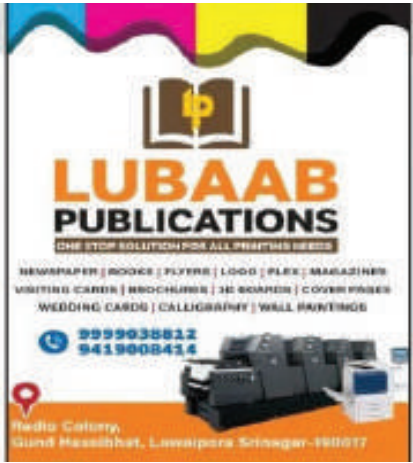


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PM Modi visits J&K Pavilion at Bharat Parv in Gujarat

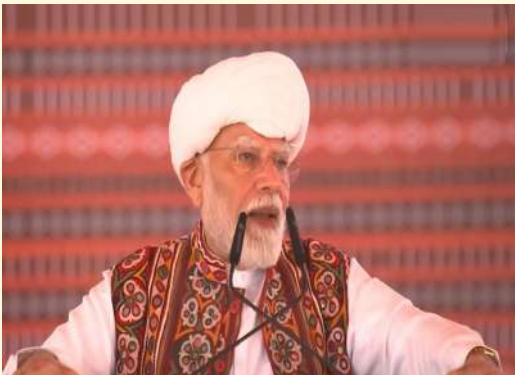
Takes interest in Basohli paintings, Saffron, Pashmina and other ODOP Products; Sozni Embroidery, Santoor Performance Showcase Kashmir's Heritage

HT NEWS DESK / UNI

EKTA NAGAR, OCT 30 (KNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Jammu and Kashmir pavilion at Bharat Parv in Gujarat's Ekta Nagar, where the Union Territory's rich cultural heritage, traditional handicrafts, handlooms, local products and emerging tourism destinations were showcased.

During the visit, Director Tourism Jammu, Dr Vikas Gupta, briefed the Prime Minister about the pavilion's theme and the diverse range of traditional products, cultural attractions and tourism opportunities being presented by Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department.

The participation was organised under the guidance of Secretary Tourism, J&K, Avny Lavasa, and Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation (JKTDC), Akriti Sagar, with the objective of



promoting the region's cultural identity, indigenous craftsmanship and tourism potential.

The pavilion prominently featured products under

the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, highlighting the distinctive crafts and agricultural produce associated with different districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to officials, the Prime Minister showed keen interest in the products on display and enquired about Basohli paintings, Sulai honey, garlic and Rajma from Jammu, besides walnuts, saffron, Pashmina and Kani shawls from Kashmir.

A major attraction at the pavilion was a live demonstration of traditional Sozni embroidery by renowned artisan Gulab Gilani, offering visitors an opportunity to witness the intricate craftsmanship and skills involved in producing Kashmir's celebrated embroidered textiles.

The cultural presentation also featured a live Santoor performance by Kashmiri artist Younis Majid, highlighting the Valley's distinctive musical heritage and artistic traditions.

■ SEE ON P-2

Shopian Police bust LeT-TRF terror financing module, arrest 10

Suspicious online transactions expose alleged funding network; money trail traced across multiple layers, links with jailed terrorists under investigation

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 30 (KNS): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday said it had busted an intra-Union Territory terror financing module linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and The Resistance Front (TRF) in south Kashmir's Shopian district, arresting ten terrorist associates.

Police said the breakthrough followed a focused investigation into suspected financial networks associated with terrorist activities, during which investigators examined suspicious online transactions conducted through various digital payment platforms.

The scrutiny enabled investigators to trace money trails across multiple layers, uncovering what police described as a wider network of individuals allegedly involved in financing terrorist activities.

According to police, the investigation also revealed suspected links between members of the network and terrorists and their associates lodged in different jails.

The findings pointed towards an alleged financial network operating within Jammu and Kashmir, with investigators examining the movement of funds and the involvement of individuals connected

■ SEE ON P-2

Cabinet led by CM Omar approves two new Industrial Estates in J&K at a cost of 162.72 crore

Projects to strengthen industrial infrastructure, attract investment, create employment opportunities: CM

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: The Council of Ministers, recently chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has approved the establishment of two new Industrial Estates in Jammu & Kashmir, involving a combined investment of 162.72 crore.

The approved projects include a New Industrial Estate at Pehlipora, Lar, Ganderbal, at a cost of 60.92 crore, and Industrial Estate Bhagthali (Part-II), Kathua, at a cost of 101.80 crore. The Chief Minister said the projects



would strengthen industrial infrastructure, attract investment, promote local

■ SEE ON P-2

Minor Driving Cases Decline in Srinagar, but Problem Persists in Outskirts: DySP Traffic

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, OCT 30: Cases involving minors driving vehicles on Srinagar's main roads have declined significantly this year, but the practice continues in the city's outskirts, Deputy Superintendent of Police Traffic Mehboob Ul Haq said, urging parents to ensure that children do not drive before reaching the legally permitted age.

Haq said traffic violations remain a concern in Srinagar city centre, particularly wrong parking and wrong-lane driving. He stressed the need to

■ SEE ON P-2

Sagar reviews Power Sector; emphasizes comprehensive winter preparedness, timely project completion

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: Minister for Revenue, Power Development Department (PDD), Law, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, today convened a review meeting of the Power Development Department (PDD) at the Civil Secretariat here.

The Minister took stock of overall functioning of the department besides assessing the preparedness for the forthcoming winter season. He reviewed the key initiatives and infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening the power sector and improving electricity services across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary PDD, Ashwani Kumar, Managing



Directors of all power corporations, Director Finance, Power Development Department, Special Secretary (S/P), Director Planning, Additional Secretaries (A/Z and Legal), Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers of KPDC, JPDCL, JKPTCL, JKPC and JKPDC, besides Chief Electrical Inspector and other senior officers and concerned field functionaries of the department.

■ SEE ON P-2

Centre Issues Fresh Clarification on Pension Entitlements of Reinstated Government Employees

HT NEWS DESK / CNS

NEW DELHI, OCT 30: The Centre has reiterated the applicability of pensionary safeguards for government employees reinstated following the reversal of dismissal, removal or compulsory retirement orders through appellate or review proceedings.

In a clarification issued by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, the government has underscored that past service rendered before such punitive action shall remain reckonable towards qualifying



service for pensionary benefits upon reinstatement, in accordance with Rule 25 of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021. However, the

■ SEE ON P-2

Changing Climate, Disease Pressures Threaten Kashmir's Traditional Apple Varieties: Javid Dar

HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, JULY 31: SRINAGAR, OCT 30, KNT: Several apple varieties once commonly cultivated in Kashmir have disappeared from widespread cultivation over the past decade or two, highlighting the need to promote climate-resilient crops and adapt horticultural practices to changing weather conditions, Agriculture Minister Javid Ahmad Dar said on Friday.

Addressing the 43rd Annual



National Convention of the Indian Society of Mycology and Plant Pathology (ISMPP) at the University of Kashmir, Dar stressed the need to identify and promote crop varieties that can

■ SEE ON P-2

Why is Congress afraid of clean voter list?: J&K BJP chief

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, OCT 30 (UNI) Jammu

and Kashmir BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma today accused the Congress party of attempting to create political instability and confusion in the country out of frustration over its declining public support.

■ SEE ON P-2

Cabinet reshuffle Sparks 'Rebellion' in NC

18 legislators meet, seek ouster of ministers who have completed 2-years

HT NEWS DESK / KNS

SRINAGAR, OCT 30 (KNS): Three days after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's cabinet expansion left several senior National Conference legislators out of the ministry, 17 party MLAs assembled at the residence of Lolab legislator Qaiser Jamsheed Lone on Friday, a gathering whose timing and composition have attracted political attention despite an assertion by senior leader Nazir Ahmad Gurezi that it was nothing more than a friendly lunch.

The meeting brought under one roof several legislators whose names had figured in the run-up to the October 27 expansion, including Gurezi, former Assembly Speaker Mubarak Gul and Anantnag West MLA Abdul Majid Larmi, against the backdrop of disappointment over ministerial exclusions and questions about regional representation.

Speaking exclusively to Kashmir News Service (KNS), Gurezi sought to dispel speculations surrounding the gathering, saying the legislators had been invited by Qaiser Jamsheed Lone for lunch and that no political significance should be attached to the occasion. Gurezi's clarification came amid

heightened attention to developments within the ruling party following the reshuffle, which filled the remaining ministerial berths

Veeri (Bijbehara), Abdul Majid Bhat alias Larmi (Anantnag West), Aijaz Ahmad Jan (Poonch Haveli), Javid Iqbal Choudhary



and left little room for accommodating other aspirants without another change in the cabinet's composition.

Highly placed sources told Kashmir News Service (KNS) that the legislators present included Hasnain Masoodi (Pampore), Ghulam Mohiuddin Mir (Rajpora), Javid Ahmad (Karnah), Saif-ud-Din Bhat (Khansahib), Farooq Ahmad Shah (Tangmarg), Mubarak Gul (Eidgah), Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurez), Hilal Akbar Lone (Sonawari), Bashir Ahmad

(Budhal), Arjun Singh Raju (Ramban), Khurshheed Ahmad (Gulabgarh), Dr Sajad Shafi (Uri), Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo (Chanapora) and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan (Thanamandi).

Ahead of the expansion, Omar Abdullah had announced that the list of ministers was ready and urged party colleagues against lobbying for cabinet positions, making it clear that the leadership had already taken a decision on the proposed inductions.

The political suspense ended on October

27 when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha administered the oath to four National Conference legislators, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Mir Saifullah, Shamima Firdous and Altaf Ahmad Kaloo at SKICC in Srinagar.

The reshuffle also saw Independent legislator Satish Sharma lose his ministerial position, while the continuing ministers were retained. The expansion took the Council of Ministers to its statutory ceiling, effectively closing the door on further inductions unless an existing minister makes way.

Yet the conclusion of the swearing-in ceremony did not entirely settle the political questions surrounding the exercise.

Gurezi, a senior National Conference legislator from north Kashmir who had been widely discussed as a possible ministerial entrant, did not attend the oath-taking ceremony, drawing attention to his absence at a time when expectations of his induction had been particularly high.

Hours after the ceremony, newly inducted ministers Mir Saifullah and Altaf Ahmad Kaloo visited Gurezi at his Tuls Bagh residence in Srinagar, accompanied by party legislators, including Qaiser Jamsheed Lone and Hilal Akbar Lone.

■ SEE ON P-2



Continue from Front Page.....

PM

The Tourism Department showcased several emerging and offbeat destinations, including Patnitop, Bhaderwah, Basohli-Sarthal, Panchari and the seven lakes of Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu region.

Tourist destinations in Kashmir, including Gurez Valley, Bangus and Yousmarg, were also highlighted for their scenic landscapes and potential for adventure, nature-based and experiential tourism.

Officials said the focus on lesser-explored destinations was aimed at diversifying tourism circuits, encouraging longer visitor stays, supporting local communities and creating economic opportunities in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The pavilion also promoted the Union Territory's potential in adventure tourism, pilgrimage tourism, heritage tourism, rural tourism and nature-based travel.

General Manager JKTDC Srinagar Altaf Hussain Bhat, Assistant Director Tourism Jammu Vishal Sadhotra and Manager JKTDC Srinagar Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat were also present during the Prime Minister's visit.

Artists and artisans participating in the event expressed gratitude to the Jammu and Kashmir Government and the Tourism Department for providing them with an opportunity to showcase their craftsmanship and artistic talent at a national platform.

Officials said the participation at Bharat Parv offered an opportunity to introduce visitors from across the country to Jammu and Kashmir's diverse tourism destinations, traditional products and cultural heritage. (KNS)

LG

The Lieutenant Governor directed the officials for sustained and aggressive action against terror modules. He emphasized tightening counter-infiltration grids and fostering seamless synergy between the District Administration, Jammu Kashmir Police, Army, and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in executing counter-terror operations.

He directed the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to closely monitor anti-national elements within the administration and prioritize efforts to combat radicalization. The Lieutenant Governor also asked for monthly reviews regarding the attachment of properties belonging to narco-terrorists and the terror-supporting ecosystem. He said the action against narco-terrorists must continue unabated, besides relentless crackdowns on drug smugglers and peddlers, to realize the vision of Drug-free Jammu Kashmir.

Emphasizing the swift resolution of public grievances, the Lieutenant Governor stated that fostering a strong connection between citizens, police, and the administration is of paramount importance.

"Under no circumstances should communal harmony and the law & order situation be allowed to deteriorate. We must institutionalize best practices and implement District Convergence Plans to ensure sustainable peace and development," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He called for setting up district-level social media cells to swiftly counter misinformation.

In view of the winter season, the Lieutenant Governor directed the administration to ensure adequate stock and availability of essential commodities and robust snow-clearance mechanisms.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of key infrastructure projects across Kashmir Division.

CM

manufacturing and create new employment opportunities for the youth.

He added that these initiatives would contribute to sustained economic growth and further strengthen the industrial ecosystem across Jammu & Kashmir.

SHOPIAN

to the suspected module.

In this connection, FIR No. 231/2026 has been registered at Police Station Shopian under relevant sections of law.

Police confirmed that ten persons have been arrested so far in connection with the case.

Further investigation is underway to establish the full extent of the financing network and identify other individuals, if any, involved in the transactions. (KNS)

SAGAR

Officers based in Jammu participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the officers apprised the Minister of the working of the department, progress on ongoing developmental works, power generation and procurement arrangements, transmission and distribution infrastructure, financial performance, operational challenges and future requirements.

Emphasising that reliable, affordable and quality electricity is an essential public service, the Minister said that the ultimate objective of every departmental initiative must be to ensure improved power supply and better consumer satisfaction. He stressed that administrative efficiency, timely execution of projects and effective coordination at all levels must translate into visible improvements in public service delivery.

Reviewing preparedness for the forthcoming winter season, Sagar stressed the need for comprehensive advance arrangements to ensure reliable power supply, particularly in snow-bound, far-flung, hilly and remote areas. He directed the officers to maintain adequate stocks of transformers, cables, conductors and other essential equipment at strategically identified locations to facilitate immediate restoration of electricity in case of breakdowns and emergencies.

He emphasised that winter preparedness must be reflected in tangible arrangements on the ground. He called for regular inspection of vulnerable infrastructure, identification of potential bottlenecks and deployment of adequate technical manpower and machinery. He also directed the concerned officers to strengthen the field-level response mechanisms and ensure effective coordination among different wings of the department for speedy restoration of electricity during adverse weather conditions.

The Minister underscored that uninterrupted power supply to essential services including hospitals, healthcare centres, drinking water installations, educational institutions and other critical public utilities, must receive priority, particularly during periods of heavy snowfall and inclement weather.

The status of the electricity amnesty scheme was also reviewed, with the Minister emphasising that its intended benefits must

reach all eligible consumers. He called for simplified procedures, effective public outreach and timely disposal of cases to facilitate people in availing the benefits of the scheme without unnecessary difficulties.

Taking stock of the overall power availability and demand-supply position, the Minister discussed the requirement for additional power procurement including the proposed procurement of approximately 200 MW from Uttar Pradesh through power exchange arrangements to bridge the demand-supply gap. He stressed the importance of advance assessment of electricity requirements and timely procurement planning to ensure adequate power availability, particularly during peak winter demand.

Reviewing the progress under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), Sagar called for expediting works aimed at strengthening the distribution network, replacing overloaded transformers and other equipment, improving feeder infrastructure and reducing technical and commercial losses. He directed the officers to closely monitor the execution of these works so that the intended benefits of the scheme are translated into improved electricity supply and enhanced consumer satisfaction.

The Minister also reviewed the status of smart meter installation across Jammu and Kashmir. He stressed that technological interventions should promote transparency, accurate billing, accountability and improved consumer services.

The existing power generation capacity, availability of electricity and possibilities of optimising available resources were also discussed. The Minister stressed the need to explore all feasible avenues for enhancing generation, improving operational efficiency and ensuring better utilisation of available power resources. He also reviewed the status of transmission lines, grid stations, capacity enhancement and maintenance works. He directed the officers to identify infrastructure gaps, remove bottlenecks and expedite necessary interventions to strengthen the transmission network and improve the reliability of power supply.

Emphasising the need to improve the financial and operational health of the department, Sagar reviewed billing efficiency, revenue collection and measures for reducing Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses. He stressed that improved revenue realisation and financial discipline were important for sustainability of the power sector; however, these objectives must go hand in hand with better consumer services, transparency and accountability.

He called for strengthening institutional mechanisms to ensure accurate metering, timely billing and efficient revenue collection while safeguarding the interests of genuine consumers.

The Minister directed the officers to adopt a consumer-friendly approach and ensure that complaints relating to unscheduled power cuts, faulty transformers, damaged distribution lines, low voltage and delayed restoration of electricity are addressed promptly. He further called for strengthening complaint-monitoring mechanisms and ensuring that officers remain accessible and responsive to public grievances, particularly during the winter months. The long-pending issues concerning PDL and CLW workers engaged with the Power Development Department also received particular attention during the meeting.

He directed the concerned authorities to examine their cases in accordance with applicable government policies, rules and eligibility conditions and formulate an appropriate roadmap for their job security, rehabilitation and regularisation, wherever permissible under the rules. The Minister also undertook a detailed review of major power projects presently under execution as well as those in the pipeline.

Highlighting the importance of coordination between the administrative machinery and elected representatives, the Minister directed field officers to maintain regular and meaningful interaction with the MLAs, elected public representatives and village heads, irrespective of their political affiliations.

The Minister also emphasised the need to explore innovative and sustainable approaches towards energy conservation, promotion of renewable energy, solar power adoption, feeder-level monitoring and efficient utilisation of available resources. He called for greater public awareness regarding responsible electricity consumption and energy conservation.

He further stressed that the performance of the department should not be assessed merely through the number of projects completed or expenditure incurred, but primarily through the actual improvement experienced by consumers in terms of reliability, accessibility, transparency and quality of electricity services.

MINOR

raise awareness about lane discipline and develop a stronger civic sense among road users.

He said traffic congestion was also linked to violations of traffic rules, adding that better compliance by motorists could help ease jams across the city.

While acknowledging the decline in cases of minors driving on main roads, Haq said the persistence of the practice in peripheral areas required attention from parents and greater awareness among the public.

SAT SHARMA

Sat Sharma and MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat, accompanied by senior leaders addressed a gathering of prominent citizens, organized by the BJP's Akhnoor district unit under the theme "Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao (Save Democracy, Eliminate Anarchy)," at Sharma said that the Congress leadership, particularly Rahul Gandhi, had increasingly resorted to misinformation, baseless allegations and political confrontation to regain lost ground.

He said that the Congress is putting its hunger for power above national interest and attempting to undermine public confidence in constitutional institutions.

He alleged that the Congress, instead of strengthening democratic institutions, was repeatedly questioning them whenever their functioning did not suit its political interests.

Strongly defending the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Sat Sharma said that maintaining an accurate, transparent and clean voter list is fundamental to free and fair elections. He questioned why Congress was opposing an exercise intended to identify duplicate, deceased, shifted and otherwise ineligible entries while ensuring that every eligible citizen retained the right to vote. "Does Congress believe that it cannot win people's trust and secure votes through democratic means? Why does it become uncomfortable whenever electoral rolls are scrutinised? Is its political survival dependent on questionable entries and bogus voting?" he asked.

JAVID DAR

withstand changing climatic conditions while remaining

economically viable for growers.

The three-day convention, being held from October 29 to 31, is jointly organised by the University's Department of Botany and ISMPP, in association with Rajasthan College of Agriculture, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur. This year's theme is "Advances and Challenges in Plant Pathology under Climate-Resilient Agriculture."

Dar said changing weather patterns and increasing disease pressures posed serious challenges to agriculture and horticulture in Jammu and Kashmir, where large sections of the population depend on these sectors for their livelihoods.

He called for research-driven interventions and practical measures to help growers adapt to changing conditions while protecting crop health and sustaining production. He also described the government's Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) as a unique initiative, emphasising the importance of financial assistance and institutional support in making agriculture and horticulture more viable and sustainable.

University of Kashmir Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nilofer Khan, who attended the convention as guest of honour, said the theme was particularly relevant in view of climate change, emerging plant diseases, declining soil health food security and environmental sustainability. She highlighted the importance of these concerns for Jammu and Kashmir, where apple, saffron, walnut and other high-value crops contribute significantly to the regional economy.

Dr. K. L. Gurjar, Joint Director, ICAR, New Delhi, and Prof. S. S. Chahal, President of ISMPP and former Vice-Chancellor of Punjab Agricultural University and Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, also addressed the inaugural session.

ISMPP Secretary Dr. Pokhar Rawal spoke about the convention, while a souvenir was released on the occasion. Dr. Suresh Panday was conferred the ISMPP's Chahal Lifetime Achievement Award.

Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Wani, Head of the Department of Botany at the University of Kashmir and convener of the event, delivered the welcome address. Prof. Mohd. Yaqub Bhat, organising secretary, presented the opening remarks, while Prof. Abdul Hamid Wani is the co-convener of the convention. [Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Wani, Head of the Department of Botany at the University of Kashmir and convener of the event, delivered the welcome address. Prof. Mohd. Yaqub Bhat, organising secretary, presented the opening remarks, while Prof. Abdul Hamid Wani is the co-convener of the convention. [KNT]

DC Jammu chairs NCORD meeting, reviews progress under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan

HT News Network

JAMMU, OCTOBER 30: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of the District Level Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee to review the progress under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.

SSP Jammu Joginder Singh; Additional District Magistrates Ansuja Jamwal and Ishita Rath, SDMs, Tehsildars and other district officers were present.

The meeting was informed that 65 Panchayats have been declared drug free and 915 Nasha Nigrani Samitis constituted across 20 blocks, while health staff, ASHAs, teachers and other officials have been imparted training for effective IEC activities and



to perform as counsellors. Technology is also being used for monitoring, the meeting was told.

While reviewing the campaign progress, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Education Department to impart training to teachers

in counselling so that they are better equipped to guide students. He asked the Social Welfare and other concerned departments to prepare their awareness plans well in advance to ensure effective outreach. He also directed mental health professionals

and psychiatrists to maintain an online record of their clients, subject to privacy norms.

He cautioned that the properties raised with proceeds of the drug trade and demolished by the district administration must not be rebuilt. He enjoined upon the Revenue Department to remain vigilant and carry out ground inspections to ensure no reconstruction takes place. He also directed the District Employment and Counselling Centre to extend hand-holding to recovered persons in setting up business ventures.

He further asked officers to intensify inspection of chemist shops and ensure strict enforcement of the COTPA Act, stressing that prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation must go hand in hand.

MVD Rajouri organises Vigilance Mela; Pending applications disposed of on the spot

HT News Network

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 30: As part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026, the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Rajouri today organised a Vigilance Mela here at the ARTO Office. The event was held on the directions of Secretary, Transport Department, R. Alice Vaz and Transport Commissioner, J&K, Vishesh Paul Mahajan. The mela aimed at facilitating on-the-spot scrutiny and disposal of pending

applications related to various transport services.

During the mela, around 205 pending applications involving deficiencies in documents, pending fee payments and other queries were scrutinised and disposed of on the spot as per applicable rules.

The services covered included renewal of permits, fitness certificates, transfer of ownership and other transport-related services through the VAHAN and SARATHI portals. Speaking on the occasion, ARTO

Ashiq Rafiq Malik said that the initiative was aimed at providing a convenient platform to enable applicants to resolve pending issues and ensure timely disposal of their applications. He urged applicants to submit complete documentation and fulfil the prescribed formalities to avoid unnecessary delays.

The initiative was organised under the theme "Probity for Prosperity", highlighting the importance of integrity, accountability and transparency in public administration.

DC Udhampur presides over weekly Block Diwas at Bilaspur- Khoon

Assures time-bound redressal of public grievances, several issues resolved on the spot

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 30: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi today presided over the weekly Block Diwas programme at Panchayat Bilaspur in Block Khoon.

The public outreach programme was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, PO Poshan Subash Dogra, Assistant Commissioner Development Om Parkash and other senior officers. Former PRI members, along with a large number of residents from Bilaspur and adjoining panchayats, participated in the programme.

During the interaction, former PRI members and locals raised several issues and demands concerning public welfare and essential services. They demanded construction of a bridge, opening of a ration depot, meeting shortage of staff at PHC Khoon, augmentation of drinking water supply, uninterrupted power supply, timely availability of seeds and fertilizers, installation of electricity poles, provision of a hand pump in Thial, measures to improve low voltage problem in Bilaspur, establishment of a dispensary, implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission and construction of boundary walls, among

other issues. Responding to the demands, the DC assured that all genuine grievances would be taken up with the concerned departments and addressed in a time-bound manner. The DC exhorted officials to work with dedication and commitment to provide people their legitimate entitlements and essential services. He also directed the officers to strengthen awareness among the public about various income-generating and beneficiary-oriented schemes launched by the Government. Several grievances were resolved on the spot through the intervention and directions of the Deputy Commissioner.



Director Information reviews functioning of DICs across Kashmir division

Calls for responsive, technology-driven approach for making communication more effective, people-centric

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: Director Information, Mamta Yadav today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the functioning of District Information Centres (DICs) across Kashmir Division, with a focus on strengthening district-level information dissemination, improving media coordination and ensuring effective coverage of government activities and public welfare initiatives.

Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari; Deputy Director Information (PR/AV), Javid Ahmad Rather; Deputy Director (PR) Kashmir, Mohammad Rafiq Zullah; Deputy Director (Hqrs), Kashmir, Zubair Ahmad; Cultural Officer, Field Publicity Officer, District Information Officers of Kashmir division and other concerned officers also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Director took a detailed assessment of the functioning of District Information Centres, reviewing their publicity activities, media outreach, field-level coverage, infrastructure, manpower



requirements and overall performance.

Stressing the importance of District Information Centres as the grassroots communication network of the DIPR, Mamta Yadav said that these centres have a significant role in ensuring that

information about government policies, programmes, developmental initiatives and public welfare schemes reaches the people in a timely, accurate and accessible manner. "DICs are the face of the DIPR at the grassroots level.

Their role goes beyond disseminating information; they serve as an important link between the administration, media and the public. It is imperative that every district unit functions with dedication, professionalism and a clear sense of responsibility," she said.

The Director underscored the need to make publicity and information dissemination more dynamic, result-oriented and responsive to the changing media landscape. She called upon the district officers to effectively utilise digital and social media platforms alongside conventional modes of publicity to ensure wider outreach and greater public engagement.

"Timely and credible information is the foundation of effective public communication. Our focus should be on taking verified information to the people through appropriate platforms, while ensuring that the achievements and initiatives of the Government receive adequate and factual coverage," Mamta Yadav remarked. She also stressed the importance of proactive media engagement and maintaining cordial and professional relations with local media organisations. She called

for improved coordination with district administrations and concerned departments to ensure comprehensive coverage of important government events, public outreach programmes and developmental activities.

Highlighting the need for innovation in departmental publicity, the Director encouraged the district units to explore local success stories, developmental milestones, cultural heritage and public-oriented initiatives for wider dissemination through print, electronic and digital media. "Every district has its own stories of development, innovation and public participation. Our officers must identify these stories and bring them to the forefront. Effective communication should not remain limited to official events but must also reflect the impact of government initiatives on the ground," she added. Mamta Yadav also called for greater accountability, regular monitoring and adherence to professional standards in the discharge of official responsibilities. She directed the concerned officers to maintain regular communication with headquarters, ensure timely submission of reports.

Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027: Youth Festival held at Kashmir Government Polytechnic Gogji Bagh

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: A Youth Festival under the banner of Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 was organised today at Kashmir Government Polytechnic, Gogji Bagh, Srinagar, with enthusiastic participation of boys and girls.

The festival provided a platform for young participants to showcase their creativity, artistic abilities and cultural talent through various competitions and activities, including folk performances, dance, music, Nukkad Natak (street play), painting and poetry.

The event aimed to encourage youth participation, promote India's rich cultural heritage and provide opportunities for young people to express their ideas, creativity and perspectives through art and cultural activities.

Approximately 235 participants took part in the programme, reflecting the enthusiasm, talent and active involvement of the youth in constructive and meaningful engagements.

The festival was conducted in a spirit of cultural participation, creative expression and youth empowerment, in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, which recognises the important role of young people in nation-building.

The programme concluded with an emphasis on encouraging youth to actively contribute towards a progressive, inclusive and developed India.

CIPMC Srinagar organizes "Khet Bachao Abhiyaan" at Pulwama

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 30: The Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, in collaboration with the State Agriculture Department, Pulwama, organized "Khet Bachao Abhiyaan" and an awareness campaign on "Fake vs. Genuine Pesticides" at Parigam, Pulwama today.

Dr. Haroon Rashid Hakla, APPO (PP), sensitized farmers about the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. He demonstrated the use of sticky traps, delta traps and botanical pesticides for effective and eco-friendly pest management. He also explained how to identify genuine pesticides through the CIB&RC-approved list and emphasized essential safety precautions during pesticide application to prevent adverse health effects. Manjeet Singh, SMS, SDL, delivered an informative lecture on the safe and judicious use of pesticides, highlighting the importance of such initiatives in protecting farmers' interests and promoting sustainable agriculture. Kawal Nain Singh, SA, demonstrated the identification and conservation of beneficial natural enemies in agricultural fields. The programme included an interactive session wherein farmers raised field-related concerns, which were addressed by the resource persons through practical demonstrations.

MD NHM reviews NQAS implementation, PM-TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan

Calls for 100% assessment of public health institutions and intensified TB Screening

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: In a strong push to enhance public healthcare delivery and accelerate TB elimination, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM) J&K, Athar Aamir Shafi-ul-Khan, today chaired back-to-back review meetings regarding National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) and Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan today at State Health Society Office Old Secretariat, Srinagar.

Reviewing the National Quality Assurance Standards, the Mission Director underscored that quality infrastructure and patient-centric care remain core pillars of public health in Jammu and Kashmir. Athar Aamir Shafi-ul-Khan directed all Chief Medical Officers to ensure thorough baseline assessments of every public health institution



within their respective jurisdictions.

Chief Medical Officers were instructed to categorize facilities based on assessment findings, systematically bridge infrastructural gaps, and prioritize resource allocation to ensure that 100 percent of targeted healthcare facilities achieve NQAS quality certification by March 2027. Reiterating the administration's commitment, he assured complete technical and

administrative backing from the State Health Society to help every facility meet national benchmarks.

In a separate meeting, the Mission Director evaluated the ground-level progress of the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP). Deliberations centered on population screening coverage, Differentiated TB Care, and TB Preventive Treatment (TPT).

ADC Shopian reviews preparations for Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, Run For Unity

Calls for enthusiastic Public & Youth participation to uphold the Spirit of National Unity & Integrity

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 30: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, today presided over a meeting here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian to review and finalize the arrangements for the upcoming observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas and the much-anticipated Run for Unity being held on October 31, 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC underscored the immense national significance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, noting that the observance serves as a powerful reminder of our shared commitment to the nation's unity, integrity and security. He stressed that seamless cross-departmental coordination is vital for making the event a grand success and ensuring participation of all employees, officers/officials of all departments.

The ADC directed officials for ensuring that all logistical, security, medical and transport arrangements are put in place with maximum efficiency. He urged every department to work



in close coordination to guarantee enthusiastic public participation particularly from the youth transforming the Run for Unity into a memorable district-wide celebration.

The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to work together harmoniously to uphold and promote the enduring spirit of unity.

The meeting was attended by District Programme Officer (DPO), Mohammed Imran, GM, DIC, Shurjil Naik, CPO, Mudassir Ahmed, Dy.SP, CEO, Dy. CMO, ARTO, DYSSO and other concerned.

National Unity Day: ADC Budgam reviews arrangements for 'Run for Unity' SDMs to organise similar events at Sub-Divisional Level

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 30: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, chaired a meeting to review and finalise arrangements for the 'Run for Unity', being organised tomorrow to commemorate National Unity Day.

The run will commence from Karipora Railway Bridge and culminate at Railway Station Budgam.

The meeting was attended by the PO ICDS, Additional Superintendent of Police, all Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Chief Education Officer (CEO), Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and other district officers.

During the meeting, the ADC took a comprehensive review of the preparations and assessed the departmental responsibilities assigned for the successful conduct of the event. He emphasised the need for close coordination and effective inter-departmental cooperation to ensure the smooth, disciplined and hassle-free conduct of the programme.

The ADC directed all district officers



to ensure maximum participation in the 'Run for Unity', including officers and subordinate staff, Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, lumberdars, students from colleges and schools, as well as senior citizens. He stressed that active participation from all sections of society would reinforce the message of unity, integrity and collective responsibility that National Unity Day seeks to promote.

The ADC also directed the Chief Medical

Officer, Budgam, to ensure the deployment of adequate paramedical staff along the route and at the venue, besides making necessary medical and emergency arrangements to promptly address any eventuality. The Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Budgam, was instructed to ensure proper cleanliness, sanitation and maintenance of the entire route and venue before and during the event. Further, the ADC directed all Sub-

Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to organise similar 'Run for Unity' events and related activities at their respective sub-divisional headquarters to ensure wider outreach and participation at the grassroots level.

Reiterating the importance of the occasion, the ADC called upon all officers to discharge their assigned responsibilities with utmost dedication, coordination and punctuality, ensuring that the event concludes smoothly without causing any inconvenience to participants or the general public.

The 'Run for Unity' is aimed at fostering national integration, communal harmony, solidarity and a spirit of oneness among citizens, while reaffirming the collective commitment towards a united and harmonious nation. Reiterating the importance of the occasion, the ADC called upon all officers to discharge their assigned responsibilities with utmost dedication, coordination and punctuality, ensuring that the event concludes smoothly without causing any inconvenience to participants or the general public. The 'Run for Unity' is aimed at fostering national integration, communal harmony, solidarity and a spirit of oneness among citizens, while reaffirming the collective commitment towards a united and harmonious nation.

Secretary reviews functioning of Social Welfare Department Kashmir Division

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: Secretary, Social Welfare, Dr. Sagar D. Doifode, today chaired an exclusive review meeting regarding functioning of the Social Welfare Department, Kashmir Division, at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by the Director, Social Welfare Kashmir; Director, Planning, Social Welfare Department; Director, Finance, Social Welfare Department; Deputy Director, Directorate of Social Welfare Kashmir and the District Social Welfare Officers of Kashmir Division.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighted the status of implementation of various schemes and programmes of the Department, along with key issues concerning their execution, progress and overall functioning.

During the meeting, an extensive review of the physical and financial progress of various welfare schemes was undertaken. Focus was laid on ensuring effective implementation, timely delivery of benefits to eligible beneficiaries, identification of implementation-related bottlenecks and resolution of issues hindering smooth execution of departmental programmes.

Dr. Sagar D. Doifode stressed the need for timely and judicious utilisation of available funds. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that all prescribed physical and financial targets are achieved within the stipulated timelines. He emphasised that funds should be utilised efficiently and strictly in accordance with the approved guidelines. He further directed that any bottleneck affecting expenditure or

implementation progress be addressed promptly to ensure optimal utilisation of available resources.

He emphasised the need for close coordination among the Directorate, district offices and concerned sections of the Department to ensure efficient implementation of welfare initiatives and achievement of prescribed targets within the stipulated timelines.

The Secretary also directed the concerned officer to intensify awareness and outreach activities regarding various welfare schemes of the department. He asked them to prioritise the grassroots level communities, to ensure that eligible beneficiaries are adequately informed about the benefits, eligibility criteria and application procedures of the schemes. He stressed the need for proactive dissemination of information through field.

Commissioner SMC reviews PMAY-U 2.0 implementation Calls for faster verification and disposal of pending applications

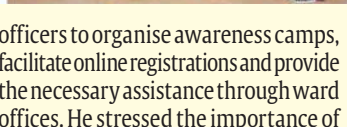
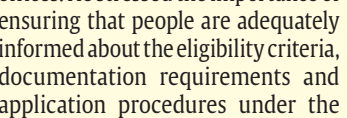
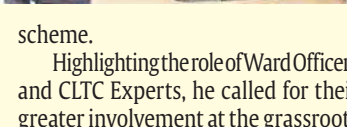
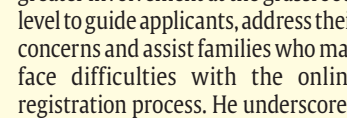
■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today reviewed the progress of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0), taking stock of the application process, beneficiary verification and measures being undertaken to ensure that eligible families can avail themselves of the benefits of the scheme without unnecessary delays.

During the meeting, the Commissioner stressed the need to expedite the verification and scrutiny of applications, particularly those pending at various levels. He directed the concerned officers to work in close coordination, resolve procedural issues promptly and ensure that all eligible applications are processed within the stipulated timeframe.

Dr. Basharat emphasised that the implementation of PMAY-U 2.0 must remain focused on reaching deserving households, particularly those belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low-Income Groups (LIG). He stressed that the verification process must be conducted carefully and transparently, ensuring that genuine beneficiaries do not face unnecessary difficulties.

The Commissioner also called for intensified awareness activities at the ward level, directing the concerned



officers to organise awareness camps, facilitate online registrations and provide the necessary assistance through ward offices. He stressed the importance of ensuring that people are adequately informed about the eligibility criteria, documentation requirements and application procedures under the

scheme. Highlighting the role of Ward Officers and CLTC Experts, he called for their greater involvement at the grassroots level to guide applicants, address their concerns and assist families who may face difficulties with the online registration process. He underscored

that wider public awareness and effective facilitation are essential to ensure that no eligible household is left out due to a lack of information or procedural hurdles.

The Commissioner directed all concerned departments and field functionaries to maintain close coordination and pursue the implementation process with urgency, ensuring transparent verification and time-bound disposal of applications.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner, Administration, SMC; Joint Commissioner, R&E, SMC; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, ACR; FA/CAO, SMC; Secretary, SMC; concerned Deputy General Manager, J&K Housing Board; Tehsildars of North, South, Eidgah, Central Shalteng, Khanyar, Panthachowk and Chanapora; representatives of District Social Welfare Officer, Srinagar, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; besides Ward Officers and CLTC Experts. The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner, Administration, SMC; Joint Commissioner, R&E, SMC; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, ACR; FA/CAO, SMC; Secretary, SMC; concerned Deputy General Manager, J&K Housing Board; Tehsildars of North, South, Eidgah, Central Shalteng, Khanyar, Panthachowk and Chanapora; representatives of District Social Welfare Officer, Srinagar, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; besides Ward Officers and CLTC Experts.

NIT Srinagar Wins First Prize at Vibrant India 2026 in New Delhi

Institute showcases indigenous drone technology for high-altitude, low-temperature operations

■ HT News Network

Srinagar| Oct, 30: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has won First Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Engineering Education and Academic Development at the 12th Vibrant India 2026 – Most Vibrant Expo on Government Achievements, held at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi, from October 23 to 25.

Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, Mr. Aban Habib, and Mr. Shebaan Habib represented NIT Srinagar at the three-day national exhibition, showcasing an innovative drone prototype designed for high-altitude and low-temperature environments.

The demonstration highlighted the institute's efforts to develop indigenous unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technologies suited to the demanding environmental conditions of the Himalayan region and other high-altitude areas.

Organised by NNS Media Group as part of Meri Dilli Utsav, Vibrant India 2026 brought together government organisations, public sector enterprises, institutions, and other stakeholders to showcase achievements and initiatives across various sectors.

The exhibition featured displays relating to Indian Railways, mines, coal, Jal Shakti, tourism, agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, and other areas of national importance.

The drone innovation showcased by the NIT Srinagar team addresses key engineering challenges associated with operating unmanned aerial vehicles in high-altitude environments, where low temperatures and reduced air density can affect battery performance, propulsion efficiency, flight endurance, and structural



reliability.

The technology reflects the growing importance of indigenous drone development for specialised applications in mountainous and remote regions. Such technologies have potential applications in infrastructure inspection, environmental monitoring, high-altitude observation, and other operations requiring reliable aerial systems in challenging conditions.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, and Head of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IEDC), Prof. Babar Ahmad, congratulated the team on the achievement.

They appreciated the team's efforts in showcasing the Institute's engineering capabilities on a national platform and highlighted the importance of innovation, indigenous technology development, and industry oriented research in addressing real-world challenges.

Cyber Awareness-cum-Hygiene Programme held at Poshan Project Bandipora

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 30: The Cyber Awareness-cum-Hygiene programme was held at Poshan Project Bandipora with an objective to create awareness regarding cybercrime, online fraud, cyber hygiene, cybersecurity and other cyber-related threats.

During the programme, the participants were educated about preventive measures to safeguard themselves against such threats and crimes.

An interactive session was also held during which participants were sensitized about safe use of internet, social media and online transactions.

On the occasion, officers, officials including Anganwadi Workers and other frontline workers participated in the programme.

ADC Handwara finalises arrangements for National Unity Day Celebrations

■ HT News Network

HANDWARA, OCTOBER 30: Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, today chaired a meeting in his chamber to discuss and finalise arrangements for the celebration of National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas), observed every year on October 31 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India. During the meeting, the ADC reviewed preparations for the smooth and successful conduct of the celebrations and emphasised the importance of promoting national unity, integrity and solidarity among citizens. He stressed the need for close coordination among all concerned departments to ensure that the programme is organised in a befitting manner. The ADC directed the officers to ensure timely completion of all necessary arrangements and discharge their assigned responsibilities with dedication and commitment. He underscored that National Unity Day serves as an important occasion to reaffirm the collective resolve towards preserving the unity, integrity and security of the nation. The meeting was attended by the DSP DAR Handwara, Tehsildar Handwara, Deputy Chief Education Officer, Kupwara/Handwara, Principals of Boys'

21st Battalion JKAP (IR) Organises Cleanliness Drive, Debate & Quiz Competition Under Civic Action Programme at Parihaspora

■ HT News Network

21st Battalion JKAP (IR) Organises Cleanliness Drive, Debate and Quiz Competition under Civic Action Programme 2026-27. Students, police personnel and locals join hands to promote cleanliness and the ideals of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Parihaspora, October 30, 2026: The 21st Battalion Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police (India Reserve) organised a Cleanliness Drive along with a Debate and Quiz Competition at Armed Police Complex (APC) Parihaspora today as part of its Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2026-27. The programme, approved by Police Headquarters J&K, was aimed at promoting the principles of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and their relevance in today's times, while creating awareness about the importance of cleanliness among police personnel, school children and the general public. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students and staff of PM SHRI Govt. Boys High School Diver, Govt. Boys Middle School Khanpeth and Govt. Boys Middle School Yakhmanpora, along with respectable members of the local community and officers and jawans of the Battalion. Debate and Quiz Competition The day began with a Debate and Quiz Competition in which students showcased their knowledge and speaking skills on the life, vision and contributions of Sardar



Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India and the architect of the nation's unity. Participants were judged on their performance, content, delivery and depth of research. The winning and runner-up teams were awarded trophies and mementos, while all participants received certificates of participation in recognition of their efforts. Commandant of the Battalion, SSP Sheikh Faisal Qayoom, appreciated the students for their insightful presentations and well-researched arguments. He said that Sardar Patel's principles of unity, discipline and selfless service to the nation remain as relevant today as ever, and that young minds must carry these values forward. He added that such initiatives play an important role in building a strong bond of trust between the police and the community, especially the younger generation. Cleanliness Drive Before the

start of the Cleanliness Drive, the Commandant addressed the gathering of police personnel, students and civilians. He stressed that cleanliness should not be a one-day activity but a daily habit, as it is vital for good health and a clean environment. Describing cleanliness as both a social and moral responsibility, he said that collective efforts in this direction not only strengthen police-public relations but also contribute meaningfully to society. Following the address, police personnel, students, teachers and locals carried out a cleanliness drive in and around the B.Ed. College adjacent to Battalion Headquarters Parihaspora. Participants cleared litter and plastic waste from the area, setting a practical example of community action. The drive also aimed to build civic sense and raise awareness about environmental cleanliness.

DYSS Bandipora organises District-Level Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 30: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), Bandipora, organised the Inter-Zonal District-Level Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBLYD) 2027 at the Auditorium Hall of NM Higher Secondary School, Kaloosa, Bandipora.

On the occasion, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Mir attended the event as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest stated that the youth of Bandipora possess exceptional talent in various fields, which needs to be identified, nurtured, explored and showcased at different platforms.

He emphasized that, in order to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat, the New Education Policy (NEP) has been introduced with a focus on providing ample opportunities and platforms to young people to express and showcase their talents in diverse fields, rather than limiting education to conventional methods of learning.

He also congratulated the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Bandipora, for its remarkable achievements in



various district, UT-level and national-level competitions, which have brought laurels to the district and enhanced its recognition at different platforms.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from young talents representing different zones of the district, providing them with a vibrant platform to showcase their artistic abilities, cultural heritage, creativity and leadership potential.

Various competitions and

cultural activities, including painting, poetry, folk songs, folk dance, cultural performances and Nukkad Natak, were organised during the event. The participants showcased their talent, confidence, originality and artistic expression through their performances.

The programme aimed to promote youth engagement, nurture emerging talent, preserve cultural traditions and encourage young people to contribute actively towards the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Mission Director NHM conducts Monitoring Visit to Health Care Institutions of Ganderbal

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 30: Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), J&K, Athar Aamir Ul Shafi, today conducted an extensive monitoring and review visit to premier healthcare institutions in District Ganderbal including District Hospital (DH) Ganderbal and Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM), Pandach, to evaluate the on-ground implementation of national health programs and healthcare delivery standards.

During his visit to District Hospital Ganderbal, the Mission Director inspected key medical units, including the District Early Intervention Centre (DEIC), Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU), High Dependency Unit (HDU), Blood Centre, Dialysis Unit, Pharmacy, and diagnostic laboratories. He

also undertook a dedicated site visit to inspect the ongoing construction and operational readiness of the District Integrated Public Health Laboratory (DIPHL) and the Critical Care Block (CCB) being established under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), reviewing its physical progress firsthand.

At Ayushman Arogya Mandir, Pandach, the Mission Director reviewed the delivery of comprehensive 12-package primary healthcare services, emphasizing grassroots service outreach and robust preventive care.

The visit followed a detailed review meeting with the Chief Medical Officer, Ganderbal, the Medical Superintendent, DH Ganderbal, Heads of Departments, the Divisional Nodal Officer for NHM Kashmir,



and NHM Programme Managers. Discussions focused on the seamless execution of vital

initiatives such as Maternal and Child Health services, RBSK, RKSK, PM-ABHIM, PM-TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, National Ambulance Services (102/108), the DNB postgraduate training program, blood services, and free drug and diagnostic initiatives.

Highlighting the hospital's operational achievements, the review noted a significant scaling of clinical services, marked by robust institutional deliveries and high outpatient footfalls over the past year. Recently established high-end diagnostic facilities including the CT scan, DEXA Scan, and FibroScan units were evaluated to ensure maximum patient convenience and a reduction in referral burdens.

Furthermore, the Mission Director assessed the functioning of Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF), Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) clinics, and the e-Sahaj online

pharmacy management system. He commended the healthcare personnel for their unwavering dedication, successful NQAS certification, and commitment to maintaining high clinical excellence across all departments. Highlighting the hospital's operational achievements, the review noted a significant scaling of clinical services, marked by robust institutional deliveries and high outpatient footfalls over the past year. Recently established high-end diagnostic facilities including the CT scan, DEXA Scan, and FibroScan units were evaluated to ensure maximum patient convenience and a reduction in referral burdens. Furthermore, the Mission Director assessed the functioning of Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF), Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) clinics, and the e-Sahaj online pharmacy management system.

SKUAST-Jammu organises 2-day National Seminar on Niche Crops at Bhaderwah

MLA, DC highlight potential of traditional crops in promoting sustainable agriculture, rural entrepreneurship

HT News Network

BHADERWAH, OCTOBER 30: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu) today inaugurated a two-day National Seminar themed "Heritage to Enterprises: Unlocking the Potential of Niche Crops in Jammu and Kashmir" here at Bhaderwah Campus of the University of Jammu.

The seminar is being organised under HADPP Project No. 02, with the broader theme of "Advancing Production, Value Addition and Market Linkages for Sustainable Hill Prosperity."

The seminar aims to explore scientific, technological and entrepreneurial opportunities for strengthening the niche-crop sector and improving the livelihoods of farming communities in the hill regions of Jammu and Kashmir.



The inaugural session was graced by MLA Bhaderwah Daleep Singh Parihar as the Chief Guest, while Deputy Commissioner

Doda Krishan Lal, attended as the Guest of Honour. Prof. Anil Kumar, Dean-cum-Registrar, SKUAST-Jammu; Prof. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Director, Student Welfare and Kewal Kumar Raina were also present on the occasion.

The seminar brought together scientists, academicians, researchers and other stakeholders to deliberate on the immense potential of the region's distinctive niche crops, including saffron, Kalazeera, Anardana, Bhaderwah Rajmash, hill garlic and pecan nut. The deliberations focused on strengthening collaboration among agricultural universities, research institutions, government departments, farmers and entrepreneurs to transform traditional crops into commercially viable enterprises.

The chief guest emphasised the importance of harnessing the agricultural strengths of Bhaderwah and adjoining hill areas to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for

farmers. He highlighted the significance of connecting agricultural research with farmers' requirements and promoting enterprise-oriented approaches suited to the region's unique agro-climatic conditions.

The DC stressed the need to unlock the full potential of the district's unique niche crops. He highlighted Doda's diverse forest resources and specialised agricultural land, noting the potential of crops and products such as Anardana, Olive, Gucchi, Apple and Bhaderwah Rajmash in strengthening the local economy and generating livelihood opportunities.

Prof. Anil Kumar highlighted the importance of Bhaderwah in promoting, preserving and enhancing the quality of niche crops of the Jammu region. He stressed the need to encourage scientific cultivation practices and value addition to strengthen the agricultural identity of the region.

Inter-Zonal District Level Youth Festival 2026 held at Samba

HT News Network

SAMBA, OCTOBER 30: The District Youth Services and Sports Office

Executive Officer Municipal Council Yog Raj were also present.

The cultural competitions were adjudicated by BDO Swati Slathia and



(DYSSO) Samba on Friday organised the Inter-Zonal District Level Youth Festival-2026, providing students a platform to showcase their artistic talent and abilities. Around 85 students and local youth from all five zones of District Samba participated in the cultural and literary event, featuring Folk Dance, Folk Song, Nukkad Natak, Painting and Poetry Writing competitions. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rupesh Kumar was the Chief Guest, while the District Youth Services and Sports Officer coordinated the event. Tehsildar Gaurav Sharma and Chief

Assistant Director Sakshi Parihar, while Art Teacher Naveen Singh, Lecturer Deepajali Sharma and Lecturer Dr. Nisha Verma evaluated the Painting and Poetry Writing competitions.

Zone Samba emerged as winner in Poetry Writing competition; Zone Ghagwal in Folk Song, Folk Dance and Nukkad Natak; while Zone Vijaypur won Painting competition.

The Chief Guest and other guests appreciated the participants and encouraged them to nurture their talents and remain connected with their cultural heritage.

District Admin Ganderbal all set to celebrate National Unity Day on October 31 with Enthusiasm, Patriotic Fervour

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 30: The District Administration Ganderbal has finalized elaborate arrangements for the celebration of National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) on October 31, 2026, across the district. The occasion commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and aims to reaffirm the values of unity, integrity, fraternity, and national solidarity. The day's proceedings will commence at 9:00 AM with a vibrant Cyclothon. The event will be flagged off from Clock

Tower, Ganderbal, and culminate at Gadoora Physical College. Simultaneously, a range of sports activities will be organized at Gadoora Stadium. The major highlight of the celebrations, the Run for Unity, is scheduled to commence at 11:00 AM. The procession will commence from the lawns of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Ganderbal, and proceed towards Qamariya Ground. Upon reaching Qamariya Ground, the dignitaries, participants, and citizens will collectively take the National Unity Pledge, pledging their commitment to preserving the unity, integrity,

IUST organises Walkathon to spread awareness against corruption

HT News Network

AWANTIPORA, OCT 30: As part of the "Vigilance Awareness Week 2026", the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, in collaboration with the Office of the Dean of Students and the Departmental Vigilance Officer, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised a walkathon on Thursday aimed at spreading awareness on the eradication of corruption and fostering a culture of integrity, transparency and accountability on the university campus.

Speaking on the occasion, Dean of Students, Dr. Monisa Qadiri, said, the collective participation of faculty, heads,



teams and administrative staff sends out a clear message that IUST stands against bribery and dishonesty. She added that the university's commitment is not limited to the vigilance week and that integrity is integrated into its everyday processes, as part of the larger national mission. Earlier, Officer-in-Charge, Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, Dr. S. Iqbal Quraishi, while introducing the event, said that the objective of the rally was to spread

awareness among the students and staff to stand united against corruption. "Today's rally is a step towards reinforcing our commitment to integrity and transparency," he said.

Dean School of Humanities and Social Sciences, IUST, Dr. Afroz Ahmad Bisati, highlighted corruption as an everyday phenomenon "that needs to be eradicated." He observed that even a deliberate delay of one minute beyond the required time for a task amounts to corruption and emphasised the need to address such practices.

Also present was Head, Department of Education Prof. Mahmood Ahmad Khan, who said that corruption eats away at a society and that not only bribery but also dereliction.

Yuva Samvaad held at GDC Doda; Over 100 young citizens take Loktantrik Pledge

HT News Network

DODA, OCTOBER 30: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) Doda under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, today organised a Yuva Samvaad programme here at Government Degree College (GDC), bringing together young citizens and public representatives on a common platform to promote democratic awareness, informed participation and the role of youth in nation-building.

As many as 100 students participated in the programme organised as part of the nationwide Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvaad initiative being conducted across 500 universities, colleges and institutions from October 26 to November 5, 2026. The programme was chaired by the College Principal Dr. Javid Iqbal. Amit Katoch as Youth Icon attended as special guest.

Addressing the students, Dr. Javid

Iqbal highlighted the importance of creating awareness among young people about electoral literacy, voter registration and the significance of maintaining accurate electoral rolls. He encouraged students to understand their democratic rights and responsibilities and actively contribute to strengthening democratic institutions. The key highlight of the programme was an interactive dialogue between students and Youth Icon Amit Katoch. The participants raised questions and shared their views on the theme of 'Know Your Vote'. Responding to their queries, Katoch encouraged the youth to participate actively in democratic processes, exercise their voting rights responsibly and spread awareness about their role in a vibrant democracy. The programme concluded with the administration of the Loktantrik Pledge, wherein participants reaffirmed their commitment to democratic values, informed participation and responsible

J&K Academy Organises Multilingual Mushaira at Akhnoor to Pay Tribute to Late Krishan Lal Sharma

HT News Network

AKHNOOR, October 30, 2026: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, in collaboration with the Employees Welfare Forum, Akhnoor, and Chandrabhaga Sanskriti Manch, Akhnoor, today organised a multilingual Mushaira at Jia Pota Mandir, Akhnoor, to pay rich tributes to the memory of late Shri Krishan Lal Sharma on his 24th death anniversary.

Late Shri Krishan Lal Sharma was remembered as a noble personality, eminent educationist, scholar, social worker and dedicated trade union leader who made significant contributions to society and the literary and cultural landscape of the region. Shri Mohan Lal Bhagat, Hon'ble MLA, Akhnoor, was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while Shri Rajeev Sharma, former MLA, Akhnoor, was the Guest of Honour.

At the outset, Shri O.P. Shakar welcomed the dignitaries and



participants. This was followed by floral tributes to late Shri Krishan Lal Sharma as a mark of respect and remembrance. Subsequently, Shri O.P. Shakar presented a detailed paper highlighting the life, achievements and multifaceted contributions of the departed personality. In his address, Chief Guest Shri Mohan Lal Bhagat lauded the social, educational and literary contributions of late Shri Krishan Lal Sharma. He observed that the ideals, commitment to public welfare and dedication to society demonstrated by such

personalities continue to inspire future generations. He also appreciated the efforts of the organising institutions in keeping alive the memory and legacy of distinguished personalities through literary and cultural programmes.

Guest of Honour Shri Rajeev Sharma also paid homage to late Shri Krishan Lal Sharma and highlighted his valuable services to society. The multilingual Mushaira witnessed the participation of several poets who paid poetic tributes through their compositions in different languages.

Director Colleges reviews facilities at Various City Colleges

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: Director Colleges, Professor (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, accompanied by Professor (Dr.) Seema Naz, Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges, visited three colleges in Srinagar to review the facilities available and assess their overall functioning.

Professor (Dr.) Suri began her visit at Government College of Education (IASE), M.A. Road, Srinagar. She subsequently visited Sri Pratap College (SP College), Srinagar, followed by Amar Singh College, Srinagar.

At Government College of Education (IASE), Professor (Dr.) Seema Naz briefed Professor (Dr.) Twinkle Suri about the institution, its academic activities, administrative functioning, various initiatives, notable achievements and future



goals.

In her address, Professor (Dr.) Suri congratulated Professor (Dr.) Seema Naz on her achievements and appreciated her dedicated efforts towards the development of the institution, particularly in strengthening its academic environment and institutional infrastructure.

Reassuring the faculty and staff of her full support, Professor (Dr.)

Suri stated that she would make every possible effort to address their genuine demands and requirements, whether related to teaching or non-teaching staff. She further assured them that the doors of her office would always remain open to listen to their concerns and extend all possible assistance.

Later, she visited various facilities of the college, including the laboratories, library, research lab, multipurpose sports hall, classrooms, browsing centre and other important facilities.

At Sri Pratap College (SP College), Srinagar, Dr. Haris Izhar Tantray, Principal of the college, apprised Professor (Dr.) Twinkle Suri of the institution's notable achievements, ongoing initiatives, academic accomplishments and future goals and vision.

Similarly, at Amar Singh College, Srinagar, Dr. Tahmeena Yousuf,

Principal of the college, briefed Professor (Dr.) Suri about the institution's notable achievements, academic accomplishments, ongoing initiatives, research activities and future vision.

During the visits, Professor (Dr.) Suri interacted with faculty members, students and non-teaching staff to gain first-hand insight into the functioning of the institutions, their academic environment and the facilities available on their respective campuses.

The interactions provided an opportunity to review the existing infrastructure, assess institutional requirements and listen to the concerns, suggestions and expectations of various stakeholders. She also sought feedback from students and faculty members regarding academic activities, teaching-learning practices and student support facilities.

NIT Srinagar's young hackers uncover vulnerabilities in Bug Hunt 2026

5-day cybersecurity initiative promotes ethical hacking, responsible vulnerability reporting

HT News Network

SRINAGAR [Oct. 30: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar organised a five-day Cybersecurity Awareness and Bug Hunt 2026 from October 25 to 30, providing students a platform to enhance their cybersecurity skills and identify potential digital security vulnerabilities.

Organised by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Student Chapter of the Departments of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) and Information Technology (IT), the initiative featured expert interactions, awareness sessions and a hands-on bug hunt competition.

Director, NIT Srinagar Prof.

Anurag Misra highlighted the growing importance of cybersecurity and encouraged students to strengthen their technical capabilities and contribute towards building a secure digital environment.

Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman and Dean Research and Consultancy Prof. Roohie Naaz Mir also emphasised the importance of technological innovation, research and practical learning.

Ms. Jyoti Kushwaha, Scientist-D and Joint Director, Electronics and IT Department, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), attended the programme as Chief Guest. She stressed the need for digital awareness, safe online practices and greater vigilance against



emerging cyber threats.

During the Bug Hunt competition, Team 404 Found, comprising B.Tech students Piyush

Dhakad, Vansh Saini and Prince, secured first position and received a cash prize of 10,000.

Team Pasikdar, comprising

M.Tech students Younis Ayoub Parry, Malik Tafheem and Iram Naseer, secured second position with a cash prize of 7,500, while Karuturi Gowri Shankar secured third position and received 5,000.

Three participants, Pranjul Khankriyal, Veer Rastogi and Mohsin Wani, received consolation prizes. Team CodeSage, comprising Ritik Bhardwaj, Mohammed Anas and Dashmesh Deep Singh, was given special recognition for identifying and reporting a security vulnerability.

Dr. Ahsan Chishty, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Dr. Iqra Altaf Gillani, Nodal Officer, BIS, and Dr. Sparsh Sharma, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer (DCISO), guided the initiative, which

was led by Disha Mehra, a fourth-year CSE student.

The programme also featured interactive activities and cybersecurity-based quizzes to familiarise students with responsible digital practices and emerging security challenges.

The organisers said the initiative aimed to promote ethical hacking, practical cybersecurity skills and responsible vulnerability reporting among students. Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman and Dean Research and Consultancy Prof. Roohie Naaz Mir also emphasised the importance of technological innovation, research and practical learning.

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HT EDITORIAL

Kashmir Cannot Afford to Lose Another Generation to Drugs

The fight against narcotics must move beyond arrests and seizures to confront the social, psychological and economic factors driving young people towards addiction...

The battle against drugs in Jammu and Kashmir is increasingly becoming a battle for the future of its youth. The arrest of seven alleged drug peddlers in five separate operations in Anantnag, with the recovery of charas, ganja and other narcotic substances, is yet another indication of how deeply the menace has penetrated society. While such police action deserves appreciation, it also exposes a much larger challenge: the drug trade continues to survive because its roots extend far beyond the networks that supply narcotics. Behind every drug-related arrest lies a disturbing social reality. Somewhere, a young person may be experimenting with drugs, another may already be battling dependency, and a family may be silently watching its world fall apart. This is not simply a law-and-order issue that can be resolved through raids and criminal proceedings. It is a crisis of human lives, social responsibility and institutional preparedness. For too long, the public response to the drug menace has largely been defined by arrests, recoveries and official campaigns. These are necessary, but they cannot be the final indicators of success. If narcotics continue to circulate, if demand remains high and if vulnerable young people keep falling into addiction, the campaign has not yet reached its real objective. The first priority must be to dismantle the business of drug trafficking. Those who turn the vulnerability of young people into an opportunity for profit deserve no sympathy.

Their financial networks, local connections and supply chains must be exposed, and the law must take its course without favour or hesitation. The fight must also reach those who finance and facilitate the trade rather than stopping at the lowest links in the chain. But there is another side of this battle that deserves equal attention. Young people struggling with addiction cannot simply be pushed to the margins of society. Treating addiction exclusively as a criminal problem only deepens the isolation of those who need help. An individual trapped in substance dependence needs medical care, counselling, rehabilitation and an opportunity to rebuild life. Compassion towards victims must never be confused with leniency towards traffickers. Families, too, must wake up to the seriousness of the situation. Silence, denial and social embarrassment often prevent timely intervention. Parents need to recognise warning signs, communicate with their children and seek professional assistance before experimentation develops into dependency. Addiction should neither be concealed as a family disgrace nor ignored in the hope that it will disappear on its own. Educational institutions must become active centres of prevention. Students need more than occasional lectures and ceremonial awareness programmes.

They require counselling facilities, meaningful engagement, sports activities and an atmosphere where they can speak openly about emotional pressures and personal difficulties. A young person with purpose, support and opportunities is less likely to become an easy target for those dealing in narcotics. The administration must abandon a fragmented approach and bring police, healthcare institutions, educational departments and social welfare agencies onto a common platform. Rehabilitation centres should be adequately equipped, professional counsellors made available and awareness programmes extended to remote villages and neighbourhoods. Employment opportunities, sports infrastructure and constructive community engagement must also form part of the larger strategy. Religious institutions, community organisations, local representatives and the media cannot remain spectators.

Their influence must be used to challenge the growing normalisation of substance abuse and encourage families to seek help without fear of judgement. Society must learn to identify the difference between protecting a victim and shielding a criminal. The most dangerous aspect of the drug menace is not merely the quantity of narcotics recovered in police operations, but the number of young lives that may already be slipping away unnoticed. Every addiction prevented, every individual rehabilitated and every trafficking network dismantled represents a meaningful victory. Anantnag's latest police action should therefore be viewed as a reminder of the unfinished task before Jammu and Kashmir. The objective cannot be limited to filling police records with arrests or celebrating seizures. It must be to make drugs increasingly difficult to obtain, addiction easier to treat and rehabilitation a realistic possibility for every affected individual. Kashmir has invested its hopes in its younger generation. It cannot afford to surrender that generation to a trade that thrives on despair and destroys human potential. The real victory in this battle will come not when another consignment is seized, but when fewer young people fall into addiction and those already trapped are given a genuine chance to return to a dignified life. Saving Kashmir's youth must become a mission for the entire society, not a responsibility left to the police alone.

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New Classification in Schools; New Hope, New opportunities.



Javaid Bhat

Every change in the education system carries a promise, but its true worth is measured by the opportunities it creates for students. As November 1 approaches, the new classification of schools in Kashmir region brings renewed hope for a brighter and more promising future for the student community.

For students, a school is much more than a building with classrooms and blackboards. It is a place where dreams take shape, abilities are discovered and the foundations of a successful future are laid. Any change in the educational framework must therefore be viewed through the lens of its impact on students and their academic prospects.

The new school classification has raised expectations about the future of education, particularly among students studying in remote, rural and far-flung areas. For these students, access to quality education is not merely a matter of convenience; it is a decisive factor in determining their future opportunities.

Students across Jammu and Kashmir possess immense potential, irrespective of

the geographical location of their schools. However, differences in educational facilities, access to learning resources and exposure to academic opportunities can influence their progress.

The aspirations of students extend far beyond passing examinations. They dream of becoming doctors, engineers, teachers, scientists, civil servants and responsible citizens. These ambitions require

to compete, achieve and succeed without being disadvantaged simply because of the location of their school.

While a new classification may represent an important administrative step, its ultimate success must be judged by the difference it makes in students' lives.

The focus must remain on improving learning outcomes, strengthening foundational skills, encouraging critical thinking and preparing students for the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Education must empower every child to think independently, act responsibly and contribute meaningfully to society.

For the students of Kashmir region, November 1 can become a symbol of renewed expectations and a fresh educational beginning. It offers an opportunity to reaffirm a simple but powerful principle: every student matters, every school has a purpose, and every child deserves a fair chance to succeed.

The mountains, valleys and remote villages of Jammu and Kashmir are home to countless young minds with extraordinary potential. Their dreams should never be limited by distance, geography or circumstances.

The responsibility of the education system is to transform that potential into achievement by ensuring that opportunities reach every student.

As a new chapter begins, the greatest hope is that the students of Jammu and Kashmir will move towards a future where quality education is accessible to all, talent is nurtured everywhere, and no dream is left unfulfilled because of the school a child attends.

Every child deserves the opportunity



A well-planned educational structure should help bridge these gaps and ensure that students from remote villages enjoy opportunities comparable to those available to their counterparts in urban areas.

The real promise of the new classification lies in the possibility of strengthening educational planning and ensuring that every school receives the attention necessary to support its students. If accompanied by effective implementation, the initiative could contribute to a more balanced educational environment.

a supportive learning environment, competent teaching, adequate facilities and equal opportunities to demonstrate their abilities.

For students in difficult geographical areas, even small improvements in educational access can have a lasting impact. Better academic support, a consistent learning environment and opportunities to participate in educational and extracurricular activities can help them develop confidence and realise their potential.

In the Shadows of Memories



By: YOUSUF MIR

(This story explores the loneliness of the elderly, memory loss, and family attitudes, highlighting the importance of love, patience, and respect.)

Zaid Alam Bahadur was a retired senior police officer. From his college days, he had been known for his fearless nature. His habit of stepping forward in difficult situations had earned him the nickname "Bahadur" among his friends, which later became a part of his name.

During his service, his life had remained busy. Meeting people, fulfilling responsibilities, and keeping himself occupied with one task or another had become his way of life. About a year and a half before retirement, he had occasionally begun to experience minor lapses in memory. Sometimes he would fail to recall someone's name or ask the same question twice. His family did not attach much importance to the matter.

After retirement, circumstances changed. His office, colleagues, and daily engagements were left behind. His circle of acquaintances gradually shrank, and the four walls of his home began to define his world.

His wife, Khalida, was with him. Their son had gone abroad for higher education. When he returned home after completing his studies several years later, the house was filled with happiness.

One day, their son was driving the car himself. His mother, Khalida, and his wife, Zulaikha, were sitting with him. Suddenly, an accident occurred on the way.

The son died on the spot. Khalida was seriously injured, and her legs were affected so severely that she became permanently disabled. Walking was now almost impossible for her, and her life became confined to the four walls of her room.

Zulaikha was also injured, but miraculously survived. After recovering, she sat beside her mother-in-law, Khalida, one day. She gently held her hand and said, "Ammi, perhaps Allah has spared my life so that I can stand by both of you."

From that day onward, Zulaikha never allowed her parents-in-law to feel alone.

Sometimes, she affectionately called her father-in-law "Abu," sometimes "Abu Zaid," and sometimes "Abu Bahadur." Whenever she felt that a situation called for greater seriousness or a special degree of respect, she would address him by his full name, "Zaid Alam Bahadur." For her, each way of addressing him expressed love and respect according to the occasion. One day, Zaid Alam Bahadur was trying to recall the name of a close female relative.

"That... that gentleman's wife... what is her name?" Zulaikha promptly replied,

"Yes, Abu, her name is Nasreen." She did not say, "You remembered it just a little while ago. How could you forget?" One morning, Zaid Alam Bahadur had breakfast at around nine o'clock. A little later, he came out of his room again. "Daughter, serve me breakfast." With a smile, Zulaikha asked, "Abu Bahadur, what would you like to eat today? An egg, meat, vegetables, or cheese?" He thought for a while. "Prepare a chicken leg and some cheese." "Of course, Abu. I'll prepare it right away." Zulaikha knew that repeatedly reminding him, "You have just had breakfast," could become an emotional burden for him. She had established a routine at home. There was a fixed time for meals, a time for changing clothes, a time



for bathing and walking, and a time for medicines. She also involved him in small household tasks and arranged routine medical check-ups from time to time.

None of this was a cure for any illness; it was simply an effort to bring some order and stability into his life.

Meanwhile, Mushtaq Ibn Faizan, an old acquaintance of Zaid Alam Bahadur, lived in a distant village in the same area. The two had known each other for many years. Mushtaq's life, too, had taken a different turn in old age.

Mushtaq was an elderly man. His son, Makhmoor, was a successful businessman. He earned well, but his business commitments and constant haste had made him increasingly impatient with his father.

Makhmoor's wife, Takhleema, was also occupied with household affairs. She did not consider everything Mushtaq said or did to be wrong, but she too failed to show him the patience and gentleness that people need at this stage of life.

One day, Mushtaq returned home from outside. As he crossed the courtyard and entered the veranda, he forgot that he was supposed to leave his slippers outside.

Takhleema stopped him halfway.

Mushtaq was about to say something when, without a word, Takhleema took off his slippers with her own hands, threw them outside, and said as she walked in,

"How many times do I have to explain this to you?" Mushtaq fell silent.

Sometimes, when he coughed, Takhleema would immediately say, "Abba, please cover your mouth when you cough."

At other times, if he forgot to put something back in its proper place, he would be reminded again. These were not major issues, but the repeated scoldings had gradually silenced Mushtaq from within.

One day, he left the house, but after a while, he could no longer remember where he had intended to go. He stood by the roadside, looking around uncertainly. As he tried to make his way back, his foot slipped, and he fell. He was injured.

A neighbour recognised him and immediately called Makhmoor.

Makhmoor took his father to the hospital. He remained silent throughout the journey.

That night, for the first time, he felt a gap between his father's behaviour and the demands of his own busy life.

A few days later, an occasion arose that brought the two families together.

On Sunday, 7 May, an NGO called Respect Guardians had organised a conference on the elderly at Guri Marg. The event had also invited the elderly people's caregivers, children, and others associated with their care.

Zulaikha arrived with her parents-in-law. Mushtaq, Makhmoor, and Takhleema arrived as well.

As people were taking their seats, Zaid Alam Bahadur suddenly spotted Mushtaq.

"Mushtaq!" Mushtaq turned around.

"Zaid Alam Bahadur!"

The two walked towards each other and embraced. Memories of their college days and years of service came flooding back. They talked about old times for a long while. People sitting nearby watched them with surprise.

Makhmoor looked at his father. He remembered how Mushtaq would forget even an ordinary thing at home, yet here he was, recalling events from decades earlier and laughing as he spoke.

During one session of the conference, the discussion turned to caring for the elderly. Zulaikha was also present. She said,

"Constantly telling elderly people that they have forgotten something can sometimes make them feel disconnected from their own selves. It is better to establish a routine for them. Fixed times for meals, sleep, walking, medicines, changing clothes, and small daily tasks. Above all, they should be made to feel that they are not a burden on their families."

Makhmoor listened quietly.

Takhleema was sitting beside him. She remembered the day in the veranda when she had taken off Mushtaq's slippers and thrown them outside.

After the conference ended, the two walked quietly for a while.

When they reached home, Makhmoor said to his father for the first time,

"Abba, it is time for tea. Come, let me sit with you."

Mushtaq looked at him. A faint smile appeared on his face.

The next day, when Mushtaq placed his slippers in the wrong spot, Takhleema did not scold him. She picked them up, placed them to one side, and simply said, "Abba, please keep them here. It will be easier for you, too."

Mushtaq nodded.

With time, small changes began to appear in Makhmoor and Takhleema's behaviour. Instead of immediately correcting every lapse, they now tried to help Mushtaq manage it with greater understanding.

Zaid Alam Bahadur, too, continued to move through the changing days of his life, supported by Zulaikha and guided by a daily routine.

Sometimes he was "Abu Zaid," sometimes "Abu Bahadur," and sometimes simply Zaid Alam Bahadur.

Names changed, time changed, and people changed, but one thing remained constant: respect.

Memories may grow weaker, but as long as respect survives within relationships, a person is never truly alone.

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Weddings in Kashmir Are Hurting the Sentiments of the Poor



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Weddings are among the happiest occasions in a person's life. They bring families together, strengthen relationships, and create beautiful memories. In Kashmir, weddings have a special place in society. People celebrate them with great enthusiasm, prepare traditional food, invite relatives, and welcome guests with love and respect. However, over the years, wedding ceremonies have become increasingly expensive and extravagant. What should be a simple and joyful occasion has turned into a matter of social status, competition, and unnecessary spending. This growing trend is hurting the sentiments of poor families and creating serious problems for society.

A wedding should bring happiness to a family, not financial pressure, mental stress, or years of debt. Unfortunately, many families in Kashmir feel compelled to spend beyond their means to meet society's expectations. It is time to understand the harmful effects of extravagant weddings and work together to make marriage simple, affordable, and accessible to everyone.

The Growing Culture of Extravagant Weddings

In Kashmir, weddings are often celebrated on a large scale. Families spend huge amounts of money on food, clothing, decorations, jewellery, photography, and other arrangements. The traditional Kashmiri Wazwan, which is an important part of our culture, sometimes includes 20 to 30 dishes. Although Wazwan represents Kashmiri hospitality and culinary heritage, its preparation has increasingly become a symbol of wealth and social status in some families.

The main problem is not the tradition itself but the unnecessary competition surrounding it. Many people organise expensive weddings simply because their relatives, neighbours, or friends have done the same. They fear that a simple wedding may invite criticism or make them appear poor in the eyes of society.

This thinking has created a dangerous cycle. One family spends beyond its means, and another feels pressured to spend even more. As a result, weddings have become competitions in which people try to prove their financial strength instead of celebrating the beginning of a new life.

Lack of awareness, social pressure, and the desire to show off are among the major reasons behind this problem. Proper counselling and public awareness can help people

understand that the value of a wedding lies in the happiness of the couple, not in the amount of money spent.

Weddings: A Beginning of Life or Financial Destruction?

There is a common saying in Kashmir that a wedding can destroy a family financially before the new couple even begins its married life. This statement reflects the difficulties faced by many families.

Some parents spend their entire savings on a single wedding. Others sell their agricultural land, jewellery, or other valuable property to meet the expenses. In some cases, families borrow money and remain under financial pressure for years.

It is deeply painful to see parents sacrifice their lifelong earnings to satisfy the expectations of society. The money that could have been used for education, healthcare, house construction, or a small business is spent within a few days.

A wedding should be the beginning of a new chapter, not the destruction of a family's financial stability. Parents should not have to sell their property or take loans to arrange a marriage. Society must stop judging weddings by the number of dishes served, the quality of clothes worn, or the amount of money spent.

A simple wedding can be equally beautiful and meaningful. What matters most is the mutual understanding, respect, and happiness of the couple.

The Wedding Season in Kashmir

In the Kashmir Valley, the period from August to the end of November is particularly busy with wedding ceremonies. During these months, many families organise weddings, and markets, marriage halls, and catering services remain busy.

However, wedding celebrations are not limited to these months. They continue throughout the year, and the pressure to arrange expensive ceremonies remains a concern for many families.

During the wedding season, families often face increased expenses because of the demand for wedding clothes, food, decorations, and other services. Even people with limited incomes may feel forced to maintain a certain standard of celebration.

The question is simple: why should a family spend more than it can afford just to satisfy others?

We need to change our thinking and understand that simplicity is not a sign of poverty. Rather, it reflects wisdom, responsibility, and respect for the financial condition of every family.

Late Marriages: A Growing Social Concern

Another serious issue that deserves our attention is the increasing concern about delayed marriages in Kashmir. Reports and public discussions have raised concerns about many women and men who wish to marry but face difficulties in finding suitable partners

or arranging marriages.

Some families postpone marriages because they cannot afford the expected expenses. Others demand expensive gifts, costly arrangements, or a particular financial status from the prospective bridegroom or bride's family.



Such expectations create unnecessary barriers to marriage. Young people may feel helpless when they see their parents struggling to arrange the money required for a wedding.

However, it is important to remember that there is no single correct age for marriage. Marriage is a personal decision that should depend on maturity, mutual consent, emotional readiness, and the ability to take responsibility. No one should be forced to marry at a particular age.

At the same time, unnecessary financial demands should never become an obstacle for people who are ready to marry. Families should focus on compatibility, character, education, and mutual respect rather than wealth and social status.

Delayed marriage can sometimes contribute to loneliness, family pressure, or emotional stress, although these experiences differ from person to person. We should address these concerns through understanding, counselling, and practical support rather than blaming individuals.

Marriage from a Religious Perspective

In Islam, marriage is regarded as a blessed and important institution. It provides a foundation for companionship, mutual care, family life, and social responsibility. Islamic teachings encourage marriage and emphasise simplicity, kindness, and the avoidance of unnecessary burdens.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) encouraged making marriage easy and discouraged unnecessary hardship. Therefore, Muslims should reflect on whether the expensive ceremonies and social pressures seen in some weddings truly represent the values of their religion.

Marriage should not become a financial burden for parents or a source of humiliation for people who cannot afford expensive celebrations. A person's worth should never be measured by wealth, and a family's dignity should not depend on the amount it spends on a wedding.

Religious scholars, imams, teachers, and community leaders can play an important role in spreading this message. Through Friday sermons, community meetings, and public discussions, they can encourage families to arrange simple marriages and reject unnecessary demands.

The real beauty of marriage lies in sincerity, mutual respect, responsibility, and blessings, not extravagance.

Mental Health and Rising Suicidal Behaviour

The financial and social pressures associated with marriage can become a source of serious emotional distress for some young people. When individuals feel that they cannot meet society's expectations, they may experience hopelessness, anxiety, or a sense of failure.

However, suicide is a complex issue, and it would be incorrect to attribute rising suicidal behaviour to wedding expenses or delayed marriage alone. Mental health difficulties can arise from many personal, social, and economic circumstances.

What matters is that we must take emotional distress seriously. Families should listen to young people without judging them. Friends should offer support, and schools, colleges, religious institutions, and community organisations should promote mental health awareness.

Seeking help from a qualified mental health professional is a sign of courage, not weakness. Religious faith, prayer, patience, and support from loved ones may provide comfort to many people, while professional care can also be essential.

No financial problem or social difficulty should make anyone feel that life has lost its value. Every human life is precious, and every

person deserves compassion, dignity, and support.

The Way Forward: Let Us Make Weddings Simple

The solution to extravagant weddings begins with a change in our mindset. We cannot expect society to change if every family continues to follow the same expensive traditions without questioning their purpose.

First, parents should arrange weddings according to their financial capacity. They should never sell essential property or take unnecessary loans simply to impress others.

Second, families should avoid unnecessary demands for gifts, jewellery, expensive clothing, and lavish food arrangements. Both the bride's and the bridegroom's families deserve equal respect.

Third, religious scholars and community leaders should encourage simple marriages. Their guidance can help people understand that simplicity brings dignity and reduces hardship.

Fourth, educational institutions and social organisations should organise awareness programmes about the harmful effects of extravagant weddings. Young people should be encouraged to value character, education, understanding, and responsibility over wealth.

Finally, the government and civil society can explore awareness campaigns and other appropriate measures to reduce financial pressure associated with marriage. Community initiatives can also support families facing genuine financial difficulties.

Conclusion

Kashmir is known for its beauty, hospitality, rich culture, and strong family relationships. We must protect these values from the harmful effects of unnecessary competition and extravagance.

A wedding should unite families, not divide them according to wealth. It should bring happiness, not debt. It should give young people an opportunity to begin their lives with hope, not leave their parents struggling financially.

Let us stop judging people by the amount they spend on weddings. Let us respect families who choose simple ceremonies and encourage others to follow their example.

A simple wedding is not a sign of poverty; it is a sign of wisdom.

If we truly care about our society, we must make marriage easier for those who wish to begin a new life. We must protect the dignity of poor families, reduce unnecessary social pressure, and give our young generation a more hopeful future.

The time has come to replace competition with compassion, extravagance with simplicity, and social pressure with understanding. Only then can weddings become what they are meant to be: a celebration of love, commitment, and the beginning of a beautiful new journey.

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Should cinema improve society or spoil its thinking?



Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

Indian cinema is not merely a source of entertainment, but a powerful cultural force that influences society's thinking, sensibilities, beliefs, and behavior. In a multilingual, multi-religious, and diverse country like India, cinema plays a vital role in building social consciousness, strengthening cultural identity, and shaping public opinion. The stories portrayed on screen sometimes challenge societal stereotypes, and sometimes inadvertently reinforce them. Therefore, cinema should be evaluated not solely on the basis of its popularity or commercial success, but on the basis of its broader impact on society.

The most positive role of cinema is to bring social issues into public discussion. Many problems exist in society that people perceive as personal experiences, but fail to understand their broader social implications. Films highlight these issues through human stories and inspire reflection. Aamir Khan's film Taare Zameen Par played a significant role in increasing sensitivity towards learning difficulties like dyslexia in children. It sent a message to the education system that every child has a unique ability and learning style. It is important to recognize children's unique talents rather than compare them. Similarly, Padman played a role in breaking the social silence and raising awareness on issues like menstrual hygiene.

Indian cinema has also made significant interventions in the areas of women's dignity, equality, and rights. The film Pink focused on the question of consent, making it clear that a woman's clothing, social behavior, or presence in a given space cannot

substitute for her consent. Similarly, Thappad raised questions about domestic violence and the importance of respect in marital relationships. Such films challenge social notions that expect women to endure injustice in the name of family prestige. While films cannot bring about social change on their own, they can certainly lay the ideological groundwork for change.

Cinema also plays an important role in raising awareness against caste discrimination and social inequality. Anubhav Sinha's Article 15 effectively



presented caste discrimination, social deprivation, and institutionalized inequalities. It allowed audiences to understand that despite constitutional equality, the challenges of discrimination in social behavior can persist. When films feature the struggles, aspirations, and experiences of marginalized communities, they also bring voices to a wider audience, often lacking adequate representation in mainstream discourse.

Cinema is also an effective medium for strengthening national unity and collective identity. Chak De! India

conveyed the message of cooperation, discipline, and national pride through a team of women athletes from diverse regional and cultural backgrounds. Rang De Basanti inspired youth to reflect on issues such as civic responsibility, corruption, and democratic participation. Such stories demonstrate that patriotism need not be limited to slogans, but also manifest through raising voices against injustice and taking responsibility in public life. Regional cinema is also important in this regard. Kantara brought coastal Karnataka's local traditions, folk beliefs, and cultural connections with nature to a wider audience. This could increase interest in regional languages and folk cultures.

But the other side of cinema is equally serious. In the pursuit of entertainment and commercial success, some films replicate social prejudices rather than challenge them. One-sided portrayals of caste, religion, region, and communities can reinforce misconceptions in the minds of viewers. Associating an entire community with crime, violence, or backwardness can increase social distrust. One-sided portrayals of particularly sensitive religious and political topics can fuel social polarization. While portraying controversial topics is not inherently inappropriate, ignoring historical facts, social context, and human complexities can become a serious problem. The glorification of violence is also a concern. When films repeatedly portray revenge, the use of weapons, taking the law into one's own hands, and aggressive behavior as heroic, they risk desensitizing some viewers to violence. Teenage viewers, in particular, may try to imitate the characters or idealize their behavior. This does not mean that everyone who witnesses violent scenes becomes violent, but rather that repeated messages can influence social behavior and perceptions.

Objectification and stereotypical portrayals of women also weaken social fabric. In many productions, female characters are reduced to instruments of success, attraction, or entertainment for the male protagonist, rather than independent individuals. Trends such as stalking, pressure despite repeated

refusals, and presenting jealousy as proof of love can harm a healthy understanding of love and consent. Furthermore, portraying a luxurious lifestyle, expensive objects, and instant success as the ultimate achievement in life can foster consumerism and unrealistic expectations. This can lead to increased social comparison, financial pressure, and exhibitionism among young people.

The solution to this situation lies not in imposing unnecessary restrictions on cinema, but in striking a balance between creative freedom and social responsibility. Filmmakers should prioritize sensitivity and research when portraying diverse communities, women, rural society, and marginalized groups. It is also essential to develop media literacy among audiences so that they can distinguish between the story depicted on screen and real life. Films can be used in schools and colleges to foster dialogues on social issues. Furthermore, age-based categorization, transparent regulation, and respect for freedom of expression should be ensured. For positive change, stories that reflect India's diverse social realities, not just those confined to metropolitan areas and influential classes, should also be encouraged. Ultimately, cinema cannot, on its own, redeem society nor be held responsible for every social ill. Its impact can vary depending on the age, social background, education, and personal experiences of its audience. Nevertheless, it is undeniable that cinema has a remarkable ability to initiate social dialogue, cultivate sensitivity, and question established beliefs. What is needed is a cinema that values conscience alongside entertainment, responsibility alongside popularity, and human dignity alongside creative freedom. Only when screen stories unite society rather than divide, challenge discrimination rather than normalize it, and promote empathy rather than violence, will cinema truly play its role in transforming India's social fabric into a more inclusive, just, and sensitive one.

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

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Monitoring Committee reviews implementation of PMFBY in Udhampur District

DC stresses time-bound verification, approval of claims

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 30: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi today chaired a meeting of District Level Monitoring Committee under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to review the verification and approval status of farmers' claims enrolled for Kharif 2026 on the National Crop Insurance Portal.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Chief Planning Officer, Uttam Singh and other officers concerned.

As per the enrolment summary placed before the Committee, a total of 21,214 farmers were enrolled for coverage of Paddy and Maize crops under PMFBY Kharif 2026. The crop-wise coverage comprises 1,469 Paddy cultivating farmers and 19,745 Maize



cultivating farmers.

The Committee decided that Loaneer farmers/Kisan Credit Card holders, whose verification has already been carried out by the Revenue and Agriculture Departments, shall be treated as verified for the purpose of further

processing, subject to verification from the Lead District Manager through the banks and compliance with applicable PMFBY guidelines and records. The concerned authorities were asked to accord the necessary approvals on the NCIP.

In respect of Non-Loaneer farmers,

the concerned Revenue Officers shall verify the enrolled farmers and certify the correctness of their relevant particulars.

After completion of the verification, the Agriculture Department shall process the eligible cases for approval on the NCIP. The

Committee emphasised due care and strict adherence to PMFBY guidelines at every stage.

The DLMC also reviewed the cases flagged for discrepancies. A total of 27 cases were rejected by the Committee, including 20 Loaneer farmer cases flagged as duplicate by the banks and 7 Non-Loaneer farmer cases in which the land records were found not to belong to the applicants.

The Committee directed all concerned departments and officers to coordinate closely and ensure timely verification, portal updation and approval so that eligible farmers are not deprived of the benefits available under PMFBY.

The Agriculture Department will coordinate with the concerned Revenue Officers and other stakeholders to facilitate completion of the process within the prescribed timeline.

DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range flags off 'Run for Unity' rally

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 30: As part of the Rashtriya Ekta Saptah celebrations, the Udhampur Police, in collaboration with District Administration Udhampur, today organised the 'Run for Unity' rally to promote national unity, integrity and communal harmony.

The rally was flagged off by DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range Swarn Singh Kotwal from Jakhani Chowk in presence of Deputy Commissioner Ananth Dwivedi and SSP Amritpal Singh. The officers from the District Administration and Police Department, prominent citizens, civil society members, students and staff from various educational institutions participated in the Rally. Addressing the gathering, the DIG highlighted the significance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, urging participants to promote the spirit of national integration in the society. He emphasised the importance of fostering peace, harmony and mutual respect among communities, reiterating that such initiatives play a vital role in strengthening social cohesion and promoting a shared sense of belonging. The rally passed through various parts of the town and culminated at Gole Mela, with participants reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of unity, peace and national integration.

Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 begins in Rajouri

DDC inaugurates two day event, calls upon youth to lead the vision of a developed and drug free Bharat

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 30: The District Youth Services and Sports Department, in collaboration with the District Administration Rajouri, on Friday organised a two day Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 here at Sports Stadium Kheora. The event witnessed active participation from young talents.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by District Development Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav as the Chief Guest. SSP Naresh Singh; ADDC Malikzada Shaeraz Ul Haq, ADC Ravi Kumar Sihag, ACD Sheraz Chowhan and officers from various departments were also present. Addressing the gathering, the DDC highlighted the vital role of youth in shaping a developed nation. He called upon young people to stay away from the menace of drugs, embrace sports and constructive activities, and actively contribute towards building a progressive society. He encouraged participants to identify their potential, develop leadership qualities and become responsible contributors to the nation's growth.

The first day of the two day programme witnessed colourful and inspiring activities, including Folk Song, Folk Dance and Painting Competitions.



DC Kishtwar reviews anti-drug measures at NCORD Meeting

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 30: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee in the Meeting Hall of the New DC Office Complex, to review the progress of ongoing initiatives aimed at curbing drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking in the district. At the outset, District Social Welfare Officer and Nodal Officer NCORD Tariq Parveez Qazi presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the directions issued in the previous NCORD meeting. He also briefed the chair about the Vision Document 2026-2029 under the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan.

The Deputy Commissioner undertook a detailed review of the ATR and assessed the progress achieved by the departments in implementing the decisions.

The meeting was informed that the Excise and Police Departments destroyed wild cannabis on additional 2 Kanals



and 5 Marlas of land, besides destroying 50 litres of lachan. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Excise and Taxation Department to intensify enforcement drives and maintain strict vigilance against the cultivation of cannabis and production of illicit liquor.

The ASP was directed to ensure regular monitoring of identified drug hotspots as per the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Emphasising strict action against the illegal sale of psychotropic drugs, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to continue coordinated inspections

and enforcement drives. It was apprised that joint inspections conducted by the Health Department and Drug Control Officer covered 42 medical shops, of which the licences of two establishments were cancelled for violations. Reviewing preventive measures in educational institutions, the Deputy Commissioner directed the School Education Department to ensure that all pending Government schools are declared Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (TOFEI) in accordance with the prescribed guidelines and that drug-free zones in schools are also notified after following the requisite SOPs.

DC Ramban finalizes arrangements for Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Celebrations, 'Run for Unity'

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, OCTOBER 30: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today finalized arrangements for the celebration of the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on October 31, 2026.

The meeting decided that the celebrations would commence with a 'Run for Unity' in the morning from the District Administrative Complex, followed by a mega event at District Police Ling, featuring a parade, cultural programmes, an Ekta Pledge-taking ceremony and other events.

The meeting was attended by SSP Anna Lata Sinha; Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; DPO ICDS Abdul Quyyom; ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo; SDM Ramsoo Sayed Mazahir Hussain Shah; ACD Mohd Imran Naik; Dy. SP Traffic Vinod



Kundal and other concerned officers. SDMs and concerned officers also participated virtually.

The meeting discussed in detail the preparations, logistical requirements, route plan, security arrangements and inter-departmental coordination required for the smooth conduct of the celebrations.

Reform Utsav 2026: Gram Sabhas held across 24 Panchayats in Kathua

KATHUA, OCTOBER 30: Continuing its efforts to strengthen grassroots democracy and enhance public outreach, the District Administration Kathua organised a series of Gram Sabhas across different blocks of the district under Reform Utsav 2026, covering a total of 24 Panchayats in the last four days.

Six Gram Sabhas were organised on October 27, five on October 28, eight on October 29 and five on October 30, 2026, across various Panchayats in different blocks of the district.

NCORD Meeting: DC Ramban pushes for intensive enforcement, sustained awareness

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, OCTOBER 30: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today chaired a meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) to review the implementation of anti-narcotics measures and strengthen coordination to eliminate the drug menace from the district.

The meeting was attended by SSP Anna Lata Sinha; Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo; SDM Sayed Mazahir Hussain Shah; ACD Mohammad Imran Naik; Principal GDC;

CMO; CEO; Tehsildars; Drug Control Officer and officers from various enforcement and line departments. Other SDMs and concerned officers also participated virtually.

Reviewing the action taken on directions issued in the previous meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed the enforcement agencies to step up measures against the illegal sale and misuse of psychotropic medicines.

Emphasising the need for a proactive and preventive approach, the DC called for focused analysis to identify the factors driving youth towards substance abuse and directed strict surveillance in vulnerable

areas. He also reviewed the functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital and the status of newly appointed staff. He directed the Chief Medical Officer to further streamline OPD, IPD facility and ensure counselling and follow-up support for effective rehabilitation and prevention of relapse. The DSWO, CEO and other concerned officers were asked to intensify awareness activities through IEC campaigns in educational institutions. The Excise Department was asked to intensify action against the sale of illicit liquor in identified areas. The heads of GDCs and CEO were directed to keep close

watch on students and take appropriate measures to prevent their involvement in drug-related activities besides ensuring strict enforcement of the prohibition on the sale of tobacco products near educational institutions.

The SDMs and concerned Tehsildars were directed to expedite the process of declaring drug-free Panchayats in accordance with the prescribed norms and government directions. Speaking on the occasion, the SSP Anna Lata Sinha suggested several measures to make society drug-free and stressed the importance of close coordination among government departments,

Mandeep Kaur inspects ABC Facility at Tengpora; Directs Strengthening of Animal Care and Operational Arrangements

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur, accompanied by Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today inspected the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Facility at Tengpora to take stock of its functioning, infrastructure and arrangements for animal care.

During the inspection, the Commissioner Secretary emphasised the need for adequate feed stock and uninterrupted availability of essential medicines, besides



ensuring proper heating arrangements to safeguard the animals against the prevailing cold conditions. She also stressed

maintaining proper sanitation and hygiene across the facility, with regular cleaning and effective upkeep of all sections.

Mandeep Kaur directed the concerned officers to ensure timely replenishment of essential supplies, close monitoring of day-to-day operations and proper care of animals housed at the facility. The officers were asked to address any shortcomings promptly and ensure that the facility remains adequately equipped and operationally efficient.

Emphasising that animal welfare and hygienic conditions must receive due attention, the Commissioner Secretary called for sustained supervision and accountability to ensure that all essential arrangements are maintained and the facility functions smoothly.

NCORD meeting held at Reasi DM calls for strengthening de-addiction facilities

■ HT News Network

REASI, OCTOBER 30: District Magistrate Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a meeting of the District Level Narcotics Coordination Committee (NCORD) to review measures undertaken to combat drug abuse and trafficking and assess the implementation of anti-narcotics initiatives in the

district.

The District Magistrate reviewed action against pharmacies and medical establishments found violating prescribed norms. He directed strict adherence to mandatory computerised billing and installation of CCTV cameras at medical shops to ensure transparency and effective monitoring. He warned of strict action against establishments found violating the prescribed

regulations. The Drug Inspector informed the meeting that regular inspections are being conducted across the district to monitor the sale and distribution of medicines.

The District Magistrate also reviewed the measures to keep check on illicit cultivation of poppy and cannabis. He directed the concerned departments to intensify surveillance and take necessary measures to prevent such



activities. Emphasising the importance of awareness, he called for continuing Information, Education and Communication activities to highlight the harmful effects of drug abuse. He also stressed the need to strengthen anti-drug awareness programmes in schools and colleges and ensure effective implementation of the Drug-Free Campus initiative.

The Health Department

informed the meeting that the Drug De-addiction Centre and Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital Reasi have been initiated and the required medicines have been received. The department also apprised the meeting of the counselling services being provided to individuals affected by substance abuse.

The District Magistrate directed the Health Department to make provision of regular

counselling services to strengthen the functioning of the de-addiction facility. He further called for giving wide publicity to the drug addiction helpline number to facilitate timely assistance to affected individuals and their families. He further stressed the need to operationalise the facility as an In-Patient Department (IPD) to provide comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation services.



B2B Networking Meet..... J&K Tourism showcases diverse destinations, business opportunities at IITM Mumbai

HT News Network

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 29: Jammu & Kashmir Tourism showcased its diverse tourism offerings, emerging destinations and business opportunities at the B2B Networking Evening organised as part of IITM Mumbai-2026 at Club Mumbai.

The impactful presentation was delivered by Waseem Raja, Joint Director Tourism, Kashmir and Vivek Puri, CEO, Surinsar Mansar Development Authority. They highlighted the immense tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir and its growing appeal as a preferred destination for



the travellers.

The networking evening provided a vibrant platform for meaningful B2B interactions, with officers from J&K Tourism and tourism stakeholders showcasing a wide range of tourism products, destinations



and experiences across the Union Territory. The presentation elucidated both the established and offbeat destinations of Jammu and Kashmir besides highlighting the recently organised major tourism events, including successful conduct

of Kashmir Marathon. The event was projected as an important addition to J&K's tourism calendar, further enhancing the destination's visibility among the travel trade and visitors.

The presentation generated considerable interest among the travel trade professionals, who raised queries, shared suggestions and offered valuable inputs. The visiting J&K Tourism officials actively responded to the queries and apprised the participants of the diverse tourism experiences, destinations and investment and business opportunities available across Jammu and Kashmir.

Farmers participate in District-Level Programme marking release of 24th Instalment of PM-KISAN at Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, OCTOBER 30: A district-level programme to mark the release of the 24th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme was organised today at the DC Office Complex, Kulgam. The programme was attended by ADDC Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan, Chief Agriculture Officer Kulgam and officers from various agriculture and allied departments. More than 100 farmers from different parts of District Kulgam participated in the event and witnessed the live proceedings of the nationwide programme marking the release of the 24th instalment by the Prime Minister of India.

On the occasion, the participating officers highlighted the significance of the PM-KISAN scheme in providing financial assistance to eligible farming families and supporting their agricultural activities. The officers also emphasised the importance of effective implementation of various agriculture and allied-sector



schemes for improving farmers' livelihoods and promoting sustainable agricultural development.

The programme provided an opportunity for interaction between farmers and departmental officers, reaffirming the government's continued commitment towards the welfare of the farming community. A district-level programme to mark the release of the 24th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme was organised today at the DC Office Complex, Kulgam.

The programme was

attended by ADDC Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan, Chief Agriculture Officer Kulgam and officers from various agriculture and allied departments. More than 100 farmers from different parts of District Kulgam participated in the event and witnessed the live proceedings of the nationwide programme marking the release of the 24th instalment by the Prime Minister of India. On the occasion, the participating officers highlighted the significance of the PM-KISAN scheme in providing financial assistance to eligible.

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

I, ABDUL RASHID DAR, Father of MUSAIB AHMAD DAR, resident of Nagbal, District Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir, do hereby declare as under:

That I am the father and legal guardian of my minor child, MUSAIB AHMAD DAR. That the Aadhaar Number of my minor child is 554748331164. That due to an inadvertent error, my child's name has been incorrectly recorded as AZAN RASHID in the Aadhaar Card, whereas the correct name is MUSAIB AHMAD DAR.

That the name MUSAIB AHMAD DAR is the correct name of my minor child, and I wish to have the same corrected in the Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid name correction may approach the concerned Aadhaar Authority with valid documentary proof.

Place: Nagbal, Baramulla
ABDUL RASHID DAR
Father of MUSAIB AHMAD DAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, QAZIGUND
Coram: Aastik Verma | JOCODE: JK00335

Versus

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, Asaira 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, QAZIGUND

Coram: Aastik Verma | JOCODE: JK00335

In the case of: Shahid Khursheed

Versus

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

Whereas the applicant, namely Shahid Khursheed, has sought a direction against the non-applicant for registration of the birth particulars of his son, namely Ahmad Hubab, born on 21-07-2024.

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

I, GHULAM MOHAMMAD DAR, father of the minor child TABASUM JAN, do hereby declare as under:
That I am the father and legal guardian of my minor child.
That the Aadhaar Number of my minor child is 304926568580.
That due to an inadvertent error during Aadhaar enrolment, my child's name has been incorrectly recorded as TABASUM BANO, whereas the correct name is TABASUM JAN.
That TABASUM JAN is the correct name of my minor child, and I request that the necessary correction be made in the Aadhaar records.

That I am submitting the relevant supporting documents for verification and necessary action.
Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid name correction may approach the concerned Aadhaar Authority with valid documentary proof.

GHULAM MOHAMMAD DAR
Father and Legal Guardian of TABASUM JAN

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Case Title: Khushboo Hassan
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 Hassan, has sought a direction from this Hon'ble Court against the non-applicant for registration of the birth particulars of her daughter, namely Khushboo Hassan, 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as JAFFAR AHMAD LONE S/O ALI MOHAMMAD MIR on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No. .4208 0280 3625 while my correct name is JAFFAR MAJEED LONE S/L ALI MOHAMMAD MIR 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: JAFFAR MAJEED LONE
D/O..ALI MOHAMMAD MIR
R/O..DALIPORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

is notified that the applicant namely Mohd Akber Ganaie Father of Zanaib Akbar R/o Gotapora Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of BIRTH certificate of his daughter Zainab Akber D/o Mohd Akbar Ganaie

The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his daughter as school records 21 / 07 / 2015
If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice. No objection will be entertained .

30/10 /2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Amir Mukhtar, S/O Syed Mukhtar Ahmad, R/O Chandil Wanigam, have lost my original Class 12th Character Certificate and Provisional Certificate issued by Government Higher Secondary School, Kunzer (Admission No. 5592, Batch 2019-2022). If anyone finds the said certificates or has any objection to the issuance of duplicate certificates, kindly contact the undersigned or the Principal, Govt. Hr. Sec. School Kunzer within 7 days of this publication.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that my Electricity connection bearing Consumer ID: 0206050015104 Account ID: 2738215104 is registered in the name of my father GH RASOOL BHAT S/O GH. MOHAMMAD BHAT R/O 63 KVA RAKHI ARTH B-2A, NARBAL, BUDGAM. I want to correct / transfer the same in my own name as per my Aadhaar Card, i.e. MOHAMMAD ILYAS BHAT S/O GHULAM RASOOL BHAT, Bhat Mohalla, Meer Behri Dal, Srinagar - 190003. Henceforth, the Electricity connection may be read and corrected as MOHAMMAD ILYAS BHAT. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer, KPDC Sub-division NARBAL, Budgam and undersigned within 07 days from the publication of this notice.
Mohammad Ilyas Bhat
S/O Ghulam Rasool Bhat
R/O Bhat Mohalla, Dal, Srinagar

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

Adv. Tanvir Tahir Qadri extends his heartfelt congratulations to **Hon'ble Justice Tahir Majeed Shamsi** on his well-deserved elevation to the Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

His professional excellence, judicial acumen, humility and exemplary gentlemanly demeanour have always been truly admirable. This elevation is a befitting recognition of his dedication, integrity and distinguished professional journey.

May he discharge his new responsibilities with wisdom, fairness and unwavering commitment to justice, and continue to uphold the highest traditions of the judiciary.

Warmest regards and best wishes!

Adv. Tanvir Tahir Qadri

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Dr Syed Jahangir Bukhari extends his heartfelt congratulations to **Hon'ble Justice Tahir Majeed Shamsi** on his well-deserved elevation to the Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

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May he discharge his new responsibilities with wisdom, fairness and unwavering commitment to justice, and continue to uphold the highest traditions of the judiciary.

Warmest regards and best wishes!

Dr Syed Jahangir Bukhari
(Editor in Chief HEADLINES TODAY)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No: 152/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/9627-37 Dated: 30-10-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Balance work of 100 Bedded Girls Hostel at Tral (Left out items).	8.48	600/-	2% of Adv cost	days	Relevant Head of Account	CEE, DEE

Reference: Letter of Termination of Earlier contract issued under No. T-1/EEA/8074-75
Dated 24/09/2026

Position of fund: Committed.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30-10-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30-10-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	31-10-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	09-11-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	10-11-2026 12:00 PM

1. Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department)
(The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG)

(In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-Z to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)

3. All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG)

(In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-Z to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Deposit Account of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora bearing JK Bank Account No: 0334010200000160, IFSC: JAKA0AWANTI), which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

Sd/-
Draftsman

Sd/-
Technical Officer

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

DIPK-7226/26
Send Date: Oct 30 2026





Director Agriculture Jammu reviews developmental activities in R.S. Pura Sub Division

■ **HT News Network**

JAMMU, OCTOBER 30: Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu Anil Gupta, today conducted an extensive tour of R.S. Pura Subdivision to review ongoing developmental activities, assess the implementation of the departmental schemes and take stock of farmer-oriented initiatives undertaken in the area.

The Director was accompanied by Chief Agriculture Officer Manohar Lal Sharma; Potato Development Officer Ravi Sharma; District Agriculture Officer Vinod Kumar Khajuria; Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Arun Jaral; Subject Matter Specialists and field functionaries of the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Office, R.S. Pura.

During the visit, the Director



attended the live streaming of the release of the 24th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Bhildi, Banaskantha district, Gujarat, at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), R.S. Pura.

The programme was graced by MLA R.S. Pura, Dr. Narinder Singh Raina; MLA Suchetgarh, Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat; Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) B.N. Tripathi and Chief Scientist & Head, KVK Jammu Dr. Punit Choudhary besides other departmental officers,

scientists and farmers. The programme was jointly organised by the Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu and KVK Jammu.

On the occasion, the Director also addressed farmers at an awareness programme organised under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan. Emphasising the importance of conserving agricultural land, he highlighted the need to promote sustainable agricultural practices, maintain soil health and ensure judicious utilisation of natural resources. He called upon farmers to adopt resource-conserving technologies and remain actively involved in efforts aimed at protecting agricultural land and strengthening the agricultural ecosystem.

Anil Gupta also addressed participants during a one-day training programme on the

promotion of oilseeds under the National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO) at R.S. Pura. He stressed the importance of expanding oilseed cultivation, adopting improved production technologies and motivating farmers to diversify their cropping patterns to enhance productivity and contribute towards reducing the country's dependence on imported edible oils.

As part of the field inspection, the Director visited the Paddy Procurement Mandi (Registration-cum-Facilitation Centre), R.S. Pura/ Bishnah, located at Village Khour Deoion, Panchayat Khour, Zone Khirpind. He reviewed the ongoing procurement operations and assessed the arrangements made for farmers. He emphasised the need to ensure smooth, transparent and hassle-free procurement, timely lifting of paddy and adequate facilities.

Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir visits Kupwara

Reviews Departmental achievements and infrastructure

■ **HT News Network**

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 30: Director, Animal Husbandry Department Kashmir, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed Kailam, visited District Kupwara to review departmental achievements, ongoing developmental initiatives and infrastructure.

He was accompanied by Deputy Director Poultry, Dr. Intisar Amin Makhdoomi.

The Director visited a dairy farm at Vodhpura Handwara before reaching the CAHO Complex, Kupwara, where Dr. Abas Rashid Bhat, Technical Officer to CAHO Kupwara, presented a comprehensive overview of the district's profile, achievements, ongoing schemes and developmental initiatives.

The Director thereafter chaired an interactive meeting with sectoral officers, Block Veterinary Officers (BVOs) and Veterinary Assistant Surgeons



(VASSs), during which various departmental activities, implementation of government schemes and field-level challenges were discussed.

The Director also visited the District Veterinary Hospital (DVH), Kupwara, where Superintendent DVH, Dr. Sheikh Zahoor Ahmed, briefed him on the functioning and facilities of the hospital. Disease Investigation Officer, Dr. Lateef Ahmed Bhat, provided a detailed briefing on the functioning of the disease investigation laboratory, its diagnostic facilities and related activities.

Later, the Director visited

the Poultry Rearing Space (PRS) at Shumrag, where PDO Kupwara, Dr. Naseer Ahmed, briefed him on infrastructure development, available facilities and ongoing initiatives at the unit.

As part of the field visit, the Director also inspected the Satellite Heifer Rearing Unit at Sonthipora, Kralpora, to assess the progress of livestock development and dairy-sector initiatives.

The visit underscored the department's commitment to strengthening veterinary healthcare, improving diagnostic services, developing poultry infrastructure.

KVK Baramulla-ICAR Celebrates 24th PM-KISAN Installment Release, Over 100 Farmers Participate

■ **DR. AB QAYOOM**

Baramulla, Oct. 30: ICAR-CITH-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Baramulla, celebrated the release of the 24th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, with more than 100 farmers from different parts of the district participating in the event. The programme witnessed the participation of farmers who gathered to observe the release of the latest installment under the flagship scheme aimed at providing direct financial assistance to farming families. Dr. Raies Ahmad Bhat, Senior Scientist and Head of ICAR-CITH-KVK Baramulla, along with other scientists of the KVK, also witnessed the occasion. The occasion was also witnessed by Dr. Shoib Nisar Kirmani (Scientist, Horticulture), Dr. Sajad (Scientist, Animal Science), Dr. Neeraj (Scientist, Plant Protection), Mr. Vishal Vihan (Scientist, Extension), along with other scientific and non-scientific staff members of KVK Baramulla. The event highlighted the Government's continued efforts to strengthen the agricultural sector by extending financial support to farmers and improving the economic well-being of farming households. On the occasion, ICAR-CITH-KVK Baramulla reiterated its commitment to farmers' welfare through



scientific interventions, capacity-building programmes and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices. The KVK continues to play an important role in connecting farmers with scientific knowledge, modern agricultural techniques and improved farming practices to strengthen the rural agricultural economy.

KVK Shopian celebrates PM-KISAN Utsav Divas

■ **HT News Network**

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 30: A district-level programme to celebrate PM-KISAN Utsav Diwas, marking the release of the 24th instalment of the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi scheme, was successfully organised today at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Shopian.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 130 progressive farmers representing different parts of the district.

The event was graced by Dr. Mir Shabir Ahmad, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Shopian; Dr. Bilal Ahmad Pandit, Scientist, Horticulture; Dr. Shaiq Ahmad Ganai, Scientist, Food Science and Technology, along with other staff members, progressive farmers, members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and representatives of civil society.

Dr. Mir Shabir Ahmad, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Shopian, highlighted the pivotal role of KVK in providing technical guidance, strengthening farmers' capacities and disseminating scientific knowledge through various flagship schemes and agricultural extension activities. He also emphasised the importance of adopting modern agricultural technologies and scientific practices to enhance farm productivity and farmer's income.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Pandit, delivered a comprehensive lecture on the major challenges faced by orchardists and conducted hands-on training on pruning techniques in high-density apple plantations, highlighting practical approaches to improving orchard productivity and management.

Live demonstrations and success stories shared by farmers highlighted the practical benefits of the PM-KISAN scheme and other allied initiatives. Several farmers also shared their positive experiences, expressing gratitude for the consistent financial assistance of Rs 6,000 annually provided under the scheme, along with the technical guidance and support extended by the Agriculture Department and KVK staff. The programme served as an important platform for strengthening farmer awareness, promoting scientific orchard management practices, and highlighting the role of government initiatives in supporting the farming community.

DC Kishtwar approves 09 Rent Assessment cases

■ **HT News Network**

KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 30: The District Rent Assessment Committee today approved 09 rent assessment cases pertaining to various government departments, here at a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma.

The approved cases included private buildings rented by the Police, FCS&CA, Education, Health, Animal Husbandry and Handicrafts Departments.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure timely disbursement of rent to landowners, while simultaneously ensuring the proper upkeep and safeguarding of government and rented properties. He further emphasized that rent payments must be released only after due verification of records and fulfillment of all requisite formalities.

The meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal; ASP Mohammad Shafiq; AD Handicrafts Pardeep Shan; CMO Dr. Sanjay Bhat besides other officers and officials of the concerned departments.

DC Ramban reviews progress of Jal Jeevan Mission, Stresses timely completion of works

■ **HT News Network**

RAMBAN, OCTOBER 30: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan, today chaired a review meeting of the Jal Shakti Department to assess the progress of works being executed under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Naresh Kumar and other concerned officers.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the physical and financial progress of ongoing water supply schemes, including new and retrofitted schemes, filtration plants, borewells and lift water supply projects.

Khet Bachao Abhiyan concludes in Pulwama with coordinated farmer outreach, awareness activities

■ **HT News Network**

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 30: Khet Bachao Abhiyan, which commenced on October 22, 2026, concluded today with a series of coordinated farmer outreach and awareness activities across Pulwama district. The concluding day also featured activities connected with the release of the 24th instalment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, with the proceedings followed through live telecast.

As part of the campaign, the Chief Agriculture Officer, Pulwama, coordinated the observance of Khet Bachao

Abhiyan across the district and issued a calendar for its observance in each Agriculture Zone, facilitating a structured programme of farmer-oriented activities throughout the campaign period. On the concluding day, programmes were organised at Town Hall Tral and Town Hall Awantipora under the leadership of ADC Tral and ADC Awantipora, respectively. The main district-level programme was organised at Circuit House, Pulwama, under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner, Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, with farmers participating in large numbers along with district



officers and officials from the Agriculture, Horticulture and allied departments.

The farmer gatherings held under the campaign were utilised

for saturation of AgriStack IDs, dissemination of information regarding agriculture-related schemes and services, Census-related activities and sensitisation

against drug abuse. Farmers were also sensitised against the cultivation of poppy and other narcotic plants and encouraged to contribute towards efforts aimed at combating drug abuse.

A special focus was laid on the PM-KISAN saturation drive, under which eligible farmers and beneficiaries were identified and verified, while pending issues were taken up for resolution as per the prescribed guidelines.

The campaign also witnessed effective inter-departmental coordination and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, with concerned line departments working together to disseminate

information regarding PM-KISAN, the 24th instalment and other agriculture-related schemes and initiatives. The programmes witnessed participation of district officers and officials from the Agriculture, Horticulture and allied departments, who extended support to the campaign and undertook necessary field-level activities within their respective jurisdictions. The conclusion of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan marked a coordinated district-wide effort towards strengthening farmer outreach, facilitating beneficiary saturation and verification, promoting awareness about government schemes and ensuring effective.

ADDC inaugurates Inter-Zone district-level Youth Fest at GDC Kathua under VBYLD 2026 Folk performances, poetry, painting and street plays reflect youth talent

■ **HT News Network**

KATHUA, OCTOBER 30: The Department of Youth Services and Sports District Kathua today organised Inter-Zone District-Level Cultural Track Events (Youth Festival) under the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2026 at the Auditorium Hall of Government Degree College (GDC), Kathua.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kathua, Surrender Mohan Sharma, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Principal GDC Kathua, Dr. Manohar Lal, attended as the Guest of Honour.

The programme commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp,

followed by the formal inauguration of the cultural events by the chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, the ADDC emphasised the pivotal role of youth in shaping the future of the nation and called upon students to channelise their energy, creativity and potential towards constructive pursuits. He appreciated the efforts of the Department of Youth Services and Sports in providing a platform to young participants to showcase their cultural talent and highlighted the importance of such initiatives in fostering leadership qualities, confidence and social responsibility among youth.

Referring to the theme, Nasha Mukht Abhiyan for Viksit Bharat, he urged the students to actively contribute towards generating awareness against drug abuse



and become ambassadors of the Nasha Mukht Bharat campaign. He stressed that the collective participation of youth, educational institutions and society is essential for building a healthy, progressive and drug-free nation.

Students representing various zones of district Kathua participated enthusiastically in different competitions, including Group Folk Song, Group Folk Dance, Nukkad Natak, Poetry and Painting, showcasing their artistic abilities, creativity and innovative ideas. The theme for this year's events, Nasha Mukht Abhiyan for Viksit Bharat, focused on sensitising youth about the harmful consequences of substance abuse and encouraging their active participation in the collective endeavour of building a healthy,

progressive and drug-free nation.

The competitions witnessed enthusiastic participation, with students using cultural expressions and artistic performances to convey meaningful social messages.

The results of the competitions were as follows: In Group Folk Dance, Zone Barnoti secured the first position, followed by Zone Kathua in second position. In Group Folk Song, Zone Barnoti bagged the first position, while Zone Kathua secured second position. In Nukkad Natak, Zone Barnoti emerged victorious, followed by Zone Kathua. In Painting, Zone Kathua secured the first position, while Zone Barnoti stood second. In Poetry, Zone Barnoti clinched the first position, followed by Zone Kathua in second position.





Healthy Eating After a Cardiovascular Event

Having a cardiovascular event, such as a heart attack or stroke, or getting diagnosed with heart disease can be overwhelming. You may suddenly have to take new medications, modify your diet, and make other changes. But following the treatment recommended by your doctors could save your life.

"Making lifestyle and diet changes is extremely important because after you've had a cardiovascular event, your chance of having another one is higher," says Rubi Mendoza Castro, a registered and licensed dietitian and nutritionist in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.

After some cardiovascular events, sometimes there are risk factors that people can no longer control, like physical damage to blood vessels. The damage caused raises the chances of having another cardiovascular event. "The highest risk is during the first year," says Mendoza Castro.

But even if you've had a cardiovascular event, there's a lot you can do so it won't happen again. And now is the time to act to prevent it.

■ Good Health Comes One Step at a Time

When it comes to your heart health, many things depend on your habits. That's why it's essential to follow your medical team's recommendations.

Your treatment may include:

- Taking new medications
- Quitting smoking
- Exercising regularly
- Changing your diet
- Managing stress
- Losing weight
- Improving your sleep habits
- Limiting alcohol

Some of the most important changes have to do with what you eat.

■ Food as Medicine

It may sound overwhelming, but the truth is that just making small, consistent changes to your diet can make a big and lasting impact on your heart health.

These are the five key changes you should focus on to improve your diet:

- Limiting saturated fats
- Adding more soluble fiber
- Avoiding trans fats
- Cutting back on salt
- Eating balanced meals

One of the biggest things that affects heart health and that often gets worse due to an unhealthy diet is blood cholesterol levels. When there's too much cholesterol in your blood, it can mix with fats and other substances and stick to artery walls, which leads to dangerous plaque buildup. But your habits can help lower your cholesterol.

■ Limit Saturated Fats

Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, or "bad" cholesterol, is the main source of plaque buildup that can clog your arteries.

It comes from saturated fats, which are found mostly in animal products like red meat.

To lower the amount of LDL cholesterol in your blood and avoid plaque buildup, you should limit these sources of saturated fats:

Fatty cuts of beef, pork, lamb, or veal, as well as poultry skin

Processed meats (such as bacon, sausages, and cold cuts like ham)

Dairy products (such as butter, sour cream, and whole milk)

Like fat, not all cholesterol is bad for your health. Eating "good" high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol can help "clean out" or remove LDL cholesterol from your body. The best foods to support this process are those high in soluble fiber.

Foods made with whole ingredients (such as certain breads, cereals, crackers, and pastas)

Whole grains (such as oats, brown rice, popcorn, and quinoa)

"One of the most studied types is beta-glucan, which is found in oats. Studies have

unsweetened herbal teas," suggests Mendoza Castro.

How Salt Affects Your Heart

Our bodies need sodium for our organs to work properly. But too much sodium, usually from eating too much table salt, can harm your heart.

When you eat too much salt, the level of sodium in your blood rises. This pulls water into the blood vessels, which increases the amount of blood flowing through them as well as your blood pressure. That makes the heart work harder to pump blood throughout the body.

If the amount of sodium in the blood isn't kept under control, over time, it can stretch or damage vessel walls and speed up plaque buildup, which can affect blood flow.

According to the American Heart Association, people in the U.S. generally eat about 3,400 milligrams of sodium per day. That's 50% more than the recommended amount. A study published by the organization shows that cutting sodium to 1,500 milligrams per day could lower blood pressure by 25.6%.

Fortunately, many Latin dishes already use healthy ingredients that allow you to add flavor without relying too much on table salt. "Use traditional herbs and spices like garlic, oregano, achiote, and cilantro to cut salt," suggests Mendoza Castro.

■ Heart-Healthy Eating Plans

If following a structured, heart-healthy eating plan makes things easier for you, you have options. Some of the most recommended by experts are the Mediterranean diet and the DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) diet.

Mediterranean diet. This diet includes lots of plant-based foods, whole grains, fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, and fish. Olive oil is the main source of fat. You eat foods in their natural form to keep their fiber and limit sauces, juices, and red meat.

DASH diet. The DASH diet includes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy products, and lean protein. It limits added salt.

Talk to your doctor before starting any eating plan. They can help you choose the best one for you and figure out how many calories you need daily.

■ Acting Fast Is Essential

Today, more than 90% of people who have a heart attack and get hospital care survive. But survival rates drop sharply if they have another heart attack within 90 days.

A study published by the American Heart Association found that people who have a second heart attack within that time have nearly a 50% chance of dying within five years.

That's why it's so important to follow medical advice – and do it quickly.

Mendoza Castro says that some of the most important steps are working closely with your care team, including a dietitian or nutritionist, to set realistic goals; following diet and lifestyle recommendations; and not skipping medical appointments.

She also says it's important to take care of your emotional health. "Many people are forced to make major lifestyle changes. This can lead to resistance, anxiety, and depression. They can feel isolated," says Mendoza Castro. "That's why having a team and a support system is essential."



■ Egg yolks

Certain oils (such as palm oil and coconut oil)

This doesn't mean you can never eat red meat or fat. The key is to choose the right options and eat them in moderation.

When it comes to fats, unsaturated fats are better for your health. They're actually good for your heart when eaten in the right amounts.

If you cook with oil, choose one that stays liquid at room temperature, such as olive oil. Remember to use only what you need – not a drop more. Other healthy fats are found in nuts, avocados, and certain fish.

"Fatty fish contains omega-3 fatty acids (DHA and EPA), which are essential and have been shown to lower the chance of heart disease in the population," says Mendoza Castro.

Good options include:

- Wild salmon
- Mackerel
- Sardines
- Cod
- Lake trout
- Canned light tuna

The FDA says most adults should eat two 4-ounce servings of omega-3-rich fish each week.

'Clean Out' Cholesterol With Soluble Fiber

"Soluble fiber forms a thick solution in the gut that helps you feel full and slows cholesterol absorption, which boosts excretion," says Mendoza Castro.

You can find soluble fiber in many foods already common in traditional Latino diets, such as:

- Beans, peas, and lentils
- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Seeds
- Nuts



shown that eating about 3 grams of this kind of fiber (or one serving of oats) daily lowers LDL by 5% to 7%, and by even more when combined with the other recommendations," says Mendoza Castro.

The FDA recommends eating about 28 grams of natural fiber per day.

■ Avoid Trans Fats

You should also limit foods that contain trans fats. These fats are twice as harmful for your heart health because they can raise LDL cholesterol levels and lower HDL.

It's easy to identify foods with these fats, which include:

Store-bought baked goods (doughnuts, cakes, and cookies). If you eat these, it's important to read the label carefully to check for trans fats.

Fried foods. These are high in both saturated and trans fats. Cook your food on the grill or in the oven instead of frying it.

Hard margarines. Choose soft or liquid margarine instead of stick margarine. Read the label and pick one without trans fats. Also, margarines that list water or liquid vegetable oil as the first ingredient are healthier.

Processed foods. Most highly processed products (like chips, soda, and frozen pizza) are high in fat, added sugar, and salt. Too much of these can harm your heart health. "If you like soda, try sparkling water or

“Annual Day Is A Reflection Of A School’s Progress, Teachers’ Dedication And Management’s Commitment To Quality Education”: Dr. G.N. Var, Chief Patron PSA

My Dolphin School Kupwara Celebrates 8th Grand Annual Day; Dr. G.N. Var Lauds Students’ Talent and Academic Progress

Kupwara, 30 Oct, 2026: In a colourful celebration of learning, talent and achievement, My Dolphin Public School, Batargam, Kupwara, celebrated its 8th Annual Day 2026 with great enthusiasm and excitement. The programme provided students with an opportunity to showcase their talents, creativity and confidence through various cultural performances, sports activities, speeches and other presentations. The event was attended by prominent educationists, representatives of the Jammu & Kashmir Private Schools Association (J&K-PSA), social activists, parents, teachers and other distinguished guests.

The programme was graced by Dr. G.N. Var, Founding President of the Private Schools Association Jammu & Kashmir (PSAJK) and Chief Patron, as the Chief Guest, while Bilal Ahmad Bhat (Regd.) J&K-PSA State President, Mehboob Hussain, former Joint Secretary, School Education Department; Mir Fayaz, former Trade Union Leader and Social Activist attended as the Guest of Honour.

Other distinguished guests included Adil Habib Bhat, J&K-PSA District President Srinagar, Ms. Masooda Bano, Chairperson, My Dolphin School, Kupwara; Riyaz Masoodi, B.A. Shah, PRO, J&K-PSA; Central Coordinator J&K-PSA; Tanveer Ahmad Lone, District President PSA Kupwara; Altaf Ahmad Shah, Vice President PSA; PSA Patron, Drugmulla Zone; Mufti Ghulam Hassan; Manzoor Ahmad Lone, Zonal President, Kupwara; Riyaz Baba, Zonal President, Rajwara; Javid Ahmad

Malik, Finance Secretary, J&K-PSA Kupwara; Aijaz Ahmad, PSA Zonal Secretary, Kupwara; Master Mohammad Hassan; Principal New Dolphin School Abdul Qayoom; Aksha Khan Academy Team Lead and Moiz Mir, Circle Head Lead.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Dr. G.N. Var appreciated the remarkable performances of students and said that the Annual Day serves as a report card of a school's overall progress, reflecting the collective efforts of its management, teachers and students.

Dr. Var said, "An Annual Day is not merely a celebration, it is a reflection of a school's progress, the dedication of its teachers and the commitment of its management. I am delighted to see the level of talent, confidence and preparation displayed by the students of My Dolphin School. Their performances demonstrate that students in Kupwara are no less talented than those studying in reputed institutions of Srinagar and other major urban centres."

He congratulated the school management and teaching fraternity for creating an encouraging learning environment and acknowledged their efforts in nurturing students beyond classroom learning.

Highlighting the changing educational landscape, Dr. Var stressed the importance of embracing modern technologies, innovative teaching methodologies and emerging educational practices to improve the quality of education.

He also welcomed the government's recent initiatives aimed at improving the education sector, particularly the steps towards Ease of



Doing Business and reducing procedural difficulties faced by educational institutions. He expressed hope that such reforms would continue and that further measures would be introduced to strengthen the education ecosystem.

Emphasising the contribution of private educational institutions, Dr. Var said that private schools are important partners in the larger mission of nation-building and are complementing the government's efforts by providing educational opportunities to a large section of society.

"Private schools are not working against the government; rather, they are knowledge partners working alongside it and sharing the responsibility of educating our children. Our private educational

institutions have produced thousands of doctors, engineers and other professionals who are making valuable contributions to society. Their role must be recognised, and their students should also be provided with equal opportunities and adequate institutional support," he said.

Dr. Var further reiterated the association's demand that economically weaker students studying in private schools should also receive appropriate government support, including educational assistance and fee-related concessions, so that financial circumstances do not restrict their access to quality education.

He expressed satisfaction over the performances presented by the students and said the efforts of the school management deserved appreciation and encouragement. Speaking on the occasion, J&K-PSA State President Bilal Ahmad Bhat praised the students for their confidence, enthusiasm and impressive stage performances, saying that the programme reflected the hard work of the school's teachers and management.

Bhat said "The talent, enthusiasm and dedication displayed by these children are truly impressive. Performing confidently before such a large gathering requires preparation, discipline and encouragement. The students have demonstrated that with committed teachers and a supportive management, even children studying in institutions located in far-flung areas can achieve remarkable standards of excellence."

He congratulated the entire school team and expressed confidence that such initiatives would help students develop leadership qualities, creativity and the confidence required to excel in different fields.

Bhat also welcomed the appointment of Shamima Firdous as the new Education Minister and expressed hope that the positive initiatives undertaken during the previous tenure would be carried forward, while addressing the longstanding issues confronting private schools, including registration and other pending NOC-related matters.

Mehboob Hussain, former Joint Secretary, School Education Department, also appreciated the school's achievements and gave special credit to its teachers for nurturing students' academic abilities and extracurricular talents.

He observed that the performances reflected the dedication of the teaching staff and the commitment of the management, particularly the Chairperson, Principal and other members of the institution.

Hussain said "The real strength of any educational institution lies in its teachers. The talent and confidence we witnessed among these children are the outcome of consistent efforts by their teachers and the management. A school can progress only when it has dedicated teachers who are encouraged, respected and provided with a conducive working environment".





Hong Kong Sixes: India suffer batting collapse in four-wicket loss to Pakistan



United News Of India

New Delhi, Oct 30 (UNI) India suffered a four-wicket defeat against Pakistan in their Group C

clash at the Hong Kong International Sixes in Kowloon on Friday after their batters failed to put

up a competitive total.

Asked to bat first, India managed 88 for five in their allotted six overs, with Shashank Singh providing the bulk of the runs through a quickfire 40 off just 11 balls.

In response, Pakistan made short work of the target, reaching 91 for two in just 3.5 overs to register

a convincing win. Openers Khawaja Nafay and Abbas Afridi set up the chase with a blistering 59-run partnership off just 13 balls.

Nafay smashed 41 off 12 deliveries,

while Afridi scored 35 off only eight balls. Afridi's assault on Krunal Pandya in the opening over proved decisive, as he sent the Indian bowler for five sixes to swing the contest firmly in Pakistan's favour. Abdul Samad and Irfan Khan then saw Pakistan home without further trouble.

Earlier, India struggled to find momentum with the bat. Openers Rahul Tripathi (9) and Nitish Rana (19) failed to provide a strong start, while captain Pandya and Rahul Tewatia could not make significant contributions. Shashank's late assault helped India reach 88, but it was still the lowest total of the day in the tournament.

The victory lifted Pakistan to the top of Group C after they had narrowly lost their opening match against the UAE by one wicket earlier in the day. India, meanwhile, slipped to the bottom of the group standings.

Karhana to lead India's smallest-ever athlete contingent at Youth Olympic Games

United News Of India

New Delhi, Oct 30 (UNI) Former Asian Championships gold medallist in shot put Om Prakash Karhana has been appointed chef-de-mission of the 35-member Indian contingent for the Youth Olympic Games, which begin on Saturday in Dakar, Senegal. The contingent includes 17 athletes. The 39-year-old Karhana is an outgoing member of the Indian Olympic Association's athletes commission. He previously served as the safeguarding officer of the Indian contingent at last year's Asian Youth Games. The Sports Ministry has approved 12 coaches, four physiotherapists and one doctor to support the 17 athletes, comprising six men and 11 women, who will compete in 11 disciplines at the Games. The event will run until November 13. Around 2,700 athletes from 207 countries are expected to compete across 25 disciplines at the Games, which are open to athletes aged between 15 and 18.

India will send its smallest-ever athlete contingent to the Youth Olympic Games, which were first held in 2010. The country's best performance came at the 2018 edition, when it won 13 medals, including three gold, nine silver and one bronze. Young table tennis player Syndrela Das and swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu are among the prominent names in the Indian squad. Seventeen-year-old Syndrela recently competed at the Asian Games in Japan, featuring in the women's team and doubles events. The Indian women's team reached the quarter-finals, while Syndrela and Sreeja Akula advanced to the round of 16 in the doubles competition.

YSS Doda celebrates Culture, Creativity and Youthful Talent 2-day district-level cultural festival brings together young artists from all ten zones under Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue

HT News Network

DODA, OCTOBER 30: Celebrating the rich cultural heritage, artistic excellence and creative potential of the youth, the Department of Youth Services & Sports (YSS) Doda on Friday organised a two-day District-Level Cultural Track / Youth Festival at Community Hall, Doda, under the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue initiative.

The festival was graced by District Programme Officer (ICDS) Akhter Hussain Qazi as the chief guest, in presence of District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Ashok Kumar.

The two-day festival featured a vibrant range of cultural and creative activities, including Folk Dance, Folk Song, Poetry, Painting and Nukkad Natak, providing young participants with a valuable platform to showcase their artistic abilities, express their creativity and celebrate the rich cultural identity of District Doda.

The Community Hall witnessed



colourful performances, melodious folk presentations, thought-provoking poetry, impressive artistic creations and socially relevant theatrical

presentations. The enthusiastic participation of young artists reflected the district's cultural diversity, creative potential and growing interest among

youth in preserving traditional art forms. Participants from all ten zones of District Doda:- Assar, Bhaderwah, Bhalla, Thathri, Gundna, Ghat, Doda, Bhagwah, Bhalessa and Bhatyas, participated enthusiastically, turning the festival into a vibrant celebration of cultural expression, unity and youthful creativity.

The participation of young artists from every corner of the district highlighted the importance of providing equal opportunities to youth to showcase their abilities, gain recognition and develop confidence through constructive engagement. The festival also encouraged interaction among participants and promoted mutual appreciation of the diverse cultural traditions of the district.

Beyond cultural performances, the initiative aimed to identify and nurture emerging talent, strengthen cultural awareness and encourage meaningful youth participation in community development.

Plan is to start rehab and training in next couple of weeks: Neeraj Chopra

United News Of India

New Delhi, Oct 30 (UNI) Two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra is hopeful of returning to training and starting rehabilitation in the next couple of weeks, with his ankle injury showing significant improvement. The injury had forced the Indian javelin star to miss the Diamond League Finale and the recent Asian Games in Japan. The 28-year-old, who won gold at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and silver at the Paris Games in 2024, sustained the injury during a training session in August this year, which brought his season to an early close. Chopra said his condition had improved considerably after he consulted renowned orthopaedic surgeon Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala. "My injury is much better now. I faced some issues initially in the first month and a half, but it has improved significantly," Chopra told Sports Authority of India (SAI) Media.

"I consulted Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala and he has advised that I can now resume training and begin proper rehabilitation. My plan is to start both in the next couple of weeks."

The Indian star said he had followed his medical team's advice to take complete rest during the recovery period. "For my injury,



the doctors had advised rest, and that is exactly what I followed. With regard to competitions, TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme) and SAI (Sports Authority of India) have been supporting me for years.

"I have been part of the TOPS Core Group for many years now, and whenever I need any support, they are there," he said.

Chopra's last competition of the year was the Lausanne Diamond League on August 21, where he finished second. He had also won a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in July. The Panipat-born thrower also welcomed the union Cabinet's approval of the Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme on October 28, describing it as an important step towards strengthening the country's sporting ecosystem.

Prasidh to miss NZ ODIs, focus on building fitness for Test series

United News Of India

New Delhi, Oct 30 (UNI) Prasidh Krishna has been ruled out of India's five-match ODI series against New Zealand as he continues his recovery from a left hamstring injury. The fast bowler will instead join India A for the third and final four-day match against New Zealand A, while Mohammed Siraj will be available for the second game.

The BCCI said Prasidh needs more time to build the workload required to return to competitive cricket. Missing the ODI series will allow him to get match practice and prepare for the two-Test series, which begins on November 19, following the ODIs scheduled from November 4 to 15. Prasidh had suffered the injury during the second ODI against West Indies in Guwahati on September 30, when he walked off after bowling five overs. The selectors have not



named a replacement for him. Jasprit Bumrah, who will feature only in the Test series, is also expected to turn out for India A in the final four-day match.

Meanwhile, Nitish Kumar Reddy will remain with the senior squad only for the first ODI on November 4 before joining India A for the third four-dayer, starting November 7. The move is aimed at giving the all-rounder valuable red-ball match practice ahead of the Test series, which carries significant importance for India's World Test Championship campaign.

لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ
LABBAIK ALLAHUMMA LABBAIK

AL MURAD

HAJJ AND UMRAH

— SAFAR-E-IBAADAT, SUKON 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 rehnuma aur sahilat

Humara Maqsad
Aapki Ibaadat ko Asaan Banana

Aapka Bharosa
Hamari Zimmedari

AL MURAD
HAJJ AND UMRAH

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