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Srinagar
Wednesay
November 04 | 2026
23 Jamad ul Awal 1448 AH
Issue No: 260
Volume: 16
Pages: 12
Price :Rs: 2/-

www.dailyheadlinestoday.com
16TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION
HEADLINES TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



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

ED Searches Four Srinagar Premises in Alleged Funding Case

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 3,: The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday conducted searches at four premises in Srinagar as part of an ongoing investigation into alleged financing activities linked to Umar Adil Dar and his associates, officials said.

According to officials, the investigation concerns allegations that Dar was functioning as an overground worker of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit and was involved in activities linked to it.

Officials alleged that Dar and his associates had earlier been apprehended while in possession of a substantial amount of cash and material described as incriminating literature.

The investigation is aimed at tracing suspected proceeds of crime, identifying financial networks and funding channels, examining alleged links with handlers across the border and collecting further evidence, officials said.

>>> MORE ON P 02

Better Connected Cities Will be The Fastest Growing Cities : Narendra Modi

At Pune PM Inaugurates 23-Km Pink Line, Lays Foundation Stone For Four New Metro Corridors Under Rs 13,500-Crore Expansion Plan



HT NEWS DESK / UNI

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated Pune Metro's 23-km Pink Line and laid the foundation stone for four additional corridors under Phase-II, taking the total investment in the city's Metro expansion to approximately Rs 21,800 crore. Describing Pune as a major technology, manufacturing and innovation hub, Modi said improved connectivity would accelerate economic growth, ease commuting and enhance urban living, with the new corridors expected to extend Metro services to several rapidly developing areas.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated Pune Metro's 23-km Line 3, popularly known as the Pink Line, and laid the foundation stone for four additional corridors under Phase-II, taking the total investment in the city's Metro expansion to around Rs 21,800 crore.

The twin initiatives mark a major push to strengthen public transport in Pune, one of Maharashtra's fastest-growing technology, industrial and commercial centres.

Inaugurating the projects through video conferencing, Modi said improved Metro connectivity would accelerate Pune's economic growth, ease the daily commute of residents and enhance the quality of urban life. The inauguration of Line 3, built at a cost of more than Rs 8,300 crore, was accompanied by the launch of the second phase of expansion, involving an estimated investment of Rs 13,500 crore.

>>> MORE ON P 02

Jitendra Singh Alleges Foreign Funding Of Activists, Questions Sources Of Campaign Financing

Claims Dipke Received US-Based Funds And Ranka Allegedly Backed By Pakistani Politicians; Defends FCRA As Safeguard Against Misuse Of Foreign Contributions

HT NEWS DESK / UNI



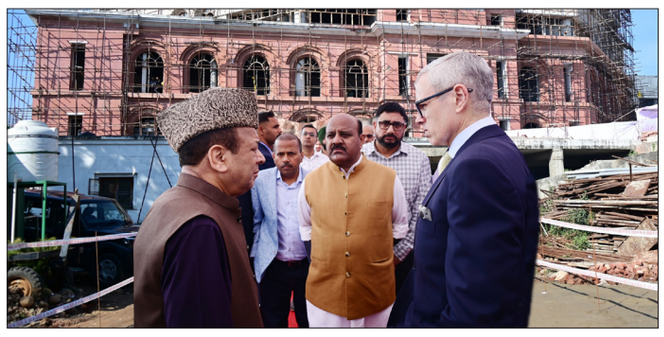
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 3: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Tuesday alleged that certain activists were receiving foreign financial support to fuel anti-government campaigns and influence public discourse in India. Claiming that Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke received funds from US-based donors while co-founder Ashutosh Ranka allegedly received support from Pakistani politicians and other handlers, Singh questioned their funding sources and defended the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) as a mechanism to regulate foreign contributions.

union Minister Jitendra Singh on Tuesday alleged that Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke received funds from US-based donors, while its co-founder Ashutosh Ranka got financial support from Pakistani politicians and other handlers to fuel anti-government campaigns and manipulate public discourse in India."There is sufficient evidence to suggest that these anarchist elements are being funded through unauthorised sources,

>>> MORE ON P 02

"Assembly Complex Must Be Completed On Time Without Compromising Quality": CM Omar

CM Inspects Rs 208.53-Crore Jammu Project; Six-Level Complex, Stalled Since 2018, Targeted For Completion By October 2027



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 3: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday inspected the ongoing construction of the New Legislative Assembly Complex in Jammu and directed the executing agency to ensure its timely completion while maintaining prescribed quality standards. The Rs 208.53-crore project, which remained stalled since 2018, was revived by the present government, with construction resuming in February 2026 and October 31, 2027, fixed as the completion deadline.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inspected the ongoing construction of the New Legislative Assembly Complex in Jammu and reviewed the progress of the prestigious project, stressing the need for its timely completion while ensuring the highest standards of quality.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister was briefed by the concerned officers on the status of construction and the measures being undertaken to accelerate the pace of work.

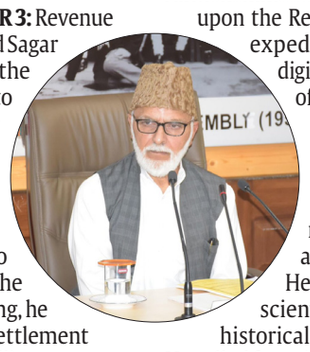
The Chief Minister emphasised the need for effective coordination among the concerned departments and executing agency, systematic execution of works and strict adherence

>>> MORE ON P 02

"Digitisation Must Ensure Accuracy, Transparency And Easy Access To Land Records": Sagar

Revenue Minister Calls For Expeditious Verification Of Records, Strengthening Of Grassroots Administration And Scientific Preservation Of Historical Documents

HT NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 3: Revenue Minister Ali Mohammad Sagar on Tuesday directed the Revenue Department to accelerate the digitisation and verification of land records, strengthen field-level administration and ensure transparent delivery of services to citizens. Reviewing the department's functioning, he stressed making the Settlement Wing fully operational, filling grassroots vacancies, upgrading infrastructure in remote areas and scientifically preserving historical revenue documents.

: Minister for Revenue, Power Development Department, Law, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, today emphasised upon the Revenue Department to expedite the process of digitisation and verification of land records.

Sagar stressed on making the Settlement Wing fully functional and strengthening the revenue administration at the grassroots level. He directed for ensuring scientific preservation of historical revenue documents. He called for a time-bound action plan to address the infrastructure and manpower deficiencies, particularly in remote and far-flung areas. He directed the officers to ensure transparent, accessible and

>>> MORE ON P 02

SC Flags Illegal Firecracker Sales, Seeks Strict Compliance With Green Cracker Norms

Apex Court Raises Concern Over Unauthorised Products In Delhi Markets; Limited Diwali Relaxation Subject To Certification

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3: The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed concern over reports of unauthorised firecrackers being openly sold in Delhi markets despite its conditional relaxation permitting certified green crackers during a limited period around Diwali. Taking note of reports alleging the availability of products without valid QR codes and certification, the bench asked the government to look into the matter and reiterated the need for strict enforcement of its directions, including restrictions on sales, mandatory certification and prosecution of violators.

A day after permitting the manufacture, sale and bursting of certified green firecrackers in Delhi-NCR for a strictly regulated period around Diwali, the Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed concern over reports of unauthorised crackers being openly sold in prominent Delhi markets in apparent violation of its directions.

A bench comprising Justices M M Sundresh and Prasanna B. Varale drew



Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati's attention to a media report claiming that licensed and unlicensed firecrackers, including products with and without prescribed QR codes, were freely available in the market. Referring to the report,

>>> MORE ON P 02

Mostly Dry Weather Likely in J&K Until November 9, Light Rain and Snow Possible Later: MeT

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 3,: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience mostly dry weather over the coming days, with brief spells of light rain and snowfall over higher reaches possible on November 5 and again around November 10 and 11, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said on Tuesday.

According to the forecast, weather is expected to remain generally dry on November 3 and 4. Brief spells of light rain at isolated places and light snowfall over higher reaches may occur towards the evening of November 5.

Dry conditions are expected to continue from November 6 to 9.

Another spell of generally cloudy weather, accompanied by the possibility of light rain at scattered places and light snowfall over higher reaches, is forecast for November 10 and 11.

The MeT Centre has advised farmers to continue harvesting and other agricultural activities during the period of generally dry weather. [KNT]

Ruhullah's Political Earthquake: A New Chapter in Kashmir's Politics or the Beginning of a Larger Revolt?

Quitting NC after 24 years and moving to relinquish his parliamentary seat, Aga Ruhullah challenges dynastic politics and calls for a new culture of honest politics

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR NOV 03 : Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi's decision to part ways with the National Conference after a 24-year-long association and submit his resignation from the Srinagar parliamentary seat has sent shockwaves through Jammu and Kashmir's political landscape, marking a potentially defining moment in the region's contemporary political history.

Far from being an ordinary political departure, Ruhullah's move represents an extraordinary challenge to the established political order. At a time when political leaders are generally reluctant to surrender positions of power, particularly when their own party is in government, his decision to walk away from both the ruling National Conference and his parliamentary position has given a new dimension to the debate on political accountability, ideological commitment and public representation.

The significance of this development lies not merely in the loss it represents for the National Conference but in the political message it carries for the entire leadership of Jammu and Kashmir. By choosing to break away from an organisation with which he remained associated for more than two decades, Ruhullah has questioned whether political parties



HT EXCLUSIVE ANALYSIS By : Dr S.J. BUKHARI

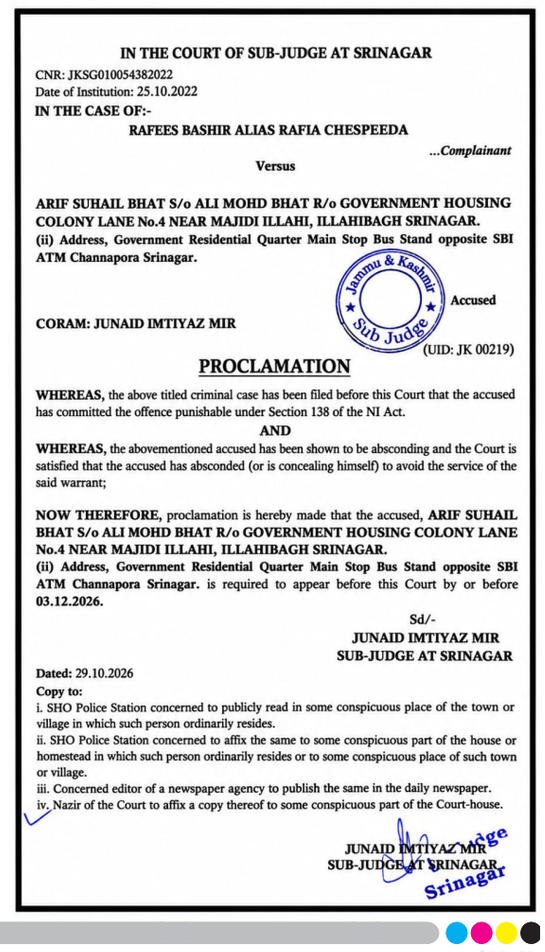
can continue to enjoy public mandates while compromising on the promises made to voters.

His parting words and public statements have been particularly scathing. Without restricting his criticism to organisational differences, Ruhullah launched a pointed attack on the leadership style of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the political establishment surrounding him. His reference to the culture of dynastic entitlement, describing the emerging power structure in terms of a 'crown prince and his cabal', was widely interpreted as a direct indictment of the leadership model he has come to oppose.

The political significance of his departure becomes even more pronounced when viewed against the backdrop of the 2024 Assembly elections. The National Conference secured a public mandate amid expectations that it would vigorously pursue the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional rights, including its position on Article 370. Ruhullah has repeatedly questioned what he considers the government's failure to demonstrate the political resolve expected of it on these commitments.

His disagreement with the party leadership, therefore, appears to have evolved beyond an internal political confrontation into a larger ideological battle over the credibility of electoral promises and the responsibility of elected representatives towards the electorate.For the National Conference, the development is undoubtedly a serious political setback. Losing a sitting MP who

>>> MORE ON P 02



IN THE COURT OF SUB-JUDGE AT SRINAGAR
CNR: JKSG010054382022
Date of Institution: 25.10.2022
IN THE CASE OF:-
RAFEES BASHIR ALIAS RAFIA CHESPEEDA
...Complainant
Versus
ARIF SUHAIL BHAT S/o ALI MOHD BHAT R/o GOVERNMENT HOUSING COLONY LANE No.4 NEAR MAJIDI ILLAHI, ILLAHIBAGH SRINAGAR.
(ii) Address, Government Residential Quarter Main Stop Bus Stand opposite SBI ATM Channapora Srinagar.
Accused
CORAM: JUNAID IMTIYAZ MIR
(UID: JK 00219)

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the above titled criminal case has been filed before this Court that the accused has committed the offence punishable under Section 138 of the NI Act.
AND
WHEREAS, the abovementioned accused has been shown to be absconding and the Court is satisfied that the accused has absconded (or is concealing himself) to avoid the service of the said warrant;

NOW THEREFORE, proclamation is hereby made that the accused, ARIF SUHAIL BHAT S/o ALI MOHD BHAT R/o GOVERNMENT HOUSING COLONY LANE No.4 NEAR MAJIDI ILLAHI, ILLAHIBAGH SRINAGAR.
(ii) Address, Government Residential Quarter Main Stop Bus Stand opposite SBI ATM Channapora Srinagar. is required to appear before this Court by or before 03.12.2026.

Sd/-
JUNAID IMTIYAZ MIR
SUB-JUDGE AT SRINAGAR

Dated: 29.10.2026
Copy to:
i. SHO Police Station concerned to publicly read in some conspicuous place of the town or village in which such person ordinarily resides.
ii. SHO Police Station concerned to affix the same to some conspicuous part of the house or homestead in which such person ordinarily resides or to some conspicuous place of such town or village.
iii. Concerned editor of a newspaper agency to publish the same in the daily newspaper.
iv. Nazir of the Court to affix a copy thereof to some conspicuous part of the Court-house.

JUNAID IMTIYAZ MIR
SUB-JUDGE AT SRINAGAR

Continue from Front Page.....

ED Searches Four

The allegations remain subject to investigation. Further details of the searches were awaited. [KNT]

Better Connected Cities

"A better-connected Pune is a faster-growing Pune! New Metro projects will boost the city's growth and improve Ease of Living," the Prime Minister said, stressing that modern transport infrastructure was essential to support the expanding economic activities of India's urban centres.

Describing Pune as a major hub of technology, manufacturing and innovation, Modi said the city had become a destination of aspirations for young Indians seeking professional opportunities. "IT, automobile, pharma, startups... from innovation to manufacturing, Pune is a place of dreams and aspirations for the country's youth," he said, adding that enhanced Metro connectivity would provide fresh momentum to its development.

The Prime Minister also called for a broader urban development strategy, arguing that economic growth should not remain concentrated in major metropolitan centres. "Our cities are not merely places to live. They are also major centres of economic activity. We must develop hundreds of smaller cities across the country as growth hubs," he said.

The inauguration of the Pink Line is particularly important for Pune's substantial IT workforce as it connects Hinjewadi, one of the city's largest technology and employment hubs, with Shivajinagar, a major administrative, commercial and transport centre. Running approximately 23 kilometres from Maan to District Court Metro station, the corridor is expected to facilitate the daily movement of thousands of professionals and other commuters.

Its integration with the existing Metro network at the District Court interchange will allow passengers to access several parts of the city through a connected public transport system. The corridor is expected to ease congestion on some of Pune's busiest roads, reduce commuting time and encourage greater reliance on mass transit instead of private vehicles, with potential environmental benefits through lower vehicular emissions.

The Pink Line also has a significant gender-inclusion component, as it will be operated entirely by women train operators. In another green initiative, around 30 per cent of its electricity requirements are envisaged to be met through solar power. Passenger services are scheduled to commence on November 4, initially covering 17 of the corridor's 23 stations, with the remaining stations expected to become operational in phases.

Alongside the inauguration, Modi laid the foundation stone for four new corridors under Phase-II of the Pune Metro network - Lines 2A, 2B, 4 and 4A - which will extend connectivity to several rapidly developing residential, commercial and industrial neighbourhoods.

Lines 2A and 2B will together cover approximately 12.75 kilometres. Line 2A will connect Vanaz with Chandani Chowk, while Line 2B will extend from Ramwadi to Vitthalwadi, strengthening east-west connectivity and improving access to Pune's expanding eastern suburbs.

The 25.52-km Line 4 will connect Kharadi with Khadakwasla, passing through important residential and commercial areas, while Line 4A, extending 6.12 kilometres, will link Nal Stop with Manik Baug.

The four corridors are expected to bring key locations, including Kharadi, Magarpatta, Hadapsar, Swargate, Manik Baug, Nanded City, Pune Cantonment and Warje, within an expanded Metro network. The Ramwadi-Vitthalwadi extension is expected to be particularly beneficial for the fast-growing Kharadi and Wagholi areas, where the expansion of the IT and services sectors has generated increasing demand for reliable public transport.

The expansion plan also envisages integration with the existing Metro network and intercity bus services through interchange facilities at Swargate, Nal Stop and Kharadi Bypass. The objective is to facilitate seamless transfers between different modes of public transportation and improve connectivity within Pune as well as with destinations beyond the city.

Pune's rapid urbanisation, expanding industrial base, growing technology sector and rising population have placed mounting pressure on its road infrastructure. The concentration of employment opportunities in major commercial and IT hubs, coupled with increasing private vehicle ownership, has contributed to traffic congestion and longer commuting times. The enlarged Metro network is intended to provide a more extensive and dependable mass rapid transit alternative.

Beyond the infrastructure announcements, Modi used the occasion to highlight the government's economic and welfare priorities, asserting that India was simultaneously the world's fastest-growing major economy and among the fastest in reducing poverty. "Today, India is a country which is the fastest-growing economy and is also the fastest in reducing poverty," he said.

He alleged that corruption and nepotism in the past had prevented poor people from receiving the benefits of development and maintained that his government's emphasis was on ensuring that welfare schemes and development initiatives reached their intended beneficiaries.

Reflecting on his years in public life, Modi said he felt honoured to have had the opportunity to serve the country for 25 years. He also highlighted the benefits accruing to farmers under BJP governments and assured cultivators in Maharashtra that the government stood firmly with them.

Referring to the challenging international economic environment, the Prime Minister said India was continuing to make progress despite global uncertainties and prevailing economic gloom.

The Rs 21,800-crore initiative represents a substantial addition to Pune's urban transport infrastructure at a time when the city's economic expansion is increasingly constrained by congestion and growing mobility requirements. With the Pink Line entering the operational phase and work on four more corridors set to begin, the Metro network is expected to connect major employment centres, residential neighbourhoods, commercial districts and transport hubs more comprehensively.

However, the long-term impact of the ambitious expansion will depend not merely on the construction of additional corridors but also on timely execution, effective integration between routes, dependable operations and affordable fares. Making Metro travel a convenient and accessible option for a wider section of Pune's population will be crucial to reducing dependence on private vehicles and ensuring that the investment delivers lasting improvements in urban mobility. UNI SKA AAB

Jitendra Singh

including anti-India NGOs and organisations operating both within and outside the country. Foreign-funded NGOs, deep-state operatives and anti-India forces are allegedly working together to manufacture and propagate a misleading narrative," he said.

"There are also serious questions about the funding sources of certain self-styled leaders and activists. Dipke has allegedly received funds from US-based donors, while Ashutosh Ranka is alleged to have received financial support from Pakistani politicians and other handlers," Singh said.

He claimed that intelligence inputs and other available information pointed to the involvement of foreign-funded NGOs, deep-state operatives and organisations allegedly working against India's interests in attempts to manufacture narratives against the country. He alleged that such funding is being used to influence public discourse and create anti-government campaigns.

He also defended the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) as a mechanism to regulate foreign funding channels. Calling Dipke and Ranka as "self-styled leaders and activists", Singh said, "Those making these allegations must also explain their own sources of funding and how they mobilise resources to sustain their campaigns. The larger point is that, having lost political ground, these elements appear to be attempting to manufacture a narrative to regain public attention." Singh also accused the Congress of spreading misinformation about electoral processes and making baseless 'vote chori' allegations to protect the political image of its leadership. He cited the NDA's victory in all four Karnataka Legislative Council seats contested through ballot papers to question the opposition party's stand on EVMs.

SC Flags

Justice Sundresh asked Bhati to look into the matter, noting that it suggested virtually every variety of firecracker was available despite the restrictions imposed by the court a day earlier.

On November 2, the Supreme Court had permitted the sale of certified green firecrackers from November 4 to 6 and their bursting between 6 am and 7 am and from 8 pm to 10 pm on November 7 and 8. It directed that the complete prohibition on firecrackers would resume from November 9. The court had made it clear that only crackers certified by CSIR-NEERI and covered by valid PESO licences could be manufactured and sold.

Each box was required to carry a product- and batch-specific QR code to enable verification of its certification. It had also prohibited firecracker strings, commonly known as ladis, crackers containing barium and products not approved by CSIR-NEERI. Sales were restricted to designated locations, with online sales barred. Police teams were directed to inspect markets, verify QR codes, seize illegal crackers, and initiate prosecution against violators. Vehicles entering Delhi-NCR were also to be checked to prevent the transportation of prohibited firecrackers.

The media report referred to by the bench claimed that different varieties of firecrackers were being openly sold in prominent markets across the national capital despite the restrictions imposed by the court. It also alleged that some products lacked QR codes, while others carried codes that did not facilitate verification of certification, and that conventional firecrackers were available on request despite being kept out of public display.

"Digitisation Must

hassle-free delivery of revenue services to the public.

Speaking at a review meeting of the Revenue Department, the Minister stressed that digitisation must be backed by proper verification and authentication of records, adequate field-level infrastructure and effective monitoring so that the ongoing reforms translate into tangible benefits for the citizens. He directed the officers to strengthen coordination with elected representatives and establish an effective mechanism for addressing public grievances and area-specific problems.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Revenue, Avny Lavasa; Divisional Commissioners; Deputy Commissioners; Custodian General; Inspector General of Registration; Additional Deputy Commissioners; Assistant Commissioners Revenue (ACRs); Tehsildars and other senior and field-level officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Minister undertook a detailed assessment of various aspects of revenue administration, with focus on digitisation of land records, settlement operations, preservation of historical revenue documents, strengthening of field-level infrastructure, manpower requirements and streamlining of citizen services.

Emphasising that modernisation of the Revenue Department must translate into tangible benefits for the common people, Sagar stressed that digitisation should not be confined to mere conversion of physical records into electronic formats. Instead, it must ensure accuracy, authenticity, transparency and easy accessibility of land records thereby reducing procedural delays and eliminating unnecessary hardships for citizens.

He underscored the need to strengthen the grassroots revenue administration, particularly in remote and far-flung areas, where inadequate infrastructure, electricity supply, internet connectivity, computers and other essential technical facilities continue to impede the digitisation process. He stressed that every Patwar Halqa must be equipped with the requisite electronic infrastructure to ensure that people in even the remotest areas can access digital revenue services without difficulty.

The Minister also called for making the Settlement Wing fully functional and operational, observing that settlement activities must progress simultaneously with digitisation. He emphasised the importance of proper verification, authentication, updating and reconciliation of land records to ensure that digitised data is accurate and free from discrepancies.

Taking note of the condition of historical revenue records, Sagar called for strengthening Mahafiz Khanas with adequate infrastructure, trained manpower and modern preservation facilities to safeguard valuable historical documents, including Lathas, Jamabandis, Massavis and other traditional revenue records.

The issue of missing, damaged, incomplete and untraceable revenue records also figured prominently during the deliberations.

The Minister stressed the need for a systematic, transparent and time-bound mechanism to identify, retrieve and reconstruct such records through authentic historical references, settlement documents and other verifiable sources. He made it clear that no unverified or unauthenticated entries should find their way into digitised land records.

On the manpower front, the Minister emphasised the need to address staff shortages at the grassroots level, particularly at the Patwari, Girdawar and Naib Tehsildar level. He observed that strengthening the administrative structure at the Tehsildar level alone would not serve the intended purpose unless adequate supporting manpower was also available in the field. He also stressed the need for proper office accommodation and essential facilities in Patwar and Girdawar Khanas, especially in underserved and remote areas.

Reviewing the delivery of routine revenue services, Sagar called for timely mutation entries, correction of discrepancies, maintenance of updated records and an effective grievance-redressal mechanism. He stressed that citizens must not be made to undertake repeated visits to government offices or face avoidable delays while obtaining essential revenue documents and services.

The Minister also underlined the importance of institutionalising regular consultation and coordination with MLAs, elected representatives and other public stakeholders. He said their active involvement was essential in identifying area-specific issues relating to disputed and missing land records, settlement operations, infrastructure deficiencies, manpower shortages and public grievances.

Sagar stressed that the benefits of ongoing reforms must reach ordinary citizens, particularly those living in remote and far-flung areas, through simplified procedures and time-bound delivery of services.

"Assembly Complex

to prescribed specifications. He underscored the importance of completing the project within the stipulated timeline, given its significance as a key institutional infrastructure for Jammu and Kashmir.

The New Legislative Assembly Complex, being constructed at a revised estimated cost of 208.53 crore, has a total built-up area of 22,165 square metres. The project was initially taken up in 2012, but construction remained stalled since 2018.

The long-pending project was revived following the grant of revised administrative approval by the present Government in 2025, paving the way for the resumption of construction.

Under the Omar Abdullah-led Government, work on the project resumed on February 15, 2026, with October 31, 2027, fixed as the scheduled date of completion. An expenditure of 5.97 crore had been incurred on the project up to October 31, 2026.

The six-level complex will house a modern Assembly Hall, Central Hall, visitor and press galleries, committee rooms and advanced building management systems.

The Chief Minister directed the concerned departments and executing agency to maintain close coordination and ensure expeditious execution of the project without compromising on quality or the stipulated completion timeline.

He reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthening institutional infrastructure and ensuring the timely completion of projects of public importance.

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather; Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, Anil Kumar Singh; Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, M. Raju; Secretary, Law Department, Achal Sethi; and other senior officers accompanied the Chief Minister during the inspection.

Ruhullah's Political

had remained part of the organisation for 24 years is not simply an organisational loss; it raises questions about internal democracy, leadership accountability and the party's ability to accommodate dissenting voices. More importantly, it exposes the growing challenge of reconciling the expectations of its traditional support base with the realities of governance.

What makes Ruhullah's decision particularly striking is that he is walking away from a party currently in power rather than seeking political shelter elsewhere. His willingness to relinquish a parliamentary position, subject to the formal acceptance of his resignation by the Lok Sabha Speaker, adds considerable weight to his claim that political principles should take precedence over positions and privileges.

In a political culture where defections, political realignments and struggles for power have frequently dominated public discourse, such a move could potentially redefine the parameters of political dissent in Jammu and Kashmir. Whether it becomes a turning point or remains an individual political episode will depend largely on what follows.

Ruhullah's call for a new chapter of honest politics, with an emphasis on bringing together committed and young people, has opened up the possibility of a political alternative outside the established party structures. However, translating this vision into a sustainable political movement will require more than strong speeches and symbolic resignations. It will demand a clear political programme, organisational strength, ideological consistency and the ability to inspire confidence across different sections of society.

His decision also carries a message for other political parties and their leadership. The electorate cannot be expected to

remain permanently bound by party loyalties, family legacies or political personalities. Public mandates are accompanied by public responsibilities, and political credibility ultimately depends on the willingness of leaders to stand by their commitments.

United Welfare Foundation of India Holds Free Medical Camp in Budgam; Over 350 Patients Receive Medical Attention.

Showkat Dar,



BUDGAM,NOV 3, In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening community healthcare and extending medical assistance to underserved sections of society, the United Welfare Foundation of India (UWFI) organised a free medical camp in District Budgam on Sunday,

November 01, 2026. The camp was witnessed an encouraging response, with more than 350 patients availing themselves of free medical consultations and healthcare facilities.

The initiative was organised with the objective of making essential healthcare services accessible to the public, particularly those who face difficulties in accessing medical facilities. During the camp, patients were examined by the medical team and provided with necessary healthcare guidance. Free medicines were also distributed, while a complimentary eye check-up facility was arranged to promote eye care and facilitate the early identification of vision-related problems.

A large number of local residents participated in the camp and appreciated the

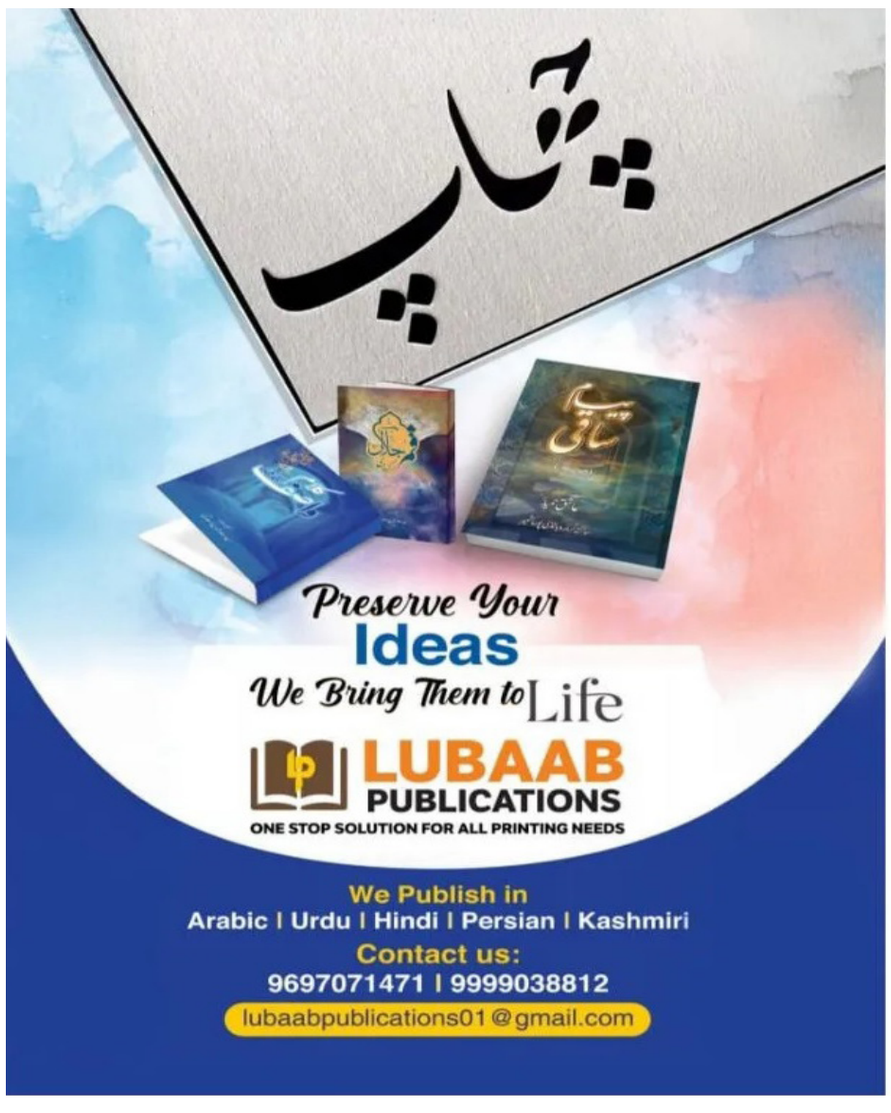
Foundation's efforts in bringing essential medical services closer to the community.

Mr. Ajaz Ahmad Bajard, Founder and Chairman of the United Welfare Foundation of India, remained present throughout the programme. He interacted with patients and volunteers, took stock of the arrangements and appreciated the dedication of the team involved in organising the initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Bajard highlighted the importance of accessible and affordable healthcare, stating that every individual deserves access to basic medical facilities irrespective of their economic background. He reiterated that the Foundation is committed to undertaking more such humanitarian initiatives to support people in need and contribute towards building a healthier society.

He also expressed his gratitude to the medical professionals, volunteers and all those who extended their cooperation and contributed to the successful conduct of the camp.

The United Welfare Foundation of India reiterated its commitment to expanding its social welfare activities across Jammu and Kashmir, with a continued focus on healthcare, education, youth empowerment and community development.



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Rana reviews functioning of FCS&CA deptt; stresses food security, transparency, consumer protection

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 3: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired his maiden review meeting of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The meeting reviewed the overall functioning of the department, ongoing reforms and key initiatives including Public Distribution System (PDS) and Legal Metrology, with focus on strengthening food security, improving public service delivery and safeguarding consumer interests.

The officers presented a comprehensive overview of the department's functioning, highlighting the reforms undertaken to streamline the Public Distribution System (PDS), enhance transparency and improve service delivery through technology-driven interventions. They apprised of the functioning, achievements and initiatives of the Legal Metrology wing, which plays a vital role in protecting consumer rights and promoting fair trade practices.

The Minister was apprised of various measures introduced to make the Public Distribution System more transparent, accessible and beneficiary-friendly. He was also informed about the initiatives being undertaken to strengthen consumer protection and promote fair trade practices through effective implementation of the Legal Metrology Act and its associated rules.

While reviewing the functioning of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Rana appreciated the efforts being made towards modernising and streamlining the Public Distribution System. He stressed the need for sustained coordination with the Government of India to further augment foodgrain allocations and address the requirements of the people, particularly vulnerable and economically weaker sections.

The Minister emphasised that every deserving beneficiary must be brought within the ambit of the Public Distribution System. He directed the department to take all necessary measures to ensure that no eligible household is left out of the welfare net. He said that the Government is committed to ensure food security for all sections of society and making the delivery mechanism more convenient, transparent and hassle-free for beneficiaries. He called for continued improvements in the system to ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and effective manner.

Reviewing the functioning of the Legal Metrology Department, the Minister was apprised of its activities and achievements in protecting consumer rights, promoting fair trade practices and ensuring compliance with prescribed standards of weights and measures.

The officers informed that all departmental services have been made available online through the J&K Single Window platform to promote transparency, accessibility and efficient service delivery. The department has also undertaken consumer awareness programmes to educate people about their rights, relevant legal provisions and remedies available under the Legal Metrology Act and the Consumer Protection Act.During 2025-26, the department conducted 53,144 inspections, registered 2,952 cases and generated revenue of 538.62 lakh, achieving 108 per cent of its annual target.The officers also highlighted the J&K Government Approved Test Centres Rules, 2026, which provide for third-party verification of weights and measures. The department ranks third on the J&K Single Window System in terms of online applications received and disposed of, with an average processing time of 11 days.

As part of its outreach initiatives, the department organised 485 verification camps, 764 consumer awareness programmes and 807 trader workshops during the year. It also plans to hold interactive sessions with trader associations to promote voluntary compliance and strengthen stakeholder engagement.

Appreciating the department's efforts, Rana emphasised the importance of accuracy and transparency in commercial transactions, particularly in ensuring correct dispensing of fuel at petrol pumps and accurate measurement of packaged commodities. He called for strengthening enforcement mechanisms and ensuring strict adherence to prescribed standards across commercial establishments.

The Minister also reviewed the functioning of the Secondary Standards Laboratory and other departmental laboratories. He was briefed on their functioning and the role of specialised equipment in ensuring precision and reliability in the verification and calibration of weights and measures.

Stressing the need for continuous technological upgradation and modernisation of laboratory infrastructure, Rana said that well-equipped laboratories are essential for strengthening enforcement, maintaining accuracy and protecting consumer interests.

DC Kulgam inspects development projects at Adpora

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today visited Adpora and inspected various key development projects, including Animal Birth Control Centre and under- construction Fruit Mandi at Adpora.During the visit, the DC said that Adpora is gradually emerging as a vibrant development centre, with several important projects either completed or underway. He was informed that the Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostel has been completed in the area and land has been identified for the proposed Nursing College, while the ambitious Fruit Mandi project is another significant addition to the area's development landscape.The DC while inspecting the work of under-construction Fruit Mandi and reviewing the facilities at the Animal Birth Control Centre, said that efforts are being made to address the issues and difficulties faced by the local public and emphasised that necessary steps would be taken to improve road connectivity in the area.The DC reiterated that the administration remains committed to addressing public concerns and ensuring the timely execution of developmental works to strengthen infrastructure and improve public amenities in Adpora.The DC was accompanied by CPO Kulgam Malik Suhail, ACR Kulgam Reyaz Ahmad Shah, Tehsildar Kulgam, Nisar Ahmad Wani and EO Municipal Committee Kulgam Mohammad Irfan.

DC Anantnag reviews functioning of Addiction Treatment Facility at GMC Anantnag

■ HT News Network



ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today visited the In-Patient Department (IPD) of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, to review the healthcare facilities and services being provided to patients.During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the infrastructure, availability of essential medical facilities, deployment of doctors and specialists, patient flow, treatment procedures and overall functioning of the facility.

He also enquired about treatment outcomes and the measures in place to ensure effective and quality healthcare services.

It was informed that the 10-bedded ATF ward is functioning with requisite medical facilities to provide dedicated treatment and care to patients. Specialists have also been made available to ensure proper medical attention, diagnosis and treatment.

The DC stressed the importance of ensuring accessible, quality and patient-centric healthcare services. He emphasised that adequate medical staff, essential facilities and proper patient care mechanisms must be maintained for the effective functioning of the facility.

He assured that addiction treatment and rehabilitation services would be further strengthened, with a focus on timely medical intervention and providing a supportive environment for patients undergoing treatment.

The visit was aimed at assessing the ground-level functioning of the facility and ensuring that patients receive appropriate medical care and necessary healthcare support.

The DC was accompanied by ADDC Mahima madan, CPO Tawseef Ahmad, SE Hydraulic, Superintendent of GMC, Executive Engineer R&B , Field functioners of R&B and other staff of GMC.

DDC Shopian reviews functioning of RDD&PR

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 03: In a major push to accelerate grassroots2 development, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh today chaired a review meeting of the Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&P) institutions at the Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

The session focused on evaluating the physical and financial progress of ongoing developmental schemes while prioritizing accountability, resource efficiency and the immediate clearance of pending liabilities.

The DDC conducted a detailed review of flagship programmes, including MGNREGA, PMAY-G, SBM-G, RGSA and PRI/UT Capex. Special emphasis was placed on social audits, convergence of schemes and ensuring that funds are utilized effectively for maximum ground-level impact.

The DDC urged officers to strengthen local governance, maintain transparency and work with dedication so that government scheme benefits reach deserving beneficiaries directly.

Directions were issued to officers to maintain close inter-departmental coordination, continuously monitor ongoing works and deliver visible developmental results across the district.

Emphasizing the vital role of rural development in transforming infrastructure, the DDC termed the Rural Development Department as the " Pillar and backbone" of the district's developmental landscape.

The DDC instructed officers and field staff to step up efforts and achieve 100% completion of all assigned developmental targets by November, 25, 2026.

Emphasizing that developmental achievements must be tangible, the DDC directed that Developmental work should be clearly visible on the ground.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Mudasir Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner Development, Muzaffar Ahmed, Exen REW, BDOs and other concerned.

4th UTRC meeting of 2026 held at Mini Secretariat Kulgam

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 03: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kulgam, under the chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Kulgam, Aijaz Ahmed Khan, today convened the 4th Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting of 2026 at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Kulgam.

The meeting was held as per the approved schedule for conducting quarterly UTRC meetings for the year 2026 by the Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).The meeting was attended by Shahzad Alam, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Mir Sayeem Qayoom, Sub Judge/ Secretary, DLSA Kulgam, Rafi Ahmad Mir, Chief Public Prosecutor, Dr. Shawkat Hussain, Chief Medical Officer, Mohammad Aftab Awan, Additional Superintendent of Police Kulgam, Mohd Arif Shah, Assistant Superintendent, District Jail Anantnag and other stakeholders.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed the cases of under-trial prisoners lodged in different jails in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court of India and the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of NALSA. The data received from the concerned Jail Superintendents was thoroughly examined and analysed on various parameters, including age, gender and health/medical status of the inmates.

Sakeena Itoo conducts surprise inspection of GMC Jammu
Calls for strengthening Emergency facilities, enhanced cleanliness

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 03: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo today conducted surprise inspection of Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu to take first-hand assessment of the healthcare facilities, patient care arrangements and overall functioning of the premier healthcare institution.During the inspection, the Minister visited various sections of the hospital, particularly the Emergency wing, and took stock of the availability of medical facilities, functioning of essential services, patient management arrangements and the overall cleanliness and sanitation measures.She also interacted with the patients and their attendants, and took first hand appraisal from them about the services being provided at this health facility.Emphasising on the critical importance of an efficient and responsive Emergency healthcare system, the Minister directed the hospital administration to further strengthen emergency facilities, ensure round-the-clock availability of essential medical services and maintain adequate deployment of doctors, paramedical staff and other supporting personnel.

She stressed that Emergency services constitute the most crucial component of any healthcare institution and must function with utmost efficiency, promptness and sensitivity, particularly in cases requiring immediate medical intervention."The first few minutes of a medical emergency can make the difference between life and death. Every patient reaching the hospital in an emergency must receive immediate attention, without any avoidable delay. Our priority should be to save precious lives through timely intervention, coordinated response and efficient utilisation of available resources", the Minister said.

The Minister also underscored the importance of effectively utilising the Golden Hour in emergency and trauma cases, calling for a coordinated mechanism to ensure prompt assessment, diagnosis and initiation of treatment.

She directed the concerned authorities to streamline emergency response protocols, minimise procedural delays and strengthen coordination among doctors, nursing staff, diagnostic units and other allied departments to ensure that critical patients receive timely and appropriate treatment.

"Golden Hour management should not remain confined to guidelines, it must translate into immediate action on the ground. Every minute is valuable when a patient is critically ill or injured. The hospital administration must ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place so that no precious time is lost in initiating treatment", she emphasised.

On the sidelines of the visit, the Minister also held a meeting with the Administration of the GMC Jammu.

During the meeting, the Minister called for sustained and visible improvements in cleanliness and sanitation across all hospital areas, including wards, corridors, washrooms, waiting areas and the Emergency section. She stressed that maintaining a hygienic hospital environment is fundamental to patient safety, infection prevention and quality healthcare delivery.Directing the administration to adopt a more vigilant approach towards sanitation, she called for regular monitoring of cleanliness arrangements, proper disposal of biomedical waste and accountability of the agencies and personnel entrusted with sanitation-related responsibilities.

Mission Shakti Budgam organises Awareness Programme on 'Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act'

■ HT News Network



BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 03: SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti, Budgam, organised a Capacity Building and Awareness Programme on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, at Panchayat Ghar, Arizal, with the objective of sensitising participants about women's legal rights, protection mechanisms and support services available to women facing domestic violence.

At the outset, Asifa Manzoor, Gender Specialist, highlighted various schemes and initiatives being implemented under Mission Shakti.

Speaking on the occasion, Afroza, District Mission Coordinator (DMC), Sankalp-HEW, Budgam, elaborated on the objectives of Mission Shakti and briefed the participants about various livelihood-oriented schemes and financial assistance available for women to promote their economic empowerment, self-reliance and financial independence.

Advocate Bilal Ahmed from TLSA delivered an informative session on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, explaining its key provisions, legal rights and safeguards available to women experiencing domestic violence. He also emphasised the importance of legal awareness and timely access to justice.Furthermore, Sub-Inspector Surjeet from the SSP Office sensitised the participants about the role and responsibilities of the police in addressing cases of domestic violence, receiving complaints, ensuring the safety and protection of affected women and facilitating appropriate legal intervention under the Act.

Finance Minister convenes review meeting on fiscal position, revenue performance, financial reforms

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 3: Minister for Finance, Agriculture Production, Mining and Cooperative Departments Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired introductory cum review meeting on the fiscal position, revenue performance, expenditure management and ongoing financial reforms in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Finance, Shailendra Kumar, Director General, Accounts & Treasuries, Director General ,Resources, Director General Codes, Joint Director Codes, Deputy Director, Resources and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

The meeting undertook a detailed review of the overall financial position of the Union Territory with emphasis on revenue mobilisation, strengthening of own-resource generation, efficient financial management, expenditure monitoring, debt management, digitalisation of financial systems and implementation of key reform initiatives.

The Finance Minister took note of the positive growth in Jammu and Kashmir's own revenue collection, which has reached 13,628 crore up to October 2026, registering an increase of 14.8 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year. The tax revenue has recorded growth of 15.2 per cent while non-tax revenue has increased by 13 per cent, reflecting sustained improvement in revenue mobilisation. Overall, the own revenues increased by around 1,751 crore upto ending October, 2026.The meeting also noticed the significant improvement in GST collections, with GST contributing substantially to the overall increase in revenue. Revenue augmentation measures, including improved GST return compliance, enhanced billing efficiency, increased dealer registration, e-stamping and transparent excise auctions, were appreciated as important initiatives towards strengthening the revenue base.The meeting also reviewed initiatives for creating new sources of non-tax revenue, including the proposed Carbon Credit Trading Policy, which seeks to leverage Jammu & Kashmir's hydropower, forestry and clean-energy assets and is expected to generate an additional revenue stream.Javid Dar appreciated various financial reforms undertaken by the Finance Department for improving the financial efficiency and optimising the cost of public borrowing. He lauded the positive impact of power-sector reforms, which are expected to improve the revenue realisation and generate savings in power-related expenditure. The initiatives undertaken for timely settlement of liabilities and improvement in financial liquidity with settlement of GPF claims and contractor liabilities within 10 days, facilitating faster payments and supporting economic activity were appreciated by the Minister.

The meeting took note of the accelerated processing and release of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, with Mother Sanctions and the corresponding UT share being released within 48 hours, thereby facilitating timely implementation of development programmes.Javid Dar assessed the progress on the ongoing digital transformation of financial management in Jammu and Kashmir for implementation of IFMIS 3.0 and Works Activity Monitoring System (WAMS. He directed the officers to reduce avoidable recurring expenditure, control committed liabilities and improve the quality of public spending. He stressed on the need to strengthen own tax and non-tax revenue, plug leakages and improve collection efficiency across departments.The Minister emphasised for continued and sustained efforts of the Finance Department for effective implementation of financial reforms and ensuring greater efficiency, transparency and accountability in public financial management. He stressed the need to sustain the positive momentum in revenue mobilisation, strengthen digital financial systems, improve expenditure management.

CIPMC Srinagar organizes "Khet Bachao Abhiyaan" at Bijbehara

■ HT News Network



ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 03: The Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, in collaboration with the State Agriculture Department, Anantnag, organized a "Khet Bachao Abhiyaan" at Zone Zirpara, Bijbehara, Anantnag, today.

During the programme, Dr. Haroon Rashid Hakla, APPO (PP), sensitized farmers about the importance of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices for effective, safe and eco-friendly crop protection. He also demonstrated the functioning and use of the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) Mobile App to help farmers identify and monitor pest-related problems.

The farmers were educated about the importance of 100% seed treatment using Trichoderma to protect crops from soil-borne diseases. Practical demonstrations were also conducted on the use of sticky traps, delta traps and botanical pesticides such as Neem Oil for effective pest management. Special emphasis was laid on the conservation of beneficial insects and natural enemies of crop pests to maintain ecological balance.

Dr. Hakla also explained how farmers can identify genuine and quality pesticides by referring to the list of pesticides approved by the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIB&RC). He highlighted the importance of following recommended safety precautions while handling and applying pesticides to avoid harmful effects on human health and the environment.

The programme also included an interactive session in which farmers actively participated and raised various field-related issues and concerns. The resource persons addressed their queries through practical demonstrations and simple, easy-to-understand explanations.

The campaign aimed to promote scientific and sustainable pest management practices, discourage the use of spurious and unapproved pesticides, and encourage farmers to adopt safe, responsible and environmentally friendly methods of crop protection.

Through such awareness programmes, CIPMC, Srinagar, and the State Agriculture Department reaffirmed their commitment to empowering farmers with scientific knowledge and promoting sustainable agriculture.

The programme was attended by Muzaffar Ahmed Mir, JAEO; Ruhilla Shabir, AEA, and Imran Shafi Malik, AEA, from the State Agriculture Department, Zone Zirpara, Bijbehara.

Mutation Camps organised at five locations in Tehsil Villagam for disposal of pending Inheritance Mutations

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 03: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, and the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner,(ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, mutation camps were organised today at five locations across Tehsil Villgam Handwara.

The camps were organised at Dahama, Woveripora, Paddergund, Sochalyari and Hangnikoot, under the supervision of Tehsildar Villagam, Dr. Kaisar Bashir Magray, for the disposal of pending inheritance mutations.

The camps were organised with the objective of expediting the settlement of pending inheritance mutation cases and ensuring timely updation of land records. The Tehsildar, along with the concerned revenue officials, facilitated the process and provided necessary assistance to the general public in resolving revenue-related issues.

The initiative reflects the commitment of the District Administration, towards ensuring transparent, efficient and time-bound delivery of revenue services at the grassroots level.

The administration reiterated its resolve to address public grievances promptly and strengthen the delivery of revenue services for the convenience and welfare of the general public.

Mission YUVA Kulgam organises Udyam Jagriti programme for ex-servicemen

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 03: Mission YUVA Kulgam organised an Udyam Jagriti Programme at the District Employment and Counselling Centre (DE&CC), Kulgam, to sensitise ex-servicemen, widows and their wards about entrepreneurship opportunities and support available under the scheme for establishing sustainable self-employment ventures.The programme witnessed participation from representatives of the Sainik Welfare Department, Srinagar including Rashid War, Assistant Director Employment Kulgam, Rahil Amin, Career Counselling Officer, DE&CC Kulgam, Shazlia Qureshi, Employment Officer, Rozy Jan, SBDU team Mission YUVA and a large gathering of ex-servicemen and their families.Addressing the participants, Shazlia Qureshi highlighted Mission YUVA's role in transforming aspiring youth from job-seekers into job-creators by facilitating enterprise establishment, livelihood generation and economic empowerment. A live demonstration of the Mission YUVA Portal and mobile application was conducted to familiarise participants with the registration and application process.

An interactive question-and-answer session was also held, during which participants' queries regarding eligibility, financial assistance and enterprise establishment were addressed by the officials.

The programme generated encouraging interest, with applicants registering and submitting their applications on the spot.

District Admin Kupwara bids warm farewell to outgoing SDM Karnah Reyaz Ahmad

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 03: The District Administration Kupwara today accorded a warm send-off to outgoing SDM Karnah-Tanghdar, Reyaz Ahmad, in a ceremony held at the DC Office Complex.

Presiding over the function, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara praised the officer's promptness, alacrity, and calm demeanor in serving the border sub-division, urging him to continue sharing his insights and field experience with the district administration.

The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kupwara also lauded his leadership and seamless inter-departmental coordination during his tenure.

In response, Reyaz Ahmad expressed deep gratitude to the DC and the administration for their steadfast support while executing administrative tasks in a challenging border terrain.

DC Anantnag inspects progress of Developmental Works, quality of Patient Care Services at GMC Anantnag

Instructs to ensure proper heating arrangements & timely completion of ongoing Projects

■ HT News Network



ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today visited MMABM AH Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, to review the progress of various developmental works and take stock of the healthcare infrastructure being developed at the institution.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various facilities, including oxygen generation plants, registration counters, newly constructed washrooms and other infrastructure projects under execution or nearing completion.

He took a detailed assessment of the physical progress of the works and directed the concerned executing agencies to expedite the pace of execution and ensure timely completion of all ongoing projects without compromising on quality.

The Deputy Commissioner was informed that several major projects including upgradation of the District Teaching Block, being executed at an estimated cost of Rs 149.17 crore, which has achieved 98 percent physical progress; installation, testing and commissioning of two 1,000 LPM oxygen generation plants at a cost of Rs 7.69 crore; construction of the Radiation Oncology Block at an estimated cost of Rs 4.99 crore; construction of an Animal House, and establishment of a 50-bedded Critical Care Block at an estimated cost of Rs 23.75 crore, are at different stages of execution.He was further informed that at least 21 developmental works are currently under execution under different funding heads, including UT Capex and PM-ABHIM. The total allocation under the Capex budget for the financial year 2026–27 stands at Rs 1,221.58 lakh. The Deputy Commissioner also visited the CT Scan, MRI and Psychiatry/Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) sections of the hospital and reviewed the facilities available for patients. He interacted with doctors, hospital staff and patients to obtain first-hand feedback regarding the availability of medical professionals, diagnostic facilities and other essential healthcare services.

Emphasising the importance of patient-centric healthcare delivery, the DC directed the Medical Superintendent of GMC Anantnag to ensure proper cleanliness and sanitation within hospital buildings and surrounding premises. He also stressed the need for proper maintenance and development of lawns and parks to provide.

Commissioner SMC orders intensified crackdown on Illegal Encroachments, unauthorised Constructions

Withholds Salaries of Three Zonal Enforcement Officers over lapses

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 3: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, has ordered an intensified enforcement drive against illegal encroachments, unauthorised constructions and violations of municipal regulations across Srinagar, making it clear that officials who fail to act against such violations will also be held accountable.

The directions were issued during a comprehensive review meeting of the Enforcement Wing, chaired by the Commissioner today, to assess enforcement activities and take stock of action against violations across the city.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner, Administration, Zone East & South and Joint Commissioner, Revenue, Zone West & North, Assistant Legal Remembrancer, Chief Enforcement Officer, Zonal Enforcement Officers and all Ward Officers.

Taking stock of the enforcement measures undertaken so far, the Commissioner called for stepped-up field inspections and closer supervision to ensure that illegal encroachments, unauthorised constructions and violations of building permissions are dealt with promptly. He directed officers to act decisively on violations and ensure that complaints are not left unattended.

The Commissioner also directed the concerned Joint Commissioners to undertake a comprehensive verification of all ongoing and newly raised constructions within their respective jurisdictions to ascertain whether these conform to approved building permissions and municipal regulations. A definite timeline has been prescribed for completing the exercise, with the concerned officers directed to ensure thorough verification and submit compliance within the stipulated period.



Commissioner also directed for constitution of Enforcement cells under Joint Commissioners and formation of Flying Squads for quick response and verification of field reports. It was directed to develop an online platform for public to report grievances and violations.

The Commissioner made it clear that public spaces cannot be allowed to fall prey to encroachments and that no one would be permitted to undertake construction in violation of approved permissions. Enforcement, he stressed, must be uniform and impartial, irrespective of the individual or interests involved.

The Commissioner also took a firm view of accountability within the Enforcement Wing, directing supervisory officers to ensure that their respective jurisdictions remain under constant watch. He cautioned that any instance of negligence, dereliction of duty or deliberate failure to initiate action against violations would invite strict disciplinary action.

In a significant accountability measure, the Commissioner ordered withholding of the salaries of three Zonal Enforcement Officers over lapses in the discharge of their assigned responsibilities. The action underscores the Corporation's firm stance that supervisory and field-level officials will be held directly accountable for enforcement failures and any negligence in preventing or acting against illegal encroachments and unauthorised constructions.

Stressing the need to move beyond routine inspections, he called for sustained field-level enforcement, effective coordination among zonal and ward-level functionaries and visible action against violations on the ground.

SARAS Mela Kashmir concludes on High Note, records impressive Business

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR NOVEMBER 03: The 10-day SARAS Mela 2025 concluded today here at poloview Park celebrating India's unity in diversity and promoting women entrepreneurship nationwide.

The Mela which began here at the poloview park Srinagar on 25th October continued till today, offering the visitors a myriad collection of hand made products and cuisines from across the country.

More than 200 women artisans from different parts of rural India participated and showcased their products on 80 stalls provided by the JKRLM for exhibition and sale. women from self-help groups from 17 states /UTs displayed handicraft, handloom and natural food items from different rural areas in the vibrant stalls handled and managed by Women SHG members.

Some of the prominent items displayed at the stalls were the handmade cloth from



Jammu-Kashmir with sozni and ariwork, Kutchi handloom from Gujurat ,Phulkari suits from Punjab ,Pickles from Lakshwadeep, Pochampalli Ikkat from Telengana, Sambhalpuri from odisha, Kantha from West Bengal and many more .

Addressing the gathering at the closing ceremony, Mission Director JKRLM, Dr Shubhra Sharma, expressed satisfaction over the successful culmination of the Mela, highlighting the encouraging sales, participation of women entrepreneurs from different States/UTs and the overall coordination of the event.She remarked, "This year's SARAS Mela has recorded encouraging sales, while the participation of different States and UTs has made it a truly enriching experience. She added,"the very purpose of organising the SARAS Mela has been fulfilled. Beyond business and the showcasing of products, the Mela has provided a shared platform where SHG members from across the country have come together, built bonds of friendship, shared experiences and explored opportunities for mutual learning and economic gains."

Dr Shubhra Sharma also expressed her gratitude to the line departments for their active participation and support throughout the Mela. She particularly acknowledged the media for its coverage and for helping bring the stories, products and entrepreneurial efforts of rural women to a wider audience.

The Mela concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where SHG members were awarded certificates for their outstanding contributions.

In the awards category, Rajashtan secured first position for best sales, while Srinagar district bagged the top honour in the best food category.The closing ceremony was attended by Additional Mission Director JKRLM Syed Naseer Ahmad, State project Managers JKRLM besides other staff members of the Mission

DC Doda reviews arrangements for festival of lights- Diwali

Departments directed to ensure public safety, uninterrupted essential Services

■ HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER 3: Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a meeting here in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex to review arrangements put in place by stakeholder departments for smooth, safe and peaceful celebration of Diwali in the district.The meeting was attended by SSP Kartik Shrotriya, ADC Anil Kumar Thakur, ACR Ashraf Pervez, SE PWD (R&B) and district officers from line departments. ADC Bhaderwah, SDMs, Tehsildars and police officers participated virtually.The Deputy Commissioner reviewed arrangements related to essential services, sanitation, healthcare, traffic management, fire safety, market regulation and the availability of essential commodities. He directed all departments to ensure timely and coordinated action to facilitate the public during the festive season.The ADCs, SDMs and Tehsildars were directed to ensure comprehensive arrangements in their respective jurisdictions, with special emphasis on public safety, sanitation, fire safety and interdepartmental coordination. The BDOs were instructed to conduct sanitation drives across all blocks, while the Executive Officer local Municipal Council was directed to step up cleanliness operations in the town, particularly around temples and other religious places.



The PDD and PHE departments were directed to ensure uninterrupted electricity and adequate water supply, respectively. The R&B Department was instructed to identify and repair road potholes well in advance to ensure safe and smooth movement of commuters.Emphasising healthcare and emergency preparedness, the CMO was directed to ensure the availability of first-aid facilities and ambulances at suitable locations. The Fire and Emergency Services Department was instructed to deploy fire tenders in sensitive areas and remain fully prepared to respond to any emergency.

The DySP Traffic was directed to ensure effective traffic regulation, proper parking arrangements and crowd management. The Deputy Commissioner also instructed the concerned authorities to identify safe and designated locations for the sale of firecrackers in Doda town.

The Food and other concerned departments were directed to conduct regular market inspections to prevent overcharging, check the quality of food items and ensure the availability of essential commodities. The Food Safety Department was specifically instructed to deploy mobile food-testing and inspection services to ensure food safety and hygiene. The DC also directed the constitution of magistrate-led teams for effective market checking and enforcement of regulations.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of close coordination among departments, timely execution of assigned responsibilities and strict adherence to safety norms. He directed all officers to remain vigilant.

DC Pulwama flags off exposure visit for Children with Special Needs to IUST Awantipora

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today flagged off a group of Children with Special Needs (CWSN) for a one-day exposure visit to the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, under the Inclusive Education component of Samagra Shiksha.

Prior to flagging off the group, the DC interacted with the children and encouraged them to actively engage in the educational and recreational activities planned for them. He emphasised the importance of inclusive education and providing equal opportunities to children with special needs to explore, learn and participate



in various educational and social activities.

During the interaction, one of the children from the group requested for an electronic tablet, which was immediately provided by the DC on the spot.

The exposure visit is aimed at providing the children with opportunities beyond the classroom, broadening their learning experiences and providing them an opportunity to engage in and explore sports and recreational activities. Such initiatives also help promote confidence, social interaction and a sense of inclusion among children with special needs.

The initiative was organised by the Chief Education Officer, Pulwama, under Samagra Shiksha, as part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen inclusive education and ensure a supportive and enriching learning environment for every child.

Shopian readies for Vibrant Cultural Fiesta; DC reviews preparations for 'Jashn-e-Hurud'

Festival to bring Shopian's Cultural Heritage into spotlight on November 7

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh today chaired a high-level meeting to review and finalize elaborate arrangements for the upcoming celebration of the vibrant "Jashn-e-Hurud" festival, scheduled to be held in the district on 7th November 2026.

Emphasizing the significance of the event, the DC stressed that all arrangements should be robust, well-coordinated and innovative to ensure the festival is a grand success.

All line departments have been directed to install interactive stalls to showcase and display their departmental activities, welfare schemes and achievements.

The Information Department and concerned agencies have been entrusted with organizing vibrant cultural programmes, traditional plays and folk songs to highlight the rich local heritage.

Comprehensive security and traffic arrangements were finalized, with strict directions issued to the police department to ensure smooth management and foolproof security on the occasion.Since the event marks a major celebration, all district officers and sectoral heads were directed to ensure their active participation to make the event a grand success.

The chair urged all stakeholders to work in tandem to project the rich cultural ethos of the region and make "Jashn-e-Hurud 2026" a memorable event for the public.

Bandipora observes Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada with Scholarship Awareness, Health Check-ups in Tribal Areas

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 03: As part of the ongoing observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026, a series of awareness and outreach activities were organised across tribal areas of District Bandipora to promote educational opportunities, improve access to healthcare and ensure wider dissemination of government welfare schemes.At Government Degree College (GDC) Tulail, a scholarship awareness programme was conducted to sensitise students about available scholarship opportunities and educational support schemes.

Meanwhile, the Health Department conducted health check-ups for children in the tribal area of Sumlar B, with the objective of promoting child health and extending essential healthcare services to the community.

In another initiative, Gujjar and Bakarwal Boys Hostel Bandipora, under the aegis of the Tribal Affairs Department, J&K, organised a



Community Outreach and Scholarship Awareness Camp at the far-flung tribal habitation of Ketson.

The camp sensitised students, parents and community members about various scholarship schemes, including Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarships, the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) and the Pradhan Mantri Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS).

Awareness was also imparted regarding the ongoing admission process at Gujjar and Bakarwal Boys Hostel Bandipora.

The initiative aimed to bridge information gaps in remote areas and encourage eligible students to avail themselves of educational opportunities and government welfare schemes.

The activities reaffirmed the commitment of the District Administration Bandipora and concerned departments towards tribal welfare, educational empowerment, healthcare access and inclusive development, in keeping with the spirit of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026.

MY Bharat Pulwama hosts 'Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvaad' at GDC Pulwama

Youth urged to actively participate in democratic processes and nation-building.

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 03: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), District Pulwama, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, today hosted the 'Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvaad: Know Your Vote' programme at Government Degree College Pulwama, aimed at empowering young citizens with democratic awareness and encouraging their active participation in civic and nation-building processes.

The programme was held as part of the nationwide initiative being conducted across 500 institutions from October 26 to November 05, 2026, to strengthen the engagement of young citizens with public leadership and promote informed participation in democracy.



The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of hundreds of students and first-time voters. Youth Icon Mezan was among the distinguished personalities present on the occasion and interacted with the young participants, emphasising the importance of informed voting, civic responsibility and the role of youth in shaping the country's democratic future.

An interactive Dialogue Session was held during the programme, providing students and first-time voters an opportunity to raise questions, share their perspectives and discuss issues concerning governance, democracy and civic responsibilities.

Addressing the gathering, Mezan called upon young people to understand their responsibilities as citizens and contribute constructively towards the nation's democratic and developmental journey.

The programme also featured felicitation of accomplished local athletes in recognition of their dedication, discipline and contribution to sports.

As part of the programme, participating dignitaries, faculty members and students collectively took the Loktantrik Pledge, as mark of their commitment to democratic values, sovereignty and responsible citizenship.

A dedicated MY Bharat Portal onboarding facility was also established at the venue, where students were assisted with live registration on the MY Bharat digital platform and encouraged to participate in national quizzes and other nation-building initiatives.

The programme concluded with a renewed call for greater youth participation in democratic processes, reinforcing the vision of placing Yuva Shakti at the centre of India's journey towards Viksit Bharat @2047.

Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 held at GDC Kulgam

DC stresses youth participation in nation-building, highlights opportunities for young leaders

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 03: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Kulgam, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, today organised the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 at Government Degree College (GDC) Kulgam, with enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members.

The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam; Principal GDC Kulgam, Prof. Mohd. Abbas Shah; Deputy Director, MY Bharat, Khushal Gupta, besides faculty members and students.

The programme featured deliberations by students on the theme "One Nation, One Election", providing young participants an opportunity to express their views, exchange ideas and engage in discussions on important democratic and governance-related issues.

Addressing the gathering, DC Kulgam appreciated the initiative, describing it as an important platform for young people to put forth their views and participate in meaningful discussions on issues of national importance. He highlighted that selected participants would get an opportunity to present their ideas and views at the Legislative Assembly level and subsequently before Parliament.

The DC emphasised that such initiatives provide positive direction to youth engagement and help nurture leadership qualities among



young people. He encouraged students to remain informed about national issues and develop critical thinking, effective communication and teamwork skills, observing that the energy, ideas and commitment of youth are vital to nation-building and realising the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Deputy Director MY Bharat, highlighted the objectives of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 and stressed the importance of providing youth with platforms to express their views, engage in meaningful discussions and contribute to the country's developmental journey.

Principal GDC Kulgam underscored the role of educational institutions in enhancing students' awareness, confidence and leadership abilities while nurturing responsible citizens. Addressing the gathering, DC Kulgam appreciated the initiative, describing it as an important platform for young people to put forth their views and participate in meaningful discussions on issues of national importance. He highlighted that selected participants would get an opportunity to present their ideas and views at the Legislative Assembly level and subsequently before Parliament.

The DC emphasised that such initiatives provide positive direction to youth engagement and help nurture leadership qualities among young people. He encouraged students to remain informed about national issues and develop critical thinking, effective communication and teamwork skills, observing that the energy, ideas and commitment of youth are vital to nation-building and realising the vision of Viksit Bharat.

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HT EDITORIAL

Children's Emergency Cannot Be Left Short-Staffed When Every Minute Matters

The shortage of medical personnel at the Paediatric Emergency Triage and Treatment Centre (ETAT) of Children's Hospital Bemina raises serious concerns about the preparedness of our healthcare system to respond to emergencies involving children. Reports that only two doctors are available to manage the heavy evening patient rush point towards an urgent administrative issue that cannot be addressed through routine assurances.

A paediatric emergency unit is not an ordinary outpatient facility where patients can afford to wait indefinitely. It is a critical service where timely medical intervention can make the difference between recovery and complications. Hundreds of sick children reportedly visit the facility during evening hours, yet such a substantial patient load being handled by just two doctors places an unreasonable burden on medical staff while exposing vulnerable patients to prolonged waiting.

The dedication of doctors working under difficult circumstances deserves appreciation. However, expecting a handful of medical professionals to manage an overwhelming emergency workload is neither practical nor sustainable. It risks compromising the quality and timeliness of treatment, regardless of the commitment of the available staff.

The situation becomes particularly distressing during the onset of winter, when infants and children suffering from respiratory infections, fever and other seasonal ailments require prompt medical attention. Making sick children and anxious parents wait for hours outside an emergency facility is an experience that reflects poorly on the delivery of essential healthcare services.

The hospital administration and the Health Department must treat this issue as an immediate priority. Adequate doctors should be deployed during evening hours, emergency duty rosters reviewed, and patient inflow assessed to ensure that staffing arrangements correspond with actual requirements. Additional nursing and supporting personnel must also be made available wherever necessary.

Children's healthcare cannot be governed by minimum staffing arrangements or administrative convenience. The real measure of an emergency service is its ability to respond when patients need it most. The authorities must act before staff shortages translate into avoidable medical complications. At Children's Hospital Bemina, strengthening the evening emergency shift is not merely an administrative necessity; it is a responsibility towards the lives and well-being of children.

Kashmir's Famous Wazwan Becomes a Costly Affair as Poor Families Struggle to Afford the Feast



Farzana Hafiz

Wazwan, the traditional multi-course feast that represents Kashmir's rich culinary heritage and hospitality, is increasingly becoming an expensive affair, leaving many economically weaker families struggling to afford it during weddings and other important social occasions.

For generations, Wazwan has remained at the heart of Kashmiri celebrations. From weddings and family gatherings to other social functions, serving Wazwan is considered a symbol of respect, tradition and hospitality. However, what was once an essential part of community celebrations is now turning into a financial burden for families with limited incomes.

The rising cost of essential ingredients, particularly mutton, chicken, cooking oil, spices and other food items, along with the expenses of hiring professional Wazas (traditional Kashmiri cooks), has increased the overall cost of organising a Wazwan.

For financially comfortable families, arranging the traditional feast may still be manageable. But for daily-wage workers, low-income households and families already struggling to meet basic expenses, organising a proper Wazwan can mean spending beyond their financial capacity.

In Kashmir, weddings are often closely associated with Wazwan, and families feel social pressure to serve guests a complete traditional meal. Some households may even borrow money or use their savings to meet these expectations, despite facing financial difficulties. Social media has also played a significant role in fuelling this growing competition. People frequently upload videos and photographs of elaborate Wazwan spreads on platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat, showcasing the number of dishes and the scale of their celebrations. This has gradually created a sense of comparison among families, with some feeling pressured to organise equally lavish feasts to maintain their social image. As a result, a cultural tradition centred on hospitality is increasingly becoming associated with social status and competition.



Instead of simply celebrating tradition, some families are now competing to showcase their celebrations, often overlooking their financial limitations.

However, Riyaz Ahmad Bhat believes that the issue is not only about rising prices but also about people's mindset and social expectations.

"Families who cannot afford an expensive Wazwan should not feel compelled to organise one beyond their financial capacity. Celebrations should be planned according to one's financial means. People need to understand that Wazwan is a cultural tradition, not a compulsion. There is no need to spend beyond one's capacity just to meet social expectations," said Riyaz Ahmad Bhat.

His remarks highlight another dimension of the issue: the pressure families face to maintain social standards even when their financial circumstances do not allow them to do so.

Aamir Malik also expressed concern over the growing trend of showcasing extravagant Wazwan celebrations on social media, saying that such displays could hurt the feelings of economically weaker families.

"If someone is financially well-off and can afford to spend lavishly on Wazwan, nobody has any objection. However, please avoid sharing such extravagant spending on social media, as it may hurt the feelings of poor families. A poor father already goes through many struggles before entrusting his daughter's future to a groom. Displaying unnecessary extravagance at weddings can add to their pain and create social pressure. Weddings should be about relationships and happiness, not wasteful spending on Wazwan," said Aamir Malik.

The two perspectives highlight how financial limitations and social expectations are increasingly becoming part of discussions surrounding Kashmiri wedding traditions.

The situation has raised questions about the growing gap between tradition and affordability. While Wazwan continues to hold immense cultural importance, its rising cost is making it difficult for ordinary families to celebrate important occasions without financial stress.

For many Kashmiris, the concern is not about abandoning their culinary traditions but about preserving them in a way that does not place an additional burden on families already struggling with the rising cost of living.

Wazwan remains a symbol of Kashmir's identity and hospitality, but its growing expense raises an important question: should celebrating a traditional occasion come at the cost of a family's financial security?

As the cost of living continues to concern ordinary households, simplicity in celebrations should be encouraged so that no family feels financially excluded from its own traditions.

Farzana Hafiz Hails from Jawahar Nagar Srinagar

An Educated Daughter: The Future of Generations and the Foundation of a Developed Society



Dr. Vijay Garg

The progress of any society cannot be measured merely by its buildings, roads, industries or economic growth. It must also be judged by the educational opportunities available to its daughters. A society that allows its girls to learn, think, make decisions and move forward freely is truly developed and progressive.

Educating a daughter is not simply about providing education to one individual. It is an investment in the future of several generations. An educated daughter brings knowledge, values and new ideas into her family. She becomes more aware of the importance of her children's health, education, nutrition and overall development. In this way, the benefits of her education extend beyond the next generation and positively influence generations to come.

History shows that societies which have given importance to women's education have made remarkable progress in social, economic and cultural fields. An educated woman understands her rights and responsibilities. She has the confidence to raise her voice against superstitions, social evils, gender discrimination and injustice. She encourages scientific thinking, equality and rationality within her family and society.

In the modern world, educational opportunities for girls have expanded enormously. Women are becoming doctors, engineers, scientists, teachers, administrative officers, entrepreneurs and outstanding sportspersons. From space exploration to agriculture, and from technology to politics, they are proving their abilities in almost every field. Their achievements clearly demonstrate that when given equal opportunities, daughters can excel in any profession.



However, girls in many rural and disadvantaged areas still face numerous challenges in accessing education. Poverty, child marriage, concerns about safety, distant schools, lack of digital facilities and traditional mindsets often become obstacles to their education. Some families continue to prioritise the education of sons while considering the education of daughters an additional expense. This attitude must change. Educating a daughter is not an expense; it is one of the most valuable investments in the future of society.

Parents, teachers, governments and society share the responsibility of ensuring that every girl receives quality education. Every daughter should have access to a safe school environment, digital facilities and opportunities to choose a career according to her interests and abilities. Schools must provide more than textbook knowledge. They should also develop self-confidence, life skills, financial literacy, scientific temper and decision-making abilities among girls.

Parents should recognise the individual talents and potential of their daughters instead of constantly comparing them with their sons. Girls must receive equal opportunities to fulfil their dreams while participating in family responsibilities. Society should also highlight the achievements and success stories of educated women so that other families feel inspired to support their daughters' education.

The role of teachers is equally important. They should encourage girls to ask questions, express their opinions, participate in scientific activities and develop leadership qualities. Schools must become places where every girl feels respected, confident and capable of achieving her goals. Scholarships, career counselling, mentoring and vocational training can further strengthen their educational journey.

Ultimately, educating a daughter is not merely a family decision; it is an important step towards nation-building. An educated daughter empowers herself, enlightens her family and gives society a new direction. If we genuinely aspire to build a prosperous, equal and developed India, we must open the doors of education for every girl.

A daughter who receives education does not merely transform her own future. She becomes a source of awareness, confidence and progress for her family and community. Her knowledge shapes children's minds, strengthens social values and contributes to national development.

An educated daughter is not just the pride of a family; she is the hope of generations and the foundation of a progressive, inclusive and developed society.

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Education teaches us the art of living



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Education never means getting employment, handsome salaries, and all that comes with a job. Education simply means gaining control over everything within ourselves our anger, arrogance, dishonesty, jealousy, and other weaknesses. True education develops our character and teaches us how to deal with life.

How beautiful it is whenever I see educated people engaging in different livelihood activities. We know that in our country, almost everyone wants a government job. Yet, those who get into government service often start complaining: "What is so special about a government job?" I have a friend whose earnings are many times higher than mine. I also have a neighbour who earns in a few days what some people earn in an entire month. My perspective regarding employment is quite clear. People who have zeal, enthusiasm, and a thirst to do something in any field rarely complain about what they have achieved or what they have lost. Different people have different stories when it comes to their choices of employment. Some people may not be highly qualified, yet they have positive smiles on their faces and live their lives happily. On the other hand, some highly qualified people, such as engineers, teachers, doctors, and lecturers, complain that their earnings are insufficient, that they cannot afford a luxurious lifestyle, or that they cannot live like princes.



How Can We Be Happy?

For me, earnings are not everything. I believe in satisfaction. The person who is satisfied with his or her qualifications, profession, and earnings is a successful person. No one can defeat such a person's dreams or easily make them unhappy.

Actually, it is our own mindset that often creates problems. We keep looking at what others are doing without knowing their background. Different people have different strengths and different financial circumstances, so it is not possible for everyone to sail in the same boat. Some people can make something great from very small things, while others have bigger opportunities because of their family background, financial status, education, or other advantages. Yet, they sometimes fail to make good use of those opportunities. This raises an important question: why do some people have great opportunities but fail to use them to achieve their life goals? Today, this thought came into my mind, and I decided to write about it.

Literally, I have been enjoying delicious masala (a mixture of gram) and lawasa tandoori chapatti for the last couple of decades, along with chutneys of different varieties, such as coriander, chilli powder, green chilli, curd, and pieces of salad. One of the sellers from Parneva, Khansahib, Budgam, has been selling these items for a long time. I like his behaviour and the way he presents his masala and lawasa with delicious chutney. He keeps the chutney in copper utensils, which adds to the traditional charm. What attracts me most is his behaviour. Even when members of the community call him "Sir," he remains humble and gentle.

Today, I see similar food items being sold outside colleges, schools, sports stadiums, and other busy places. Such efforts by our educated youth to earn a livelihood should be appreciated. The government should support them by providing financial assistance and suitable permanent spaces so that they can earn with dignity and with proper governmental support.

There are great minds in the government, and I hope such initiatives for employment and self-reliance among our youth will be appreciated and supported. How Can We Generate Employment with Little Financial Support?

We can start a business from a footpath and gradually build it into a successful enterprise within a few years through honesty, hard work, and enthusiasm.

Anyone can become what he or she wants to become, but proper guidance and a great vision are necessary. Willingness plays a vital role and can uplift a person from any situation. There is no need to start a business with millions. When you start small, you remain calm because you have less fear of bankruptcy and fewer financial pressures.

Always try to learn from zero and then move higher. The higher you go, the calmer and wiser you should become.

Education

We should never claim that we are educated and then ask why we are unemployed.

For your kind consideration, an educated person should never give up simply because employment opportunities are limited. How is it possible that you spend 20 or 30 years learning how to tackle life's issues and deal with problems, but when it comes to employment, you give up?

Never blindly follow what others say. Come out of your comfort zone and try your best. Success does not come through discussions and lame excuses. It comes through hard work, patience, willingness, and perseverance.

Different people have different stories, different opportunities, and different journeys. What matters most is not how much we earn, but how meaningfully and honestly we live our lives.

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Running has a history that spans millions of years of human evolution, organized sports, and modern global culture



By M S Nazki

It was a tribute to individuals who did great things for their Nation!.

NSG conducted a Cyclathon & Run as part of the commemorative events between Police Commemoration Day and National Unity Day. In a spirited expedition of grit and glory, NSG personnel cycled from Manesar to NSG HQ, Palam, and ran to the National Police Memorial, honouring the valour of our brave hearts, whose legacy inspires courage and resolve! This was the story we had with gloves in our hands!

Because the term "cyclothon" (a cycling marathon) is used globally for massive charity rides, there are a few incredible, real-life stories of men who started legendary cyclothons.

-1. The Modern Phenomenon: Connor Colquhoun (CDawgVA)

-Connor Colquhoun, a prominent Welsh internet creator known online as CDawgVA, started the global streaming charity event named "Cyclethon" in 2022.

•The Spark: The idea originally came from watching traditional Twitch "subathons" (where a live broadcast timer extends when viewers donate). Connor wanted to turn that concept on its head: instead of extending time, he decided that viewer donations would force him to cycle longer physical distances.

• The Mission: Connor's primary motivation was deeply personal. He wanted to do something active that his close friend and fellow creator, Ironmouse, physically couldn't do, as she lives with Common Variable Immune Deficiency (CVID).

• The Journey: Equipped with a makeshift camera setup, Connor embarked on his first grueling trek across Hokkaido, Japan in 2022, raising over $310,000. Over the years, the event exploded into an annual phenomenon. By the time he completed his 15-day, 1,000-kilometer trek from Hokkaido to Tokyo, his Cyclethon had raised a record-breaking $1,069,561 in a single event for the Immune Deficiency Foundation.

-2. The Historic Endurance Epic: Pradyumna Kumar (PK) Mahanandia

-If you are thinking of the ultimate historical "one-man cyclothon," it belongs to PK Mahanandia, an Indian street artist who began an unforgettable 6,000-mile solo cycling journey for love in 1977.

• The Spark: In 1975, PK met Charlotte Von Schedvin, a Swedish woman visiting Delhi. They fell deeply in love and got married in a traditional tribal ceremony. When Charlotte had to return to Sweden, PK promised he would find a way to join her, but he was completely broke and could not afford a plane ticket.

• The Journey: Determined to reunite with his wife, PK sold all of his meager belongings, bought a second-hand bicycle, and started pedaling on January 22, 1977.

• The Triumph: He cycled roughly 70 kilometers every single day along the famous "hippie trail," crossing through Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey. He survived by sketching portraits of locals and travelers along the way in exchange for food and shelter.

-After a grueling four-and-a-half months, he reached Sweden on May 28, 1977, where the two reunited and remain married to this day.

-A Cyclothon & Run is a joint community sports event that combines an organized cycling ride or race (cyclothon) with a fitness run or marathon .

-What is a Cyclothon?

• Definition: A portmanteau of "cycle" and "marathon," a cyclothon is a mass-participation cycling event.

• Distances: Routes can range from short, family-friendly fun rides (5–10 km) up to long-distance endurance challenges (50–100+ km).

• Purpose: They are often held to promote physical health, raise environmental or social awareness (such as reducing carbon emissions or supporting women's safety), and build community spirit.

-What is the Run Component?

•Definition: A companion running or walking segment (such as a 5 km or 10 km fun run) held alongside the cycling portion.

• Inclusivity: It allows non-cyclists, families, and runners of all age groups to participate in the same overarching health and wellness campaign.

-Why Are They Held?

• Fitness & Movement: They are frequently part of national or local health initiatives like the Fit India Movement.

•Causes & Commemorations: Organizations (such as sports councils, police units, or defense forces like the National Security Guard) host them to mark national days, police commemorations, or charitable fundraising.

•Green Living: They encourage eco-friendly travel and active lifestyles

-The History of Running Events

Ancient Origins & The First Olympics (776 BCE)

-Before it was a sport, running was an evolutionary survival mechanism used for persistence hunting. Organized running as a sport officially began in 776 BCE in Olympia, Greece. For the first 13 iterations of the ancient Olympic Games, a ~190-meter sprint called the "stadium" was the only event contested.

-2. The Birth of the Marathon (490 BCE)

-The concept of the marathon originates from the legend of Pheidippides, a Greek messenger. According to myth, he ran roughly 25 miles from the battlefield of Marathon to Athens to announce the Greek victory over the Persians, gasped "Rejoice, we conquer!", and collapsed dead.



-3. Modern Standardization (1896–1921)

• The First Modern Marathon (1896): When the modern Olympic Games were revived in Athens, the marathon was introduced as a 40-kilometer race to honor the legend. It was won by Greek runner Spyridon Louis.

•The 26.2 Mile Standard (1908): At the 1908 London Olympics, the course was extended to 26.2 miles (42.195 km) so the race could begin at Windsor Castle and finish directly in front of the Royal Box. This precise distance was officially standardized globally in 1921.

-4. The Running Boom & Women's Inclusion (1970s–1980s)

-For decades, running was an elite, mostly male discipline. In 1967, Kathrine Switzer famously defied rules to become the first woman to officially run the Boston Marathon with a race bib. The 1970s sparked a recreational "running boom" led by figureheads like Frank Shorter (who won Olympic Gold in 1972) and the creation of massive public city marathons like New York. Women's distance running finally gained Olympic recognition at the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

-The History of Cycling & Cyclathons

1. The Early Invention (1817–1860s)

-The bicycle's earliest ancestor was the "Laufmaschine" (running machine) invented by German Baron Karl von Drais in 1817. It had two wheels but no pedals—riders pushed it forward with their feet. True pedal-driven mechanics evolved by the mid-19th century, setting the stage for competitive racing.

-2. The First Races (1868–1869)

• The First Documented Race: Held on May 31, 1868, at the Park of Saint-Cloud in Paris, this short 1,200-meter sprint was won by an Englishman named James Moore.

• The First Intercity Epic: In 1869, the Paris–Rouen race (123 km) became the first true test of city-to-city cycling endurance, also won by James Moore in just under 11 hours.

-3. Infrastructure & The Grand Tours (1896–1903)

-Cycling was included in the very first modern Olympic Games in 1896, with a road race fittingly mapped out along the historic Marathon course. The ultimate anchoring event for the sport came in 1903 with the creation of the Tour de France, followed by the Giro d'Italia (1909) and the Vuelta a España (1935).

-4. The Rise of the modern "Cyclathon" & Cyclosportives (1980s–Present)

While "races" were strictly for elite professionals, the concept of a Cyclathon (or Cyclosportive) emerged to cater to the masses.

• In Europe, events like La Marmotte (1882) and L'Étape du Tour allowed everyday amateur riders to test their endurance on the exact mountain stages used by the Tour de France.

•In recent decades, the term "Cyclathon" has globally evolved into high-visibility, mass-participation community festivals. They are often organized alongside running marathons to promote clean eco-mobility, physical fitness (e.g., India's Fit India movement), or to raise money for charitable causes like cancer awareness.

-Direct Comparison: Running vs. Cycling Events:

-Oldest Organized Event 776 BCE (Ancient Olympic Stadion race) May 31, 1868 (Saint-Cloud Park, Paris)

-First Major Distance Event 1896 Olympic Marathon (40 km / 25 miles) 1869 Paris–Rouen Race (123 km)

-Olympic Debut (Modern) Athens, 1896 Athens, 1896

-First Women's Olympic Event 1984 (Los Angeles Marathon) 1984 (Los Angeles Road Race)

-Modern Mass Evolution Shifted from elite track racing to public city marathons & 5Ks. Shifted from professional velodrome/ road racing to mass Cyclothon & Cyclosportives.

-History of cycling

-Cycling quickly became an activity after bicycles were introduced in the 19th century and remains popular with more than a billion people worldwide used for recreation, transportation and sport.

-Racing

-The first documented cycling race was a 1,200 metre race held on May 31, 1868, at the Park of Saint-Cloud, Paris. It was won by expatriate Englishman James Moore who rode a bicycle with solid rubber tires.

-The first cycle race covering a distance between two cities was Paris–Rouen, also won by James Moore, who rode the 123 kilometres dividing both cities in 10 hours and 40 minutes.

-The oldest established bicycle racing club in the United States is the St. Louis Cycling Club. Operating continuously since 1887, the club has sponsored races and timed distance events since its inception. Its members have included numerous national champions and Olympic team members.

-Cycling as recreation became organized shortly after racing did. In its early days, cycling brought the sexes together in an unchaperoned way, particularly after the 1880s when cycling became more accessible owing to the invention of the Rover Safety bicycle. Public cries of alarm at the prospect of moral chaos arose from this and from the evolution of women's cycling attire, which grew progressively less enveloping and restrictive.

-On 4 March 1915 the society for the construction of cycle paths in the Gooi and Eemland region in the Netherlands was founded. It is the last private "Cycle Path Society" that still exists today. Some people thought the increasing amount of motor traffic in the early 20th century was so dangerous for people cycling, especially those who rode as a leisure activity, that they wanted separate cycling infrastructure to be built.

Along with flexible employment, social security will also have to be ensured.



Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

In a changing economy, employment patterns are rapidly changing. Digital technology and internet-based services have challenged traditional ways of working. Today, individuals can earn a living by delivering food through mobile apps, driving online taxis, delivering goods, providing domestic services, or doing freelance digital work.



This form of employment is called the gig economy, and those working in it are identified as gig workers. The most significant characteristic of these workers is that they can choose work according to their convenience and availability, but this flexibility is accompanied by insecurity in their livelihoods. Unlike regular employees, they generally lack access to benefits such as salary, provident fund, pension, medical care, and paid leave. Therefore, social security for gig workers is no longer merely a matter of labor welfare, but has become an essential prerequisite for inclusive development and economic justice.

The expansion of the digital economy in India has given new impetus to gig employment. According to a NITI Aayog report, the number of gig workers in the country is projected to reach approximately 23.5 million by 2029-30. This number indicates that this sector of employment is poised to become a significant part of the Indian economy in the future. Millions of people working in food supply, transportation, e-commerce, domestic services, and various digital platforms are driving economic activity in cities. Despite this, their social and economic status remains relatively vulnerable. A delivery worker involved in a road accident can immediately lose their income. Missing work for several days due to illness makes it difficult to support their families. Women face challenges such as maternity leave and income continuity. The lack of a regular pension in old age further increases their worries.

The fundamental purpose of social security is to provide financial support to workers in the uncertain circumstances of life. This becomes even more important for gig workers, as their income depends on the availability of work, customer demand, weather, platform policies, and incentive schemes. Changes in payment rates or reductions in incentives by platforms often impact their actual income. In such circumstances, benefits like accident insurance, life insurance, health coverage, maternity benefits, and old-age pensions can protect them from financial crisis. Social security benefits are not limited to the worker, but provide protection to their entire family. This also helps reduce poverty, inequality, and economic instability.

Keeping this need in mind, gig workers and platform workers have been recognized as a separate category in the Social Security Code, 2020. This Code provides for the formulation and implementation of social security schemes for them. Institutional arrangements like the National Social Security Board aim to coordinate between workers, aggregators, and the government and determine the direction of welfare schemes. The provision for the participation of various stakeholders in the 22-member National Social Security Board is an important step in this direction. It is essential to ensure that such boards do not merely become institutions that recommend schemes, but also understand the real problems of workers and become effective means of resolving them.

The role of these boards is important on several levels. First, they can contribute to the formulation and prioritization of social security schemes. Second, they can oversee the expansion of benefits such as life insurance, accident insurance, disability assistance, maternity benefits, and old-age security. Third, they can ensure accountability by reviewing the expenditure on schemes and their implementation. Fourth, they can help develop a system to ensure that a worker's social security benefits are not lost when they move from one digital platform to another or work from one state to another.

The e-Shram portal can be an important tool in this direction. Aadhaar-linked registration can facilitate the identification of workers and their access to welfare benefits. However, mere registration is not enough. Real success will be achieved when registered workers also receive timely payments of accident assistance, insurance, health services, and other prescribed benefits. To achieve this, the digital system must be simplified, transparent, and worker-friendly.

However, this system faces several serious challenges. The most significant problem is the ambiguity of employment relationships. Gig workers are often treated as independent partners or service providers, while their working conditions, payment, task allocation, and performance evaluation are controlled by digital platforms. This makes it difficult to determine who is responsible for social security. Another problem is the gap between plans and actual benefits. Many workers are unaware of the plans, and the registration and claim process is complex for some. The third challenge is worker representation. Without their actual participation in policy decisions, the plans will not be tailored to the needs on the ground.

The availability of financial resources is also a major issue. The Social Security Code provides for contributions from aggregators, limiting their annual turnover to one to two percent, but not exceeding five percent of the total amount paid to workers. This system aims to create a sustainable financial foundation for social security. However, transparency in the calculation, collection, and use of contributions is essential. It must also be ensured that the financial burden is not indirectly transferred to workers' incomes.

The way forward is clear. The central and state governments must work together to ensure effective implementation of social security schemes. Simple registration of each gig worker, portable benefits across multiple platforms, regular social security audits, and effective grievance redressal mechanisms must be developed. Special attention should be paid to maternity assistance and safe working conditions, taking into account the specific needs of women workers. Furthermore, genuine and adequate participation of worker representatives on social security boards must be ensured. The gig economy is India's new economic reality. It should be viewed as an opportunity for job creation and entrepreneurship, but simply increasing employment opportunities is not enough. Development will be meaningful only when the lives of the workers who drive that growth are also secure and dignified. The benefits of technological and market advancements must reach workers. Social security boards can be an important bridge in this direction. Their role must not be limited to paper recommendations, but rather ensure that the benefits of schemes reach the last worker. Flexible employment can increase workers' independence, but in the absence of social security, this independence turns into economic insecurity. Therefore, the need of the hour is to recognize gig workers not just as part of the digital economy, but as workers with rights and dignity.

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

Why There Is Erosion Of Teacher Authority



BY-MOOL RAJ

Teachers have held a position of unquestionable respect for generations. Their presence represented moral and intellectual authority, their decisions demanded faith, and their words carried weight. But in today's educational discourse, an awkward topic predominates: Why are kids treating instructors with such disrespect? We might be asking the wrong question. Rather than focusing only on kids, we need to face a more unsettling truth: Have we systematically undermined the very profession whose authority we now want youngsters to recognise?

Social media, smartphones and evolving parenting practices did not start the decline of teacher authority. It started when the connection of trust in education increasingly gave way to a transaction controlled by institutional appeasement, performance metrics and expectations. Teachers are expected to exercise dwindling authority while exhibiting unending patience in many institutions. Disciplinary rulings are regularly contested, their professional judgements are questioned, and the desire to prevent parental discontent sometimes overshadows valid concerns. What message does this convey to kids? Students start to see professional authority as negotiable when they see adults confronting instructors on a regular basis without engaging in meaningful conversation or receiving institutional backing. Respect becomes contingent on convenience rather than knowledge or accountability. Paradoxically, the same society that expects orderly classrooms is frequently reluctant to give those in charge of upholding them more authority. Attention should be paid to yet another discrepancy. It is becoming more and more expected of teachers to serve as educators, counsellors, administrators, technological facilitators and emotional support providers. Their obligations are growing, yet they still have limited time and freedom to complete them.

In ceremonial speeches, we honour educators as nation-builders, but how often do our institutional procedures reflect this appreciation? Additionally, there is a risky propensity to mistake student empowerment for a lack of accountability. Encouraging children to challenge beliefs is crucial, but letting them cross boundaries is not. Independent thought should be encouraged in a progressive classroom without normalising rudeness. Similarly, fear, humiliation or blind obedience cannot restore respect. Teachers must gain students' trust by being competent, equitable, compassionate and reliable. Freedom without responsibility turns into indiscipline, and authority without accountability turns into authoritarianism. Hence, a fundamental recalibration of educational interactions is necessary for the solution. While maintaining open channels for resolving legitimate complaints, school administrations must uphold professional decorum.

Parents need to know the difference between standing up for their kids and immediately supporting whatever they do. Teachers must adopt new pedagogies without compromising who they are as professionals. Above all, students need to know that disrespect and disagreement are not the same thing. While one promotes intellectual development, the other threatens the connections that are essential to a meaningful education. A civilisation shows its values by treating teachers with dignity in routine institutional actions rather than by publicly expressing respect for them. Perhaps we should look at the examples adults are providing before bemoaning the decline of respect among students. It is unreasonable for a society to expect its students to respect its authorities when it consistently undermines its instructors. Education loses its moral base, which is considerably more vital than classroom discipline, when the teacher's voice becomes disposable.

The Author Is A Regular Columnist And Freelance Writer

DC Reasi reviews road safety measures
Directs for corrective action across accident-prone locations

■ HT News Network



REASI, NOVEMBER 3: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a meeting of stakeholder departments to review road safety measures and discuss interventions to set-right accident-prone stretches in District Reasi.

The meeting focused on strengthening road safety mechanisms, identifying vulnerable locations and ensuring coordinated efforts among concerned departments to minimise road accidents and protect the lives of commuters and other road users.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed safety concerns at the accident-prone stretch near Jyoti Puram. Detailed discussions were held with the concerned officers on factors contributing to accidents at the location and the need for appropriate engineering interventions to mitigate the risks. The officers from the GREF were asked to undertake necessary safety measures, including the installation of night reflectors, speed breakers, rumble strips and appropriate road safety signages at identified vulnerable points. The possibility of realigning the road at Jyoti Puram was also discussed.The concerned officers were asked to conduct a joint site visit, identify suitable locations for installing signages and other road safety infrastructure and take corrective measures to enhance commuter safety along the stretch.

He further directed the PWD department to install adequate road safety signages at locations where construction work is underway along NH-144. '"The signages should be clearly visible to commuters during both day and night to alert them about ongoing construction activities and potential hazards," he stressed. The concerned officers were also asked to ensure the removal of construction material and other obstructions from the road to facilitate smooth traffic movement and prevent inconvenience to commuters.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Sushil Kesar, Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Nitin Verma, Additional Superintendent of Police Iftkhar Ahmed, Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Tehsildar Reasi and other concerned officers. The concerned officers were asked to conduct a joint site visit, identify suitable locations for installing signages and other road safety infrastructure and take corrective measures to enhance commuter safety along the stretch.He further directed the PWD department to install adequate road safety signages at locations where construction work is underway along NH-144. '"The signages should be clearly visible to commuters during both day and night to alert them.

MY Bharat organises Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2027 at GDC Bhaderwah

■ HT News Network

BHADERWAH, NOVEMBER 03: MY Bharat Kendra Doda, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, today organised the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2027 at Government Degree College (GDC) Bhaderwah, with the objective of promoting democratic values, constitutional awareness and active youth participation in the democratic process.The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 200 students from across Doda district, including students from GDC Kilhotran, GDC Thathri, GDC Doda and the host College. The central theme for the debate and discussion was "One Nation, One Election." The session provided young participants an opportunity to express their views, exchange ideas and engage in meaningful discussions on the subject.The College Principal graced the occasion and appreciated the initiative of MY Bharat in providing a platform to young students to engage in constructive discussions on matters of national importance. The Principal also encouraged students to actively participate in such programmes to enhance their knowledge, confidence and leadership abilities.Speaking on the occasion, the District Youth Officer motivated the participants to take an active part in youth-centric.

DC Doda inspects employment Office, DIPR Centre, Palaash Children Home

■ HT News Network



DODA, NOVEMBER 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Krishan Lal inspected the Employment Office and the District Centre of Department of Information and Public Relations here the other day. He reviewed the condition of the office buildings and the availability of infrastructure.

During the visit to the DIPR Centre, the Deputy Commissioner issued necessary directions regarding the proper maintenance and upkeep of the premises, including the main office building, boundary wall and the entrance gate.

The Deputy Commissioner also visited Palaash Children Home, where he inspected the available facilities, including the library room, bedrooms, kitchen hall and sports items available for the children. He took stock of the overall arrangements and facilities being provided to the children. He instructed the staff to ensure proper upkeep, cleanliness and maintenance of the premises.

Awareness program "Meri Policy Mere Haath" held at Udhampur to promote PMFBY among Farmers

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 3: "Meri Policy Mere Haath" programme under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was organised today at SDAO Udhampur to generate awareness among farmers regarding crop insurance benefits, enrolment, claim settlement and crop loss intimation.

A large number of farmers from across the district participated in the programme also attended by Chief Agriculture Officer Vikas Padha; District Agriculture Officer Sudhir Manhas; Project Officer PMFBY GOI Sunil Lakhotra; Nodal Officer PMFBY Directorate of Agriculture Jammu Anirudh Kumar Bhat; ; SDAO Darshan Sharma, field officers beneficiary farmers besides representatives from Insurance Companies.

The programme provided farmers a platform to interact with departmental officers and insurance representatives, clarify their queries and understand the procedures for enrolment, crop loss reporting and claim settlement, thereby strengthening awareness and confidence in PMFBY.

The PMFBY policy documents were distributed among enrolled farmers. They were sensitised to insurance coverage, insured crops, sum insured, eligibility criteria and the enrolment process. A detailed discussion was also held on pending and settled claims, farmers' grievances and measures to ensure timely settlement of eligible claims.

Special emphasis was laid on the crop loss intimation process, with farmers informed about the importance of reporting crop losses within the prescribed 72-hour timeline through the Crop Insurance App, toll free number 14447 or other prescribed channels.

The Chief Agriculture Officer emphasised the importance of PMFBY in safeguarding farmers against crop losses and urged them to ensure timely enrolment and reporting of crop losses. He stressed close coordination among the Agriculture Department, insurance companies and field functionaries for effective claim settlement and grievance redressal.

DC discusses implementation of Clean Himalayan and Hill Cities Initiative in Patnitop

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 03: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of 'The Clean Himalayan and Hill Cities Initiative (CHHCI) in Patnitop area.The CHHCI, a high-impact program under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, aims to ensure sustainable solid waste management, advanced sanitation, and environmental preservation across the prominent Tourist Destinations.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Chief Executive Officer Patnitop Development Authority Rakesh Dubey; Accounts Officer Raj Kumar and officers from other stakeholder departments.

The meeting discussed various aspects of the initiative, with emphasis on its effective implementation of various components of the CHHCI Action Plan on the ground level.

The DC directed the concerned departments to put in extra efforts for the timely execution of the approved plan. He asked officers concerned to discharge their respective responsibilities with proper planning, inter-departmental coordination and effective implementation, strictly in accordance with the prescribed rules and guidelines. The concerned officers were asked to complete all necessary preparations and put in place the requisite arrangements within stipulated timelines.

Enumeration in non-snow-bound areas: Training imparted to staff at Doda

DODA, NOVEMBER 3: A district-level training programme on Population Enumeration (PE) under Phase-II of Census-2027 for non-snow-bound areas was held today here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex Doda. The training was imparted to District-Charge Officers, Census Clerks, Technical Assistants and other officers associated with the Census exercise.Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Krishan Lal chaired the session attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ashraf Pervez; District Statistics & Evaluation Officer.Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of meticulous planning and thorough preparedness for the smooth and successful conduct of Population.

DC calls for effective traffic de-congestion measures in Kishtwar Town

■ HT News Network



KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 03: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of the Regional Transport Authority to discuss issues related to public transport and traffic management in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of applications seeking route permits, besides applications received under the Mumkin scheme. He directed the concerned departments to expedite the process and ensure transparency, keeping in view the requirement of public transport in different areas.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the ARTO and DTI to identify suitable locations for designated parking stands for e-autos, e-rickshaws and autos, in coordination with the CEO, Municipal Council and to submit the list for notification.

The Deputy Commissioner further reviewed the status of vehicles seized for the traffic violations. He directed the enforcement departments to ensure close coordination for the seizure and accommodation of such vehicles at suitable locations.

He also directed for restricting the parking of private vehicles at the New Bus Stand, Old Bus Stand and Mini Bus Stand for smooth plying of public transport, besides preventing traffic congestion and jams in the town.

The meeting was attended by Additional SP Mohammad Shafiq, Assistant Regional Transport Officer Tasleem Wani and DTI Sandeep Parihar, besides other concerned officers and officials. He also directed for restricting the parking of private vehicles at the New Bus Stand, Old Bus Stand and Mini Bus Stand for smooth plying of public transport, besides preventing traffic congestion and jams in the town.

Mission Director NHM inaugurates Divisional-Level Training of Trainers under Anaemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyan

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 03: In a major push to strengthen grassroots healthcare delivery across the Union Territory, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), J&K Athar Aamir Ul Shafi Khan today inaugurated the Divisional-Level Training of Trainers under the Anaemia Mukt Bharat (AMB) Abhiyan.The intensive training programme is designed to translate the newly revised AMB framework shifting from the earlier 6x6x6 approach to a more robust 7x7x7 strategy into effective, ground-level action across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the participants, the Mission Director underscored that combating anaemia demands active community engagement and flawless execution at every single healthcare tier, right down to remote health centres.

"Our priority is to ensure that Iron and Folic Acid supplementation reaches every targeted beneficiary without interruption and that our digital tracking is precise, transparent and seamlessly integrated," Shri Athar Aamir Ul Shafi Khan noted during his address.The programme focuses heavily on implementing the 7x7x7 strategy to drive higher consumption, strict compliance and deeper community participation through Jan Bhagidari across J&K. A core component of the training centres on empowering the digital frontier, featuring hands-on modules for the AMB Mobile App, the T4 Campaign and robust beneficiary-level digital line-listing to ensure continuous tracking, follow-ups and complete care until recovery.

Furthermore, the Mission Director emphasized the absolute necessity of maintaining uninterrupted, zero-stock-out availability of Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplements for all targeted beneficiary groups across every district and block in the Union Territory.The training programme is being imparted by certified Master Trainers and resource persons from the State Health Society/SPMU, NHM J&K, following their specialized national training under the Ministry of Health.

DC Ramban reviews Diwali arrangements
Stresses on regular essential services, market regulation, safety and security during festival celebrations

■ HT News Network



RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 03: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today chaired a meeting of district officers and stakeholders to review the arrangements for the festivals of Diwali, Dhanteras and Bhai Dooj, with a focus on ensuring safe, smooth and hassle-free celebrations across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo; SDM Ramsoo Sayed Mazahir Hussain Shah; Dy. SP Headquarters Waqar Bhat; Dy. SP Traffic Vinod Kundal, Tehsildars, representatives of the Beopar Mandal and senior officers of various departments. SDMs Tehsildars and other officers participated in the meeting virtually.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity and drinking water, proper sanitation and cleanliness around religious places and public areas, besides effective traffic regulation during the festive period.

The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department was directed to ensure adequate availability of essential commodities, including food grains, LPG and other necessities. The Health Department was asked to keep emergency medical facilities functional and medical teams prepared at all health institutions.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department was directed to keep fire tenders and personnel on standby, with a fire tender stationed in Ramban town to respond promptly to any eventuality.

The DC also directed the Revenue, FCS&CA, Legal Metrology, Food Safety and Municipal authorities to intensify market inspections and ensure the quality and hygiene of food items, including sweets, fruits, vegetables and milk products, besides checking rates and preventing overcharging.

Tehsildars were instructed to identify suitable locations and ensure proper permissions for the sale of firecrackers, strictly adhering to safety norms.

The Traffic Police was directed to ensure smooth vehicular movement, particularly around the Bus Stand and Maitra areas, while police authorities were asked to maintain adequate security arrangements.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to work in close coordination and ensure that the festive season is celebrated peacefully, safely and joyfully across Ramban district.

PD&SJ Bandipora chairs 4th UTRC Meeting 2026 to review Cases of Undertrial prisoners

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 03: The Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairperson, District Legal Services Authority), Bandipora, Jeema Bashir, today chaired the 4th Undertrial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting at the Conference Hall of the New District Court Complex, Bandipora, with the objective of ensuring timely review of cases and facilitating the release of eligible undertrial prisoners, thereby safeguarding their rights and promoting access to justice.

The meeting was attended by Indu Kanwal Chib, District Magistrate, Bandipora; Tahir Saleem Khan, Senior Superintendent of Police, Bandipora; Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Bandipora; Barkat Ahmad Dar, Superintendent, District Jail, Kupwara; Syed Gazanafar, Superintendent, District Jail, Baramulla; Iftikar Hassan, Public Prosecutor, Additional Sessions Court, Bandipora; and the Superintendents of Central Jail, Srinagar, Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu, and District Jail, Amphalla Jammu, who participated through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the Committee conducted a preliminary review of all eleven eligible cases of undertrial prisoners (UTPs).

The Committee recommended the case of undertrial prisoner Mohd. Akbar Lone, falling under Category four, for release by the learned Judicial Magistrate, subject to fulfilment of all requisite legal formalities and due process of law. However, the case of another undertrial prisoner, Manzoor Ahmad Sofi, was not recommended for release, as he stands convicted by a competent court of law.

The case of undertrial prisoner Abid Ahmad Waza was also taken up for consideration on medical grounds in view of his life-threatening medical condition. The Committee accordingly directed the Jail Authorities to constitute a Standing Medical Board to conduct a comprehensive medical examination and submit a detailed medical report before the concerned Court within fifteen days.

Regarding other undertrial prisoners falling under Category 11, who are sick or infirm and require specialized medical treatment, the Committee did not recommend their release, as they were not found to be suffering from any life-threatening or chronic, lifelong medical conditions warranting such consideration.

However, the Jail Authorities were directed to ensure regular medical examinations of these prisoners and submit the corresponding medical reports before the respective courts for their information and necessary consideration.

The cases of the remaining three undertrial prisoners, viz. Suraya, Muneera and Tahira Begum, were also not recommended for release, as they are facing trial for heinous offences punishable with imprisonment for life under the relevant statutory provisions.

The Committee reiterated its commitment to periodically reviewing cases of undertrial prisoners to ensure that no eligible person is deprived of the benefits of legal remedies available under the law. It also emphasised the importance of timely judicial review and coordinated efforts among the concerned authorities in upholding the rights of undertrial prisoners and ensuring access to justice.

District-Level round of Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament held at Boys GDC B'la

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 03: The district-level round of Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2027 was organised today at Government Degree College (Boys), Baramulla, with Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr. S.F. Hamid, attending the programme as the Chief Guest.

The programme commenced with the National Song, followed by the National Anthem, setting a patriotic tone for the event.

At the outset, the District Youth Officer MY Bharat Baramulla, Srijan Singh, highlighted the objectives of the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament initiative and encouraged participants to make the most of the platform to express their ideas and perspectives on matters of national importance.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the importance of youth participation in nation-building and encouraged students to develop leadership qualities, critical thinking and a sense of responsibility towards society.

He emphasised that the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 can be realised through the active involvement of educated, empowered and responsible youth.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who presented their views and engaged in discussions on matters of national importance.

Faculty members, students and other concerned persons were also present during the programme.

The programme provided an opportunity for young participants to enhance their public speaking skills, understand parliamentary procedures and contribute to constructive democratic dialogue.

District-Level Census 2027 Training Program conducted in Ganderbal

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 03: As part of the ongoing preparations for Census 2027, a comprehensive district-level training program on Population Enumeration (PE) was successfully conducted at Conference Hall Mini Secretariat Complex Ganderbal for Dealing Assistants, Charge Clerks, and District-Level Clerks.

The training session was attended by the District Census Officer (DCO) Ganderbal, with master training provided by Nodal Officers from the Census Department. The curriculum focused on essential operational guidelines, prescribed procedural frameworks, and technical requirements crucial for executing PE 2027. The primary objective of the program was to align district officials with their specific roles and responsibilities, enhance technical competency, and establish clear channels of coordination to ensure seamless execution during the upcoming national census. Additionally, the session featured an interactive Q&A segment, allowing participants to seek operational clarity and address ground-level implementation challenges prior to roll-out.

2-day Census-2027 Phase-II training for Charge officers begins at Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 3: A two-day training programme on Census 2027 Phase-II (Population Enumeration) for Charge officers of District Jammu commenced here today. The programme is being organised by the District Administration Jammu under the guidance of the Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Minga Sherpa and will conclude on November 4.

Officials from the Directorate of Census Operations J&K are imparting the training. District Informatics Officer (Director IT) Sanjeev Kapoor, District Census Officer Ishita Rathi, Additional District Census Officer Neeraj Sharma, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, Tehsildars and other Charge Functionaries attended the training.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, ABDUL RASHID DAR, Father of MUSAIB AHMAD DAR, resident of Nagbal, District Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir, do hereby declare as under:
That I am the father and legal guardian of my minor child, MUSAIB AHMAD DAR.That the Aadhaar Number of my minor child is 554748331164.That due to an inadvertent error, my child's name has been incorrectly recorded as AZAN RASHID in the Aadhaar Card, whereas the correct name is MUSAIB AHMAD DAR.
That the nameMUSAIB AHMAD DAR is the correct name of my minor child, and I wish to have the same corrected in the Aadhaar records.Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid name correction may approach the concerned Aadhaar Authority with valid documentary proof.
Place: Nagbal, Baramulla
ABDUL RASHID DAR
Father of MUSAIB AHMAD DAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that the original Death Certificate of Mr. Ghulam Hassan Khan S/o Lasa Khan R/o Tangawari Bala, Tehsil Wagura, District Baramulla, J&K, who expired on 08-11-2019, bearing Registration No. 212/15-B/PSK/2026 dated 23/11/2019, issued by the Registrar (Birth & Death), has been lost / misplaced somewhere and is not traceable despite thorough search.
If anybody finds the said original Death Certificate, he/she is requested to kindly return / inform the undersigned or deposit the same with the office of the Registrar Birth & Death, Tehsil Wagura, District Baramulla.
Further, I am applying for a duplicate Death Certificate for the same. If any person has any objection regarding issuance of duplicate certificate, he/she may file objection before the concerned Registrar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, after which no objection shall be entertained.
Name of Deceased: Ghulam Hassan Khan
Date of Death: 08-11-2019
Death Certificate No: 212/15-B/PSK/2026
Resident of: Tangawari Bala, Tehsil Wagura, District Baramulla
Applicant (Legal Heir / Waris):
R/o Tangawari Bala, Tehsil Wagura, Baramulla
Mobile: 9596411841

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Satar Malla, hereby give this public notice to inform the general public and concerned authorities that my wards name have been incorrectly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as Mustufa Satar,His correct particulars, as per valid supporting documents, are as follows:Correct Name: Mustafa Satar.I request the concerned authorities to kindly take note of the above-mentioned correct particulars and consider the necessary correction in my wards Aadhaar records as per the applicable rules and prescribed procedure.This notice is being published for public information and official record purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Brother's name MEHRAJ UD DIN WAZA S/O MUNEER AHMAD WAZA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040011052 wants to be registered on my name RIYAZ AHMAD WAZA S/O MUNAWAR WAZA 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.....RIYAZ AHMAD WAZA
S/O...MUNAWAR WAZA
R/O ... FRASTHAR KREERI BLOCK ....WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as JAFFAR AHMAD LONE S/O ALI MOHAMMAD MIR on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No .. 4208 0280 3625 while my correct name is JAFFAR MAJEED LONE S/L ALI MOHAMMAD MIR which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name..JAFFAR MAJEED LONE
D/O..ALI MOHAMMAD MIR
R/O..DALIPORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, BASHIR AHMAD CHOPAN, hereby inform the general public that I seek correction of the name recorded in my minor child's Aadhaar Card.
The details are as follows:
Aadhaar Number of Minor: 595065875992
Incorrect Name: IFAT JAN
Correct Name: IFAT BASHIR
That the name of my child was inadvertently entered incorrectly at the time of Aadhaar enrolment. Therefore, I request the concerned authority to kindly rectify the name in the Aadhaar records as per the correct details mentioned above.
I am enclosing the relevant supporting documents for verification and necessary action.
Any person having any objection regarding the above-mentioned correction may approach the concerned Aadhaar Authority with valid proof and supporting documents.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name AB AHAD SHEIKH R/O..FRASTAHAR KREERI Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040003631 wants to be registered on my name MOHD SHAREEF SHEIKH 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.....MOHD SHAREEF SHEIKH
S/O..AB AHAD SHEIKH
R/O ... FRASTAHAR BLOCK ....WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as ARVINDER SINGH on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No .. 4335 6550 9559 while my correct name is S. ARVINDER SINGH S/O KISHAN SINGH which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...S.ARVINDER SINGH
S/O....KISHAN SINGH
R/O..BERWAH TANGMARG

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Higher Education Department Civil Secretariat, J&K

Subject: Appointment of Assistant Professor, Urdu in the Higher Education Department.

Ref'nce: (i) Letter No. PSC/DR/AP/Urdu/13-14 Dated 27.02.2017, recommendations from the Secretary, J&K Public Service Commission, Srinagar.
(ii) TA No. 549/2022 titled Shabir Ahmad Bhat vs UT of J&K and others.
(iii) Letter No. PSC-DR/AP Urdu/13-14 (7226723) Dated 22.07.2026 recommendations from the Secretary, J&K Public Service Commission, Srinagar.
Government Order No: 372-JK(HE) of 2026
Dated: 2-11-2026
As per the approval accorded by the Competent Authority and as recommended by the J&K Public Service Commission, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of Mr. Shabir Ahmad Bhat S/o Khazir Mohammad Bhat R/o Warapora, Tehsil/District Budgam as Assistant Professor (Urdu) under Open Merit (O.M) Category on Regular Temporary basis in the Pay Band of Rs.15600-39100 with AGP of Rs.6000/- (Pre- revised) Academic Level-10 with Pay Structure of Rs.57700/-) in the Higher Education Department, with immediate effect.
The above candidate shall report to the Nodal Principal, Government College of Education, Srinagar within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this order, failing which his appointment shall be deemed to have cancelled without any notice.The appointment of candidate shall be subject to the following conditions :-
The appointment of candidate shall be subject to the following conditions :-
The appointees will be on probation for a period of Two years from the date of joining.
The appointment of the candidates shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as per SRO-400 of 2009 Dated 24-12-2009.
The appointee shall, at the time of joining, produce the following testimonials in original which will be verified by the concerned Principals:-
i. Domicile Certificate.
ii. Date of Birth Certificate.
iii. Qualification and Marks Certificate i.e. NET/SLET/Ph.D. etc and Marks cards/Degrees.
iv. Category certificate as may be applicable to the appointee.
v. Health and Medical Certificate.
vi. Any other certificate as required under law.
The salary of the appointees shall be drawn and disbursed only after the receipt of the satisfactory report in respect of genuineness of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Relevant Category Certificate(s) and subject to production of an Affidavit as per Annexure-A to this order.
The inter-se-seniority of the candidate in the relevant category shall be determined in terms of the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956.
The appointment of the candidate shall remain provisional till such time all the certificates are got verified by the concerned Principal and are found to be in order and in case on verification it is surfaced that the certificate(s) produced has been found to be fake, inadequate or not consistent with the eligibility requirements, the appointment of the candidate shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.
The appointment of the candidate shall be subject to outcome of Writ Petition(s), if any, pending before any competent Court of law on the subject.
By Order of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

DIPK-7313/26
Send Date: Nov 3 2026

Sd/
(Ram Niwas Sharma) IAS
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government

Annexure-A to Government Order No. 372 -JK(HE) of 2026
Dated: 02-11-2026AFFIDAVITI, _____ S/o, D/o _____ R/o _____ do hereby solemnly declare on oath that:(a) My name has been recommended by the J&K Public Service Commission for appointment as Assistant Professor (Urdu), in the Higher Education Department.
(b) I understand that the verification report in respect of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Reserved category certificate has not been furnished by the concerned verifying agency in my case.
I, therefore, undertake that in the event of permitting me to join, pending receipt of the verification report in respect of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Reserved category certificate, I shall have no claim for the post in the event of my being adversely reported upon by the verifying agency found not be genuine.

DEPONENT

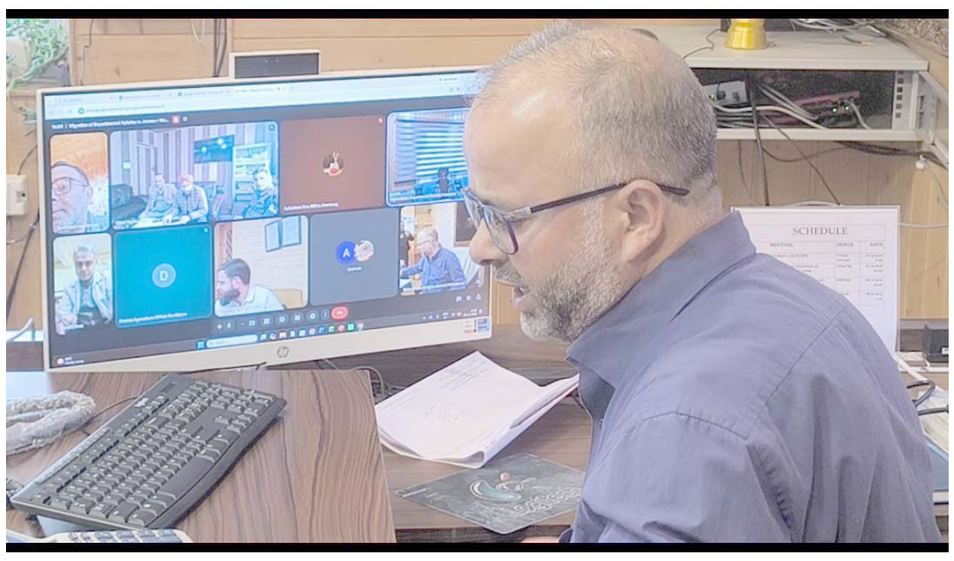
VERIFICATION

The contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein.

DEPONENT

Dir Agri Kashmir reviews progress of Apiculture Sector; Migration of Bee Colonies to Jammu discussed

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 03: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today chaired a virtual meeting to review the progress of various activities and initiatives being implemented under the Apiculture sector.

The meeting focused on assessing the overall progress of apiculture-related activities, reviewing the status of ongoing initiatives and identifying measures to further strengthen and promote the beekeeping sector across Kashmir.

A key agenda item was the proposed migration of bee colonies from Kashmir to Jammu. Detailed deliberations were held on the arrangements and measures required to facilitate the smooth and timely migration of bee colonies, keeping in view seasonal requirements and the interests of the beekeeping community.

Various issues and challenges faced by beekeepers were also discussed, with particular emphasis on strengthening field-level coordination, providing timely technical guidance and ensuring effective implementation of departmental interventions.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director, stressed the need for a coordinated and result-oriented approach towards strengthening the apiculture sector. He directed the concerned officers to work proactively, maintain close coordination with beekeepers and ensure that all necessary arrangements for the migration of bee colonies are made in a timely and systematic manner.

The Director reiterated the department's commitment to promoting scientific beekeeping practices, enhancing honey production and improving the economic prospects of the beekeeping community through sustained institutional support, technical guidance and effective field-level interventions.

The meeting was attended by Chief Agriculture Officers, Assistant Entomologist and concerned Apiculture Development Officers from across the Kashmir Division.

JMC conducts awareness-cum-inspection drive to promote compliance by Dairy Units

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 3: The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) today conducted an awareness-cum-inspection drive in various areas of Jammu to sensitise dairy farmers operating within JMC limits about environmental management of dairy farms and Gaushalas and the mandatory registration of dairy units in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The drive was conducted by Veterinary Assistant Surgeon (VAS Dr. Divya Sharma and Senior Assistant Veterinary Services Wing Ashwani Kumar, under the directions of Joint Commissioner (Health & Sanitation), JMC, Abdul Sattar. The team covered Rehari, Sarwal, Subash Nagar and Paloura, during which around 15 notices were served to unregistered dairy owners operating within the municipal limits.

The dairy farmers were sensitised to the scientific management and disposal of cattle dung and urine through the installation of biogas plants, vermicomposting units and other environment-friendly techniques. The team highlighted that the discharge of cattle dung and wastewater from dairy farms and Gaushalas into drains leads to blockages and ultimately contributes to river pollution. It was emphasised that proper utilisation of cattle waste can turn it into a valuable resource for manure and renewable energy.

Dr. Divya Sharma informed that approximately 113 dairy units have been registered with JMC so far after fulfilling the prescribed criteria, including scientific dung disposal mechanisms and maintenance of proper hygiene in and around the premises.

The team also interacted with dairy farmers and explained the online Dairy registration process initiated by JMC. The dairy owners were advised to ensure adequate space for animal rearing, maintain hygienic conditions and adopt proper waste-management practices to prevent environmental pollution and ensure animal welfare.

It was further conveyed that dairy units fulfilling the prescribed norms regarding scientific dung disposal, hygiene and adequate animal-rearing space shall be considered for provisional registration, followed by the issuance of a licence/ registration under Section 324 of the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000, as applicable.

DDC Ganderbal chairs review meeting on Municipal Council Functioning, Developmental Works

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 03: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today chaired a comprehensive meeting at the MC Complex, Ganderbal, to review the overall functioning of the Municipal Council Ganderbal, the execution of various ongoing developmental projects, and the effective implementation of flagship government schemes.

The meeting was attended by CPO Ganderbal, CEO Municipal Council Ganderbal, Executive Engineers of PMGSY, R&B, I&FC and KPDCL along with other officers.

During the meeting, CEO, Municipal Council Ganderbal delivered a detailed presentation outlining the town's administrative profile, civic infrastructure, and progress achieved across multiple urban development portfolios. The discussions thoroughly evaluated major funding schemes spanning District Capex (2026–27), UIRF, FC Grants, and IDMT. Particular emphasis was laid on accelerating critical urban enhancement projects such as the Sind River Front (Phase I), Town Hall upgrade, entry gate construction, smart library developments, local parking spaces, and recreational parks.

The review also extended to vital environmental and public health infrastructure, including the comprehensive SWM facilities at Hakeemgund, National Green Tribunal NGT initiatives, and the AMRUT 2.0 water treatment plant project. Furthermore, the meeting evaluated housing and welfare achievements under PMAY (Urban) 1.0 and 2.0, alongside micro-credit disbursements and digital financial inclusion efforts under the PM SVANidhi scheme. Concluding the meeting, the DDC stressed the imperative of time-bound execution, strict adherence to quality parameters.

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2026

2-day awareness camp held at village Dhargaddiyan

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 03: As part of the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2026 celebrations, a two-day awareness camp was organised here at tribal village Dhargaddiyan (Block Sewna) with the participation of various line departments. The Officers and officials sensitized the local population about the government schemes, welfare initiatives and benefits available to tribal communities. The Health Department set up stalls to facilitate health check-ups, while the Agriculture Department distributed free samples of fertilisers, seeds and pesticides among farmers. The Sheep Husbandry Department provided detailed information about the incentives and departmental schemes and identified eligible beneficiaries for availing the benefits.

An essay-writing competition was also organised at middle school Dhargaddiyan as part of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2026 to encourage students' participation and awareness. The participating departments also interacted with local residents, listened to their demands and grievances and took note of the issues raised for necessary follow-up action.

Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2027 held at GDC Kishtwar

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 3: The MY Bharat Kendra Kishtwar, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, TODAY organised Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2027 here at Government Degree College (GDC) to promote democratic values, constitutional awareness and active youth participation in the democratic process. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 200 students from across the district, including students from GDC Chatroo, GDC Paddar, ITI Kishtwar and the host college. The central theme for the debate and discussion was "One Nation, One Election", wherein young participants got an opportunity to express their views, exchange ideas and engage in meaningful discussions on the subject.

The host College Principal appreciated the initiative of MY Bharat in providing a platform to young students to engage in constructive discussions on matters of national importance. The District Youth Officer motivated the participants to take an active part in youth-centric programmes and initiatives. He highlighted the importance of platforms like Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament in nurturing leadership qualities, critical thinking, public speaking skills and a sense of democratic responsibility among young people.

Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwara Painting competitions, cultural activities held across Kathua

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, NOVEMBER 3: As part of the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwara 2026 (November 1–15), a series of activities, including painting competitions on the theme "My Tribe, My Heritage" were organised today across educational institutions, colleges, anganwadi centres and panchayats in Kathua district. Students enthusiastically participated in the painting competitions, depicting the rich cultural heritage, traditional lifestyles, customs and folk art of tribal communities. Similar activities were organised at GHSS Mahanpur, Nagri Parole, Korepunnu, Kootah, Budhi, Chandwan and Jakhbar; GGHS Hiranagar, Kootah and Marheen; GHS Said, GMS Uttri and other institutions across the district. GDC Mahanpur and GDC Bani also organised activities to sensitise students about tribal heritage and traditions.

JDA successfully demarcates 7.9 Kanal of Land at Lower Gadigarh after nearly 15 Years

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 03: In a significant step towards safeguarding its land assets and addressing long-pending land-related issues, the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) has successfully carried out the demarcation of land measuring 7.9 kanal at Lower Gadigarh, nearly 15 years after the land was originally leased out to the allottee in 2011. The said drive was held under the overall supervision of VC JDA, Vidhu Shekhar with the help of local administration and police authorities.

The land, which was leased out in favour of the allottee in 2011, could not be physically handed over at the time due to resistance from certain local elements. Consequently, the matter remained unresolved for several years, delaying the completion of the handover process despite the allotment having been made.

The successful demarcation has helped establish the boundaries of the land in question and represents a step forward in facilitating further necessary action in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures.

During the course of the exercise, the JDA also effectively averted attempts to encroach



upon the land, reaffirming its firm stand against any unauthorised occupation or interference with land under its control.

The Authority has reiterated that no encroachment on JDA land shall be permitted and that any attempt to occupy, alter or interfere with such land in an unauthorised manner will be dealt with firmly in accordance with the law. The Authority has maintained that the protection of JDA land remains a priority and that all necessary measures will be undertaken to prevent attempts at encroachment. Any individual or group attempting to occupy JDA land unlawfully will be liable for action as warranted under the applicable legal provisions. JDA has reiterated its commitment to protecting its land from encroachment and ensuring that no attempts to illegally occupy or interfere with land under its jurisdiction are allowed to succeed. The Authority has reiterated that no encroachment on JDA land shall be permitted and that any attempt to occupy, alter or interfere with such land in an unauthorised manner will be dealt with firmly in accordance with the law.

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JDA has reiterated its commitment to protecting its land from encroachment and ensuring that no attempts to illegally occupy or interfere with land under its jurisdiction.

Secy RDD reviews developmental progress in Jammu division, directs time-bound completion of works

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 03: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD), and Panchayati Raj, Ramesh Kumar, today chaired a high-level review meeting at Panchayat Bhawan, Jammu, to assess the progress and performance of various centrally sponsored schemes and developmental programmes being implemented across Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in RDD, Rachna Sharma; Director Rural Development Jammu, Shehnaz Akhtar; Director Panchayati Raj, Pankaj Raj Katoch; Chief Operating Officer, HIMAYAT, Rifat Kohli; Director Finance, Umar Khan; Joint Director Planning, Kr Kumar Sharma; Superintending Engineer, Jammu REW Wing, Zakir Hussain; Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs); Assistant Commissioners Panchayats (ACPs); and Executive Engineers of Jammu Division.

During the meeting, the Secretary emphasised the need for timely achievement of targets and directed ACDs and ACPs to ensure close monitoring of developmental works at every stage, from preparation of estimates and tendering to execution and completion. He instructed officers to undertake field visits at least twice a week to personally assess the quality and progress of works.

Ramesh Kumar further directed Executive Engineers and Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) to regularly visit work sites and ensure effective supervision, accountability and adherence to prescribed quality standards.

Emphasising the need to address bottlenecks at the initial stage, the Secretary directed that projects should be planned only at locations where feasibility is established and land is readily available. He cautioned officers against initiating projects without resolving land-related and other administrative issues, observing that surrendering projects at the final stage reflects a failure on the part of the concerned officers and would not be acceptable.



He reiterated that public funds must translate into tangible benefits for people through timely execution of works, without unnecessary delays or impediments at any level. The Secretary directed that all allotted works must be taken up within one week and made it clear that avoidable delays in execution would not be tolerated. He also stressed the need for rational and advance planning, advising officers against waiting until March to initiate the planning process. Special emphasis was laid on expediting works in snow-bound areas, where the working season is limited and execution becomes difficult during the coming months. Ramesh Kumar further directed that payments against completed works be released promptly, ensuring that no unnecessary delays occur in processing and disbursement. Reviewing the status of DDC and BDC buildings, the Secretary directed officers to resolve pending issues on the spot. He specifically called for immediate removal of bottlenecks affecting DDC buildings at Doda and Rajouri to facilitate commencement of work without further delay. He also directed expeditious completion and takeover of BDC buildings, besides ensuring the completion of DDC residential buildings. Stressing the importance of punctuality and discipline, the Secretary directed all officers and officials to reach their offices on time and devote their full working hours to official duties. Reviewing projects under the centrally sponsored SASCI scheme, Ramesh Kumar directed that all projects taken up under the scheme must be completed within the current financial year. He instructed officers to expedite tendering, preparation of estimates and other requisite formalities to ensure that work commences immediately after approval and is completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Taking stock of the implementation of the VB-G RAM G programme, the Secretary called upon ACDs to work with greater commitment and focus on identified priority areas. He underlined that the programme aims to provide employment to eligible persons while creating durable assets in rural areas,



Scientific Innovation, Human Health And The Future Of Food Security



Surinderpal Singh

Genetically Modified Foods (GMFs) have emerged as one of the most significant and debated developments in modern agricultural science. Over the past few decades, advances in biotechnology and genetic engineering have enabled scientists to modify the genetic material of plants and other organisms to develop desirable characteristics. These modifications may enhance crop productivity, improve nutritional quality, increase resistance to pests and diseases, or enable crops to withstand challenging environmental conditions. As the global population is continuously growing and climatic changes are increasingly threatening agricultural productivity, the demand for sustainable and nutritious food has become more urgent than ever. Supporters of genetically modified foods consider biotechnology a promising tool for addressing food insecurity and improving agricultural efficiency. However, critics are raising important concerns regarding human health, environmental sustainability, ethical responsibility and the economic independence of farmers.

The debate surrounding genetically modified foods is therefore not merely about scientific advancement; it is also about how humanity should balance innovation with responsibility.

Genetic modification involves altering the genetic material of an organism to introduce, remove or modify specific characteristics. Scientists are employing various techniques, including recombinant DNA technology, gene silencing and advanced genome-editing tools such as CRISPR-Cas9. These technologies allow researchers to develop crops with characteristics that may be difficult to achieve through conventional breeding alone. For instance, certain genetically modified crops can resist specific insect pests, tolerate particular herbicides or exhibit improved nutritional properties.

Among the widely cultivated genetically modified crops are maize, soybean and cotton. Their adoption has transformed agricultural practices in several countries.

It is important to distinguish genetic modification from conventional selective breeding. While both methods aim to improve desirable traits, genetic engineering allows scientists to make targeted changes to an organism's genetic material. Modern genome-editing technologies have further expanded these possibilities, although their regulatory treatment varies across countries.

One of the strongest arguments in favour of genetically modified crops is their potential to improve agricultural productivity. Crops engineered to resist certain insect pests may experience reduced losses, while varieties developed for specific environmental conditions may offer greater resilience.

In regions where farmers face unpredictable rainfall, crop diseases and pest attacks, such technologies could contribute to more reliable agricultural production. Nevertheless, genetic modification alone cannot eliminate global hunger. Food insecurity is also influenced by poverty, unequal distribution, inadequate storage facilities, conflict and limited access to markets. Biotechnology must therefore be integrated with broader agricultural and social policies.

Genetic engineering offers opportunities to improve the nutritional composition of food crops. A notable example is Golden Rice, which has been developed to produce beta-carotene, a precursor of vitamin A. Its development aims to help address vitamin A deficiency, particularly in populations where rice is a major dietary staple. Nutritionally enhanced crops could contribute to reducing micronutrient deficiencies, especially in developing countries. However, their effectiveness depends on accessibility, affordability, dietary practices and public acceptance.

Certain genetically modified crops can reduce the need for specific chemical insecticides. For example, insect-resistant crops may help farmers control particular pests while reducing some forms of pesticide application. Some agricultural practices associated with herbicide-tolerant crops may also facilitate reduced tillage, helping conserve soil and reduce erosion.

However, environmental benefits are not automatic. Their magnitude depends on the crop, the genetic trait, local agricultural practices and long-term management. Responsible farming must therefore remain central to the adoption of biotechnology. Genetically modified crops may provide economic benefits through reduced crop losses, improved productivity and lower expenditure on certain pest-control measures. For farmers facing severe pest pressure, these advantages can be particularly valuable. Increased agricultural efficiency may also contribute to improved livelihoods and greater stability in food production. Yet, the economic benefits are not uniform. Seed prices, licensing arrangements, market access and local farming conditions determine whether a particular technology is genuinely beneficial to farmers.

The safety of genetically modified foods remains one of the most frequently discussed aspects of biotechnology. The extensive scientific assessments have found that genetically modified foods approved for human consumption are generally as safe as their conventional counterparts. Major scientific reviews have not established credible evidence that approved genetically modified foods cause cancer or other specific health hazards simply because they have been genetically modified.

However, food safety must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Each genetically modified product may possess different characteristics, and its safety assessment should consider nutritional composition, potential toxicity, allergenicity and unintended changes.

Continued scientific monitoring and transparent regulatory evaluation are essential to maintaining public confidence.

The environmental consequences of genetically modified crops require careful consideration. The widespread cultivation of a limited number of crop varieties may contribute to agricultural uniformity and reduce genetic diversity. In certain circumstances, modified genes may also spread to compatible related plants through pollen transfer.

Another concern involves the development of herbicide-resistant weeds. When the same herbicide is used repeatedly, resistant weed populations may emerge through natural selection. Such problems are not unique to genetically modified crops, but certain agricultural systems can intensify them.

To minimise these risks, farmers and agricultural authorities must adopt crop rotation, integrated pest management, biodiversity conservation and responsible herbicide-use practices.

The ownership of genetically modified seeds raises important questions about agricultural independence. Many biotechnology companies hold patents on particular genetic technologies and seed varieties. Although patents can encourage scientific research and innovation, excessive dependence on proprietary seeds may create financial challenges for small and marginal farmers.Farmers may face recurring expenses associated with seed purchases, licensing agreements and access to particular technologies.

Therefore, agricultural biotechnology should not become a mechanism through which essential food resources are controlled by a limited number of corporations. Public-sector research, affordable technologies, transparent licensing and farmer-centred policies are necessary to ensure that scientific progress benefits society as a whole.

Public acceptance of genetically modified foods remains divided. Many consumers express concerns about unfamiliar technologies, possible long-term effects and the influence of large biotechnology companies. These concerns are sometimes intensified by misinformation, but they may also arise from legitimate questions about transparency, corporate accountability and the right to make informed food choices. Public trust cannot be established through scientific claims alone. It requires open communication, accessible information, transparent labelling policies and meaningful public participation. Consumers deserve accurate information about the food they purchase and the technologies used in its production.

The question of whether genetically modified foods cause cancer has attracted considerable public attention.

At present, there is no credible scientific evidence demonstrating that genetically modified foods approved for human consumption cause cancer merely because they have undergone genetic modification. International scientific assessments have generally concluded that approved genetically modified foods are as safe to eat as comparable conventional foods, provided that the specific product has undergone appropriate safety evaluation. It is important, however, to avoid making absolute claims about every genetically modified product. Genetic modification is a method of producing a particular characteristic, not a single substance with identical properties in every food.

Consequently, each product should be evaluated according to its characteristics, composition and intended use. Scientific research and food-safety surveillance must continue to identify any unexpected effects that may emerge over time. Such monitoring is a normal and essential part of responsible scientific innovation.

The future of genetically modified foods appears promising, particularly in the context of climate change, population growth and increasing pressure on agricultural resources. Advanced genome-editing technologies such as CRISPR-Cas9 are opening new possibilities for developing crops with improved disease resistance, enhanced nutritional quality and greater tolerance to environmental stress. Researchers are investigating varieties that may withstand drought, salinity and extreme temperatures. Such innovations could prove particularly valuable in regions where agricultural production is increasingly threatened by changing climatic conditions. At the same time, emerging developments in plant biotechnology, cultivated meat and other alternative food-production systems are expanding the scientific understanding of sustainable nutrition.However, scientific advancement must be accompanied by effective regulation. Different countries are adopting different approaches to genetically modified and genome-edited foods, depending on the nature of the modification and their regulatory frameworks. Greater transparency, appropriate labelling and accessible public information will be essential for building confidence in these technologies.

Genetically modified foods represent an important achievement of modern biotechnology. They offer opportunities to improve agricultural productivity, strengthen food security, enhance nutritional quality and develop more resilient food-production systems.

Nevertheless, their potential benefits must be evaluated alongside environmental, economic, ethical and social considerations. Scientific evidence does not support the general claim that approved genetically modified foods are inherently carcinogenic or harmful to human health. At the same time, the environmental consequences of particular crops, the emergence of resistant pests and weeds, and the economic dependence of farmers deserve serious attention. The real challenge is not to accept or reject genetic engineering blindly, but to use it wisely.

Governments must establish effective regulatory frameworks. Scientists must continue rigorous research. Agricultural institutions must support farmers with reliable information and affordable technologies. Biotechnology companies must operate transparently and responsibly. Consumers must be provided with accurate information that enables informed decisions. In an era marked by climate change, population growth and growing nutritional challenges, genetically modified foods may become an important component of sustainable agriculture and global food security. The future of food must be shaped not by fear or unquestioning enthusiasm, but by scientific evidence, ethical responsibility and the collective welfare of humanity. Scientific innovation should never be an end in itself; its true purpose must be to nourish humanity, protect the environment and secure a healthier future for generations to come.

Surinderpal Singh
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Punjab.

Sindhu, Mirabai among 10 elected unopposed to IOA Athletes' Commission



United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 3 :Olympic medallists PV Sindhu and Mirabai Chanu were among 10 sportspersons elected unopposed to the Indian Olympic Association's (IOA) Athletes' Commission on Tuesday.

The election became uncontested after former track and field athlete Sudha Singh withdrew her candidature late on Monday, leaving 10 candidates for the 10 available positions.

Returning Officer Sanjay K Srivastava formally declared all 10 elected on Tuesday, with five men and five women making up the commission.

Shuttler Kidambi Srikanth had also pulled out of the contest on Monday.

The newly elected members will now choose a chairperson and vice chairpersons, with one man and one woman to be selected for the two positions. The chairperson and vice chairpersons will become members of the IOA Executive Council.

Two other commission members, one male and one female, will be nominated to the IOA General Body with voting rights. They will represent the Athletes' Commission in the IOA Executive Council elections scheduled for December 5.

The elections to select the commission's leadership and its two representatives to the IOA General Body will be held separately at a later date.

The 10 members of the Athletes' Commission are PV Sindhu, Mirabai Chanu, Harmanpreet Singh, Salima Tete, Swapnil Kusale, Bhavani Devi, Tajinderpal Singh Toor, Bombayla Devi, Sajan Prakash and Manjeet Singh. The newly elected members will now choose a chairperson and vice

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Prema creates history with record-breaking 14-ball half-century

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 3 :Prema Rawat created history in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy on Tuesday, smashing an unbeaten half-century off just 14 balls to record the fastest fifty in women's T20 cricket.

The Uttarakhand allrounder achieved the feat against Hyderabad in Pune, bettering the previous record of 15 balls, jointly held by Marie Kelly, Fatima Sana and Laura Harris.

Coming in at No. 4 in the 18th over, Rawat took little time to settle. She began by hitting medium pacer Sakshi Rao for three successive boundaries before taking 18 runs off offspinner Vanka Pooja's over. She then finished in style, smashing Kunchala Niteesha for 6, 4, 4 and 6 off the final four deliveries of the innings to reach her landmark.

Rawat's 14-ball assault, which included six fours and four sixes, helped Uttarakhand post 187 for 2. Raghvi Bist provided support with an unbeaten 72 off 50 balls.

Rawat carried her form into the second



innings, picking up two wickets as Hyderabad were restricted to 98 for 8. She dismissed openers G Kavyasree and N Kranthi Reddy to finish with figures of 2 for 12.

The 24-year-old made her India debut in June and has taken seven wickets in seven T20Is. One of her standout performances came against Pakistan in the Asia Cup group stage, where she returned figures of 3 for 9.

Bhullar shares lead with three others as rain-hit Green Fuels Maritime Invitational gets underway in Vizag

United News Of India

VIZAG, NOV 3 :Experience counted for plenty as Gaganjeet Bhullar made an impressive start to the Green Fuels Maritime Invitational 2026, carding a three-under 69 to share the first-round lead with Deepak Yadav, Ravi Kumar and Kanav Chauhan at the East Point Golf Club in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday.



Playing the course for the first time and visiting the city for the first time, the 11-time Asian Tour winner showed his ability to adapt to unfamiliar conditions. His opening round also kept him firmly on course for another back-to-back title on the AM Green IGPL Tour, following his victory at the AM Green IGPL Krishna Invitational presented by Punjab Raptors.

Bhullar, a five-time AM Green IGPL winner and currently leading the individual standings in Season 2, was joined at the top by three players who are still searching for their maiden AM Green IGPL victories. While Deepak Yadav drew on his previous experience of playing at East Point, Ravi Kumar and Kanav Chauhan produced equally impressive rounds to put themselves in contention.

The opening day presented its own challenges after heavy rain over the preceding days left the course soft and playing conditions difficult. With practice largely unavailable on Monday because

f the wet weather, players had little opportunity to familiarise themselves with the layout.

referred lies were introduced, allowing players to lift and clean their balls on the fairways, while the possibility of further rain prompted organisers to opt for a shotgun start.

Ro-Ko in focus as India face pace-bowling challenge in New Zealand ODIs

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 3 :The talismanic duo of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli will take much of the centrestage as India begin their five-match ODI series in New Zealand, but the visitors' inexperienced pace attack could prove a major concern for captain Shubman Gill when the opening game gets underway in Auckland on Wednesday.

With Jasprit Bumrah being rested for the Test series and Prasidh Krishna and Harshit Rana still unavailable, much of the responsibility will fall on Mohammed Siraj. The senior pacer will have to lead an attack that lacks experience at the international level.

Arshdeep Singh, with 18 ODIs, is the most experienced among the other four specialist fast bowlers in the squad. Gurnoor Brar has played nine matches, while Anshul Kamboj and Auqib Nabi have featured in just one ODI each. Together, the quartet has only 29 appearances in the format.

India will also be juggling their resources with the two-Test series against New Zealand coming up immediately after the ODIs.

Dhinidhi Desinghu turns childhood fear into Youth Olympic success

United News Of India

DAKAR, NOV 3 :There was a time when Dhinidhi Desinghu was so afraid of water that she ran home from the swimming pool in her swimsuit rather than get into the water.

On Monday, the same girl stood on the podium at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, having won a bronze medal in the women's 100m freestyle.

The 16-year-old Indian swimmer clocked a personal best of 56.27 seconds in the final, finishing behind Croatia's Ana Bobanovic (55.89) and New Zealand's Alyssa Lawson (56.13).

It was a remarkable achievement for the Bengaluru teenager, who had become the first Indian female swimmer to qualify for a final at the Youth Olympics earlier in the day.

But perhaps the most remarkable part of Dhinidhi's story is that swimming was once something she actively disliked.

"I know I was really scared," Dhinidhi told Olympics.com, shortly after winning her medal.

"There's a story from when I was six or seven...

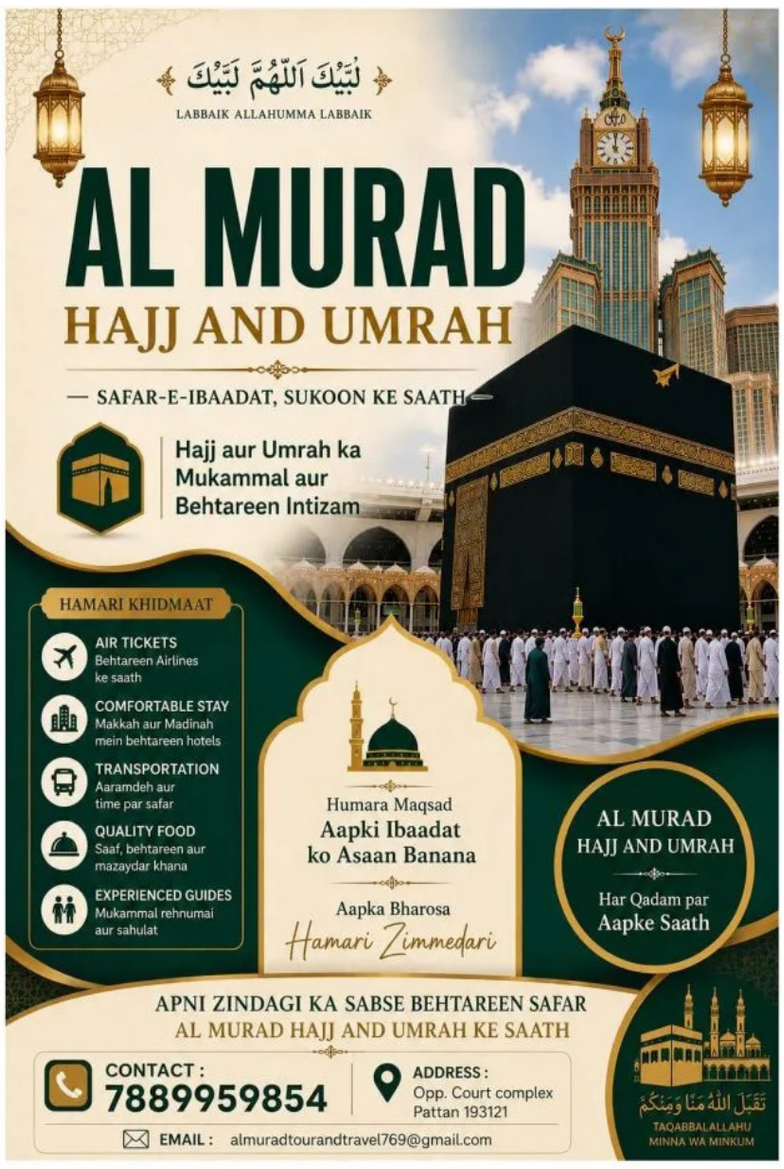


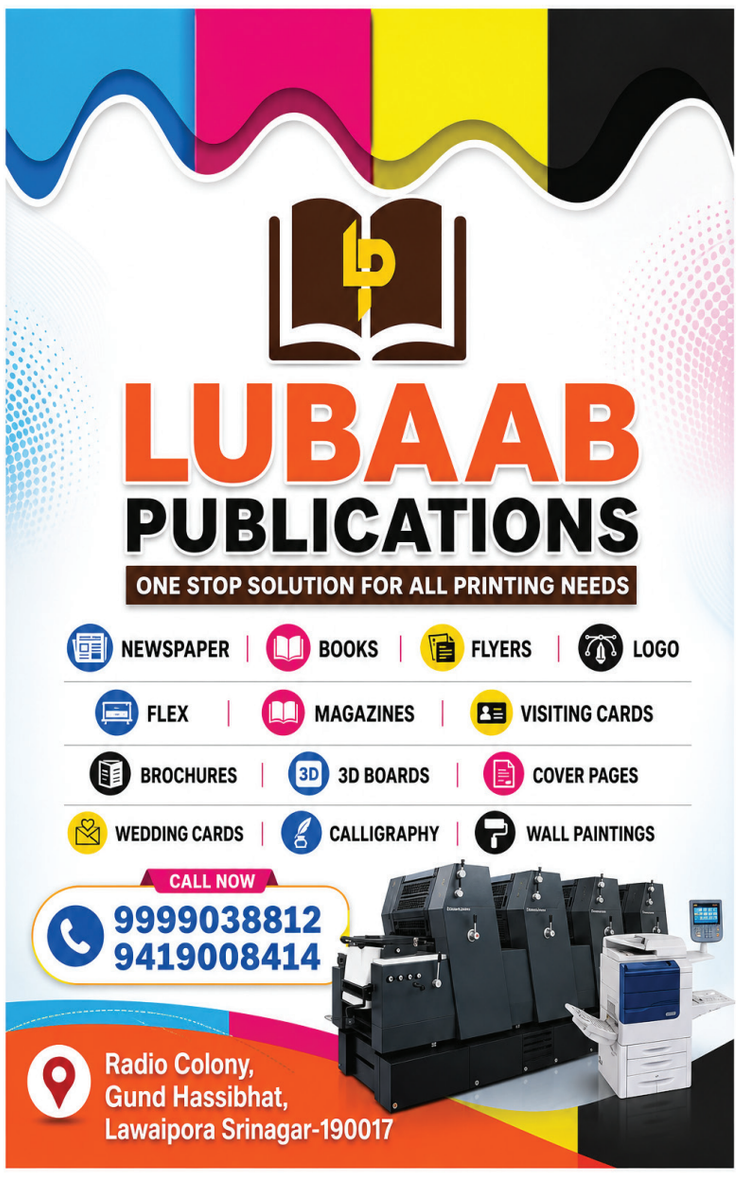
We went to the pool during summer break... I went to the pool and then ran back home in my swimsuit because I just hated being there."

Her parents had to enter the pool themselves to persuade her to get into the water.

Unlike many children who enjoy playing sports, Dhinidhi preferred spending time alone at home, reading books and enjoying her own company.Swimming wasn't initially a passion or even a sporting ambition. It was simply convenient.

The pool was close to home, making it easy for her parents to take her for lessons. They expected it to remain a recreational activity.







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