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Srinagar
Friday
November 13 | 2026
02 Jumada al-Akhira 1448 AH
Issue No: 268
Volume: 16
Pages: 12
Price :Rs: 2/-

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



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

Two SPO's Found Dead In Kishtwar ; Massive Search Operation Launched

Drones, sniffer dogs and additional reinforcements deployed in Deherna forests; service weapons of slain personnel remain missing

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 12 : Security forces have intensified a massive search operation in the forest areas of Kishtwar following the recovery of bodies of two missing Special Police Officers (SPOs), with additional reinforcements, drones and sniffer dogs deployed to trace those responsible. The operation is underway in the Deherna forest belt and adjoining areas of Marwah, where the bodies of SPO Rashpal and SPO Babbi Chand were recovered after they went missing while proceeding towards a temporary operating base of the Army's 17 Rashtriya Rifles. Both personnel, deployed at Police Post Kiyar, had gone missing on Wednesday while travelling towards Deherna Top to join their rotational duty. Officials said firing

>>> MORE ON P 02

Heritage Must Remain A Living Force In Society : LG Manoj Sinha

Calls for people-centric movement to preserve Kashmir's civilisational legacy; highlights 321 heritage projects, digitisation of archives and revival of cultural institutions

HT NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 12 : Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday called for a collective, people-centric movement to preserve, document and disseminate Jammu and Kashmir's rich cultural and civilisational heritage, asserting that heritage must remain a living force in society rather than being confined to academic preservation. Addressing a two-day National Seminar on "Revival, Preservation and Sustainability of Cultural Heritage of Kashmir", organised by Kakini Building Humanity, the LG stressed wider public access to heritage, greater academic research, translation of classical texts and preservation of ancient religious sites, manuscripts and cultural institutions. Highlighting the government's conservation initiatives, he said 106 heritage projects had been undertaken in the first two phases, with over 40 completed, while 321 projects had been identified under Phase III, of which 312 had received administrative approval. He also highlighted the digitisation of nearly 96.8 lakh archival pages and identification of 43,000 manuscripts under Mission Gyan Bharatam. Referring to the contributions of Acharya Abhinavagupta, Lal Ded and Nund Rishi, Sinha emphasised Kashmir's enduring traditions of spiritual harmony and cultural coexistence. He also underlined the invaluable contribution of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley's cultural heritage and said their dignified return would help restore its complete social and cultural fabric. Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat joined the event virtually.The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha

>>> MORE ON P 02

Cameras Were Few, But Relationships Were Strong : PM Modi

Recalls old association with journalists at BJP Diwali Milan; urges media to take India's achievements and stories of ordinary citizens to global audiences

HT NEWS DESK / UNI



NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 12 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday fondly recalled his early association with journalists, saying professional relationships in the media fraternity were once marked by warmth and personal bonds. Addressing a Diwali Milan gathering organised by the BJP at its headquarters, Modi went down memory lane to recall an incident from 2001, when a group of women journalists visited him at the party's then office on Ashoka Road after he was nominated Gujarat Chief Minister. Recalling his participation in organising Diwali gatherings and arranging chairs and durries for journalists, he remarked, "Cameras were few, but relationships were strong." The Prime Minister also recalled journalists who attended his 2001 oath-taking ceremony using their own resources. Highlighting the transformation in communication technology, he said mobile phones had effectively become news vans, multiplying

>>> MORE ON P 02

Examinations Must Be Foolproof, Transparent And Merit-Based : CM Omar

Chief Minister reviews examination reforms; advocates gradual shift to computer-based testing and greater transparency in recruitment and admissions



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday called for comprehensive reforms in the examination system of Jammu and Kashmir, stressing the need to make examinations secure, transparent, technology-driven and genuinely merit-based. Chairing a meeting with members of the High-Powered Task Force on Examination Reforms at the Civil Secretariat, the Chief Minister said the credibility of examinations directly impacts the future of young people and assured full government support to the panel. Referring to the cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 and the subsequent re-examination, he stressed the need for stronger examination security, a gradual transition towards computer-based testing and safeguards against paper leaks and other malpractices. Omar also suggested exploring the incorporation of school board examination performance into competitive selection frameworks to reduce excessive dependence on a single entrance test, while ensuring a level playing field for students from JKBOSE, CBSE and ICSE. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today called for comprehensive reforms in the examination system in Jammu and Kashmir.

>>> MORE ON P 02

Government Committed To Strengthening Revenue Services : Ali Mohammad Sagar

Minister assures Patwari Association and public deputations of time-bound examination of grievances; stresses improved grassroots administration

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: Minister for Revenue Ali Mohammad Sagar on Thursday assured the All Jammu and Kashmir Patwari Association that its genuine service-related and administrative concerns would be examined on merit and taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate resolution. During an extensive interaction with representatives of the association and other deputations, the Minister reviewed issues concerning the functioning of the Revenue Department, working conditions of Patwaris and challenges faced by field-level officials. He acknowledged the vital role of Patwaris in maintaining land records, facilitating revenue-related services, conducting field verification and implementing government initiatives, describing them as an important link between the administration and the public. The delegation highlighted the need to strengthen grassroots revenue administration, improve working conditions and ensure better coordination between field functionaries and senior departmental authorities. Sagar assured the representatives that their genuine concerns would receive due consideration. Later, several

>>> MORE ON P 02

Jitendra Singh Begins Five-Day Italy Visit To Boost Science Partnership

High-level engagements, research institution visits and India-Italy Science and Technology Dialogue on agenda

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 12: Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh has begun a five-day official visit to Italy aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in science, technology and innovation under the India-Italy Special Strategic Partnership. The November 11–15 visit includes high-level meetings, the India-Italy Science and Technology Dialogue 2026 and engagements with leading research institutions. Singh is scheduled to meet Italian Minister of University and Research Anna Maria Bernini to discuss avenues for expanding scientific collaboration. The Indian delegation will also visit major research facilities in Trieste, including the Elettra Synchrotron Facility, the International Centre for Theoretical Physics and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. The programme further includes an event marking World Diabetes Day at the Embassy of India in Rome and an interaction with members of the Indian community. The delegation comprises India's Ambassador to Italy Vani Rao, senior officials

>>> MORE ON P 02

Indoor smoke can worsen lung conditions, doctor warns

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 12 : With the onset of winter, respiratory infections and pneumonia cases are expected to increase across Kashmir, with health experts urging people, particularly vulnerable groups, to take precautionary measures to minimise the risk of seasonal illnesses.

Dr Syed Mudasir Qadri, Professor of Internal and Pulmonary Medicine at SKIMS Soura, said that, as in other regions experiencing harsh winters, Kashmir also witnesses an increase in respiratory infections and pneumonia during the colder months.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Qadri said people at the extremes of age, particularly children below five years and elderly persons above 65 years, are more vulnerable to respiratory infections and pneumonia.

He said patients suffering from chronic lung diseases and those with compromised immunity, including cancer patients, transplant recipients and people taking systemic steroids or other immunosuppressive medications, are also at increased risk of developing serious complications."During the winter season, we do see an increase in the inflow of patients with respiratory ailments in hospitals. However

>>> MORE ON P 02

One Dead, Several Injured As Xylo Plunges Into Accident In Karnah

Rescue operation hampered by adverse weather; injured shifted to nearby health facility

Dr ABDUL QAYOOM
HT CORRESPONDENT

Kupwara, Nov 12: One person was killed and several others sustained injuries after a Mahindra Xylo vehicle met with an accident in the Dub TP area of Karnah in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Thursday, officials said.

Soon after the incident, locals and police launched a rescue operation. However, adverse weather conditions hampered the rescue efforts, officials said.

The deceased was identified as Mumtaz Ahmad Tunch, son of Mohd Ismail Tunch, originally a resident of Amrohi, Karnah, and presently residing at Kashira Goos, Kupwara.

The injured were shifted to a nearby health facility for treatment.

Police have registered a case and initiated further investigation into the incident.

HT BOTTOM NEWS

Widespread Rain, Snowfall Likely Across J&K Over Next 48 Hours

MeT warns of heavy snowfall in higher reaches; temperatures may plunge by 6–8°C, travel advisory issued



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 12 : Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness widespread rainfall and snowfall over the next 48 hours under the influence of an active Western Disturbance, with the Meteorological Department warning of possible disruptions to road connectivity in mountainous areas. Director Meteorological Centre Srinagar Mukhtar Ahmad said the weather system would bring light to moderate rainfall in the plains and moderate to heavy snowfall in higher reaches on November 12 and 13. The higher reaches of Kupwara, Bandipora and Ganderbal are likely to receive significant snowfall, while mountainous areas of south Kashmir, the Pir Panjal range and Chenab Valley may also experience fresh snow. Popular tourist destinations, including Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Pahalgam and Doodhpathri, are also likely to receive snowfall. In the Jammu region, Poonch and adjoining areas may witness moderate to heavy rainfall, while thunderstorms, hailstorms and gusty winds are possible at isolated places. Day temperatures across the Union Territory are expected to decline by 6 to 8 degrees Celsius. The anticipated snowfall may affect traffic on high-altitude routes, including Zojila, Razdan Pass, Sadhna Pass, Sinthan Top, Margan Top and Peer Ki Gali on the Mughal Road. Travellers and transporters have been advised to check road conditions before undertaking journeys, while farmers have been urged to safeguard harvested crops. The MeT Department has forecast an

>>> MORE ON P 02

'Op Sindoor' lessons shaping IAF's future war preparedness: Rajnath

Addresses Air Force Commanders' Conference; launches AI applications for operations



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI, NOV 12 : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that lessons learnt during 'Operation Sindoor' were shaping the Indian Air Force's evolving operational procedures.

Addressing the Air Force Commanders' Conference in New Delhi, Singh as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the changing nature of warfare demanded greater preparedness against conventional and emerging threats, stressing technological

>>> MORE ON P 02

Continue from Front Page.....

Two Spo's Found

involving around 20 to 25 rounds was reported from the Bachnan forest area at approximately 4:30 pm on the same day. A joint operation involving police, the Special Operations Group and Army personnel was initially launched following their disappearance. The search has now been intensified to establish the circumstances surrounding their killings and trace those responsible. Both SPOs were carrying their service rifles and ammunition when they went missing, but their weapons have reportedly not been recovered so far. Dense forest cover and difficult terrain have added to the challenges facing security personnel.

Security forces have launched a massive search operation in the forest areas of Kishtwar following the recovery of bodies of two missing Special Police Officers (SPOs), with additional reinforcements being rushed to the area and drones and sniffer dogs pressed into service.

The operation is underway in the forest belt of Deherna and adjoining areas of Marwah, where the bodies of SPO Rashpal and SPO Babbi Chand were discovered after they went missing while proceeding towards a temporary operating base of the Army's 17 Rashtriya Rifles on Wednesday.

Officials said additional security personnel have been called in to intensify the search and establish the circumstances surrounding the killings. Drones are being used as part of the operation, while sniffer dogs have also been deployed to assist security teams in tracking possible movement through the difficult forest terrain.

The two SPOs, both deployed at Police Post Kiyar, had gone missing on Wednesday after proceeding towards Deherna Top to join their rotational duty at the Army's temporary operating base.

Firing involving around 20 to 25 rounds was reported from the Bachnan forest area, falling within the Anderwan Forest Block of Deherna, at approximately 4:30 pm on the same day.

The personnel had been accompanied up to Kiyar Top by a Special Operations Group party from Police Post Kiyar. They subsequently proceeded towards the temporary operating base along with pony porters but failed to reach their destination.

A joint search operation involving Police Station Marwah, SOG Marwah and Army personnel of 17 Rashtriya Rifles was initially launched after their disappearance. Following the recovery of their bodies, the operation has been intensified, with security forces focusing on surrounding forest stretches to trace those responsible and locate the missing service weapons.

Both SPOs were carrying their service rifles and ammunition when they went missing. Their weapons have reportedly not been recovered so far.

The difficult terrain and dense forest cover in the area have added to the challenges facing the search teams. Security forces are continuing operations to establish the sequence of events and determine the circumstances leading to the deaths of the two personnel. [KNT]

Heritage Must

today addressed a two-day National Seminar on "Revival, Preservation and Sustainability of Cultural Heritage of Kashmir," organised by Kakini Building Humanity.

The event was also graced by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, through virtual mode.

Congratulating the organisers, scholars, administrators, artists, ex-servicemen, military officers and citizens participating in the seminar, the Lieutenant Governor said that heritage is a priceless inheritance received from generations of philosophers, saints, artisans, writers and thinkers who enriched humanity through their wisdom and creativity. He stressed that the responsibility of the present generation is not merely to admire this legacy, but to preserve, organise, document and make it more accessible to society. He called for a collective commitment to safeguarding the civilisational legacy of Jammu Kashmir for future generations.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Jammu Kashmir is not known only for its natural beauty but also for its profound contributions to philosophy, spirituality, language, aesthetics and human thought. Referring to Acharya Abhinavagupta, he said that the great philosopher embodied the unity of spiritual experience, art and intellectual inquiry, and that youth should be introduced to the remarkable thinkers who emerged from the Kashmir Valley.

"Every university, every teacher, and every cultural institution of this land should work on translating important texts, encourage research, and provide scholars and students with a common platform. I believe that heritage must be alive, it must converse, and it must guide our new generation," he said.

Emphasising that culture forms the foundation of every society, the Lieutenant Governor noted that communities draw confidence and self-respect from a deeper understanding of their history and heritage. He underlined the importance of preserving ancient religious sites, manuscripts, museums and cultural institutions as instruments for strengthening identity and promoting mutual understanding.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the significant efforts undertaken in Jammu Kashmir for heritage conservation under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He noted that heritage revival projects are being implemented across the Union Territory through restoration of monuments, archival modernisation, archaeological research and cultural infrastructure development.

It is pertinent to mention that preservation work has been initiated on 106 heritage projects under the first two phases, with over 40 projects already completed. Under Phase III, 321 projects have been identified and 312 have received administrative approval. The digitisation work of historical records is ongoing in the Jammu and Srinagar archives, with nearly 96.8 lakh pages digitised so far, representing about 68 per cent of available documents.

Under Mission Gyan Bharatam, the surveys have identified 43,000 manuscripts and digitisation efforts are progressing steadily.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted ongoing work related to the Sufiana School in Srinagar, the modernisation of Abhinav Theatre and Kala Kendra in Jammu, restoration of Mubarak Mandi and research into recently discovered Kushan-era Buddhist remains in Baramulla district.

Speaking about Naranag Heritage Complex in Ganderbal, the Lieutenant Governor welcomed the research and documentation initiatives undertaken by Kakini Building Humanity and expressed hope that conservation and restoration activities would commence after completion of necessary procedural requirements. He also appreciated efforts connected with the Harmukh-Gangbal pilgrimage, describing it as a symbol of the region's enduring cultural and spiritual traditions.

"I believe that Naranag has its own distinct historical and spiritual dignity, where faith, geography, and collective memories are deeply intertwined. Therefore, I am extremely pleased that Kakini Building Humanity has also established a chair at the Indian Heritage Institute," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed that Jammu Kashmir has a long tradition of harmony and equal respect for all faiths. He emphasised that the heritage of every community must be preserved with sensitivity.

"The vaakhs of Yogini Lalleshwari and Nund Rishi still reach people's hearts across centuries, because their words contain eternal truths that are untouched by the passage of time. Preserving this tradition of harmony is our collective public responsibility," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said Kashmiri Pandit's contribution to Kashmir's literary, spiritual and cultural heritage is invaluable and their dignified return would help restore the Valley's complete social and cultural fabric. The Lieutenant Governor commended the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, scholars, archivists, museum professionals and all stakeholders associated with heritage conservation. He also lauded former army officers and civil society organisations for their continued contribution to cultural preservation and nation-building.

Cameras Were

platforms and viewpoints in a democracy. Drawing a parallel between newsroom deadlines and national goals, Modi said India was working towards the 2047 deadline for achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat. He urged journalists to highlight the country's achievements, showcase the contributions of ordinary citizens and take India's capabilities to global audiences. He also called for media-led awareness campaigns against drug abuse.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday went down memory lane, recalling his long association with journalists at a Diwali Milan organised by the BJP at its headquarters.

Recalling an incident from 2001 when he was the party's general secretary, PM Modi said a group of women journalists walked into his room at the BJP's then headquarters on Ashoka Road asking him to get sweets since he had been nominated the Gujarat Chief Minister.

At the time, he said, only a handful of leaders knew about the development.

"In Delhi, the office was at Ashoka Road. Diwali Milan gatherings were organised there," he said, recalling how he was once among those who helped arrange 'durries' and chairs for such events.

"Cameras were few, but relationships were strong," the Prime Minister said, reflecting on the warmth of his early interactions with journalists.

Drawing a comparison between journalism and politics, Modi said professional responsibilities change with a change in position. "When someone becomes an editor from a reporter, their role changes naturally. When I came to power, my role also changed," he said, adding that he had completed 25 years as head of a government.

He also fondly recalled how several journalist friends had attended his oath-taking ceremony in 2001 using their own resources. When he met them after the ceremony he asked why they had not informed him in advance so that he could have made arrangements for them. "They told me they had come on their own," he said, reflecting the personal warmth they shared.

Highlighting the evolution of communication technology, Modi observed that mobile phones had effectively turned into news vans, multiplying platforms and viewpoints in a democracy. Underscoring the importance of deadlines in newsrooms, he said the nation, too, was working towards a clear deadline, that of 2047, to achieve the goal of 'Viksit Bharat.'

"Jitendra Singh

and representatives of leading Indian research institutions, academic centres and technology incubators. According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, the visit is intended to promote institutional partnerships and expand cooperation in research, innovation and emerging technologies. (PIB)

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh has begun a five-day official visit to Italy to advance bilateral cooperation in science, technology and innovation under the Special Strategic Partnership agreed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Italy in May 2026. The visit, from November 11 to 15, includes high-level bilateral meetings, the India-Italy Science and Innovation Dialogue and engagements with leading research institutions. As part of the India-Italy Science and Technology Dialogue 2026, Singh is scheduled to meet Italian Minister of University and Research Anna Maria Bernini on November 12. The discussions are expected to provide a platform for taking forward cooperation in scientific research and innovation.

The Indian delegation will visit major research facilities in Trieste on November 13, including the Elettra Synchrotron Facility, the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). The visits are aimed at exploring opportunities for institutional collaboration and familiarising the delegation with Italy's research infrastructure.

Government Committed

other deputations from different areas also called on the Minister and raised public, departmental and developmental grievances. He assured them that the issues would be referred to the concerned departments for necessary action and stressed that genuine public grievances must be addressed in a time-bound manner. Minister for Revenue, Relief, Power Development Department (PDD), Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, today held an extensive interaction with representatives of the All Jammu and Kashmir Patwari Association and several other deputations, during which he reviewed issues concerning the Revenue Department, besides taking up various public grievances and demands raised by the visiting delegations.

During the meeting, the delegation apprised the Minister of various service-related, administrative and operational issues affecting the Patwari cadre. They also highlighted the challenges faced by field functionaries in discharging their responsibilities and stressed the need for addressing their genuine concerns to further improve the efficiency and functioning of the Revenue Department.

The delegation also discussed matters relating to strengthening the grassroots revenue administration, improving working conditions and facilitating better coordination between field functionaries and higher departmental authorities for effective public service delivery.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the representatives and acknowledged the important role played by Patwaris in the overall functioning of the Revenue Department. He observed that Patwaris constitute a vital link between the administration and the people, with their responsibilities extending to land records, revenue-related public services, field verification and implementation of various government initiatives.

Sagar assured the delegation that the issues and concerns projected by them would be examined on merit and taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate consideration. He stressed that strengthening the institutional capacity of the Revenue Department and addressing genuine difficulties faced by its field functionaries remained important for ensuring responsive, transparent and efficient public service delivery.

Later, several other deputations representing different areas and sections of society also called on the Minister and apprised him of various public, departmental and developmental issues. The deputations projected their demands and grievances, seeking the Minister's intervention for their early redressal.

Examinations Must

He stressed the need to make examinations secure, transparent, technology-driven and as foolproof as humanly possible to safeguard the future of students and ensure that merit remains the sole criterion for selection.

Chairing a meeting with members of the High-Powered Task Force (HPTF) on Examination Reforms at the Civil Secretariat here, the Chief Minister emphasised the importance of strengthening examination security, gradually transitioning towards computer-based testing, improving the credibility of board examinations and addressing concerns relating to the subjective component of selection processes.

The Chief Minister said that the need for robust examination reforms had become particularly evident following the cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 and the subsequent re-examination, which caused considerable inconvenience and additional stress to lakhs of aspirants across the country.

He noted that while examination irregularities under the traditionally decentralised system generally remained confined to particular regions, the transition towards centralised examinations had significantly widened their impact, with a paper leak potentially affecting candidates across the country.

Indoor smoke

, the healthcare system tries its best to prepare for such eventualities well in advance," he said.

Highlighting another major concern, Dr Qadri said indoor air pollution remains a significant contributor to respiratory complications, particularly among people living in rural and tribal areas where traditional heating arrangements are still widely used.

He said that although an increasing number of households are shifting towards modern heating systems such as electric hamams, electric radiators and air conditioners, a considerable population continues to depend on kangris, bukharis and coal- and wood-burning stoves. According to him, smoke and pollutants generated by these traditional heating sources can aggravate existing respiratory conditions, particularly Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) and asthma.

'Op Sindoor

superiority, jointness and the element of surprise.

He said the Indian Air Force must remain prepared for new challenges, including kamikaze drones, surveillance and counter-drone operations, while developing dedicated doctrines for emerging domains such as electronic, cyber and space warfare. Referring to Operation Sindoor, the Defence Minister commended the Air Force for effectively implementing its operational doctrines and methods during and after the operation, praising the professionalism, restraint and judgement displayed by air warriors. He said the lessons from the operation were reflected in the Air Force's evolving procedures, particularly its increased emphasis on drones and air defence systems, which have become critical components of modern warfare.

Highlighting the coordinated role of all three services during Operation Sindoor, Singh said jointness and integrated efforts must continue to guide military planning and operational execution.

The Defence Minister also called for strengthening both offensive and defensive capabilities to ensure that adversaries are left with little time to react, while India's own forces remain prepared for unexpected threats. "Victory in future conflicts would depend not merely on the number of aircraft, but also on technological sophistication, speed of response and precision of preparations," he said.

During the conference, Singh also launched a suite of Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications developed in-house by the Indian Air Force's Centre of Excellence under the Unit for Digitisation, Automation, Artificial Intelligence and Application Networking (UDAAN).

The applications, deployed on the Air Force's secure network, will help automate and expedite tasks related to operations, administration and aerospace safety.

The 2-day conference is being attended by senior Air Force commanders and focuses on operational, maintenance and administrative priorities under the theme 'The Year of Empowerment: Maximising Efficiency Through Decentralisation'—(KNO)

Widespread Rain

improvement from November 14, with generally dry weather likely to prevail between November 16 and 20. Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience widespread rainfall and snowfall over the next 48 hours, with the Meteorological Department on Thursday warning of possible disruption to road connectivity in mountainous areas.

An active Western Disturbance is expected to affect the Union Territory on November 12 and 13, bringing light to moderate rainfall in the plains and moderate to heavy snowfall in higher reaches, particularly in north and central Kashmir.

Speaking to news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) Director Meteorological Centre Srinagar Mukhtar Ahmad said several mountainous areas were likely to receive significant snowfall under the influence of the weather system.

The higher reaches of Kupwara, Bandipora and Ganderbal districts are likely to witness moderate to heavy snowfall, while mountainous areas of south Kashmir, the Pir Panjal range and Chenab Valley may also receive fresh snow, according to the forecast as per director.

Popular tourist destinations, including Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Pahalgam and Doodhpathri, are also likely to experience snowfall.

In the Jammu region, Poonch and adjoining areas may receive moderate to heavy rainfall, while other parts are expected to witness light to moderate precipitation. Thunderstorms, hailstorms and gusty winds are also likely at isolated places.

Daytime temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir are expected to fall by 6 to 8 degrees Celsius following the weather activity.

The anticipated snowfall could affect traffic movement on several high-altitude roads and mountain passes, including Zojila, Razdan Pass, Sadhna Pass, Sinthan Top, Margan Top and Peer Ki Gali on the Mughal Road.

Travellers and transporters have been advised to check road conditions before undertaking journeys through higher reaches and follow advisories issued by the authorities.

Farmers have also been advised to take precautionary measures and ensure the safe storage of harvested crops to prevent possible damage from rainfall.

The fresh spell of snowfall is expected to benefit winter tourism in Kashmir, particularly at Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Pahalgam and Doodhpathri, which attract visitors during the winter season.

Meanwhile, the MeT department has forecast an improvement in weather conditions from November 14, with generally dry weather expected on November 14 and 15. Mainly dry conditions are likely to prevail across Jammu and Kashmir from November 16 to 20, it said. (KNS)

Sopore Hosts Seminar on Ibn Ismail; Bashir Athar's Book "Zakhm Jo Bolte Hain" Released

Wani Arfat

SOPORE: Sopore witnessed a gathering of writers, poets, scholars and literature lovers on wednesday as a one-day seminar titled "Ibn Ismail: Art and Personality" was organised to discuss the life, writings and literary contributions of the renowned literary figure, Ibn Ismail. The programme was organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) in collaboration with the School of Humanities, Arts, Languages and Society, Sopore.

The seminar provided an opportunity for people from the literary field to come together, share their thoughts and discuss the contribution of Ibn Ismail to literature. It also highlighted the importance of remembering our writers and making their work familiar to younger generations.

The programme was chaired by prominent literary figure Hassan Anzar, while Mohammad Yousuf Mashoor and Shahid Dilnavi attended as Guests of Honour. Aashiq Hussain Zaki, Director of the School of Humanities, Arts, Languages and Society, Sopore, hosted the event, while Mohammad Saleem Salik, Editor of Sheeraza, represented the Academy.

The programme began with a welcome address by Aashiq Hussain Zaki, who welcomed the guests and participants. He spoke about the importance of literary gatherings and said that such programmes help young people learn about writers who have made valuable contributions to literature and their respective languages.

Speaking about the purpose of the seminar, Mohammad Saleem Salik said that understanding



a writer is not limited to reading their books and stories. It is equally important to understand their thoughts, ideas and contribution to the literary world. He added that such programmes help preserve literary history and create opportunities for writers and scholars to exchange their views.

The keynote address was delivered by noted writer Nasir Zameer, who spoke in detail about Ibn Ismail's life, writings and literary journey. His presentation offered important insights into different aspects of the writer's work and received appreciation from the audience.

Following the keynote address, Prof. Abdul Rashid Dar, Hassan Zareen, Bashir Ahmad Dar and Nazim Nazir shared their views on Ibn Ismail's literary contributions. They highlighted the need for further study, research and documentation of the works of important literary figures so that their contributions remain known to future generations.

One of the major highlights of the programme was the release of "Zakhm Jo Bolte Hain," a short story collection by noted writer Bashir Athar. The book was welcomed by the participants, who described it as a valuable addition to contemporary fiction.

The second session featured a Mehfil-e-Afsana, where writers presented their short stories and flash fiction. Adil Naseer, Bashir Athar, Faiz Qazi Abadi, Tariq Shabnam, Ayoub Dilbar and Dr Reyaz Tawheedi participated in the session. Their stories brought different human experiences and social issues before the audience through the art of storytelling.

During the concluding session, the presidium appreciated the organisers for arranging the seminar and bringing writers and literature lovers together on one platform. The speakers also stressed the importance of organising more such programmes to encourage young writers and keep literary activities alive. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr Mohammad Iqbal Lone.

The seminar was a meaningful opportunity to discuss Ibn Ismail's literary journey and remember his contribution to literature. Such gatherings remind us of the importance of writers and their work in keeping our languages, literature and cultural traditions alive.

On this occasion, I, Wani Arfat, extend my heartfelt congratulations to Bashir Athar Sahab on the publication of his short story collection, "Zakhm Jo Bolte Hain." I wish him continued success in his literary journey and hope that his new book receives great appreciation from readers and literature lovers.

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Block Diwas held at Wagoora, Public Grievances taken up for Time-Bound Redressal

■ HT News Network



BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 12: Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Baramulla, Nissar Ahmad, today presided over a Block Diwas programme at Wagoora, providing an opportunity to local residents to highlight their grievances, demands and developmental issues before the administration.

Speaking on the occasion, the CPO highlighted the objective of organising Block Diwas programmes, stating that these initiatives provide a direct platform for people to bring their grievances and developmental concerns to the notice of the administration. He emphasised that such programmes aim to strengthen public outreach, ensure effective coordination among departments and facilitate timely redressal of public grievances at the grassroots level.

He assured the participants that all demands and grievances raised during the programme would be compiled and placed before the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla for consideration and necessary redressal. He reiterated that all genuine issues would be pursued on priority for resolution in a time-bound manner.

During the programme, residents raised a range of issues pertaining to road connectivity, education infrastructure, healthcare facilities, drinking water, horticulture, sanitation and other essential public services.

People highlighted the need for repairs and upgradation of several main roads and inner link roads in the area. They also raised concerns regarding the availability and quality of safe drinking water. Taking cognizance of the issue, the CPO directed the concerned departments to ensure proper testing of drinking water sources and take necessary measures to ensure the supply of safe and potable drinking water.

Residents also expressed concern over the non-availability of adequate street lighting following the installation of smart meters. The CPO assured that the Rural Development Department (RDD) would take necessary steps to ensure the installation of solar street lights in the area.

On horticulture-related issues, residents urged the administration to ensure pre-season field visits by horticulture experts to provide farmers with timely technical guidance and advice on improved practices. They stressed that such visits would help farmers address field-level concerns and enhance productivity.

Issues concerning education infrastructure were also highlighted, with residents seeking improvement and upgradation of existing facilities to provide students with a better learning environment. They also raised concerns over the shortage of staff at local healthcare facilities and called for adequate deployment of medical and paramedical personnel.

Residents further raised demands regarding the construction of compost pits and other sanitation-related works under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). Taking cognizance of the demand, Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla, Mudasir Hussain Chaudhary, directed the concerned Block Development Officer (BDO) to submit a Detailed Project Report (DPR), assuring that the proposal would be taken up for immediate approval.

The issue of pending payments and liabilities against various works executed under MGNREGA and other government schemes was also raised. Responding to the concerns, the ACD assured that the matter would be examined and necessary steps taken to address the pending liabilities as per the prescribed procedures.

Residents also highlighted issues related to the issuance and renewal of labour cards and delays in scholarship disbursement to eligible students, urging the concerned departments to facilitate timely processing and delivery of benefits. The demand for a playground in Wagoora was also raised, while residents sought the installation of floodlights at another existing playground to facilitate sports and recreational activities during evening hours. Furthermore, residents highlighted difficulties in obtaining essential construction materials, stating that their non-availability was affecting the progress of various construction works.

The CPO gave a patient hearing to the public and reiterated that all genuine grievances and developmental demands would be brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla for appropriate consideration and time-bound redressal.

ADDC Shopian reviews preparedness for JKSSB Examination

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER, 12: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone today chaired a comprehensive meeting regarding the preparations and arrangements for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) examination at the Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Chief Inspector of Examination), Superintendents, General Observers appointed by the General Administration Department (GAD), Observers and District-level Observers deployed for examination duties.

During the meeting, the ADDC reviewed the preparedness and arrangements for the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the examination. Detailed discussions were held on the roles and responsibilities of the officers and officials deployed on examination duty, besides emphasizing strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines and examination protocols. The ADDC stressed upon all concerned officers to ensure foolproof arrangements, maintain close coordination and discharge their assigned duties with utmost dedication and responsibility to ensure the examination is conducted in a peaceful, transparent and hassle-free manner. He also called for strict vigilance and timely resolution of any issue that may arise during the examination process.

Training for Examination Staff for upcoming JKSSB Accounts Assistant Exam held at GDC Shopian

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 12: A training programme was organized today at Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian for officials deployed on examination duties in connection with the upcoming JKSSB Accounts Assistant Examination scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026.

The session was held to familiarize Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, Centre Observers and Invigilators with examination-related guidelines, procedures and responsibilities to ensure the smooth, fair, and transparent conduct of the examination.

Speaking On the occasion, Special Secretary (Law) JKSSB, Dr. Rais Ahmad Qazi underscored the crucial role of examination staff in upholding the credibility and integrity of the recruitment process. He urged the deployed officers and invigilators to remain vigilant, follow standard operating procedures strictly and ensure zero- error execution across all examination centres.

DC Srinagar reviews progress of Rooftop Solar installations under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, Solarization of Government Buildings

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR NOVEMBER 12: In order to assess the progress of Rooftop Solar installations under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana a meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

He also reviewed the progress of ongoing solarization of Government buildings across Srinagar District. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, Shah Ismail Bangroo, Executive Engineers of KPDCL, JAKEDA, Zonal Head J&K Bank and other concerned Officers and stakeholders. During the meeting the Deputy Commissioner, who is also the Chairman of the Monitoring and Management Committee of the schemes, emphasized the need to further accelerate rooftop solar installations and solarisation of Government buildings. The DC directed the banks to clear all pending approved cases on priority and ensure timely disbursement of loans to facilitate hassle-free installation of rooftop solar systems. He also instructed KPDCL Engineers to ensure sustained progress, timely execution of works and enhanced consumer outreach to encourage wider adoption of renewable energy solutions. Emphasizing the importance of reaching to the consumers, the Deputy Commissioner called for intensified outreach activities to highlight the benefits of rooftop solar systems, including reduced electricity bills, promotion of clean energy and environmental sustainability.

The meeting was also informed that 8122 households have been covered under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, reflecting the ongoing efforts to expand rooftop solar adoption among domestic consumers.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress and latest status of solarization of Government buildings in the District, aimed at reducing dependence on conventional power sources.

ADDC Kupwara inspects SDH Sogam; reviews healthcare facilities, winter preparedness

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 12: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Ghulam Rasool today inspected Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Sogam and held a detailed on-spot review of healthcare facilities with special focus on winter preparedness.

The ADDC was accompanied by Block Medical Officer (BMO) Sogam, Dr. Javid Rasool Shah and other concerned officers.

During the visit, the ADDC took a round of various sections of the hospital including Emergency, OPD, IPD, Laboratory and Pharmacy. He interacted with the staff and patients to get feedback about the facilities being provided.

On-spot inspection revealed that duty doctors and para-medical staff were found available and performing their duties. Heating arrangements were found in place and functional. Medical supplies and essential medicines were found available in adequate quantity.

The ADDC stressed upon the hospital authorities to remain available strictly as per the duty roster and ensure best healthcare services to the patients, especially in view of the approaching winter season.

He further directed the concerned to keep all heating arrangements fully functional and put in place additional heating measures wherever required for the convenience of patients and attendants. He also instructed for maintaining proper sanitation and hygiene in and around the hospital premises.

MLA Sonawari reviews Developmental Works, Winter Preparedness

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 12: MLA Sonawari, Advocate Hilal Akbar Lone, today chaired a meeting at Mini Secretariat Bandipora to review the progress of developmental works and assess winter preparedness in Sonawari Constituency.

During the meeting, Executive Engineer R&B Sumbal briefed the MLA on the status of ongoing works. Sector-wise deliberations were held on education infrastructure, teacher-student ratio, drinking water facilities, sports infrastructure, playground development and distribution of sports kits.

The MLA also reviewed the preparedness and functioning of various departments, including R&B, PHE, PMGSY, Municipal Committee Sumbal, Power Development, Mechanical Engineering, Health, CAPD, Agriculture, Rural Development, ICDS, Education, Forest, Youth Services and Sports, Fire and Emergency Services, Transport, Geology and Mining, Treasury, and other concerned departments.

Issues related to essential supplies, road connectivity, streetlights, power and water supply, healthcare services, availability of construction material and deployment of men and machinery for snow clearance were discussed.

Emphasising interdepartmental coordination, the MLA said that all departments must work in close coordination with the District Administration to address bottlenecks and improve public service delivery. While expressing satisfaction over progress in certain areas, he stressed the need for improvement in others and said that deliberations must translate into concrete outcomes.

The MLA urged all officers to follow their respective departmental guidelines seriously and ensure timely execution of works and effective delivery of public services.

Among others, the meeting was attended by PO ICDS Bandipora, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sumbal, Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Superintending Engineers of R&B, and KPDCL Circles, Executive Engineers of various engineering divisions, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Education Officer, and other concerned officials. The MLA urged all officers to follow their respective departmental guidelines seriously and ensure timely execution of works and effective delivery of public services.

Among others, the meeting was attended by PO ICDS Bandipora, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sumbal, Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Superintending Engineers of R&B, and KPDCL Circles, Executive Engineers of various engineering divisions, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Education Officer, and other concerned officials.

Vice Chairman JKLCMA reviews Development Works at Dole Demb in Dal Lake

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 12: Vice Chairman, JKLCMA, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, visited the Dole Demb area of Dal Lake to review the ongoing works related to the removal of bushes, clearance of the identified area for its proposed development, and dredging of internal channels to facilitate smooth navigation and flushing of water.

During the visit, the Vice Chairman inspected the site and took stock of the progress of the ongoing operations. He was briefed by the concerned officers on the work being undertaken, including the removal of aquatic vegetation, bushes, and dredging of internal channels.

Emphasizing the importance of planned and sustainable development, he stressed that the works should be carried out systematically, with due attention to the ecological sensitivity of the area. He underscored that the proposed park should enhance the scenic and recreational appeal of the identified stretch while preserving the natural character of Dal Lake and to promote Tourism.

He also stressed the importance of dredging internal channels and flushing of waters to ensure smooth navigation and improve connectivity within the lake. He directed the concerned officers to maintain close supervision of all ongoing activities and ensure timely progress while adhering to appropriate environmental safeguards.

The initiative is aimed at improving the overall lake environment, enhancing navigational facilities and developing a designated recreational space to promote tourism and provide an attractive experience for visitors. It also forms part of the Authority's efforts towards the responsible and sustainable utilisation of Dal Lake's surrounding spaces as tourism attractions.

Rana directs speedy execution of tribal welfare projects, optimal utilisation of funds

Reviews UT CAPEX, DAJGUA, EMRS, hostel projects

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a review meeting of the Tribal Affairs Department at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, to take stock of the physical and financial progress of ongoing developmental works.

He assessed the implementation of various flagship schemes and welfare initiatives aimed at socio-economic empowerment of tribal communities across Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasising the need for accelerated execution and result-oriented implementation, the Minister directed the district administrations, departmental officers and executing agencies to step up the pace of developmental works, ensure optimal utilisation of funds and strictly adhere to the prescribed timelines. He stressed that bottlenecks and delays in execution must be identified and resolved promptly to ensure that the benefits of government initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries.

The meeting held an extensive district-wise review of projects and activities being undertaken under the UT CAPEX Budget 2026-27, Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan



(DAJGUA), Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and construction of Gujjar and Bakerwal hostels across the Union Territory.

Taking note of the expenditure position, Rana directed the concerned officers and executing agencies to intensify implementation efforts, remove procedural impediments and ensure a substantial improvement in both physical and financial progress.

The meeting was informed that approximately 86 per cent of the funds released under DAJGUA had been utilised.

Appreciating the progress, the Minister called for expeditious completion of the remaining works and stressed that the momentum must be sustained across all districts.

Rana also undertook a detailed review of the construction, upgradation and development of Eklavya Model Residential Schools and various Gujjar and Bakerwal hostel buildings. Highlighting the importance of educational infrastructure in expanding opportunities for tribal youth, he said that residential educational facilities play a crucial role in ensuring access to quality education, particularly for students from geographically remote and economically disadvantaged communities.The Minister called for stronger coordination among the district administrations, executing agencies and the Tribal Affairs Department to resolve these issues through a time-bound approach.

The Minister asked the districts to furnish comprehensive details of savings generated during the tendering process and projects or works identified as non-feasible. He said that such information was essential for better financial planning, rational allocation of resources and ensuring that available funds are utilised effectively in accordance with the applicable guidelines.

The meeting also reviewed the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada, being observed across Jammu and Kashmir from November 1 to 15.

The Minister was informed that more than 2,500 activities had been organised or reported across various districts, with participation exceeding 1.05 lakh people, reflecting widespread community engagement in the celebrations.Rana directed the district administrations to ensure enthusiastic, inclusive and meaningful participation in observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on November 15, commemorating the birth anniversary of the legendary tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

Public representatives, delegations, students call on CM Omar Abdullah at Civil Secretariat

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: Several delegations, public representatives and school students today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat here and apprised him of various developmental issues, community concerns and matters pertaining to their respective constituencies.

MLA Anantnag West Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larmi), MLA Samba Surjeet Singh Slathia and MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah separately called on the Chief Minister and discussed ongoing developmental works, public welfare concerns and other important issues concerning their respective constituencies.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the visiting public representatives and delegations and assured them that their genuine demands and developmental concerns would be examined and addressed on priority.

Director, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Prof. (Dr.) M. Ashraf Ganie, met the Chief Minister and apprised him of the functioning of the premier health institution.Managing Director, Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL), Ramesh Mukhiya, also called on the Chief Minister and briefed him on the status of various hydroelectric power projects being executed by the company in Kishtwar district. He also discussed key issues related to the implementation and progress of these projects.

A delegation of the All J&K Christian Sabha, led by its President Ashu Peter Matoo, met the Chief Minister and discussed an upcoming event being organised by the Sabha. The delegation also apprised him of various issues concerning the Christian community in Jammu and Kashmir.Meanwhile, students of International Delhi Public School (IDPS) Juniors, Jammu, accompanied by Managing Director Siya Singh, Principal Sahrish Ismaily and Vice Principal Arti Sharma, called on the Chief Minister and extended their warm greetings on the occasion of the upcoming Children's Day.

The interaction provided an opportunity for the young students to meet the Chief Minister ahead of the occasion.

SWD Budgam organises Awareness Programme on Government Welfare Schemes at Kachwari

■ HT News Network



BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 12: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Budgam, through SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women (SANKALP-HEW), under Mission Shakti, organised an awareness programme on various government welfare schemes at Government High School Kachwari, and Village footlipora with the objective of creating awareness among the local community, particularly women and children, about the benefits and provisions of different government initiatives.The programme focused on disseminating information regarding various women-centric and child welfare schemes, their eligibility criteria, benefits and application procedures, while encouraging eligible beneficiaries to avail themselves of the available government assistance.

Special emphasis was laid on child protection and welfare, including the role of Child Helpline 1098 in providing timely assistance, care and protection to children in need.

As part of the initiative, a door-to-door awareness and outreach campaign was also conducted in the locality to ensure that information about welfare schemes reaches the grassroots level. During the household visits, women were sensitised about available government benefits, and eligible beneficiaries were facilitated and linked with relevant welfare schemes.The initiative reflects the Department's continued commitment towards strengthening awareness, ensuring effective outreach and facilitating last-mile delivery of government welfare schemes, particularly for women and children.

DC Ganderbal chairs meeting on traffic management, town decongestion

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today chaired a meeting in the VC Room, Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal to review measures for regulating traffic movement, tackling decongestion, removing encroachments, and curbing traffic violations across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ganderbal, Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Ganderbal, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ganderbal, Executive Engineer (I&FC) Ganderbal, ARTO Ganderbal, Chinar Development Officer Ganderbal, and other concerned officials.

At the outset, the Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Ganderbal delivered a detailed presentation outlining the comprehensive Traffic Management Plan and road-widening plan from Duderhama to Beehama.

Taking a serious view of traffic bottlenecks in the town, the Deputy Commissioner held a threadbare discussion on immediate and long-term steps required to ease vehicular traffic at Meerani Chowk, identified as the primary choke point.

During the session, detailed deliberations were also held on reshaping and upgrading footpaths across key stretches of the town.

Furthermore, the DC reviewed the status of commercial parking facilities in Ganderbal town and directed the concerned officers to expedite measures for proper parking management.

DC Pulwama conducts night inspection of control rooms, reviews emergency preparedness amid weather advisory

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, K.K Sidha, accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. S.M Ashraf, conducted a night inspection of the Snow Control Rooms and Emergency Control Rooms established across District Pulwama to review their preparedness and functioning in view of the prevailing weather advisory.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the availability of staff, emergency response arrangements and coordination among the concerned departments.

He directed all concerned officers and officials to remain alert and ensure round-the-clock functioning of the control rooms to facilitate prompt response to any emergency arising due to adverse weather conditions.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination and timely assistance to the public, particularly in areas that may be affected by snowfall or other weather-related disruptions.

He instructed the concerned teams to remain fully prepared to deal with any eventuality and ensure the safety and convenience of the people.

DDC Ganderbal reviews functioning of PHE, I&FC Departments

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 12: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal chaired a meeting in the VC Room, Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal to review the overall functioning of Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) departments.During the meeting, the DDC reviewed the physical and financial progress of ongoing and new projects taken up under various schemes including JJM, AMRUT, NABARD, UT Capex, District Capex, CDF, and FMBAP.The Executive Engineers of PHE and I&FC divisions briefed the chair through detailed presentations about the status of water supply schemes, transition to JJM 2.0, Jal Seva Aankalan, Jal Arpan, canal strengthening, and flood protection works in the district.

The meeting also discussed bottlenecks regarding pending NOCs, land disputes, and forest clearances. The DDC directed the concerned officers to ensure regular monitoring, and pace up execution to complete all works in a time-bound manner.

The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Srinagar/ Ganderbal, Executive Engineers of PHE, and I&FC, Assistant Executive Engineers and other concerned officials.

Pulwama Admin initiates action against Traffic Violations

Two School buses seized, Registration of six Buses, ten Driving Licenses being suspended

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 12: In compliance with the directives issued by the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha and Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, a joint enforcement team comprising officials from the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Pulwama, and the Traffic Police, Pulwama, carried out an extensive traffic enforcement drive today across key corridors in the district.

The targeted operations covered vital stretches, including the Pulwama- Newa Road, Drabgam, and Rajpora, focusing primarily on curbing critical traffic infractions such as passenger vehicles carrying excess commuters, school buses operating in violation of safety guidelines, and habitual offenders operating Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs).

During the day-long operation, 60 vehicles were intercepted and subjected to thorough physical and regulatory inspections. Violators contravening the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and allied safety rules were penalized on the spot, resulting in an expected fine realization of Rs 101000. In addition to monetary penalties, the enforcement team recommended the suspension of 10 driving licenses, suspension of registration of six vehicles, and seized two school buses for non-compliance with statutory safety requirements.

Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi chairs Committee on Estimates meet

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: The Committee on Estimates of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today held a meeting under the chairmanship of Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi to review the functioning of the Health and Medical Education Department in Jammu and Kashmir, with particular focus on budgetary estimates, financial management, infrastructure development and operational efficiency.

The meeting was attended by Committee members Sham Lal Sharma, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Ali Mohammad Dar, Mushtaq Guroo, Irshad Rasool Kar, Sajad Shaheen and Sunil Bhardwaj. Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Saugat Biswas; Director, SKIMS; Managing Director, National Health Mission; Principals of various Government Medical Colleges; Secretary, J&K Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita; Director General, Budget; Directors of Health Services, Jammu and Kashmir, besides other senior officers of the concerned department and Legislative Assembly, were also present.

At the outset, the Chairman initiated the proceedings by reviewing the issues raised during the previous meeting and taking stock of the status of the Action Taken Report submitted by the department. He also took stock of the implementation status of earlier recommendations and discussed the concerns highlighted by Committee members, stressing the need for timely corrective measures to address existing gaps in healthcare delivery and ensure that the benefits of various government healthcare initiatives reach people at the grassroots level.

The Committee undertook a comprehensive review of the overall healthcare scenario across Jammu and Kashmir, including the functioning of healthcare institutions in urban, rural and remote areas, availability of medical facilities, manpower position, infrastructure development and delivery of patient-care services.

During the deliberations, the Committee examined various aspects of human resource management, including sanctioned strength and availability of gazetted and non-gazetted staff, operational requirements, the procedure for filling vacant posts and optimum deployment of manpower, particularly in far-flung and underserved areas.

The Committee also reviewed the status of ongoing infrastructure projects, maintenance and repair of healthcare institutions, availability and functionality of medical machinery and equipment, utilisation of funds, hospital development works, heating arrangements, drug control drives and effective utilisation of ambulance services.The Chairman directed the concerned Heads of Departments to accord priority to the issues highlighted during the meeting and take necessary measures for their early resolution to ensure accessible, affordable and quality healthcare facilities for the general public.

Emphasising the need to strengthen healthcare services in remote, far-flung and snowbound areas, Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi stressed that hospitals and other healthcare institutions must be adequately equipped with essential medicines, diagnostic facilities, modern medical equipment and qualified healthcare professionals. He observed that people living in remote areas should not be compelled to travel long distances to access basic medical treatment.

He specifically directed the department to expedite the introduction of telemedicine services in snowbound and far-flung areas of the Union Territory to facilitate timely medical consultation and ensure better access to specialist healthcare services.Underscoring that public health must remain the foremost priority, the Chairman stressed optimum utilisation and rational deployment of available manpower, particularly in underserved areas. He also called for effective implementation of the biometric attendance system for healthcare personnel and strengthened monitoring mechanisms at all levels to ensure accountability, punctuality and improved delivery of healthcare services.

The Chairman further emphasised that regular monitoring, coordinated efforts and effective implementation of departmental initiatives are essential to strengthen the healthcare delivery system and ensure that quality medical facilities are accessible to every citizen across Jammu and Kashmir.

ACT Celebrates Golden Jubilee, Marks 50 Years of Theatre and Cultural Service

■ GULFAM BARJI



Srinagar/November:12 ACT For A Better Tomorrow,I one of Kashmir's oldest and prominent theatre organisations celebrated its Golden Jubilee in Amar Singh Club in Srinagar marking 50 years of contribution to theatre, arts, culture and social service. The celebration was attended by prominent political and social personalities, artists, writers, intellectuals, journalists and theatre enthusiasts.

Speaking on the occasion ACT Chairman and KWFF Director Mushtaque Ali Ahmad Khan said that theatre has always remained the soul of the organisation. He highlighted its five-decade-long contribution towards promoting Kashmiri art and culture and creating social awareness, reaffirming the organisation's commitment to continue its mission.Over the past 50 years, ACT has staged more than two dozen notable productions, including Jheel Bula Rahi Hai, Ek Potli Armaano Ki, Taqdeer Saaz, Negative, Sabarmati Ka Sant and Pagla Ghoda. The organisation has also conducted three Spring Theatre Festivals, five editions of the Kashmir World Film Festival (KWFF), and several other cultural programmes. It has been observing World Theatre Day continuously for the past 21 years.On the occasion, ACT Patron Syed Humayun Qaiser unveiled the organisation's vision and future roadmap for 2026–2036, featuring the ACT Academy of Performing Arts, Youth Leadership Centre, Digital Archive of Kashmiri Theatre and the ambitious initiative 50 Plays for 50 Years.Journalists from print, electronic and digital media were also felicitated with mementos in recognition of their contributions. A Golden Jubilee souvenir was released, while a documentary showcasing the organisation's 50-year journey was screened.The event was sponsored by Kashmir Movietone and Halal Nation, with support from Amar Singh Club, Srinagar. Concluding the celebration, Mushtaque Ali Ahmad Khan expressed gratitude to the artists, media fraternity, supporting organisations and the public for their continued cooperation and encouragement. Speaking on the occasion ACT Chairman and KWFF Director Mushtaque Ali Ahmad Khan said that theatre has always remained the soul of the organisation. He highlighted its five-decade-long contribution towards promoting Kashmiri art and culture and creating social awareness, reaffirming the organisation's commitment to continue its mission.

Bandipora's Ulfat Nazir Earns Recognition for Research in AI-Driven Quantum Computational Chemistry

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



Bandipora, 11 Nov: A moment of recognition for research, innovation and academic excellence. Ulfat Nazir has been recognised for her work in AI in Quantum Computational Chemistry, highlighting the role of artificial intelligence and machine learning in advancing molecular research and scientific computing.

Her work explores how AI-driven methodologies can help overcome computational challenges in quantum chemistry, opening new possibilities in molecular modelling, material science and drug discovery.

A proud moment for Bandipora, as Ulfat Nazir's research brings attention to the growing contribution of local talent in emerging fields of science and technology.

Border Marathon organised at Chakra to promote Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan

DC Kathua joins, calls for collective efforts to build drug-free society

■ HT News Network



KATHUA, NOVEMBER 12: A Border Marathon was organised today at Chakra in Sub-Division Hiranagar under the banner of the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan. The objective was to promote physical fitness, sportsmanship and generate awareness against the menace of drug abuse.The event, organised by District Administration Kathua in collaboration with the District Police and Commando Club Hiranagar, witnessed enthusiastic participation from youth, civil society, besides the civil and police officers.Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma joined the Marathon and encouraged the participants, underscoring the importance of sports and physical activities in promoting a healthy lifestyle and steering youth away from drug abuse.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the Commando Club Hiranagar and emphasised the need for collective efforts to eradicate the menace of drug abuse. He urged the youth to stay away from drugs and actively participate in sports and other constructive activities.

The Marathon served as a platform to spread awareness about the harmful consequences of drug abuse and emphasised the need for collective efforts.

Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026: Various Awareness, Cultural and Community Activities organised across Bandipora

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 12: As part of the ongoing observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026, various activities were organised across district Bandipora by different departments to celebrate tribal heritage, promote cultural awareness and highlight the rights and welfare of tribal communities.

Painting competition was organised at Chandaji as part of the JJGD celebrations. Meanwhile, the Horticulture Department, Bandipora, organised awareness programmes and activities at Chontimulla, Gujran, Tulail and village Pethkoote (Chandaji). A dance competition was also organised at the Gujjar and Bakerwal Boys Hostel, Bandipora, showcasing the rich cultural traditions of tribal communities.

As part of the celebrations, Gram Sabhas focusing on the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, were organised at Seva Kendra Kanzalwan, Block Bagtore, and Panchayat Halqa CA Khan, Block Arin, to sensitise participants about forest rights and community participation.

The Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Department, Bandipora, organised various activities under the campaign, witnessing participation in art and cultural activities and other activities.

Meanwhile, Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada was also observed at Ayushman Arogya Mandir PTL, where health services, including ANC check-ups, NCD screening, haemoglobin estimation and free distribution of medicines, were provided to beneficiaries.The activities aimed at promoting awareness about tribal heritage, safeguarding traditional cultural practices and ensuring greater participation of tribal communities in government welfare initiatives.

Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwara: Students across Kathua explore, document rich tribal heritage

■ HT News Network



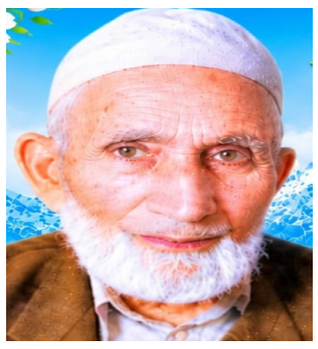
KATHUA, NOVEMBER 12: As part of the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwara 2026 celebrations, educational institutions across Kathua district organised a series of activities on the theme "Tribal Life, Culture and Traditions and Documentation of Local Heritage and Traditional Practices".

Students enthusiastically participated in photography and documentation activities, capturing various aspects of tribal life, including traditional kitchens, unique utensils, food habits, cooking practices, traditional ornaments, customs, lifestyle and cultural traditions. The activities provided students an opportunity to explore and document the rich heritage, indigenous knowledge and traditional practices of tribal communities.Special morning assemblies, photography competitions and quiz competitions were also organised to familiarise students with India's rich tribal heritage and highlight the importance of preserving traditional practices. Students showcased photographs of tribal kitchens, traditional utensils, ornaments and other cultural aspects, while quiz competitions encouraged awareness about tribal history, heritage and traditions.The activities aimed at sensitising students about India's rich tribal heritage, promoting respect for indigenous traditions and encouraging the younger generation to contribute towards the preservation and protection.

Krohen Cultural Forum Kreeri Mourns Demise of Veteran Sufi Poet Muhammad Sultan Najjar, Known as 'Sul Chaan'

Forum President Syed Shamim Ahmad Shamim, General Secretary Syed Sharief Hussain Qadri express heartfelt condolences; describe his demise as a loss to the literary and cultural fraternity

■ HT News Network



KREERI: Krohen Cultural Forum Kreeri has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of veteran Sufi poet Muhammad Sultan Najjar, widely known by his literary and popular name 'Sul Chaan', describing his passing as an irreparable loss to the literary, cultural and spiritual fraternity.

In a condolence message, President of Krohen Cultural Forum Kreeri, Syed Shamim Ahmad Shamim, and General Secretary Syed Sharief Hussain Qadri expressed their heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul. The office-bearers said that the demise of the veteran poet has saddened the literary and cultural circles, particularly those who cherished the rich Sufi literary traditions of Kashmir. They observed that the contribution of poets like Sul Chaan remains an important part of the region's cultural and literary heritage.

The Forum conveyed its deepest condolences to the bereaved family and prayed that Almighty Allah grants the departed soul the highest place in Jannat and gives strength and patience to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

Meanwhile, noted poet and writer, Patron of Lubaab Publications Group Syed Sad-ud-Din Saidi and Editor-in-Chief of the daily English newspaper HEADLINES TODAY, Dr Jahangir Bukhari, also expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Sul Chaan and extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. Condolences have also poured in from various cultural and literary organisations, including Manzoor Hashmi Cultural Forum Watergam, Mumtaz Writers Forum and Sagar Cultural Forum, besides several prominent writers, poets and individuals, who mourned the passing of the veteran Sufi poet and prayed for eternal peace to his departed soul.

DJMC captivates aspirants with interactive canopy, studio tour on Open Day 2026

■ HT News Network



Awantipora, Nov 11: The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), on Wednesday witnessed an enthusiastic response from prospective students during the University's Open Day, with a large number of aspirants visiting the departmental canopy and exploring media production facilities.

The DJMC canopy offered visitors an insight into the academic programmes, learning opportunities and diverse career prospects in the field of Journalism and Mass Communication. Faculty members and students interacted with the visitors, apprising them of the department's academic offerings, curriculum, practical training and industry-oriented learning environment.Students from various schools and colleges across different districts participated in the event. The aspirants, many of whom are considering taking up media as career, took part in several interactions wherein their queries were addressed by the DJMC faculty.

"The enthusiastic response from aspiring students during the Open Day reflects the growing interest in Mass Communication as a dynamic and evolving field," said Dr. Rabia Noor, Head, DJMC. "At DJMC, we emphasise a blend of academic rigour and hands-on training, equipping students with the skills and competencies required to navigate the rapidly transforming media landscape," she said, adding that the department looks forward to welcoming young minds who are passionate about storytelling, creativity and communication.

Aspirants also engaged in discussions with current journalism students and scholars, gaining first-hand insight into student life and the nature of journalistic work.

"It was an exciting and insightful experience. It gave us an opportunity to understand how media works beyond textbooks. Exploring the studios and learning about practical aspects of media production was particularly inspiring. The interaction with faculty members and students helped us gain a better understanding of the academic environment and career opportunities in the field," said Muntaha, a visiting student.

Aspirants were later given a tour of various facilities of the department, which included the media lab, multimedia studio and DJMC smart classrooms, where they practiced on the equipment. Meanwhile, a photo-exhibition was held on the occasion.

Veshow Festival: Day-2 witnesses enthusiastic public participation with diverse Cultural, Literary, Entrepreneurial, Interactive activities

DC Kulgam interacts with youth, artists and appreciates massive public participation

■ HT News Network

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 12: The second day of the three-day Veshow Festival 2026 witnessed enthusiastic participation of the general public, with a variety of literary, cultural, entrepreneurial and interactive activities organised at Government Degree College, Kulgam.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Shahzad Alam, ADC Kulgam Vikar Ahmad Giri, and other district officers attended various sessions during the day. The programme also witnessed the participation of noted artists, poets, writers, literary enthusiasts, career counsellors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, university professionals, students and visitors from different walks of life.

The auditorium hosted a series of literary and cultural programmes, including College Band and School Cultural Performances, a special session on Women and Literature – Gynocriticism: Understanding Women's Writing, Koshur Mushaira and Sham-e-Ghazal. The programmes provided a platform for literary interaction, artistic expression and appreciation of the region's rich literary and musical traditions.

Simultaneously, four dedicated pavilions hosted a range of sessions, discussions, workshops and interactive activities covering enterprise and startups, handicrafts and rural enterprises, agri-business and horticulture, besides youth, skill and career development. The sessions featured keynote addresses, panel discussions, fireside chats and success stories, offering participants insights into entrepreneurship, traditional crafts, business opportunities, agricultural ventures, financial literacy, digital skills and emerging career avenues.



The Trade Fair remained a major attraction, with a wide range of stalls and exhibitions showcasing traditional handicrafts, Kashmiri food, local products, agricultural produce, art and craft, besides various enterprise-based products and services. The stalls provided a common platform for artisans, entrepreneurs, traders, institutions and service providers to interact with visitors and showcase their products and activities.The Antique Village also attracted visitors by presenting a glimpse of traditional Kashmiri household articles, artefacts, crafts and objects reflecting the region's cultural heritage and traditional lifestyle.The festival grounds remained lively with public engagement, as visitors explored the exhibitions, interacted with stall holders, enjoyed different cuisines and participated in shopping and trading activities. Cultural performances, including band presentations, classical music and dramatic performances, added to the festive atmosphere.A dedicated children's play area was also available, providing recreational activities for young visitors and making the festival an engaging experience for families.The second day witnessed considerable public participation, with people showing keen interest in the various cultural programmes.

HT EDITORIAL

Kashmir Braces For A Harsh Winter, But Is KPDCL Ready To Keep The Lights On?

With the Meteorological Department predicting a spell of adverse weather over the next 48 hours and reports reaching Srinagar indicating that moderate snowfall has already started over the higher reaches of Kashmir, the Valley appears to be heading towards its first serious winter test. The changing weather conditions have once again brought a familiar but deeply unsettling question to the forefront: is the power distribution system genuinely prepared to withstand the vagaries of the approaching winter?

For consumers, the apprehension is not without reason. The summer that has just passed witnessed repeated complaints over inadequate electricity supply, unscheduled power cuts and prolonged interruptions. If the distribution system struggled to meet consumer expectations during relatively favourable weather conditions, people have legitimate reasons to wonder how it will cope when freezing temperatures, snowfall and harsh weather put the infrastructure under greater pressure.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast widespread precipitation across Jammu and Kashmir on November 12 and 13, with moderate to heavy snowfall expected in higher reaches and a significant fall in daytime temperatures. The India Meteorological Department has also indicated the possibility of isolated heavy precipitation. Reports of fresh snowfall over the higher reaches have already begun emerging, signalling that the weather system is beginning to make its presence felt.

Against this backdrop, the Digital Handbook on Winter Preparedness 2026–27 recently released by the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) assumes greater significance. The document may outline an elaborate preparedness strategy, but the real question is whether the corporation has made adequate arrangements on the ground to ensure uninterrupted or, at the very least, reasonably dependable electricity during the coming months.

KPDCL serves around 13.53 lakh consumers through an extensive distribution network comprising 353 receiving stations, 135 33 kV feeders, 1,334 11 kV feeders and 49,935 distribution transformers. Maintaining such a vast network under extreme winter conditions is undoubtedly challenging. Snow accumulation, falling trees, damaged power lines, inaccessible roads and transformer failures can complicate restoration efforts. However, these challenges are hardly unexpected in Kashmir. Winter arrives every year, and its difficulties should not catch the power authorities unprepared.

What makes consumers particularly apprehensive is their experience during the bygone summer. Complaints over inadequate power supply, unscheduled curtailments and frequent interruptions continued despite comparatively favourable weather conditions. If people had to struggle for adequate electricity during summer, their concerns about the approaching winter are understandably much greater. An impartial observer of the prevailing situation would find it difficult to dismiss the apprehension that the coming winter could prove particularly challenging for electricity consumers.

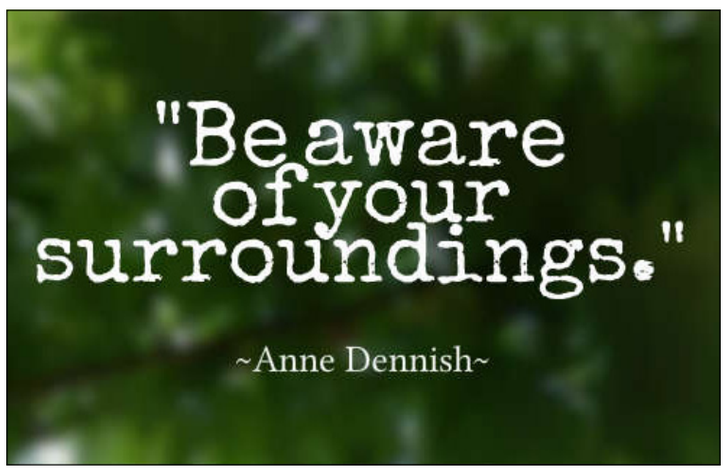
There is also a need for KPDCL to communicate honestly with consumers about the actual power supply position. People deserve to know what level of electricity availability they can realistically expect, what curtailment schedules will be followed and how quickly damaged infrastructure can be restored during heavy snowfall. Grievance redressal mechanisms must function effectively, with officials at divisional and sub-divisional levels remaining accessible when consumers need assistance the most.

The responsibility is not entirely one-sided. Consumers must clear their electricity dues, avoid power theft and follow prescribed safety norms. However, payment of bills must also translate into a reasonable standard of service. Electricity is an essential necessity in Kashmir's winter, when households, hospitals, educational institutions, commercial establishments and vulnerable sections of society depend heavily on a dependable supply.KPDCL must understand that public confidence cannot be restored through handbooks, advisories and assurances alone. It has to be earned through visible improvements in electricity distribution, transparency in scheduling and accountability at every level of its administrative machinery.As the higher reaches turn white and the plains prepare for a significant change in weather, the approaching winter is already sending its first warning. The people of Kashmir have endured enough uncertainty over electricity availability. They cannot be expected to spend another winter adjusting their lives around prolonged power cuts.The real test of KPDCL's winter preparedness will not be how impressively its plans are documented, but how effectively the lights remain on when Kashmir is covered in snow and temperatures plunge.

Why Are We Not Aware of Our Surroundings?



Sahil Manzoor



Today, the whole world is fighting against the problem of drug addiction. Why are we not aware of this serious problem in our society? We know about the situation, but unfortunately, we often think only about ourselves. We have become selfish and irresponsible, and we do not pay enough attention to what is happening around us.

We must remember one thing: if our surroundings are not safe, we can never be completely safe. A peaceful and safe society is important for a good and successful life.

It is very unfortunate that many school-going children and young people are becoming involved in drugs, directly or indirectly. It is the responsibility of everyone to take care of our surroundings. Every child is important to us, and we must take these issues seriously.

Drug addiction can spread like a flood and destroy a society within a short time. Before this flood of drugs causes serious damage, we must take strong steps to protect our young generation.

According to biological science, human life passes through different stages. Adolescence is an important stage of life when many physical, emotional, and hormonal changes take place. During this period, the body and mind develop rapidly. Teenagers may sometimes become impatient, stubborn, rude, or rebellious. Some may also become involved in harmful activities such as drug use or other unhealthy habits.

Therefore, teenagers need proper guidance, counselling, motivation, and support during this important period of their lives.

Our society has many talented and respected people who have done great things for the nation. We should use their experience and knowledge to guide our young generation. We should also make proper use of the facilities available to us.

The government and administration are making efforts to reduce crime and drug addiction among young people. However, it is unfortunate that we are still far from completely solving this problem. Government departments, schools, parents, teachers, and society must work together.

With the passage of time, we experience both positive and negative events in our society. Every event teaches us something. We should learn from these experiences and guide our young people towards positive activities.

One such positive activity is sports and physical exercise. Today, sports and fitness activities are becoming popular throughout the country. I would like to encourage my friends, especially young people, to take part in sports and physical activities instead of harmful activities.

Benefits of Bodybuilding and Exercise

From my own experience, bodybuilding and regular exercise can be useful activities. They can help us stay physically active, fit, and confident.

Some important benefits are:

Exercise can improve our overall health and fitness.

It can strengthen our muscles and bones.

It can help control extra body fat when combined with a balanced diet.

Regular exercise can improve our physical appearance and confidence.

Exercise can help us feel fresh, active, and relaxed.

Physical activity can also support our mental well-being and reduce stress.

These points are based on my personal experience. First of all, we should motivate ourselves and say:

"I want to stay fit, look good, remain healthy, and stay away from drugs."

I want to motivate my friends towards sports and physical activities so that they can remain fit, healthy, and active.

Today, gyms and fitness centres are available in many places. They have modern equipment and trained trainers. This gives us a good opportunity to exercise and improve our fitness.

After starting exercise, we should also follow a balanced and healthy diet. Diet plays an important role in bodybuilding and fitness. We should eat nutritious food and drink enough water.

Gyms can provide equipment, music, a clean environment, and guidance from trainers. We should always follow proper instructions from a qualified trainer to reduce the risk of muscle and bone injuries.

I suggest that young people take part in sports, exercise, and other healthy activities. These activities can keep us away from drugs and other harmful habits. I hope everyone will feel healthier, stronger, and more confident.

The government administration at the district level should also consider providing gym and sports facilities at the Panchayat level so that young people in rural areas can easily take part in physical activities.

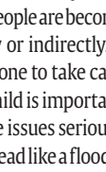
Finally, I would like to say that we should focus on natural and balanced nutrition and avoid unnecessary supplements. Proper exercise, healthy food, discipline, and a positive attitude can help us build a healthy life.

Let us protect our young generation. Let us keep our surroundings safe. Let us choose sports, health, education, and a positive life instead of drugs.

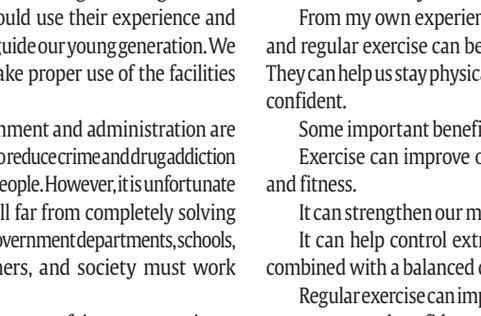
SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI
sahilmanzoor9419@gmail.com

The Evolution of Kashmir's Cold Storage Industryand the Science Behind DCA Technology

From Conventional CA to Dynamic Controlled Atmosphere



By Er. Ishfaq Khaliq



(SENIOR ENGINEER WITH AL-NOOR GROUP OF COMPANIES)
COLD STORE ENGINEER, CONSULTANT, EXPERT

My association with Kashmir's cold storage industry goes back nearly nine years. When I first entered this field, the industry was at a very different stage of technological development. Cold storage technology, particularly Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage, was still relatively new in Kashmir. Knowledge about its scientific principles, engineering calculations, system design, refrigeration parameters and operational requirements was limited. Even many engineers working in the industry had limited exposure to these specialised systems, as there were very few opportunities for structured technical training, practical exposure or knowledge-sharing.

For several years, external technical teams played a major role in introducing, designing and installing cold storage facilities in Kashmir. Their technical decisions were often accepted because local professionals had limited access to the knowledge required to independently evaluate designs, calculations and operating parameters. However, time brought a remarkable transformation.

The Emergence of a Technically Stronger Kashmir

As more technically qualified Kashmiri youth entered the industry, a new chapter began. Engineers with academic backgrounds in Mechanical, Civil, Electrical, Instrumentation and other engineering disciplines gradually took responsibility for different aspects of cold storage operations. These young professionals brought curiosity, technical confidence and a willingness to understand the science behind the systems they were operating.

The approach began to change. Engineers no longer wanted merely to operate machinery according to instructions. They started questioning refrigeration capacities, heat-load calculations, insulation specifications, air circulation, pressure requirements, temperature distribution, gas concentrations and the overall design philosophy of CA facilities. A healthy technical competition gradually developed.

External installation teams and technology providers began encountering a more technically aware local workforce. The days when every technical explanation could be accepted without scrutiny were gradually disappearing. Local engineers started examining drawings, questioning calculations, comparing specifications and insisting that installations meet the engineering requirements of the facilities they were building. Some projects were executed with substantial involvement from local engineers, who independently evaluated designs and procured the necessary equipment for installation.This was not simply a change in the way cold stores were constructed. It represented a change in the confidence and technical capability of Kashmir's engineering community.From Conventional CA to Advanced Storage Technology

As the industry matured, modern refrigeration technologies, improved insulation, sophisticated instrumentation, automation and advanced CA systems began finding their place in Kashmir. Cold storage gradually evolved from simply maintaining low temperatures into a scientifically managed process in which several parameters had to be controlled simultaneously. Temperature, relative humidity, oxygen (O_2), carbon dioxide (CO_2), air circulation and refrigeration performance became essential considerations in maintaining fruit quality.

The objective was no longer merely to keep apples cold. It was to slow down their physiological activities while maintaining their firmness, flavour, appearance and overall market quality for an extended period. Yet technological development never stops. Every new advancement brings new questions, challenges and opportunities.

A Mother's Wisdom and Home Remedies From Childhood Memories to Modern Science

Dr. Vijay Garg



In our childhood memories, a mother holds a special place. Whenever someone at home suffered from a minor ailment, a child developed a fever or got injured while playing, the first word that came to mind was always—"Mother!"

A mother seemed to have a solution for every problem. She might not have possessed a medical degree or modern medical equipment, but through her experience, observation and care for the family, she had developed a unique wisdom about managing everyday household concerns.

The Little Home Pharmacy

In earlier times, mothers often suggested using salt and mustard oil for cleaning teeth when someone complained of a toothache. Marigold leaves were sometimes mentioned as a traditional remedy for ear pain. If something entered a child's eye, the mother would carefully examine it and try to clean the eye.

Neem leaves were traditionally used for minor boils and skin problems. Turmeric was commonly applied to small injuries sustained while playing. During summer, families followed various traditional methods to soothe prickly heat and skin irritation.

These practices were part of family experiences and traditional beliefs. Mothers followed them with affection and concern, hoping to provide quick relief to their children.

Health Lessons from the Kitchen

In traditional households, the kitchen was not merely a place for preparing food; it was also the centre of family nutrition and health. Ingredients such as turmeric, ginger, garlic, cumin, carom seeds and basil were regularly used in everyday cooking.

Mothers understood how to adjust meals according to the seasons, what foods were suitable for children and what light meals could be offered during illness. They also taught children the importance of eating on time, maintaining cleanliness and following personal hygiene.

Experience Behind a Mother's Wisdom

A mother's wisdom was not limited to home remedies. She could recognise sadness on a child's face, detect tiredness from the tone of the voice and understand distress through changes in behaviour.

Along with feeding her children, she cared for their emotional needs. Sometimes, her lap, affectionate words and a gentle touch on the head were enough to make a child feel safe and comforted.

Such emotional support also plays an important role in a child's mental and emotional development.

Balancing Tradition with Science

Today, science and medical technology have made remarkable progress. We should respect traditional practices and family experiences, but every old remedy is not necessarily safe or scientifically proven.

For example, putting plant extracts into the ears, using household substances in the eyes or applying ash to open wounds can cause infection and other complications. Plants such as datura can be poisonous. Similarly, treating infants' physical problems or attempting to manage neck and abdominal conditions without medical advice can be harmful.

We should preserve the love, experience and spirit of care associated with mothers, while giving priority to modern scientific knowledge and advice from qualified medical professionals when it comes to treatment.

Times Have Changed, but a Mother's Importance Has Not

Today, medicines, doctors, hospitals and modern healthcare facilities are more accessible than ever. Yet, a mother's role remains equally important. She continues to care for her children's health, nutrition, hygiene, education and emotional development.

We must also remember that a mother's own health, rest and well-being are just as important as the care she provides to her family.

Ultimately, a mother's greatest medicine is her love, patience and boundless affection. The memories associated with her home remedies are an invaluable part of our childhood heritage. Times may change and methods of treatment may evolve, but the importance of a mother's affection and wisdom can never diminish.

A mother is not merely someone who manages the household; she is the embodiment of love, patience and experience, and the first teacher in every child's life.

Dr. Vijay Garg
Retired Principal | Eminent Scientist
Street Kaur Chand, MHR Malout,
Punjab – 152107
Mobile: 9465682110

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Email:
dailyheadlinestoday@gmail.com
headlinestoday2024@gmail.com

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On the Tactical Shift



By M S Nazki

Winston Churchill noted the evolution of armored combat, stating that tanks, originally meant to shield infantry from machine guns, eventually required infantry to clear paths for them!

-The story line on which we constructed this episode went some thing like this:

-Transforming Mech Forces. Sharpening Combat Edge. General Dhiraj Seth, COAS, attended the Biennial Mechanised Forces Conference 2026 at the Armoured Corps Centre & School, Ahilyanagar. The Conference deliberated on evolving operational requirements, future force employment, human resource optimisation and technology integration to enhance the combat effectiveness of Mechanised Forces. Aligned with the vision of JAIse VIJAY, the discussions reinforced the thrust towards agile, technology-enabled and future-ready Mechanised Forces, capable of delivering decisive results on tomorrow's battlefield.

-On Mechanical Dread: All Quiet on the Western Front captures the terror of encountering unstoppable, smoke-belching armored beasts crushing the battlefield……World War-II

•On Tanker Reality: while good tankers know tactics, great ones know the location of the recovery vehicle.

• On Crew Conditions: Musician and former soldier James Blunt described the claustrophobic and deafening environment of operating inside the tight confines of a tank…….By a crew man!

-The man exuded safety in the same way a tank promised protection. A tank might be dangerous, but only if you got in its way.!

-We do not see the guns that bombard us; the attacking lines of the enemy infantry are men like ourselves; but these tanks are machines, their caterpillars run on as endless as the war, they are annihilation, they roll without feeling into the craters, and climb up again without stopping, a fleet of roaring, smoke-belching armour-clads, invulnerable steel beasts squashing the dead and wounded—we shrivel up in our thin skin before them, against their colossal weight our arms are sticks of straw, and our hand-grenades matches.!

-"Of the 403,272 tank soldiers (including a small number of women) who were trained by the Red Army in the war, 310,000 would die. Even the most optimistic troops knew what would happen when a tank was shelled. The white-hot flash of the explosion would almost certainly ignite the tank crew's fuel and ammunition. At best, the crew—or those at least who had not been decapitated or dismembered by the shell itself—would have no more than ninety seconds to climb out of their cabin. Much of that time would be swallowed up as they struggled to open the heavy, sometimes red-hot, hatch, which might have jammed after the impact anyway. The battlefield was no haven, but it was safer than the armored coffin that would now begin to blaze, its metal components to melt. This was not simply "boiling up." The tank would also torch the atmosphere around it. By then, there could be no hope for the men inside. Not unusually, their bodies were so badly burned that the remains were inseparable. "Have you burned yet?" was a question tank men often asked each other when they met for the first time. A dark joke from this stage in the war has a politruk informing a young man that almost every tank man in his group has died that day. "I'm sorry," the young man replies. I'll make sure that I burn tomorrow……Unknown

-Global Origins of Mechanized Forces:

• World War I: The birth of mechanized warfare began with the introduction of early tanks (such as the British Mark I and the German A7V) and motor transport to break the lethal deadlock of trench warfare.

•Interwar Period & World War II: The German military pioneered Blitzkrieg (lightning war), utilizing combined-arms task forces where tanks and motorized or half-track-mounted infantry (Panzergrenadiers using vehicles like the Sd.Kfz. 251) moved at high speeds to outflank and paralyze the enemy. Concurrently, the U.S. developed



M2/M3 half-tracks and the British relied on universal carriers.

• Post-1945 Era: Mechanized infantry evolved significantly with the introduction of dedicated Infantry Combat Vehicles (ICVs) such as the Soviet BMP-1 in the late 1960s, allowing troops to fight from inside armored vehicles while moving alongside main battle tanks.

-History of the Indian Mechanized Forces:

•Post-War Realizations: Following the Indo-Pakistani Wars of 1965 and 1971, the Indian Army realized that traditional infantry moving on foot or in unarmored soft-skinned lorries could not keep pace with fast-moving tank columns.

• Early Mechanization: During the 1971 war, select infantry battalions were paired with armored units using early Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs).

• Introduction of BMPs: Between 1977 and 1978, the Indian Army began inducting the Soviet-designed BMP-1 infantry combat vehicle, which provided protected mobility, amphibious capability, and anti-tank firepower.

• Raising the Regiment: Conceived by General K.V. Krishna Rao in 1973 and formally established by General K. Sundarji, the Mechanised Infantry Regiment was officially raised on April 2, 1979, with 14 battalions transferred from select infantry regiments.

• Command Evolution: In 1986, the management of these forces shifted under the newly designated Directorate General Mechanised Forces (formerly the Armoured Corps Directorate).

•Key Operations: The Mechanised Infantry Regiment and Indian armored forces have seen active service in major milestones, including high-altitude tank deployments (such as the historic use of tanks at Zojila during the 1947–48 Kashmir War), Operation Pawan (Sri Lanka), Operation Rakshak, Operation Vijay (Kargil War in 1999), and UN peacekeeping missions. Today, the regiment has expanded to dozens of battalions equipped with modern ICVs and armored platforms.

-History of Indian Mech forces:

The history of the Indian Army's mechanized forces traces its roots to post-independence operational lessons, particularly the realization that foot or lorry-borne infantry could not keep pace with tank columns during armored warfare.

-Origins and Early Mechanisation (1960s–1970s)

• Post-War Analysis (1965): The Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 highlighted a critical tactical gap: traditional infantry could not match the speed and maneuverability of armored units across the deserts and plains.

• Introduction of APCs: In 1969, the first infantry battalion (1 Madras) was mechanised using Polish-built OT-62 TOPAS tracked Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs). By 1970, additional battalions were equipped with APCs like SKOT and BTR-60.

• Combat Debut (1971): During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, select mechanised infantry battalions fought in coordinated combat groupings alongside armor for the first time.

• BMP-1 Integration: Between 1977 and 1978, the APCs were upgraded and replaced with Soviet-designed BMP-1 Infantry Combat Vehicles (ICVs), offering amphibious capability, heavy section-carrying capacity, and anti-tank missile systems.

-Birth of the Mechanised Infantry Regiment (1979)

• Raising the Arm: To unify training, tactics, and operational philosophy, a dedicated arm was created. The Mechanised Infantry Regiment was officially raised on 2 April 1979 under the guidance of General Krishnaswamy Sundarji, who became its first Colonel of the Regiment.

•Legacy Battalions: Instead of raising new units from scratch, the army converted several distinguished infantry battalions (such as units from

the Madras, Jat, Sikh, Gorkha Rifles, and Garhwal Rifles), allowing them to carry forward their historical battle honours and traditions.

Pen Maa Chu Kansi?



By BIN-AZIZ

The Disappearing Pen and a Generation That Learned to WriteThere are certain questions that sound ordinary when spoken, yet carry within them the story of an entire generation. In Kashmir, one such familiar expression is, "Pen maa chu kansi?" a simple question meaning, "Does anyone have a pen?"

For years, this expression has been part of our everyday conversations, particularly in classrooms, examination halls, offices and public institutions. Nobody ever considered it unusual. A person needed a pen, asked someone nearby, borrowed one, completed the work and returned it. It was a small but familiar part of our social routine. However, the same question sounds different today. It is no longer just a request for a writing instrument; it has become an amusing reflection of how dramatically our habits have changed. I experienced this thought quite unexpectedly while sitting in an office in Handwara. A familiar voice seemed to echo around me: "Pen chuwa Kansi?" Someone was looking for a pen. I looked around and began observing something that we often overlook. A person carrying a pen in his pocket can almost become a small public resource. Whether it is a government office, a bank, a school or another institution, the moment someone takes out a pen, others begin waiting for their turn. One person needs to sign a document, another has to fill in a form, someone needs to write an application, while another simply wants to note down a number. A small queue develops around a single pen.

It is an ordinary scene, perhaps even amusing, but it tells us something extraordinary about our changing relationship with everyday objects. The pen has not disappeared from the world; it has gradually disappeared from our pockets.

Think about the generation that grew up before smartphones became an essential part of everyday life. A pen was not an accessory; it was a necessity. Schoolbags were incomplete without notebooks, pencils, erasers and pens. We learned our first alphabets by holding a pencil, developed our handwriting through endless practice and prepared for examinations by filling pages with handwritten answers.

Our teachers corrected our mistakes in red ink. Our parents checked our notebooks. We wrote letters, maintained diaries, prepared assignments and recorded important information. The pen accompanied us through almost every stage of our educational journey. There was a particular satisfaction in buying a new notebook and



opening its first page. There was excitement in receiving a new pen, especially before an examination. Even a borrowed pen carried temporary importance when the examination clock was ticking.

Today, however, the situation has changed. Our pockets are occupied by smartphones, and our attention is occupied by screens. A single device has replaced several objects that once travelled with us. It functions as a calculator, camera, diary, newspaper, library, communication centre and even a personal assistant.

We can search for information within seconds, send documents across continents and complete transactions without touching paper. These are remarkable achievements, and there is little reason to deny the benefits of technological progress. But perhaps, in celebrating convenience, we have overlooked the gradual disappearance of some valuable habits.

Writing by hand is more than the physical act of moving a pen across paper. It is an exercise in patience, concentration and thought. When we write, we often pause, reconsider our words and organise our ideas. A handwritten page carries the rhythm of an individual's thinking. It may contain corrections, unfinished sentences and uneven handwriting, but it also carries a certain personal character.

A digital document can be edited endlessly, copied instantly and stored conveniently. Yet a handwritten note often preserves something that technology cannot entirely reproduce: the feeling of having personally created it.

This reflection becomes even more meaningful when we consider the significance of the pen in our intellectual and spiritual traditions. The Holy Quran contains a chapter Al-Qalam (The Pen). Its opening verse declares:

"Nun. By the pen and by what they write." (68:1)

Similarly, Surah Al-Alaq reminds humanity of the importance of learning through the pen:

"Who taught by the pen." (96:4)

These references offer a profound reminder of the relationship between knowledge, writing and human development. The pen is not merely a stationery item; throughout human civilisation, it has been an instrument for recording knowledge, preserving history and transmitting ideas from one generation to another.

From handwritten manuscripts to scientific discoveries, from personal letters to constitutional documents, the written word has helped shape the world we inhabit. Of course, the answer is not to reject smartphones, digital education or modern technology. Every generation adopts new tools, and ours is no exception. The challenge is to ensure that convenience does not gradually replace our ability to think independently, express ourselves meaningfully and retain the basic skills that helped educate us. Perhaps we should also ask ourselves why a person carrying a pen has become so useful in a public office. Is it simply forgetfulness, or have we become so dependent on our phones that we no longer consider carrying the most basic writing instrument?

The next time someone asks, "Pen maa chu kansi?", perhaps we should take a moment before handing over the pen. It may be an ordinary exchange, but it represents a quiet transition in our daily lives.

A mobile phone can connect us to the entire world, but a pen once helped us discover the world through our own words.

We should not romanticise the past or fear the future. We should simply remember that progress does not require us to abandon everything that brought us here.

Perhaps the real irony of our times is that a generation which learned almost everything with a pen now finds it difficult to keep one in its pocket.

And that is why this little Kashmiri question deserves to be remembered:

"Pen maa chu kansi?"

Author can be reached at binaziz.313@gmail.com

As An Educator What We Must Be



BY-MOOL RAJ

As a Lecturer in the discipline of Environmental Science at Govt Higher Secondary School Khellani Dods, I have had the privilege of watching generations of students grow, dream, struggle and move forward in life. Every day, I see bright young faces carrying books, ambitions and hopes for a better future.

Yet, after observing life closely, one question keeps returning to my mind: Are we becoming truly educated, or are we simply becoming more qualified?

This is not a question against any individual, profession, institution or generation. It is a question for all of us. It is a question for teachers, parents, students, professionals, businessmen, administrators, leaders and ordinary citizens. It is a question about the direction in which our society is moving.

Perhaps we are progressing in many ways. But are we progressing as human beings?

A Race without a Clear Destination

Today, life seems to have become a continuous race. A child is racing to get good marks. A student is racing for admission. A young person is racing for a job. A professional is racing for promotion. A businessman is racing for profit. A family is racing to improve its lifestyle. Society is constantly comparing one person with another.

But sometimes, in this endless race, we forget to ask: Where are we going? We are running faster, but are we moving in the right direction?

"There is more competition, but less cooperation. More information, but not necessarily more wisdom."

More communication, but sometimes less understanding. More facilities, but often less contentment. More connections, but sometimes fewer meaningful relationships. It feels like a great rush without a clear purpose.

What Is the Real Meaning of Education?

Education was never meant to be only about certificates, degrees and employment. A degree can tell us what we studied. It cannot always tell us what kind of person we have become. Real education should quietly change the way we think, speak and behave. It should teach us to respect people who cannot benefit us. It should give us the courage to help someone without expecting anything in return. It should teach us that another person's success does not diminish our own. It should teach us to disagree without disrespecting, compete without destroying, and succeed without forgetting humanity.

As a teacher, this concerns me deeply. We are teaching our children how to make a living. Are we teaching them equally well how to live?

The Concern Belongs to Every Sphere of Life This is not a problem belonging to one profession or one section of society. It concerns all of us.

Education

We sometimes become more concerned with marks than understanding, and with results more than character. A student's academic performance is important, but education should also develop discipline, honesty, confidence, kindness and responsibility.

Business

Growth and profit are important for every business. But trust, fairness and honesty are equally important. A successful business should not only create wealth. It should also create trust.

Employment and Professional Life

Ambition is necessary. Career growth is necessary. Financial stability is necessary. But sincerity, responsibility, cooperation and respect for colleagues are equally important.

Medicine

Modern medicine and technology have achieved extraordinary things. Yet compassion will always remain an essential part of healing. A patient needs medicine, but often needs kindness and reassurance too.

Law and Administration

Rules are necessary for an organised society. But justice, fairness and humanity must always remain at the heart of their implementation.

Public Life

Differences of opinion are natural. People will always think differently. But disagreement should not turn into hatred. Public welfare should remain greater than personal interests.

Religion and Social Life

Knowledge should make us humble, peaceful and compassionate.

The Author Is A Regular Columnist And Freelance Writer

DC Samba convenes Block Diwas program at Nud
Reviews developmental works, addresses public grievances

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Samba Dr. Rupesh Kumar today convened Block Diwas programme here at the Community Facilitation Centre (CFC) Mananu-Block Nud, to review developmental issues and take stock of public grievances in the area.

A large number of residents, public representatives and officers from various departments participated in the programme. During the interaction, locals projected several demands and highlighted issues concerning road connectivity, drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare, education, Poshan and other basic civic amenities.

The representatives from Nud raised several demands, seeking the construction of culverts on Mananu Nallah, establishment of an AYUSH Centre at Mananu, restoration of the



Animal Husbandry Centre, repair of the Mananu–Chilla Danga road damaged due to waterlogging, and construction of a protection wall for Primary School Shah. They also demanded upgradation of Middle School Mananu to High School and High School Balore to Higher Secondary, filling of vacant posts in Schools and addressing staff shortages in Government School Balore and High School Nud, filling of the vacant post of Principal at High School Sarna, augmentation of services at local Primary Health Centre and provision of pension for eligible widows. The poor condition of the Samba Mansar road was also highlighted.

The public representatives further demanded regular drinking water supply, rationalisation of electricity supply and early completion of ongoing PMGSY and PWD road projects especially Mohargarh - Mansar road.

The Deputy Commissioner patiently listened to the grievances and demands raised by the public and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for their prompt redressal. He instructed the PMGSY and PWD Executive Engineers to ensure proper maintenance and clearance of roads and install night reflectors at vulnerable and accident-prone locations to enhance road safety. He also directed ACR Samba to arrange a meeting with BRO to review the progress of Samba - Mansar road.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of ongoing developmental projects being executed by the RDD, PWD and other departments. He directed the concerned officers to obtain all requisite approvals and expedite the execution of pending works. Emphasising the need for timely completion, he instructed the executing agencies to ensure that the roads are made motorable at the earliest for the convenience of the general public.

He further directed the concerned Medical Officer to ensure the availability of basic facilities and essential healthcare services at the health institutions in the area.

Emphasising responsive governance and efficient public service delivery, the Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to work in close coordination and ensure the timely redressal of public grievances and effective implementation of developmental programmes at the grassroots level.

Door-to-door waste collection introduced in rural areas of Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 12: District Administration Udhampur today launched a door-to-door solid waste collection initiative in rural areas of the district.

Deputy Commissioner Ananth Dwivedi flagged off the waste collection vehicle from the DC Office Complex in the presence of Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr Umesh Shan; Assistant Commissioner Development Om Parkash; Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Dr Ashwani Hansa; DIO NIC Anish Sharma and other concerned officials.

The Assistant Commissioner Panchayats informed that the door-to-door waste collection has been introduced in all 236 Panchayats across 17 blocks of the district, ensuring effective solid waste management in rural areas. The DC directed the ACP and ACD to ensure proper monitoring of the collection process and its effective implementation across all rural areas. "The waste collected must be properly segregated, recycled and scientifically disposed of," he stressed.DC further directed that no rural area should be left uncovered and instructed the concerned officers to ensure the removal of all existing garbage heaps and waste dumps. He emphasised the need to maintain visible cleanliness and improve sanitation

Work on Rs. 4.42 Crore Dev Sathan River Front project takes off at Bhandarkoot-Kishtwar

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 12: The Leader of Opposition J&K Legislative Assembly Sunil Kumar Sharma (MLA Paddar-Nagseni) today laid the foundation stone for the development of Dev Sathan RiverFront here at Bhandarkoot. Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma was also present.

The project, initiated under the Local Area Development Programme (LADP) of Kwar Hydroelectric Power Project, is being executed by PWD (R&B) at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.42 Crore. The project is set to be completed in 2 years.

The Dev Sathan River Front project includes viewpoints, parking space for visitors and seating arrangements, where about 250 people can sit at a time and benefit from the facility.The project would enhance the religious, cultural and tourism significance of Bhandarkoot, besides providing improved facilities to devotees and visitors. It will also contribute towards the beautification of the river front and promotion of local tourism.

Speaking on the occasion, the Leader of Opposition highlighted the importance of the project for the people of Kishtwar and assured all possible support for the holistic development of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the executing agency, PWD (R&B), to ensure quality and timely completion of the project to provide early benefits of the project to the people.

He further directed for taking all measures for the safety of the development works by constructing a protection wall, considering its vicinity to the Chenab River.

DC reviews traffic management in Udhampur Township

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Ananth Dwivedi today convened a meeting with officers of the concerned departments to review traffic management in Udhampur town and discuss measures aimed at ensuring smooth traffic flow and easing congestion. Detailed deliberations were held on the traffic-related issues, including regulation of vehicle halting time, entry of Goods vehicles, streamlining of bus operations for Ramnagar and adjoining areas, creation of temporary parking spaces and improvement of the overall traffic management system.The DC stressed the need for effective enforcement measures to decongest roads, curb traffic violations and ensure the smooth and hassle-free movement of vehicles and pedestrians.He directed the ARTO and Traffic Police to designate stops points for vehicles to ensure orderly

Health, Mental Wellness awareness camp organised at CCI Palaash- Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 12: A Medical Health and Mental Wellness awareness Programme was organised today at Government-run Child Care Institution (CCI) Palaash, under the aegis of the Department of Social Welfare. The children from both Palaash and Parisha Child Care institutions availed the counselling and other services.The programme was organised on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma and under the supervision of District Child Protection Officer Tariq Parveaz Qazi.

A team of doctors comprising Dr. Haris Masood and Dr. Afia interacted with the children and discussed various aspects of physical and mental health. The children were counseled on mental health, emotional well-being, psychological concerns and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Phulwari Udhampur facilitates inter-country adoption: Child Shiv finds a loving family in Canada

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 12: Under the guidance of District Development Commissioner Ananth Dwivedi and supervision of District Social welfare officer Kanika Gupta, Phulwari-a Specialized Adoption Agency, under Mission Vatsalya, Department of Social Welfare, Jammu & Kashmir, has successfully completed the inter-country adoption process of a child named Shiv, marking a significant and memorable milestone in his life.

Child Shiv was born on July 15, 2025 at Reasi and was voluntarily surrendered by his biological mother. Subsequently, on July 17, 2025 the child was handed over to the concerned authorities for care, protection and rehabilitation.

Later, the child was provided with a safe and protective environment under the care of the Specialized Adoption Agency.

After completing the prescribed procedures and legal formalities under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and Adoption Regulations, 2022, the child was successfully matched with a prospective adoptive family from Canada.

The completion of the adoption process and fulfillment of the required formalities



paved the way for adoption of Child Shiv. He was officially handed over to his adoptive family by Phulwari Specialized Adoption Agency on Nov 12, 2026. The successful completion of this inter-country adoption represents a beautiful journey of hope, care and new beginnings.

Shiv will now have the opportunity to grow up in a permanent family environment filled with love, affection, care and security.

The adoption process highlights the continuous efforts of the Department of Social Welfare and Phulwari Specialized Adoption Agency towards providing children in need of care and protection with the opportunity to find a permanent and loving family.

Arrangements for JKSSB Exam finalized at Ramban

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting with concerned officers and stakeholders to review and finalize arrangements for the smooth conduct of the OMR-based JKSSB examination for the post of Account Assistant in the district, scheduled to be held on Nov 15, 2026.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, Additional Superintendent of Police Mujeeb-Ur-Rehman, Member J&K Services Selection Board Sumir Kotwal, ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo and other concerned officers attended the meeting.



The meeting was informed that five examination centres have been designated in the district for the conduct of exam.

Detailed deliberations were held on essential arrangements, including drinking water, power supply, seating arrangements, security, CCTV surveillance and videography. Special emphasis was also laid on adequate security deployment and effective traffic management around the examination centres to ensure the smooth movement of candidates and prevent any inconvenience.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed strict adherence to examination protocols and close coordination to ensure hassle-free environment on the examination day.

Later, a detailed training session was conducted for the Centre Superintendents and invigilators. The participants were briefed on examination guidelines, their duties and responsibilities, OMR-based examination procedures and the precautions required preventing any irregularities. The meeting was informed that five examination centres have been designated in the district for the conduct of exam.

Detailed deliberations were held on essential arrangements, including drinking water, power supply, seating arrangements, security, CCTV surveillance and videography. Special emphasis was also laid on adequate security deployment and effective traffic management.

JMC organises 2-Day Training Programme to strengthen preparations for Census-2027

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: To ensure smooth, systematic and successful conduct of Census-2027 within Jammu Municipality and its outgrowth (OG) areas, the Jammu Municipal Corporation today organised a two-day training programme for designated officers and officials.

The programme is being conducted under the guidance of Principal Census Officer and Commissioner, JMC, Ayushi Sudan.

The training shall focus on preparation for the Pre-Enumeration exercise ahead of the second phase of Census



(Population Enumeration).

More than 25 officials are participating in the training programme, including all six Charge Officers of JMC, Technical Assistants, Census Charge Clerks and other concerned officials.

A team of resource persons deputed by the Directorate of Census Operations, J&K is imparting the training. The team comprises Nimrit Kour, Nodal Officer, JMC Urban Area, Meenakshi Koul, District Coordinator and Anil Kumar District Coordinator.

The training sessions shall cover the crucial components of the Pre-Enumeration process, including the CMMS PE Module, formation of Enumeration Blocks (EBs) and Sub-Enumeration Blocks (Sub-EBs), preparation of Charge Registers, operation of the PE Mobile Application, demarcation of Sub-EBs, preparation of layout maps and other essential technical and field-level procedures.Joint Commissioner (Administration) and City Census Officer Rajeev Kumar Khajuria is overseeing the training arrangements to ensure effective coordination and preparedness among the designated officials.

ADDC Jammu reviews progress under Mission YUVA
Loans disbursed to 855 beneficiaries, 515 get subsidies

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: Additional District Development Commissioner Jammu Sher Singh today reviewed the progress of Mission YUVA in the district and assessed the implementation of various components of the flagship initiative in the current financial year 2026-27.

Deputy Director Employment Sunaina Saini briefed the ADDC on the progress achieved under the scheme, including the disbursement of 855 loans and release of 515 subsidies to beneficiaries. Interest subvention has also been extended in 1,812 cases.

The meeting was informed that 1,219 beneficiaries have undergone training under the hybrid mode, while 1,418 local stores have been on-boarded on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform to facilitate market access and promote enterprise development.

Under Udyam Jagriti 5.0, the district has organised 1,255 awareness and counselling programmes to promote entrepreneurship and encourage greater participation of women and youth in self-employment initiatives.

Reviewing the implementation of the scheme, the ADDC directed the banks to expedite the processing of



pending cases and ensure timely disbursement of sanctioned loans. He also stressed the need for intensified grassroots awareness, improved coordination among implementing agencies and focused attention on areas requiring greater outreach.

Emphasising the importance of Mission YUVA in promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment, he called upon all stakeholders to work in close coordination to ensure effective implementation of the scheme and maximise its benefits for aspiring entrepreneurs.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Ajaypal Singh, Lead District Manager Ajay Thappa, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and other concerned officers. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Ajaypal Singh, Lead District Manager Ajay Thappa.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Son's name has been wrongly written as HUBAAN ASHRAF on his Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No .2401 7482 0022 while his correct name is HIBAAN HUSSAIN PARAY S/O MOHD ASHRAF PARAY which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publicationofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name...MOHD ASHRAF PARAY
F/O ..HIBAAN ASHRAF
R/O..SALOOSA WAGOORA BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as REFITA BANO D/O ABDUL MAJEED RATHER on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..2044 7640 8844 while my correct name is RIFAT MAJEED RATHER D/O ABDUL MAJEED RATHER which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publicationofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name....RIFAT MAJEED RATHER
D/O....ABDUL MAJEED RATHER
R/O.. DANDMOOHA SULTANPORA WAGOORA BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father in Laws name WALI MOHAMMAD TALI R/O WATERGAM WAGOORA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040000958 wants to be registered on my name GHULAM HASSAN TALI S/L Late WALI MOHAMMAD TALI 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....GHULAM HASSAN TALI
S/L..... Late WALI MOHAMMAD TALI
R/O ..WATERGAM
BLOCK ....WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as LALI JAN D/O ALI MOHAMMAD GANAIE on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..2785 1388 2190 while my correct name is ALIYA JAN D/O ALI MOHAMMAD GANAIE which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publicationofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name....ALIYA JAN
D/O....ALI MOHAMMAD GANAIE
R/O.. MANAGAM WAGOORA BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as MUBEENA AKHTAR on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..9973 1727 7935 while my correct name is MUBEENA QADIR D/O GH QADIR KUMAR which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publicationofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name...MUBEENA QADIR
D/O....GH QADIR KUMAR
R/O.. WATERGAM WAGOORA BARAMULLA

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, QAZIGUND

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Sd/
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
Qazigund.

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, QAZIGUND

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Sd/
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
Qazigund

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

Transport Department recommends FIR against School Management in Pulwama

■ **HT News Network**

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 12: Taking serious cognizance of a critical road safety violation, the office of the Transport Commissioner, Jammu & Kashmir, has formally requested the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Pulwama, to lodge an FIR against the management and authorities of Future Pack Secondary School, Shadimarg, Pulwama.

The action follows a road accident in which a school bus operated by the institution overturned at Darbgam, Pulwama, leaving 11 students injured out of the 13 onboard.

The vehicle involved, bearing registration number JK01M-2712, was reportedly being operated in direct contravention of mandatory statutory requirements laid down under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. Preliminary reports indicate that the bus had neither been produced before the competent transport authority for the mandatory fitness inspection nor did it possess the necessary valid permits and statutory documentation required for operating as a designated school transport vehicle.

Highlighting the grave negligence, Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, stated in an official communication that operating uninspected and unauthorized vehicles places the lives and safety of schoolchildren at severe risk.Consequently, the police authorities have been urged to initiate criminal proceedings under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against the school management to fix strict accountability for endangering student lives.

ARTO Pulwama has also been tasked with actively pursuing the matter with local police authorities for prompt registration of the case and submission of an Action Taken Report.

Meanwhile a joint team of MVD Pulwama and Traffic Police conducted thorough inspection of transport fleet of Future Pack Secondary School. During operation two more vehicles violating the permit conditions and with valid documents were seized immediately.

JKLCMA Vice Chairman reviews development works at Dole Demb in Dal Lake

Stresses ecological conservation, improved navigation and tourism development

■ **HT News Network**

Srinagar, Nov 12 (KNS): Vice Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, on Thursday visited the Dole Demb area of Dal Lake to review ongoing development works, including removal of bushes, clearance of the identified area for a proposed park and dredging of internal channels to improve navigation and water circulation.

During the visit, Shah inspected the site and reviewed the progress of various works being carried out in the area. Officials briefed him on the removal of aquatic vegetation and bushes, besides dredging operations aimed at improving water flow and connectivity within the lake.

Emphasising the need for planned and sustainable development, the Vice Chairman directed officials to ensure that all activities are carried out systematically while taking into account the ecological sensitivity of Dal Lake.He said the proposed park should enhance the scenic beauty and recreational appeal of the area without disturbing the lake's natural environment.

Shah also stressed the importance of dredging internal channels to facilitate smooth navigation, improve water circulation and strengthen connectivity within different parts of the lake.He directed the concerned officers to closely monitor the ongoing works, ensure timely completion and strictly follow environmental safeguards during execution. The Vice Chairman said the initiative was aimed at improving the overall lake environment, creating better navigational facilities and developing recreational spaces to attract tourists.He added that the development works formed part of JKLCMA's efforts to promote sustainable tourism while preserving the ecological character of Dal Lake.He directed the concerned officers to closely monitor the ongoing works, ensure timely completion and strictly follow environmental safeguards during execution.

The Vice Chairman said the initiative was aimed at improving the overall lake environment, creating better navigational facilities and developing recreational spaces.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER PULWAMA

Subject:- Auction of Govt. livestock.
This office is going to conduct sale/ auction of twenty seven (27) Govt. Rams on 16/11/2026 (Monday) at 11:30 am at District Sheep Husbandry Office Pulwama. The auction /sale shall be carried out under the supervision of a designated committee. The terms and conditions of sale/ auction shall be provide to the bidders by the said designated committee at the time of auction.
Accordingly, the general public is informed through the medium of this notice to participate in the said process.
Note:-
1) The party which shall be accepted as highest bidder shall have to remit the whole amount on spot against the proper Govt. receipt.
2) The party which can offer highest bid for all the animals together shall be prioritized over bidders who offer bid for individual animals.

DIPK-7637/26
Dated:- 12/11/2026

Sd/-
District Sheep sheepHusbandry
Officer Pulwama

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Wildlife Protection
Office of the, Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division, Kashmir.
Zainakoot, Srinagar.
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
E-NIT No. 06 OF 2026-27 Dated: 07/11/2026
(Please read the tender document carefully before submission of bid)

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, **e-tenders are hereby invited** on percentage basis **(in two cover system)** from approved and eligible contractors registered with CPWD / PWD / MES / Forest / Wildlife Department / Central / State / UT Governments for execution of below work/s.

S No	*Name of Work*	*Tentative Adv. Cost in*	*Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)*	*Earnest Money / EMD*	*Time of compl*	*Class of Contractor*
1	**Habitat Management at Hygam** (Development of Eco Park and Dockyard) *(The work shall be completed in phased manner within in two financial years)*	64.86	Rs 1000/- online submission. Wildlife Protection Department	2 % of advertised cost, online submission. Wildlife Protection Department	180 days	AAY
Note	The allotment of the work shall be made by the competent authority					

Position of AA: Accorded.
Position of TS: Accorded.
Position of Funds: Partly Available.
Major Head of Account: CAMPA.

1. Schedule of Dates

No	Event	Date / Time
1	**Date of Publishing of Tender Notice**	**07/11/2026**
2	**Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents (online)**	**11/11/2026 from 06:00 PM to 23/11/2026 upto 06:00 PM**
3	**Bid Submission – Start Date**	**11/11/2026 from 06:00 PM**
4	**Bid Submission – End Date**	**23/11/2026 upto 06:00 PM**
5	**Opening of Technical Bids (Online)**	**24/11/2026 at 03:00 PM** (Office of the Regional Wildlife Warden, Rajbagh, Srinagar)
6.	**Opening of Financial Bids (Online)**	To be notified after technical bid evaluation (Office of the Regional Wildlife Warden, Rajbagh, Srinagar)
7	**Clarifications / Q&A**	**02:00 PM – 04:00 PM** on any day between Issue-Date and Closing-Date
8	**Submission of Hard-Copy Documents by Lowest-First (L1) Bidder**	Within **3 working days** of Financial-Bid opening

All dates are subject to change by notice on the e-tender portal.

2. Tender & Bidding Documents

- e-NIT (qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms & Conditions, annexures) – download from http://jktenders.gov.in.
- Complete Bidding Package (drawings, detailed specifications, BOQ, etc.) – download from https://jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule above.

Any violation of these conditions shall result in immediate stoppage of work, imposition of penalties as per rules, termination of contract, blacklisting of the contractor, and forfeiture of EMD and Performance Security.

DIPK-7615/26
Send Date: 12/11/2026

Sd/-
Wildlife Warden
Wetland Division, Kashmir,
Srinagar

1,000 delegates from India, 70 countries to participate in two-days Bharat Summit in Hyderabad from Nov 13

■ HT News Network/UNI



Hyderabad, Nov 12 (UNI) Hyderabad will host the second Bharat Summit on November 13 and 14, bringing together nearly 1,000 delegates from India and around 70 countries to discuss global challenges, progressive policies and the emerging world order.

The two-day summit, being organised by the Telangana Government under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at HICC and Novotel Hotel, is expected to bring together policymakers, political leaders, ministers, parliamentarians, intellectuals and representatives of progressive movements from across the world.

The summit aims to provide an international platform for progressive forces from the Global South and Global North to exchange ideas and evolve policies on economic and social justice, democracy, climate change, international cooperation and other global issues.

Delegates from countries including the Netherlands, Portugal, Indonesia, Cote d'Ivoire, South Korea, Brazil, Japan, Thailand and the United States, besides representatives of the European Union, are expected to attend.

The gathering seeks to revive the spirit of Afro-Asian solidarity and the Non-Aligned Movement, while exploring ways to strengthen international cooperation and address emerging global challenges.Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will address the valedictory session on November 14.

He is expected to outline his vision for India and the world, focusing on principled multilateralism, strategic autonomy, peaceful coexistence and democratic values.

Congress Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi, Shashi Tharoor, Salman Khurshid, Sachin Pilot, Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, Supriya Shrinate, Manish Tewari, Pawan Khera, S. Jothimani, Rajeev Gowda, Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Gurdeep Singh Sappal will moderate various international panel discussions.

The discussions will cover subjects including artificial intelligence, cloud capitalism and the new world order, a new economic deal for the world, youth and politics, South-South cooperation, climate change, reform of multilateral institutions, gender justice, progressive politics, accountability and the future of media.

Nine sessions focusing on Telangana's development and governance will also be organised under the theme 'Telangana Rising'.

The subjects include Future City and urbanisation, economic justice, social justice, welfare policies, cooperative federalism, culture and society, youth, sports and politics, and electoral integrity.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, Ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Ponnam Prabhakar and Mohammed Azharuddin, besides intellectuals and policymakers, will participate in the Telangana-focused sessions.

Arrangements for JKSSB Exam reviewed at Bhaderwah

■ HT News Network



BHADERWAH, NOVEMBER 12: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today reviewed the arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) Accounts Assistant Examination, scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026 at 1:00 PM.

Officers and officials from the Police, Revenue, Traffic Police, Municipal Committee, Health, Jal Shakti Department, Power Department, Government Degree College Bhaderwah, Government Higher Secondary School (Boys), Government Higher Secondary School (Girls), Government Higher Secondary School Sartingal and other concerned departments were present in the meeting.

The meeting held detailed discussion regarding the overall management and necessary arrangements for the examination. Approximately 1070 candidates are expected to appear at four designated examination centres across the Bhaderwah.

2-day training for Census 2027-population enumeration phase commences at Samba

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 12: A two-day training programme for the Population Enumeration (PE) Phase of Census 2027 commenced today at the Meeting Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office Complex Samba.

The training programme is being organised for District-level Officers, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Charge Officers, Census Clerks, Technical Assistants and other concerned officials to strengthen their preparedness for the smooth and effective conduct of the forthcoming Census operations.

The programme was inaugurated by Principal Census Officer (PCO), Dr. Rupesh Kumar, who highlighted the significance of Census 2027 as an important national exercise. He emphasised the need for meticulous planning, effective coordination and utmost accuracy at every stage to ensure reliable and error-free data collection.

The training is being held under the supervision of District Census Officer Jagdish Singh and Additional District Census Officer Rajesh Singh.

Deputy Director Manmeet Singh and district level trainers from the Directorate of Census Operations are imparting comprehensive theoretical and practical training to the participating officers and officials on various aspects of the Population Enumeration phase.

Ramban, Batote Municipal areas get Gobbler Litter Picker Machines to boost Mechanised Sanitation

■ HT News Network



RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 12: Member Legislative Assembly Ramban, Arjun Singh Raju today inaugurated Gobbler Litter Picker Machines procured for Municipal Council Ramban and Municipal Committee Batote, marking a significant step towards strengthening mechanised sanitation and improving cleanliness in the twin highway towns.

The funds for procurement, operation and maintenance of the machines were provided by Director Urban Local Bodies Jammu, Kapil Sharma, whose support facilitated the initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA appreciated the efforts of the Municipal Council Ramban, Municipal Committee Batote and the Urban Local Bodies Department for introducing modern sanitation equipment. He said that mechanised cleaning is essential for maintaining clean, healthy and hygienic urban spaces.The MLA also stressed the importance of active public participation in maintaining civic hygiene. He urged residents, traders and shopkeepers to refrain from littering in public places, use designated dustbins and extend full cooperation to door-to-door waste collection services. He observed that community participation is vital to complement government efforts in developing Ramban and Batote as cleaner and model towns.

Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Ramban Sudershan Singh Jamwal thanked the Director Urban Local Bodies Jammu for providing timely financial support and expressed gratitude to the MLA for inaugurating the machines. He assured that the Municipal Council Ramban and Municipal Committee Batote would continue their efforts towards ensuring cleaner, greener and healthier urban areas.

DC Udhampur reviews functioning of SWD

Stresses effective implementation of welfare schemes

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi today chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Social Welfare Department and assess the implementation of the welfare schemes in the district.

At the outset, District Social Welfare Officer Kanika Gupta delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the department's activities, achievements and progress under various schemes.

The DC undertook a comprehensive review of the social security and welfare initiatives, including Integrated Social Security Scheme, NSAP, Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarships, Marriage Assistance Scheme, Specialized Adoption Agency, Child Helpline and Mission Shakti including Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

He laid special emphasis on ensuring effective implementation of all welfare schemes, with particular focus on achieving saturation in pension coverage across all eligible categories, including old-age, widow and disability pensions.

The DC also reviewed the functioning of Child Care Institutions, including Palaash and Pariksha, besides the Old Age Home in the district.

Emphasizing the need fora beneficiary-centric approach, the Deputy Commissioner directed the department to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left out of the ambit of government welfare schemes. He further instructed the officers to expedite the identification, verification and enrolment of all pending eligible cases to ensure timely delivery of benefits to the intended beneficiaries. The DC also reviewed the functioning of Child Care Institutions, including Palaash and Pariksha, besides the Old Age Home in the district.

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Agriculture Department Jammu organises 2-Day Seminar on Makhana cultivation

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: The Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu today organised a two-day seminar on Makhana Cultivation here at Baba Jitto Kisan Kendra Talab Tillo.The orientation focused on promoting Makhana as a high-value crop and sensitising departmental officers and officials about its scientific cultivation, production techniques, value addition and income-generation potential. Around 50 officials from Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts are taking part in the seminar.The seminar was inaugurated by Joint Director (Extension) Suresh Kumar Khajuria in the presence of Chief Agriculture Officer Manohar Lal Sharma; Agriculture Economist, Tilak Raj Sharma; Regional Level Subject Matter Specialist, Ashwani Kumar; SMS-DL, Rajeev Katoch; Programme Officer (JDA Extension), Shri Vivek Mahajan; senior officers from Farmers Training.

High-Profile International Conference AOMCON begins; Javid Dar advocates village level campaign against Mastitis

Experts from India, abroad deliberate on sustainable dairy production, antimicrobial resistance

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: The two-day International Conference of the Association of Mastitis (AOMCON-2026), along with the Annual Convention of the Association of Mastitis, began today at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry (F.V.Sc. & A.H.), Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu), R.S. Pura.

The conference is being organised by the Association of Mastitis in collaboration with SKUAST-Jammu on the theme "Advancing Mammary Health for Sustainable Dairy Production: Innovations in Diagnostics, Therapeutics, Clean Milk and AMR Navigation."

Minister for Agriculture Production, Finance, Mining and Cooperative Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, formally inaugurated the high profile event.

Professor B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, presided over the inaugural function while Dr. N.A. Sudhan, former Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu and Dr. Sung-Jin Lee, Dean, Kangwon National University, South Korea, attended as Guests of Honour.

Dr. Neelesh Sharma, Organizing Secretary, AOMCON-2026 and Founder General Secretary, Association of Mastitis highlighted the activities and contributions of the Association towards advancing mastitis research, udder health and clean milk production.

Dr. M.S. Bhadwal, Associate Dean, http://F.V.Sc. & A.H., SKUAST-Jammu and Convener of the conference, delivered the welcome address.The conference compendium was formally released during the inaugural ceremony, which was followed by presentation of various Association of Mastitis Awards to recognise exemplary contributions to veterinary science, research, dairy development and animal healthcare.

Professor B.N. Tripathi was conferred the Professor A.K. Srivastava Excellence Award while Dr. S.K. Rana, former Head of Animal Health at NDDB, Anand, received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Sung-Jin Lee was honoured with the Special Recognition Award in acknowledgement of his contributions.

In his address, Javid Dar, emphasised the importance of strengthening the dairy sector through scientific interventions, improved animal healthcare, quality milk production and farmer-oriented initiatives. He highlighted the need for closer coordination among the universities, research institutions, government departments and other stakeholders to enhance livestock productivity and ensure sustainable growth of the dairy sector in Jammu and Kashmir.The Minister emphasised the need to launch a comprehensive, sustained and village-level awareness (Abhiyan) campaign to ensure that every village across Jammu and Kashmir is covered under a dedicated drive for prevention, early detection, treatment and control of mastitis among dairy animals. He directed the concerned departments to strengthen the field-level outreach, educate farmers about preventive measures and scientific management practices. He asked for ensuring timely veterinary interventions.

Ten-City nationwide commemorative initiative marking 350th Martyrdom Year of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji reaches Jammu

"Shristi Di Chadar" takes message of faith, freedom and humanity across India

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: Carrying forward one of the most profound messages of India's spiritual and civilisational heritage, "Shristi Di Chadar – A Supreme Sacrifice for Faith and Freedom of Religion", a Ten-City Nationwide Academic and Interfaith Commemorative Initiative marking the 350th Martyrdom Year of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji, the Ninth Sikh Guru, is set to reach Jammu on Friday, November 13, 2026.

Having successfully conducted commemorative programmes in Amritsar, Ludhiana and New Delhi, the nationwide initiative now arrives in Jammu, further advancing its mission of taking Guru Sahib's universal message of religious freedom, freedom of conscience, human dignity and interfaith harmony to different parts of the country.

The Jammu programme will be held at Abhinav Theatre, Brigadier Rajinder Singh Marg, Resham Ghar Colony, Canal Road, Jammu, from 1:30 PM.

The Jammu Programme is organised by IHA Foundation, with the support of the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC), Jammu for the Jammu chapter under the aegis of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Ministry of Culture-Government of India Prominent Academic and Interfaith speakers will share their perspectives on the life, philosophy and supreme sacrifice of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji, examining its historical, spiritual, cultural and contemporary relevance, particularly in the context of religious liberty, freedom of conscience, human rights, constitutional values and peaceful coexistence.

The seminar will feature deliberations by eminent scholars, academicians, writers and interfaith representatives on the life, philosophy and unparalleled contribution of Guru Sahib to India's rich spiritual, cultural and civilizational heritage, highlighting the contemporary relevance of his universal message. The programme will also feature debate competitions to encourage students' participation and provide them an opportunity to engage with the life, teachings and supreme sacrifice of the great Sikh Guru. Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji occupies an unparalleled place in India's spiritual and civilisational history. His supreme sacrifice in defence of the religious freedom and fundamental rights of others represents one of the most extraordinary expressions of courage, compassion and moral responsibility. Revered as Shristi Di Chadar - Hind Di Chadar – Dharam Di Chadar, Guru Sahib stood for the fundamental right of every individual to practise and preserve their faith without fear or coercion. His martyrdom was not merely a defining chapter in Sikh history; it was a universal affirmation of freedom of conscience and the dignity of humanity.Through Shristi Di Chadar, we endeavour to move beyond ceremonial remembrance and create meaningful opportunities for intellectual engagement, interfaith dialogue and social awareness. The initiative seeks to inspire students, researchers, academicians and civil society to understand that the true essence of spirituality lies in compassion, selfless service, mutual respect and the courage to defend the rights and dignity of others.The programme will bring together distinguished personalities, scholars, students, artists and members of different faith communities to reflect upon the relevance of Guru Sahib's teachings in contemporary society and reaffirm the values of religious freedom, humanity and interfaith harmony.

Are max strength cold and flu pills worth the money?

Your throat's painful, your head throbs and your blocked nose has kept you awake all night. It's that time of year again - flu season - and you'll try anything to feel normal.

But is that pricey max strength flu remedy really any better than a basic box of painkillers?

"The big brands have been around for a while, they've been tested, and there are adverts on the TV saying they're really good," says Prof Jayne Lawrence, head of the pharmacy division at the University of Manchester.

"But in reality, there's very little difference. Personally, I'd always go for the cheaper ones - and they've also been tested."

The trade association representing over-the-counter medicine makers says familiar brands can reassure shoppers and help them find the right product on crowded supermarket shelves.

The medications we've highlighted all contain similar ingredients with marginal differences to their quantities.

Cold and flu drugs fall into three broad camps: household names such as Lemsip and Sudafed, supermarket own-label alternatives and single-ingredient medicines containing paracetamol or ibuprofen.

The difference in price can be striking.

A packet of 16 Lemsip All-In-One Max Strength tablets retails at £7.30, more than 20 times the £0.35 cost of paracetamol pills in some supermarkets.

Both contain 500mg of paracetamol, which doesn't treat the underlying infection but does relieve pain and can bring down a fever.

The Lemsip version, along with many of its competitors, also contains the decongestant phenylephrine.

It's meant to constrict leaky or swollen blood vessels in the nose which can cause congestion.

But Lawrence says there is little evidence it works when taken as a tablet, rather than as a nasal spray, because much of the drug is broken down before it can reach the bloodstream.

In 2024, the US drug regulator said it wanted phenylephrine removed from all cold and flu pills, saying it was simply not effective, although that proposal has yet to be finalised.

Some cold and flu remedies contain a third active ingredient - guaifenesin - which is meant to loosen mucus in the airways.

That sits in more of a grey area: some studies report improvements in chest congestion, while others find little or no benefit.

A spokeswoman for Reckitt, which owns Lemsip and Nurofen, says the ingredients in its products are approved by regulators and formulated for multiple symptoms including fever, congestion and coughs.

The caffeine effect

Many popular max strength remedies can also contain up to 65mg of caffeine per pill, about the same as a mug of instant coffee.

As well as acting as a mild stimulant, research suggests caffeine may boost the effect of paracetamol and help it work slightly sooner, although any benefit is likely to be modest.

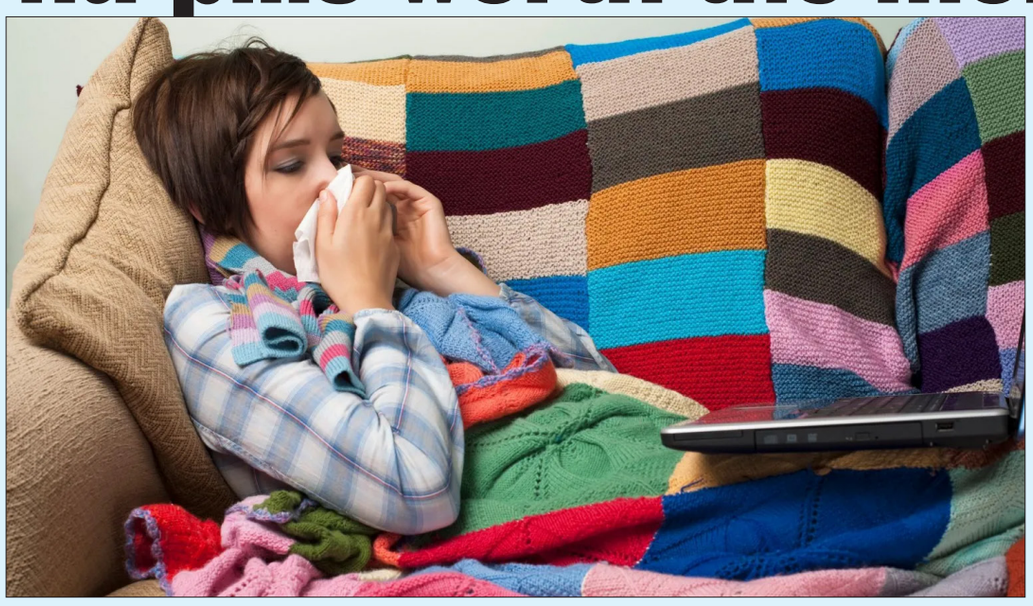
Almost every brand can also be found as a flavoured powder to dissolve in hot water, typically costing slightly more per dose than pills or tablets.

That warm drink can be soothing and a study funded by a drug company found it may be absorbed into the bloodstream more quickly, but whether patients notice any major difference in their symptoms is much less certain.

Yet ingredients are only part of the story.

Bigger brands have more money to spend on in-store adverts and displays, according to a former manager at a large chemist chain.

Well-known names or premium own-label products are often positioned at eye level, while budget alternatives are tucked away on the bottom shelves.



"You are always going to promote the ones which are more expensive," says the former manager, who doesn't want to be named as she still works in the industry.

When it comes to medicines, some shoppers assume that paying extra means getting something more trusted or effective.

"Nine times out of 10, people would come in and ask for a certain brand," she adds.

"Even if I explained there was little difference, and I was only trying to save them money, they would still want the big name."

The PAGB, which represents the consumer healthcare sector, argues that "trusted and recognisable" brands can simplify choice and build confidence at a time when "health misinformation is widespread".

What doctors suggest

If you're suffering with cold and flu symptoms, doctors advise the following:

Rest, plenty of fluids and painkillers like paracetamol to control temperature swings

Remember not to double up by taking paracetamol alongside cold and flu remedies that also contain it, as this can easily lead to an accidental overdose

The NHS recommends gargling with salt water to relieve a sore throat, while a homemade hot lemon and honey drink can soothe a nasty cough, adds Dr Jamie Hynes, vice president of the Royal College of GPsSee a GP if a cough has lasted for more than 21 days, says Hynes, or if you've lost weight unintentionally or, in urgent cases, if experiencing chest pain or breathing difficulties

And, note some cold medicines are not suitable for pregnant women so do check with a midwife, pharmacist or GP before taking

BBC NEWS



India defeat Singapore in AFC U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers opener

United News Of India

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 12 :Skipper Dallalmoun Gangte struck a brilliant hat-trick as the India U17 men's team trounced Singapore 4-2 to get their Group E campaign off to a rousing start in the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers at the Kuala Lumpur Football Stadium in Malaysia.

Singapore took the lead through Izzan Farid in the 27th minute. But India equalised in the 29th through Dallalmoun Gangte, who also made it 2-1 from the penalty spot in the 61st minute on Wednesday.

However, Farid headed home his second in the 65th minute to make it 2-2. But Gangte completed his hat-trick in the 82nd minute as the Indians hit the front again at 3-2 before substitute Ristik

aity provided insurance cover in the 88th minute.

Mehrajuddin Wadoo's boys displayed a lot of maturity and calmness in their intention to build play. They kept the ball deep inside their own half as the defenders indulged in pushing and prodding the ball to draw the Singapore players out of their comfort lines before moving forward with swift passes.



But an error in defence, as centre-back Leo Thongbam delayed his clearance, allowed Singapore striker Farid to snatch the ball and place it home from close to give the island nation the lead in the 27th minute.

The Blue Colts were not unduly perturbed and attacked with renewed vigour. The response was swift as Sailex Oinam chipped into the box. Gangte controlled it, turned past his marker and slammed a left-footer low into the near post for the equaliser just two minutes later.

Gangte almost produced a repeat effort five minutes before the breather, but his placement travelled tantalisingly close to the left upright and rolled out after the skilful Kamgouhao Doungel found him free inside the box.

Lawmsangzuala, Doungel and Mukundo Singh Ningthoujam combined well to exert pressure with some well-coordinated moves. The trio of Sailex, Gangte and the speedy Md Sahir Ali also kept the attack going and gave the Singapore defence anxious moments but failed to find the net.Singapore tried to force themselves into the game with some long passes, but the Indian defence soaked up all that was thrown at them as the teams trooped out on level terms at the breather.The Blue Colts once again gathered forces and launched a series of attacks after the break. Mukundo twice darted into the box only to lose control.

But it was not long before their efforts were rewarded. Doungel squared into the box from the left for Hrishikesh Charan Manavathi, but he was brought down by Leo Chin Hee Caled. Referee Dan Ning of China pointed to the spot, and Gangte sent his right footer crashing into the net as the Indians once again stormed into the lead in the 61st minute.

Singapore forced the equaliser in the 65th. Saw Tian Zhi floated his corner from the right into the box, and Farid headed home undisturbed to bring his side back into the game.

Attacking without losing their composure, India made it 3-2 as substitute David Mangang Irom sold a dummy, swerved right and fired away a stiff right-footer. Goalkeeper Ilhan Rezal patted it back, but only as far as Gangte, who rammed it home in a trice to give India the lead once again in the 82nd minute.

The Indian defence soaked up the pressure and launched some quick sorties. David took from fellow substitute Raj Singh Wahengbam and sent Gangte through. The Singapore goalkeeper blocked the Indian captain's grounded effort. As the ball ran loose, substitute Ristik Maity filled the empty net to push India onto safer shores.

Kamindu starting to believe as Sri Lanka eye Pakistan triumph

United News Of India

RAWALPINDI, NOV 12 :Sri Lanka batter Kamindu Mendis is eyeing off a big first innings leadas his side chases victory in the first ICC World Test Championship contest against Pakistan here.

Kamindu scored an excellent half-century on the third day of the Test on Wednesday, but he was outshone by fellow batters Dhananjaya de Silva (167 not out) and Kusal Mendis (117 not out) as

the pair put on an unbeaten stand of 249 to power Sri Lanka along to 404/4 at stumps to only trail Pakistan by 30 runs on the first innings.

With bowlers from both sides struggling to find much assistance from the Rawalpindi pitch, Kamindu knows runs will be the order of the day on Thursday when play resumes as Sri Lankatry and surpass Pakistan's first innings score and obtain a big lead.

"We are in a good position," Kamindu said at stumps after his innings of 58."The first session tomorrow will be crucial, so if these two set batters can continue and give usa good lead, then we can go to the next step.



"We need to get a good first innings lead.

"Two set batters are at the crease and hopefully they'll play well tomorrow as well."

Kamindu suggested it was too early to discuss when a potential declaration may come from his side, though

he does feel Sri Lanka's spinners can still have a say in proceedings on the final day, according to ICC."We haven't yet decided when we will declare," he added.

Wasn't expecting my first call to be in white ball: Auqib Nabi on India debut

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 12 : Auqib Nabi hoped for a Test call-up before making his India debut in white-ball cricket, but the Jammu and Kashmir pacer is determined to make the most of his first international assignment in New Zealand, where he is currently part of the squad as a net bowler ahead of the two-Test series beginning November 19.



Having played a key role in J&K's maiden Ranji Trophy triumph, Nabi admitted that his first India call-up came in a format he had not anticipated. He made his ODI debut against New Zealand and picked up two wickets in the second match at Wellington.

"If you look at my white ball record in domestic, it is good. To be honest, I wasn't expecting my first call to be in white ball. I was expecting it to be in red ball. Nonetheless, it's a good opportunity for me to show my skills," he said.

Despite having hoped to begin his international journey in Test cricket, Nabi described representing India as a huge honour and said he wanted to inspire youngsters from regions where cricketing facilities remain limited.

"It is indeed a huge honour to play for India. Anyone who takes up cricket, regardless of region, aims to play for the country; that was my goal as well. Whenever someone mentions a lack of facilities, I tell them to work as hard as they can with whatever limited

facilities they have. Hard work is the only thing in a player's hands; everything else eventually falls into place.

So I tell them (youngsters) to keep working hard, no matter what," he said.

The New Zealand tour has also offered Nabi an opportunity to experience conditions that differ from those he is accustomed to in domestic cricket.

Root calls for adaptability as England build towards World Cup

United News Of India

PERTH, NOV 12 :Joe Root has called for England to embrace greater adaptability as they continue their preparations for next year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.Speaking ahead of England's ODI series against Australia, the 35-year-old emphasised the importance of gaining experience across varied conditions as a young squad continues its evolution."We're a team that wants to be more adaptable. If we are going to challenge that World Cup, we're going to have to be able to adapt our games," Root told reporters in Perth on Wednesday."We're quite young and inexperienced in many ways. So the more experience we have on different surfaces, different situations in games... the more we'll learn, develop and become a more rounded team."We've come from Pakistan. We've learned a huge amount there. Over the course of this series, we're going to have to be really clear on how we want to get the best out of these three games. So that's the challenge for us."England arrive in Australia on the back of a tri-series against Pakistan and Sri Lanka, where they took one win from four group matches.

Indian Men's Cricket Team for Blind receives a grand send-off in New Delhi ahead of the Asia Cup

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 12 :The Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) the cricketing arm of Samarthanam Trust with the support of CBRE South Asia Pvt. Ltd., hosted a send-off and press interaction here for the Indian Men's Cricket Team for the Blind ahead of the Asia Cup 2026.

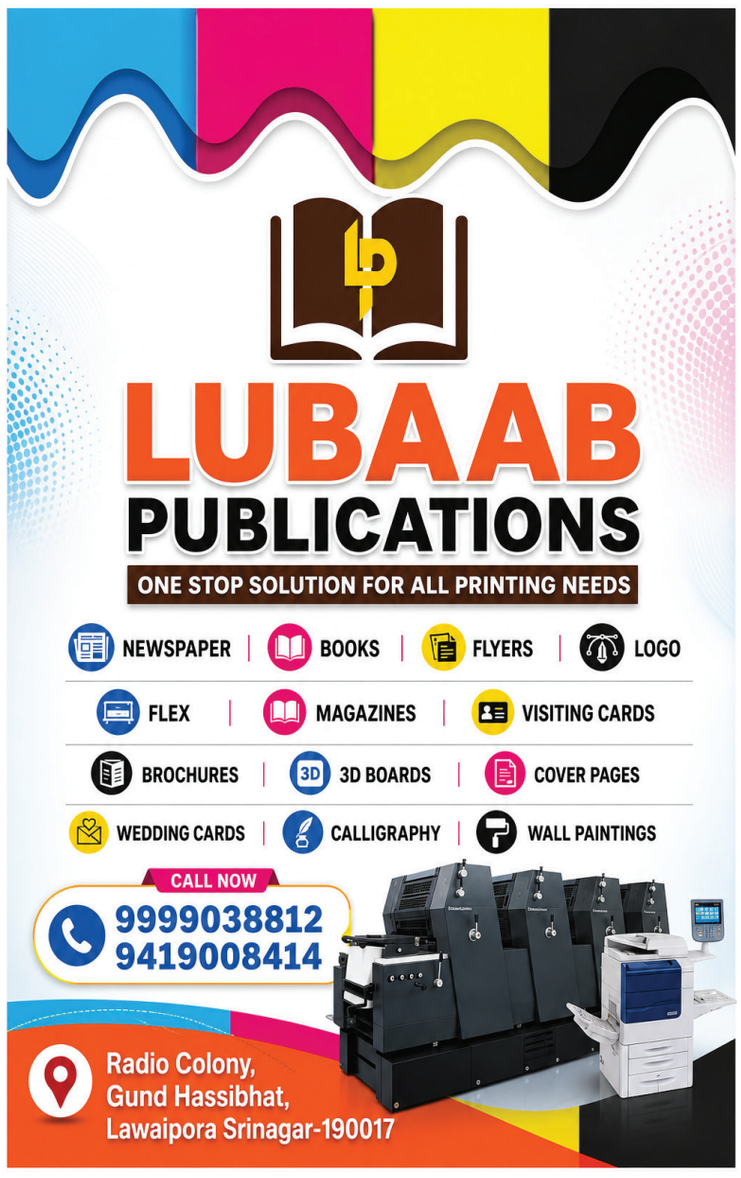
The Indian Men's Cricket Team for the Blind is all set to compete in the Asia Cup Cricket for the Blind 2026, scheduled from November 15 to 20 at Anvir Cricket Stadium, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The Indian team will aim to reclaim the Asia Cup title it won a decade ago, competing against some of Asia's leading blind cricket teams. CBRE, through its corporate social responsibility initiative, Ek Pehal, in partnership with the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) and Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, has been supporting the Indian Men's Cricket Team for the Blind in its preparations for the Asia cup tournament.CBRE's support includes player selection, professional coaching, nutrition, fitness, physiotherapy, travel arrangements and essential cricket equipment, helping players prepare for the competition.The event brought together the Indian Men's Cricket



Team for the Blind, Dr. Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar, Founder and Managing Trustee, Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, and Chairman, CABI, Anshuman Magazine, Chairman and CEO, India, South-East Asia & MENA, CBRE and Chetan Sharma Former Indian Cricketer and Sr. Selection Committee, BCCI and Shailender Yadav, General Secretary CABI.







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