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HEADLINES TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



P:12 Australia make big call on former No.1 ranked Test batter Marnus Labuschagne

"I Wish Everyone Happiness And Prosperity": Pm Modi Extends Bhai Dooj Greetings

Prime Minister celebrates enduring bond of affection between brothers and sisters

HT NEWS DESK / UNI

NEW DELHI, NOV 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday extended warm greetings to people across the country on the occasion of Bhai Dooj,



describing the festival as a celebration of the enduring affection and emotional bond between brothers and sisters. In a message shared on social media platform X, he wished happiness

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"The True Measure Of Progress Is The Rising Income Of Farmers" : LG Sinha

Inaugurates four infrastructure facilities at SKUAST-K; calls for 100 student-led startups, smart agriculture and farmer-centric innovation

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 11: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday inaugurated four key infrastructure facilities at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), emphasising the need to transform scientific research into practical solutions for farmers. Highlighting the importance of smart agriculture, he called for taking solar-powered irrigation technology to villages, establishing at least 100 student-led startups and placing youth and women farmers at the centre of agricultural development. He said the real measure of progress lies in improving farmers' incomes, strengthening their economic security and ensuring that modern technologies directly benefit small and marginal farmers. The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated 4 key infrastructure facilities



at SKUAST-Kashmir and emphasised the crucial role of agricultural universities in delivering practical solutions to challenges related to food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said that agricultural universities are unique institutions where concerns and aspirations linked to a nation's food security

>>> MORE ON P 02

"Development Works Must Gain Momentum": Omar Abdullah Reviews Udhampur Projects

CM chairs high-level meeting; set to inaugurate projects and lay foundation stones before proceeding to Reasi

HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, NOV 11: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Udhampur to review developmental progress, ongoing works and major infrastructure initiatives in the district. The meeting, attended by ministers and MLAs, focused on the implementation and status of key development projects. The Chief Minister is also scheduled to inaugurate several completed projects and lay foundation stones for new initiatives before proceeding to neighbouring Reasi district.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Udhampur to assess developmental progress, ongoing projects and key infrastructure initiatives in the district.

The meeting was attended



by ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly, with discussions centred on the status of development works and progress on major infrastructure projects.

>>> MORE ON P 02

"This Is A Significant Weather System": Met Department Warns Of Heavy Snowfall Across J&K

Fresh snow in Peer Ki Gali, Gurez; Mughal Road closed as authorities issue travel advisories ahead of November 12–14 spell



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

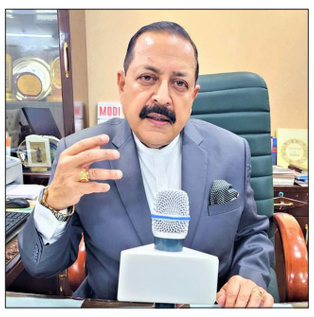
SRINAGAR, NOV 11: Fresh snowfall in Peer Ki Gali along the Mughal Road and Gurez Valley on Wednesday prompted authorities to suspend vehicular movement on the strategic route and restrict tourist movement in vulnerable areas ahead of a significant weather spell forecast across Jammu and Kashmir. The Meteorological Department has predicted widespread rainfall in the plains and moderate to heavy snowfall in higher reaches between November 12 and 14, with some mountainous areas likely to receive one to two feet of snow. Authorities have advised

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"India-Italy Partnership Will Advance Scientific Innovation": Jitendra Singh Leads Delegation To Italy

Three-day visit to focus on research partnerships, strategic technologies and strengthening scientific cooperation with Europe

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



NEW DELHI, NOV 11: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh, on Wednesday departed for a three-day official visit to Italy to strengthen scientific cooperation and advance India's research and innovation partnerships with Europe. Leading an Indian delegation, Singh is scheduled to hold bilateral discussions with Italian ministers and participate in the Second India-Italy Science and Innovation Dialogue 2026 in Rome on November 12. The programme will focus on research excellence, emerging technologies, institutional partnerships and opportunities for collaboration in strategic scientific fields.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh, left for Italy on Wednesday for a three-day official visit aimed at strengthening scientific cooperation and advancing India's research and innovation partnerships with Europe.

Singh is leading the Indian delegation and is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Italian ministers responsible for university and research, and space and aerospace policy.

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"women have played a pivotal role in shaping society": Dr. darakshan highlights contributions of women to education

KWO organises National Education Day seminar at Sopore; recalls legacy of Lal Ded, Habba Khatoon and Savitribai Phule

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SOPORE, NOV 11: Kashmir Women's Organisation (KWO), in collaboration with Makhdoomia Model High School, Warpora, organised a seminar on National Education Day, highlighting the significant role of women in education and social transformation. Chief guest Dr Darakshan Hassan Bhat underscored the contributions of legendary figures, including Lal Ded, Habba Khatoon, Arnimal, Pandita Ramabai and Savitribai Phule, saying their legacy continues to inspire generations. She stressed the importance of inclusive education and greater opportunities for women in building a progressive and empowered society.

Kashmir Women's Organisation (KWO), in collaboration with Makhdoomia Model High School, Warpora, Sopore, organised a seminar on National Education Day on Tuesday, highlighting the contributions of women in promoting education and shaping society.

The seminar, themed "Contributions of Women in Education", witnessed participation from students and teachers, who shared their views on the role

>>> MORE ON P 02

NC's advisory groups aimed at silencing internal dissent, not improving governance: Sunil Sharma

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, NOV 11: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the National Conference government over its decision to constitute informal advisory groups comprising party MLAs, alleging that the move was aimed at containing internal dissent rather than improving governance or strengthening democratic institutions.

Sharma questioned the authority under which National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah could direct ministers of an elected government

>>> MORE ON P 02



Courtesy- Office of District Magistrate, Srinagar

HT BOTTOM NEWS

"What I Heard About Kashmir Was Not True": Kumar Sanu Praises Valley's Talent

Bollywood singer calls for music academies and cultural events in remote areas; announces duet with Kashmiri female singer

Dr ABDUL QAYOOM
HT CORRESPONDENT



HANDWARA, NOV 11: Bollywood playback singer Kumar Sanu, during his maiden visit to Kashmir, on Wednesday praised the artistic potential of local youth and called for establishing music academies and organising cultural events across the Valley to nurture emerging talent. Speaking on the sidelines of the Kashmir Got Talent programme in Handwara, he said his visit had changed his perception of the region and expressed willingness to collaborate with Kashmiri artists. He also announced plans to record a romantic duet in Kashmiri with a local female singer and urged celebrities to visit the Valley and engage with its talented younger generation.

Bollywood singer Kumar Sanu, who visited Kashmir for the first time in his life, on Wednesday called for more platforms to promote local talent, particularly in remote areas, and urged the government to establish music academies to provide training and opportunities to aspiring artists. Speaking on the sidelines of the 'Kashmir Got Talent' event in Handwara, Sanu said he was happy to visit the Valley and experience its

>>> MORE ON P 02

MP Mian Altaf seeks immediate posting of full-time Tehsildars in Kangan, Gund

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 11: National Conference senior leader and Member of Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmad on Wednesday expressed serious concern over the continued absence of full-time Tehsildars in Kangan and Gund tehsils of Ganderbal district, urging the Jammu and Kashmir administration to fill the vacant posts without further delay.

Highlighting the difficulties faced by residents, Mian Altaf said the absence of regular revenue officers has severely affected the functioning of Tehsil offices, causing delays in essential public services and creating inconvenience for people seeking routine administrative assistance.

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Continue from Front Page.....

"I Wish Everyone

and prosperity to everyone, highlighting the festival's significance in strengthening family relationships and celebrating the warmth of sibling ties.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday extended warm greetings to people across the country on the occasion of Bhai Dooj, describing the festival as a celebration of the deep affection, warmth and enduring bond between brothers and sisters.

In a message posted on social media platform X, Modi conveyed his heartfelt wishes, saying, "Heartfelt greetings to all my family members across the country on the auspicious occasion of Bhai Dooj."

Emphasising the emotional and cultural significance of the festival, the Prime Minister said Bhai Dooj symbolised the sweetness and warmth of the profound relationship shared by siblings. "On this auspicious occasion, I wish everyone happiness and prosperity," he added.

Bhai Dooj, also known as Bhai Tika in parts of northern and eastern India and Bhai Phonta in West Bengal, is celebrated on the second day of the bright fortnight of the Hindu lunar month of Kartik, following Diwali. The festival is dedicated to celebrating the special bond between brothers and sisters, with sisters traditionally applying a ceremonial tilak on their brothers' foreheads and praying for their happiness, prosperity and long life.

Brothers, in turn, reaffirm their affection and commitment to their sisters, with the occasion marked by family gatherings, traditional rituals and the exchange of gifts.

Celebrated in different forms across the country, Bhai Dooj underscores the importance of familial relationships, mutual affection and the enduring ties that bind siblings across generations.

"The True

can be transformed into concrete solutions. He noted that the four facilities inaugurated today collectively reflect a comprehensive vision of smart agriculture and rural advancement.

The Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a solar-powered Internet of Things (IoT)-based irrigation and fertigation system, designed to provide crops with water and nutrients in the right quantity and at the right time. He observed that the technology has significant potential to benefit small and marginal farmers by reducing labour-intensive irrigation practices and dependence on conventional energy sources.

The Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated the Prototype Design and Development Centre, which will help translate innovative concepts into practical agricultural tools and technologies. He expressed confidence that the facility would promote mechanisation and bridge the gap between laboratory research and field-level application.

Highlighting the importance of entrepreneurship, the Lieutenant Governor described the newly established Directorate of Innovation and Entrepreneurship as a transformative initiative. He encouraged students to become job creators by establishing enterprises in areas such as seed testing, cold-chain management and soil health services. He asked the university to develop the directorate into a platform that provides mentoring, guidance and assistance in accessing capital for young entrepreneurs across Jammu Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated the Health and Wellness Centre, describing it as an important addition to the university's infrastructure for the well-being of students and faculty members.

Calling for sustained action, the Lieutenant Governor asked SKUAST-Kashmir to take the new irrigation technology to villages within the coming year and actively involve farmers in its improvement. He stressed the need to convert data collected through sensors into simple agricultural advisories in local languages and deliver them to farmers through digital platforms.

The Lieutenant Governor further encouraged the university to facilitate the establishment of at least 100 student-led startups, strengthen linkages among laboratories, cooperative societies, farmer-producer organisations and farmers, and place youth and women farmers at the centre of future programmes.

"We must make data and technology partners of the farmer. Our goal should be to establish at least 100 student-led enterprises and startups from the SKUAST-Kashmir campus within the coming year.

The University must become a strong bridge between laboratories and cooperative societies, between farmer-producer organisations, and between researchers and small and marginal farmers. I want youth and women farmers to be at the centre of every programme," he said.

Emphasising the growing challenges posed by climate change, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the university to make sustainable development and environmental stewardship central to its identity. He underlined that the true measure of progress lies in improving farmers' incomes, strengthening their economic security and expanding opportunities in rural areas.

"The identity of Jammu Kashmir lies in its hardworking farmers, artisans, and its rich traditions of agriculture, horticulture, and handicrafts. HADP's projects and farmer-centric policies in the past 6 years have played an important role in strengthening Jammu Kashmir's rural economy and creating new opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship among youth.

The real success of any modern technology or modern tools will come only when their benefits reach the small farmers in villages and bring about a real increase in their incomes.

I believe that the greatest test of any change is how much positive difference it makes in a farmer's life. The true measure of our progress should be the rising income of farmers, their economic security, a better future for their families, and the new opportunities emerging in rural areas," he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released a coffee table book highlighting the achievements and institutional journey of SKUAST-Kashmir. A Multi-Tier Data Management and Accreditation Workflow System, aimed at strengthening institutional data management and accreditation-related processes was also launched.

Shri Javid Ahmad Dar, Minister for Agriculture Production, Finance, Mining and Cooperatives; Prof. Nazir Ahmed Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir; Prof Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, Director, SKIMS; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Prof Azmat Alam Khan, Registrar SKUAST-K, HoDs, senior officials, faculty members and students attended the inaugural ceremony.

"Development Works

The Chief Minister is also scheduled to inaugurate several development projects and lay foundation stones for new works during his visit, marking the launch of additional development initiatives in the district.

Following his engagements in Udhampur, Omar Abdullah is scheduled to visit neighbouring Reasi district. [KNT]

"women have

of women in advancing education and creating opportunities for future generations.

Dr Darakshan Hassan Bhat, who attended the programme as the chief guest, highlighted the contributions of prominent women who played a significant role in education and social empowerment.

She recalled the contributions of historical figures, including Lal Ded, Habba Khatoon, Arnimal, Pandita Ramabai and Savitribai Phule, saying their contributions continue to inspire generations.

Referring to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Education Minister, Dr Darakshan highlighted his vision of unity in diversity and said every section of society, irrespective of caste, gender, religion or community, had contributed to the country's progress.

She stressed the need to uphold this inclusive vision while working towards the goal of Viksit Bharat.

Highlighting India's educational progress since Independence, she referred to the improvement in literacy levels, particularly among women, and said various government schemes, programmes and policies had expanded educational opportunities for girls and women.

She also said Kashmir was witnessing positive changes, with growing awareness, improved access to education and increased participation of women in different fields.

The seminar highlighted the role of women's education in strengthening communities and contributing to social and national development.

Through the initiative, KWO reiterated its commitment to promoting women's education and empowerment and providing platforms for discussions on issues concerning inclusive development.(KNS)

"India-Italy

The visit will feature the Second India-Italy Science and Innovation Dialogue 2026 in Rome on November 12, bringing together scientific institutions, researchers, innovation stakeholders and technology incubators from both countries.

The dialogue will focus on research excellence, strategic technologies, translating scientific research into innovation, institutional partnerships and developing a joint action agenda for future cooperation.

Singh is scheduled to meet Italy's Minister for University and Research Anna Maria Bernini and Minister responsible for Space and Aerospace Policy Adolfo Urso to discuss cooperation in science and technology, research and other strategic areas.

His programme in Trieste on November 13 will include visits to the Elettra Synchrotron Facility, the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB).

The engagements are expected to provide opportunities to explore collaboration in scientific research, research infrastructure and mobility of researchers.

The visit will also include an interaction with the Indian community in Rome and participation in a programme marking World Diabetes Day at the Embassy of India on November 14.

The visit is expected to further expand India-Italy cooperation in emerging and frontier scientific fields and strengthen institutional partnerships between the two countries. (PIB)

"This Is A

travellers and tourists to avoid unnecessary movement towards higher reaches, while district administrations have activated emergency arrangements to deal with possible disruptions.

Fresh snowfall was reported at Peer Ki Gali along the Mughal Road and in Gurez Valley on Wednesday, prompting authorities to suspend traffic on the strategic road and restrict tourist movement in vulnerable areas ahead of a major spell of rain and snowfall forecast across Jammu and Kashmir from November 12 to 14.

Officials said the Mughal Road, which connects south Kashmir with Rajouri and Poonch districts, was closed for vehicular movement following light rain and snowfall in the Peer Ki Gali area.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Traffic, Rajouri-Poonch Range, Ajaz Ahmed Choudhury, said the closure was ordered as a precautionary measure due to slippery road conditions.

Commuters have been advised to avoid travelling on the route until further clearance and remain in touch with traffic control rooms for updates.

Gurez Valley in north Kashmir also received fresh snowfall, covering parts of the area in a white blanket, as the district administration had already advised tourists against visiting the valley in view of the impending weather conditions.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast widespread rainfall in the plains and moderate to heavy snowfall in higher reaches during the three-day period, with some mountainous areas likely to receive one to two feet of snow.

Speaking to news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) Director Meteorological Centre Srinagar, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said an initial Western Disturbance was bringing light precipitation over isolated higher reaches, while the main weather activity was expected to begin in the early hours of November 12 and continue till the morning of November 14.

"This is a significant weather system. While rainfall will dominate in the plains, we expect moderate snowfall across tourist places, marking the season's first snowfall in Doodhpathri, Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg," Ahmad said.

He said higher reaches and mountain passes, including Peer Ki Gali, Sinthan Top, Zojila, Razdan Pass, Sadhna Top and Margan Pass, were likely to receive heavy snowfall, with accumulations of one to two feet possible at some locations.

The department has also indicated a 50 per cent possibility of light snowfall or mixed precipitation over the plains of Shopian, Kulgam, Kupwara, Bandipora and adjoining areas.

In view of the forecast, the Bandipora district administration has temporarily prohibited tourists from visiting Gurez Valley and asked those already staying there to plan their departure immediately in coordination with the District Control Room.

Candidates scheduled to appear in the Accounts Assistant written examination on November 15 have been advised to plan their journeys in advance and reach their examination centres before weather conditions deteriorate.

The administration has also advised expectant mothers living in upper reaches, whose expected dates of delivery fall within the next month, to shift to nearby hospitals to ensure timely medical assistance in case snowfall disrupts road connectivity.

Residents have been urged to avoid unnecessary travel towards Gurez and other higher reaches and refrain from organising social gatherings in vulnerable areas during the forecast period.

Meanwhile, the Anantnag district administration has activated its District Emergency Operation Centre round the clock to deal with weather-related emergencies and public grievances.

Departments, including Public Works (R&B), Mechanical Engineering, Revenue, Flood Control, PMGSY, Urban Local Bodies, KPDCL, Jal Shakti and Health and Medical Education, have been directed to take precautionary measures and keep manpower and machinery ready.

The administration has issued helpline numbers 01932-227112, 9697982527, 7780885759 and 9419091681 for public assistance.

The Meteorological Department has advised tourists, travellers and transporters to plan their journeys in advance, check road conditions before setting out and strictly follow traffic advisories.

Farmers have also been advised to suspend harvesting operations on November 12 and 13 and ensure that harvested crops are safely stored to prevent damage from rain and snowfall.

The fresh snowfall and the approaching weather system could affect traffic on several important mountain routes, including the Srinagar-Leh highway via Zojila, the Mughal Road and other high-altitude passes, the advisory said. (KNS)

NC's advisory

to engage with party-level groups, alleging that the arrangement raised serious concerns about political interference in administrative functioning.

"Dr Farooq Abdullah holds no constitutional or governmental office. On what authority is a party president directing Ministers of an elected Government to report to party-level groups? This clearly exposes the reality that the Government is being run from Gupkar rather than the Civil Secretariat," Sharma said.

He alleged that the National Conference was creating parallel arrangements to address its internal political challenges instead of strengthening established democratic institutions.

The LoP expressed concern that granting NC legislators exclusive access to ministers and advance information about policy decisions could undermine the principle of equal representation and marginalise opposition MLAs.

He said elected representatives, irrespective of their political affiliations, must have equal opportunities to raise public concerns and seek development for their constituencies.

"Governance cannot be based on party loyalty. Development must follow the needs and aspirations of the people, not the political convenience of the ruling party," Sharma said.

He further alleged that even the National Conference's alliance partners had been excluded from the proposed arrangement, which, according to him, indicated that the advisory groups were intended to manage dissatisfaction within the ruling party rather than promote inclusive governance.

Raising questions about the functioning and legal standing of the groups, Sharma sought clarification on whether their members would have access to departmental files, authority to review government expenditure or powers to question administrative officers.

He also questioned whether ministers would remain accountable to the Chief Minister and Legislative Assembly or be expected to answer to the party leadership.

"If these groups have no such powers, they are nothing more than a consolation prize offered to disgruntled NC MLAs. However, if they are allowed to exercise any administrative authority, they risk becoming unaccountable parallel power centers outside the established constitutional framework," he said.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir elected 90 MLAs, not just members of the National Conference," Sharma added.

The opposition leader maintained that the Legislative Assembly and its established committee system were the appropriate constitutional forums for reviewing government policies, examining departmental functioning and ensuring accountability.

He alleged that the proposed arrangement could bypass these mechanisms and weaken the role of the opposition in scrutinising government decisions.

"The Assembly is where the Government must answer questions, face scrutiny and remain accountable to the people through their elected representatives. Ministers are accountable to the House, not to political groups constituted by one party," he said.

Sharma also raised concerns about the possibility of official policy matters and departmental information being shared with informal party-level groups, arguing that ministers were bound by the responsibilities and obligations attached to their constitutional offices.

He said any sharing of confidential government information outside authorised channels would raise questions of propriety and accountability.

"Calling these groups 'informal' does not make the questions surrounding their functioning disappear. If they have no official role or authority, what purpose do they serve? And if they are being given access to official information and departmental functioning, under what rules and legal authority is this being done?" he questioned.

Sharma further alleged that the National Conference, unable to accommodate all its legislators in the Council of Ministers because of constitutional restrictions on its size, had devised the advisory groups to placate dissatisfied MLAs without assigning them meaningful responsibilities.

"This is nothing but political eyewash designed to silence internal dissent and keep unhappy MLAs within the party fold," he said.

He claimed that the ruling party's focus on managing its internal affairs was coming at the cost of effective governance and institutional accountability.

Suggesting an alternative, Sharma urged the government to establish all-party consultative committees on the lines of parliamentary practices and mechanisms followed in other state legislatures.

He said such committees would allow elected representatives from across the political spectrum to participate in policy discussions, offer feedback and contribute to governance while maintaining transparency and accountability.

"Such committees would ensure participation across party lines, promote transparency, strengthen democratic institutions and give every elected representative an opportunity to contribute to governance. Jammu and Kashmir deserves accountable and inclusive governance, not party-controlled parallel arrangements," he said.

Reiterating his opposition to the proposed advisory groups, Sharma said democratic institutions must remain above party interests and that the government should be accountable to the elected legislature rather than political leadership outside the constitutional framework.

"Ministers answer to the elected House, not to the president of a political party. The institutions of democracy must remain supreme, not the interests of one party or one family," he added. (KNS)

MP Mian

He said several important services, including the issuance of revenue documents, income and category certificates, mutation of land records and redressal of public grievances, have been badly affected, forcing residents, particularly farmers and students, to make repeated visits to government offices.

The MP pointed out that Kangan and Gund cover vast geographical areas, including several remote, hilly and border villages, where people already face difficulties in accessing government services.He said managing these important revenue offices through additional charge arrangements was inadequate to meet the growing administrative requirements of the region.

"Kangan and Gund are geographically expansive sub-divisions comprising numerous hilly and border villages. Managing these offices through additional charge arrangements is insufficient to meet the administrative demands of the region," Mian Altaf said.

He further stressed that the absence of dedicated Tehsildars directly affects governance at the grassroots level and delays the delivery of essential services to the public.

"The lack of dedicated administrative heads in Tehsil offices directly affects governance at the grassroots level," he added. Mian Altaf urged the Commissioner Secretary Revenue and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to take immediate notice of the matter and ensure the posting of independent, full-time Tehsildars in both Kangan and Gund.

He said timely intervention was necessary to restore the smooth functioning of revenue offices, address public grievances and ensure that residents, particularly those living in far-flung areas, do not continue to suffer due to administrative vacancies.

"What I Heard

atmosphere and meet its people, adding that his visit had changed his perception of the region.

"I came to Kashmir for the first time in my lifetime, and that too in Kupwara. I am so happy that I came here and saw the reality. I really want to come to Kashmir again and again," he said.

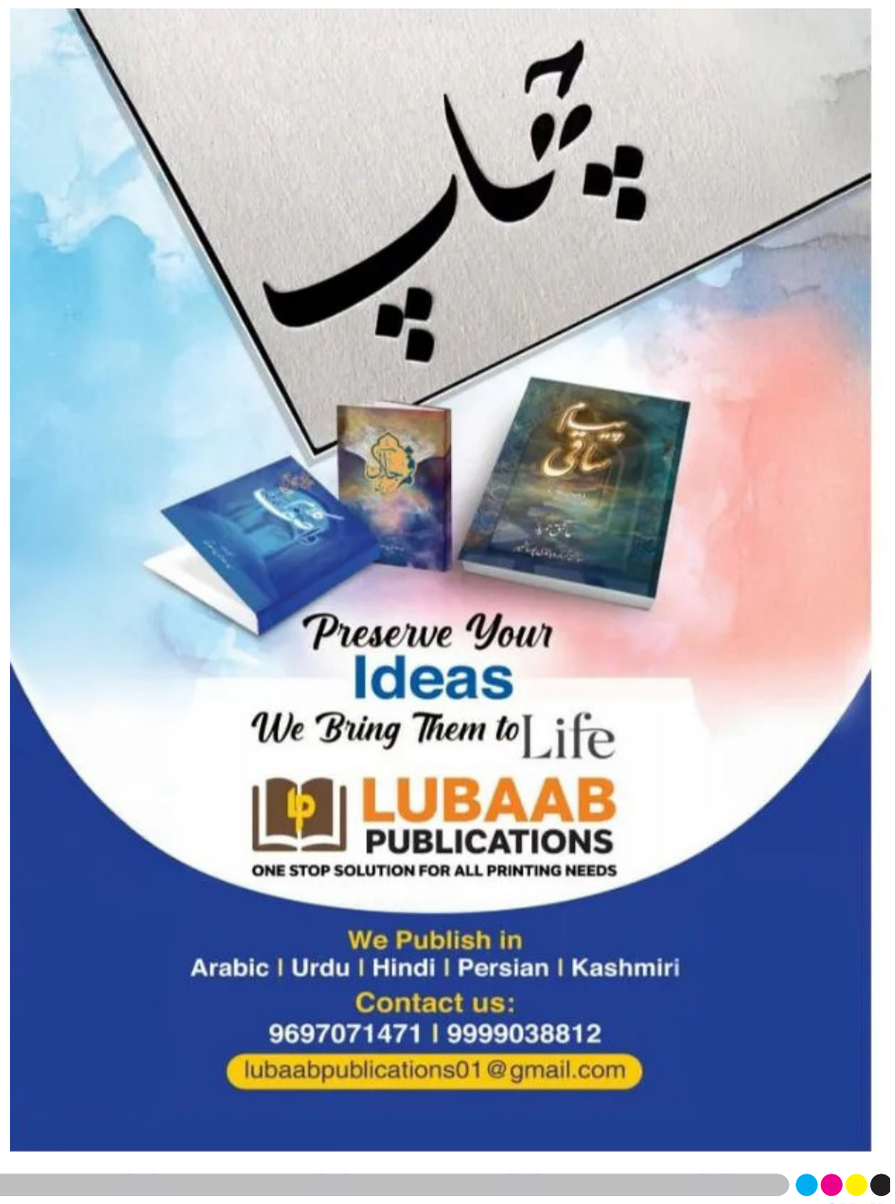
The singer said he was impressed by the talent among Kashmiri youth and stressed the need to provide them with opportunities to develop their skills and pursue careers in music and other creative fields.

He said he would try to collaborate with local artists and contribute towards promoting their talent.

"I have seen the talent of the people of Kashmir. They are so talented. I am trying to collaborate with the people of Kashmir. A singer and a song can collaborate, and I am doing that," he said.

Sanu also revealed that he was working on a duet with a Kashmiri female singer and would record a romantic song in Kashmiri.

The singer emphasised that talent promotion programmes should not remain confined to major towns but should also reach remote areas, where many aspiring artists lack access to platforms and professional guidance.



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DC Pulwama reviews arrangements for OMR-based Accounts Assistant examination scheduled on November 15

Emphasises foolproof security, transparency, adequate transport facilities and candidate-friendly arrangements

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a review meeting at Circuit House, Pulwama, to assess the arrangements for the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the OMR-based written examination for the post of Accounts Assistant (Finance Department), scheduled to be conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on November 15, 2026.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation was made before the Chair on the preparations undertaken for the examination, covering the deployment of staff, Magistrates and Observers, management of examination centres, security arrangements and adherence to the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The presentation also covered the procedures for collection, transportation, opening, sealing and deposition of examination-related material on the day of the examination.

The meeting was informed that the requisite training for examination staff had already been conducted at Government Degree College Boys, Pulwama. Arrangements being put in place by various stakeholder departments, including Education, Jal Shakti, Transport and other concerned departments, were also reviewed.

Emphasising the importance of impartiality and compliance with examination protocols, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure proper management and sanitisation of all examination centres, including verification of deployed personnel and adequate arrangements for drinking water and washroom facilities. He further emphasised that candidates with disabilities must be provided all necessary assistance, with their examination rooms preferably allotted on the ground floor to ensure ease of access and avoid inconvenience.

Reviewing the security arrangements, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised that the fairness, credibility and confidentiality of the examination must be maintained at all costs. He directed the Police Department to ensure adequate security inside and outside every examination centre and maintain strict vigil throughout the examination process. At the same time, he stressed that security protocols must be implemented professionally, without causing unnecessary inconvenience or harassment to candidates.

He further directed that frisking arrangements be conducted in a systematic and dignified manner, with separate provisions for male and female candidates. Female candidates shall be frisked by designated female security personnel, with assistance from female staff of the respective institutions wherever required. Entry into examination centres shall be strictly restricted to candidates possessing valid admit cards.The Deputy Commissioner also emphasised strict adherence to the prescribed SOPs governing the handling, opening, sealing and transportation of examination material. He directed all concerned officers and Centre Superintendents to thoroughly familiarise themselves with their assigned duties and responsibilities. He made it clear that mobile phones and other unauthorised items shall not be permitted inside the examination centres. He also directed that all examination-related instructions and necessary information be prominently displayed at the centres.

The meeting was further informed that JKSSB officials would be deployed at each examination centre as well as at the district headquarters to monitor the arrangements and ensure effective coordination. The Deputy Commissioner directed all line departments to put in place the requisite arrangements well before the commencement of the examination and maintain close coordination to address any issues arising during the process.Concluding the review, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised that ensuring a fair, transparent and hassle-free examination is the collective responsibility.

SDM Karnah inspects Farmer ID Generation Camps, reviews progress of Registration Drive

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 11: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Karnah, Firdous Ahmad Qadri accompanied by Tehsildar Karnah today inspected the Farmer ID Generation Camps being organised at various locations across the Karnah Sub-Division to review the progress of the ongoing registration process and assess the arrangements being made for facilitating farmers.

During the inspection, the SDM interacted with the officials and field functionaries deployed at the camps and took stock of the progress achieved in generating Farmer IDs. He emphasised the importance of ensuring that every eligible farmer is covered under the registration exercise so that they can avail the benefits of various government schemes and agriculture-related services.

The SDM directed the concerned Revenue and Agriculture Department officials to maintain close coordination and ensure that the registration process is carried out smoothly, efficiently and without causing inconvenience to the farming community. He stressed the need for special attention towards residents of remote and far-flung areas, ensuring that no eligible farmer is left out due to geographical constraints or connectivity-related issues.

DLSA Budgam celebrates National Education Day

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 11: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, celebrated National Education Day at Al Asma Educational Institute, with the objective of creating awareness among students about the importance of education, its role in shaping responsible citizens and its significance in promoting an informed and empowered society.

On the occasion, Advocate Feroz Ahmad Khan, Resource Person from District Legal Services Authority, Budgam, interacted with the students and highlighted the importance of education as a fundamental tool for individual development, social progress and nation-building.

He also emphasised the role of education in creating awareness about constitutional values, fundamental rights and duties, equality and access to justice.

The programme witnessed active participation from the students and staff of Al Asma Educational Institute, officials and staff members of DLSA Budgam and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Budgam.

The programme aimed at sensitising students about the importance of education, awareness of their rights and responsibilities and the role of educational institutions in building an inclusive and just society.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment to promote educational awareness and legal literacy among students and the general public through such awareness programmes. BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 11: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, celebrated National Education Day at Al Asma Educational Institute.

SMC Commissioner reviews Winter Preparedness

Directs Field Teams to remain alert and ensure Swift Response

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 11: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today reviewed the Corporation's preparedness for the prevailing weather forecast and took stock of the follow-up action on directions issued during the previous review meeting.

The meeting, held at the SMC Central Office, Karan Nagar, focused on the availability of men and machinery, snow clearance arrangements and the functioning of field and monitoring teams.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner, Works, Joint Commissioner, H&S, Chief Accounts Officer, Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineers of various wings, Purchase and Procurement Officer, Chief Sanitation Officer, Stores Officer and other concerned officers.

Reviewing the arrangements across the city, the Commissioner directed all concerned officers to ensure that field teams, machinery and essential equipment remain available for immediate response to any situation arising from adverse weather conditions. He stressed the need for close coordination among the concerned wings so that issues on the ground are addressed without delay.

With regard to snow clearance, Dr. Basharat directed that both manual and mechanised arrangements be maintained across all municipal wards. Major roads and important public routes are to be cleared on priority, particularly those connecting hospitals, ration depots, shrines and government institutions. He also called for adequate manpower to undertake manual clearance in interior lanes, narrow streets, footpaths and areas inaccessible to snow clearance vehicles.

Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026: Awareness, Sports, Painting, Agricultural Activities organised across Bandipora

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BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 11: As part of the ongoing observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026, various departments and educational institutions across District Bandipora organised a series of awareness, educational, sports and community-oriented activities to celebrate tribal heritage and promote awareness about government initiatives.

Educational institutions in Zone Bandipora and Zone Quilmuqam organised painting competitions, table tennis activities and cleanliness drives, providing students an opportunity to showcase their creativity, sporting abilities and commitment towards environmental cleanliness.

Meanwhile, the Agriculture Department organised awareness activities in Zone Aloosa and celebrated Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas along with the Khet Bachao Abhiyan at Chorwan in Sub-Division Gurez, highlighting the importance of agricultural awareness and community participation in tribal areas.

The Department of Horticulture also conducted awareness programmes in tribal villages, covering Chandaji in Bandipora and Chorwan and Badoab in Gurez.

The activities witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, farmers, local residents and departmental functionaries, reinforcing the objectives of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada through awareness, education, cultural engagement and grassroots-level participation.

Arrangements for JKSSB Accounts Assistant Examination finalised in Budgam

■ HT News Network



BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 11: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, today chaired a meeting to review and finalise arrangements for the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the OMR-based examination for the posts of Accounts Assistant (Finance Department), scheduled to be conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on November 15.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Secretary, JKSSB, ASP Budgam and all conecrend officers and officials.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the arrangements was undertaken, including the deployment of Centre Superintendents, Magistrates, Invigilators and security personnel at all designated examination centres.

The deployment of videographers was also finalised to ensure proper documentation and monitoring of the examination proceedings. It was further informed that CCTV cameras have been installed at the examination centres to facilitate live monitoring and enhance transparency.

The ADC also reviewed arrangements for the secure transportation and handling of both sensitive and non-sensitive examination material, besides security arrangements, traffic management, seating capacity and availability of essential facilities at all examination centres.

Emphasising the need for effective inter-departmental coordination, the ADC directed all concerned officers to ensure that their respective arrangements are completed well in advance and responsibilities are discharged with utmost diligence.He stressed strict adherence to the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), examination guidelines and security protocols at every stage of the process.The ADC further directed that all personnel deployed for examination duties be properly briefed and sensitised about their roles, responsibilities and the prescribed procedures to ensure efficient and coordinated execution of duties.

Heads of Institutions and Centre Superintendents were directed to ensure adequate seating arrangements, drinking water, sanitation, cleanliness and other essential facilities for candidates at all examination centres.

The ADC underscored that foolproof security arrangements, continuous monitoring and close coordination among all stakeholder departments are imperative for ensuring the smooth, orderly and transparent conduct of the examination across all centres.

All concerned departments were directed to remain fully prepared for the successful conduct of the examination across the district.

DC Ganderbal presides over Public Outreach Programme at Sherpathri

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 11: The District Administration Ganderbal today convened a Public Outreach Programme at Block Headquarters Sherpathri in order to listen to the grievances of the general public. The camp was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, accompanied by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Ganderbal, Harshal Rajesh Mahajan, Additional District Development Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Divisional Forest Officer Sindh Forest Division, and other district and sectoral officers.

The camp witnessed overwhelming participation of ex-PRI members, and locals of Block Sherpathri, who apprised the administration of various long-pending demands and issues pertaining to their respective areas, seeking intervention for timely redressal.

On the occasion, the locals and PRI members raised various demands and issues like upgradation of water and power infrastructure, development of roads, electricity supply, better healthcare and other issues of public importance. The locals also demanded strict measures to curb the menace of drug abuse.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the grievances and demands raised by the participants and appreciated their active participation in highlighting issues concerning their communities. She assured that all genuine grievances would be addressed in a time-bound manner and directed the concerned officers to take prompt and necessary action to resolve the issues before the next Block Diwas.

DC Pulwama chairs public outreach-cum-grievance redressal camp at Tenghar Payer

Emphasises effective implementation of SSS Campaign and time-bound redressal of public grievances

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a Public Outreach-cum-Grievance Redressal Camp at Tenghar Payar in Block Pulwama, providing residents of Tenghar, Payar, Mughalpora, Chandgam, Trichal, Mashpora, Nowhar Mallapora and adjoining villages an opportunity to project their grievances and developmental demands.

Various departments, including Health, Education, Social Welfare, Revenue, Jal Shakti, Rural Development, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry, District Industries Centre and J&K Bank, established stalls to facilitate on-the-spot service delivery, disseminate information about government schemes and interact with the public. The DC inspected the stalls and reviewed the services being provided.

A major focus of the camp was the SSS Campaign (Skill Development, Self-Employment, Sports and Studies), under which household-level skill mapping and registration of individuals aged 18–59 years is being undertaken.

The DC urged residents to ensure registration of all eligible household members, particularly unemployed youth and women, to facilitate access to skill training, entrepreneurship support, sports coaching and educational opportunities. He said the initiative aims to identify individual skills and aspirations and connect eligible persons with suitable opportunities and institutional support.

During the interaction, village delegations projected demands relating to flood protection, drinking water, irrigation, healthcare, road connectivity, electricity, education and sports infrastructure. Key issues included flood protection and diversion of the Nallah at Chatripura, restoration of water supply and filtration facilities, construction and upgradation of roads, establishment of health and veterinary facilities, development of playgrounds and public parks, irrigation facilities for karewa land and orchards, and provision of a modern library and reading hall.

The DC gave a patient hearing to the delegations and individuals and issued specific directions to the concerned departments for field inspections, feasibility assessments, preparation of estimates and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), and necessary follow-up action.

The DC also urged farmers to generate their Farm IDs through the concerned Revenue, Agriculture and Horticulture offices to facilitate access to various government schemes and benefits.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said that public outreach camps aim to bring governance and essential services closer to people by providing a direct platform for interaction with the administration and prompt grievance redressal. He stressed that all officers must remain accessible, ensure close interdepartmental coordination and adopt a result-oriented approach so that grievances raised during the camps translate into tangible outcomes on the ground. He emphasised that his doors remain open to the public and assured residents that their genuine concerns would receive due attention. He also urged people to make optimum use of departmental stalls and actively participate in such outreach initiatives.

The camp was attended by district and sectoral officers, representatives of various line departments, public representatives, local delegations and a large number of residents.

National Education Conclave 2026 held at Government College of Education Srinagar

Experts, policymakers and academicians deliberate on NEP-2020 implementation, higher education reforms and competency-based learning

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 11: The Innovation and Action Research Cell of the Government College of Education (IASE), Cluster University Srinagar, organized the National Education Conclave-2026 today.

Conceived as a premier platform for policy dialogue, instructional reflection, and actionable recommendations, the conclave aimed to bridge the visionary framework of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 with the implementation realities and strategic priorities of Jammu & Kashmir.

The event brought together eminent policymakers, educational administrators, and scholars from across the country to deliberate on two pivotal thematic tracks: "How far have the structural and curricular reforms envisaged under NEP 2020 translated into institutional practice?" in Higher Education, and "Competency-Based Education, Holistic Progress Card and Learner Development" in School Education.

The inaugural session commenced with the solemn rendering of the National Song and the National Anthem, and was attended by Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, J&K Higher Education Council; Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Mobin, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar; Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Principal of the host college, Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges; Prof. (Dr.) Syed Wilayat Hussain Rizvi, Registrar, Cluster University Srinagar; Prof. (Dr.) Khurshid Ahmad Mir, Controller of Examinations, Cluster University Srinagar; Prof. Aarti Srivastava, Professor & Head, Department of Higher & Professional Education, NIEPA; Prof. Sharad Sinha, Head, Department of Teacher Education, NCERT, New Delhi; and Prof. Amit Kauts, Dean, Faculty of Education, GNDU, Amritsar.

The Chief Guest, Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, Higher Education Council, J&K, delivered an inspiring keynote address reflecting deeply on the real meaning and purpose of education. He observed that true education is achieved when an individual begins to hear their own "inner drumbeat" and learns to march in tune with it. Drawing vivid examples from the lives and journeys of Mahatma Gandhi, Sachin Tendulkar, and Amitabh Bachchan, he shed light on how tuning into one's inner calling and cultivating intrinsic passions is what ultimately guarantees enduring excellence and success in life. While accentuating the philosophy behind progressive academic frameworks, Prof. Singh urged educational institutions to orient students toward real-world problems. He emphasized that students must acquaint themselves directly with societal and industry challenges, stressing that learning to work collaboratively in groups to confront and solve these challenges constitutes the true essence of 21st-century education.

Addressing the gathering as the Guest of Honour, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Mobin, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, remarked that we are living in an unprecedented era of change where technology is rapidly overtaking conventional systems and demanding a fundamental restructuring of education. He stressed that the effective implementation of NEP-2020 must be firmly anchored in quality, relevance, high-impact research, and institutional collaboration. Emphasizing the central role of teacher education institutions in transforming the educational ecosystem, Prof. Mobin highlighted the essential shift in the role of the teacher from the traditional notion of a mere knowledge giver to that of a mentor, facilitator, guide, and researcher. He further underscored that realizing the mandates of NEP-2020 cannot be treated as the sole responsibility of governments and universities alone, but requires proactive, shared commitment from all educational stakeholders.

Earlier, Prof. Naz highlighted a major institutional milestone, sharing that the college has been granted official recognition by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) to run B.Ed, M.Ed, Integrated B.Ed–M.Ed, and the flagship Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) across both B.Sc.–B.Ed. and B.A.–B.Ed. streams.

Fazl Illahi, Coordinator, Innovation and Action Research Cell, IASE, presented the National Conclave Rationale. He underscored that we are living in a rapidly shifting VUCA world, marked by pervasive volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity, where Artificial Intelligence has profoundly disrupted conventional paradigms. In light of this transformation, he stressed the urgent necessity for teachers and teacher-educators to fundamentally rethink and recalibrate their professional roles to equip learners with the adaptability, resilience, and competencies needed to overcome the emerging challenges of this complex landscape.

A major highlight of the inaugural session was the formal release of the college newsletter, Cascade, alongside the research journal, Inquiry, unveiled jointly by the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, and the faculty of IASE.

Meanwhile, two Panel Discussions were also held. The first, chaired by Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, Higher Education Council, J&K, deliberated on translating structural and curricular reforms under NEP 2020 into institutional practice, focusing on research, digitisation, faculty development, internships, employability, institutional autonomy and industry-academia collaboration.

The second panel, chaired by Prof. Sharad Sinha, Head, Department of Teacher Education, NCERT, New Delhi, focused on competency-based education, Holistic Progress Cards and learner development. The discussion highlighted the transition from rote-based examinations towards continuous, formative and learner-centric assessment, experiential learning, inclusive education and strengthening teachers' capacities.

The panellists emphasised the need for stronger institutional collaboration, adequate infrastructure, teacher training and meaningful engagement of parents and industry to ensure effective implementation of NEP 2020. The discussions also underscored the importance of nurturing critical thinking, creativity, emotional resilience and practical competencies among learners.

The conclave concluded with a valedictory session, during which certificates were distributed among panellists, speakers and members of the organising committee.

People of Kreeri alleged that the MD SRTC is tight-lipped after giving sporadic commitments

Every effort was made to avail the separate JKSRTC bus service.

■ Syed Tajamul Bukhari

Baramulla:- 11 Nov 2026:- Residents of Kreeri say they have repeatedly requested an independent bus service from the Managing Director of JKSRTC. They report making several visits to the office, where it was declared openly that new buses were envisioned to arrive and that a dedicated service for Kreeri would be prioritised. Residents say this commitment has not yet been fulfilled.

The only SRTC bus currently operating between Kakothal and Srinagar is frequently overcrowded, serving students and employees travelling to the city. During peak hours, it often reaches capacity, preventing some passengers from boarding. As a result, commuters face long waits and delays and may struggle to reach schools, colleges, and workplaces on time.

Residents are calling for an additional bus service between Kreeri and Srinagar. They state that daily travel demand warrants at least three buses given the number of students attending educational institutions in Srinagar and employees commuting to work, including in the expanding corporate sector. In their view, the shortage of transport options is making reliable travel increasingly difficult.

Improved bus services would make daily commuting more manageable and help connect Kreeri residents with educational and employment opportunities in Srinagar. Residents are urging the relevant authorities to address their request promptly.

According to reliable sources, between 10 and 15 new buses have arrived and are currently at the SRTC yard, awaiting steps to improve service delivery. Residents also say the Managing Director had previously promised to allocate a new bus to Kreeri.

Repeated attempts to contact JKSRTC Managing Director Ab. Rashid War for comments were unsuccessful. He did not answer the calls and was unavailable to provide a response.

CUKashmir celebrates National Education Day with panel discussion on 'Priorities of Hr Edu in light of NEP 2020'

■ HT News Network



Ganderbal, Nov 11: School of Education, Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir), celebrated the National Education Day 2026 by organising a panel discussion on "Priorities of Higher Education in India in the Light of NEP-2020 Recommendations" at Tulmulla campus here on Wednesday.

Highlighting the broader purpose of education, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, in his presidential address, said, it (education) must contribute to the development of the economy, progress of society and fostering leadership. Emphasising the learner-centric approach of NEP 2020, he said, "Earlier, whatever teacher used to prepare, that was his requirement. But today, you have to decide what career you want to choose." Prof. A Ravinder Nath explained that students enter higher education with different aspirations, including employment, further education and entrepreneurship. He said that institutions must recognise these diverse pathways and provide opportunities through skill-based courses, research, professional education and enterprise. The Vice-Chancellor said that inclusive and equitable education must take into account the ability, background and interests of each learner. He underlined the need to promote holistic and multidisciplinary learning by bringing together academics, research and outreach activities. He referred to the importance of human values, ethics and the Indian Knowledge System in shaping responsible citizens. In his speech, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Shahid Rasool, described the rapid changes brought about by technology, digital access and artificial intelligence, and said that these developments were reshaping teaching and learning. He observed that "digital-native" students learned through multiple sources, while employers increasingly sought demonstrable skills rather than degrees alone.

SSP Bandipora Conducts Extensive Two-Day Tour of Gurez Subdivision, Reviews Security Scenario

BANDIPORA, November 11: SSP Bandipora Shri Tahir Saleem-JKPS, accompanied by SDPO Gurez Sh Manzoor Ahmed, conducted an extensive two-day tour of Gurez Subdivision to review the security situation, assess police functioning and strengthen public outreach.

During the tour, SSP Bandipora visited Police Stations Gurez and Tulail, Police Posts Izmarg and Buduab, and Border Police Posts Dassi Tarbal, Sati-Naar, Hajibal-Nar and Traffic Check Post Kanzalwan. He reviewed the overall security scenario, crime situation, intelligence-gathering mechanisms and operational preparedness of these police establishments.

Grand Finale of 'Kashmir Got Talent' concludes with Vibrant Youth Performances in Kupwara

■ DR.AB QAYOOM



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 11: The mega youth talent hunt initiative, 'Kashmir Got Talent', culminated today with a grand finale held at Government Degree College (GDC) Kupwara, witnessing enthusiastic participation, cultural vibrancy, and an impressive display of artistic talent by the youth of the region.

The initiative was jointly organised by the District Administration, Indian Army, and Taha Film International to provide a professional platform for local youth to showcase their creative abilities and nurture emerging talent across diverse artistic domains.

The talent hunt received an overwhelming response, registering over 600 entries and witnessing participation from more than 400 boys and girls in categories including singing, dancing, art and craft, and other unique talent showcases. Following multiple rounds of screening and competition, the top 10 finalists were shortlisted to perform at the grand finale.

The grand finale was graced by Major General, Rakesh Nair and Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, who jointly presided over the proceedings. The occasion also witnessed the presence of notable figures from the Indian film and entertainment industry, including actor-producer Harman Baweja, Vipin Sharma, Ashwath Bhatt, Namrata Jadhav, and Kapil Matoo.

A special highlight of the occasion was the presence of renowned playback singer Kumar Sanu, who delighted the audience by performing live and singing a few of his classic melodies. Commending the raw talent and creative expression of the young contestants, Sanu interacted with the finalists, offering encouraging words and practical guidance, while underscoring the importance of perseverance and disciplined practice in the performing arts.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the rich artistic legacy and cultural depth of Kashmir, observing that such platforms are specifically organised to ensure that hidden local talent finds a voice, recognition, and the right direction. He noted that the presence of legendary singer Kumar Sanu added immense significance and inspiration to the initiative, giving the young contenders invaluable exposure to national excellence.

The DC extended warm gratitude to all contributing partners, including the Indian Army, District Police Kupwara, and the College Administration for their seamless coordination and support. He also lauded the guest artists and local performers, and expressed heartfelt appreciation to the participants and the people of Kupwara for their overwhelming enthusiasm and active engagement in making the event a resounding success.

Underlining the broader socio-developmental impact, the DC emphasised that cultivating creative platforms for youth not only celebrates regional heritage but also plays a key role in strengthening tourism potential and promoting positive engagement in border districts.

The grand finale concluded with the felicitation of the winners and participants by the dignitaries, amid enthusiastic applause and appreciation from the audience. The grand finale concluded with the felicitation of the winners and participants by the dignitaries, amid enthusiastic applause and appreciation from the audience.

IUST celebrates 21 years of academic excellence
Open Day, Fests mark Foundation Week celebrations

■ HT News Network



Awantipora, Nov 11: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) celebrated its 21st Foundation Day on Wednesday at its Main Campus, Awantipora, with a series of activities. The events included Open Day, TechExpo 2026, Food Fest, Book Fest, Industrial Meet, Alumni Meet, Art Exhibition and Cultural Fest.

The celebrations commenced with the inaugural session at Nund Reshi Auditorium with Prof. Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor, IUST, who attended as Chief Guest, described the University's 21st Foundation Day as an occasion to celebrate its achievements, institutional growth and collective endeavours. Calling IUST a symbol of transformation and progress, he congratulated all those who contributed to its remarkable journey over the past two decades.

Emphasising the need to reimagine teaching and learning, Prof. Romshoo highlighted the University's Four year Undergraduate programs in emerging areas as a pioneering model of interdisciplinary and experiential education. He called for addressing National Education Policy implementation gaps and developing a robust, outcome-oriented roadmap for effectively implementing the NEP.

Prof. Romshoo urged the University to prioritise research, innovation and entrepreneurship that address J&K's developmental challenges, generate employment and contribute to sustainable economic growth. Reaffirming IUST's commitment to Viksit IUST 2047, aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, he emphasised embracing AI and emerging technologies while safeguarding human wisdom, creativity and ethical values.

Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, said, IUST is not merely a degree-granting institution but an ecosystem that has evolved remarkably over the past 21 years. He said, the University has demonstrated its relevance in emerging fields and while Artificial Intelligence is being widely discussed, IUST had taken an early lead by launching a programme in AI. He added that a large number of students seeking admission to the programme speaks volumes about its relevance and quality.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Shameem Ahmad Shah, Registrar IUST, stressed that everyone needs to collectively work to take IUST to new heights of progress and play their full role in strengthening the connection between the University and society.

Prof. Shah further added that over the past year, several important initiatives had been undertaken in the University, particularly in the areas of academics, recruitment and promotions, which have witnessed significant progress. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders for their timely support and cooperation.

Dean Outreach, IUST, Dr. Ruheela Hassan, said, the University has developed a comprehensive outreach framework, which has gradually evolved into a model of institutional engagement that can be replicated and adopted widely.

DC Ganderbal inspects Heritage Preservation and Restoration Works

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today undertook an extensive inspection tour of various heritage sites across the district to review the progress of ongoing preservation, restoration and conservation works being executed under the scheme "Revival, Restoration, Preservation & Maintenance of Architecture & Heritage."

During the tour, the DC inspected the ongoing developmental and restoration works at Ghat Temple, Prayag Raj, Narayan Bagh. She also visited Roop Bhawani Temple at Waskura to assess the progress of roof restoration and other conservation works.

Later, the DC visited Jarokabagh to take stock of the ongoing restoration and conservation of historical remains at the site.

During the inspection, the DC directed the concerned executing agencies and officers to ensure strict adherence to prescribed quality standards and timely completion of the works.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ganderbal, Chief Planning Officer Ganderbal, Executive Engineer, PW(R&B), Ganderbal, and other concerned officials.

SWD Srinagar commences Career Counselling Programmes across Government High Schools under BBBP

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 11: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, today chaired a meeting to review and finalise arrangements for the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the OMR-based examination for the posts of Accounts Assistant (Finance Department), scheduled to be conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on November 15.

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The deployment of videographers was also finalised to ensure proper documentation and monitoring of the examination proceedings. It was further informed that CCTV cameras have been installed at the examination centres to facilitate live monitoring and enhance transparency.

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The ADC further directed that all personnel deployed for examination duties be properly briefed and sensitised about their roles, responsibilities and the prescribed procedures to ensure efficient and coordinated execution of duties.

SWD Budgam organises Awareness Programme on Dowry Prohibition Act at Kokerbagh

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 11: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Budgam, through Sankalp–Hub for Empowerment of Women (Sankalp-HEW), Mission Shakti, organised an awareness programme on the Dowry Prohibition Act at Marriage Hall, Kokerbagh, with the objective of sensitising frontline workers about the legal provisions of the Act and strengthening awareness regarding women's rights and legal safeguards. During the programme, Advocate Ishfaq Rasool, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) spoke on the Dowry Prohibition Act and elaborated on its key provisions, legal implications and the need to eradicate the practice of dowry from society. He emphasised the importance of legal awareness and highlighted the role of frontline workers in educating communities, discouraging dowry-related practices and promoting gender equality. Yaqoob, Protection Officer, Mission Vatsalya, also addressed the participants and provided an overview of Mission Vatsalya, highlighting its objectives, key interventions and important schemes aimed at ensuring the care, protection and welfare of children. He elaborated on various child protection mechanisms and emphasised the importance of coordinated efforts at the grassroots level to safeguard the rights and interests of children, particularly those in need of care and protection. The programme witnessed participation from frontline workers associated with Mission Poshan and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). The District Mission Coordinator and Gender Specialists of Sankalp-HEW, Budgam.

SWD Srinagar organizes Community Awareness Programmes on Scholarships, Sponsorship, Skill Development, Social Security Schemes

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 11: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, through SANKALP–Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), organized Community Awareness Programmes at Tailbal, Srinagar to sensitize and inform the public, particularly women and girls, about various welfare initiatives and government schemes aimed at promoting social and economic empowerment. During the programme, participants were sensitized about various scholarship schemes, sponsorship support, skill development courses and social security schemes available for eligible beneficiaries. Detailed information was shared regarding the eligibility criteria, application procedures, benefits and the process of accessing these schemes. The initiative aimed at ensuring that deserving beneficiaries are aware of the available opportunities and are able to avail themselves of the benefits extended by the Government.

In another initiative, the Department organized awareness programme in collaboration with Mission POSHAN, focusing on the welfare and empowerment of women, adolescent girls and other community members in Zone Tailbal. The programme provided a platform to disseminate information on various women-centric welfare initiatives, Scholarships and social protection measures, while encouraging community participation.

DDC Pulwama reviews progress of Mission YUVA
Banks to clear all pending cases within specific timelines

■ HT NEWS NETWORK



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 11: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the implementation and progress of Mission YUVA at Circuit House, Pulwama.

The meeting was convened to review the overall progress of the scheme, assess the status of applications at different stages and address issues affecting timely processing, sanctioning and disbursement of financial assistance to aspiring entrepreneurs.

During the meeting, a detailed review was undertaken of various aspects of Mission YUVA, including district-wise applications received, application verification, DLIC approvals, bank-wise pendency, age-wise analysis of cases pending with banks, reasons for rejection of applications by banks, and the status of cases reprocessed after rejection. The meeting also examined cases pending with banks for the second time, sanctioned cases awaiting disbursement, and output tracking, including progress reports, completion reports and their verification by the concerned authorities.

Taking note of the pendency of cases at various bank branches, the DDC directed the Lead District Manager and concerned bank authorities to undertake regular monitoring and ensure expeditious disposal of all pending cases. He observed that unnecessary delays and prolonged pendency, particularly cases remaining unresolved beyond two to three months, would not be acceptable.

The DDC stressed that the scheme must be implemented in mission mode, with focused efforts to clear all pending cases and achieve substantial progress within the current month. He directed all concerned officers and bank representatives to ensure that every eligible case is processed, with particular emphasis on timely disbursement and completion of entrepreneurial units.

He further directed that the updated status of cases be furnished every Saturday, ensuring continuous monitoring and accountability at every level.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Pulwama, Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Awantipora and Tral, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Pulwama; Zonal Head, J&K Bank, Pulwama.

National Education Day celebrated with enthusiasm at GDC Sopore
ADC Sopore calls for active Youth Participation in Transforming Education

■ HT News Network



BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 11: The Sub-Divisional Administration Sopore today celebrated National Education Day 2026 with great enthusiasm at Government Degree College (Boys), Sopore, commemorating the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Education Minister.

The programme was organised under the theme "The Power of Youth in Co-Creating Education," highlighting the importance of youth participation, educational innovation, inclusive learning, skill development and leadership in shaping the future of education.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, S.A. Raina, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, he emphasised the importance of quality education in shaping the future of society and called upon students to actively participate in transforming the education system through innovation, creativity and leadership. He encouraged the young generation to make the best use of educational opportunities, develop new skills and contribute meaningfully towards nation-building. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students representing various schools and colleges, besides principals, teachers, faculty members, research scholars and other educational stakeholders.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Government Degree College (Boys), Sopore, Dr. Shahid Muzaffar Ahmad, delivered an insightful address, highlighting the role of education in shaping character, nurturing responsible citizens and preparing the younger generation to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

The programme also provided a platform for students and academicians to reflect on the importance of youth engagement in building an inclusive, innovative and progressive education system.

ADC Handwara inspects Examination Centres ahead of JKSSB Accounts Assistant Examination

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 11: Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, today inspected all examination centres across Handwara Sub-Division where the written examination for the post of Accounts Assistant in the Finance Department is scheduled to be held on November 15.

During the visit, the ADC took stock of the arrangements put in place at the examination centres to ensure the smooth, transparent and hassle-free conduct of the examination.

JKAACL and Kalidas Theatre Organise Literary Seminar to Mark First Death Anniversary of Fayaz Dilbar
Speakers Pay Glowing Tributes to Fayaz Dilbar's Versatile Literary and Cultural Contributions

■ Jameel Ansari



Srinagar, Nov 11, 2026: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with Kalidas Theatre, today organized a special literary function at the Conference Hall, Tagore Hall Srinagar, to commemorate the first death anniversary of renowned Kashmiri writer, poet, playwright, researcher, critic, and filmmaker Fayaz Dilbar.

The two-session literary event brought together eminent writers, intellectuals, poets, scholars, and cultural figures of the Valley to remember and pay homage to Fayaz Dilbar's literary and creative legacy. The program was presided over by eminent writer, scholar, researcher, and folklorist Prof. Farooq Fayaz. Bashir Manzar, Editor-in-Chief of Kashmir Images, attended as the Chief Guest. Shabir Mujahid, Chairman of Kalidas Theatre, and Qazi Riaz were present as Guests of Honour. At the outset, Javed Iqbal Khan, Editor (Kashmiri), JKAACL, presented the welcome address, extending a warm reception to the guests and highlighting the significance of the commemorative event in honoring Fayaz Dilbar's life and work. The first session of the function, dedicated to paper presentations, focused on Fayaz Dilbar's literary persona, intellectual dimensions, and creative contributions across various genres. Ayash Arif delivered the keynote address, while noted writer, poet, researcher, and linguist Shabir Ahmad Shabir presented a research paper on Fayaz Dilbar's literary achievements. The paper highlighted his artistic insight, technical skill, thematic diversity, and unique position in Kashmiri literature and culture. In his presidential address, Prof. Farooq Fayaz deliberated at length on Fayaz Dilbar's multifaceted personality and creative stature. He remarked that Fayaz Dilbar was not merely a writer or poet, but a creative force who left an indelible mark across playwriting, poetry, research, criticism, and filmmaking. He added that Fayaz Dilbar's creative vision, depth of observation, and sensitivity toward contemporary social and cultural issues set his work apart. President of Adbee Markaz Kamraz Mohammad Amin Bhat, Shabir Mujahid, veteran journalist Yusuf Jameel, Imdad Saqi, and Arshad Mushtaq also shared their thoughts, reflecting on their personal, literary, and professional associations with Fayaz Dilbar. Speakers recalled his warm demeanor, intellectual depth, creative versatility, and significant role in various literary and cultural initiatives, stating that his persona would remain a benchmark for contemporary writers and artists. The second session featured an interactive Poetry Recitation (Mushaira). Participating poets included Prof. Naseem Shafaie, Rukhsana Jabeen, Nazir Azad, Shahnaz Rashid, Ayash Arif, Mohammad Yusuf Shaheen, Masood Shadab, and Syed Mohammad Madni, who paid poetic tributes to the late writer. The proceedings of the program were conducted by Dr. Gulzar Ahmad. Concluding the event, Ayash Arif, President of Kalidas Theatre, presented the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to JKAACL, the participating scholars, poets, guests, and organizers.

HT EDITORIAL

Textbook Crisis Exposes Private Schools' Commercial Exploitation and Government's Failure,

Education in Jammu and Kashmir is increasingly becoming an expensive affair, with parents caught between the commercial interests of certain private schools and the persistent shortcomings of the government education system. The prescription of textbook sets costing between Rs 6,000 and Rs 10,000 by some private institutions raises serious questions about accountability, transparency and the regulation of educational expenses.

While private schools cannot be allowed to exploit parents through expensive textbook lists, the government must also accept responsibility for failing to provide a viable alternative. Despite official directions regarding the use of prescribed textbooks, the government has not ensured the timely availability of books published by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE). An order that cannot be implemented on the ground serves little purpose. Parents and students cannot be expected to follow government instructions when the prescribed books are unavailable in the market.

The problem is further aggravated by concerns over the quality of government textbooks. Their content, presentation and printing standards have often failed to inspire confidence among parents and educators. Affordability alone cannot make a textbook acceptable; academic quality, updated content and effective presentation are equally important. Unless JKBOSE improves the standard of its publications and ensures their timely distribution, government efforts to discourage expensive private publications will remain largely ineffective.

At the same time, certain private schools must be held accountable for prescribing unnecessarily expensive books and restricting parents to particular vendors or outlets. Such practices raise concerns about possible commercial arrangements between school managements, publishers and booksellers. Education must remain an academic pursuit rather than a business opportunity. Parents, already struggling with tuition fees, admission charges, transportation and uniform expenses, cannot be subjected to additional financial pressure in the name of compulsory textbooks.

Education Minister Shameema Firdous has acknowledged the issue and assured a meeting with the Directors of School Education and other concerned officials. However, parents need concrete action, not another round of administrative assurances. The government must conduct a comprehensive review of textbook lists prescribed by private schools, examine prices and ensure that no institution forces parents to purchase books from designated shops.

Simultaneously, JKBOSE must improve the quality of its textbooks and ensure their availability well before the commencement of every academic session. A transparent procurement and distribution mechanism, regular academic review and an effective grievance-redressal system are urgently required. Schools found violating government regulations must face appropriate action.

The government must also recognise that parents opting for private education are not necessarily affluent. Many belong to modest-income families who make considerable sacrifices to secure better educational opportunities for their children. Their financial concerns deserve serious consideration.

Strengthening government schools is equally important. Free textbooks and uniforms are welcome initiatives, but such measures lose their significance when books are unavailable, academic standards remain questionable and parents lack confidence in public institutions.

The responsibility is shared. Private schools must abandon exploitative practices, while the government must stop issuing impractical directions without first ensuring the necessary infrastructure and resources. The Education Minister must act swiftly and decisively.

Parents cannot be made to pay for the government's administrative failures or become victims of private institutions' commercial ambitions. Education is a public responsibility, not a marketplace for profiteering.

A Road That Changed Our Hopes into Reality



Sahil Manzoor

Roads are among the most important foundations of social and economic development. They provide access to education, healthcare, employment and other essential services. For people living in well-connected areas, travelling on a proper road may seem like an ordinary part of daily life. However, for those residing in remote villages, even a short stretch of road can represent years of struggle, sacrifice and unfulfilled expectations.

My experience is no different. For me, road connectivity has never been merely about reaching one destination from another. It is closely associated with the hopes, difficulties and aspirations of the people among whom I have grown up.

The residents of Bhatti Mohallah, Raiyar-Ich, Khansahib, District Budgam, had been waiting for a proper road facility for almost ten years. The proposed road connecting the High School with Bhatti Mohallah could not be completed for a long period because of a land-related dispute. Differences over the availability of land for public use created obstacles, leaving the local population deprived of this essential facility.

A decade is a considerable period in anyone's life. During these years, residents continued to face difficulties that could have been avoided through timely road connectivity. What appeared to be a minor issue to some became a major concern for the entire locality.

The absence of a proper road affects almost every aspect of village life. During the rainy season, muddy pathways make transportation extremely difficult, while winter brings further hardships. Snowfall, freezing temperatures and slippery surfaces create serious inconvenience for pedestrians and commuters. Students travelling to educational institutions, elderly residents, patients and working people are particularly affected.



For the people of Bhatti Mohallah, these challenges were not occasional experiences but a regular part of their lives. Despite repeated difficulties, the residents never abandoned their hope for better connectivity. They continued to believe that their locality would eventually receive the attention it deserved.

Fortunately, that long-standing hope has now begun to materialise. The Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department, Budgam, has recently initiated the upgradation of the road, bringing considerable relief and happiness to the residents.

As someone closely connected with this locality, it is difficult to describe the satisfaction I experience when I see neighbours, relatives and fellow villagers benefiting from a facility that remained beyond their reach for so many years. This development is not simply an improvement in infrastructure; it is a welcome change in the everyday lives of ordinary people.

Nevertheless, some important issues still require the attention of the concerned authorities. Matters relating to land ownership and road alignment, particularly around the main entry point, need to be resolved through proper coordination. Residents have also raised concerns about the available road width near Hotel Mars, Raiyar-Ich. Such issues deserve a fair and practical assessment to ensure that the road remains accessible and safe for everyone.

We must understand that public infrastructure is intended for the collective welfare of society. Development cannot progress when personal differences become barriers to common necessities. Every individual has certain rights, but these rights should also be accompanied by a sense of social responsibility.

A progressive society is built on cooperation, mutual respect and an understanding of one another's difficulties. We should not allow individual interests to overshadow the larger interests of the community. A facility that benefits one locality today may become equally important for another locality tomorrow.

Road connectivity, in particular, should be considered a basic necessity rather than a privilege. It opens doors to educational opportunities, improves access to healthcare, facilitates economic activities and strengthens communication between villages and urban centres. Even a small road project can bring a significant transformation to the lives of people living in underserved areas.

While appreciating the recent efforts of the R&B Department, our expectations regarding complete connectivity remain unfulfilled. We sincerely appeal to the Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), R&B Khansahib, to consider the remaining road stretch from High School Raiyar-Ich to TRC Tangnar via Bhatti Mohallah under an appropriate development programme.

We also request the concerned authorities to prioritise the construction of a culvert at the vulnerable entry point and provide protection bunds at locations where soil erosion threatens the road. These measures are essential to ensure the long-term safety, durability and proper maintenance of the infrastructure.

Our appeal is not intended to blame any individual or institution. Rather, it is a genuine request to address the difficulties that continue to affect the local population. We appreciate the work already undertaken and hope that the remaining requirements will also receive due consideration.

The recent development has given me a sense of personal satisfaction that is difficult to put into words. Watching people use a road for which they waited almost a decade is a reminder that patience and collective efforts can eventually produce positive results.

Sometimes, the importance of a facility is understood only by those who have lived without it. A road that may appear ordinary to one person can become a lifelong dream for another. This is precisely what makes the recent improvement in Bhatti Mohallah so meaningful.

Let us work together to promote cooperation, resolve differences and support initiatives that bring progress to our villages. After all, genuine development is not measured merely by the construction of roads and buildings, but by the positive difference these facilities make in people's lives.

A road does more than connect destinations; it connects communities with opportunities, aspirations and a better future.

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti
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The Role Of Self-Introspection In World



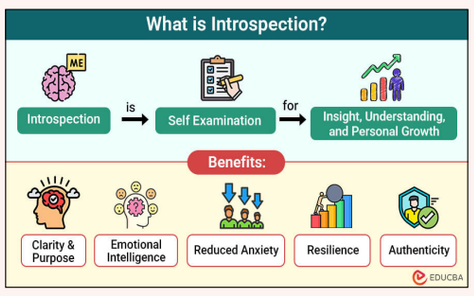
Surinderpal Singh

In the modern materialistic world people are spending their maximum time observing others, judging their actions, comparing their achievements and discussing their weaknesses. However, very few are taking time to look within themselves. We often try to understand the world around us but forget to understand the person living inside us. This is where self-introspection becomes important. It is the habit of examining our own thoughts, feelings, actions, decisions and behaviour to understand who we really are.

Self-introspection is not about finding faults in ourselves or feeling guilty about past mistakes. Rather, it is an honest effort to recognise our strengths, accept our weaknesses and discover opportunities for improvement. It helps us understand why we behave in a particular way, what motivates our decisions and how our actions affect other people. In simple words, self-introspection is a conversation with our own conscience.

One of the greatest benefits of self-introspection is self-awareness. Many times, we react to situations without understanding the reasons behind our reactions. Anger, jealousy, fear, frustration and disappointment can influence our behaviour. When we pause and examine our feelings, we become better at controlling our emotions. Instead of blaming others for every problem, we begin to identify our own role in a situation. This change in attitude makes us more mature, patient and responsible.

Self-introspection also plays an important role in personal growth. Nobody is perfect, and every individual makes mistakes. However, mistakes become valuable lessons only when we learn from them. A person who never examines his or her actions may repeat the same mistakes throughout life. On the other hand, a person who regularly reflects on experiences can identify weaknesses and work towards improvement. Success is not simply about achieving goals; it is also about becoming a better human being during the journey.



Another important aspect of self-introspection is its ability to improve relationships. Many misunderstandings arise because people focus only on the mistakes of others and ignore their own behaviour. We often expect respect, honesty, kindness and understanding from others, but rarely ask whether we offer the same qualities in return. When we examine our words and actions, we become more thoughtful in our relationships. We learn to apologise when we are wrong, listen when others speak and respect different opinions. Thus, self-introspection creates the foundation for healthier relationships.

In professional and academic life, self-introspection is equally valuable. Students can examine their study habits, identify distractions and understand the areas where they need improvement. Teachers can reflect on their teaching methods and explore better ways to guide students. Similarly, professionals can evaluate their performance, decision-making abilities and responsibilities. Such reflection encourages continuous learning and helps individuals move towards excellence.

In the age of social media, self-introspection has become even more necessary. People often compare their lives with the carefully presented achievements of others. This habit creates unnecessary pressure, dissatisfaction and insecurity. We sometimes become so busy seeking appreciation from others that we forget our own values and priorities. Self-introspection reminds us that our worth does not depend on likes, comments, followers or public recognition. True satisfaction comes from living according to our values and making meaningful progress in life.

However, self-introspection requires honesty and courage. It is easy to point fingers at others, but it takes courage to accept our own mistakes. We must learn to ask ourselves some simple but meaningful questions: Am I using my time wisely? Are my actions consistent with my values? Have I hurt someone through my words or behaviour? What did I learn from today's experiences? What can I do better tomorrow? Such questions can gradually transform our thinking and behaviour.

Developing the habit of self-introspection does not require special arrangements or a great deal of time. Spending ten to fifteen minutes in silence every day can make a difference. We can review the events of the day.

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Your Mother Never Truly Leaves You: Science Reveals How Her Cells May Live Inside You for a Lifetime



Dr. Vijay Garg

A mother's love is often described as eternal, but modern science has revealed something even more fascinating: a small part of a mother may physically remain inside her child long after birth. Even when a mother is no longer alive, some of her cells may continue to exist within her child's body. This remarkable biological phenomenon is known as maternal microchimerism.

It is one of the most fascinating discoveries in reproductive biology, connecting the emotional bond between a mother and her child with the extraordinary science of human development.

What Is Maternal Microchimerism?

During pregnancy, the mother's body and the developing baby are not completely separate biological systems. The placenta acts as an interface between them, allowing the exchange of nutrients, oxygen and certain cells.

A small number of maternal cells can cross the placenta and enter the developing baby's body. Some of these cells may survive for many years, even into adulthood.

The presence of a small population of genetically different cells within another individual's body is called microchimerism.



These maternal cells have been identified in different tissues of offspring, including the heart, liver, lungs and other organs. Research suggests that some may participate in immune-system development and other biological processes.

A Biological Connection That Can Last for Decades

One of the most remarkable aspects of maternal microchimerism is its long-term persistence. Scientific research has demonstrated that maternal cells can remain in the offspring long after pregnancy and childbirth.

In other words, the biological relationship between a mother and her child does not necessarily end with the cutting of the umbilical cord.

Some maternal cells may continue to exist within the child's body for decades. They carry genetic material inherited from the mother, although they are not the same as the child's ordinary inherited cells.

This discovery provides a deeper understanding of how pregnancy creates lasting biological connections between two individuals.

Can a Mother's Cells Help Protect Her Child?

Researchers are investigating the possible functions of these transferred maternal cells. Some studies suggest that they may contribute to the development and regulation of the child's immune system.

They may help the developing body recognise certain biological signals and establish immune tolerance. Some maternal cells may also have regenerative or tissue-supporting properties.

However, their effects are complex. Depending on the circumstances, microchimeric cells may have beneficial, neutral or potentially harmful associations with certain health conditions. Scientists are still studying their exact roles.

Therefore, maternal microchimerism is not simply a story of biological protection; it is a complex process that opens new possibilities for understanding human health.

The Mother Also Carries Her Child Within Her

An equally fascinating fact is that the exchange of cells during pregnancy happens in both directions.

Just as maternal cells can enter the baby's body, some cells from the developing baby can cross the placenta and remain in the mother's body for many years, sometimes even decades.

This phenomenon is called fetal microchimerism.

Thus, pregnancy creates a remarkable two-way biological connection. A child may retain some cells from the mother, while the mother may also retain cells from her child.

Science has revealed that the physical separation at birth does not necessarily mean the complete biological separation of mother and child.

Beyond Science: The Emotional Meaning of This Discovery

For someone who has lost their mother, the idea that some of her cells may still exist within their body can be deeply moving. It gives a new scientific dimension to the familiar expression that a mother always lives in her children. Of course, science does not suggest that these cells contain a mother's memories, thoughts, personality or consciousness. Nor does it mean that every child necessarily retains detectable maternal cells throughout life.

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This is how our indian Soldiers Celebrated Diwali at LOC Away from the home



By M S Nazki

Diye ki roshni se. Har andhera dur ho jaye, Dua ho ki jo chaho, Wo khushi aapko manzoor ho jaye!

-The significance of Diwali is the removal of the darkness of ignorance from the mind by filling it with goodness!

The soldiers celebrate Diwali in their own way!

-The question that arises is why we celebrate Diwali!

-We will unfold the reasons!

-But first of all how the Indian Army celebrated Diwali!

-The Indian Army celebrates Diwali with troops deployed along the Line of Control (LoC) away from their loved ones. A soldier says, "... Although we are far from our homes today, we are still with our family—because the Indian Army and my battalion are our family. We are all brothers-in-arms here, spending most of the year together; we celebrate every joyous occasion and festival as one. I am truly happy to be spending this Diwali with this family of mine...!

-Stories forgotten:

-Bharat (or Bharata) plays a defining role in the Ramayana as the ultimate symbol of dharma (righteousness), selfless devotion, and detachment from power. Rather than being a passive figure, his actions preserve the moral core of the epic when greed and political maneuvering threaten to tear the kingdom apart.

-Key Aspects of Bharat's Role

• Opposition to Kaikeyi's Ambition: When Queen Kaikeyi demands Rama's 14-year exile and engineers the throne for Bharat, Bharat is away from Ayodhya. Upon returning and learning the xtruth, he is deeply grief-stricken and furious with his mother, rebuking her and refusing to benefit from her plot.

• The Journey to Chitrakoot (Bharat Milap): Bharat travels to the forest with the entire royal court and citizens to beg Rama to return and accept the crown. When Rama firmly declines in order to honor their father's word, Bharat accepts his decision.

• Rule as a Trustee (Regent): Instead of sitting on the golden throne, Bharat asks for Rama's sacred wooden sandals (padukas). He places them on the throne as a symbol that Rama is the true king, and he governs Kosala strictly as a servant or trustee.

• The Ascetic Life in Nandigrama: Rather than living in the royal palace during the 14 years, Bharat moves to the outskirts of Ayodhya in Nandigrama, wearing tree bark, eating roots and simple fare, and vowing to self-immolate if Rama does not return the exact day the exile ends.

• Military & Territorial Expansion: Bharat also acts as a capable protector of the realm, defeating the Gandharas and establishing the cities of Taxila (Takshasila) and Pushkalavati, placing his sons Taksha and Pushkala as their rulers.

• The Reunion and Release of Duty: When Rama finally returns after 14 years, Bharat lovingly hands back the kingdom and the padukas, embodying pure bhakti-yoga (devotion) and moral integrity where duty supersedes personal desire.

-Bharat Milap (literally meaning "The Reunion of Bharat") is a celebrated episode from the Hindu epic the Ramayana, as well as a traditional festival and classical film.

-The Mythological Story:

• The Exile and Return: Prince Rama, along with his wife Sita and brother Lakshmana, left Ayodhya for a 14-year forest exile due to a promise made by King Dasharatha



to Queen Kaikeyi.

• The Grief and Pursuit: While Rama was in exile, King Dasharatha died of grief. Bharat, who was away at his grandfather's kingdom of Kekaya, returned to Ayodhya, rejected the throne, and condemned his mother Kaikeyi's actions.

• The Meeting in Chitrakoot: Accompanied by the citizens of Ayodhya and Guru Vashishtha, Bharat tracked down Rama in the forest of Chitrakoot.

• The Paduka (Sandals) Tradition: Bharat begged Rama to return and rule Ayodhya. When Rama refused to break their father's pledge, Bharat took Rama's wooden sandals (Padukas), placed them on the throne as a symbol of Rama's authority, and governed the kingdom only as his representative for 14 years.

-Key Locations and Festivals

• Chitrakoot (Uttar Pradesh/Madhya Pradesh): The historic site of the reunion is commemorated at the Bharat Milap Temple near Kamadgiri Hill, where footprint impressions of Ram and Bharat are preserved on stone slabs.

• Kashi (Varanasi): A famous, centuries-old annual Bharat Milap festival takes place (traditionally after Dussehra) to celebrate the emotional reunion of Lord Ram and Bharat upon his return from exile.

-The brotherhood between Lord Rama and Bharata in the Ramayana is one of the highest ideals of selflessness, duty, and love in Indian mythology.

• The Exile and the Crown: While Bharata was away visiting his maternal grandfather, Queen Kaikeyi—manipulated by her maid Manthara—demanded that King Dasharatha exile Rama to the forest for 14 years and crown her son Bharata instead. This grief ultimately led to King Dasharatha's death.

• Bharata's Grief and Refusal: Returning home to find his father dead and his beloved brother Rama banished, Bharata was heartbroken and furious at his mother's scheme. He flatly refused to accept a throne that rightfully belonged to his elder brother.

-Rule from Nandigram

• The Paduka (Sandals): Bharata asked Rama for his wooden sandals (padukas), placing them upon the royal throne of Ayodhya as a symbol that Rama was the true king.

• The Life of an Ascetic: Rather than living in the palace or wearing royal finery, Bharata moved to nearby Nandigram. For 14 years, he lived the life of a simple hermit, governing the kingdom strictly as Rama's servant and regent.

-A Diwali (Deepavali) is the festival of lights, symbolizing the spiritual victory of dharma over adharma (righteousness over unrighteousness), light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.

-Core Spiritual & Religious Meanings

• Hinduism:

• Celebrates the return of Lord Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana to Ayodhya after 14 years of exile and the defeat of Ravana, welcomed with rows of clay lamps (diyas).

• Commemorates Lord Krishna and Satyabhama defeating the demon Narakasura.

• Honors Goddess Lakshmi (wealth and prosperity) and Lord Ganesha (wisdom), and marks the wedding day of Lakshmi and Vishnu.

• Observes Kali Puja in West Bengal, honoring Goddess Kali for destroying evil.

• Jainism: Marks the spiritual awakening and nirvana (liberation) of Lord Mahavira.

a• Sikhism: Celebrates Bandi Chhor Divas, commemorating the release of the sixth Guru, Guru Hargobind Ji, from Gwalior Fort alongside 52 captive kings.

-For this, is a special time when family
and friends get together, for fun.
Wishing laughter and fun to cheer your days,
in this festive season of Diwali and always!
Happy Diwali!

-Light a Lamp of Love!
Blast a Chain of Sorrow!
Shoot a Rocket of Prosperity!
Fire a Flowerpot of Happiness!

Here's Wishing You and Your Family a Sparkling Diwali

-May the warmth and splendor, that are a part of this auspicious occasion, fill your life with happiness and bright cheer, and bring to you joy and prosperity, for the whole year.-On this auspicious occasion, may joy, prosperity, and happiness illuminate your life and your home. Wishing you a Happy Diwali!.

DHPC:A New Educational Reform Shifting the Focus from Marks to the Overall Development of Every Child..



Javaid Bhat

The introduction of the Digital Holistic Progress Card (DHPC) marks a significant milestone in the Indian education system, paving the way for a paradigm shift from the conventional marks-oriented approach to a comprehensive, competency-based assessment framework that places the overall development of students at its core.

In line with the progressive vision of the National Education Policy 2020, the Digital Holistic Progress Card represents a renewed commitment to making education more inclusive, experiential, skill-oriented and learner-centred. It seeks to redefine the concept of student assessment by recognising that every child possesses unique abilities, interests, talents and potential that cannot be adequately reflected through examination scores alone.

One of the most remarkable features of this initiative is its emphasis on bringing different dimensions of a child's personality into the mainstream assessment process. Alongside languages, mathematics and other academic disciplines, Physical Education, Art Education and Vocational Education have been accorded significant importance. This broader perspective acknowledges creativity, physical fitness, artistic expression, practical skills, critical thinking, communication and social-emotional development as equally essential components of meaningful education.

The DHPC framework encourages teachers to move beyond traditional methods of evaluation and adopt a more comprehensive approach towards understanding students' learning capabilities, individual progress and developmental needs. Through competency-based assessment, clearly defined rubrics, learning activities and systematic documentation, teachers can identify individual strengths, recognise learning gaps and provide appropriate guidance to help every learner progress.

The digital platform further facilitates the systematic recording and monitoring of students' achievements across different developmental domains. It also provides an opportunity for teachers to make classroom assessment more meaningful, continuous and closely connected with everyday teaching-learning activities.

Importantly, DHPC is not merely a technological intervention; it represents a fundamental transformation in the philosophy of education. It encourages a shift from rote learning to experiential learning, from competition based solely on marks to the recognition of individual potential, and from uniform assessment to a more personalised understanding of every learner.

The successful implementation of this initiative, however, requires collective commitment, professional preparedness and active participation from teachers, school heads, educational

administrators, parents and other stakeholders. Teachers, in particular, have a pivotal role in translating this vision into meaningful classroom practices and ensuring that the objectives of holistic assessment reach every student.

As educational institutions embrace this progressive reform, the focus is expected to move towards nurturing well-rounded individuals equipped not only with academic knowledge but also with essential life skills, creativity, confidence, values and practical competencies.

Digital Holistic Progress Card is indeed a new chapter in the journey of educational transformation. It is a move towards an education system where

achievements are not confined to marks, talents are not overlooked, and every child's growth matters.

The ultimate objective is simple yet profound: Not merely to measure how much a child scores, but to understand how much a child learns, develops and grows.



Beauty in the Age of Pollution :

Shahnaz Husain Shares Tips to Protect Skin and Hair from Toxic Air (in bold italics single line)



Shahnaz Husain

Growing air pollution in metropolitan cities is not only taking a toll on human health but is also emerging as a major threat to skin and hair, with prolonged exposure to toxic pollutants contributing to premature ageing, pigmentation, dryness and a range of dermatological problems, internationally renowned beauty expert and India's celebrated 'Herbal Queen' Shahnaz Husain has cautioned.

Highlighting the growing relationship between environmental pollution and personal care, Husain emphasised that healthy skin is not merely the result of cosmetic products but also depends on how effectively it is protected from environmental stressors. She observed that urban lifestyles, despite offering numerous conveniences and opportunities, increasingly expose people to harmful airborne pollutants that can weaken the skin's natural defence mechanism.

According to Husain, pollutants such as particulate matter, smoke and other toxic substances can penetrate the skin's protective barrier, trigger inflammation and

accelerate oxidative damage. Prolonged exposure may lead to irritation, dryness, dark spots, hyperpigmentation, dullness, rough texture, acne, eczema and premature ageing. Pollution can also compromise the skin's moisture barrier, making it more vulnerable to environmental damage.

Stressing the importance of preventive measures, Husain advised people to minimise exposure to indoor and outdoor pollution. She recommended

improving indoor air quality by reducing sources of smoke and harmful emissions, avoiding indoor smoking and the burning of incense or candles, and using appropriate air filtration systems.

Wearing N95 or N99 respirators in highly polluted environments and limiting strenuous outdoor activities during periods of poor air quality can also help reduce exposure.

On the nutritional front, Husain underlined the importance of an antioxidant-rich diet in protecting skin cells against pollution-induced oxidative stress. She recommended including vitamin C-rich foods such as oranges, lemons, amla, tomatoes and green vegetables, along with nuts, seeds, legumes and whole grains. Vitamins C and E, green tea extracts and resveratrol, she noted, can help counter free-radical damage and support the skin's natural resilience.

She also stressed that a consistent skincare routine is essential, particularly during periods of heightened pollution. Thoroughly cleansing the face twice daily, especially before bedtime, helps remove accumulated dirt, oil, makeup and environmental pollutants that may clog pores and contribute to breakouts. She advised

choosing gentle, non-abrasive and alcohol-free cleansers containing ingredients such as glycerin, ceramides and aloe vera, while avoiding harsh products that strip the skin of its natural oils.

Husain further recommended incorporating antioxidant-based skincare products containing green tea extract, niacinamide (vitamin B3) and coenzyme Q10 to support the skin barrier, improve complexion and protect against environmental damage.

Drawing attention to the often-overlooked impact of pollution on hair health, she said airborne soot, dust and chemical particles can accumulate on the scalp and hair, causing dryness, inflammation, dullness, brittleness and breakage.

She advised using a wide-toothed comb, minimising excessive heat styling and covering the head with a hat, cap or scarf when spending extended periods outdoors. Keeping hair tied back in a bun can also reduce its exposure to airborne pollutants.

Emphasising that pollution cannot be completely avoided in modern urban environments, Husain maintained that a combination of preventive care, healthy dietary habits and a disciplined skincare and haircare routine can significantly help protect personal health and appearance.

Her message is particularly relevant at a time when deteriorating air quality has made environmental protection an essential component of everyday health and beauty care.

DDC Doda chairs Block Diwas program at village Shiva

Reviews public grievances, developmental issues

■ HT News Network

POONCH, NOVEMBER 10: District DeDODA, NOVEMBER 11: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal today chaired the (Public Outreach) Block Diwas Programme here at village Shiva to address public grievances, review developmental requirements and ensure effective delivery of government services at the grassroots level.

The programme provided an opportunity to residents of Shiva and adjoining areas to interact directly with the District Administration and highlight issues concerning basic amenities, public infrastructure and essential services.

The programme was attended by PO ICDS Akhter Qazi; Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar Manhas; Assistant Commissioner Development Din Mohammad Afaqi; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Mushraf Ali Haff; District Social Welfare Officer Zubair Ahmed; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma; former ADDC Roshan Lal; Executive Engineers and officers from PHE, R&B, Education and other



concerned departments, besides former PRI representatives, social activists and a large number of locals.

During the programme, the public raised several demands seeking repair and improvement of existing water supply schemes, establishment of Primary Health Centre, provision of banking facilities, verification of PMAY beneficiaries, construction of an examination hall and toilets in the newly constructed GHSS Shiva building, transport facilities for students, installation of crash barriers at vulnerable road locations, upgradation of the school playground and development of an effective drainage system.

Responding to the issues raised, the DDC directed the stakeholder departments to take appropriate and time-bound action on genuine public demands.The R&B Department informed that routine road maintenance is being undertaken and vulnerable locations for installation of crash barriers have been identified for inclusion in forthcoming phases.

The Assistant Commissioner Development informed that drainage works for the playground and school premises would be incorporated in the next year's plan. He further stated that verification of PMAY beneficiaries is underway and only eligible beneficiaries would be considered under the scheme as per prescribed guidelines.

The DDC assured the public that the demand for establishing a J&K Bank facility in the area would be taken up on priority. He also assured that the establishment of smart classrooms at the GHSS Shiva to improve learning facilities for students.

DDC Building nearing completion at Kathua

DC inspects progress of finishing works

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, NOVEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today inspected the progress of work on the under-construction District Development Council (DDC) Building coming up here near Hatli Morh.

The DC was apprised that the civil construction work of the building has been completed, with only certain finishing works remaining.

Taking stock of the progress, the DC directed the concerned executing agency to complete the pending work in a time-bound manner, ensuring adherence to prescribed quality standards and approved specifications. He stressed on quality electrical installations, internal fittings and other essential amenities to make the building fully functional and ready for use.

Assistant Commissioner Development Gulshan Kumar, Chief Planning Officer Ranjeet Thakur and Executive Engineer, Rural Engineering Wing, BDO Kathua accompanied the DC. Taking stock of the progress, the DC directed the concerned executing agency to complete the pending work in a time-bound manner, ensuring adherence to prescribed quality standards and approved specifications. He stressed on quality electrical installations, internal fittings and other essential amenities to make the building.

Mission Shakti Jammu organises awareness program on POSH Act at DECC Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 11: Reaffirming its commitment towards ensuring safe, dignified and gender-responsive workplaces, Mission Shakti- District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), Department of Social Welfare J&K on Wednesday organised an awareness programme on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act here at the District Employment and Counselling Centre Jammu.

The programme aimed at sensitising employees to the legal safeguards, rights of women and institutional mechanisms available for the prevention and redressal of workplace sexual harassment.Resource Person Advocate Ifra Nasir delivered an insightful lecture on the provisions of the POSH Act. She elaborated on the definition and forms of workplace sexual harassment, rights of aggrieved women, constitution and functioning of Internal Committees, responsibilities of employers and procedures for complaint redressal. She also emphasised the importance of preventive measures, institutional accountability and a safe working environment.

Officials from Mission Shakti Jammu also sensitised the participants to the SHe-Box Portal, an online platform of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, designed to facilitate the registration and monitoring of workplace sexual harassment complaints. They explained the portal's purpose, accessibility and complaint-filing mechanism, encouraging employees to make use of this digital facility to seek redressal.The programme highlighted that creating safe workplaces is not merely a statutory obligation but a collective institutional responsibility.

DC Poonch chairs Block Diwas program at village Degwar Terwan

■ HT News Network

POONCH, NOVEMBER 11: District Development Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a Block Diwas public outreach programme here at village Degwar Terwan- Block Poonch, with the participation of officers from different departments and a large number of local residents.

During the programme, the DDC interacted with the general public and took stock of the developmental issues and public grievances.

Residents of the area highlighted a number of demands related to road connectivity, electricity, drinking water, education and other essential public services and facilities.

The DDC gave a patient hearing to the people and directed the concerned officers to examine the issues raised and take necessary measures for its timely redressal.

During the interaction, local residents also raised concerns



regarding the non-functioning of the attendance system under the VB G RAM G scheme implemented by RDD.

The DDC issued directions for making necessary arrangements for smooth attendance recording under the VB G RAM G scheme.

Officers and officials from the School Education Department, Roads and Buildings, Public Works Department, Jal Shakti, Power Development and other concerned departments were present on the occasion.

The Block Diwas provided an effective platform for direct interaction between the administration and the public, enabling residents to put forward their genuine concerns and seek solutions from the concerned authorities.

Rajouri: JKSSB imparts training to supervisory staff ahead of FAA exam

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 11: To ensure seamless conduct of the upcoming Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA) OMR based exam, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) today organised a training programme for supervisory staff here at Government Degree College (GDC).

The training, attended by around 1,000 Invigilators, 20 Centre Superintendents and 14 Deputy Centre Superintendents, was conducted in five successive shifts, considering the large number of officials.

Member JKSSB Sudhir Bali conducted the training programme. He imparted comprehensive orientation to the examination staff on the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), their respective duties and responsibilities and the critical protocols governing the conduct of the examination.

During the sessions, detailed instructions were imparted on examination-day preparedness, secure handling and movement of sensitive examination material, maintenance of confidentiality, candidate verification, prevention of unfair means and strict adherence to the instructions issued by JKSSB. Particular emphasis was laid on vigilance, accountability, discipline and coordinated functioning at every stage of the examination process.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Ravi Kumar Sihag also addressed the participants and emphasised that the credibility of a competitive examination rests on the integrity, impartiality and professionalism of those entrusted with its conduct. He called upon all functionaries to discharge their assigned responsibilities with utmost sincerity and alertness, leaving no scope for negligence or procedural lapses. During the sessions, detailed instructions were imparted on examination-day preparedness, secure handling and movement of sensitive examination material, maintenance of confidentiality, candidate verification, prevention of unfair means and strict adherence to the instructions issued by JKSSB. Particular emphasis was laid on vigilance, accountability, discipline and coordinated functioning at every stage of the examination process.



Additional Deputy Commissioner Ravi Kumar Sihag also addressed the participants and emphasised that the credibility of a competitive examination rests on the integrity, impartiality and professionalism.

Jammu secures prestigious 2nd Rank Nationally in Clean Himalayan City Category at Swachh Survekshan Awards 2025–26

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 11: In a monumental recognition of its relentless sanitation reforms, civic mobilization, and infrastructure modernization, Jammu has secured the national 2nd rank in the Swachh Himalayan City category at the 10th edition of the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2025–26.

The national awards were conferred by President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu, at a glittering ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi today, celebrated under the inspiring theme "Swachhata Ki Nayi Pehel– Badhayein Haath, Karein Safai Saath."

Accepting this prestigious national honor on behalf of the



city were Ayushi Sudan, Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban and Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation; Abdul Sattar, Joint Commissioner, Health and Sanitation, Jammu Municipal Corporation and Dr. Shahid Hussain, Health Officer, Jammu Municipal Corporation. Their presence at the national capital underscored the strong administrative leadership and dedication driving Jammu's urban transformation.

The prestigious accolade reflects Jammu's exemplary strides in sustainable solid waste management, door-to-door four-stream segregation, single-use plastic eradication and intensive community-led cleanliness drives.

Spearheaded by the Jammu Municipal Corporation in close coordination with the Housing and Urban Development Department and active civil society participation, the city successfully transformed its urban landscape through rigorous sanitation protocols and innovative IEC campaigns.

The municipal leadership dedicated this landmark national honour to the sanitation workers, frontline Safai Karamcharis and conscious citizens of Jammu whose unwavering daily dedication made this achievement possible. The administration emphasized that this award serves.

CUKashmir DTS starts 3-day skill development workshop

■ HT News Network

Ganderbal, Nov 11: Department of Tourism Studies (DTS), Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) kick-started a three-day skill development workshop on "Interview Preparation Techniques and Employability Skills in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector" at Green Campus here on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shahid Rasool, Dean Academic Affairs, talked about promoting unexplored destinations of Jammu and Kashmir while maintaining the eco-fragile nature of these destinations, so as to maintain the carrying capacity of top notch tourist destinations like Gulmarg, Pahalgam and



Sonmarg. "In the contemporary times, employers are not only interested in how much knowledge you possess, but more importantly, in how effectively you can apply that knowledge through practical skills, abilities and performance," he said. As tourism is a service based industry and AI is going to have huge influence in the coming times on tourism and hospitality business, Prof. Shahid said, the workforce must prioritize empathy, understanding and compassion to recognize tourists' needs, deliver personalized services and create positive customer experiences.

Prof. Syed Zahoor Geelani, Dean, School of Business Studies emphasized the role of communication and soft skills in the tourism and hospitality industry by ensuring effective interaction between employees and guests. "Better Communication and soft skills shall help to understand clientele needs, resolve complaints, build trust and deliver quality services. Effective verbal, non-verbal and interpersonal communication skills enhance guest satisfaction and create positive and memorable tourist experiences."

Coordinator, DTS, Dr. Shahnaz Akhter, emphasized upon the importance of Interview preparation techniques and employability skills that help tourism and hospitality students in developing confidence, communication skills and professional behaviour during job interviews. "Employability skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, customer service and adaptability.

IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar Releases Annual Performance Report "Achievements 2025–26"

Report highlights academic, administrative and student support initiatives undertaken for learners across Kashmir Valley and Ladakh

■ HT News Network

Srinagar;Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Regional Centre Srinagar, released its Annual Performance Report, "Achievements 2025–26", highlighting the centre's contributions and initiatives for learners and stakeholders across Kashmir Valley and Ladakh during the year. The report aims to showcase the centre's work and strengthen confidence among students, educational institutions, stakeholders and government agencies.

The release ceremony was attended by distinguished guests, including Prof. Dr. Haris Izhar Tantray, Principal of the host institution; Dr. Syed Muzaffar Ahmad, Principal, Sopore College; principals of various Government Degree Colleges; coordinators of study centres; academic counsellors; staff of Regional Centre Srinagar; and students.

In his welcome address, Regional Director Dr. A.H. Rizvi highlighted the achievements documented in the report. He said that the centre had focused on academic excellence through academic counselling sessions, monitoring of practical examinations, conduct of examinations and maintenance of academic integrity. He also highlighted student support services, including academic guidance and mentorship, and efforts to strengthen the academic community and contribute to the region's development through education.



Coordinators from study centres at SP College, Women's College, Ganderbal College and Baramulla College also addressed the gathering and shared information about the activities and functioning of their respective centres.

The report acknowledges the contribution of IGNOU Vice Chancellor Prof. Uma Kinjilal, Director (RSD) Dr. K. Panneerselvam, various schools, units and centres at the headquarters, and the principals, coordinators and part-time staff of study centres across the Kashmir Valley. The guests appreciated the Regional Centre's efforts in promoting academic excellence. Study centre coordinators also commended the Regional Director's contribution towards improving academic, administrative and financial functioning at the study centres and extending services to learners across the Valley.

On the occasion, an induction meeting was also organised for students enrolled in the July 2026 admission session. Dr. Abdullah, Assistant Regional Director, briefed the students on academic expectations, student support services and the opportunities available at IGNOU.

The programme provided an opportunity for students, faculty and other stakeholders to interact and engage with the university's academic and support framework. The programme provided an opportunity for students, faculty and other stakeholders to interact.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is certify that name shadab Bano is wrongly mentioned in the bank passbook with account number 0277040150004148 . The correct name mentioned in addhar card is irshadah Bano wife of Ab Lateef Rather R/o Aarath Budgam . If anybody has objection in that regard. He / she invoke jammu and kashmir bank narbal within the period of seven days. After completion of said period. No objection will be entertained.

irshadah Bano
W/o Ab Lateef Rather
R/o Aarath Budgam
D O B ; 01/01/1983
10 /11/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

is notified that the applicant namely manzoor Hussain Dar S/o Sanaullah Dar R/o Chewa Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of BIRTH certificate of his own namely as Manzoor Ahmad Dar S/o Sanaullah Dar
The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his own as per school records 28 / 11/ 1975
If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained . 11/11/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR, PAHALGAM
PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that the following applicants:
1. Dilshad Akther
2. Ishtiyaq
3. Zohaqa Jan
All children of Ghulam Mohammad Malik, R/o Batkoot, Pahalgam, District Anantnag, have applied for the issuance of RBA Certificates.Objections, if any, from the general public may be submitted to the Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Pahalgam, within the prescribed period.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My son's DOB is wrongly mentioned in school record as 10/3/2015 instead of 10/3/2017 and his mother's name is written as Shagufta Fayaz instead of Shagufta Shaheen .Now I am applying for its correction.if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she can contact the concern authority within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.
Fayaz Ahmad Mir F/O Faarid Fayaz Mir

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as MUBEENA AKHTAR on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..9973 1727 7935 while my correct name is MUBEENA QADIR D/O GH QADIR KUMAR 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 publicationofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name...MUBEENA QADIR
D/O....GH QADIR KUMAR
R/O.. WATERGAM WAGOORA BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Son's name has been wrongly written as HUBAAN ASHRAF on his Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No .2401 7482 0022 while his correct name is HIBAAN HUSSAIN PARAY S/O MOHD ASHRAF PARAY 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 publicationofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name...MOHD ASHRAF PARAY
F/O ..HIBAAN ASHRAF
R/O..SALOOSA WAGOORA BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as REFITA BANO D/O ABDUL MAJEED RATHER on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..2044 7640 8844 while my correct name is RIFAT MAJEED RATHER D/O ABDUL MAJEED RATHER 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 publicationofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name....RIFAT MAJEED RATHER
D/O....ABDUL MAJEED RATHER
R/O.. DANDMOOHA SULTANPORA WAGOORA BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Irtiza, D/o Mohammad Yousuf Dar, R/o Check-i-Jamalmir, Pattan, District Baramulla, Tehsil Pattan, hereby notify the general public that my mother's name has been wrongly recorded as Haja Bano in my school records.
Her correct name is Nazima Begum.
I request the concerned authorities, particularly the school authorities, to kindly correct my mother's name in all school records from Haja Bano to Nazima Begum.
Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the concerned authorities within the stipulated period.
Name: Irtiza
D/o: Mohammad Yousuf Dar
R/o: Check-i-Jamalmir, Pattan
District: Baramulla
Tehsil: Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct my name and D.O.B in my passport from Najima Nighat to Nikhat Ashraf and my D.O.B 13/06/1966 to 13/03/1966. Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact concerned Passport Office Srinagar within a week at the most after that no objection will be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Farida Akhter daughter of Mohd Assan Khan R/o Kawoosa Khaloisa Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of BIRTH certificate of own Farida Akhter D/o Mohd Assan khan
The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his own as school records 01 / 02/ 1966
If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .
07/11/2026

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, QAZIGUND

CORAM: HINA PARVEEN GONEY
JOCODE: JK00338
In the Case of:
Nazir Ahmad Rather
Father of: Noor-us-Sehar
R/O: Vessu Qazigund, Tehsil Qazigund, District Anantnag.
(Applicant)
VERSUS
Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Through Block Development Officer, Block Vessu.
(Non-Applicant)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the applicant, namely Nazir Ahmad Rather, has sought a direction against the non-applicant for registration of the birth particulars of his daughter, namely Noor-us-Sehar, who was born on 07-12-2021
Through the medium of this notice, the general public is hereby informed that if any person has any objection regarding the registration of the birth particulars of the applicant's daughter, as mentioned above, he/she/they shall submit the same on or before 16-11-2026, when the matter is listed for further proceedings.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court today on 07-11-2026.

Sd/
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
Qazigund.

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, QAZIGUND

CORAM:Hina Parveen Goney
JOCODE: JK00338
In the case of:
Nazir Ahmad Rather
Father of: Amanul Arfeen Rather
R/O: Vessu Qazigund
Tehsil: Qazigund, District: Anantnag
(Applicant)
V/S
Union Territory of J&K
Through Block Development Officer,
Block Vessu
(Non-Applicant)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the applicant namely Nazir Ahmad Rather has sought a direction against the non-applicant for registration of the birth particulars of his son namely Amanul Arfeen Rather, who was born on 27-05-2016.
Through the medium of this notice, the public at large is informed that if any person has any objection regarding the registration of the birth particulars of the applicant's son as mentioned above, he/she/they shall do so on or before 16-11-2026, when the matter is listed for further proceedings.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court today on 07-11-2026

Sd/
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
Qazigund

PUBLIC NOTICE

is certify that incorrect name and D O B mentioned in addhar card is Ali Mohammad Dar and D O B 20/ 09/1994 actually the correct name is Anees Fatima D/o Ali Mohammad Dar R/o Chainabal Pattan under D O B 07/06/1990 . The addhar number is under 416624114129 . If anybody has objection in that regard. He/She convince concerned authority, After publication of said notification, no objection will be entertained

Anees Fatima
D/o Ali Mohammad Dar
R/o Chainabal Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my son's name FAROOQ AHMAD LONE S/O FATHA MOHAMMAD LONE R/O KAWACHECK KREERI Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040003962 wants to be registered on my name MEHTABA BEGUM w/O FATHA MOHAMMAD LONE If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/ her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication ofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name.....MEHTABA BEGUM
S/O.....FATHA MOHAMMAD LONE
R/O ..KAWACHWCK KREERI

Double laning of Jourian-Pallanwala road to start in March 2027: DDC Minga Sherpa

'Pothole repair to be done in the meantime'

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 11: District Development Commissioner Minga Sherpa today said that the up-gradation of Jourian–Pallanwala Road has already been approved and the work would commence in March 2027, after land acquisition is completed.

The DDC was addressing a public gathering at the Block Diwas programme convened in Khour, today. He informed that the 18 KM road is set for double laning and directed the concerned officers to fill potholes in the meantime.

The DDC assured that the defence-land matters would be taken up with the Defence Estates Officer. On the demand for bunkers, he said the essential data has already been shared with the Ministry and work may be started soon.

He also took note of the staff requirements and the need for augmentation in the education, health and revenue departments. The infrastructure requirements of SDH Khour and GDC Khour were likewise noted.

Public issues related to the Kaleeth Firing Range were acknowledged by the DDC, who said the same would be taken up with the concerned authorities.

Emphasising that development of border areas is a priority for the Government, the DDC said many projects have been proposed for the further development of border villages under Vibrant Villages Programme-2.

During the public meeting, locals projected several issues, including those related to Revenue, Agriculture, Irrigation, Mining and Public Works departments.

Earlier, the DDC also visited the Chenab banks near Muthi Maira to review urgent flood protection measures. He also toured the area and inspected the development scenario in the subdivision.

Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ishita Rathi, Sub Divisional Magistrate Satish Sharma, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Assistant Commissioner Development and district officers of various departments attended the event.

Government of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PW (R&B) CIRCLE KULGAM
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No. 04 OF RNB/CIRCLE KULGAM/2026-27/E-TENDERING DATED 10/11/2026

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)	Basic Cost (In Lacs)	GST Amount (In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of Science Block at Government Degree College DH Pora	791.486	670.751	120.735	8500/=	1582972/=	36 Months	(Higher Education Department)	AAY Class

AAA = AAA issued by Commissioner/Secretary to Government Higher Education Department Vide Government Order No: 249 JK(HE) of 2026 Dated: 22-07-2026.
TS= TS given by Chief Engineer PW(R&B) South Kashmir Vide Order No: CE(R&B) SK/TS/114 of 2026-27 Dated: 04-11-2026.
Position of funds=Approved.

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		10-11-2026	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	11-11-2026	(11:00AM)
		To	30-11-2026	(04:00PM)
3	Date, Time and Place of Pre-Bid meeting	16/11/2026 at 2.00 PM in the OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PW (R&B) CIRCLE KULGAM		
4	Bid submission Start Date	From	11-11-2026	(11:00AM)
5	Bid Submission End Date	To	30-11-2026	(04:00PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)		01-12-2026	(11:00 AM)
		In the office of SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PW (R&B) CIRCLE KULGAM		

EMD/BID SECURITY & TENDER FEE, PERFORMANCE SECURITY, SECURITY DEPOSIT/RETENTION MONEY, SAFETY CIRCULAR AND GST :-
2.1 EMD/BID SECURITY & TENDER FEE: -Bidders shall deposit the prescribed Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Fee through online mode into the designated Centralized Pooling Account No. 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG) (M/S Centralized Pool Account PW R&B), strictly in accordance with Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026 and Office Order No. CE/R&B/SK/WS/2095-2111 dated 05.06.2026 issued by the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department, South Kashmir. Submission of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR/Bank Guarantee or any other instrument shall not be permissible. The Division Name, NIT No. & S.No./Name of the Work including transaction ID against all the required deposits should be clearly mentioned on theDocumentary proof/receipt evidencing of successful remittance of the EMD and Tender Fee and it shallbe uploaded along with the bid, failing which the bid shall be liable for rejection as non-responsive. Non
submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.
Note:- Non mentioning of transaction ID shall render the bid as non-responsive.
PERFORMANCE SECURITY/PERFORMANCE GAURANTEE (including APS) :- The 1st lowest Bidder
has to produce Performance Security (Performance Guarantee) 5% and Additional Performance Security wherever applicable within 7 Days before fixation of Contract in account no bearing 0756010200000022
PERFORMANCE SECURITY A/C SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PW (R&B) CIRCLE KULGAM
and shall be released after DLP obligations are over. Notwithstanding the above, the Bid Security deposited by the successful bidder(s) shall stand retained and shall be credited to the account of the concerned Division's Performance Security and adjusted under the applicable Performance Security Deposit Head, Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
As per circular issued by J&K Finance Department (Codes Division) under No.: - FD-Code/441/2021- 02-158 Dated: 08-08-2025, for Seeking additional performance Security for the selected bidders who have abnormally low bid price-Reg The Additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security.
2.3 QUOTATION OF RATES &GST: - The bidders are requested to quote their rates excluding GST.GST@ 18 Percent (existing % applicable as of now) shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment.
2.4 MANDATORY SAFETY: -Safety Instructions and Mandatory Worksite Safety Protocol for PWD Works to be practiced and followed as per circular no.: -PWD-PLG/01/2026 dt 06.05.2026 2.5 Security Deposit/Retention Money:-
In addition to the Performance Security, Security Deposit/Retention Money shall be recovered from each Running Account Bill at the rate of 10% of the gross amount of each bill subject to a maximum cumulative amount of 5% of the Final Contract Price.
2.5.1 Release of Retention Money: -On issue of the Taking-Over/Physical Completion Certificate for the whole of the Works, 50% of the total Retention Money shall be released, and the remaining 50% shall be released after expiry of the applicable Defects Liability/Maintenance/Warranty Period, subject to certification by the Engineer in charge that all defects notified during the said period have been satisfactorily rectified and all contractual obligations have been fulfilled.
2.5.2 Additional Deposit:- Any additional deposit recovered from a Running Account Bill, over and above the prescribed Security Deposit/Retention Money, shall be released on the recommendation of the Site InCharge/Engineer-in-Charge, subject to verification that the purpose for which such additional deposit was made has been duly fulfilled and that no recovery or liability remains outstanding against the Contractor.
2.5.3 Security Deposit/Retention Money will be a non-interest-bearing deposit and shall remain with the Department until the date of its release.
3. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PW (R&B) CIRCLE KULGAM
4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.

DIPK-7596/26
Send Date: Nov 11, 2026

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
PW(R&B) Circle Kulgam

Cabinet extends Mudra Credit Guarantee scheme till 2031, targets Rs 12.6 lakh cr in loans

■ HT News Network/UNI

New Delhi, Nov 11 (UNI) The union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a five-year extension of the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) until March 31, 2031, with a corpus of Rs 5,000 crore, paving the way for facilitating loans worth Rs 12.6 lakh crore under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) over the next five years.

The decision is aimed at strengthening collateral-free institutional lending to micro enterprises and encouraging banks and other financial institutions to extend credit to small entrepreneurs who often struggle to access formal financing because of inadequate security or lack of conventional collateral.

Announcing the Cabinet decision, union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the continuation of the scheme would provide credit guarantee coverage to lending institutions against the risk of default on loans extended to eligible micro enterprises.



The guarantee mechanism is administered by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC).

The extension will cover the entire period of the XVIth Finance Commission, from 2026-27 to 2030-31. The government expects the Rs 5,000-crore corpus to support the flow of institutional credit and facilitate PMMY loans amounting to Rs 12.6 lakh crore during this period.

Launched in January 2016, the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units has emerged as an important component of the government's strategy to expand access to finance under the Mudra scheme.

According to government figures, more than 60.36 crore loans involving a cumulative amount of Rs 43.34 lakh crore had been sanctioned under PMMY by lending institutions since its launch in April 2015, as of September 2026.

Under the arrangement, credit guarantees are provided to lending institutions for loans of up to Rs 20 lakh extended to eligible micro enterprises under the Mudra scheme. The coverage also includes overdrafts of up to Rs 10,000 sanctioned by banks to account holders under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), besides loans to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) where the portfolio amount ranges between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 20 lakh.

A significant feature of the extended arrangement is the reduction in the annual guarantee fee payable by lending institutions for eligible Mudra loans. The fee will come down from the existing one per cent to 0.75 per cent, a move expected to lower the cost of credit guarantee support and encourage greater participation by banks and other lenders.

However, the fee structure for Self-Help Groups will remain unchanged. It will continue to be 0.25 per cent during the first year and 0.50 per cent in subsequent years.

The government has also rationalised the methodology for calculating guarantee coverage to bring it closer to the actual credit exposure of lending institutions. For working capital limits, the guarantee will be calculated on the basis of the amount disbursed, while in the case of term loans, it will be linked to the outstanding loan amount. The revised approach is intended to ensure that the guarantee corresponds more accurately to the actual risk borne by lenders.

Group of 70 Kishtwar farmers leave for exposure visit to Kashmir Valley DC flags off 5-day tour

■ HT News Network



KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today flagged off a group of 70 farmers drawn from different Horticulture Zones of District Kishtwar for a 5-day Training/Exposure Visit to Kashmir Valley.The tour has been sponsored under the Human Resource Development (HRD) component of the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA).During the 5-day Training/Exposure Visit, the farmers shall be taken to SKUAST-K Shalimar Campus; Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture Rangreth; Centre of Excellence Zahoora and Grape Farm Kral Bagh Ganderbal, to gain practical exposure to advanced horticultural practices.Additionally, the farmers would receive technical guidance on various cultural operations and nursery-raising techniques for different fruit crops. They will also be sensitised to flagship schemes and initiatives of the Department of Horticulture.The initiative aims to enhance the technical knowledge and skills of farmers, promote the adoption of modern horticultural technologies and encourage entrepreneurship and self-reliance in the horticulture sector.

Chief Horticulture Officer Sajid Mustafa; besides other officers and officials of the Department of Horticulture Kishtwar were also present on the occasion.

JKEDI Pulwama launches two batches of Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme under RAMP scheme

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 11: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Pulwama, launched two batches of the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme at ITI Pulwama.The programme was inaugurated in the presence of Raiyees Manzoor, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Pulwama; Showkat Anwar Rather, Superintendent, ITI Pulwama; Waseem Ahad, Project Manager, JKEDI; Muzaffar, Senior Faculty, ITI Pulwama; and Yasir Ahmad, Assistant Faculty, JKEDI.Officials outlined the objectives of the RAMP scheme and its role in promoting entrepreneurship at the grassroots level in Jammu and Kashmir. They said that the programme aims to equip participants with practical skills in business development, financial planning, and market awareness.

While speaking at the occasion, dignitaries briefed trainees on the current entrepreneurial ecosystem and startup opportunities.

WhatsApp to make connections richer, use AI to save time; privacy unchanged: CEO Kunal Shah

■ HT News Network/UNI

JAMMU NOV 11: The SchNEW DELHI, Nov 11: WhatsApp will focus on making connections richer, letting users complete tasks such as paying bills within chats and using AI to improve efficiency, while keeping personal messages and calls end-to-end encrypted, CEO Kunal Shah said on Wednesday.

Shah, who took charge of the Meta-owned messaging platform in June this year, said he has spent the last few months listening to users and understanding what they wanted from WhatsApp.

"...What I heard is simple: help people stay close to those who matter to them, and get more done on WhatsApp. So that's what we'll build," he said in a post on X.

He stated that people send over 10 billion voice messages and over 4 billion stickers on WhatsApp every day.

"First, we want to make connections richer. Sometimes hearing someone's voice,



sending a joke, agreeing on a plan or knowing they're safe is the whole point. As the way people communicate evolves, we will evolve these experiences with them. We'll make voice notes, groups, stickers and video simpler and more expressive, because how people feel close keeps changing," he said.

On the second priority, Shah said too many tasks start in a chat and then need several more steps elsewhere, such as paying a bill, borrowing money or staying connected while travelling. Nothing that each handoff to another task costs time, Shah said WhatsApp is working with financial services and telecom partners so that "finishing something feels as easy as starting it".

The third focus area would be artificial intelligence (AI), which Shah said should quietly find what users need, get things done and make sure they never miss a booking or an appointment.

"The best technology saves you time, so you can get back to the connections that matter," he said.

Shah said WhatsApp handles over 100 billion messages and 2 billion calls every day, and that the platform must remain simple, reliable and private.

Japanese automaker Nissan reduces red ink, vows to return to profit for full year

■ HT News Network/UNI



TOKYO, Nov 11: Japanese automaker Nissan trimmed its losses over the first half of the fiscal year, compared to the previous year, and on Wednesday reaffirmed its promise to turn profitable for the full year.

Losses at Nissan Motor Co, based in the port city of Yokohama, for the April-September period totalled 39.7 billion yen ($250 million), smaller than the 221.9 billion yen red ink for the same period last year.

Nissan's six-month sales rose 8.8% to 6.07 trillion yen, helped by a favourable exchange rate and pricing.

US and Japanese markets did well as far as vehicle sales, while the situation remained challenging in China, where competition remains fierce. The unrest in the Middle East, which has raised the price of some raw materials, while blocking shipments, continues to hurt Nissan, as with other Japanese companies.

Nissan stuck to its earlier projection to return to profit for the fiscal year through March 2027, at a net profit of 20 billion yen. That marks a recovery from the last two fiscal years, when Nissan has been in the red.

"The second half offers real opportunities to make progress," said Chief Executive Ivan Espinosa, stressing that model launches will build on the recovery "momentum, market by market." "The next step is to build on that foundation," he told reporters.

Nissan's new business plan is set to be announced in February next year.

Nissan, which makes the Rogue sport utility vehicle, Z sports car and Infiniti luxury models, is allied with Renault SA of France and Mitsubishi Motors Corp of Japan. It also has a partnership with Japanese rival Honda Motor Co., sharing technology and some parts.

Nissan's results were hurt by an earthquake that struck Kumamoto, southwestern Japan, earlier this year. Nissan's plant there lost days of production, but no employee was injured.

Nissan's stocks, which have declined over the past year, slipped 1.5 per cent in Wednesday trading, ahead of the earnings announcement.

GMC Srinagar mourns Demise of Dr Mohammad Akbar Bhat

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER11: Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar expresses its profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Akbar Bhat, Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery who passed away today morning after a prolonged illness.

His passing is an irreparable loss to the medical fraternity and to the institution. A distinguished surgeon, dedicated teacher and academician, Prof. Bhat made invaluable contributions to patient care, medical education and the growth of cardiovascular surgery in the region. His unwavering professional commitment, deep compassion for his patients and long association with GMC Srinagar will be remembered with respect and affection for years to come.In their condolence message, Principal/Dean Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan, Administrator (AAH) Massarat Hashim, HODs, Medical Superintendent Superspeciality hospital.

Rupee rises 7 paise to 93.70 against US dollar in early trade

■ HT News Network/UNI

MUMBAI, Nov 11: The rupee appreciated 7 paise to 93.70 against the US dollar in early trade on Wednesday, backed by a steady return of foreign capital, softer crude oil prices and improving geopolitical sentiment.

Forex traders said foreign investors are gradually finding their way back into the domestic market, after months of cautious participation and substantial outflows.

The rupee has emerged as one of Asia's best-performing currencies in FY27. If foreign fund inflows continue, it could provide an important cushion against external uncertainties, they said.

In the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at around 93.71, then touched 93.70, up 7 paise from its closing level on Monday.

On Tuesday, domestic equity, currency and debt markets were closed on account of 'Diwali Balipratipada'. On Monday, the rupee appreciated 21 paise to 93.77 against the US dollar.

"The rupee's underlying momentum remains positive, backed by a steady return of foreign capital, softer crude prices and improving geopolitical sentiment. If these supportive factors continue, USD/INR could extend its decline towards 93.50, with 93.00 emerging as the next important level to watch," CR Forex Advisors MD Amit Pabari said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 102.26, higher by 0.03 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.01 per cent higher at USD 92.41 per barrel in futures trade.

"For the rupee, cheaper oil offers



support through a lower import bill, while higher US yields and the stronger dollar create an opposing pressure," said Anindya Banerjee, Head of Commodity and Currency Research, Kotak NEO.

India's inflation data, to be released on Thursday, will be the next domestic policy signal, Banerjee said.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) purchased equities worth Rs 7,212.22 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

Driven by the AI-led sell-off in global markets, strong domestic earnings growth and attractive large-cap valuations, foreign investors turned net buyers of Indian equities in November, infusing Rs 53,739 crore in the first nine days after two consecutive months of outflows.

The latest investment follows net outflows of Rs 34,843 crore in October and Rs 35,861 crore in September, according to data available with the depositories. In the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at around 93.71, then touched 93.70, up 7 paise from its closing level on Monday.

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Oil Prices cool to around $92 as Trump says Iran war is 'effectively over'

■ HT News Network/UNI

New Delhi, Nov 11 (UNI) Crude oil prices edged higher on Wednesday after declining for a second consecutive session to their lowest levels since August 31, with Brent crude hovering above the $92-per-barrel mark.

Brent crude futures rose 80 cents, or 0.87 per cent, to $92.29 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude gained 57 cents, or 0.66 per cent, to trade at $86.61 per barrel.

Despite the modest recovery, crude oil benchmarks have come under significant pressure in recent sessions as easing tensions between the United States and Iran have reduced concerns over prolonged disruptions to global oil supplies.

Brent crude has declined around 17% during the recent trading sessions, with crude exports from the Middle East recovering to levels close to those seen before the conflict. The improving supply situation has also raised concerns about a potential surplus in the global oil market, further weighing on prices.

Market sentiment improved after US President Donald Trump indicated that Washington was not considering an immediate return to large-scale military action against Iran. Speaking at the White House after meeting Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Trump described the war with Iran as "militarily ... effectively over".

"We're just keeping it the status quo," Trump told reporters, signalling a preference for maintaining the current situation rather than escalating military operations. The



comments have eased concerns over further supply disruptions in the Middle East, a key oil-producing region, contributing to the recent correction in international crude prices.

Trump described negotiations as showing "positive momentum", and said there was a "good chance" the conflict could end."They're talking to us, and they're talking very politely, And we'll see what happens," he said.He added that military action did not currently appear necessary, although US forces remained prepared to resume operations if circumstances changed. Brent crude futures rose 80 cents, or 0.87 per cent, to $92.29 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude gained 57 cents, or 0.66 per cent, to trade at $86.61 per barrel.

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Rare cancer discovered after mum underwent hysterectomy

Donna Marklew had to undergo a hysterectomy to treat complications caused by childbirth.

But the operation led the Coventry mum to receive a life-changing diagnosis when tests later revealed she had a rare form of cancer.

She was diagnosed with neuroendocrine cancer, which was only discovered after tissue removed during a hysterectomy at Warwick Hospital was analysed following a uterine prolapse.

"I was very shocked because I'd never heard of neuroendocrine cancer," she said.

"[I] was left with not much information because it wasn't known to anybody, and then trying to explain to people [that] I've been diagnosed with neuroendocrine cancer, you're kind of met with blank faces."

The rare cancer, which starts in the nerve and cell glands that make and release hormones, is estimated to affect 6,000 people in the UK every year, according to the charity, Neuroendocrine Cancer UK.

Lisa Walker, the chief executive of Neuroendocrine Cancer UK, said that the average time between people experiencing a first symptom and getting a diagnosis is five years.

"That is because the symptoms could be other conditions, and then people find themselves perhaps going down a different route and then needing to go back when the symptoms change or other symptoms are added in, which then start to look more like neuroendocrine cancer," she explained.

Marklew is now trying to raise awareness of the disease, which coincides with World Neuroendocrine Cancer Day on Tuesday.



She said that the disease is actually a group of cancers that develop in hormone-producing cells throughout the body.

Diagnosis can be particularly difficult, especially for women, she added.

Marklew, an occupational therapist who works in Leicestershire, said that after she was diagnosed, scans revealed tumours were discovered in her appendix, Fallopian tubes and surrounding tissue.

In March 2025, she underwent a nine hour surgery at Warwick Hospital to remove as many tumours as possible.

However, surgery alone has not been enough, and Marklew has to have three injections every week to try and keep the cancer under control.

She has also just started Peptide Receptor Radionuclide Therapy (PRRT) which is administered four times a week, every two months.

"The tumours are slow growing, which is one of the benefits of this type of cancer.

"There's a different type of neuroendocrine as well, which can be more aggressive. but fortunately for me, mine are grade two, which means that they grow quite slowly, although mine are still growing."

However, Marklew, 44, said while she is able to live a normal life during her treatment, the disease has had a huge mental impact.

"'I've got four young children and my husband, my mum and my friends, and I think the reason why I've really wanted to get up and shout about it is because I just don't want anyone to have people feel so vulnerable when you find out that you have this diagnosis because nobody knows about it [the condition]."

Walker added: "It's a complex and diverse cancer and can develop in any part of the body, which is one of the things that makes detection difficult.

"It develops in the neuroendocrine cells. They produce and release the hormones that essentially regulate our different body functions and are found throughout the body.

"So it can affect any organ. Most commonly it does affect the lungs, the digestive tract, and the pancreas, but it can be found anywhere."

'Invaluable resource'

Marklew said that prior to her hysterectomy, she had no identifiable symptoms, although looking back, she thinks a trip to Scotland may have been an indicator.

"I was anxious and had palpitations during a trip to St Andrews for my first wedding anniversary, but my GP suggested that was down to me being perimenopausal."

She said unlike other cancers, because neuroendocrine is not as obvious or as widely known as others, few people understand how she feels.

"I could talk to my friends and family all day long, but no one will understand what it is like to live with this condition.

"It's really really hard and because it's invisible everybody will say - oh you look great."

She said she reached out to the charity Neuroendocrine UK for support and advice.

"They're an absolutely invaluable resource for people that have been diagnosed and they have patient groups in other areas, so I said I'd really like to set one up.

"We did one in September and one other person came along, which was nice because it was a nice opportunity for me and her to have a couple of hours conversation along with one of the nurses as well.

"Then we [did] it bi-monthly, we had six people and it felt so good".

(BBC NEWS)

Faith in mental health crisis teams 'lost'

Mental health campaigners on the Isle of Man have claimed people are being turned away from services whose help they need.

Juan Moore, who set up support group Manx Pact, said people had "lost faith in the crisis team" provided by Manx Care, arguing there needed to be more staff and more funding.

An MKH also said that teams dedicated to preventing suicide were "not fully resourced and connected".

The government said a refreshed suicide prevention strategy, due in early 2027, would focus on "intervening earlier" so people get help "before reaching crisis."

Moore set up Manx PACT (Manx People Actioning Change Together) after being told he faced a two-year wait for help.

He said many people who came to the group had said they had been turned away from mental health crisis teams.

He claimed one had been told it was "not a talking service" whiled another had said their relatived was not unwell enough to be helped.

Moore said the team was, in his view, "understaffed, and overworked".

He said he wanted callers to the crisis team to be able to speak to a psychiatrist or psychologist at any time of day, more funding for services, and for people who had survived mental health crises to have a role in shaping the support on offer.

"If we were to listen to the people who survived, we could go a long, long way towards sorting out some of these issues," he said.

Government response

Joney Faragher, MHK for Douglas East, raised concerns about the suspected suicide rapid response team, set up in 2021 to support families and others affected immediately after a suspected suicide.

She said that too often since the Island's suicide prevention strategy was published, officials had "ticked boxes rather than measured impact on people".

"That's where we need to put all of our focus now: how are we actually helping people feel better?" she said.

Chief Minister Chris Thomas said the government's responsibility was "not only to provide compassionate and timely support to those affected, but to do everything we can to prevent further deaths".

He said the suicide prevention strategy was being refreshed, with a new version due in early 2027 that would bring together government, charities, communities "and people with lived experience".

And he said a rapid response team, which brought teams together to offer immediate support after a suspected suicide, had been running since 2021.

He acknowledged there were still "outstanding gaps", and said the upcoming refresh would look at opportunities to "strengthen intelligence, coordination and earlier intervention".

Faragher pressed the chief minister for more detail, telling him: "I'm not asking for generalised responses, that could be a response to any question."

She said that while services could be set up and meetings held, "none of that necessarily tells us whether vulnerable people are getting the support that they need".

Manx Care, which runs the crisis team, has been approached for comment.

(BBC NEWS)



Antidepressant escitalopram more effective at preventing relapse, analysis finds



One drug comes out top in a large analysis of how effective antidepressants are at keeping patients free of symptoms of depression. Escitalopram performed best at preventing patients from relapsing in a study involving nearly 10,000 people prescribed different medications for up to a year.

Two other pills - agomelatine and duloxetine - came next, while prozac (also known as fluoxetine) ranked just below them.

These drugs increase seratonin, which is linked to mood.

According to the new analysis, compared to Prozac (fluoxetine):

people on escitalopram were more likely to see their symptoms improve and stay that way, and less likely to stop taking their medication

agomelatine (an atypical antidepressant) and duloxetine (an SNRI or selective noradrenaline reuptake inhibitor) also performed well

other medicines, including sertraline, were no better

One of the researchers, Prof Eric Ruhé at Radboud University in The Netherlands, said the choice of medication can vary for each individual.

"Nevertheless, our study can help inform the decisions that prescribers and patients make together: if you start an antidepressant, choose one that not only helps you to get well, but also keeps you well."

Dr Sameer Jauhar, an expert at Imperial College London, said while the research provided useful information, "it cannot tell us which antidepressant will work best for an individual patient."

"I would not interpret these findings as a reason for someone who is responding well to their current antidepressant to change treatment," he added.

Prof Allan Young from the Royal College of Psychiatrists said: "While some medicines appear to have a small advantage over others for longer-term outcomes, the differences are modest and are unlikely to outweigh individual factors such as side effects, previous response and patient preference when deciding on treatment."

Like all medicines, escitalopram can cause side effects, including sleep problems, constipation and weight gain, although not everyone experiences them.

Experts stress the findings don't mean that everyone with severe depression should switch to escitalopram, or that other antidepressants aren't any good, because all the drugs can work and each has its pros and cons.

Depression is common, affecting around one in six people in the UK. With the right treatment and support, people can make a good recovery although for some their depression can return.

To prevent relapse, doctors already recommend people stay on antidepressants for at least six months after depression ends, and then taper off gradually.

The new analysis, published in The Lancet Psychiatry, looked at previous studies comparing the effectiveness of more than a dozen common antidepressants in total.

The differences found were modest and experts say longer studies are still needed to find out more.

There are many contributing causes to depression and a variety of ways to treat it, including drugs and talking therapies. Experts say patients should discuss what treatment options are best with their doctor.

What is escitalopram and how does it work?

any medical guidelines recommend SSRI (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor) antidepressants, like escitalopram, sertraline and fluoxetine or Prozac, as the first drug of choice.

MCA museum to showcase Tendulkar's iconic bats in special exhibition

United News Of India



MUMBAI, NOV 11 :Batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar is set to give cricket fans a rare glimpse into the story behind his record-breaking career, with 26 of his bats, including those used to score his 100 international centuries, becoming part of a special exhibition at the MCA Sharad Pawar Cricket Museum here.

The special collection will be unveiled on November 16, marking 13 years since Tendulkar brought the curtain down on his international career with his 200th Test against the West Indies at the Wankhede Stadium, his home ground.

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) announced the initiative on Wednesday, describing it as a unique exhibition titled 'Batography'. The display will trace the legendary batter's journey through the bats he used during some of the most memorable moments of his career.

Inspired by the concept of a biography, the exhibition will use each bat to narrate a different chapter of Tendulkar's cricketing life, allowing visitors to connect with the equipment behind some of his greatest achievements.

MCA president Ajinkya Naik said the exhibition would offer cricket lovers an opportunity to understand the personal stories behind Tendulkar's records and milestones.

"Sachin Tendulkar's contribution to Indian and world cricket goes far beyond the records he has created. His journey is woven into the memories of millions of cricket fans, and these bats are among the most personal artefacts of that journey," Naik said.

He added that the association was delighted that Tendulkar had chosen to entrust the museum with such valuable pieces of his cricketing history.

"Through Batography, we are bringing a unique dimension to the MCA Museum, allowing visitors to experience the story behind the milestones through the very instruments with which they were created. We are honoured that Sachin has chosen to share these prized possessions with the MCA, ensuring that this extraordinary legacy remains accessible to generations of cricket lovers," he said.

Somaya thanks Bengaluru Police after recovery of 1980 Olympic medal

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 11 :Former India hockey captain M M Somaya has expressed relief and gratitude to the Bengaluru Police after they recovered his stolen belongings, including the gold medal he won at the 1980 Moscow Olympics. The veteran hockey player said getting back the medals felt like winning them all over again.

Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh confirmed on Wednesday that all the stolen items had been recovered and two persons arrested in connection with the burglary. The recovered belongings include eight medals, a camera, a Kodagu dagger and an Olympic kit bag. Police also seized the two-wheeler allegedly used by the accused to commit the crime.

Somaya thanked the police for their efforts in tracing the valuables, many of which hold memories of his playing days.

"I am extremely happy and grateful to the Bengaluru Police for working really hard and recovering all the valuables stolen from my residence," Somaya said.

xplaining why the medals meant so much to him, Somaya said they represented years



of dedication at a time when hockey offered little financial incentive to players. He pointed out that the sport was still amateur during his playing career, making medals the most significant form of recognition for their achievements.

"It feels like I have won the medals all over again. The medals are the result of many years of hard work. There were no monetary rewards back then.

FIFA study highlights rising standards and China's progress at U-17 Women's World Cup

United News Of India

BEIJING, NOV 10 :The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2026 showcased improved standards of play and encouraging progress by several national teams, according to the tournament's Technical Study Group (TSG).



Nigeria beat Japan 2-1 in Saturday's final to claim its maiden U-17 Women's World Cup title, becoming the first African nation to lift the trophy.

The tournament was held in Rabat, Morocco, for the second consecutive year after FIFA made it an annual competition in 2025 and expanded the field to 24 teams.

Tihana Nemcic Bojic, a TSG member and former Croatia international, identified a more attack-minded approach as one of the tournament's main technical and tactical trends."What was the most interesting for me? It probably was one versus one situation in wide areas," she told Xinhua in a recent video interview.

"I would highlight the courage and willingness of players to use one versus one situation, by their body positions, first touch, different technical styles and elements they are using.

"I connect it with the different team roles, becoming from starting with goalkeepers who have intention to play along, going to midfields who rotate a lot to create for these wing positions,and the center forward position that also changes the role. They are putting the ball faster to thefinal third." Statistics compiled by the TSG ahead of the final supported Bojic's assessment.The number of completed crosses increased by four percent compared with 2025, while passes from wide areas into the penalty area rose by 37 percent. Crosses were also delivered closer to the goal line, resulting in more cutbacks.

ICC Test rankings

Gill, Pant drop a place as Rahmat Shah makes historic top-10 entry

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 11 :India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant and captain Shubman Gill remain the only Indian players in the top 10 of the latest ICC Test batting rankings, although both have slipped one place in the updated list.

Pant is now eighth with 713 rating points, while Gill has dropped to 10th with 697 points. Another India batter, Yashasvi Jaiswal, occupies the 13th position.

England's Harry Brook and Joe Root continue to lead the batting charts, with Australia's Travis Head, South Africa captain Temba Bavuma and Steve Smith completing the top five.The latest rankings have also brought a significant milestone for Afghanistan, with captain Rahmat Shah becoming the first player from the country to break into the top 10 of any category in the ICC Test rankings.Rahmat has jumped six places to a career-best seventh among Test batters after scoring 173 in the opening match of Afghanistan's two-Test series against Zimbabwe in Sharjah.

Hardik Pandya joins Punjab Kings in straight swap for Arshdeep Singh

United News Of India

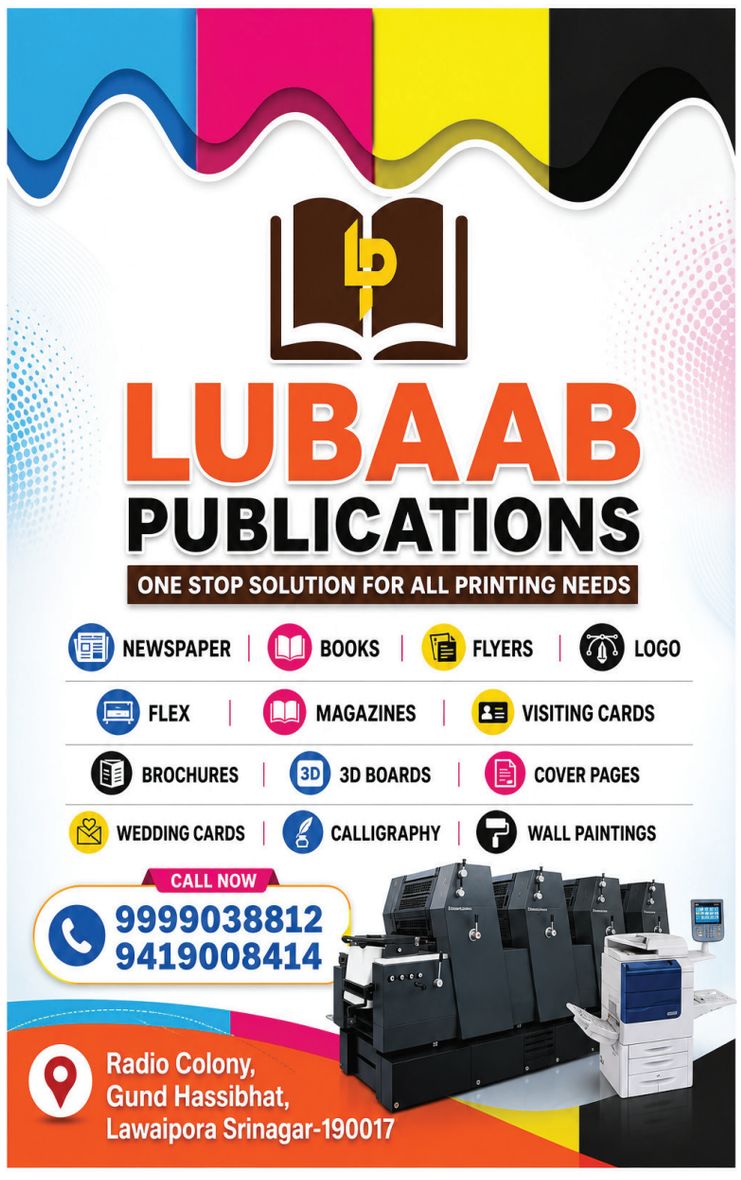
NEW DELHI, NOV 11 :Hardik Pandya's association with Mumbai Indians has come to an end, with the all-rounder set to join Punjab Kings ahead of the 2027 Indian Premier League in a straight player swap that will see India fast bowler Arshdeep Singh move to the five-time champions.



The trade, which had been under discussion for more than a week, has received formal approval from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Pandya will join Punjab for Rs 18 crore, an increase from his existing fee of Rs 16.35 crore, while Arshdeep will move to Mumbai at his current fee of Rs 18 crore.The move brings the curtain down on Pandya's second stint with Mumbai, having returned to the franchise in 2024 and taken over as captain after leading Gujarat Titans to the IPL title in their debut season in 2022.

Pandya began his IPL career with Mumbai in 2015 and was part of four title-winning campaigns in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020. He moved to Gujarat ahead of the 2022 season, guiding the new franchise to the championship before leading them to the final again in 2023. In 162 IPL appearances, he has scored 2,955 runs at a strike rate of 146.28 and claimed 82 wickets.Mumbai Indians owner Akash Ambani acknowledged Pandya's.







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