patwari so that people do not face unnecessary difficulties in accessing revenue services. Residents also highlighted the need for improved drinking water facilities at Namlan/Behak, particularly in view of the growing tourist footfall in the area.

HT EDITORIAL

Cybersecurity Is Non-Negotiable: Protecting J&K's Digital Governance

In an era when cyberattacks can cripple institutions without firing a shot, cybersecurity is no longer an administrative formality; it is a frontline defence of governance itself. The Jammu and Kashmir Government's decision to upgrade cybersecurity systems across departments is both necessary and urgent. But the real challenge lies not in issuing instructions, but in ensuring their effective implementation.

As government departments increasingly depend on digital networks for official communication, sensitive records and public service delivery, every unprotected device becomes a potential gateway for cyber threats. A security breach can expose confidential information, disrupt essential services and erode public confidence. Any complacency in protecting government IT infrastructure could therefore carry consequences far beyond the digital domain.

The deployment of upgraded Unified Endpoint Management (UEM) and Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) solutions across systems connected to NICNET and JKSWAN is a crucial step towards strengthening the Union Territory's cyber defences. These systems can improve device management, identify vulnerabilities and enable faster detection of suspicious activities. With existing licences nearing expiry, the upgrade also underscores a fundamental principle: cybersecurity gaps must never be allowed to become administrative blind spots.

However, installing advanced software is not enough. Security systems are only as effective as their implementation, monitoring and enforcement. Departments must ensure that every eligible endpoint is covered, updates are maintained and vulnerabilities are addressed without delay. Any failure of coordination or compliance could weaken the collective security framework.

Equally concerning is the human factor. Careless handling of official data, weak passwords and susceptibility to phishing attacks can defeat even sophisticated technological safeguards. Regular training, independent security audits, reliable backups and clearly defined emergency-response mechanisms must become standard administrative practice, not occasional exercises.

The government must also ensure that cybersecurity remains a continuous priority rather than a campaign launched in response to an immediate concern. Threats evolve relentlessly, and defensive systems must evolve with them. Accountability must be clear, implementation must be monitored and weaknesses must be corrected before they can be exploited.

Ultimately, the success of this initiative will not be judged by the number of computers upgraded, but by the resilience of government networks, the protection of sensitive information and the uninterrupted delivery of public services. Digital governance without robust cybersecurity is governance built on fragile foundations. Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford a casual approach to cyber protection. The latest directive is a welcome move, but it must mark the beginning of sustained vigilance, strict compliance and institutional accountability. In the digital age, securing government systems is not optional, and failure to do so is not merely a technical lapse—it is a failure to protect public trust.



Abid Hussain Rather

We live in a world where people do not simply buy things because they need them; rather things persuade people to buy them. The marketplace has changed from a place where we fulfil our needs into a powerful system that creates new desires in us every day. From the moment we wake up until we go to sleep, advertisements surround us. They appear on our phones, television screens, roads, newspapers and social media. They tell us what to wear, what to eat, which car to drive, which mobile phone to carry and even what kind of life we should desire.

The most powerful word in this entire commercial world is perhaps "new." A new model has arrived. A new design has been introduced. A new version is available. A new lifestyle is waiting for you. Slowly, we have allowed the word "new" to become almost synonymous with "better." This is where the real problem begins. Something does not become better simply because it is newer. A new product may be useful but at the same time it may also be unnecessary. An old product may be outdated, but it may also be perfectly functional. The real measure should be quality, usefulness, necessity and durability—not merely freshness or newness. But advertisements rarely encourage us to think in this way.

Consider the mobile phone in our hands. It may be working perfectly. Its battery may be good, its camera may satisfy our needs and it may perform every task we require. Then a new model appears. Suddenly, the phone that served us so well yesterday begins to look old. We are made to feel that our device is no longer fashionable even though nothing has actually changed in its usefulness. This is the subtle power of consumerism. The market does not always sell us a product; sometimes it first

Needs or Market-Made Desires?



creates a feeling of inadequacy and then sells us the product as a solution. We are made to believe that our lives are incomplete, our appearance insufficient, our homes unimpressive or our personalities somehow behind the times. Then a product is placed before us as the answer.

When we feel that a new dress will make us attractive. A new car will make us respectable. An expensive watch will make us successful. A particular mobile phone will make us modern. Gradually, the product stops being an object of utility and becomes a symbol of identity. This is where the magic of brands becomes even stronger. A brand is no longer merely a name printed on a product. It has become a story. We associate certain brands with success, elegance, wealth, sophistication and social status. Sometimes two products of similar quality are placed before us, but we are willing to pay considerably more for the famous name. Why is it so? Because we are not always buying the object. We are buying the image attached to it. A branded shirt becomes a symbol of status. A particular car becomes a symbol of achievement. A luxury watch becomes a statement about personality. A smartphone becomes a sign of modernity.

The most successful advertisement is therefore not the one we see on television. It is the one that continues to operate inside our minds after the advertisement has disappeared. When a person begins to think, without seeing an advertisement, that he is inferior without a particular brand, that he is unsuccessful without an expensive possession, or that he is falling behind without the latest model, the

advertisement has achieved its ultimate victory. It has moved from the screen into the mind.

This phenomenon deserves particular attention in the age of social media. Today, advertisements do not merely tell us what to buy; they show us how other people are supposedly living. Perfect homes, fashionable clothes, expensive holidays, luxurious cars and carefully designed lifestyles appear before us every day. We compare our ordinary lives with these carefully constructed images and begin to feel that something is missing. But the truth is that much of what we see is an advertisement disguised as a lifestyle.

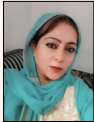
The another casualty of this culture is contentment. The more we possess, the more we sometimes feel that we lack. Our wardrobes are full, yet we complain that we have nothing suitable to wear. Our homes contain countless objects, yet we constantly search for more. We replace things that still work simply because newer versions have arrived. In this endless race, satisfaction becomes temporary. The excitement of a new purchase lasts for a while, and then another desire appears. In the race of chasing new things and new models we forget that there is something particularly beautiful about old things that the modern marketplace can't sell. That beautiful thing is the memories associated with old things. An old watch may remind us of our father. An old chair may carry the memory of a grandparent. An old book may remind us of our youth. A simple piece of clothing may be connected to an unforgettable occasion. Such things may have little commercial value, but they can possess enormous emotional

value.

A new object can be purchased with money, but a memory cannot. This does not mean that everything old must be preserved. Things that are broken, useless or unnecessarily occupying space should certainly be discarded. But an object should not be rejected merely because a newer version has entered the market. We need to recover the ability to ask ourselves a simple question before buying: Do I really need this? This question may sound ordinary, but in a world built around constant consumption, it is a powerful question. Parents have an especially important responsibility here. Children are growing up in a world where advertisements begin influencing them at an extremely young age. They must be taught that expensive does not necessarily mean superior, famous does not necessarily mean valuable, and new does not necessarily mean better. They should learn that the value of a thing lies in its usefulness, quality and genuine necessity rather than in its newness. Ultimately, the problem is not the existence of advertisements, brands or new products. These are natural parts of modern economic life. The problem begins when they start making decisions on our behalf. We should use the market without becoming its slaves. We should enjoy material comforts without allowing them to define our worth. We should buy new things when they genuinely improve our lives, but we should also have the confidence to keep the old ones when they continue to serve us and are useful to us. After all, a human being is more valuable than the things he owns. The real freedom of a consumer is not the freedom to buy everything. It is the freedom to say "I do not need this" even when the entire market is telling him that he does. Perhaps the day we learn to distinguish between need and desire, quality and fashion, usefulness and status, the spell of advertising will begin to weaken. And perhaps then we will discover an important truth: we do not need to own everything that the world tells us to desire in order to live a meaningful life. Things should serve human beings. Human beings should never become servants of things.

(The author teaches Geography at GDC Anantnag and can be reached at rather1294@gmail.com)

Blind superstition builds walls between human beings, while kindness breaks them down.



Shaheen Shah

It was a usual morning, and I was about to leave for my office. As I sat in my car near my gate, I noticed a woman walking towards me. Suddenly, she stopped and hid behind another car.

To my surprise, I recognised her. She was the domestic helper of our next-door neighbour.

Wondering why she was hiding, I stopped my car when I reached her, rolled down the window, extended my hand, shook hands with her, and asked about her and her family.

She seemed hesitant. I asked, "Is everything alright?"



With a stammering voice, she replied, "Yes, madam. I thought you were going to your job. I didn't want to come in front of you. If you saw me, your day might not go well."

I smiled and gently told her, "That's just a myth. Please don't believe in such

things."

But her words stayed with me throughout the day. I kept thinking about how deeply such superstitions are rooted in our society, especially among us Kashmiris.

It saddened me to realise how fear,

myths, and baseless beliefs can influence people's minds and make them see an innocent human encounter as a bad omen.

Why do we allow such beliefs to control our thoughts and behaviour? Why do we judge our day by whom we see in the morning instead of by our actions, intentions, and hard work?

A person's presence can never decide whether your day will be good or bad. Our mindset, choices, and actions matter far more than superstitions.

It's time we educated ourselves, questioned irrational beliefs, and replaced superstition with awareness, humanity, and reason.

Education is not merely about earning degrees; it is also about freeing our minds from the chains of blind beliefs.

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Dr. Vijay Garg

Agriculture is the backbone of rural India, while solar energy is emerging as an important source of clean electricity. Traditionally, farming and solar power generation have competed for land. Solar installations occupy large areas that could otherwise be used for growing crops. However, an innovative approach called agrivoltaics offers an opportunity to combine both activities on the same land. It allows farmers to cultivate crops beneath or between elevated solar panels while generating electricity above them.

The concept raises an important question: can Indian farmers harvest food and solar energy from a single field without reducing agricultural productivity?

What Is Agrivoltaics?
Agrivoltaics is the practice of integrating agricultural production with solar photovoltaic systems on the same land. Solar panels are installed at suitable heights and spacing to allow farming operations beneath or between them. Depending on the design, farmers can grow vegetables, fodder, medicinal plants and certain shade-tolerant crops while producing renewable electricity.



Unlike conventional solar parks, which may replace agricultural activity, agrivoltaic systems aim to preserve farming alongside energy generation. This approach could be particularly valuable in India, where agricultural land is essential for food security and rural livelihoods.

Benefits for Indian Farmers
One of the most significant advantages of agrivoltaics is the possibility of earning income from two sources. Farmers may receive revenue from agricultural produce and electricity generated on their land. Depending on the ownership model, electricity can be sold to the grid, supplied to nearby consumers or used for irrigation pumps

and other farm operations.

Solar panels also provide partial shade, which can reduce excessive exposure to sunlight and lower soil moisture loss under certain conditions. In hot and dry regions, this may help some crops withstand heat stress. However, the benefits depend on crop variety, local climate, panel height, spacing and the amount of sunlight reaching plants.

Agrivoltaics may also support more efficient water use. Reduced evaporation can help conserve moisture, although the effect varies with soil conditions and panel arrangement. Rainwater distribution must also be managed carefully because panels can concentrate rainfall in particular

areas.

Will Crop Yields Suffer?
The greatest challenge is balancing electricity production with agricultural productivity. Plants require sufficient sunlight for photosynthesis, growth and grain formation. Excessive shading can reduce yields, particularly in crops that need abundant sunlight.

Therefore, agrivoltaics cannot be introduced uniformly across all farms. Crop selection is essential. Leafy vegetables, certain fodder crops and shade-tolerant plants may perform well under appropriately designed systems, while wheat, rice and other sun-demanding crops may require more careful evaluation.

For Punjab, where wheat and rice are major crops, large-scale adoption should follow local field trials rather than assumptions. Researchers must measure crop yields, grain quality, water consumption, electricity generation and farmers' profits over several growing seasons.

Challenges and Practical Solutions
The initial investment in elevated solar structures can be substantial. Farmers may also face difficulties operating tractors, harvesters and irrigation equipment beneath panels. Installation must therefore accommodate farm machinery, drainage, crop height and routine agricultural activities.

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We are born to serve the Nation



By M S Nazki

From the frontiers of National Security to class rooms of tomorrow..... Inspiring the Nation's future!-Barsaat ke din aaye. Mulaqat ke din aaye. Betaabiyan ke Din Aaye!

Sharaare beetche hain, Yeh saawan ki, Rimjhim jhadi hain, Kadam bekhudi mein, Behakne lage hain

Yeh madhoshiyon, Ki ghadi hain. Barsaat ke din aaye, Mulaqat ke din aaye!

-That is a powerful and inspiring theme. It beautifully echoes the legendary quote from India's Kothari Commission report: "The destiny of India is now being shaped in her classrooms."

-Bridging the gap between the critical demands of national security and the evolving landscape of future education highlights a vital truth: a nation's true defense and long-term sovereignty are built on the intellect, innovation, and civic preparedness of its youth.

Here is a look at how these two worlds are converging to shape the nation's future:

- Securing the Digital Frontier: As threat landscapes shift toward cybersecurity, autonomous defense, and AI-driven intelligence, the classrooms of today must equip students with advanced mathematical, algorithmic, and computational skills to defend tomorrow's infrastructure.
- The "Whole-of-Nation" Mindset: Modern national security is no longer just about guarding physical borders. It relies heavily on social harmony, media literacy to combat fake news, and technological self-reliance (Aatmanirbharta)—values that are actively cultivated in youth development programs and reimagined curricula.
- Fostering Future Innovators: By moving from rote learning to flexible, problem-solving environments, tomorrow's classrooms act as incubators for the critical thinkers, scientists, and strategic leaders who will eventually lead national defense, space exploration, and economic policymaking.
- If you are developing a specific project around this theme, I can help you tailor the content. Let me know:
 - What is the format or medium of this project? (e.g., a keynote speech, a promo video script, a seminar pamphlet, or an essay?)
 - Who is the target audience? (e.g., school students, NCC cadets, defense personnel, or policymakers?)
 - What is the desired length and tone? (e.g., highly formal, high-energy/motivational, or brief and punchy?)
- he query likely refers to the National Security Guard (NSG), India's elite counter-terrorism force (often referred to as the Black Cats), which celebrated its 42nd Raising Day on October 16, 2026.
- Key Details about the NSG:
 - Raised/Established: October 16, 1984, under the Ministry of Home Affairs following developments like Operation Blue Star.



- Statutory Status: Governed under the National Security Guard Act, 1986.
- Role & Model: Modelled on the UK's SAS and Germany's GSG-9, operating as a zero-error counter-terrorism, hostage-rescue, and anti-hijack force.
- The National Security Guard (NSG)—widely known as the Black Cats—is India's premier federal counter-terrorism and contingency force.
- Core Purpose & Responsibilities
 - The NSG was raised in 1984 under the National Security Guard Act, 1986 to act as a specialized federal contingency deployment force. It is meant to be deployed only in exceptional situations and is not designed to replace regular state police forces or paramilitary units.
 - Its primary operational mandates include:
 - Counter-Terrorism Operations: Swift, zero-error responses to major terror attacks.
 - Hostage Rescue: Specialized interventions in high-risk hostage situations.
 - Anti-Hijacking Operations: Neutralizing hijackings across land, sea, and air.
 - Bomb Disposal: Search, detection, and neutralisation of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), alongside managing the National Bomb Data Centre (NBDC).
 - Post-Blast Investigations (PBI): Technical analysis and forensics following major explosions.
 - Structure & Organization
 - Motto: "Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha" ("Excellence in Security Everywhere").
 - Control: It operates under the administrative control of the Union Ministry

of Home Affairs.

- Composition: It draws its personnel from the Indian Army and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) like the CRPF, BSF, ITBP, and CISF.
- (Note: In computing or cloud networking, "NSG" can also stand for Network Security Group, which is a firewall rule set used to filter network traffic to and from Azure resources).
- National Safety Awards—such as those launched or recognized by the National Safety Council of India (NSCI) and international equivalents like the National Safety Council—increasingly attract and celebrate women for several key reasons:
 - Recognition of Leadership: Specialized accolades like the NSCI Excellence Award for Women in Safety and the Marion Martin Award explicitly honor women who have broken gender barriers, influenced industrial standards, and championed Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment (OSHE).
 - Networking & Mentorship: These award platforms and associated women's divisions provide dedicated spaces to connect with trailblazers, share career experiences, and build professional networks in historically male-dominated fields.
 - Workplace Culture & Representation: Highlighting women leaders shifts organizational culture toward greater transparency, lower incident rates, and stronger employee engagement, drawing more women into safety engineering, industrial hygiene, and risk management.
 - Focus on Inclusive Environments: Modern safety initiatives increasingly

address holistic workplace concerns—including physical accommodations, personal protective equipment (PPE) tailored for women, and psychological safety.

-We are born to serve the nation! We worn blue dress- We are not born to kill-! We are born to serve the nation! Every one be it a school, girl or a boy we teach serving the Nation is important! 1

-National beauty awards and modern grooming events draw male interest because of shifting cultural norms, social media influence, and the booming expansion of the male personal care industry.

- Social Media and Influencers: Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube normalize male grooming, skin care, and subtle cosmetic choices through accessible tutorials and creator representation.
- Red Carpet and Awards Season Boldness: Celebrities and public figures increasingly push the boundaries of male styling—wearing subtle makeup, glowing skin prep, or statement pieces at major award shows.
- Expanding Grooming Markets: The male grooming and beauty sector has grown into a multi-billion-dollar industry, with brands offering targeted concealers, tinted moisturizers, and skincare lines designed specifically to feel non-intimidating and masculine.
- Cultural Shifts: Traditional taboos around men using cosmetics or competing/participating in beauty-adjacent spaces are fading, replaced by a focus on self-expression and professional presentation.

Would you like to know more about specific male grooming product trends or how major beauty brands market to men?

-Hum soch mein the jinke, Us raat ke din aaye, Barsaat ke din aaye, Barsaat ke din aaye. Jalte rahe hum khayalo ke. Laus sahi humne barso judaa, Cham cham barasti Suhani, Chata ne aab si agan hain lagai , Barsaat ke din aaye. Mulaqat ke din aaye!

-The National Security Guard (NSG), India's elite counter-terrorism and special forces unit known as the Black Cats, embodies its motto "Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha" (Omnipresent Optimal Protection). Their stories of love for the nation are defined by extreme grit, high-risk operations, and supreme sacrifice...

-Major Acts of Valor and Nation-First Service

- Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan (26/11 Mumbai Attacks): During the 2008 coordinated terrorist attacks in Mumbai, Major Unnikrishnan led the entry team into the Taj Hotel to rescue hostages. When his team was pinned down, he single-handedly engaged the terrorists to allow his injured comrades to escape, ultimately making the supreme sacrifice for the country.
- The 3-Month Crucible of Selection: Becoming an NSG Black Cat requires passing a brutal 3-month commando conversion course combined with a 6-week unit induction, where drop-out rates are exceptionally high. Candidates endure grueling physical and mental tests driven by a singular commitment to protect the motherland.
- High-Risk Operations Across Decades: From neutralizing threats during the 2002 Akshardham Temple attack to the 2016 Pathankot airbase siege and continuous urban counter-terror missions, NSG commandos operate with zero margin for error under extreme pressure.
- Honors and Legacy
 - Raising Day Recognition: Celebrated annually on October 16 (marking its establishment in 1984 under the National Security Guard Act), national leaders—including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah—regularly honor the force for standing as an unbreakable shield against terrorism.
 - Public & Cultural Tributes: The dedication of NSG commandos has been documented in special projects like National Geographic India's Inside NSG and artistic tributes commemorating the heroes of 26/11.
 - Open Magazine

The Gap Between Young And Elder At The Dinner Table



BY-MOOL RAJ

Every family has a version of the same scene. A grandfather sits with his tea, a father scrolls through his phone, and a teenager answers a question without looking up. Nobody is angry. Nobody is wrong. Yet

Today the next change arrives before the last one is understood.

Technology gets most of the blame, and it deserves a share. But it is only the surface. Underneath lie deeper differences in how each generation was shaped. Older people often grew up with scarcity. They learned that security comes from a steady job, a piece of land, a habit of saving, and a good name. Younger people grew up with choice and noise. They see a dozen careers where their parents saw one, and they hear success stories every day and measure themselves against them. The old fear losing what

they want an answer better than "because we have always done it this way." Here many households stall. The question is honest, but it sounds like defiance. The answer is sincere, but it sounds like a command.

Most generational conflict is not really about the subject on the table. It is about respect. The older person wants to be honoured for experience. The younger person wants to be heard for perspective. When each feels denied, the argument grows louder, though the need underneath is quiet and simple.

Can the gap be closed entirely? I

ran a household on so little and learn something about resilience that no course will teach. An older person can ask a grandson to explain what he does online and may discover that the work is serious, skilled, and demanding. Curiosity turns suspicion into information, and information is a far better foundation for family life than assumption.

The third is humility on both sides. Experience is valuable, but it does not make a person right about everything. Youth brings energy and fresh sight, but it is not the same as wisdom. The elder who admits the world has changed and the young person who admits that some old rules have reasons behind them are both showing real strength.

Institutions have a part to play as well. Schools, workplaces, and community groups can create ordinary occasions where age groups work side by side. Mentoring, shared projects, and open discussions help people see one another as individuals instead of categories. It is hard to dismiss "the youth" or "the elderly" once you have worked beside one of them and found them reliable, funny, and kind.

I often think about how every elder was once a young person convinced that their parents did not understand. Every young person will one day sit at the head of a table and feel a similar distance from those who come next. The roles rotate, but the feelings repeat. That pattern should make us humble. It suggests the gap is not the failure of one group but a natural result of time passing through families.

The scene at the dinner table need not end in silence. A grandfather can set down his tea and ask a question. A father can put away his phone. A teenager can look up and answer fully. None of this needs a grand plan. It needs a decision, repeated daily, to treat the person across the table as someone worth understanding.

The gap will always exist. What matters is whether we stand at opposite edges of it or meet somewhere in the middle.

The Author Is A Regular Columnist And Freelance Writer

The Vertical Farming



Surinderpal Singh

As the global population is sharply increasing, agricultural land is becoming scarce and climatic changes are mounting pressure on conventional farming so the world must rethink how it produces food. Amongst the most promising innovations is vertical farming, a modern agricultural technique that involves growing crops in vertically stacked layers, often inside buildings, warehouses, greenhouses or specially designed indoor facilities. By combining agricultural science, engineering, automation and digital technology, vertical farming offers a new approach to food production that can bring farms closer to consumers and make better use of limited space.

Vertical farming is an innovative method of cultivating crops in multiple layers rather than spreading them across large horizontal fields. It frequently uses controlled-environment agriculture, in which temperature, humidity, light, nutrients and other growing conditions are carefully regulated to support plant development.

Unlike conventional farming, which generally depends on soil and natural weather conditions, vertical farming may employ hydroponics, aeroponics or aquaponics. Hydroponics grows plants in nutrient-rich water without soil; aeroponics supplies nutrients through a fine mist around plant roots; and aquaponics combines fish farming with plant cultivation in a mutually supportive system. Artificial LED lighting, sensors, automated irrigation and computer-controlled systems help maintain suitable growing conditions throughout the year. Consequently, crops can be cultivated independently of many seasonal and geographical limitations.

Traditional agriculture remains indispensable to global food production, but it faces several serious challenges. Rapid urbanisation is reducing available agricultural land in some regions, while unpredictable rainfall, droughts, floods, rising temperatures and soil degradation threaten crop productivity. Meanwhile, transporting fresh produce over long distances can increase costs, spoilage and post-harvest losses. Vertical farming offers a potential response to these challenges. By growing crops in controlled environments, farmers can reduce their dependence on favourable weather and produce selected crops throughout the year. Locating farms near urban markets can also shorten supply chains and improve access to fresh vegetables.

For densely populated cities, vertical farming presents an opportunity to use otherwise underutilised spaces, including suitable rooftops, converted buildings and purpose-built facilities. However, it should complement rather than replace conventional agriculture, which remains essential for producing staple crops such as wheat, rice and maize on a large scale. The success of vertical farming depends on the precise management of plant growth. Plants require light, water, carbon dioxide, oxygen, mineral nutrients and appropriate environmental conditions. Modern farming systems use scientific knowledge to provide these necessities in carefully measured

quantities. LED lights can supply the wavelengths required for photosynthesis, while sensors monitor temperature, humidity, nutrient concentration and other variables. Automated systems can adjust irrigation and lighting according to crop requirements. Artificial intelligence and data analytics may further help farmers identify plant stress, detect diseases and optimise resource use. This integration of biology and technology makes vertical farming an important example of how scientific innovation can address practical challenges in food production. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of each system depends on crop selection, engineering design, energy sources and management practices. One of the major advantages of vertical farming is its potential to conserve water. Recirculating hydroponic systems can reuse water and substantially reduce consumption compared with many conventional cultivation practices. Since crops grow in controlled environments, farmers can also reduce exposure to certain pests and diseases, potentially lowering the need for pesticides.

Vertical farms may reduce pressure on agricultural land and help limit the conversion of natural habitats into farmland. When established close to consumers, they can shorten transportation distances and reduce certain supply-chain losses. Yet sustainability must be assessed carefully. Indoor vertical farms often require considerable electricity for lighting, ventilation, cooling and climate control. If this energy comes primarily from fossil fuels, the environmental advantages may be reduced. High construction costs, equipment requirements and the disposal of growing materials also need consideration. Therefore, the future of sustainable vertical farming depends on energy-efficient technology, renewable electricity, responsible resource management and appropriate crop selection.

Vertical farming can create new opportunities for entrepreneurs, agricultural scientists, engineers, technology specialists and skilled workers. It also encourages the development of agricultural startups that combine farming with robotics, sensor technology, software and environmental engineering. However, economic viability remains a significant challenge. Indoor farms require substantial initial investment in buildings, lighting, climate-control equipment and automated systems.

Electricity and maintenance can contribute heavily to operating expenses. As a result, crops with high market value, short growing cycles and strong local demand are often more suitable than low-priced staple grains. Research, technological improvements, efficient farm design and supportive policies could gradually improve affordability. Nevertheless, investment decisions should be based on realistic assessments of operating costs, market demand and expected yields rather than exaggerated promises. India, with its large population, diverse climate and growing urban centres, has considerable scope to explore vertical farming. Cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Amritsar have expanding markets for fresh vegetables, herbs and speciality produce.

Surinderpal Singh
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DDC Jammu reviews developmental scenario in RS Pura sub-division

Chairs Block Diwas at Vibrant Village Abdullian

■ **HT News Network**

JAMMU, OCTOBER 28: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Jammu Minga Sherpa today visited RS Pura Subdivision to review the progress of developmental works and assess on the ground delivery of public services.

During the visit, the DDC chaired a Block Diwas at the Community Hall in Vibrant Village Abdullian. He listened to public grievances and demands in the presence of Member Legislative Assembly Suchetgarh, Prof Charu Ram Bhagat.

The locals demanded road connectivity, provision of Smart Buses and the repair and augmentation of irrigation canals. People also raised revenue-related issues, including relief and land ownership rights for refugees.

The DDC assured that the issues would be examined on priority. He



directed the concerned departments to take time-bound action to meet the genuine demands.

He also visited the Vibrant Villages of Nai Basti Gulabgarh, Flora and Suchetgarh, where he interacted with locals and reviewed the progress of ongoing developmental works

and the implementation of welfare schemes. He directed the concerned officers to ensure the timely completion of pending works and saturation of eligible beneficiaries under the Government schemes.

The DDC also inspected the restoration work at the heritage

Railway Station, RS Pura and reviewed the progress made.

He also visited the Sub-District Hospital RS Pura and Major Arvind Bazala Boys Higher Secondary School to assess the availability of essential facilities and the functioning of these institutions. At the hospital, he reviewed the availability of medical staff, medicines, diagnostic facilities and sanitation. He directed the concerned authorities to further strengthen patient care services. At the school, he took stock of academic activities, infrastructure and basic facilities for students.

The DDC also visited the Palash/Parisha Centre of the Social Welfare Department and interacted with the inmates. The District Social Welfare Officer briefed him on the functioning of the Centre and the facilities and services being provided to the inmates.

He was accompanied by Additional District Development

Commissioner Sher Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ishita Rathi, Chief Planning Officer Ajaypal Singh and other district officers. The DDC also inspected the restoration work at the heritage Railway Station, RS Pura and reviewed the progress made.

He also visited the Sub-District Hospital RS Pura and Major Arvind Bazala Boys Higher Secondary School to assess the availability of essential facilities and the functioning of these institutions. At the hospital, he reviewed the availability of medical staff, medicines, diagnostic facilities and sanitation. He directed the concerned authorities to further strengthen patient care services. At the school, he took stock of academic activities, infrastructure and basic facilities for students.

The DDC also visited the Palash/Parisha Centre of the Social Welfare Department and interacted with the inmates. The District Social Welfare Officer briefed him.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri inspects civic amenities in Old City area

■ **HT News Network**

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 28: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Dr. Devansh Yadav, accompanied by Executive Officer Municipal Council Yousuf, conducted an early-morning inspection of different wards of the Old City area to assess the sanitation and hygiene conditions.

During the inspection, the officers interacted with sanitation staff, locals and shopkeepers to review the cleanliness of public spaces and assess the implementation of ongoing sanitation measures. They emphasized the importance of proper waste disposal and urged shopkeepers and residents to refrain from littering and dumping plastic waste in public areas.

The Deputy Commissioner appealed to the public to extend their active cooperation to the Municipal Council in maintaining cleanliness and ensuring a hygienic environment across the town. He stressed the need for responsible civic behaviour and collective efforts to keep public spaces clean and litter-free. The sanitation staff was directed to ensure regular cleaning of all wards and maintain proper sanitation standards. The inspection underscored the administration's commitment to improving urban cleanliness and promoting public participation in maintaining a clean and healthy Rajouri.

DLSA Rajouri invites listing of cases for special Lok Adalat (NI Act cases) scheduled on Nov 21 -2026

■ **HT News Network**

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 28: District Legal Services Authority Rajouri is going to organize a Special Lok Adalat for Negotiable Instruments (NI) Act Cases on November 21, 2026, under the aegis of NALSA and Chairmanship of DLSA Chairman Rajinder Sapru and Secretary Shama Sharma. The interested Parties/Litigants, Lawyers and General Public have been invited to physically approach the Office of the District Legal Services Authority and all Tehsil Legal Services Committees of the district for any advice/assistance with respect to their case or matter, or may call on the contact No PLVS (9858424128), 9596626010, DLSA Contact No:- 01962-264200, during working days from 10 am to 4 pm. The Parties can directly approach the concerned courts as well with application for listing matters/cases in the Special Lok Adalat for amicable settlement. No matter with respect to pending Electric Bills and Water Bills will be taken up in this Special Lok Adalat. District Legal Services Authority Rajouri is going to organize a Special Lok Adalat for Negotiable Instruments (NI) Act Cases on November 21, 2026, under the aegis of NALSA and Chairmanship of DLSA Chairman Rajinder Sapru and Secretary Shama Sharma. The interested Parties/Litigants, Lawyers and General Public have been invited to physically approach the Office of the District Legal Services Authority and all Tehsil Legal Services Committees of the district for any advice/assistance with respect to their case or matter,

DC Kathua reviews progress of Health Sector schemes, programmes

Calls for accountability, field-level monitoring, timely delivery of healthcare services

■ **HT News Network**

KATHUA, OCTOBER 28: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting at the DC Office Complex to review the implementation and progress of various health sector schemes and programmes in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Surender Mohan Sharma; CPO Ranjeet Thakur; CMO Dr Vijay Raina; District Tuberculosis Officer Dr Radha Krishan; District Immunization Officer, BMOs, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

The DC reviewed the progress achieved under Anaemia Mukh Bharat, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), National Leprosy Eradication Programme, National Tobacco Control Programme, National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment and National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme.



Emphasis was laid on anaemia screening among vulnerable groups, particularly children, distribution of iron and folic acid tablets, regular Hb testing, school-based health screening under RBSK and timely referral of identified cases to GMC Kathua.

The DC also stressed preventive measures against malaria, dengue and chikungunya.

The meeting also reviewed the status of projects under Pradhan Mantri Ayushman

Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), including the 50-bedded Critical Care Block and District Integrated Public Health Laboratory (DIPHL) sites, Block Public Health Units, Urban Ayushman Arogya Mandirs/ Sub-Centres and claims settlement under Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY.

Block-wise reporting on the IHIP national portal, dog-bite and snake-bite cases reported from April to September, registration of health facilities under the Clinical Establishments.

Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 activities commence in Doda

■ **HT News Network**

DODA, OCTOBER 28: Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 commenced across Doda district the other day under the theme "Probity for Prosperity." The week-long observance, scheduled from October 26 to November 1, aims to promote integrity, transparency and accountability in public administration.

Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal called upon officers and officials to uphold the highest standards of integrity in their professional conduct and work collectively towards eradicating corruption. He emphasised that transparency and honesty are essential for strengthening public trust and ensuring the efficient delivery of public services.

ADC Anil Kumar Thakur, who is also



the District Vigilance Officer, highlighted the commitment of district officers towards addressing vigilance-related matters. He stressed the importance of vigilance, accountability and adherence to established procedures in the functioning of government departments.

As part of the week-long observance, varied activities would be organised across the district at block, zone and Panchayat levels to promote ethical conduct, spread awareness about corruption prevention and encourage public participation in building a transparent and accountable administrative system.

DC Ganderbal flags off Exposure-cum-Sports Tour for Children with Special Needs

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 28: Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today flagged off a one-day exposure-cum-sports tour for 40 Children with Special Needs (CWSN) under the Inclusive Education component of Samagra Shiksha from the lawns of the Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal.

The tour, accompanied by escort teachers and the dedicated Inclusive Education Team of District Ganderbal, would take the students to the archaeological site of Burzahama and Bagh-e-Gul Dawood in Srinagar, providing them with opportunities for experiential learning, recreational activities and social interaction.

Central Monitor reviews progress of livestock sector Schemes in Jammu district

■ **HT News Network**

JAMMU, OCTOBER 28: Central Monitor, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India, Col. P.V.S. Sidhu, today chaired a high-level review meeting here at the Directorate of Animal Husbandry Talab Tillo to assess the implementation and progress of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), National Livestock Mission (NLM), National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) and Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LH&DCP) in Jammu district.



The meeting was attended by Director Animal Husbandry Jammu Dr. Yugal Kishor, besides senior officers, scheme nodal officers and technical heads.

The review meeting was preceded by extensive field inspections conducted across key veterinary establishments and facilities in Jammu district from 22nd to 28th October.

The Central Monitor, along with the departmental technical

teams, inspected the Frozen Semen Station at Hakkal to evaluate laboratory operations, quality assurance standards, biosecurity protocols, liquid nitrogen cold-chain integrity and cleanliness and management of animal sheds. The team also carried out on-ground assessments of the operational readiness of Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs)—including toll-free call-centre helpline '1962'

integration and emergency drug logistics besides day-to-day healthcare delivery, outpatient services and medicine inventories at various peripheral veterinary centres in the districts.

Taking detailed stock of both field findings and administrative milestones during the review session, the Central Monitor evaluated major Central programmes with special focus on doorstep delivery, digital tracking and scheme saturation. While appreciating the department's proactive outreach and field machinery, Col. Sidhu placed on record critical observations aimed at further strengthening

ADDC Kupwara chairs Block Diwas at Kralpora

■ **HT News Network**

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 28: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Ghulam Rasool Choudhary, today chaired the weekly Block Diwas at the Auditorium Hall, BHSS Kralpora, to address public grievances, review developmental activities and ensure effective delivery of essential services.

The programme witnessed active participation of locals, PRI representatives and prominent citizens, who raised issues pertaining to drinking water supply in various areas, road connectivity, healthcare facilities, staff shortages in educational institutions, Revenue services and timely



completion of ongoing developmental works.

The ADDC gave a patient hearing to the public and directed the concerned officers to address genuine grievances on priority and ensure their time-bound redressal, with several issues resolved on the spot. He emphasised accountability, close monitoring by field officers and regular follow-up to ensure that public concerns are addressed

effectively and government services reach the intended beneficiaries without delay.

Stressing the need to strengthen basic infrastructure, the ADDC called for expediting road connectivity projects, ensuring adequate and regular drinking water supply, improving healthcare services and facilitating prompt delivery of Revenue-related services. He further directed the concerned officers to maintain

strict quality standards in all developmental works, ensure adherence to prescribed specifications and undertake regular inspections to prevent deficiencies and delays.

The ADDC also reviewed issues concerning sanitation and cleanliness in Kralpora market and stressed the need for regular sanitation drives. He directed the concerned authorities to maintain strict vigilance against hoarding and black marketing and take appropriate action against violators as per rules.

Reviewing winter preparedness, the ADDC directed all departments to put in place comprehensive and coordinated arrangements to minimise public inconvenience during the winter season.

DC Budgam reviews progress of TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan; calls for Intensified Screening, Patient-Centred Care

Directs diagnostic facilities, regular monitoring, nutritional support for eligible TB patients

■ **HT News Network**

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting to review the progress of the TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan across the district, focusing on intensified screening, improved diagnostic facilities and comprehensive care for tuberculosis (TB) patients.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed screening activities,

identification of vulnerable populations and high-risk areas, diagnostic testing, registration of patients on the Ni-kshay portal and distribution of nutritional assistance under the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana.

Emphasising a focused and coordinated approach, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Health Department to ensure 100 percent screening coverage of the target population, with special attention to vulnerable areas and high-risk groups. He stressed the importance of

timely examination and access to X-ray, microscopy and NAAT testing facilities to facilitate early detection and diagnosis.

He further directed the department to ensure the availability and operational readiness of diagnostic equipment, including NAAT machines, and enhance testing capacity to facilitate prompt diagnosis and timely initiation of treatment.

Highlighting the importance of community-level interventions, the Deputy Commissioner underscored



the role of ASHA workers in maintaining regular contact with patients, conducting follow-up visits, raising awareness and promoting treatment adherence. He also called for systematic monitoring of their activities to strengthen outreach and provide effective support to vulnerable populations.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure the timely distribution of nutritional support kits and monetary assistance to eligible patients under the Ni-kshay

Poshan Yojana and the Ni-kshay Mitra initiative. To strengthen accountability and ensure effective implementation, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to submit weekly progress reports and monitor key indicators daily. He also instructed for carrying out intensified Active Case Finding (ACF) campaigns, expanded awareness activities and regular assessment across the District.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored that early diagnosis, uninterrupted

treatment, nutritional support and active community participation are essential to achieving the goal of a TB-free district. He directed all concerned officers to accord the campaign high priority and ensure coordinated, time-bound implementation of the prescribed interventions across the district.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Director (JD), Planning; CMO Budgam; District Tuberculosis Officer; Block Medical Officers (BMOs); and other concerned officers.





ULLAS-FLNAT October 2026 successfully concludes across Bandipora, over 8,500 Learners participate

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 28: The Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) under ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (NBSK) was successfully conducted today across all five educational zones of District Bandipora.

The assessment was conducted in offline mode at designated examination centres and witnessed enthusiastic participation from adult learners, reflecting growing public awareness and commitment towards achieving universal literacy.

Out of 11,036 learners targeted for the October 2026

assessment round, approximately 8,500 learners appeared for the test across the district. The assessment was conducted with the support of 350 examination centres and 1,100 invigilators, ensuring its smooth and transparent execution.

As per the district's literacy survey, 45,014 non-/neo-literate learners were identified across the five educational zones.

In previous rounds of FLNAT conducted under the programme, 20,243 learners had appeared and been certified, representing significant progress towards the district's literacy objectives. The successful conduct of the assessment was preceded by extensive preparations and mobilisation

activities across the district. Awareness campaigns were organised to sensitise the general public and motivate eligible learners to participate. Meetings and orientation programmes were also conducted at district and zonal levels for Principals, Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs), Headmasters, Heads of Institutions (HOIs), School Nodal Officers, teachers and other literacy functionaries.

The coordinated efforts of the Zonal Education Officers, Zonal Nodal Officers (ZNOs), Principals, Headmasters, HOIs, teachers, volunteers, invigilators and other field functionaries contributed significantly to the successful conduct of the assessment.

The District Nodal Officer Mir Irfan Magbool, ULLAS, coordinated the overall exercise in close consultation with the concerned zonal functionaries to ensure adherence to the prescribed guidelines and timelines.

Chief Education Officer, Bandipora, Mohammad Rafiq Mir appreciated the dedication and collective efforts of all stakeholders and emphasised the need to sustain the momentum towards achieving the goal of 100% literacy by 2027. The successful completion of this assessment marks another important milestone in the district's ongoing efforts to promote foundational literacy, numeracy and lifelong learning among adult learners.

Deputy Chief Minister inspects ongoing road, bridge projects in Udhampur; directs timely completion

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 28: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted an extensive tour of Udhampur district and inspected the ongoing developmental works on the PWD road from Jakhani Naka Point to via Lower Balli being executed under NABARD.

He also inspected the construction site of a 165-metre-span steel girder double-lane motorable bridge over River Tawi.



The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by Chief Engineer PWD R&B, Chenab Zone, Batote, Ashok Kumar Khokhar, Superintending

Engineer, PWD R&B Circle Udhampur-Ramban, Shivangi Gupta, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr Umesh Shan and other concerned officers.

During inspection of the road project, the Deputy Chief Minister expressed concern over the slow pace of work. He directed the executing agencies to expedite the progress and ensure completion by December 20, 2026. He instructed the Superintending Engineer to closely monitor the execution of the project and ensure strict adherence to the prescribed quality standards.

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SRINAGAR (ACADEMIC SECTION)

Subject: Engagement of Dr. Khan Nusrat as Senior Resident on Academic Arrangement Basis, in the Department of Anaesthesiology, Government Medical College, Srinagar.

Reference: i) This Office Advertisement No. 10 of 2026 Dated. 01.08.2026. ii) Character and Antecedent verification report received from CID, J&K vide Form No. 176696 Dated. 23.10.2026.

OFFICE ORDER No1010-RA of 2026. DATED: 2-10-2026.

Pursuant to the Selection list issued vide Notification No. 24-RA of 2026 Dated. 24.09.2026 and on the basis of Satisfactory verification report of Character & Antecedents by Criminal Investigation Department (CID), J&K, Dr. Khan Nusrat, MD, a non-in-service candidate is hereby provisionally engaged as Senior Resident in the Department of Anaesthesiology, on Academic Arrangement Basis, under S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated. 27.11.2020 and Government Order No. 383-JK (HME) of 2024 Dated. 20.06.2024, initially for a period of one year, extendable up to a maximum period of 03 (three) years, subject to satisfactory performance, as certified by concerned Head of Department.

The engagement of the above-named doctor shall further be subject to the following terms and conditions: -

I. The engagee shall submit her joining report, along with duly attested affidavits before the Judicial Magistrate, in the office of the undersigned, to the effect that: -

II. she is a non-in-service candidate and that the information furnished by her in this regard is true and correct. In the event, the information is subsequently found to be false or incorrect, she shall be liable for action under the applicable rules, including cancellation/confiscation of her registration, as may be permissible under the relevant provisions; she shall not participate in any kind of strike during the period of her engagement. In the event she proceeds on strike, her engagement shall be liable to termination in accordance with the applicable provisions of law, including the provisions of the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA), wherever applicable;

III. she shall maintain discipline and proper conduct throughout the period of her engagement. Any act of misconduct shall render her liable to termination of engagement in accordance with the applicable rules;

IV. she is not involved in any criminal activity and that no FIR is pending against her or has been registered against her in any criminal case, except as specifically disclosed by her in the affidavit;

V. she shall not claim an experience certificate in respect of the Senior Residency in the event she leaves the Senior Residency before completion of at least six months;

V. she shall not claim an experience certificate in respect of the Senior Residency in the event she leaves the Senior Residency before completion of at least six months;

VI. she shall not indulge in any private practice during the period of her engagement. In the event she is found indulging in private practice, her engagement shall be liable to termination in accordance with the applicable rules;

VII. she shall not claim any further extension beyond the maximum permissible period of Senior Residency under the applicable rules, under any circumstances.

The engagee shall execute an agreement with the institution in the prescribed format (Form A) in respect of the various terms and conditions applicable to engagement on Academic Arrangement Basis. The prescribed format may be downloaded from the official website of Government Medical College, Srinagar.

The appointee shall be required to join within 21 days from the date of issuance of this order, failing which the order shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.

The Senior Resident engaged on Academic Arrangement Basis shall be paid remuneration as admissible under S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated. 27.11.2020.

The Senior Resident engaged on Academic Arrangement Basis shall be entitled to leave as admissible under Government Order No. 451-JK (HME) of 2024 Dated. 08.07.2024.

DIPK-7141/26
Send Date: Oct 28 2026

Sd/
Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah
Principal/Dean
Govt. Medical College Srinagar

Government of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

FRESH NIT No. 37 OF R&B/QAZIGUND/2026-27/E-TENDERING/4223-37 DATED: 27-10-2026

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

S. No	Stage Name	Cost of T/ Doc (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Head of Account	Class of Contractor
3	Panzath To Danigam Nowpora Road Syedpora interior Links At Panzath Teeli mohallah link at panzath Reshwardi Link road at wanpora panzath Wanpora Chearpora Road Malikpora link at Drinen Fishery Link at Wanpora Panzath sanderkhar road DANGAR MOHALLAH AT DRINEN Badshah pora link panzath Sheikh and Ganie Mohallah at drinen Panchayat Link at Drinen SHAMPORA DDC LINK Wani mohalla near Jamia Masjid Panzath Wanpora Wanpora Ardcheck Road Ziyarat Sharif Link at Drinen Dawlatabad (Stage 3)	500/=	5000	3054-Snow	All Classes.

1. The NIT Consisting of Qualifying Information, Eligibility Criteria, Specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-10-2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 28-10-2026 (11:00AM) To 02-11-2026 (01:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 28-10-2026 (11:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 02-11-2026 (01:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	02-11-2026 (01:10 PM) In the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division QAZIGUND.

2. EMD/BID SECURITY & TENDER FEE, PERFORMANCE SECURITY, SECURITY DEPOSIT/RETENTION MONEY, SAFETY CIRCULAR AND GST :-

- EMD/BID SECURITY & TENDER FEE:-** Bidders shall deposit the prescribed Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Fee through online mode into the designated Centralized Pooling Account No. 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG) (M/S Centralized Pool Account PW R&B), strictly in accordance with Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026 and Office Order No. CE/R&B/SK/WS/2095-2111 Dated 05.06.2026 issued by the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department, South Kashmir. Submission of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR/Bank Guarantee or any other instrument shall not be permissible. The Division Name, NIT No. & S.No./Name of the Work including transaction ID and transaction date against all the required deposits should be clearly mentioned on the Documentary proof/receipt evidencing of successful remittance of the EMD and Tender Fee and it shall be uploaded along with the bid, failing which the bid shall be liable for rejection as non-responsive. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.
- Note:-** Non mentioning of transaction ID and date of transaction on receipt shall render the bid as non-responsive.
- PERFORMANCE SECURITY/PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE (including APS) :-** The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce Performance Security (Performance Guarantee) 5% and Additional Performance Security wherever applicable within 7 Days before fixation of Contract in account no bearing 00170102000000356 PERFORMANCE SECURITY A/C EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B QAZIGUND and shall be released after DLP obligations are over. Notwithstanding the above, the Bid Security deposited by the successful bidder(s) shall stand retained and shall be credited to the account of the concerned Division as Performance Security and adjusted under the applicable Performance Security Deposit Head.
- Failure to produce Performance Security** shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

4 The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

DIPK-7151/26
Send DATED 28-10-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PW (R&B) Division Qazigund

PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE COURT OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, QAZIGUND

In the case of: Shahid Khurshed

Versus

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir through Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Qazigund.

Whereas the applicant, namely Shahid Khurshed, has sought a direction against the non-applicant for registration of the birth particulars of his son, namely Ahmad Hubab, born on 24-07-2024.

Through the medium of this notice, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection regarding the registration of the above-mentioned birth particulars may submit the same on or before 05-11-2026, when the matter is listed before the Court for further proceedings.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court on 28-10-2026.

Sd/
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
Qazigund,

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that the Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. 2568 0184 2007, belonging to Areeba Nisar, R/o Kreeri, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir, contains an incorrect name recorded as Dua Nisar. The correct name is Areeba Nisar, and the necessary correction is sought in the Aadhaar records.

Any person having any objection to the aforesaid name correction may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority along with valid supporting documents for necessary verification.

This notice is being published to invite objections, if any, from the general public regarding the proposed name correction.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, QAZIGUND

In the case of: Shahid Khurshed

Versus

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir through Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Qazigund.

Whereas the applicant, namely Shahid Khurshed, has sought a direction against the non-applicant for registration of the birth particulars of his son, namely Ahmad Hubab, born on 24-07-2024.

Through the medium of this notice, the general public is hereby informed that any person having any objection regarding the registration of the above-mentioned birth particulars may submit the same on or before 05-11-2026, when the matter is listed before the Court for further proceedings.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court on 28-10-2026.

Sd/
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
Qazigund,

PUBLIC NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, QAZIGUND

Coram: Aastik Verma | JOCODE: JK00335

In the Case of: Zahoori Jan

Versus

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir through BDO Devsar

Whereas, the applicant, namely Zahoori Jan, has sought a direction against the non-applicant for registration of the birth particulars of her daughter, Aasira Firoz, who was born on 29-04-2013.

Through the medium of this notice, the general public is hereby informed that if any person has any objection regarding the registration of the birth particulars mentioned above, he/she/they may submit the same on or before 30-10-2026, when the matter is listed for further proceedings.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court on 22-10-2026.

Sd/
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Qazigund

DC Ganderbal reviews progress of Works at Babadaryadeen Transit Camp

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today visited the Transit Camp at Babadaryadeen to review the progress of ongoing developmental works and assess the status of essential infrastructure.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the progress of various works, including the installation of lifts, electrical works and the laying of electrical lines.

The DC directed the concerned officers to expedite the installation of lifts and ensure that electrical works, including the laying of electrical lines, are completed at the earliest. She stressed the need for timely execution of works and regular monitoring to ensure that the project progresses as per schedule.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name GH MOHI UD DIN RATHER R/O..BANDI PAYEEN Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040005039 wants to be registered on my name BILAL AHMAD RATHER S/O GH MOHI UD DIN RATHER If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name.....BILAL AHMAD RATHER
S/O....GH MOHI UD DIN RATHER
R/O ... BANDI PAYEEN
BLOCK ...WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My son's name has been wrongly written as SALEEM MANZOOR S/O MANZOOR AHMAD DAR on His Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No. ..3850 6554 4093 while his correct name is MOHAMMAD SALEEM DAR S/O MANZOOR AHMAD DAR 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...MANZOOR AHMAD DAR
F/O....MOHAMMAD SALEEM DAR
R/O...NAGBAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Fozia Samad D/o Abdul Samad, holder of Saving Account No. 0249041000000654, IFSC: JAKA0CANDLE, would like to state that my name has been incorrectly recorded in my passbook as "MIS FOZIA SAMAD KOUL GANIE". My correct name as per my Aadhaar Card No. 2423 6140 3937 is "Fozia Samad". I request you to kindly correct my name in your bank records as per my Aadhaar.

Fozia Samad
D/O Abdul Samad Ganie Koul
R/O Mirjanpora Nawakadal, Sgr - 190002
A/c No: 0249041000000654
Date: 28-10-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, QAZIGUND

Case Title: Khushboo Hussan
D/o Ghulam Hassan Mochi
R/o:Dhobhi Mohalla, Chowgam, Tehsil Devsar, District Kulgam

Versus

Block Development Officer (BDO), Devsar (Registrar of Births and Deaths)

Whereas, the applicant, namely Khushboo Hussan, has sought a direction from this Hon'ble Court against the non-applicant for registration of the birth particulars of her daughter, namely Khushboo Hussan, who was born on a date to be specified in the relevant court record. Through the medium of this notice, the general public is hereby informed that any person having an objection regarding the registration of the birth particulars of the applicant, as mentioned above, shall submit the same before this Hon'ble Court on or before 03 November 2026, when the matter is listed for further proceedings.

Given under the hand and seal of this Court on 28 October 2026.

Sd/
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
Qazigund PO: Magam, Dist: Budgam
Mobile: 7889937877



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Is Ebola under control in Kenya after nine cases confirmed?

As fears grow that the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo could spread further, Kenya, which announced its first Ebola case three weeks ago and has since had eight more cases, is hoping for the opposite. Nine cases and two deaths have so far been confirmed.

With the first 20 of the people who came into contact with the first Ebola patient being released, the government has described it as a "milestone worth celebrating".

The government expects the outbreak to be declared over in less than two months, if efforts to contain the spread holds. But that is assuming there are no more cases, including from the 98 people still in quarantine and due to be freed next week.

Should Kenyans still be concerned?

Despite the initial release of the people in quarantine, Kenya's Health Director-General Patrick Amoth has reiterated that the focus was "firmly on the finish line".

The outbreak can only be declared over after 42 days from the time the last confirmed patient twice tests negative for Ebola, he said on Monday.

"We cannot afford to drop our vigilance until we reach that point," he said.

In the days after the first case was announced, concerns had been rising that the virus could start spreading further, even as the government sought to assure citizens.

The US warned its citizens against travelling to Kenya, while neighbouring countries such as Uganda, Ethiopia and Somalia remain on alert.

Concerns remain among Kenyans that the disease could still spread more widely.

Nearly 5,000 people have died since Ebola was confirmed in DR Congo in May, making it the second most deadly outbreak of the disease.

With more than 10,000 cases in DR Congo, Kenya faces a steady risk of new cases arriving across borders, according to the International Rescue Committee, which has been working alongside both governments to contain the spread.

The latest outbreak has been caused by the Bundibugyo species, which is relatively rare, with no approved vaccine or treatment - though trials are under way.

Kenyans raised questions from the outset, about how the first patient was able to spend time in the region worst-affected by Ebola, then travel to two more countries before his illness was identified. He died days after his arrival in Kenya.

As a regional transport hub, the risk of the outbreak spreading remains a big concern.

The doctors' union in Kenya expressed concerns at "lapses" at various border points, including with neighbouring Uganda and Tanzania, as well as at Kenya's main airport.

Dennis Miskellah, the union representative, told the BBC that border and port facilities were grossly understaffed.

In the latest update on Monday, Amoth says that "each



milestone brings us closer to the end of this outbreak, and together we will get there".

What is being done to stop it spreading?

When the first case was announced, the authorities urged people not to panic, assuring them of heightened surveillance at airports and border crossings.

Kenya has since introduced enhanced screening for travellers arriving from 10 countries it considers to be at high risk: DR Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Angola, Zambia, Ethiopia, South Sudan and the Central African Republic.

Travellers arriving from those countries are required to complete a digital surveillance form before boarding their flights, and to present a QR code to port health officials on arrival.

Kenya also ordered enhanced public health screening of aircraft arriving from those countries, as authorities seek to prevent further imported cases.

Within the country, the government has been sharing public messages to create awareness about Ebola, including encouraging people to promptly report any suspected cases and seek care at a hospital.

It has also focused on hygiene and safety measures, such as washing hands and avoiding close contact with sick people.

The government has additionally designated treatment and isolation facilities across the country, and health workers have been trained to deal with the disease.

Amoth also said that a dedicated laboratory had been set up at the Kenyatta National Hospital Infectious Disease Unit to handle Ebola tests, to ensure that the hospital's laboratory was not contaminated.

Following confirmation of the first Ebola case on 6 October, the health ministry conducted "robust contact tracing of anyone who may have been exposed", the World Health Organization (WHO) says. By 22 October, all contacts had been traced, both in Kenya and internationally, and placed in quarantine, it adds.

The government says that the confirmed cases so far are connected and there is no evidence that the virus has spread to the community.

Earlier, the International Rescue Committee noted that with all of those infected having links to the first victim, it showed Kenya's early response was working.

The government has been working with international partners, including Africa CDC and the WHO to support its response, including surveillance, communication and community engagement.

A toll-free emergency hotline, 719, has been provided to the public to report suspected symptoms.

Is Kenya prepared in case it starts spreading further?

Amoth earlier said that none of the contacts of the first patients had showed symptoms before going into quarantine and therefore the potential to spread to another person is very minimal, literally non-existent".

The incubation period for Ebola ranges from two to 21 days, meaning those exposed to the virus may not become ill for several weeks. The Ebola virus spreads through contact with infected bodily fluids such as blood or vomit.

Despite that, Kenya's health ministry said nearly 5,000 healthcare workers have been trained to deal with Ebola at the national and local levels, besides the facilities that have been designated to handle the virus.

The ministry urged people to remain calm and vigilant. It also asked Kenyans not to stigmatise people identified as contacts of Ebola cases.

The ministry, along with the WHO, have produced posters to help people understand Ebola and support its containment. One message reads: "Stop stigma, choose support. Stigma can discourage people from reporting symptoms or cooperating with response teams."

In addition, the government has procured supplies of protective equipment.

Is enough being done to protect health workers?

Not according to the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Union (KMPDU).

With three health workers and a hospital cleaner among those infected, questions have been asked as to whether the government could do more to protect workers.

Health workers and carers can face a higher risk of Ebola infection because caring for infected patients may bring them into contact with blood and other bodily fluids.

Dennis Miskellah, the KMPDU deputy secretary general, told the BBC that protective equipment should be provided to hospitals so that they were fully protected, especially in case patients with symptoms do not declare that they have been in areas with Ebola.

He suggests the government ought to conduct proper health education to destigmatise the virus, so that people do not seek to hide their symptoms.

The International Rescue Committee also called for continued funding for contact tracing, border screening and training of frontline health workers in Kenya. Will there be any restrictions, like a travel ban? Kenya remains open with no restrictions on travel, trade or public gatherings.

(BBC NEWS)

Australian sunscreen brands face stricter rules after safety scandal

Australian sunscreen manufacturers will be subject to stricter rules in the wake of a safety scandal that saw popular brands pulled off shelves.

The reforms, announced by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on Tuesday, include stronger testing and quality requirements for specific ingredients.

This comes after a bombshell report last year by consumer advocacy group Choice which found that some popular sunscreens did not provide the level of protection their manufacturers claimed.

The new proposed regulations are "about making SPF claims more reliable" and giving the agency "faster access to evidence when concerns arise", Robyn Langham, the TGA's chief medical adviser, tells the BBC.

"Australians expect the SPF on the label to be backed by robust evidence," she said in a statement over email.

"These proposed reforms put that expectation at the centre of sunscreen regulation, with stronger testing requirements for the finished product consumers buy and repeat testing throughout its time on the market."

Under the new regulations proposed by the TGA, cosmetic sunscreen brands will also be limited in the skin protection factor (SPF) claims they can make.

This is to ensure "clear distinction for consumers" between sunscreens that are mainly made for UV protection and cosmetic products where UV protection is a secondary function.

Suppliers would also be required to provide their SPF testing data to the TGA when they list a sunscreen, and keep periodically testing the product throughout its shelf life.

Under current regulations, it's not mandatory for sunscreen manufacturers to provide testing data to the TGA unless requested.

The TGA said the reforms would be "implemented in stages, with further consultation where required".

The Choice report, published in June 2025, found that 16 of 20 tested sunscreens - including several premium, expensive brands - failed to live up to their advertised SPF rating.

One product, Ultra Violette's Lean Screen Skinscreen, which was voluntarily recalled last year, was marketed as having an SPF of 50+ but was found to offer only SPF 4.

The scandal sparked massive backlash in Australia, which has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world.

More than a dozen products were pulled from shelves or had their sales suspended as a result of the scandal. The TGA proposed sweeping reforms to the sunscreen industry earlier this year, which included plans to make sunscreen labelling simpler and more oversight at testing labs.

Its statement on Tuesday said that changes to labelling would be made after further review and consultation. Choice welcomed the reforms, saying in a statement on Tuesday that it was "pleased to see" the stricter rules proposed by the TGA.

However, the group pointed out that the TGA has not proposed to "routinely monitor and evaluate test results". Choice also argued that that sunscreen test results should not be provided only to the TGA - as proposed by the regulator - but rather made publicly available and routinely monitored, "in the interest of transparency and public safety".

(BBC NEWS)

How we can exercise more without even trying



Incidental exercise is emerging as a surprisingly powerful tool for protecting our health, helping us to burn more calories, reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, and even lower our risk of death.

Once we're aware of this "incidental activity", we can build more of it into our everyday routine with a few simple lifestyle tweaks. Here are some you might want to try.

Fidgeting
Take, for instance, leg fidgeting. Growing up, we're encouraged not to fidget, which is seen as a sign of boredom and not paying attention. There are many reasons to ignore this advice.

During prolonged periods of sitting, muscles in our legs are relatively inactive. This reduces the regular muscle contractions that help to clear glucose from the bloodstream and support healthy blood circulation, says Narayanan.

But fidgeting increases muscle activity and therefore helps us to burn more calories compared with when we are sitting still, a recent study has found.

"Some earlier research suggests that leg fidgeting may help maintain blood vessel function and improve blood sugar control," says Narayanan. Standing as you do this may enhance these benefits. (Read more from the BBC about when you do and don't need to worry about blood sugar spikes.)

Similarly, a small study found that habitual leg shaking, a form of fidgeting, burns about 16% more energy compared with sitting still.

The researchers found that higher levels of incidental activity could offset the health risks associated with sitting for more than 11 hours a day.

Unlike structured activity, incidental movement does not require a gym membership or for us to carve out specific time to move.

We often forget that everyday household activities can decrease sedentary time. Cooking, gardening and vacuuming are also forms of incidental exercise.

We don't need to spend hours moving to gain health benefits. Just four minutes per day of brief, incidental bursts of activity that last less than a minute can help to offset the increased risk of cardiovascular diseases from sedentary time, a large 2024 study found.

(BBC NEWS)



Neeraj Chopra's VEL Sports Management signs Asian Games medallist Pooja

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 28 :VEL Sports Management, an initiative built on the vision of Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, has signed Indian High Jumper Pooja, who has already made her mark with an Asian Games bronze and a National Record.

The association will see VEL support her sporting development, career management and commercial opportunities as she looks to scale new heights.

Under the association, VEL Sports Management will support Pooja across her professional journey, encompassing sporting development and training support, commercial representation, brand partnerships and endorsements, contract negotiations, media and personal branding, and long-term career planning.

The integrated approach will enable Pooja to focus on her performance while VEL helps her navigate the wider professional and commercial aspects of her career.

Himani Mor, Managing Director, VEL Sports Management, said, "We are delighted to welcome Pooja to



VEL Sports Management. She has already demonstrated tremendous promise, and we are confident that with the right support and opportunities, she can reach even greater heights and continue making the country proud. Our vision at VEL is to build a strong support system around athletes, helping them focus on their sporting ambitions while unlocking opportunities for professional and commercial growth."

"Neeraj has always been deeply passionate about giving back to the sporting community, and VEL is an extension of that belief. Having seen his commitment to Indian sport

up close, I share his ambition to create meaningful opportunities for athletes. We look forward to helping Pooja build

on her achievements and take the next steps in her journey," Mor said.

Pooja said, "I am delighted to begin this partnership with VEL Sports Management. My focus has always been on improving as an athlete, representing India and achieving bigger milestones in high jump. Coming from Haryana, like Neeraj sir, I feel a special sense of pride in representing our country and hope to inspire more young athletes to dream big."

"I look forward to having VEL

support me across my sporting journey and help me explore the right opportunities as I continue to work towards my goals. I am excited about this next chapter and determined to keep pushing my limits and making India proud," she said.

A rising force in Indian athletics, the Haryana-born high jumper won bronze in the women's high jump at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya and set a new Indian national record of 1.93m

while winning Gold at the Asian U20 Athletics Championships in Hong Kong earlier this year.

At just 19, Pooja has already established herself as one of India's most promising young athletes, with further milestones in her sights.

Built on Neeraj Chopra's vision of giving back to Indian sport, VEL Sports Management aims to provide athletes with the professional guidance and opportunities needed to build sustainable careers. Through this association, VEL will work towards helping Pooja build on her achievements and continue progressing towards her ambitions on the international stage.

WBBL: Yastika joins Brisbane Heat as Jonassen's replacement

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 28 :India wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia will return to the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) after Brisbane Heat signed her as a replacement for injured veteran Jess Jonassen ahead of the new season.

Yastika, who previously represented Melbourne Stars in WBBL 10, will be Brisbane's third overseas player for the 12th edition and the only Indian cricketer in this year's competition. The 25-year-old is expected to join the squad before Sunday's match against Sydney Thunder at Drummoyne Oval and will remain available for the rest of the tournament.

Jonassen, Brisbane's most-capped player and former captain, has been sidelined with a hip injury. The Heat have turned to Yastika to strengthen their batting line-up. The left-hander has played six WBBL matches and made 58 international appearances for India across formats.

Head coach Mark Sorrell welcomed the

signing, highlighting Yastika's experience in Australian conditions.



"Being able to sign such a quality, experienced international player so close to the tournament is great boost for us. We will miss Jess (Jonassen) of course, but it is reassuring to bring in another strong scoring left-hander into our batting line-up. Yastika (Bhatia) has good experience playing in Australia and at Allan Border Field, so we are confident she will fit in nicely with the group," said Sorrell.

Ovais Hakaq wins District Pulwama Cycling Championship

HT Sports News

CHENNAI, OCT 28 :The Cycling Association of Jammu and Kashmir today organised the District Pulwama Cycling Championship at Pampore, Pulwama, under the supervision of J&K State Sports Council.

Speaking on the occasion, Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat said that the position holders would be selected to represent the district in the forthcoming State Cycling Championship. He appreciated the efforts of all participants and thanked the concerned police station CMO Pampore for its full



The race was flagged off by Faheem Ali, Retired SSP. Under-12 Category Affan Showkat (Khrew), Shamid Amin (Khrew), M. Muneer Bhat (Pampore) got first three positions respectively as Lukmaan Imtiyaz (Konibal), Zaid Bin Hilal (Khrew) Mustafa Syed (Khrew) secured first three positions in U/14 years. Yasir Ahmad Wani (Shar-i-Shalli), Taha Bin Showkat (Shar-i-Shalli), Riyaan Muneer (Khrew) got first three positions while as Under-19 Musaib Mushtaq (Pampore), Arif Rehman (Pampore), Zaid Bin Zameer (Namlabal, Pampore) got first three positions in the Open Category Ovais Hakak. Showkat Ahmad. Ishtiyaz Rasool got first three positions

cooperation, support and efficient traffic management during the event. At the conclusion of the championship, prizes and certificates were distributed among the winners by chief guest Faheem Ali, Retired SSP. The event was attended by Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, Vice President of the Cycling Association of Jammu and Kashmir; Riyaz Wani, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Mountain Biking Association (JKMBA); Yasir Makdooim, Secretary of Swim N Survival Society Kashmir; Ovais Hakak; Javed Masoodi; Amunees Ahmad; Ishtiyaz Rasool; and Showkat Ahmad, among others

Anahat withdraws from Canadian Open quarterfinal due to injury

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 28 :India's squash player Anahat Singh withdrew from her quarterfinal against top seed Fayrouz Aboelkheir at the Canadian Women's Open in Toronto on Wednesday due to an injury.

The Professional Squash Association (PSA) confirmed Anahat's withdrawal but did not disclose details of the injury. The 18-year-old was scheduled to face Aboelkheir in the opening match of the day at Brookfield Place in the USD 103,750 PSA Silver-level tournament.

Anahat had reached the quarterfinals after beating Britain's Saran Ngiem 11-6, 4-11, 11-5, 11-7 on Monday. She received a bye in the opening round. Her withdrawal gives Aboelkheir a walkover into the semifinals.

Anahat has enjoyed an impressive year on the PSA Tour. Earlier this month, she upset Egypt's eight-time world champion Nour ElSherbini at the Silicon Valley Open before reaching the semifinals.

The Delhi teenager has also made her mark at the continental level, reaching the women's singles final at the Asian Games in Japan.

Indian Hawks Skater Radhika Bags Two Medals at DAV Nationals

HT Sports News

NEW DELHI: Radhika of Indian Hawks Sports Academy won a silver and a bronze medal at the DAV National Sports Championship 2026, held at Chilla's Sports Complex in Delhi, delivering a commendable performance at the national-level roller skating event.

Radhika competed against skaters from different parts of the country and secured two podium finishes, bringing recognition to Indian Hawks Sports Academy. Her performance reflected her preparation and competitive spirit at the prestigious championship.

The achievement adds to the academy's growing presence in competitive roller skating and highlights the efforts of its athletes in national-level events.

Chief Patron Ashok Gandotra Retd Chief Engineer, congratulated Radhika on her success and expressed hope that she would continue to perform well in upcoming competitions.

The academy's medal-winning skaters continue to represent the institution with



determination, contributing to its efforts to promote roller skating and develop young talent. Radhika's double-medal finish at the DAV Nationals marks a notable achievement for the academy and provides encouragement to aspiring skaters.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
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
Aaramdeh 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
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