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Voice To The Voiceless



P:12 Stay in shape and prepare well for Sri Lanka: Gambhir's message to T20I side

Kashmir parents seek change in school timings

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 07 : Amid freezing morning temperatures, parents of school children of winter zones of Kashmir division on Saturday demand for a change in school timings.

The news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) received calls from several parents of school children—urging School Education Department to revise the timing in educational institutes of the region from 10 am to 3 Pm in Srinagar and 10:30Am to 3:30 outside the Srinagar Municipality Limits.

One of the parents, Nasreena Jan said, "My two kids are primary-level students, and for more than a week now, they have been constantly telling me that they shiver in the cold when they leave for school."

She said, "There is a dire need for a change in school timing for the students. The winter has already arrived and the government must take a call on revising the school timing."Another parent, Showkat Ahmad Dar narrated the same ordeal. He said,

>>> MORE ON P 02

Let Us Move Forward With Renewed Energy To Build A Viksit Bharat : PM Modi

Diwali Message Highlights Triumph Of Light Over Darkness; PM Calls For Unity, Positivity And Collective Resolve To Build A Prosperous Nation



HT NEWS DESK / UNI

NEW DELHI, NOV 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday extended warm Diwali greetings to citizens across the country, describing the festival as a timeless celebration of the triumph of light over darkness, goodness over evil and hope over despair. Emphasising the festival's civilisational and cultural significance, Modi said Diwali offered an opportunity to cherish India's rich heritage, strengthen bonds of togetherness and spread happiness, harmony and prosperity. He expressed hope that the celebrations would inspire people to embrace positivity, extend kindness and contribute towards a brighter future, urging citizens to move forward with renewed energy and determination to realise the vision of a prosperous and Viksit Bharat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Saturday, extended warm Diwali greetings to citizens, describing the festival as a celebration of the eternal triumph of light over darkness, goodness over evil and hope over despair, while urging people to move forward with renewed energy and determination towards building a prosperous and Viksit Bharat.

In his message to fellow citizens on the auspicious occasion, Modi said Diwali represented the enduring values of Indian civilisation and offered an opportunity to cherish the country's rich cultural heritage while strengthening the bonds of togetherness."Warm greetings on the auspicious occasion of Diwali!" the Prime Minister said, expressing the hope that the festival

>>> MORE ON P 02

New Rules Will Open Doors For Reputed Global Institutions : Omar Abdullah On Private Universities Framework

J&K Notifies Private Universities Rules, 2026; 25% Reservation For Domiciles, Faster Approvals And Strict Quality Regulations To Transform Higher Education

HT NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU, NOV 7: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday welcomed the notification of the Jammu and Kashmir Private Universities Rules, 2026, describing the new framework as a significant milestone in expanding quality higher education and transforming the academic landscape of the Union Territory. Congratulating Education Minister Shamim Firdous, the Chief Minister said the Rules would attract reputed national and international institutions to establish campuses in J&K, while creating wider educational and employment opportunities for local youth. The framework provides for preliminary scrutiny of proposals within 30 days and a minimum 25 per cent reservation for J&K domiciles in student admissions as well as teaching and non-teaching positions. Emphasising transparency, accountability and academic excellence, Omar said the initiative would expand opportunities

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Security Challenges No Longer Confined To Conventional Battles : Rajnath Singh At Bagdogra Air Base

Defence Minister Highlights Growing Threats From Drones, Cyberattacks And Proxy Warfare; Lauds IAF Personnel For Operational Readiness And Dedication



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SILIGURI, NOV 7: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday described Bagdogra Air Force Station as a strategically vital air base and a protective shield for regional security, emphasising its importance amid an increasingly complex security environment. Interacting with Air Force personnel during his Diwali visit, Singh said emerging threats now extended beyond conventional warfare to include cyberattacks, drone attacks, proxy conflicts and information warfare, requiring a combination of technological advancement, strategic awareness and military preparedness. He commended the courage, discipline and operational readiness of Air Warriors, highlighting India's growing capabilities in drone technology, anti-drone systems and cyber resilience. Underscoring the importance of collective effort, he also acknowledged the contribution of aviation, engineering, logistics and ground-support personnel, while expressing gratitude to serving personnel and their families for their sacrifices in safeguarding the nation.Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday described the Bagdogra Air Force Station as a strategically important air base located in a highly sensitive region, playing a vital

>>> MORE ON P 02

AIIMS Jammu Will Emerge As Major Healthcare Centre : Jitendra Singh

Union Minister Inaugurates 20 Advanced Operation Theatres; New Facility To Strengthen Specialised Surgical Services And Reduce Patient Outflow

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



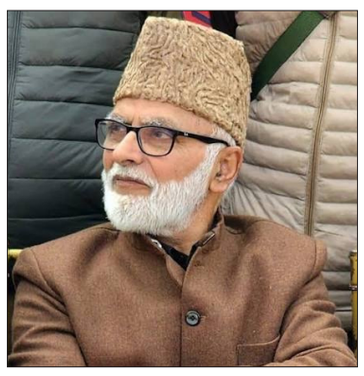
JAMMU, NOV 7: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday inaugurated a dedicated block housing 20 advanced operation theatres at AIIMS Jammu, describing the development as a major milestone in strengthening specialised healthcare infrastructure in the region. Singh said the new facility would significantly enhance advanced surgical services and reduce patients' dependence on hospitals outside Jammu and Kashmir. He observed that AIIMS Jammu had made considerable progress in infrastructure, medical facilities and faculty strength, while acknowledging that certain specialities continued to face faculty shortages, an issue being taken up with the concerned authorities. Expressing confidence in the institute's future potential, the Union Minister said AIIMS Jammu would emerge as a major healthcare destination catering not only to patients from Jammu and Kashmir but also from neighbouring states.Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday inaugurated a dedicated block housing 20 advanced operation theatres at AIIMS Jammu, saying the facility would strengthen

>>> MORE ON P 02

Amnesty Scheme For Power Consumers In Pipeline : Sagar Assures Better Winter Electricity Supply

Alusteng Grid Capacity To Rise From 320 MVA To 475 MVA At Rs 56.78 Crore; Minister Directs Officers To Minimise Unscheduled Power Cuts

HT NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR, NOV 7: Minister for Power Development Department Ali Mohammad Sagar on Saturday directed officials to ensure adequate and reliable electricity supply throughout the winter season, stressing that consumers must receive power as per the prescribed curtailment schedule. During his visit to the 220/132/33 KV Alusteng Grid Station, the Minister reviewed infrastructure capacity, distribution arrangements and winter preparedness, instructing officers to strengthen coordination, undertake timely maintenance and address public grievances promptly. He disclosed that an amnesty scheme for electricity consumers was in the pipeline and under consideration. The Minister was informed that the grid station's existing transformation capacity of 320 MVA is proposed to be augmented to 475 MVA at an estimated cost of Rs 56.78 crore, a move expected to significantly improve power transmission and supply reliability across Srinagar and Ganderbal districts.

>>> MORE ON P 02

Seven drug peddlers arrested in separate anti-narcotics operations across Kashmir: Police

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 07 :Police have arrested seven alleged drug peddlers in separate operations in Anantnag, Baramulla and Handwara districts of Kashmir, recovering heroin, charas and other narcotic substances from their possession, officials said on Saturday.

In Anantnag, Police Post Sangam apprehended Reyaz Ahmad Mir, son of Ab Rehman Mir, a resident of Khelen Litter, during naka checking and recovered heroin from his possession.

In a separate operation at Marhama, another police team from the same police post arrested Zubair Sultan Reshi, son of Mohd Sultan Reshi, a resident of Sether Sangam, and recovered charas from his possession.

Meanwhile, Police Post DK Pora apprehended Rayees Ahmad Khan, son of Gh Mohi-ud-Din Khan, a resident of Damhal, and recovered charas from his possession.

In two separate operations, Police Post Dialgam arrested Yawar Ahmad Gani, son of Mohd Iqbal Gani, and Ubaid Manzoor Doobi, son of Manzoor Ahmad Doobi. Both are residents of Fathepora. Charas was recovered during their personal searches.In Baramulla, a police team intercepted a passenger vehicle (Sumo), bearing

>>> MORE ON P 02

AIIMS Awantipora to start OPD services this month: Sakina Itoo

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

KULGAM, NOV 07: Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Saturday said that Outpatient Department (OPD) services at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Awantipora, are expected to commence during the ongoing month.

Taking to reporters on the sidelines of inauguration of developmental projects at Gudder here in South Kashmir', Itoo, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that the OPD facility getting operational at AIIMS would provide much-needed respite to the people. "It would be an important step towards ensuring access to advanced healthcare facilities closer to people's homes, reducing their dependence on hospitals outside the Union Territory."

She said Union Health Minister J P Nadda, who visited AIIMS Awantipora earlier this week to review the progress of the institute, had issued necessary directions to the concerned authorities for expediting the process and starting OPD services at the earliest.The Health Minister further said she had raised the

>>> MORE ON P 02

HT BOTTOM NEWS

Higher Reaches To Receive Fresh Snowfall : MeT Forecasts Rain, Snow Across J&K From November 10

Dry Weather Expected To Continue Till November 9; Another Spell Of Light To Moderate Precipitation Likely On November 12–13



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 7: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience a change in weather conditions from November 10, with the Meteorological Centre Srinagar forecasting rainfall across several areas and fresh snowfall over higher reaches following an extended dry spell expected to continue until November 9. According to the latest forecast, generally cloudy conditions will prevail on November 10 and 11, with light rain at scattered to many places and snowfall over higher elevations, particularly towards the evening of November 10. Another spell of light to moderate precipitation is expected on November 12 and 13, with higher reaches likely to receive light to moderate snowfall before partly cloudy conditions return on November 14 and 15. The Meteorological Centre has advised farmers to complete harvesting operations by November 10 and ensure safe storage of crops, while travellers and transporters have been urged to plan journeys carefully and follow traffic advisories, particularly along high-altitude routes.

Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness a change in weather conditions from November 10, with the Meteorological Centre Srinagar forecasting light rain across parts of the Union Territory and snowfall over higher reaches, following a spell of mainly dry weather expected to continue until November 9. According to the latest forecast issued by the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, generally cloudy conditions are likely on November 10 and 11, with

>>> MORE ON P 02

NHM Employees' Contribution To Healthcare Deserves Recognition : Sakina Itoo Announces 5% Annual Increment

Government Approves Financial Benefit For Eligible Contractual Staff Under NHM And NUHM; Increment To Be Extended On Completion Of One Year Of Service



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 7: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved a 5 per cent annual increment for eligible contractual employees working under the National Health Mission (NHM) for the financial year 2026-27, recognising their contribution to strengthening healthcare services across the Union Territory. Health Minister Sakina Itoo announced the decision, while an order issued by NHM Mission Director Athar Aamir Khan

>>> MORE ON P 02

Continue from Front Page.....

Kashmir parents

"As the new academic session started this week, the School Education Department must revise its current school timing in both the Srinagar and peripheries of Kashmir region."

Dar said, "Nothing is more important than the health and wellbeing of our kids. If the government does not change the school timing, I would prefer to keep my kids at home rather than risking their health."

The parents urged the government to revise the school timing. "In view of the cold temperatures in the morning, the government must change the school timing from 10 am to 3 Pm in Srinagar and 10:30 Am to 3:30 outside the Srinagar Municipality Limits. The School Education Department must prioritize the health and wellbeing of the students."

Pertinently, the government in mid-October had ordered a change in school timing for all government and private schools from October-15 asking schools falling in the Srinagar municipal limits to function from 10am to 3:30 Pm and 10: 30 am to 4 pm to the school falling outside the Srinagar municipal limits—(KNO)

Let Us Move

would illuminate every home with happiness, harmony and prosperity.

Emphasising the deeper significance of the festival, Modi said Diwali carried a message of positivity, goodness and collective responsibility. He expressed hope that the celebrations would inspire people to spread kindness, embrace optimism and contribute towards creating a brighter future.

"Let us move forward with renewed energy and determination to build a prosperous and Viksit Bharat," he said, reiterating his vision of transforming India into a developed nation.

Diwali, one of India's most widely celebrated festivals, is observed across the country and by Indian communities around the world. In Hindu tradition, the festival is associated with Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya after 14 years of exile and his victory over Ravana.

The occasion is marked by the lighting of diyas, prayers, family gatherings and the exchange of greetings and gifts, symbolising the victory of light over darkness and the renewal of hope.

New Rules Will

across disciplines such as science, technology, medicine, law and business studies, while ensuring robust regulatory oversight to protect students' interests

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has congratulated Minister for Education Shamim Firdous on the notification of the Jammu and Kashmir Private Universities Rules, 2026, describing it as a significant milestone in the government's efforts to expand access to quality higher education and strengthen the region's academic ecosystem.

The Chief Minister said the new Rules establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for setting up and operating private universities in Jammu and Kashmir, creating an enabling environment for reputed national and international institutions to establish their campuses in Jammu and Kashmir.

He observed that the simplified approval mechanism, including a provision for preliminary scrutiny within 30 days, would facilitate a more efficient and transparent process for institutions seeking to invest in the higher education sector. At the same time, the framework provides for effective regulatory oversight to ensure accountability, quality assurance and adherence to prescribed academic standards.

Emphasising the importance of safeguarding local interests, the Chief Minister said the provision for a minimum 25 per cent reservation for J&K domiciles in student admissions, as well as teaching and non-teaching positions, would help ensure that the benefits of institutional expansion translate into meaningful educational and employment opportunities for local youth.

He said the Rules also envisage a dedicated regulatory mechanism to monitor admissions, fee structures and academic standards, backed by stringent penalties for violations, including irregularities in admissions, excess fee collection, issuance of invalid degrees, deficiencies in faculty strength and qualifications, and inadequate infrastructure.

The Chief Minister said the new framework would open avenues for the establishment of institutions across a wide range of disciplines, including Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Medicine, Law, Business Studies and Liberal Arts. This, he observed, would broaden academic choices for students, promote interdisciplinary learning and create greater opportunities for teaching, research and innovation within Jammu and Kashmir.

He expressed confidence that the entry of reputed institutions would enable local students to access quality, globally benchmarked education closer to home while attracting leading academics, researchers and scholars, besides encouraging research collaborations and institutional partnerships from across the country and abroad.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the government was committed to creating a transparent, predictable and investor-friendly environment that encourages responsible private investment while protecting students' interests and maintaining the highest standards of academic quality.

He also acknowledged the contribution of Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo, who held the Education portfolio at the time the Jammu and Kashmir Private Universities Bill was passed during the Budget Session of the J&K Legislative Assembly earlier this year, and appreciated her role in advancing the legislative process.

The Chief Minister said the notification of the Rules marks an important step towards translating the legislative initiative into an effective institutional framework for the growth and modernisation of higher education in Jammu and Kashmir.

Amnesty Scheme

Minister for Power Development Department (PDD), Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation, Disaster Management and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, today visited the 220/132/33 KV Grid Station at Alusteng to review the power supply scenario and assess the preparedness of the department for the upcoming winter months.

During the visit, the Minister took a detailed assessment of the functioning of the grid station, its existing capacity, power distribution arrangements and measures being undertaken to ensure adequate and reliable electricity supply to consumers, particularly in Srinagar and Ganderbal districts.

Emphasising the need for uninterrupted power supply during the winter months, the Minister directed the officers to minimise unscheduled power cuts and ensure that consumers are provided adequate electricity as per the prescribed curtailment schedule. He stressed that effective planning, timely maintenance and better coordination among field functionaries were essential to address the challenges associated with increased power demand during winter.

The Minister asked the Chief Engineers and other senior officers to maintain close coordination with local representatives and residents, regularly assess ground-level requirements and address public grievances promptly to ensure positive feedback from consumers. He also directed the officers to pay special attention to Kangan and adjoining areas and take appropriate measures to resolve issues related to power supply.

The Minister also stated that an amnesty scheme for electricity consumers is in the pipeline, adding that the proposal is under consideration.

The Minister was informed that the Alusteng Grid Station, having an existing transformation capacity of 320 MVA, caters to several areas of Srinagar and Ganderbal districts, including Alusteng, Shuhama, Nagbal, Gadoora, Tulbagh and adjoining areas through its associated receiving stations.

To strengthen the transmission infrastructure and meet the growing power demand, the capacity of the grid station is proposed to be augmented from the existing 320 MVA to 475 MVA at an estimated cost of approximately Rs 56.78 crore.

The Minister observed that the proposed augmentation would significantly strengthen the power transmission network and improve the availability, reliability and quality of electricity supply to the adjoining areas of Srinagar and Ganderbal.

Chief Engineers of the concerned wings of the Power Development Department and other senior officers were present during the visit.

Later, the Minister met several deputations and individuals who apprised him of various public issues and developmental requirements. The Minister gave a patient hearing to their grievances and assured them that genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for their timely resolution.

Reiterating the government's commitment towards improving public service delivery, Ali Mohammad Sagar directed the officers to remain responsive to people's concerns and ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance to provide reliable and adequate power supply throughout the winter season.

AIIMS Jammu

specialised healthcare services and reduce patients' dependence on hospitals outside J&K.

Describing the development as a major milestone, Singh said the institute had made significant progress in infrastructure, medical facilities and faculty strength. He also acknowledged faculty shortages in some specialities and said the issue was being taken up with the concerned authorities.

He said AIIMS Jammu would emerge as a major healthcare centre, catering not only to the Jammu region but also to neighbouring states. (KINS)

Seven drug peddlers

registration number JK05N-9646, during a naka checking operation at Cheradari. The vehicle was travelling from Baramulla towards Chandoosa.

During checking, a passenger identified as Ubair Ahmad Mochi, son of Abdul Ahad Mochi, a resident of Kalantara Bala, was found carrying a bag containing two polythene packets of bhang-like substance weighing approximately 822 grams.

The police called the concerned Magistrate and independent witnesses to the spot and completed the requisite legal formalities, including seizure proceedings, in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

In Handwara, police intercepted a tipper bearing registration number JK05B-5479 during naka checking at Batagund. A charas-like substance concealed inside the vehicle's dashboard was recovered.

The driver, identified as Irshad Ahmad Dar, son of Gh Nabi Dar, a resident of Shanoo Langate, was arrested.

All seven accused have been taken into custody, and further investigation into the cases is underway.

Police reiterated their commitment to intensifying the crackdown on drug trafficking and urged the public to cooperate in the collective fight against the drug menace—(KNO)

Security Challenges

role in safeguarding regional security.

He said the air base served as a strong protective shield and commended the Air Warriors for maintaining a high level of operational readiness amid growing security challenges. Singh was visiting the air base to exchange Diwali greetings with Air Force personnel and interact with officers and staff. During an interactive session, he said the nature of security threats was becoming increasingly complex, extending far beyond conventional warfare. "Today, security challenges are no longer confined to conventional battles. Cyberattacks, drone attacks, proxy wars and information warfare have added new dimensions to the security landscape," he said, pointing to attempts by adversaries to undermine the morale of soldiers through social media and hostile narratives. He stressed that courage, wisdom, commitment and discipline were essential to confronting these emerging challenges. Describing the morale of Air Warriors as their greatest weapon, he said their dedication and readiness deserved appreciation. Singh also highlighted the importance of technological advancement in strengthening India's defence capabilities. Referring to the development of drones, anti-drone systems and other advanced technologies, he said the country was preparing for future security requirements through technological innovation, industrial development and the participation of startups. However, he cautioned that technology alone could not ensure success. Courage and discipline remained equally important, he said, adding that discipline was what produced exceptional warriors. Emphasising the collective nature of military operations, the Defence Minister said the success of a fighter pilot depended on the coordinated efforts of the entire team. Aviation logistics, air control, engineering and ground support personnel all played crucial roles in ensuring operational success. He assured Air Force personnel that further development in aviation and engineering capabilities would be undertaken in the coming years. He also urged them to maintain close relations with residents in the region, noting that their cooperation and understanding of the local environment could be valuable from a strategic perspective. Acknowledging the sacrifices made by personnel serving away from their families, Singh said he had come to the air base to convey his greetings and express his gratitude from the heart. He said the sacrifices of Air Warriors and their families in the service of the nation could not adequately be expressed in words. He also referred to the welfare of Agniveers and the decision to provide willing personnel with opportunities to continue in regular service, describing it as an important aspect of their future. In a message posted on social media after his visit, Singh said the Indian Air Force remained a formidable pillar of vigilance, skill and readiness in safeguarding the country's skies. He noted that domain awareness and cyber resilience had become vital in the present security environment, particularly amid asymmetric warfare, drone swarms and cyberattacks. "Every festival in our country is celebrated with joy and peace because our Armed Forces stand guard round-the-clock," he said, adding that the entire nation took immense pride in their valour and selfless service. He also expressed admiration for the energy, devotion to duty and high morale of the men and women serving on the frontline, saying that meeting them was truly inspiring. UNI MBN NST BM

AIIMS Awantipora

issue of increasing MBBS seats at AIIMS Awantipora from the existing 50 to 100 with the Union Health Minister, adding that the demand stands accepted.

Itoo said the increase in MBBS seats would create additional opportunities for aspiring medical students from Jammu and Kashmir while also strengthening the region's medical education infrastructure.

She added that she had also urged the Union Health Minister to ensure the availability of advanced medical machinery, modern diagnostic equipment and adequate infrastructure at the institute so that patients could receive specialised treatment without being compelled to travel to other states.

Highlighting the growing burden of cancer in Jammu and Kashmir, Itoo said she had specifically requested the installation of advanced cancer diagnostic equipment at AIIMS Awantipora to facilitate early detection and timely treatment.

"Cancer cases are increasing at an alarming rate in Jammu and Kashmir. I have requested the Union Health Minister to ensure that advanced machinery and diagnostic facilities, particularly for cancer detection, are made available at AIIMS Awantipora. Early diagnosis is crucial, as it can help patients receive timely treatment and improve their chances of recovery," she said.

She said the availability of modern diagnostic and treatment facilities at the institute would help strengthen the healthcare system in Jammu and Kashmir and provide significant relief to patients, particularly those from economically weaker sections who often face difficulties travelling outside the Union Territory for specialised medical care.

Pertinently, AIIMS Awantipora is among the major centrally sponsored healthcare projects in Jammu and Kashmir and is expected to emerge as a major centre for tertiary healthcare, medical education and research in the region. The institute's early operationalisation has remained a longstanding demand of residents, who have been awaiting the commencement of services after several deadlines were missed—(KNO)

Higher Reaches

light rain expected at scattered to many places and light snowfall over higher reaches, particularly towards the evening of November 10.

The weather department has forecast another spell of precipitation on November 12 and 13, when generally cloudy conditions are likely to prevail across the region. Light to moderate rain may occur at many places, while higher reaches are likely to receive light to moderate snowfall from the evening or night of November 12.

The weather is expected to improve thereafter, with partly cloudy conditions forecast for November 14 and 15.

The anticipated precipitation could bring a change in conditions across the Kashmir Valley and mountainous areas, where temperatures have already begun reflecting the seasonal transition. The forecast, however, does not establish that snowfall will occur in the plains or at any particular tourist destination.

The Meteorological Centre has advised farmers to continue harvesting and other agricultural operations until November 10 and ensure the safe storage of harvested crops before the expected change in weather.

Travellers and transporters have also been advised to plan their journeys accordingly and follow traffic advisories, particularly while travelling through higher-altitude routes where snowfall could affect road conditions if it occurs.

The forecast points to a largely dry weekend and early next week, followed by a possible spell of rain and snowfall before conditions turn partly cloudy again towards the middle of November.

The forecast remains subject to change, and people have been advised to follow subsequent updates from the Meteorological Centre Srinagar. [KNT]

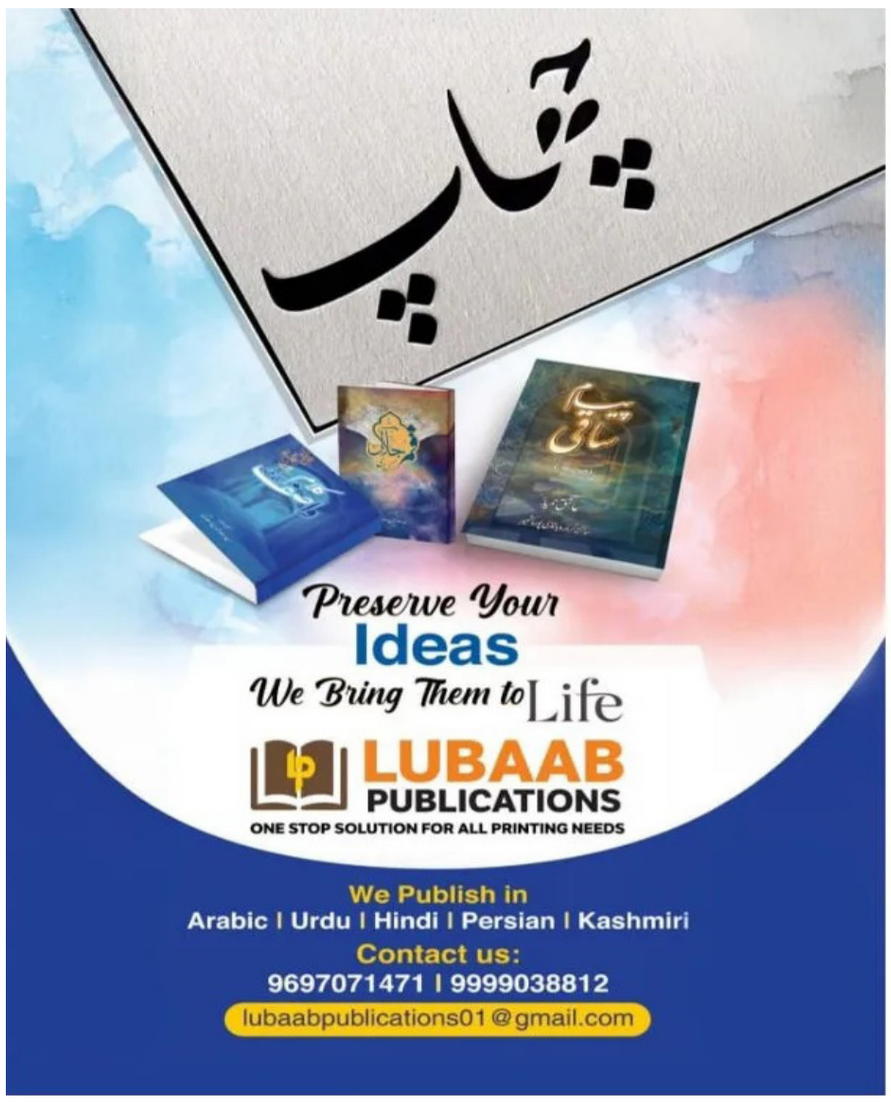
NHM Employees

clarified that the benefit would cover employees working at State, Divisional, District and Block levels, including those engaged under the National Urban Health Mission and various disease-control programmes. The increment will be subject to satisfactory performance and prescribed service conditions, with employees completing one year of service by March 31, 2026, eligible from April 1, 2026, while those completing the qualifying period subsequently will receive the benefit according to the stipulated effective dates. Concerned Drawing and Disbursing Officers have been directed to verify service records and performance before extending the benefit.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved a 5 per cent annual increment for eligible contractual employees working under the National Health Mission (NHM) for the financial year 2026-27.

Health Minister Sakina Itoo announced the decision on X, saying the move recognises the contribution of NHM employees towards strengthening healthcare services across the Union Territory.

As per an order issued by NHM Mission Director Athar Aamir Khan, the benefit will cover contractual staff working at State, Divisional, District and Block levels, including those engaged under the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) and various disease control programmes.



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Commissioner SMC reviews NGT Action Plan, AMRUT 2.0 Projects

Calls for expeditious completion of Water Supply Augmentation Works

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 07: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired a review meeting at the SMC Headquarters, Karan Nagar, to assess the implementation of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Action Plan and review the progress of ongoing projects under AMRUT 2.0.

The meeting took stock of the progress achieved under various components of both initiatives, with particular focus on water supply augmentation, quality parameters, inter-departmental coordination and timely execution of approved works.

Reviewing the progress under AMRUT 2.0, the Commissioner stressed that strengthening the city's water supply infrastructure and addressing areas facing water shortages must remain a priority. He directed the concerned executing agencies to expedite the ongoing works and ensure that all projects are completed within the stipulated timelines while maintaining the prescribed technical and quality standards.

The Commissioner observed that the commissioning of the approved AMRUT 2.0 projects is expected to bring further improvement in supply of different localities of Srinagar, including Batamaloo, Aloochibagh, Jenab Sahab Soura, Bagwanpora, Lal Bazaar, Natipora, Malbagh, Jawahar Nagar, HMT and Lawaypora.

Emphasising the importance of quality in public infrastructure, Dr. Basharat directed the concerned officers to ensure that all prescribed quality parameters are duly addressed during execution, with no compromise on technical specifications or standards. He called for closer field-level supervision, regular assessment of physical and financial progress and prompt resolution of bottlenecks affecting the pace of work.

The Commissioner remarked that the people of Srinagar deserve better basic civic facilities and that ongoing developmental initiatives must translate into tangible improvements in the quality of services delivered to citizens. He stressed that all concerned



departments and executing agencies must work in close coordination and with a clear sense of responsibility to address existing infrastructure gaps and improve the availability and reliability of essential civic services.

Taking up the NGT Action Plan, the Commissioner reviewed the status of various environmental interventions and stressed the need for coordinated efforts by all stakeholder departments to ensure effective implementation of the prescribed measures and compliance with the directions of the National Green Tribunal. He called for regular monitoring and timely action on all pending issues.

The Commissioner further directed the concerned departments and executing agencies to submit comprehensive and updated reports on the status of works under their respective jurisdictions, clearly indicating the progress achieved, pending activities, implementation-related challenges and proposed timelines for completion. The reports shall facilitate a detailed assessment of project implementation, identify areas requiring intervention and ensure effective monitoring and timely follow-up.

Reiterating the need for accountability and effective project management, the Commissioner directed all concerned officers to maintain close coordination, strengthen monitoring at the field level and ensure that ongoing projects are completed expeditiously without compromising quality.

RTO Kashmir reviews functioning of ARTO Office Bandipora, stresses timely delivery of Public Services

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 07: Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Kashmr, Qaz Irfan today vsted the offce of the Assstant Regonal Transport Offcer (ARTO), Bandpora, and revewed ts overall functonng, admnstratve performance and delvery of publc servces.

Durng the vst, the RTO revewed varous ctzen-centrc servces, ncludng ssuance of drvng lcences, vehcle regstraton, permts and ftness certfcaton. He also assessed the pendency of applcatons and progress n servce delvery through the SARATHI and VAHAN portals.

Emphassng accountablty and effcency, the RTO drected the offcers and offcals to ensure tmely dsposal of applcatons n accordance wth the provsons of the Jammu and Kashmr Publc Servces Guarantee Act. He stressed that the publc should not face unnecessary delays or repeated vsts to the offce for avalng servces.

30 additional PG medical seats for GMC Jammu, Srinagar; combined intake rises to 549

■ HT News Network



Srinagar, Nov 7 (KNS): Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) in Jammu and Srinagar have together secured 30 additional postgraduate medical seats for the 2026-27 academic session, raising the combined intake of the two institutions to 549 from 519, officials said on Saturday. While GMC Jammu has added 12 seats, taking its postgraduate intake from 242 to 254, GMC Srinagar has secured 18 additional seats, with its intake rising from 277 to 295, they said. The expansion also brings new postgraduate specialisations to both institutions. GMC Jammu has introduced postgraduate seats in Respiratory Medicine, while GMC Srinagar has received seats in Forensic Medicine for the first time, officials said.

At GMC Jammu, the additional seats have been distributed across five disciplines. MD Pathology has seen the highest increase, from 18 to 23 seats, followed by Paediatrics, which has gone up from 18 to 20. Pharmacology seats have increased from 10 to 12, Microbiology from seven to eight, and two seats have been introduced in Respiratory Medicine. At GMC Srinagar, the expansion covers seven disciplines. MD Anatomy seats have increased from 12 to 14, Pathology from eight to 10, Pharmacology from seven to nine and Physiology from eight to 10. The college has also received three postgraduate seats in Forensic Medicine for the first time. In the surgical disciplines, MS Orthopaedics seats have increased from 16 to 20, while MS ENT has gone up from six to nine.

The increase comes at a time when postgraduate medical training remains an important component of strengthening specialist healthcare services. Officials said more PG seats can provide additional opportunities for medical graduates to pursue advanced training within Jammu and Kashmir, reducing the need to seek specialisation outside the Union Territory. The introduction of new disciplines is also expected to widen the academic and clinical training options available at the two government institutions, they said. However, officials noted that the expansion of postgraduate intake will also require adequate faculty, clinical exposure and training infrastructure to ensure that the additional seats translate into quality specialist education. (KNS)

SSP Kulgam Inspects Police Station, Reviews Investigations and Winter Preparedness

■ Farooq Rather



Kulgam, Nov. 05: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kulgam on Thursday inspected Police Station Kulgam and reviewed its overall functioning, including maintenance of official records, progress of investigations, disposal of pending cases and other important policing activities.

During the inspection, the SSP issued necessary directions to officers and officials, stressing the need to maintain high standards of professionalism, discipline, accountability and efficiency in the discharge of official duties. He emphasised prompt, impartial and professional investigation of cases, timely redressal of public grievances, effective crime prevention and strict enforcement of law. The SSP also underlined the importance of maintaining and regularly updating Digital Beat Books to strengthen beat policing, improve field-level intelligence gathering and ensure effective monitoring of vulnerable areas. With winter approaching, he directed the police personnel to ensure adequate winter preparedness, remain vigilant and keep all necessary arrangements in place to respond promptly to emergencies and adverse weather conditions. Stressing people-friendly policing, the SSP called for greater public cooperation and dedication among police personnel, urging them to remain alert, responsive and committed to their responsibilities. Stressing people-friendly policing, the SSP called for greater public cooperation and dedication among police personnel, urging them to remain alert, responsive and committed to their responsibilities.

NDRF conducts Tabletop Exercise at Handwara, Zachaldara to strengthen Disaster Preparedness

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 07: District Administration Kupwara organised a Tabletop Exercise in collaboration with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) at Handwara and Zachaldara, aimed at strengthening disaster preparedness, enhancing inter-departmental coordination and ensuring an effective response to emergency situations.

The programmes were coordinated by Tehsil Handwara and Tehsil Zachaldara, with Tehsildar Handwara, Zeeshan Khan, presiding over the session at Handwara and Revenue officials at Zachaldar.

The exercise focused on reviewing disaster management plans, assessing the preparedness of concerned departments and discussing coordinated response mechanisms to deal with potential disasters and other emergency situations. The participating officials deliberated on the roles and responsibilities of various departments, communication protocols, resource mobilisation and the timely delivery of emergency services.

The exercise also provided an opportunity to identify potential gaps in the existing disaster response arrangements and explore measures to improve coordination among all stakeholder departments. Special emphasis was laid on preparedness, prompt decision-making and ensuring a swift and coordinated response during emergencies to minimise loss of life and property.

Mission Director NHM J&K reviews Health Sector in Anantnag

Inspects GMC Associated Hospital and SDH Achabal

■ HT News Network



ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 07: Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), J&K, Athar Amir ul Shafi Khan, today visited District Anantnag and reviewed the implementation of various national health programmes and healthcare services in the district.

The Mission Director chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Conference Hall, Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, Dialgam, attended by Principal GMC Anantnag, Heads of Departments, Chief Medical Officer, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, District Tuberculosis Officer, Medical Superintendents, Block Medical Officers and district and block programme management teams.

During the meeting, he took a detailed review of key health programmes, including Maternal and Child Health, Routine Immunisation, JSY, JSSK, PMSMA, RBSK, National NCD Programme, Ambulance Services, Blood Bank Services, Dialysis Services, Critical Care Services, PM-ABHIM infrastructure projects and the DNB Programme at GMC Anantnag.

He assessed the performance of the district in terms of institutional deliveries, antenatal care, high-risk pregnancy tracking, immunisation coverage, screening of non-communicable diseases, referral services and availability of essential healthcare facilities. The Mission Director stressed the need for saturation of all health schemes, improvement in service delivery, 100 percent data reporting and timely utilisation of funds. He directed the concerned officers to strengthen maternal and child healthcare, ensure the availability of essential medicines, diagnostics and manpower, improve referral mechanisms and expedite ongoing infrastructure projects under PM-ABHIM.

He also emphasised accountability, effective monitoring and coordinated efforts among health institutions to ensure quality healthcare services reach every eligible beneficiary.

Later, the Mission Director visited Associated Hospital, GMC Anantnag and Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Achabal, where he inspected various departments and reviewed the healthcare facilities. He interacted with doctors, hospital staff and patients and took stock of the availability of medical equipment, medicines, manpower and patient care services.

SWD Srinagar organizes Community Awareness Programmes on Financial Literacy, Social Security Schemes

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 07: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, through SANKALP–Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Srinagar, organized a series of Community Awareness Programmes at Khonkhan, Dalgate, with the objective of empowering women and community members through awareness, information and access to various government welfare initiatives.

A Community Awareness Programme on Financial Literacy, Financial Assistance Schemes and other Social Security Schemes was organized at Khonkhan, Dalgate. The programme aimed at educating participants about the importance of financial independence, responsible financial management, savings and awareness of various government-sponsored financial assistance and social security schemes. Participants were sensitized about the benefits, eligibility criteria and procedures for accessing these schemes so that eligible beneficiaries could avail themselves of the available government support.

Additionally, an awareness programme was organized at Mission POSHAN Zone Khonkhan on the occasion of National Cancer Awareness Day 2026. Resource persons from the Department of Health imparted valuable information regarding cancer prevention, early warning signs, risk factors, preventive measures and the importance of timely diagnosis and treatment. Special emphasis was laid on breast and cervical cancer awareness, regular health screenings and adopting healthy lifestyle practices.

The programmes witnessed active participation from women and beneficiaries of Mission POSHAN. The participants were encouraged to utilize the information shared and disseminate awareness within their families and communities.

Through these initiatives, the Department of Social Welfare, Srinagar, through SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, reaffirmed its commitment to promoting women's empowerment, financial inclusion, health awareness and grassroots-level outreach by facilitating access to information about various government schemes and services. Through these initiatives, the Department of Social Welfare, Srinagar, through SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, reaffirmed.

DC Pulwama visits various areas ahead of Diwali, reviews arrangements

Extends festive greetings, interacts with community members; takes stock of essential amenities

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today visited various areas of the district ahead of Diwali and reviewed the arrangements put in place for the smooth and peaceful celebration of the festival.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner extended warm Diwali greetings and interacted with the residents. He listened to their issues and concerns and took stock of the availability of essential services and civic amenities in these areas.

The DC reviewed the status of drinking water supply, electricity, sanitation, cleanliness, road connectivity, street lighting, illumination and other essential facilities. He also assessed the arrangements for uninterrupted power and water supply, proper waste disposal and maintenance of public spaces to ensure that residents face no inconvenience during the festive period.

As part of the visit, the DC visited Pandit Colony Hawal, Murran and Batnag Noorpora, where he interacted with community members and reviewed the arrangements on the ground. On the occasion, he also distributed sweets and presented flowers to community members for the Puja on the auspicious occasion of Diwali. He also paid obeisance at the Murran Temple and extended his wishes for peace, prosperity and happiness on the auspicious occasion of Diwali. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Dr. S.M. Ashraf; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone; Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama, Aashiq Hussain Khanday; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Pulwama; Executive Engineer, PWD; concerned Tehsildars and Block Development Officers, besides other officers from various line departments. He also paid obeisance at the Murran Temple and extended his wishes for peace, prosperity and happiness on the auspicious occasion of Diwali.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Dr. S.M. Ashraf; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone; Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama, Aashiq Hussain Khanday; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Pulwama; Executive Engineer, PWD; concerned Tehsildars.

DC Kulgam reviews implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules 2026

Stresses door-to-door waste collection across all villages

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 and review the status of solid waste management in both urban and rural areas of the district.

The meeting was convened to assess the progress made by various departments and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) towards effective solid waste management and identify areas requiring further improvement.

During the meeting, officers of the concerned departments, including Rural Development Department, and Executive Officers of all Municipal Councils and Committees apprised the DC of the latest status, achievements, ongoing activities and issues requiring intervention.

The meeting also reviewed the status of solid waste management in rural areas, with particular focus on coverage of villages and households under door-to-door garbage collection.

ACD, CPO and Block Development Officers participated in the deliberations and shared the progress made in their respective areas.

Various key aspects of solid waste management, including registration and management of Bulk Waste Generators, inspection and functioning of waste processing plants, four-way segregation of waste at source, retrofitting of door-to-door collection vehicles, implementation of the Single-Use Plastic Portal, enforcement of penalties against violations, management of seized plastic, capacity-building programmes and preparedness for implementation of the SWM Rules, 2026 were also reviewed.

The DC stressed the need for strict enforcement of the prescribed rules, source segregation, efficient door-to-door waste collection and scientific processing and disposal of waste. He directed all BDOs to ensure coverage of every village and household under the door-to-door garbage collection mechanism and take necessary measures to strengthen waste management in rural areas.

The meeting was attended by ACD Bilal Ahmad Kamgar, CPO Malik Suhail, BDOs, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees and other concerned officers and representatives.

SSS Campaign launched from Sharshali Pampore to empower youth through Skill Development, Self-Employment, Sports and Education

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 07: In a significant initiative aimed at empowering youth and opening new avenues for their personal, educational and economic development, the District Administration Pulwama today launched the district-wide SSS (Skill Development, Self-Employment and Sports/ Studies) Campaign from Sharshali, Pampore.

The campaign is designed around three key pillars, focusing on equipping young people with employable skills, promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment, and encouraging greater participation in sports and education.

It aims to identify the aspirations, interests and potential of local youth and connect them with suitable opportunities, institutional support and various government-sponsored schemes.The initiative follows the announcement made by District Development Commissioner Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, during a recent Block Diwas programme, wherein he highlighted the need for a dedicated campaign to guide, support and empower local youth through coordinated departmental efforts.

The launch programme was held under the overall supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Awantipora, Mushaq Ahmad Lone, with the active participation of various district and sectoral departments.

Under the Skill Development component, the campaign seeks to encourage youth to acquire practical, vocational and market-oriented skills that can enhance their employability and enable them to explore diverse career opportunities.

SWD Ganderbal organises One-Day Exposure Visit for Children under Mission Vatsalya

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 07: The Social Welfare Department (SWD) Ganderbal organised a one-day exposure visit for the boys and girls residing in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) of the district under Mission Vatsalya.

As part of the initiative, the children were taken to Bage Gul-e-Dawood and Mughal Gardens to provide them with an opportunity for recreation, social interaction and exposure to places of natural beauty and historical significance.

The visit was flagged off by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Ganderbal, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, who extended his best wishes to the children and encouraged them to participate in such activities for their overall growth and personality development.

During the flag-off ceremony the ADDC was accompanied by the District Social Welfare Officer, Ganderbal, who highlighted the department's commitment towards the care, protection, well-being and holistic development of children residing in Child Care Institutions.

ATO Gulmarg Seeks Crackdown on Unregistered Skiing, Snowboarding Operators

■ HT News Network

Gulmarg, Nov 7 (KNS): The Adventure Tour Operators of Gulmarg (ATO) has sought immediate intervention of the Tourism Department against alleged unauthorised skiing and snowboarding operations in the popular tourist destination, citing concerns over tourist safety and the livelihood of registered local operators.

In a complaint submitted to the Assistant Director Tourism, Gulmarg accessed news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS), the association said several individuals were allegedly conducting skiing and snowboarding activities without registration or authorisation from the department.The association as per KNS said such operations raised serious concerns over tourist safety, accountability and professional standards, while also affecting the livelihood of registered adventure tour operators and trained local ski instructors.

Ahead of the upcoming winter tourism season, ATO Gulmarg urged the department to conduct a verification and inspection drive and take strict action against those found operating without valid registration or authorisation.

It also called for effective regulatory measures to ensure that only duly registered and authorised operators are allowed to conduct skiing and snowboarding activities in Gulmarg.The association said proper regulation of adventure tourism activities.

Minister Sakeena Itoo Lays Foundation Stones of Two Flood Protection Projects

Worth 9.09 Crore in Kulgam, Disburses 55 Lakh Under Mission YUVA

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 07: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Masood Itoo, today visited Asthal village in Kulgam district, where she held a Public Darbar to interact with people and take stock of their developmental demands and grievances. During the interaction, people from the area projected various issues and developmental demands before the Minister. She gave a patient hearing to the public and assured them that all genuine demands would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner. On the occasion, the Minister laid the foundation stone of a flood protection project at Asthal, being executed under NABARD at an estimated cost of 834.44 lakh. The project is being executed by the Flood Control Division Anantnag through Flood Control Sub-Division DH Pora. It aims to safeguard the area against flood threats and protect agricultural land and public infrastructure.

She also laid the foundation stone of another flood protection project at village Reshipora under UT Capex, at an estimated cost of 75.27 lakh. The work is being executed by the Flood Control Division Anantnag through Flood Control Sub-Division DH Pora.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister reiterated the Government's commitment, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, to ensuring inclusive and equitable development across the region. She said public outreach programmes and direct interaction with people play a vital role in ensuring responsive and accountable governance.

The Minister directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination and ensure timely completion of developmental works. She assured the people that their welfare and developmental needs would continue to remain a priority for the Government.

On the occasion, the Minister also distributed cheques amounting to 55 lakh among 10 beneficiaries under Mission YUVA to support the establishment of various business units and promote self-employment opportunities

The Minister was accompanied by ACD Bilal Ahmad Kamgar(JKAS), CEO Fayaz Ahmad Mir, CMO Dr. Showkat Hussain Parry, Tehsildar Pahloo Showkat Ahmad(JKAS), DYSSO, ALC, BDO and other concerned officers. The Minister directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination and ensure timely completion of developmental works. She assured the people that their welfare and developmental needs would continue to remain a priority for the Government. On the occasion, the Minister also distributed cheques amounting to 55 lakh among 10 beneficiaries under Mission YUVA to support the establishment of various business units and promote self-employment opportunitiesThe Minister was accompanied by ACD Bilal Ahmad Kamgar(JKAS), CEO Fayaz Ahmad Mir, CMO Dr. Showkat Hussain Parry, Tehsildar Pahloo Showkat Ahmad(JKAS).

Fire & Emergency Services J&K issues Diwali Safety Advisory

Urges public to follow Fire Prevention Guidelines

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 07: The Directorate of Fire & Emergency Services Jammu & Kashmir has issued a detailed fire safety advisory for the general public ahead of Diwali, urging citizens to celebrate the festival of lights in a safe and responsible manner by strictly adhering to prescribed fire prevention measures.

The advisory highlights that careless handling of firecrackers, diyas, candles and electrical decorations may lead to fire incidents and other untoward occurrences, posing a threat to human life and property.

As part of the safety guidelines, the public has been advised to purchase firecrackers only from licensed and authorised vendors and ensure that the crackers are properly packaged, labelled and carry the manufacturer's details and safety instructions. People have been urged to use only legally permitted firecrackers and burst them exclusively in open and designated spaces, maintaining a safe distance from residential buildings, vehicles, shops and other combustible materials.

The Directorate has further advised people to keep buckets filled with water or sand and suitable fire extinguishers readily available at celebration venues. Firecrackers should be placed on stable and flat surfaces, while children must use them only under the close supervision of responsible adults. Children, elderly persons and pets should be kept at a safe distance from bursting areas.

For personal safety, citizens have been advised to wear cotton clothes and closed footwear while bursting firecrackers and avoid loose, flowing and synthetic garments. Diyas and candles should be placed on stable, non-combustible surfaces, away from curtains, decorations, exposed electrical



wires and other combustible materials.

Emphasising electrical safety, the advisory calls for using good-quality and properly insulated decorative lights, extension boards and temporary wiring. People have been cautioned against overloading electrical sockets and advised to switch off decorative lights and other unnecessary electrical appliances before going to bed or leaving their premises. LPG cylinders, cooking appliances and other sources of ignition should also be kept away from firecrackers and decorative materials.

The Directorate has also issued specific precautions under the 'Dos and Don'ts' guidelines, advising people not to purchase or use illegal, unlabelled or unauthorised firecrackers, hold crackers in their hands while lighting them, or burst them in crowded places, narrow lanes, balconies, rooftops, indoors or enclosed spaces.

Citizens have been strictly advised against bursting crackers near hospitals, schools, religious places, petrol pumps, LPG storage areas and other sensitive establishments. They should never attempt to relight failed or unexploded firecrackers or approach, touch or fiddle with them. Such crackers should be kept away from people and dealt with safely.

The advisory further cautions against throwing firecrackers towards people, animals, vehicles or buildings, leaving burning diyas, candles or incense sticks unattended, using damaged electrical wires or overloaded extension boards and smoking or using open flames near firecrackers or their storage areas.

The public has also been advised to dispose of used firecrackers only after ensuring that they are completely extinguished and never throw partially burnt or unexploded crackers into dustbins or near combustible waste.

In case of any fire incident, people have been urged to immediately alert the Fire & Emergency Services for timely assistance. In case of any fire incident, people have been urged to immediately alert the Fire & Emergency Services for timely assistance.

Jashn-e-Harud celebrated with enthusiasm in Shopian

Witnesses huge Public Participation

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 07: The first-ever 'Jashn-e-Harud', organised by the District Administration Shopian, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour in Shopian today, witnessing an overwhelming public response and huge participation from people from different parts of the district.

MLA Zainapora Showkat Hussain Ganie, MLA Shopian Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Deputy Commissioner Charandeep Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary, other officers and people from all corners of Shopian participated in the festival.

The event showcased the rich heritage, vibrant culture, traditional art and timeless traditions of Shopian through a variety of activities and exhibitions.

A number of departmental and thematic stalls were set up on the occasion, showcasing various welfare schemes, developmental initiatives, local products, traditional crafts, artefacts, horticulture produce and achievements of different departments.

Cultural programmes, including traditional performances, folk songs, and other activities, further added colour to the celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the unique significance of the Harud season for Shopian, described it as not merely a season but an integral part of the district's identity, deeply connected with its horticultural economy and way of life.

He said that Shopian is predominantly a horticultural district and Harud marks the period when farmers reap the fruits of their hard work. He added that for the people of Shopian, Harud represents not only an season but also an economic harvest, given the central role of horticulture in the district's economy.The DC said that there is significant scope for further development of horticulture-related enterprises and value addition in the district. He emphasised the need to establish and promote more horticulture-based enterprises to generate employment, strengthen the local economy and provide greater returns to farmers.

He assured that the District Administration is committed to promoting horticulture-related enterprises and supporting initiatives aimed at creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the people.

The DC also stressed the importance of environment-conscious and sustainable development, stating that development must go hand in hand with environmental responsibility and preservation of the district's natural wealth.

NFACG Showcases J&K's Rich Cultural Heritage at Lok Bhavan, Kolkata

■ GULFAM BARJI



Srinagar/November:7 With the aim of promoting J&K's rich cultural heritage, traditional art forms and folk traditions at the national level, Nishat Foundation and Cultural Group(NFACG) presented a vibrant cultural programme at Lok Bhavan Kolkata on November 1, 2026.The programme was organised on the occasion of State Foundation Day in collaboration with the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC) under the Ministry of Culture, Govt, of India.On the occasion artists associated with Nishat Foundation and Cultural Group(NFACG) enthralled the audience with impressive cultural performances beautifully showcasing the traditional heritage, folk culture and artistic richness of Jammu and Kashmir. The performances offered the audience a glimpse into the region's diverse cultural traditions and rich artistic legacy. The programme aimed to promote cultural harmony, mutual respect and national integration among different regions of the country while providing a wider platform for J&K's traditional art forms.Such cultural initiatives play an important role in preserving traditional art forms, encouraging artists and strengthening cultural connections among different regions of the country.The participation of Nishat Foundation and Cultural Group(NFACG) in the programme marked a significant effort towards bringing J&K's distinctive cultural identity and artistic heritage into the national spotlight.

Educated youth to be trained for PO examination, educated in Financial Literacy, Cyber Hygiene

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a Financial Literacy programme at the District Administrative Complex, Pulwama, organised in collaboration with ICICI Bank.

The programme focused on promoting financial literacy, safe banking practices, awareness about digital and financial frauds, and providing awareness about ICICI Bank's PO Programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner called for structured, day-wise awareness programmes across all colleges of the district, commencing next week, aimed at sensitising students about financial literacy, Cyber Security and the PO Programme of the bank. He further instructed the ICICI Bank representatives to prepare an informative pamphlet detailing the available opportunities, eligibility requirements and application procedures for wider circulation among students to facilitate awareness and informed participation.

IUST VC felicitates Tabish Mushtaq on winning gold medal at All-India Inter-University Thang-Ta Tournament

■ HT News Network

Awantipora, Nov 7: Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, felicitated Tabish Mushtaq for her outstanding achievement in securing a Gold Medal at the All-India Inter-University Thang-Ta Tournament held at the National Sports University, Manipur.

Congratulating the gold medallist, Prof. Romshoo appreciated her dedication, hard work and sporting excellence, stating that such achievements bring laurels to the University and inspire other students, particularly young women, to excel in sports at national and international levels. He reiterated the University's commitment to promote sports and provide opportunities for students to showcase their talent.

The felicitation ceremony was held in the presence of Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Sheikh Ajaz; Registrar, Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah; Dr. S. Iqbal Quraishi, Officer Incharge, Directorate of Physical Education and Sports; and Dr. Hilal Ahmad Rather, Assistant Director, Directorate of Physical Education and Sports.

The University authorities congratulated Tabish on her remarkable performance and appreciated the efforts of the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports in nurturing sporting talent and promoting competitive sports among students. Her achievement marks another proud moment for IUST and reflects the University's growing presence in the field of university-level sports.

Kashmiri Student's Mortal Remains Likely to Reach India from Bangladesh on Sunday as Repatriation Formalities Near Completion: JKSA

■ HT News Network

The mortal remains of Kashmiri student Adnan Altaf Rathar, who passed away in Cumilla, Bangladesh, on November 4, are likely to reach India on Sunday, as the repatriation process has entered its final stages following delays that have caused immense distress and anguish to his family.National Convenor of the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA), Nasir Khuehami, said that while repatriation of mortal remains from abroad generally takes at least 3–4 working days, the delay has nevertheless caused immense pain and anguish to Adnan's grieving family, particularly his mother, who is also in Bangladesh and going through an extremely difficult time.

Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026: Gram Sabhas, Awareness Activities held across Bandipora

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 07: As part of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026, a series of activities were organised across District Bandipora to promote tribal welfare and create awareness about government initiatives.At Block Gurez, a special block-level Gram Sabha was convened with the participation of Panchayat Secretaries, elected representatives and frontline workers. The deliberations focused on strengthening grassroots governance, promoting community participation, identifying developmental priorities and ensuring effective implementation of government schemes.

Similarly, a special Gram Sabha was held at Panchayat Halqa Chithi Bandi-C, Block Bandipora, with a focus on the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and VB-G RAM G.Meanwhile, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), in collaboration with the Health Department, organised a special health and awareness camp at Anganwadi Centre Wanpora. ICDS staff sensitised the community about essential Anganwadi services, including supplementary nutrition, pre-school education and growth monitoring, while the medical team conducted health check-ups and distributed medicines among beneficiaries.

Essay writing competitions were organised at Boys Middle School Wanpora Gurez, High School Jurniyal, Boys Middle School Markoot and High School Kanzalwan on the theme "Contribution of Tribals to India's Freedom Struggle". Students enthusiastically participated in the activities, highlighting the courage, sacrifices and significant contributions of tribal freedom fighters to the country's independence movement.

Mushtaaque Ali Inspires NIT Sgr Students, Delivers Powerful Lecture on "Struggles & Achievements" at First Edition of Network X 2026 at SKICC Sgr

■ GULFAM BARJI



Srinagar/November:7 The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar inaugurated the Network X 2026 platform at a special event held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, on November 04,2026. On the occasion renowned theatre personality, director of KWFF and veteran artist Mushtaque Ali Ahmad Khan delivered a special address on the theme "Struggle and Achievements" inspiring students to pursue their goals with dedication, determination, perseverance and a positive outlook.The event witnessed the participation of representatives from educational institutions, business professionals, young people and individuals associated with arts and culture. The Network X platform aims to provide a common space for the exchange of ideas, sharing of experiences, exploration of new opportunities and professional guidance for young people.During his address, Mushtaque Ali Ahmad Khan shared valuable experiences from his nearly 45-year professional journey and emphasised that struggle plays an important role in shaping an individual's character. He said that consistent efforts, self-confidence and commitment to one's goals are essential for achieving success.He encouraged students to view failures not as defeats but as opportunities to learn, overcome shortcomings and move forward with renewed determination. Advising the young audience, Khan urged them to work hard to turn their dreams into reality, recognise their abilities and make the best use of available opportunities. He observed that success should not remain confined to personal achievements but should also enable individuals to contribute positively to society by sharing their knowledge, skills and experiences with others. Reflecting on his long artistic journey, Mushtaque Ali Ahmad Khan also shared his experiences in theatre, films and cultural activities. He highlighted the significant role of performing arts in personality development, promoting social awareness and nurturing positive thinking among individuals.He further stressed that young people should complement their academic education with practical experience, creative pursuits and strong human values to become responsible citizens and contribute towards building a progressive society.Other speakers at the event also highlighted the importance of identifying and nurturing young talent while providing students.

SYSF Foundation's NEXGEN organises Students–Administration Interactive Session at GDC Sopore

■ HT News Network



BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 07: Continuing its efforts to promote meaningful youth participation and strengthen engagement between students and public institutions, Save Youth Save Future Foundation (SYSF), through its Students' Wing, NEXGEN, organised the second session of its Students–Administration Interactive Series at Government Degree College (GDC), Sopore.

Following the successful first session at Government Degree College, Baramulla, the Sopore interaction brought together students from different localities to engage directly with administrative and police leadership.

The programme was attended by Syed Fakhruddin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, as the Chief Guest, along with Neha Jain, SP Sopore. Wajahat Farooq Bhat, Founder and Chairman of SYSF Foundation, Anika Nazir, Head of the Women's Wing, College Principal, faculty members, other dignitaries and students were also present.

During the interactive session, students shared their concerns, ideas and suggestions regarding academic facilities, career opportunities, employment, youth welfare and various civic and developmental issues affecting their villages and towns. The interaction provided them with an opportunity to discuss their everyday challenges and present constructive suggestions directly to the concerned authorities.

Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fakhruddin Hamid listened attentively to the students, responded to their queries and assured them that the issues and suggestions raised would receive due consideration. He further assured necessary administrative assistance and support through the concerned departments.

SP Sopore, Neha Jain, also interacted with the students, heard their concerns and assured them that matters falling within the purview of the police administration would be taken up appropriately and addressed.

Speaking on the occasion, Founder and Chairman of SYSF Foundation, and Head of the Women's Wing, emphasised the importance of providing young people with meaningful platforms to express their views, engage with decision-makers and contribute to the development of their communities. They highlighted that NEXGEN aims to strengthen the bridge between students and public institutions through sustained dialogue and constructive engagement.

Through this continuing initiative, SYSF Foundation reaffirmed its commitment to youth empowerment, constructive dialogue and meaningful student participation in the development of their communities. SP Sopore, Neha Jain, also interacted with the students, heard their concerns and assured them that matters falling within the purview of the police administration would be taken up appropriately and addressed.

Speaking on the occasion, Founder and Chairman of SYSF Foundation, and Head of the Women's Wing, emphasised the importance of providing young people with meaningful platforms to express their views, engage with decision-makers and contribute to the development of their communities.

HT EDITORIAL

A Careless Click Can Cost More Than Money

Cybersecurity must become a basic life skill as India's digital transformation accelerates.

India's digital revolution has brought unprecedented convenience, but it has also opened new avenues for cybercriminals. From fraudulent advertisements and malicious Android applications to deceptive links and fake updates, online fraudsters are increasingly exploiting human curiosity and lack of awareness to gain access to personal devices and financial information.

The growing misuse of Android Accessibility permissions by malicious applications is particularly alarming. What is designed to assist users can become a powerful tool in the hands of criminals when access is granted to untrusted applications. A single careless click can compromise banking credentials, personal information and digital identity.

While users must exercise caution by avoiding unknown APK files, suspicious links and unnecessary permissions, the responsibility cannot rest on citizens alone. Social-media platforms, banks, payment companies and technology providers must strengthen their mechanisms to identify and prevent fraudulent activities.

Equally important is breaking the stigma surrounding cyber fraud. Victims should report incidents promptly rather than remain silent out of embarrassment or fear of judgment. Schools, colleges and government institutions must also make cyber-awareness an integral part of public education.

India has made remarkable progress in digital payments and mobile banking, but technological adoption must be matched by digital literacy. Knowing how to use a smartphone is no longer enough; understanding how to protect it is equally essential.

Cybercriminals may change their methods, but the answer remains the same: awareness, vigilance and collective responsibility. India's digital future will be truly secure only when every citizen becomes an informed and responsible digital user.

The Creativity We Are Slowly Losing



Wani Arfat



Creativity is not something that exists only in big cities, colleges and offices. It is present everywhere and it can be seen in a student's notebook, in the hands of an artisan, in the methods that a farmer uses, in a photograph taken by a young person, or in an idea that makes life easy for someone. Creativity has been around us, yet sometimes we fail to recognize the creativity around us.

Creativity and talent have been vital parts of Kashmir all along. There have been poets, writers, artists, craftsmen, musicians and creative youth. There is no denying the fact that our carpets, shawls, papier-mâché work, woodwork and embroidery are examples of our traditional craftsmanship, but there is hard work and learning behind all these creations. But looking at all the talent around us, I often wonder whether we are providing enough space for our young generation to create their own identity.

For many students, the whole thing comes down to scoring marks. From schools to universities, students are often under constant pressure to score well, clear exams and choose a profession that is thought to be secure. Nothing is wrong with having a desire for good scores and a secure career path. However, sometimes, in the process of doing all this, we tend to overlook an important aspect of education – the ability to think. One may know the perfect answer to a certain question, but may never get an opportunity to ask questions. A child may come up with an excellent idea but may not say anything due to the fear of making a mistake.

Some young people around me have different interests. Some like writing, some photography, some drawing, some like technology and some just like doing things according to their own interests. However, not everyone gets the same support. Some students may be asked to give up on their particular interest in order to study well, while there are some who do not come up with ideas due to fear of being mocked by others. This is how creativity slowly starts to disappear.

Social media has certainly made things easier in a number of ways, as a young person living in a small village of Kashmir can now share poems, photographs, paintings or videos with people living thousands of kilometres away. However, social media has also made copying easier. We see a trend and everyone starts following it. Someone comes up with an idea and suddenly the same idea is heard from a number of people. Following a trend does not necessarily present any issue. But the real issue arises when we stop thinking about our own ideas.

The fear of failure is another issue. A young person might write a poem and erase it, thinking that it is not good enough to publish. A student might have an idea about a project but choose not to implement it. A person may want to develop a particular skill which is not regarded as a profession but gives up because others around them cannot see its importance. However, nobody learns how to do something well without trying. The first attempt does not necessarily have to be great; it simply has to be done.

We must remember that our parents and teachers can play an important role in our development in this aspect. Each child possesses unique talents. One student may be good at science while another may be talented in writing or sports. One child may be average at something but outstanding in something else. Sometimes we just need to look beyond marks to understand these abilities.

Education is supposed to help children discover their potential, not just estimate it through examinations. There is a Kashmiri proverb which says, "Achh kaani jaan tah wat kaani nah." The simple idea behind this saying is that direction makes a difference. Education is not only about giving information to students. In fact, it means providing information and helping students learn how to make use of it and find their direction in life.

Schools and colleges can do that for students by arranging debates, writing contests, photography, art, drama, science projects, storytelling as well as practical sessions. It requires cooperation from everyone. Parents, teachers, institutions as well as society as a whole must contribute in this matter. There is another Kashmiri proverb that says, "Akh te akh gayi kaah." This means that unity is strength. By providing encouragement to the youth, they can channelize their hobbies into something productive. There are some young individuals who require nothing more than encouragement.

However, creativity should also be linked to our cultural past. The Valley of Kashmir has a very rich culture in different forms of artistry such as art, crafts, poetry, and stories. An individual who works on carpets and wood carvings creates an artistic work through his creativity. These are not only occupations; these crafts are also tied to our heritage and culture. If younger generations decide not to continue learning these crafts, then we might lose a part of our heritage along with the craft. Along with preserving our heritage, the younger generation should also be free to bring something new to our traditions.

Our relationship with nature is one more element in our cultural inheritance. The popular words associated with Sheikh Noor-ud-din Noorani, Sheikh-ul-Alam, "Ann poshi teli yeli wan poshi," remind us of the bond between forests and human life. The thought is relevant in the present day too. Our land, our environment and our way of life have always influenced the way people in Kashmir think and create. Creativity has often been born out of the experiences around us.

And then there is artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence can assist students and writers in a variety of ways. It can provide information, give ideas, as well as produce pictures and texts within a very short period of time. If used properly, it can be beneficial. But at the same time, such technology gives us the opportunity to ask ourselves the question: are we using technology to develop our minds, or are we letting technology think for us? Technology may help us write, but our experiences make our writing unique. AI has never walked through our village, traveled our roads or gone to our school and never had the experiences that have made us who we are.

This is why children must have the opportunity to write, create, fail and begin anew. It is only natural that a first poem may not be that great. The first picture is full of mistakes. A first project fails. This is how we learn and become creative.

Perhaps what we need is not pressure but rather a little breathing space in which we may question, innovate, experiment, and fail without receiving immediate criticism. There might just be that one student sitting silently in class who needs to be heard. There might just be that one youth sitting quietly in the village who has an untapped talent that needs to be discovered. There might just be a craftsman who could give a new life to the old Kashmiri craft through innovation.

Kashmir has always been familiar with imagination. Imagination may be observed in poetry, arts, storytelling, music, as well as problem-solving approaches. The crucial thing now lies in whether or not we will be encouraging the future generation sufficiently to exercise their imagination. We don't have to make every young person a great poet, painter or inventor. All we have to do is make them feel that it's not embarrassing to have ideas.

At times, a young person doesn't require a long lecture; they just require somebody to tell them, "Your idea matters. Try it."

(Mohammad Arfat Wani is a writer, social activist, and nursing student from Kuchmulla, Tral. He writes on social issues, culture, and public concerns with the aim of raising awareness and inspiring positive change. Email: wania6817@gmail.com)

IAS-HCS Success: A Test of Talent or Resourcefulness?



Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

In Indian society, selection into administrative services like the IAS and HCS is considered a major achievement of talent, hard work, discipline, and ingenuity. Millions of young people dream of joining these services, but only a few succeed. Amidst this intense competition, a question repeatedly arises: are talent and hard work the sole deciding factors in these examinations, or do a candidate's family background, economic status, and social resources also play a significant role in their success? Serious consideration of this question reveals several aspects of the inequality of opportunities that exist in preparing for administrative services.

When the success story of an HCS or IAS topper comes to light, discussions often revolve around their marks, rank, hard work, and struggle. Sometimes, it's also revealed that the candidate had been preparing for years or had qualified for the UPSC Mains exam multiple times. For example, if a candidate persists after appearing for the IAS Mains exam six times and ultimately succeeds in the state administrative service, their hard work is certainly noteworthy. But this raises another question: does every talented young person have the opportunity to continue preparing for such a long period?

It's not appropriate to seek the answer to this question solely in personal willpower. Preparation requires time, financial security, and the opportunity to bounce back after setbacks. If a candidate's family has sufficient wealth, parents hold good jobs, or the family's regular income is sufficient to cover the cost of studying for several years, that candidate may find relatively favorable conditions for preparation. In contrast, a young person from an economically disadvantaged family is unable to free themselves from household responsibilities even while preparing for a competitive exam. They must arrange for books, coaching, and exam expenses, as well as consider the family's livelihood.

This is where the question of inequality of opportunities arises.

Suppose two young men are equally talented. Both have roughly the same academic potential. The first young man's family has sufficient wealth. They can afford his living, food, studies, and exam preparation. He can focus on his preparation for five or six years. On the other hand, the second young man's father is a farmer, laborer, or small-time employee. The family's income is limited, and he has many

other responsibilities at home. He prepares for competitive exams, but after a while, he has to take a job or find another way to support his family. The difference between the two lies not only in talent, but also in the circumstances in which their talents develop.

Merely studying the syllabus is not enough to succeed in competitive exams. Regular study, awareness of current events, answer writing practice, optional subject preparation, understanding interview preparation, and continuous improvement of shortcomings are required. Many candidates benefit from expensive coaching, good libraries, guidance from experienced teachers, and connections with knowledgeable people. On the other hand, many young people prepare with the help of materials available on the internet, old books, and limited resources. Digital media has certainly made access to study materials easier, but the importance of a calm environment, proper guidance, and financial security remains unchanged.

It should be clear here that it would be wrong to say that every candidate from affluent families succeeds solely because of privilege. Many young people selected for administrative services achieve success despite overcoming difficult circumstances. On the other hand, many candidates from financially affluent

families also fail. Success requires hard work, intellectual ability, persistence, understanding of the exam, and mental toughness. Therefore, the purpose of the debate should not be to undermine the achievements of any successful candidate, but to understand how equal opportunities for preparation are available to young people living in different social and economic circumstances.

Similarly, a candidate's parents holding high positions or having a family active in politics is not, in itself, evidence of unfair advantage. Such families may possess an understanding of administrative systems, better educational guidance, and an environment of inspiration. However, it is also not appropriate to doubt someone's abilities based solely on family background. It is essential that this issue be discussed based on evidence rather than assumptions.

The Anger And Resentment



Surinderpal Singh

Anger is a natural human emotion, but resentment is a burden that can gradually poison the mind, weaken relationships and disturb the harmony of society. Both are powerful emotional responses, yet their consequences depend largely on how individuals understand, express and manage them. In today's fast-moving world, where patience is diminishing and expectations are constantly rising, anger and resentment are becoming increasingly visible in personal relationships, workplaces, educational institutions and public life.

Anger often emerges when an individual feels insulted, ignored, disappointed, threatened or treated unfairly. It may be an immediate reaction to a particular situation, but resentment is something deeper. It develops when emotional wounds remain unhealed, grievances are repeatedly remembered and feelings of injustice are allowed to accumulate. Anger may last for a moment, but resentment can remain in the heart for years. It silently transforms disappointment into bitterness and disagreement into hostility.

One of the major concerns of contemporary society is the declining ability to tolerate differences of opinion. People increasingly expect others to agree with their thoughts, decisions and beliefs. Even a simple disagreement can become an argument and an argument can quickly turn into personal hostility. Social media has further intensified this tendency by providing platforms where impulsive reactions, harsh comments and public humiliation often replace meaningful conversations. Instead of listening to understand, many people respond merely to defend their egos.



The roots of anger and resentment are not always visible. Unfulfilled expectations, childhood experiences, financial pressures, professional competition, family conflicts, insecurity and a lack of emotional understanding can all contribute to these feelings. Sometimes, individuals express anger not because of the immediate situation but because of accumulated frustration from previous experiences. A minor disagreement may therefore trigger an unusually strong reaction. In such circumstances, anger becomes an expression of unresolved emotional pain rather than a response to the actual problem.

The consequences can be devastating. In families, uncontrolled anger creates fear, emotional distance and broken communication. Between friends and colleagues, resentment destroys trust and cooperation. In educational institutions, an angry environment discourages creativity, confidence and healthy interaction between teachers and students. At the social level, intolerance can encourage discrimination, violence, revenge and unnecessary conflicts. Most importantly, individuals who continuously nurture resentment often become prisoners of their own negative emotions.

Another unfortunate reality is that many people consider anger a symbol of strength, authority or superiority. They believe that raising their voices, intimidating others or reacting aggressively establishes their importance. However, true strength is not demonstrated through the ability to frighten others; it is reflected in the ability to remain composed during difficult circumstances. A person who can control an emotional reaction possesses greater inner strength than someone who allows every provocation to dictate their behaviour.

Nevertheless, managing anger does not mean accepting injustice, suppressing genuine concerns or remaining silent against wrongdoing. Anger can sometimes be a legitimate response to discrimination, exploitation and unfair treatment. It can motivate individuals to demand justice and bring positive social change. The real challenge is to transform destructive anger into constructive action. There is a fundamental difference between speaking firmly against injustice and behaving aggressively towards people.

Similarly, overcoming resentment requires more than simply advising someone to forget the past. Emotional wounds need acknowledgement, understanding and sometimes professional support. Forgiveness can be an important step towards emotional freedom, but it does not necessarily mean justifying harmful behaviour or restoring every broken relationship. Establishing healthy boundaries is equally important. The objective should be to prevent past experiences from controlling the present and determining the future.

Educational institutions and families have an important role in developing emotional intelligence among young people. Along with academic knowledge, children must learn patience, empathy, communication, conflict resolution and self-awareness. Teachers and parents should encourage children to express their feelings respectfully rather than dismissing or punishing every emotional reaction. Similarly, workplaces should promote environments where disagreements can be addressed through dialogue instead of intimidation and personal criticism.

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The Living Frontlines: The Indigenous Soldiers of the Soil



By M S Nazki

On Adapting for Tomorrow: The difference between today and tomorrow is something called change... If we do not become future-focused, we are doomed to obsolescence when tomorrow arrives

-Mission Ready. Future Focused. General Dhiraj Seth, COAS, visited Ibex Brigade at Joshimath and forward areas in the strategically significant Middle Sector of the Northern Borders, in the Garhwal region, reviewing operational preparedness, technology integration and inter-agency synergy.

- He also visited Mana, India's First Village in the region and interacted with the local community. During the visit, COAS was briefed on all aspects of capability development and initiatives taken to further strengthen combat capability.

-The COAS commended all ranks for their professionalism and dedication while serving in the Sector's inhospitable, high-altitude terrain. He exhorted all ranks to embrace 'VIJAY', the five-point framework for building an agile, future-ready force, capable of responding at short notice across the full spectrum of operations. The COAS also emphasised the importance of proactive HADR planning, through joint exercises and close coordination with civil

While there is no single quote combining the exact phrase "Mission Ready. Future Focused" on Goodreads, the platform features highly impactful quotes from renowned authors that perfectly capture these dual concepts of tactical readiness and long-term vision.

-The VIJAY roadmap

-The VIJAY roadmap is a strategic blueprint introduced by the 31st Chief of the Army Staff, General Dhiraj Seth, designed to modernize the Indian Army into a digitized, technology-enabled, and multi-domain capable combat force.

-Grounded in the philosophy of "JAI leads to VIJAY", the framework outlines a structured path aligned with the Ministry of Defence's Decade of Transformation (2023–2032) and the broader national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

-The framework uses the acronym VIJAY to represent five core priority pillars:

• V – Vigilance and Readiness: Maintaining persistent, high-tech border surveillance and constant operational alertness. The objective is to swiftly respond to traditional and emerging hybrid threats across all terrains at short notice.

• I – Innovation and Transformation: Overhauling legacy systems by adopting advanced military doctrines and integrating cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), unmanned systems (drones), cyber defense mechanisms, and electronic warfare assets.

• J – Jointness and Integration: Enhancing tri-services synergy across the Army, Navy, and Air Force. This pillar focuses on structural coordination through integrated theatre commands and military-civil fusion via a whole-of-nation approach.

• A – Atmanirbharta (Self-Reliance): Committing completely to domestic defense manufacturing and localized supply chains. The target is centered on the principle of "Winning Our Wars with Indigenous Solutions" to insulate the force from foreign supply disruptions.

• Y – Yodha First (Soldier First): Prioritizing human capital by enforcing demanding training standards, advancing technological skilling, and enhancing welfare ecosystems for all ranks. This covers personnel across the entire lifecycle, from the youngest Agniveers to veterans and Veer Naris.

-Proactive Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief:



-Proactive Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) planning is the cornerstone of minimizing loss of life, reducing economic damage, and ensuring rapid recovery during natural or man-made crises. When military forces, civil authorities, and international bodies plan ahead, they transform chaos into an organized, efficient response.

-The Value of Joint Exercises

Joint military-civilian exercises (like Pacific Angel, Cobra Gold, or domestic mock drills) serve as the ultimate rehearsal for real-world crises.

• Builds Interoperability: Different organizations use different communication systems, terminology, and hierarchies. Joint exercises harmonize these systems before a crisis hits.

• Tests Logistics & Equipment: Standardizes the use of assets (like heavy-lift aircraft, field hospitals, and water purification units) so they can be deployed instantly.

• Identifies Bottlenecks: Simulating a disaster reveals gaps in supply chains, legal permissions, and command structures that would otherwise cause deadly delays.

-The Power of Close Civil-Military Coordination

While the military possesses the heavy logistics, airlift capabilities, and manpower needed for immediate response, civil authorities hold local knowledge, legal jurisdiction, and long-term recovery mandates.

-Primary Strength, Rapid deployment, heavy logistics, structural engineering. Local trust, cultural nuances, long-term rehabilitation.

-Role in HADR Search and rescue, clearing debris, establishing supply lines. Distributing aid, managing shelters, restoring local governance.

-Coordination Focus Subordinating to civil authority to respect local sovereignty. Directing military assets to the areas of greatest human need.

- Key Benefits of Proactive Planning

• Faster Response Times: The "Golden Hour" of disaster relief—the critical period immediately following an event—is optimized when protocols for deployment, border clearances, and airspace management are pre-arranged.

• Resource Optimization: Pre-mapping available assets prevents duplication of effort, ensuring that three agencies don't send blankets to the same village while another village starves.

• Enhanced Local Resilience: Working closely with civil authorities empowers local communities, teaching them how to manage early warnings and initial first response before external aid arrives.

• Political and Diplomatic Trust: In international HADR, proactive joint planning creates "disaster diplomacy," fostering trust and open communication lines between nations that might otherwise have strained political relationships.

On Breaking from the Past: You can't reach your potential by remaining in a past due season. Your breakthrough is coming. Strongholds are breaking. Get Ready

-About Joshimath:

-Joshimath, also known as Jyotirmath, is a town and a municipal board in Chamoli District in the state of Uttarakhand. Located at a height of 6,150 feet (1,875 m), it is a gateway to several Himalayan mountain climbing expeditions, trekking trails and pilgrim centres like Badrinath. It is home to one of the four cardinal p thas believed by tradition to be established by Adi Shankara.

-Since 7 February 2021, the area was severely affected by the 2021 Uttarakhand flood and its aftermath. The town is confirmed to be sinking due to its geographic location being along a running ridge.

-Between the 7th and 11th centuries C.E., Katyuri kings ruled the area to varying extent from their capital at "Katyur" (modern day Baijnath) valley in Kumaon.

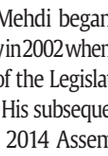
-The Katyuri dynasty was founded by Vashudev Katyuri. The ancient Basdeo temple at Joshimath is attributed to Vasu Dev.

- Vasu Dev was of Buddhist origin, but later followed Brahminical practices and the brahminical practices of Katyuri kings in general is sometimes attributed to a vigorous campaign of Adi Shankara (788-820 CE).

-According to Badri Datt Pandey in his book Kumaon Ka Itihas, Joshimath was the original capital of the Katyur dynasty before it moved to Kartikeya Pur (modern day Baijnath). According to the story, king Vasudev was a devotee of Narsingh (avatar of lord Vishnu). One day he went hunting and lord Narsingh came to his home disguised.

-His wife offered food to the god. After eating the food the god went in the king's room for some rest. When the king returned from hunting he got angry after seeing a man sleeping in his bed. He took his sword and cut the left hand of god. Instead of blood, milk started flowing

Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi: Politics of Conviction and the Quest for Accountability



By Sana Zehra

Kashmir's political landscape has been shaped by leaders whose journeys reflect the changing aspirations, challenges and expectations of its people. Among the prominent contemporary political figures, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi has emerged as a distinctive voice, recognised for his outspoken approach, political convictions and willingness to raise issues that resonate with different sections of society.

Born on September 19, 1976, in Kashmir's Budgam district, Ruhullah Mehdi is the son of late Aga Syed Mehdi, a respected religious and political personality. Coming from a family with a long standing association with public and political life, he developed an early understanding of the region's social and political realities. Over the years, he carved out his own identity in Kashmir's political arena through electoral participation, legislative experience and his positions on important public issues.

From Budgam to the National Political Arena

Ruhullah Mehdi began his electoral political journey in 2002 when he was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly from Budgam. His subsequent victories in the 2008 and 2014 Assembly elections strengthened his position in central Kashmir and established him as an influential political figure.

His entry into the Council of Ministers in 2009 marked another important phase of his political career. He held portfolios including Science and Technology and Animal Husbandry, gaining experience in governance and administration. His ministerial tenure provided him with an opportunity to engage with policy matters and the challenges associated with public administration.

The 2024 Lok Sabha elections proved to be a significant turning point. Contesting from the Srinagar parliamentary constituency, Ruhullah secured a decisive victory and entered the national political arena as a Member of Parliament. His election provided him with a wider platform to articulate concerns relating to Jammu and Kashmir and participate in debates on issues of regional and national importance.

A Politics Rooted in Conviction

What distinguishes Ruhullah Mehdi from many contemporary political figures is his willingness to publicly articulate positions, even when they differ from those of his own political establishment. His interventions on the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, constitutional rights, reservation policy, unemployment and students' concerns have attracted considerable public attention.

His political positions have frequently



reflected the expectations of sections of Kashmiri society, particularly those who seek greater accountability from elected representatives. His emphasis on fulfilling electoral commitments has also brought him into disagreements with the leadership of the National Conference.

Such disagreements raise an important question in democratic politics: should political loyalty take precedence over ideological commitments and promises made to the electorate? In a representative democracy, differences within political parties are not necessarily signs of weakness. Rather, when expressed through democratic means, they can encourage debate, transparency and accountability. On November 3, 2026, Ruhullah announced his decision to part ways with the National Conference and resign from his position as Member of Parliament. The announcement marked a significant political development and generated debate about the future direction of politics in Jammu and Kashmir. His expressed desire to bring together committed young people also indicated an interest in exploring a different political approach.

His next political move, however, will ultimately be judged by the clarity of his vision, the strength of his public engagement and his ability to translate political convictions into meaningful action.

The Youth and the Question of Political Awareness One of the most important aspects of Ruhullah Mehdi's political journey is the attention it draws to the role of young people in democratic processes. Kashmir has a large youth population whose aspirations extend beyond conventional political slogans. They seek quality education, employment opportunities, social justice, transparent governance and a meaningful role in shaping their future.

Political participation should not be limited to supporting political parties or personalities. It must also involve understanding constitutional institutions, questioning public policies, examining electoral promises and demanding accountability from those entrusted with public responsibility.

Young people, particularly students, need to develop the ability to distinguish between political rhetoric and substantive public service. Education in disciplines such as Public Administration can help them understand the functioning of government, the importance of institutional accountability and the relationship between citizens and the state.

Ruhullah's call for greater youth participation provides an opportunity to reflect on how the younger generation can contribute constructively to Kashmir's political discourse. However, meaningful participation requires more than enthusiasm for individual leaders. It demands informed choices, independent thinking and a commitment to democratic values.

Leadership Beyond Political Allegiance

The real test of political leadership lies not merely in its ability to attract public attention but in its capacity to address people's concerns and remain answerable to them. Political differences, resignations and changes in party affiliations may dominate headlines, but their long-term significance depends on the ideas and alternatives that emerge from them.

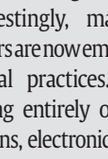
Ruhullah Mehdi's political journey illustrates the complexities of contemporary Kashmiri politics, where questions of identity, constitutional rights, governance and public expectations continue to shape political debates. Whether his recent political decision leads to a new political initiative or remains an episode in his existing journey is something that time will determine. Ultimately, democracy cannot be sustained by personalities alone. It requires strong institutions, responsible leadership, an informed electorate and citizens who are willing to participate beyond election seasons. For Kashmir's younger generation, the most valuable lesson from any political journey is to place principles above personalities, accountability above allegiance and public interest above partisan considerations.

The future of Kashmir's democracy will depend not simply on who leads its political movements, but on how effectively its people, especially its youth, become informed participants in shaping their collective future.

Sana Zehra is B.A. (Hons.) Public Administration Government Degree College, Baramulla. Writes regularly to newspapers from Srinagar

Gen Z Is Rediscovering Tradition

A New Love for Traditional Diwali Celebrations



Dr. Vijay Garg

For many years, there has been a common belief that the younger generation, particularly Generation Z (Gen Z), prefers modern lifestyles, digital entertainment and fashionable celebrations over traditional customs. However, a refreshing change is becoming visible. Many young people are showing renewed interest in traditional Diwali celebrations, rediscovering the beauty of family gatherings, earthen lamps, traditional sweets, cultural values and environmentally responsible festivities.

Diwali is not merely a festival of lights; it represents the victory of good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and hope over darkness. For generations, families have celebrated this occasion by cleaning and decorating their homes, lighting traditional diyas, preparing homemade sweets, performing prayers and sharing happiness with relatives and neighbours. These customs create emotional connections and preserve our cultural heritage.

Interestingly, many Gen Z youngsters are now embracing these traditional practices. Instead of depending entirely on expensive decorations, electronic lighting and extravagant parties, some prefer decorating their homes with (earthen lamps), colourful rangoli, flowers and handmade decorative items. They are also exploring traditional clothing, regional food, family rituals and cultural activities.

Social media has also played an important role in this transformation. Young people share pictures and videos of traditional Diwali decorations, homemade sweets, family celebrations and eco-friendly ideas. Digital platforms, which were once criticised for distancing people from traditions, are increasingly becoming tools for promoting cultural heritage.

Another encouraging development is the growing awareness of environmental responsibility. Many young people are choosing celebrations that reduce air and noise pollution. They prefer earthen lamps, natural decorations and community celebrations over excessive fireworks. Such choices demonstrate that tradition and modern scientific awareness can complement each other.

The renewed interest in traditional Diwali celebrations also reflects a search for emotional satisfaction. In a fast-moving digital world, young people increasingly recognise the importance of spending quality time with parents, grandparents and relatives. Listening to family stories, preparing traditional dishes together and participating in religious and cultural activities create memories that no expensive gift or online experience can replace.

However, it would be incorrect to suggest that every member of Gen Z celebrates Diwali in the same way. Their preferences vary according to family background, region, personal beliefs and lifestyle. The important point is that traditional celebrations are finding a meaningful place in the lives of many young people.

Parents and grandparents should encourage this positive development without imposing customs. Traditions become meaningful when the younger generation understands their significance and willingly adopts them. Families should explain the values behind festivals, including kindness, sharing, gratitude, equality and respect for nature.

Diwali also offers an opportunity to support local artisans, potters and small businesses by purchasing handmade diyas, traditional decorations and locally prepared products. In this way, celebrations can strengthen both cultural identity and the local economy.

Ultimately, Gen Z's growing interest in traditional Diwali celebrations sends an encouraging message: modernity does not require abandoning one's roots. Technology, contemporary lifestyles and cultural traditions can coexist beautifully.

**The real spirit of Diwali lies not in the brightness of electric lights or the loudness of fireworks, but in the warmth of

relationships, the glow of earthen lamps, the joy of sharing and the light of humanity. When the younger generation embraces these values, the festival becomes more meaningful, sustainable and timeless.**

Dr Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

DC Kathua reviews arrangements for smooth conduct of JKSSB Accounts Assistant examination

23 examination centres established for 8,729 candidates

■ HT News Network



KATHUA, NOVEMBER 7: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, today reviewed the arrangements for the smooth and fair conduct of the upcoming JKSSB written examination for the post of Accounts Assistant here at a meeting held in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The examination is scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, with a total of 8,729 candidates expected to appear at 23 examination centres established across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner held detailed discussions with the concerned officers regarding the arrangements being put in place to ensure the seamless conduct of the examination. The meeting reviewed key aspects, including drinking water facilities, uninterrupted power supply, seating arrangements and security deployment. It was informed that the examination will be conducted under CCTV surveillance, with videography arrangements in place at all examination centres to ensure transparency and maintain the integrity of the examination process.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of close coordination among all stakeholders and directed the designated officers to discharge their assigned responsibilities efficiently to ensure the smooth, transparent and fair conduct of the examination. He also impressed upon them to strictly adhere to the prescribed JKSSB guidelines and examination protocols.

It was informed that entry to the examination centres will commence two hours before the examination. The candidates have been advised to reach their respective examination centres well in advance to complete the necessary entry and verification formalities without any inconvenience. The Police Department was directed to ensure adequate security arrangements, including proper frisking and deployment of personnel at all examination centres, to maintain a secure and orderly environment throughout the examination process. Among others, ADC Kathua Sachin Jamwal, Overall District Observer for Kathua Simarjeet Singh (JKSSB), ASP Sunil Kesar, RTO Surinder Sharma, DTO Jivtesh Singh, DIO Gurpreet Singh, besides other concerned officers, were present in

Div Com Jammu inspects ongoing works under Jammu Ring Road Project

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 7: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Vikas Kundal today conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing works under the Jammu Ring Road Project to review the pace of construction of tunnels and other infrastructure components. The Divisional Commissioner was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Minga Sherpa, Project Director NHAI Rajiv Kumar, members of the NHAI team, ACR Jammu and other concerned officers. During the inspection, the Divisional Commissioner visited Tunnel-1 and Tunnel-2 connecting Kheri to Jagti and took on-site feedback regarding the pace of construction, execution-related challenges and other issues affecting the smooth progress of the project.

The Project Director NHAI apprised the Divisional Commissioner of the challenges being faced during the construction of Tunnel-1, particularly loose soil conditions, which have been affecting the pace of work. The Divisional Commissioner directed the Project Director NHAI and executing agencies to expedite the pace of construction across all ongoing components and ensure close coordination among the concerned agencies for timely completion of the project. He also stressed the need to address.

DC Udhampur inspects progress of work on WSSs taken up under AMRUT 2.0

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner Ananth Dwivedi today conducted a tour of Udhampur town and inspected the progress of work on water supply schemes being executed under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme at Barrian, Jakhani and Salmay. The DC took stock of the progress of various components of the water supply projects and reviewed the pace of execution. He directed the executing agencies to expedite the ongoing works by mobilising adequate manpower and machinery to ensure that the stipulated targets are achieved within the prescribed timelines. Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department was directed to set monthly targets for the ongoing works and ensure regular monitoring to facilitate their timely completion. The DC further instructed the executing agencies to strictly adhere to the prescribed guidelines, technical specifications and quality standards. He emphasised the importance of effective inter-departmental coordination, close monitoring and timely completion of all project components.

DC Udhampur inaugurates 'DIDI KI RASOI' at Government Polytechnic College

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi today inaugurated 'DIDI KI RASOI' here at Government Polytechnic College.

Project Officer District Urban Development Agency, Jaffar Abass Batt; head of the institution Er. Vivek Mahajan, government officials and members of Self-Help Groups were also present at the inauguration event.

The DIDI KI RASOI offers a variety of freshly prepared, home-cooked meals at affordable prices and is managed by women members of SHGs associated with District Urban Development Agency (DUDA). The newly inaugurated outlet is the sixth DIDI KI RASOI established in Udhampur district.

The initiative serves the dual purpose of providing women SHGs with sustainable income-generating opportunities while ensuring access to healthy, hygienic and affordable food for the community. It also provides a platform for SHG members to showcase their culinary skills and entrepreneurial capabilities.

While appreciating the initiative, the DC highlighted its significant role in promoting women's empowerment and economic self-reliance in the district. He also commended Project Officer for his leadership and dedicated efforts in establishing the initiative, which will provide SHG members with a steady source of income.

Speaking on the occasion, the Project Officer, DUDA, informed that DIDI KI RASOI outlets have already been established at the DC Office Complex, Udhampur, Government College for Women, Udhampur; Government Degree College Boys, Udhampur and Sub-District Hospital, Ramnagar.

He expressed gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner for his continued support and to the head of Government Polytechnic for providing space to the SHGs to operate the outlet.

He further highlighted that DIDI KI RASOI is aligned with the Prime Minister's vision of promoting women-led SHGs through sustainable livelihood opportunities and economic empowerment, thereby fostering entrepreneurship, financial independence and self-reliance among women.

Horticulture Directorate discusses modalities to achieve 100% targets in current fiscal

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 07: Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Syed today chaired a review meeting here in the Conference Hall of the Directorate to assess the physical and financial achievements under the developmental schemes including CAPEX, HADP, CSS, JKCIP, for the financial year 2026-27.

The Director directed field officers to ensure timely implementation of developmental projects, optimum utilisation of allocated funds and effective execution of the horticulture programmes to achieve targets within the stipulated time frame.

Stressing improved service delivery to farmers, he called for faster progress on orchard development, nursery production, infrastructure creation and farmer welfare initiatives. He reviewed district-wise performance, besides seeking updates on implementation challenges.

The Director instructed the officers to submit regular progress reports and ensure transparency, accountability and quality in execution of the departmental programme and reiterated the department's commitment to strengthening the horticulture sector and enhancing the income of fruit growers across Jammu Division.

Among those present were Deputy Director (Central) Mukesh Sharma, Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu R.K. Kotwal, Chief Horticulture Officer Rajouri Sushil Kumar Angurana, Chief Horticulture Officer Udhampur Brij Vallabh Gupta, Chief Horticulture Officer Reasi Rajinder Kumar, Chief Horticulture Officer Doda Raghunath Upadhya, Chief Horticulture Officer Poonch Uttam Lal, DLSMS- Samba Raivati Raman Sharma, In-charge Mega Fruit Plant Nursery Chakroi, S.Parminder Singh, Nursery Registration Officer Jammu Satish Kumar, Assistant Director Sunil Gupta, Farm Manager ACHD Ramban Pradeep Dingra DMPP Brij Paul Singh, Technical Section Officers, Officials of planning Section, Horticulture Development Officer (Information) Dr. Vijay Kumar and other officers of horticulture Department.

Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas

Udhampur admin organises Tribal outreach programme at Gudhar

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 07: As part of the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrations, commemorating the legacy and contributions of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the district administration Udhampur organised a tribal outreach and awareness programme at Government Middle School, Gudhar, Gram Panchayat Darsoo, Block Udhampur.

The programme was presided over by Functional Manager, District Industries Centre Jagdeep Singh, the designated Nodal Officer for the initiative.

Representatives from Agriculture, Sericulture, Health, Education, Food and Civil Supplies and other allied departments, participated in the programme. They interacted with members of the tribal community, disseminated information about various government welfare schemes and facilitated on-the-spot redressal of public grievances and resolution of issues, wherever feasible. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from former Sarpanch Subhash Chander, social activist Kaka Ram, local tribal residents and school students, who actively participated in the proceedings.

While addressing the gathering, the Nodal Officer highlighted the importance of inclusive development, grassroots participation and effective last-mile delivery of public services. He emphasised that such initiatives reflect the commitment of the District Administration to bring governance to the doorsteps of people, particularly those residing in remote and underserved areas, while ensuring greater awareness, accessibility and timely delivery of government benefits.

As a gesture of encouragement, notebooks, pens and other stationery items were distributed among the participating students.

SWD Kishtwar organises child protection awareness activities under Mission Vatsalya

■ HT News Network



KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 07: The Department of Social Welfare Kishtwar, through its Child Help Desk (CHD) team, on Saturday organised two awareness and community outreach programmes under Mission Vatsalya here.

The initiative aimed at generating widespread awareness about child rights, child protection and child safety, while strengthening community participation in creating a safe, secure and child-friendly environment. The CHD team sensitised members of the public about the key provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, the prevention of child marriage and the importance of educating children about Good Touch and Bad Touch. The outreach activities also highlighted the role of parents, guardians and community members in recognising early warning signs of abuse and ensuring the safety and protection of children.

Special emphasis was laid on Child Helpline 1098, informing the public about its availability as an essential support and response mechanism for children in distress and those in need of care and protection. The participants were encouraged to promptly report cases of child abuse, exploitation, child marriage and other violations of child rights to the appropriate authorities. Through direct interaction, public sensitisation and dissemination of child protection information, the activities sought to strengthen grassroots-level awareness and encourage collective vigilance and responsibility towards safeguarding children.

Compulsory Retirement Order Is Neither Punitive Nor Stigmatic In Character: Supreme Court

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, Nov 7: The Supreme Court has held that an order of compulsory retirement is neither punitive nor stigmatic in character and does not cast any aspersion on the conduct of an employee, nor does it imply any finding of misconduct.

A bench of Justices Manmohan and Shree Chandrashekhar, which upheld the Chhattisgarh government's order of compulsory retirement to five of its 14 employees, said it was based on subjective satisfaction of the competent authority that the employee's continued retention in service is no longer conducive to public interest.

"...an order of compulsory retirement is neither punitive nor stigmatic in character. Such an order does not cast any aspersion upon the conduct of the employee nor does it imply any finding of misconduct," it said.

"The ultimate assessment as to whether an officer has become dead wood or whether his continuance would be detrimental to administrative efficiency falls within the domain of the executive. However, such satisfaction cannot be found upon mere conjecture or whim. It must rest upon objective and relevant material available on record," it held.

The top court on Friday upheld that the April 12, 2023 order of the Chhattisgarh High Court upholding the single-judge bench's order affirming the 2017 government circular to compulsorily retire the employees, and rejected their contention that other similarly placed employees were not retired.

"An employee cannot successfully assail an order of compulsory retirement merely by contending that another officer possessing a comparable service record was not subjected to similar action," it said, adding that the evaluation of an employee's utility, integrity, efficiency and overall service profile is essentially an individualised exercise undertaken by the competent authority based on the materials pertaining to that particular employee. The bench said the fact that action was taken against one employee while another similarly situated employee was left untouched does not, by itself, render the action unconstitutional or discriminatory.



"The doctrine of equality enshrined in Article 14 of the Constitution embodies a positive concept and does not countenance the claim of negative equality. This court has consistently held that an illegality or omission committed in favour of one person cannot furnish a valid basis for extending the same benefits to another. If a wrong has been committed in an earlier case, it cannot be relied upon to perpetuate a similar wrong in subsequent cases," it said. The top court further said that where the government itself prescribes norms or criteria governing the exercise of the power, judicial review extends only to examining whether such norms or criteria have been duly observed.

"It follows, therefore, that an order of compulsory retirement must be supported by relevant material such as Annual Confidential Reports, integrity assessments, performance evaluations and other service-record entries bearing upon the employee's utility and suitability for continued retention," it said.

The bench said judicial review in such cases does not entail a re-appreciation or re-weighing of the material by the court as though it were sitting in appeal over the administrative decision.

"The court is concerned only with whether relevant material existed, whether such material was taken into consideration by the competent authority, and whether the conclusion drawn therefrom is one which a reasonable person could have arrived at.

JKCCC Seeks Comprehensive Relief For Contractors Facing Multiple Challenges; Calls For Clear Mining Policy & Timely Release of Payments

Urges CM Omar Abdullah, LG Manoj Sinha To Resolve Contractors' Long-Pending Issues

■ **HT News Network**



Srinagar, 07, Nov, 2026: The Jammu & Kashmir Contractors Coordination Committee, Chairman Ghulam Jeelani Purza, has expressed serious concern over the mounting difficulties faced by the contractor fraternity in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that prolonged delays in payments, restrictions on the availability of construction materials, inadequate budgetary allocations and complicated administrative procedures are severely affecting the pace of developmental works across the Kashmir division.

In a statement issued to the press, Jeelani Purza welcomed the J&K Bank's recently launched Rahat Scheme, describing it as a positive initiative, while urging the Jammu & Kashmir bank's Chairman / Managing Director and management to extend its benefits to the contractor fraternity as well. He said that contractors have been facing severe financial distress due to payments pending with the government since 2014, resulting in several contractors' bank accounts turning into Non-Performing Assets (NPAs).

"We welcome the Rahat Scheme launched by J&K Bank. However, I appeal to the Managing Director and the management to bring the contractor fraternity within its ambit. Our payments have remained pending with the government since 2014 and many contractors are struggling with financial liabilities, with their bank accounts having turned into NPAs. The contractor community also needs financial relief and institutional support," Purza said.

Explaining the reasons behind the recurring lapse of development funds, Jeelani Purza identified three major issues, including restrictions imposed on mining activities and the availability of construction materials, non-release of contractors' pending liabilities and unrealistic bidding practices that undermine the execution of development projects.

He said that restrictions on mining activities have created serious difficulties for contractors in procuring essential construction materials, particularly sand and bajri. He alleged that even vehicles transporting materials are being intercepted and subjected to heavy penalties, sometimes amounting to Rs 50,000 and even Rs 1 lakh."Development cannot progress without the availability of essential raw materials. If the government wants development to continue, it must clearly establish where contractors are supposed to procure sand, bajri and other construction materials. There is an urgent need for a concrete and transparent mining policy so that contractors can execute government works without unnecessary uncertainty and harassment," he said.

Jeelani Purza said that despite repeatedly raising the matter with the J&K Government, no concrete resolution had been achieved. He said the absence of a clear mining framework was directly affecting the execution of works and contributing to the lapse of allocated development funds.

On the issue of pending payments, the JKCCC Chairman said that substantial liabilities dating back to 2014, 2018 and subsequent years remained unsettled of previous governments. He stated that the matter had earlier been taken up with the Lieutenant Governor-led administration, following which the liabilities were examined and the payment process was proposed to be undertaken in phased wise.

He said that the matter had also been taken up with J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary; however, contractors were still awaiting concrete relief from the present government.

"Contractors have already executed the work on the ground and the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has also submitted its report confirming the execution of the work done by contractors. The decision to release the pending payments in installments had already been taken and the first few installments were released in the LG Rule. However, no further installments has been released during this govt last two years. This has pushed many contractors into an extremely difficult financial position.

DISTRICT RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP BARAMULLA 2026–27BOYS & GIRLS

■ **Aashiq Hussain**

Baramulla, 05 Nov (HT): The District Rugby Association Baramulla is organising the District Rugby Championship Baramulla 2026–27 (Boys & Girls) in collaboration with the J&K Rugby Association, under the aegis of the J&K Sports Council, at SRM Welkin Educational Trust, Sopore. The championship will be held from 11th to 12th November 2026.Last Date for Submission of Entry Forms is 7th November 2026For Registration all players and Teams have been. asked to contact:6005960215 8899966419

All interested teams are requested to submit their entry forms before the deadline.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVT. INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE, TANGDAR, KUPWARA
ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Subject: - Engagement of Guest Faculty in ITI - Tangdar for the Academic Session 2026-27.

Applications are invited from the interested candidates for temporary engagement as Guest Faculty in ITI Tangdar for academic Session 2026-27 conducting training in the following trade(s) on the basis of prescribed qualification mentioned against the each trade. Interested candidates will submit their application (s) to this Office on the prescribed format forming Annexure "B" to this advertisement notice **within 07 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the newspaper.**

S.No.	Trades	Prescribed Qualification
1.	Electrician	B. Voc/Degree in Electrical/ Electrical and Electronics Engineering from AICTE/UGC recognized Engineering College/ university with one-year experience in the relevant field. OR 03 years Diploma in Electrical/ Electrical and Electronics Engineering from AICTE/recognized board of technical education or relevant Advanced Diploma (Vocational) from DGT with two years' experience in the relevant field. OR NAC/NTC/STC passed in the trade of "Electrician" and CITS/NCIC passed in the relevant trade with three years experience in the relevant field

The duly completed Application Form in the prescribed format must be accompanied with the self-attested copies of the following certificates/ documents:-
Academic/Technical Qualification Certificate/Marks Certificate.

1. Date of Birth Certificate.
2. Domicile Certificate
3. Character Certificate (in original).
4. Experience certificate, if any.

Application forms are available at the Office of the Superintendent Industrial Training Institute, Tangdar.
Age: Minimum age 18 years Maximum 45 years as on (1st January 2026).
The calculation of the merit points shall be on Pro-rata basis as under:

S.No	Criteria	Maximum Points
A	Basic essential qualification as per DGT Norms (marks obtained in the prescribed qualifying examination/trade certificate)	70
B	Higher relevant qualification (e.g., Ph.D, M.E/M.Tech as relevant to the trade/discipline)	10
C	Professional/technical certification NET/SET/GATE	5
D	Relevant full-time teaching/training/field experience in a J&K UT recognized technical or skill institution, post-qualification	5
E	Structured interaction/demonstration before the Selection Committee, assessed against a pre-declared rubric (subject knowledge, communication, practical/demonstration skill)	10
	TOTAL	**100**

The Engagement of Guest faculty will be for the Academic session 2026-27 only on need basis. The assignment of the engagee shall be co-terminus with the academic session. It can also be terminated on account of non-performance by the engagee as per the guidelines or regular appointments/transfers are made by the Department.
The undersigned reserves the right to reject incomplete/deficient application received after assigning proper reasons.
The criteria for Engagement of the candidate as Guest Faculty and remuneration shall be strictly as per Guidelines/directions/instructions issued from time to time in this regard.
The candidates engaged shall have to maintain proper discipline and punctuality and shall have to work to the entire satisfaction of the students as well as the HoI. Indiscipline, misconduct, moral turpitude or false documentation of any kind will entail disengagement.
Every selected candidate shall, before joining, execute an undertaking/affidavit, duly attested by a First-Class Judicial Magistrate, in the prescribed format, expressly stating therein that: (i) the candidate is fully aware about the nature of engagement being purely temporary in nature, session-specific and terminable in accordance with this Policy; (ii) the candidate shall not, at any time, claim regularisation, permanent absorption, continuation on whatsoever grounds; and (iii) the candidate shall abide by the Code of Conduct as specified in extant Policy.
Mere submission of application or eligibility shall not entitle any candidate for his/her engagement, and the engagement shall be made only as per the Jammu and Kashmir Guest Faculty in ITIs Engagement Policy.

DIPK-7451/26
Send Date: Nov 7 2026

Sd/-
Superintendent
Industrial Training Institute
Tangdar

ANNEXURE "B"

APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF GUEST FACULTY (SESSION 2026–27)
GOVT. WOMEN INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE, TANGDAR, KUPWARA

(To be filled in candidate's own handwriting in BLOCK LETTERS)

Trade Applied For: _____

1. **Full Name of Candidate:** _____
2. **Father's Name:** _____
3. **Date of Birth:** DD / MM / YYYY _____ _____
4. **Permanent Address (As per PRC):** _____
   Tehsil: _____ District: _____ PIN: _____
5. **Address for Correspondence:** _____
   Contact Number: _____ Email ID: _____
6. **Domicile Certificate No. & Date:** _____
7. **Academic Qualifications:** _____

S.No	Examination	Board / University	Year of Passing	Total Marks	Marks Obtained	%age of Marks

8. **Technical Qualification**

S.No	Examination	Board / University	Year of Passing	Total Marks	Marks Obtained	%age of Marks

9. **Teaching / Industry / Training Experience (Post-Qualification Only):**

_____

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. In the event of any information being found false, fabricated, or ineligible detected before or after the engagement, my candidature/engagement shall stand automatically canceled without any prior notice.

Date: _____

Place: _____ **Signature of the candidate**

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of WASIF ZAHOOR BHAT S/O LATE ZAHOOR AHMAD BHAT R/O AUTHOORA RESHIPOAR Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of income Dependent certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of income dependent certificate in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant family consists of (06) members and having annual income / the details of family of the applicant are as fallows
1...MEEMA BEGUM Widow 41 years House Wife(widow)
2...WASIF ZAHOOR Son (applicant) 18 years student unmarried
3... LUQMAN ZAHOOR Son 14 years student Un , married
4... SULAIMAN ZAHOOR Son 10 years student //
5...MOHD MAQBOOL Father of deased 71 years farmer married
6....SITARA BEGUM Mother of deceased 64 years House Wife //
It is further submitted that WASIF ZAHOOR BHAT S/O Late ZAHOOR AHMAD BHAT is student by profession and is sole earnings in the said family .The applicant needs income dependent certificate in favour of self WASIF ZAHOOR for The applicant has applied for the issuance of income dependent certificate as such the instant matter is published through newspaper .
if anyone is having any kind of objection He/She may approach this office within (07)seven days of the publication of this notice .After passing of Stipulated time of 07 days No objection will be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohmad Latif Malik, father of Malik Usman Latif, resident of Khisipora, Kreeri, hereby notify the general public that the name of my son has been inadvertently recorded in his Aadhaar Card as "Usman Ahmad Malik" instead of his correct name, "Malik Usman Latif."
The Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3081 5165 8370 is required to be corrected accordingly.
Any person having any objection regarding the proposed correction may approach the concerned Aadhaar Authority within the prescribed period. In the absence of any objection, the necessary correction may kindly be carried out.Patlipora Bala Chattabal, Srinagar

Mob: 7889326178

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Asaf Ali Shah Syed Galani, S/o Ali Haider Shah, R/o Teetwal, Tehsil Karnah, District Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir, hereby solemnly declare that the caste entry recorded in my Service Book as "Syed-Galani"was corrected using a correction pen at the time of my initial appointment, I now seek proper authentication and regularization of the said correction by the competent departmental authority.
Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid entry/correction may submit his/her objection, along with supporting documentary evidence, to the SSP Office, Kupwara, within 07(seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.
If no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that no person has any objection to the said entry/correction. Accordingly, the competent authority may, authenticate and regularize the correction in the Service Book, and no objection in this regard shall be entertained thereafter.

Sd/-

Asaf Ali Shah Syed Galani
S/o Ali Haider Shah
R/o Teetwal, Tehsil Karnah District Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Son' name & parentage has been wrongly mentioned as MOHD MUTEEB S/O MOHD IRFAN MALLA in his date of Birth certificate issued by SDH kreeri bearing Registration No ..101002466449 While his correct name is MOHAMMAD MUTEEB MALLA & his correct parentage is MOHAMMAD IRFAN MALLA which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of SDH /BMO office KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name....MOHAMMAD IRFAN MALLA
F/O ...MOHAMMAD MUTEEB MALLA
R/O ...LALAD SOPORE
DISTT ...BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as ARVINDER SINGH on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No .. 4335 6550 9559 while my correct name is S. ARVINDER SINGH S/O KISHAN SINGH 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...S.ARVINDER SINGH
S/O....KISHAN SINGH
R/O..BERWAH TANGMARG

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as NUSRAT AKHTAR on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..8915 2648 4058 while my correct name is NUSRAT NAZIR D/O NAZIR AHMAD RESHIE 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 publicationof this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...NUSRAT NAZIR
D/O....NAZIR AHMAD RESHIE
R/O..KAKOTHAL KREERI BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that I have registered power agreement under id no ; 0206050018046 in the name of muskan ishytaq W/o ishtiyaq Ahmad Bhat R/o Sheri mohalla Narbal District Budgam . Now I want the said power agreement to transfer in the name of mussarar Khurshid of mentioned same address.
If anybody has any objection, he can approach pdd department within the period of seven days. After completion of said period, No objection will be entertained.
04/11/2026

Stock markets extend winning streak to 7th session, Sensex gains over 1,700 pts

■ HT News Network/UNI



New Delhi, Nov 6 (UNI) Indian stock markets today extended their winning streak for a seventh consecutive session, shrugging off a global market rout, with Nifty crossing the 24,900 mark for the first time since February 27, 2026, on back of falling crude oil prices, sustained foreign fund inflows, encouraging corporate earnings and a strengthening rupee.

At close, the BSE Sensex surged by 1,718.01 points, or 2.17 per cent, to 81,028.02, and the NSE Nifty climbed up by 493.75 points, or 2.01 per cent, to 25,030.35.

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) will remain open for a special Muhurat trading session on Sunday, November 8, 2026, to mark Diwali Laxmi Pujan.

Among the sectors, energy, media and realty declined 0.9-1.5 per cent, while consumer durables, Nifty Bank, pharma and private banks gained 1-3 per cent.

On Nifty, ICICI Bank, M&M, HDFC Bank, Titan Company and Axis Bank were the top gainers, while Eicher Motors, Power Grid Corporation, Bharat Electronics, Adani Enterprises and Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles were among the biggest losers.

Indian rupee extended its winning streak settling at a six-month high. The currency closed 56 paise higher at 93.91 per US dollar compared with the previous close of 94.47.

Nearly 100 stocks touched 52-week high, including Stocks of Sai Life Sciences, Glenmark Pharma, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Indian Hotels, Shyam Metalics, Eternal, Marico, Motilal Oswal, Divis Labs, TVS Motor, Aurobindo Pharma, Tech Mahindra, Anand Rathi, Coforge, Bosch, among others.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited said, "Indian equities defied a global rout, extending their winning run as investors treated the home market as a relative safe harbour amid turmoil abroad. Wall Street was hammered by a sharp tech sell-off as investors weighed the prospect of tougher regulation under Democrats. Large private banks emerged as the prime beneficiaries, their deep liquidity and attractive valuations making them a natural home for this rotational money."

"A sharp weekly slide in crude, easing U.S. Treasury yields and a firmer rupee further burnished India's relative appeal. With Fed officials still hinting at further hikes, the U.S. jobs report due later today will be closely watched. Still, as Samvat 2082 draws to a close, the market enters the new Samvat with foreign flows, crude and the currency finally pulling in the same direction."

DAHJ reviews physical, financial progress under Horticulture schemes

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 7: Director Animal Husbandry Jammu (DAHJ) today reviewed the physical and financial progress of departmental schemes and activities across Jammu Division here at a meeting held in the Conference Hall of the Directorate.

The meeting was attended by Chief Animal Husbandry Officers of Jammu Division and the Livestock Development Officer- the Nodal Officer for Pashu Aushadhi Vikray Kendras (PAVKs). The officers reviewed the status of ongoing activities, discussed implementation-related issues and deliberated on measures required for timely progress under the respective components.

The meeting took stock of regular schemes being implemented under UT CAPEX; HADP projects, including P23, P25 and P28 components; construction works under UT CAPEX, SASCI, HADP and NABARD; operationalisation of Pashu Aushadhi Vikray Kendras (PAVKs) under CSS-LHDCP.

Emphasis was laid on close monitoring of physical and financial achievements, timely execution of approved activities and coordination among field officers and the Directorate to address implementation bottlenecks.

The officers also discussed the progress of construction works and the steps required for making PAVKs operational in accordance with the programme guidelines.

The Director stressed the importance of effective implementation of departmental schemes and directed the concerned officers to maintain regular follow-up, ensure proper documentation and accord due priority to the objectives and timelines of each programme.

Airtel surpasses Jio Platforms to become India's second most valuable company again

■ HT News Network/UNI



New Delhi, Nov 6 (UNI) Bharti Airtel has reclaimed its position as India's second-most valuable listed company, overtaking Jio Platforms in terms of market capitalisation, following a rise in its share price on Friday.

Shares of Bharti Airtel gained 1.66 per cent to close at Rs 2,096.25 on the BSE. During the trading session, the stock advanced as much as 2.81 per cent to touch an intraday high of Rs 2,120.

In contrast, Jio Platforms shares declined 0.90 per cent to settle at Rs 1,405.75. The stock had fallen as much as 2 per cent to an intraday low of Rs 1,390 during the session.

With the new arrangement coming into place, the top five order in the market capitalisation (mcap) ranking are Reliance Industries with a valuation of Rs 17,83,723.93 crore, Bharti Airtel Rs 13,08,165.03 crore, Jio Platforms Rs 12,94,559.51 crore, HDFC Bank Rs 12,14,530.78 crore and ICICI Bank Rs 11,26,722.63 crore.

Notably on Thursday, Bharti Airtel reported a 24 per cent increase in consolidated profit to Rs 10,710 crore in the second quarter ended September 2026, citing higher per-user revenue after a rejig in mobile phone tariffs.

Reliance Industries continues to hold the top position among India's most valuable companies, with a market capitalisation of Rs 17,83,723.93 crore.

Operating performance remained strong, with earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) growing 17.8% YoY to Rs 35,240 crore in Q2FY27, compared with Rs 29,919 crore in the year-ago period.

Airtel Business reported an 11.4% YoY increase in revenue, driven by broad-based growth across its core connectivity business and digital services portfolio.

Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings files draft papers with Sebi for IPO

■ HT News Network /UNI

NEW DELHI, Nov 7: Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings Ltd (HCCH), backed by The Coca-Cola Company and Jubilant Beverages, has filed its draft papers with the market regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

The proposed IPO will be entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 99,74,61,456 equity shares by promoter Hindustan Coca-Cola Overseas Holdings Pte Ltd, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) dated November 6.

Since the issue is entirely an OFS, the company will not receive any proceeds from the IPO, with the entire proceeds going to the selling shareholder.

India focused on becoming world's AI application capital: Vaishnaw

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Nov7: India remains focused on becoming the application capital of the world for artificial intelligence (AI), Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said today.



Global technology stocks plunged on Friday amid fears that tighter AI regulations following Democrats' victory could slow investments.

Responding to a question on the global meltdown in AI stocks and whether the situation presents an opportunity for India, Vaishnaw said the industry is witnessing a period of rapid change and uncertainty."The AI industry is going through a very tumultuous, and very, very rapidly changing environment. In this kind of environment, there will be many changes which come," the minister said.

He said India's focus remains on deploying AI across sectors and building applications that can bring about large-scale transformation."We are very focused on making India the application capital of the world," Vaishnaw said, pointing to the use of AI models in enterprises and their potential to transform agriculture, healthcare and education.

DC inspects Diwali arrangements, public safety measures in Kathua Town

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, NOVEMBER 7: Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma today visited Ram Leela Ground and the main market area of Kathua Town to review arrangements ahead of Diwali festival.

During the visit, he inspected the festive arrangements at Ram Leela Ground and reviewed on-ground measures in the main market, including traffic regulation, public convenience, cleanliness and crowd management.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to ensure proper coordination and effective implementation of all necessary arrangements for safe, smooth and hassle-free festive celebrations.

ASP Sunil Kesar, ACR Vishv Partap Singh, Tehsildar Vikram Kumar and other concerned officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

J&K Bank opens Premium Branch at Barzulla, extension counter at PCR

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, Nov 7: J&K Bank today inaugurated a Premium Branch at Barzulla in Srinagar and an extension counter at the Police Control Room (PCR), Srinagar, to strengthen its customer services and expand its physical presence.The Premium Branch was inaugurated by Bank's MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee, who also e-inaugurated the extension counter at PCR, in the presence of senior bank officials and high-net-worth individual (HNI) clients.Speaking on the occasion, Chatterjee said the new branch would cater to the specialised banking requirements of high-net-worth individuals by providing personalised services, privacy and customised financial solutions. He said the Bank would continue to strengthen its branch network alongside its digital transformation to improve access to banking services.

E20 petrol supplied by PSU oil firms meets prescribed quality standards: Oil Min

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Nov 7: The Government on Saturday defended the 20 per cent ethanol-blended petrol programme, saying tests of 893 samples collected across 27 states and Union Territories, including 56 in Karnataka, found them compliant with prescribed quality standards, as state-run oil companies challenged the Karnataka government's claims of excessive ethanol content in fuel sold at some retail outlets.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, in a statement, said Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) had found ethanol content in all 893 samples within the prescribed 19-21 per cent range under the Bureau of Indian Standards' IS 17021 specification.

The 56 samples tested in Karnataka, covering different locations and all three oil marketing companies (OMCs), recorded ethanol content of 19-20 per cent, averaging 19.30 per cent, the ministry said.

The findings directly contradict a recent press release by Karnataka's Department of Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Legal Metrology, which claimed that petrol samples collected from certain retail outlets in the state contained 26-31 per cent ethanol.

The three OMCs have questioned the sampling and testing procedures adopted in Karnataka's October 2026



exercise, arguing that the reported results cannot be independently validated without compliance with prescribed statutory procedures and disclosure of the technical details of the tests.

The dispute comes at a time when India's nationwide E20 programme, aimed at reducing dependence on imported crude oil and lowering emissions, has come under scrutiny over concerns about vehicle mileage, engine compatibility and the potential cost to consumers.

Under the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005, read with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) 2024, six one-litre samples must be drawn during an inspection. Two are handed to the dealer, two retained by the oil company or department, and two sent to an authorised laboratory.

The OMCs said samples collected during a September exercise were routed through the State Level Coordinator to designated company laboratories, but the subsequent October exercise was reportedly conducted without their representatives.

They said they had not received the corresponding retention samples, complete outlet-wise details or laboratory reports despite seeking them through the State Level Coordinator.

The companies also questioned certificates issued by a third-party laboratory, saying these did not specify the standard test method, dilution procedure or reference material used to determine ethanol content through Gas Chromatography.

Under IS 17021:2018, amended in August 2025, ethanol content must be determined through specified methods, including Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy, water extraction or Gas Chromatography under prescribed ASTM standards.

When Gas Chromatography is used, the standard requires samples to be diluted in a 1:1 ratio with oxygenate-free petrol and results corrected against an E10 certified reference material, the OMCs said.

KVK Baramulla Takes Agricultural Expertise to Remote Uri Village, 35 Farmers Benefit from Training and Input Distribution Programme

Dryland Agricultural Research Station DARS, Budgam, SKUAST-K Plays Key Role in the Programme

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

Baramulla,Nov,07: In a significant step towards strengthening the agricultural sector in remote areas,Dryland Agricultural Research Station (DARS), Budgam, SKUAST-Kashmir in collaboration with the ,CAR Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Baramulla, organised a day-long Training-cum-Input Distribution Programme in a far-flung village of Uri in Baramulla district.Around 35 progressive farmers participated in the programme and received expert guidance on modern agricultural practices, improved crop varieties and scientific farming techniques. Agricultural inputs were also distributed among the participants to encourage the adoption of improved technologies.

A team of scientists from DARS Budgam, including Dr. Sabeena Naseer, Professor, Division of Genetics and Plant Breeding; Dr. M. Altaf Wani, Associate Professor, GPB; Dr. Faisal-ur-Rasool, Assistant Professor, Agronomy; and Dr. Shabir, interacted with farmers and shared their technical expertise.The KVK Baramulla team was led by Dr. Raies Ahmad Bhat, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR KVK Baramulla, accompanied by Dr. Sajad Ahmad and Mr. Vishal Vihan, who coordinated the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sabeena Naseer stressed the importance of quality seeds,

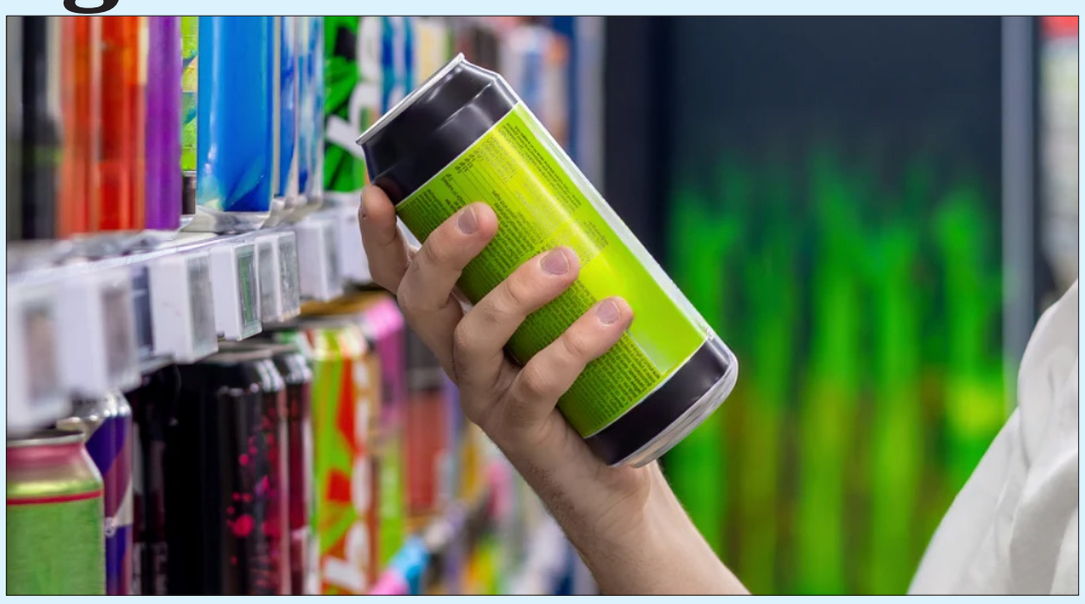


improved crop varieties and scientific seed selection in enhancing agricultural productivity, ensuring better crop establishment and improving farmers' income.

Dr. Raies Ahmad Bhat Senior Scientist Head KVK ICAR-CITH Baramulla highlighted region-specific agricultural practices suitable for the Uri region and briefed farmers about the role of KVK Baramulla in transferring modern agricultural technologies, addressing local farming challenges and improving the economic condition of farming communities, particularly in remote and tribal areas.Dr. M. Altaf Wani highlighted the nutritional importance of Quality Protein Maize (QPM) and encouraged farmers to incorporate it into existing cropping systems to help address protein requirements and promote nutritional security.

Similarly, Dr. Faisal-ur-Rasool sensitised farmers about scientific cultivation practices for maize, rajmash, oat and field pea, emphasising the adoption of recommended agronomic techniques to enhance crop productivity and farm profitability.Meanwhile, the participating farmers appreciated KVK Baramulla for bringing DARS Budgam experts to their remote village, providing them an opportunity to access specialised agricultural knowledge and technical guidance at their doorstep.

Energy Drinks, Stimulant Supplements Linked to Higher Heart Risks in Young Adults



Energy drinks and stimulant supplements may be associated with significantly higher risks of serious heart problems in young adults, including an 11-fold increase in cardiac arrest and a 4.5-fold higher risk of heart attack, according to preliminary research.

Some energy drinks contain up to three times as much caffeine per fluid ounce as brewed coffee, plus additional stimulants like guarana and taurine that can further increase blood pressure and heart rate.

Most healthy adults can safely consume up to 400 milligrams of caffeine daily, but people with heart conditions, irregular heartbeats, or family history of heart disease should talk with a healthcare professional before consuming energy drinks or stimulant products.

New research suggests that caffeinated energy drinks and stimulant supplements are associated with significantly higher risks of serious heart problems, including cardiac arrest and heart attack in young adults.

The findings, to be presented at the American Heart Association (AHA) Scientific Sessions 2026Trusted Source November 6–9 in Chicago, are preliminary and can't prove that energy drinks cause heart problems.

Still, the results highlight concerning cardiovascular effects of these popular products, particularly among adults under 35 who consume them regularly.

"These products are marketed as everyday pick-me-ups and sold next to soda and bottled water, so most people assume they carry no real risk," study author Sai SamayamanthulaTrusted Source, a fourth-year medical student at the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville, VA, said in a news releaseTrusted Source.

"For many healthy people, if these products are consumed occasionally, the risk is probably small. However, individuals who consume energy drinks or other stimulant-containing supplements regularly can quickly exceed the recommended daily limit for caffeine, so it's important for people to know that there may be a risk of cardiovascular harm with these products," Samayamanthula continued.

Energy drinks linked to 4.5 times more heart attack reports

Researchers from the University of Virginia School of Medicine analyzed 28,345 reports submitted to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) between 2017 and 2025.

Of these, 854 involved caffeinated energy drinks or stimulant supplements, while the remaining reports involved non-stimulant products.

Compared with non-stimulant products, cardiac arrest was reported approximately 11 times more often with energy drinks and stimulant supplements. Heart attacks were reported 4.5 times more often, while ventricular arrhythmias and palpitations were reported about four times more frequently.

Nearly 45% of heart-related reports involved adults ages 18 to 34.

"Our findings support the case for more systematic safety monitoring of caffeine- and stimulant-containing products. In addition, healthcare professionals should remember to ask their younger patients who have palpitations, chest pain or fainting spells if they recently or regularly consume these products," Samayamanthula said.

Gregory M. Marcus, MD, professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, and chair of the 2026 AHA scientific statement on caffeine and cardiovascular diseaseTrusted Source, wasn't involved in the study, but said the research "raises concerns that products with very high amounts of caffeine may be harmful to the cardiovascular system."

"Although there are biological reasons why that connection could be possible, the study does not prove that caffeine products cause these events, because other factors may have influenced the results found in this analysis," Marcus said in a news releaseTrusted Source.

"More research is needed to understand whether these stimulant products are truly responsible for the reported heart-related events."

Cheng-Han Chen, MD, board certified interventional cardiologist and medical director of the Structural Heart Program at MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center in Laguna Hills, CA, said the findings, although concerning, are not surprising. Chen wasn't involved in the study.

"We know that energy drinks can have significant effects on the cardiovascular system, primarily because of their stimulant properties," he told Healthline.

"Caffeine can increase blood pressure and heart rate, while other ingredients, such as guarana and taurine, may further contribute to cardiovascular stimulation and increased stress hormone levels. What is particularly concerning is the potential for these products to trigger serious complications, including abnormal heart rhythms, especially in people with underlying cardiovascular conditions."

Chen agreed that occasional energy drink consumption is unlikely to have long-term consequences for heart health in most healthy individuals. However, he said that "frequent or excessive consumption can potentially increase the risk of hypertension and cardiac arrhythmias."

Caffeine in energy drinks vs. coffee

An AHA scientific statement published in July 2026 notes that up to 400 milligrams of caffeine daily is generally considered safe for most healthy adults. That's roughly equivalent to four or five 8-ounce cups of brewed coffee, depending on how it's prepared.

However, some energy drinks contain up to three times as much caffeine per fluid ounce as brewed coffee.

Certain energy drinks may also contain stimulants, such as guarana, yerba mate, theobromine, synephrine, and yohimbine.

These ingredients may compound caffeine's effects on the cardiovascular system.

"Caffeine stimulates the cardiovascular system, primarily by increasing sympathetic nervous system activity. This can cause the heart to beat faster, raise blood pressure, and increase the workload on the heart," Chen said.

"Energy drinks may contain additional stimulants, such as guarana and taurine, which can further increase blood pressure and stress hormone levels. With excessive consumption, these effects can become more pronounced and potentially interfere with the heart's normal electrical activity, increasing the risk of abnormal heart rhythms. People with underlying cardiovascular conditions, particularly hypertension or a predisposition to arrhythmias, may be especially vulnerable to these effects."

Other research has echoed these concerns. A 2025 review suggests that high-volume energy drink consumption can prolong the heart's QTc interval, increase blood pressure, and raise heart rate beyond the effects of caffeine alone.

"There is growing concern about the cardiovascular effects of energy drinks and stimulant-containing supplements, particularly among younger adults," Chen said.

"One challenge is that younger individuals may not recognize that these products can have significant effects on their heart and blood pressure, especially when consumed frequently or in combination with other caffeinated products."

People at risk for heart problems should limit energy drinks

Young adults accounted for a substantial portion of the FDA reports included in the study, highlighting potential cardiovascular concerns for this age group.

People with existing heart conditions, a history of irregular heart rhythms, or heightened caffeine sensitivity may face additional risks. Those with undiagnosed genetic heart conditions may also be vulnerable.

A 2024 study identified cases of sudden cardiac arrest occurring shortly after energy drink consumption, particularly among people with underlying inherited heart conditions.

"As a cardiologist, I am particularly concerned about people who may have underlying cardiovascular conditions that have not yet been diagnosed," Chen said.

"Excessive stimulant intake can potentially trigger symptoms such as palpitations, chest discomfort, and lightheadedness. In susceptible individuals, it may also increase the risk of more serious complications, including abnormal heart rhythms."Additionally, combining energy drinks with strenuous exercise or alcohol may introduce additional cardiovascular risks.

More research on heart effects of energy drinks, stimulants neededThe findings suggest an association between energy drinks, stimulant supplements, and reported cardiovascular events, but they are preliminary and do not establish cause and effect.The FDA database also relied on voluntary adverse-event reports, meaning some events may never be reported, while others may receive disproportionate attention.

healthline.com/

AI To Help Eye Tests Detect Diabetes

AI will be used in routine eye scans as part of a scheme to detect early signs of illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes.

The Northern Ophthalmic Research and Innovation (NORI) hub at Sunderland University has received £12.2m from the government through UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) for the project in the hope of diagnosing patients quicker.

Matthew Campbell, interim pro vice-chancellor for health and co-director of NORI, said the money would help the team develop the technology and take it into international markets.

While the tool will initially focus on diabetes and cardiovascular disease, the approach could later be expanded to dementia and strokes.

NORI is one of five new UKRI-backed healthcare hubs using technology to diagnose illnesses.

The other hubs are in Exeter, Southampton and London, which all focus on developing high tech tools.

Science minister Chris McDonald, who visited NORI on Thursday, said he hoped the funding would help patients access treatment quicker.

He said: "Earlier diagnosis means better outcomes for patients and less pressure on our NHS, and technology has a vital role to play."

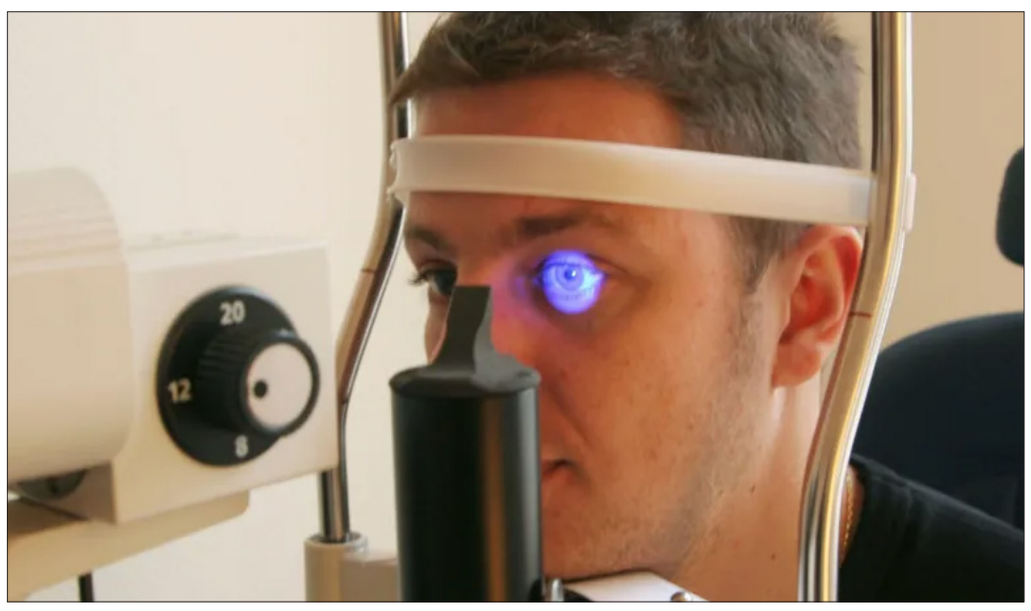
The technology will use the tiny blood vessels and nerve tissue at the back of the eye, which NORI said can reveal clues about a person's wider health before symptoms appear.

AI will be used to analyse the routine eye scans alongside NHS health records and community data to identify subtle changes which may signal early signs of disease.

Campbell said: "This investment creates a new health innovation ecosystem for the North East.

"We now have the scale to develop technologies, test them in real-world healthcare settings and take them into national and international markets."

(BBC NEWS)



Multi-million pound project to detect dementia



A multi-million pound research hub is set to build artificial intelligence (AI) and data systems in a bid to prevent and detect dementia.

The BRAINIAC Hub, led by the University of Exeter, is funded by £10m from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), part of UK Research and Innovation. Another £10m will be contributed by industry, charity and NHS partners.

The university said the hub would develop AI combining brain imaging, genetics, blood biomarkers and digital cognitive tests into a "single, clear picture of a person's brain health".

The funding covers a six year project with the first clinics to start operating in 2029, initially open to people via NHS referral.

'Hardest problem'

It said BRAINIAC - AI and Emerging Technologies for Next Generation Brain Health Clinics - brings together 11 universities and 10 NHS sites over six years.

It said it would involve 10 brain health clinics across the UK to create one of the biggest research platforms into what really works to diagnose, prevent and treat dementia.

The clinics aim to help reduce risk and halve the time of getting a dementia diagnosis.

BRAINIAC director David Llewellyn, professor of clinical epidemiology and digital health at the university's medical school, said detection was the "hardest problem".

"The tools we build in these NHS clinics will let us pick up the first signs before symptoms show, and offer people a personalised prevention plan to help them keep their brains sharp for longer," Llewellyn said.

According to the university, about 982,000 people in the UK live with dementia.

It said the number was set to reach 1.4m by 2040, with the annual cost set to more than double to £90bn.

It said UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has committed up to £80m for researchers to develop tools which could support diagnosing 92% of people referred with suspected dementia within 18 weeks by 2029.

The hub aims to make assessment and diagnosis 30% to 50% faster and identify more than 40% of the people it assesses at early-risk - before symptoms develop.

Deputy director Chris Fox, professor of clinical psychiatry at the university medical school and a practising clinician, said current treatments only help if people were diagnosed early.

"BRAINIAC will give the NHS the tools to do that at scale, designed with patients and clinicians from the start so they work in a busy clinic and not just on paper," Fox said.

The project brings together several universities including Cambridge, Oxford, Newcastle, Swansea and Imperial College London. It also involves organisations such as Dementia UK and Alzheimer's Society.

BRAINIAC is one of five new hubs to be funded by across the UK.

Professor Charlotte Deane, executive chair of the engineering and physical sciences research council at UKRI, said the five hubs would "improve lives".

"They build on the proven success of our previous hubs, which are already translating cutting-edge research into real benefits, advancing healthcare innovation, including the world's first AI-assisted brain tumour surgery," she said.

"By working closely with patients, the NHS and industry, we're helping people live healthier lives and preventing ill health before it starts."

(BBC NEWS)

Gurnoor leads India demolition, NZ bundled out for 134

United News Of India

WELLINGTON, NOV 7 :New Zealand's batting frailties were laid bare as India's bowling attack, spearheaded by Gurnoor Brar's four-wicket burst, bundled out the hosts for a paltry 134 in 41 overs in the second ODI here on Saturday.

Gurnoor returned impressive figures of four for 30 from 10 overs, while India's collective bowling effort ensured New Zealand failed to recover from an early collapse despite a fighting half-century from Daryl Mitchell.

Sent in to bat after losing the toss in a rain-shortened 47-over contest, India made an immediate impact as Auqib Nabi struck in the second over, dismissing Tim Seifert for a duck. Seifert mistimed a drive off Nabi's delivery and chipped the ball to Anshul Kamboj at mid-on, who completed a fine diving catch.

Nabi struck again in the sixth over, having Will Young (6) caught behind by KL Rahul, reducing New Zealand to 11 for two. Anshul Kamboj tightened India's grip by dismissing Henry Nicholls (11) in the ninth over, bowling him after the left-hander failed to negotiate a delivery that came back into him. The hosts were struggling at 23 for three.

Mitchell, however, resisted with a patient 55 off 104 balls, including five fours and two sixes. He was fortunate



to survive on 21 when India skipper Shubman Gill dropped a straightforward catch off Kamboj in the 17th over.

Gill had ample time to get underneath a mistimed shot directed towards mid-off but failed to hold on despite getting both hands to the ball. Mitchell had turned around and begun walking back, believing he was out, before realising that he had been given a reprieve. The missed opportunity proved costly as Mitchell went on to register his half-century.

It was his seventh score of 50 or more against India in his last nine ODIs, a sequence that also includes four centuries.

Captain Mitchell Santner provided support with 31 off 38 balls, striking a four and two sixes. The pair added 59 runs for the sixth wicket, helping New Zealand recover from the early setbacks and take the total past 100.

Santner also took the attack to the Indian bowlers, striking Axar Patel and Gurnoor for sixes. However, Gurnoor responded emphatically after being hit for a maximum, dismissing the New Zealand captain in the 36th over. Santner attempted to steer a short delivery behind square on the off-side but managed only an outside edge, which KL Rahul collected.

Axar then ended Mitchell's resistance in the same over, having him caught by Kamboj at long-off. Mitchell attempted a big lofted shot but mistimed it as the ball held up on the surface.

Gurnoor continued his impressive spell by dismissing Glenn Phillips for a duck in the 20th over and later Nathan Smith (3), who edged a hard-length delivery to Rohit Sharma at first slip. He also accounted for Tom Latham (7), who top-edged a pull to Naman Dhir at deep square leg.

Axar claimed his second wicket by bowling Kyle Jamieson (7) with a quicker delivery that crashed into the leg stump. Kamboj then wrapped up the innings by bowling Blair Tickner (2) in the 41st over.

New Zealand, who were 112 for six after Mitchell's dismissal, lost their remaining four wickets for just 22 runs, folding for 134.

Apart from Gurnoor's four wickets, Kamboj and Axar claimed two wickets each, while Nabi also finished

with two wickets from seven overs. Arshdeep Singh went wicketless but was economical, conceding just 16 runs in seven overs, including a maiden.

India need 135 runs to win the second ODI. It was his seventh score of 50 or more against India in his last nine ODIs, a sequence that also includes four centuries.

Captain Mitchell Santner provided support with 31 off 38 balls, striking a four and two sixes. The pair added 59 runs for the sixth wicket, helping New Zealand recover from the early setbacks and take the total past 100.

Mohammed Shami announces retirement from Tests

United News Of India

KOLKATA, NOV 6": Mohammed Shami has announced his retirement from Test cricket, bringing an end to a career that saw him become one of India's most dependable fast bowlers across conditions and on the biggest stages.

The 36-year-old shared the news through a post on Instagram, drawing the curtain on his journey in the longest format. Known for his ability to generate seam movement and swing with both the new and old ball, Shami leaves behind a record of 229 wickets from 64 Tests, including six five-wicket hauls. Shami made his Test debut against West Indies in 2013 and quickly established himself as a key part of India's pace attack. His ability to deliver in challenging conditions made him particularly valuable away from home, with 131 wickets coming in 35 Tests across India, South Africa and the West Indies, at an averagef under 25. South Africa was among the places where Shami produced some of his most memorable performances. During India's 2018 tour, he took 5/28 in the second innings of the Johannesburg Test to help secure a consolation victory. On the next tour, he claimed eight wickets in the first Test at Centurion as India registered



another memorable win. His final Test appearance came in the 2023 ICC World Test Championship Final against Australia. While injuries interrupted different phases of his career, his contributions with the ball remained an important part of India's success. His ability to deliver in challenging conditions made him particularly valuable away from home, with 131 wickets coming in 35 Tests across India, South Africa and the West Indies.

Hamburg eases relegation pressure as Gronbaek inspires Gladbach victory

United News Of India

BERLN, NOV 7 :Hamburger SV defeated 10-man Borussia Monchengladbach 3-1 in the Bundesliga, with Albert Gronbaek scoring once and setting up another.

Both sides approached the ninth-round



encounter aggressively, with Shuto Machino narrowly missing the target for Gladbach before Hamburg's Patson Daka was denied by goalkeeper Daniel Batz.

Hamburg broke the deadlock in the 11th minute when Miro Muheim collected Albert Sambi Lokonga's pass and unleashed a powerful strike from 30 meters into the bottom corner on Friday.

The hosts maintained their attacking momentum, but Batz produced important saves against

Alexandre Moller Wolfe, while Gladbach threatened through Ko Itakura and Uno.

Despite Hamburg's pressure, the visitors equalized shortly

before halftime. Warmed Omari's attempted clearance fell to Joe Scally, whose volley took a deflection off Robin Hack before

inding the net in the 44th minute.

Gladbach's hopes suffered a major setback four minutes after the restart when Itakura received his second yellow card for fouling Gronbaek, leaving the visitors with 10 men.

The hosts capitalized on their numerical advantage in the 60th

minute. Lokonga initiated the move with a precise pass before Gronbaek laid the ball off for defender Shafiq Nandja, who celebrated his first Bundesliga goal.

Gronbaek then extended Hamburg's advantage 10 minutes later, driving a spectacular effort from approximately 28 meters into the top corner to put Hamburg firmly in control.

Valverde recalled to Uruguay squad for FIFA window

United News Of India

MONTEVIDEO, NOV 7 :Midfielder Federico Valverde has been recalled to Uruguay's squad for friendlies against Argentina and the Dominican Republic, the Uruguayan Football Association (AUF) said on Friday.

The 28-year-old missed the South American team's friendlies against Japan, South Korea and India in September and October due to a sprained ankle.

As expected, head coach Diego Forlan also called up Liverpool defender Ronald Araujo, Tottenham midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur and Diriyah striker Darwin Nunez.

The only player included from a local club was uncapped goalkeeper Sebastian Jaume, who plays for Montevideo-based club Albion FC. Uruguay will face Argentina at La Bombonera in Buenos Aires on November 13 before hosting the Dominican Republic four days later. Uruguay squad: Goalkeepers: Santiago Mele, Cristopher Fiermarin, Ignacio de Arruabarrena, Sebastian Jaume. Defenders: Guillermo Varela, Santiago Mourino, Ronald Araujo, Jose Maria Gimenez, Juan Rodriguez, Sebastian Caceres, Mathias Olivera, Joaquin Piquerez, Juan Manuel Sanabria.

Djuraev sets two world records to claim men's 110kg crown at weightlifting worlds

United News Of India

NINGBO, NOV 7 :Uzbekistan's Olympic gold medalist Akbar Djuraev delivered a dominant performance in the men's 110kg at the world weightlifting championships here, breaking world records in both the snatch and the total to sweep all three gold medals.

Djuraev, the Tokyo Olympic champion and Paris Olympic silver medalist, was among the leading contenders for the title.

Romania's Lauret Rodriguez emerged as his only serious challenger in the snatch. Both lifters opened at 190kg and cleared their first two attempts.

Djuraev then lifted a world-record 198kg on his third, while Rodriguez failed, giving Djuraev gold and Rodriguez silver. Chinese Taipei's Chen Po-jen, who competed in Group B, took bronze in the snatch.

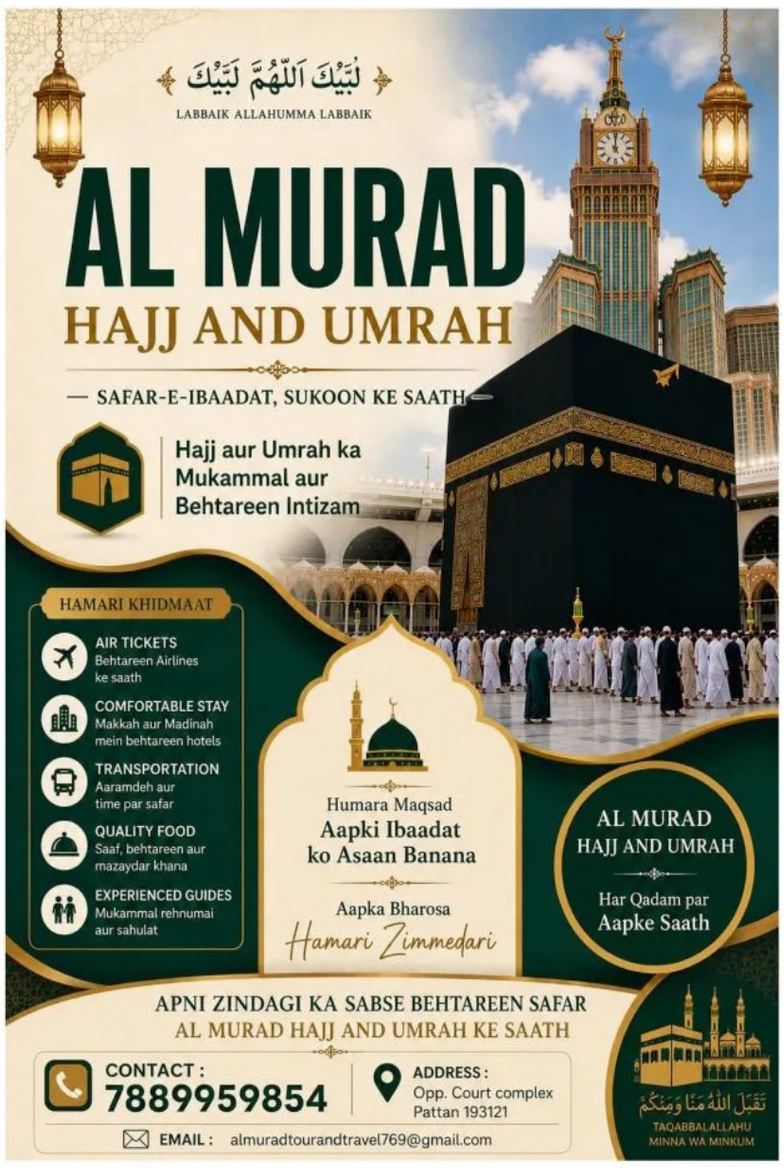
Djuraev lifted 228kg and 234kg in the clean and jerk before failing at 238kg in his bid for another world record. His 234kg lift secured clean and jerk gold, while his total of 432kg set a world record and gave him the overall title, according

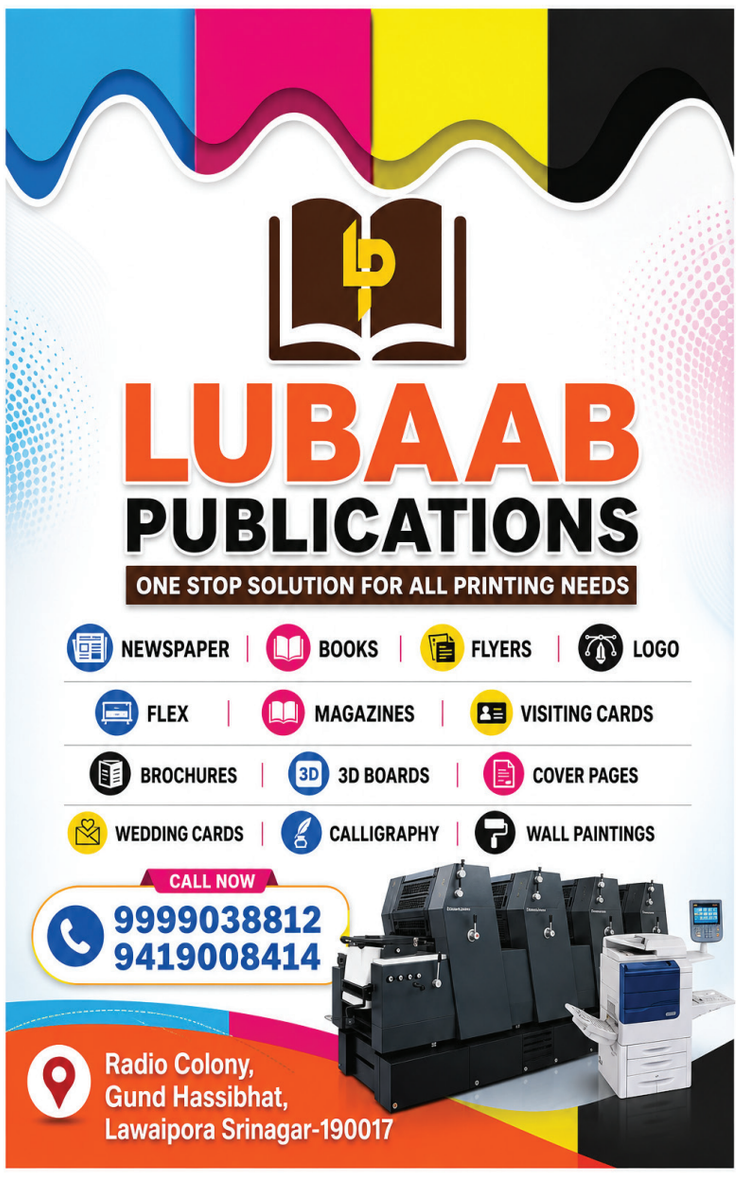


to Xinhua.

Iran's Alireza Nasiri lifted 233kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 418kg, earning two silver medals. Turkmenistan's Shahzadbek Matyakubov took two bronze medals, with a clean and jerk

f230kg and a total of 417kg, delivered a dominant performance in the men's 110kg at the world weightlifting championships here, breaking world records in both the snatch and the total to sweep all three gold medals.







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