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HEADLINES TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



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

"Reliable And Quality Power Supply Must Be Ensured": Sagar Sets Six-Month Deadline For Grid Augmentation

Minister inspects major Jammu grid stations, reviews capacity enhancement and transformer replacement works; seeks area-wise progress reports

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 14: Minister for Power Development Department Ali Mohammad Sagar on Saturday directed officials to complete ongoing power infrastructure augmentation and transformer replacement works within six months, stressing that reliable and quality electricity supply must be ensured across Jammu city and its adjoining areas. During an extensive tour, the Minister inspected Gladni, Canal Road and Janipur grid stations and reviewed the infrastructure requirements of Bari Brahmana, Sidra, Jagti, Akhnoor and Kalakote. At Gladni Grid Station, he was informed that an additional 80 MVA capacity was under execution against the existing

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"AI Will Have Speed And Data, But Humans Must Provide Direction": Manoj Sinha

At Cluster University's maiden convocation, LG urges graduates to create opportunities, uphold ethical values and shoulder responsibility for building a developed India by 2047

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 14: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday called upon graduating students to transform India's demographic dividend into a demographic responsibility, urging them to use their knowledge, skills and innovation for the larger welfare of society. Addressing the first convocation of Cluster University of Jammu, he congratulated the graduates and gold medallists, particularly appreciating women students for securing 130 of the 163 gold medals. Describing their achievements as badges of confidence for future generations, he said daughters across higher educational institutions in Jammu and Kashmir were scripting new chapters of success. Highlighting India's progress in space research, digital public infrastructure, artificial intelligence, semiconductors and quantum technology, Sinha said the country's aspiration to become developed by 2047 would largely depend



on the contribution of its youth. Emphasising the importance of humanities alongside technological advancement, he observed that technology tells people what they can do, while humanities teach them what they should do. On artificial intelligence, he said the relationship between humans and AI should be one of partnership rather than competition, adding that technology must remain guided by civilisational values, compassion and accountability, rather than being driven solely by profit and productivity. He also urged graduates to embrace lifelong learning, uphold integrity and create opportunities instead of merely seeking them. Governor of Tamil Nadu Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Higher Education Minister Shamim Firdous and other dignitaries attended the convocation.

The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the first convocation of Cluster University of Jammu today. He said the graduating students of this maiden convocation are the pioneering torchbearers of the university's tradition, and congratulated all graduates, gold medallists and

>>> MORE ON P 02

"Tribal Development Must Preserve Heritage While Bridging Infrastructure Gaps": PM Modi To Launch Rs 3,000-Crore Projects

246 initiatives to be inaugurated or taken up on Birsa Munda's 151st birth anniversary; education, healthcare, livelihoods and connectivity among priority sectors

HT NEWS DESK / UNI

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of 246 development projects worth approximately Rs 3,000 crore on November 15 to mark the 151st birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter and national icon Bhagwan Birsa Munda. According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, Modi will participate in the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas programme at Gadchiroli in Maharashtra through video conferencing and address the gathering at 11 am. The projects are aimed at accelerating the socio-economic development of tribal communities by strengthening education, healthcare, livelihoods and basic infrastructure while preserving their distinct cultural heritage



and identity. Of the 246 projects, 173 will be inaugurated, including 38 Eklavya Model Residential Schools and 100 multipurpose centres under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).

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"Youth Must Become Value Creators, Not Merely Job Seekers": Omar Abdullah

CM calls for stronger academic infrastructure, timely examinations and improved opportunities for entrepreneurship at Cluster University's first convocation



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 14: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday called upon graduating students to move beyond conventional employment aspirations and emerge as entrepreneurs, innovators and value creators, asserting that sustainable prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir would depend on the ability of its youth to generate opportunities and employment. Addressing the first convocation of Cluster University of Jammu at Abhinav Theatre, the Chief Minister described the institution as an important educational initiative that brought together five established colleges to promote multidisciplinary learning and academic collaboration. Congratulating the graduates and gold medallists, he acknowledged the contribution of parents, families and teachers in shaping their achievements. Referring to the university's placement in the 151–200 band of the National Institutional Ranking Framework, he termed it an encouraging accomplishment but stressed the need for sustained investment in common infrastructure, digital connectivity, modern laboratories and hostel facilities. He also emphasised timely examinations and academic calendars,

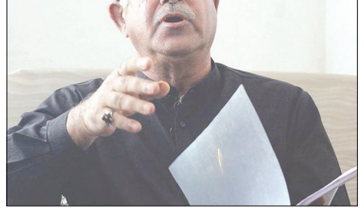
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"If Everything Is Peaceful, How Do Such Incidents Happen?": Karra Questions Centre's Claims On J&K

JKPCC president cites recent attacks on security personnel to challenge government's assessment of normalcy; raises concerns over security policies and democratic institutions

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 14: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hameed Karra on Saturday questioned the Centre's claims of normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir, alleging that recent attacks involving security personnel had exposed shortcomings in the government's security assessment and policies. Speaking to reporters, Karra said the functioning of schools, markets and other institutions could not, by itself, be treated as conclusive evidence of complete peace, arguing that recurring security incidents raised serious questions about the prevailing situation. He alleged that the BJP-led government was projecting an inaccurate picture of Jammu and Kashmir despite continuing security concerns. Referring to the recent attacks involving CRPF personnel, he said



such incidents contradicted repeated assertions of an improved security environment. The Congress leader made the remarks while paying tribute to former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on his birth anniversary, crediting him with laying the foundations of modern India and strengthening

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"Lifestyle Modification And Early Screening Are Key To Diabetes Prevention": Jitendra Singh

Union Minister calls for greater awareness among youth, stresses healthy eating, physical activity and timely intervention

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

ROME, NOVEMBER 14: Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh has called for a stronger focus on diabetes prevention, early detection and lifestyle modification, particularly among young people, warning that the disease is increasingly affecting younger age groups. Addressing a World Diabetes Day event at the Embassy of India in Rome, Singh said proactive screening, timely medical intervention and sustained control of blood glucose levels were essential to reducing the burden of diabetes and preventing associated complications. Referring to this year's theme, 'Early Action on Diabetes', he emphasised that healthy dietary habits, regular physical activity and obesity control remained fundamental to effective prevention and management, even as newer medicines for Type 2 diabetes became available. Highlighting the links between obesity, hypertension,



dyslipidaemia and cardiovascular diseases, the Minister called for stronger preventive healthcare measures and greater public awareness. He also referred to government initiatives, including wellness centres, Ayushman Bharat, mass screening programmes and the International Day

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Search operation continues for 4th day, DGP Prabhat visits multiple sites

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

KULGAM, NOV 14 : The massive search operation to track down the terrorists involved in the firing on a party of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in South Kashmir's Kulgam district continued for the fourth consecutive day on Saturday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that dog squads were pressed into service to assist search teams. Security has also been tightened along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and adjoining areas to prevent any suspicious movement.

Meanwhile, Director General of Police (DGP) J&K, Nalin Prabhat visited multiple ongoing operation sites in Kulgam today and reviewed the security situation in the aftermath of the Kulgam terror attack, that left three CRPF personnel injured.

During the visit, the DGP interacted with officers deployed on the ground, took stock of the ongoing search operations and issued directions to strengthen the security grid and intensify counter-insurgency operations in the district.Meanwhile, CRPF Director General Gyanendra Pratap Singh chaired an operational conference at the Group Centre CRPF in Srinagar

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Gulmarg freezes at minus 1.6°C, dry weather expected across J&K

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 14 : Gulmarg recorded the lowest minimum temperature in Kashmir at minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, while Shopian was the coldest among the plains at 0.9 degrees Celsius, as fresh rainfall and snowfall in higher reaches marked Saturday's weather across Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

According to the Meteorological Centre here, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 7.4 degrees Celsius, which was 6.1 degrees above the seasonal normal, while Qazigund also recorded 7.4 degrees Celsius, 6.3 degrees above normal.

Pahalgam recorded a minimum temperature of 2.8 degrees Celsius, 4 degrees above normal, while Kupwara settled at 4.7 degrees Celsius, 4.4 degrees above normal. Kukernag recorded 6.3 degrees Celsius against the normal of 2.2 degrees, while Gulmarg settled at minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, one degree below normal.According to details accessed by the news

HT BOTTOM NEWS

Nearly 2,000 Kg Of Rotten Meat Seized, Destroyed At Budgam Railway Station In Two Days

1,600 Kg Consignment Found Without Refrigeration; Another 380 Kg Seized
A Day Later, Police Register FIR And Launch Probe Into Illegal Transportation



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 14: Authorities seized and destroyed nearly 2,000 kilograms of rotten meat at Budgam Railway Station over two consecutive days after veterinary and food safety officials declared the consignments unfit for human consumption, raising serious concerns over the transportation of unsafe food items through the railway network. The Railway Police registered an FIR in connection with the first seizure and initiated an investigation to identify those responsible for transporting and handling the consignments.

According to officials, around 1,600 kilograms of buffalo meat was seized on Friday after Railway Police received complaints about a foul smell emanating from a consignment at the station. The Railway Police subsequently alerted the Food Safety Department, following which a team of officials, accompanied by veterinary experts, inspected the consignment.

Station House Officer (SHO) Railway Police Budgam, Benazir Iqbal, said the Veterinary Department examined the meat on the spot and issued a certificate declaring it unfit for human consumption due to its highly deteriorated condition and potential health hazards. The entire consignment was subsequently destroyed in the presence of the Tehsildar, Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Budgam and Food Safety Department officials.Iqbal said an FIR (No. 05) had been registered under Section 271 of the Bharatiya

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Wall Collapse At School, Claims Child's Life On Children's Day ; Class 3 Student Dies In Kupwara

Tragedy at Drugmulla government school during lunch break; locals demand impartial investigation into construction quality and accountability



Dr ABDUL QAYOOM
HT CORRESPONDENT

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 14: A Class 3 student died after a boundary wall collapsed at a government school in the Janbazpora area of Drugmulla in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Saturday, turning Children's Day into a day of grief for the bereaved family and the local community. The deceased was identified as Gaziya Parvaiz, daughter of Parvaiz Ahmad Najar. Tehsildar

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Continue from Front Page.....

"Reliable And Quality

transformation capacity of 200 MVA, with the augmentation expected to strengthen supply to Gandhi Nagar, Channi Himmat, Bathindi and adjoining areas. At Canal Road, the existing capacity of approximately 120 MVA is proposed to be enhanced to 150 MVA to meet rising demand in several residential, commercial and strategic areas. At Janipur, the Minister reviewed plans for an additional 80 MVA capacity and replacement of an existing 50 MVA transformer against the present transformation capacity of 150 MVA. He also stressed the need for a comprehensive assessment of future electricity requirements, particularly in the expanding industrial hub of Bari Brahmana. Directing officials to remove execution bottlenecks, maintain adequate emergency backup arrangements and closely monitor ongoing projects, Sagar sought area-wise progress reports detailing existing capacity, proposed augmentation and commissioning timelines. He said infrastructure development must keep pace with growing domestic, commercial and industrial demand.

Minister for Power Development Department (PDD), Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation, Elections and Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), Ali Mohammad Sagar, today conducted an extensive tour of Jammu city and its adjoining areas to review the existing power infrastructure, assess ongoing augmentation works and take stock of public grievances.

During the tour, the Minister inspected major Grid Stations at Gladni, Canal Road and Janipur and reviewed the infrastructure requirements of other important areas, including Bari Brahmana, Sidra, Jagti, Akhnoor and Kalakote. He stressed the need to strengthen the transmission and distribution network to ensure reliable and uninterrupted electricity supply in view of the growing domestic, commercial and industrial demand.

"AI Will Have Speed

their parents. Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar also graced the occasion.

The Lieutenant Governor specially complimented the women students, noting that 130 of the 163 gold medals had been won by daughters. He observed that when given opportunities, daughters do not merely attain positions but redefine the meaning of achievement. He said their gold medals are badges of confidence for generations to come.

"Daughters across higher-education institutions in Jammu Kashmir are writing new chapters of success in their own names," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He highlighted the intellectual heritage of Jammu Kashmir and noted that Maharishi Kalhana, author of the Rajatarangini, Maharishi Abhinavagupta, and the saint-poets Yogini Lalleshwari and Sheikh-ul-Alam, promoted harmony among faiths and the pursuit of truth. He said the graduates were carrying forward a tradition of knowledge more than a thousand years old.

The Lieutenant Governor said India is witnessing a historic period of transformation and emerging as one of the world's largest and fastest-growing major economies with the national resolve of building a developed India by 2047. He highlighted the country's digital public infrastructure, unprecedented growth in the space sector, research and innovation and rising investment in quantum technology, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, green energy and biotechnology.

"Tribal Development

Other major initiatives include the Tribal Research Institute building at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh and the Ropuiliani Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum at Aizawl in Mizoram. The Prime Minister will also lay foundation stones for 19 additional Eklavya Model Residential Schools and 12 Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centres aimed at improving market access for tribal producers. Another 42 projects under PM-JANMAN and the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan will be taken up for implementation. The programme will coincide with the culmination of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada, observed from November 1 to 15 to recognise the contribution of tribal communities to India's freedom struggle and nation-building.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of 246 development projects worth around Rs 3,000 crore on November 15, marking the 151st birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter and national icon Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda, with a focus on strengthening education, healthcare, livelihoods and basic infrastructure in tribal areas across the country.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office on Saturday, Modi will participate in the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas programme, scheduled to be held in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, at 11 am through video conferencing and address the gathering on the occasion.

The projects are aimed at accelerating the socio-economic development of tribal communities, bridging infrastructure gaps and improving access to essential services, while preserving their distinct cultural heritage, traditions and identity. Of the 246 projects, 173 will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister. These include 38 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), intended to provide quality education to tribal students, and 100 Multi-Purpose Centres under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).

The centres are envisaged as important hubs for the delivery of essential services and the promotion of community activities in tribal areas. Several other projects under PM-JANMAN and the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), which seek to address developmental disparities and improve living conditions in tribal-dominated regions, will also be inaugurated. Among the prominent projects to be inaugurated are the Tribal Research Institute building at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh and the Ropuiliani Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum at Aizawl in Mizoram.

"Lifestyle Modification

of Yoga, aimed at promoting healthier lifestyles and improving access to healthcare. Singh said early-onset diabetes could adversely affect productivity and quality of life, making timely intervention particularly important. He expressed confidence that India's experience in diabetes management could contribute to international healthcare efforts through greater collaboration and knowledge-sharing. The event was organised during his official visit to Italy from November 11 to 15. (With inputs from PIB)

"If Everything Is

democratic institutions after Independence. He also accused the BJP of weakening the democratic legacy established by the country's founding leadership and said the Congress, under Rahul Gandhi, was seeking to revive constitutional values and democratic traditions. Responding to a question about alleged remarks against a woman Congress leader, Karra dismissed the comments as lacking political maturity and said they would neither diminish her stature nor weaken her commitment to democratic principles. (KNS)

): Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra on Saturday questioned the Centre's claims of normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir following recent attacks on security personnel, alleging that such incidents exposed failures in the government's security policies and contradicted the BJP's portrayal of peace in the region.

↱↱ Speaking to reporters, Karra said the BJP-led government had repeatedly cited the absence of strikes, closure of schools and disruption of markets as evidence of normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir, but recent security incidents raised questions about those claims.

↱↱ "Whenever such things happen, the Government of India comes under question," Karra said, referring to the recent attacks involving CRPF personnel.

↱↱ He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had repeatedly maintained that Kashmir was peaceful, pointing to the functioning of schools, markets and other institutions.

↱↱ "They count that there are no strikes, schools are not closed and markets are open. But they are forgetting that what is happening in Jammu and Kashmir is deceptive," he alleged.

↱↱ Karra said the recurrence of such incidents raised serious questions about the government's assessment of the security situation.

↱

↱ "If everything is peaceful, how do such incidents happen?" he asked.

↱↱ The Congress leader accused the BJP of projecting an inaccurate picture of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir at the international level, claiming that security incidents exposed weaknesses in the government's policies.

↱↱ He alleged that the Centre's approach towards Jammu and Kashmir had failed to address underlying security concerns despite repeated assertions that the situation had improved.

↱↱ "Such incidents expose the tall claims of the BJP. They show that everything is not hunky-dory," Karra said.

↱↱ He further described the attacks as a failure of the security apparatus and the policies adopted by the Government of India.

↱↱ The Congress leader made the remarks while speaking to reporters on the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

↱↱ Paying tribute to Nehru, Karra credited him with laying the foundations of modern India and strengthening democratic institutions after independence.

↱↱ He said Nehru was among the senior leaders of India's freedom struggle who had made significant sacrifices before becoming the country's first Prime Minister.

↱↱ Karra said the political and democratic foundations established during Nehru's leadership were subsequently carried forward by former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, among other Congress leaders.

↱↱ Referring to India's democratic history, he claimed that the country's democratic model had once been respected internationally and served as an example for other nations.

↱↱ "There was a time when Indian democracy was not only remembered but also followed across the world," he said.

↱↱ However, Karra accused the BJP of undermining that democratic legacy through what he described as its political agenda.

↱↱ He alleged that the democratic values associated with India's early leadership had been weakened under the present government.

↱↱ "The same Indian model of democracy, which became a basis for democracy in many countries, has been destroyed by the BJP through its designs," he claimed.

↱↱ Karra said the Congress, under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, was seeking to revive the democratic values associated with the country's freedom struggle while preparing to address future political challenges.

↱↱ He said the party was drawing lessons from the sacrifices of its past leaders and attempting to strengthen democratic institutions.

↱↱ Responding to another question about remarks reportedly made against a woman Congress leader, Karra declined to give importance to the person who had made them, saying he did not take her seriously.

↱↱ He said such remarks reflected a lack of political maturity, culture and values among those making personal attacks.

↱↱ Karra maintained that criticism of this nature would neither diminish the stature of the Congress leader concerned nor affect her commitment to democratic principles.

↱↱ "Such things neither reduce her stature nor her respect or resolve to revive democracy in India," he said.

↱↱ He alleged that such statements instead reflected the political mindset of the BJP and exposed what he described as a decline in standards of political discourse. (KNS)

"Youth Must Become

maintaining that no student should lose an academic year due to administrative delays. Identifying agribusiness, food processing, sustainable tourism, cultural heritage, renewable energy and the digital economy as promising sectors, Omar said the government was committed to strengthening the start-up ecosystem, simplifying clearances and improving access to credit. He urged graduates to uphold integrity, respect the dignity of labour, remain lifelong learners and contribute their skills towards the development of their home region.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today attended the first-ever convocation of Cluster University of Jammu at Abhinav Theatre here, describing the institution as a bold educational experiment conceived to bring together the region's strongest academic traditions and modernise higher education.

Governor of Tamil Nadu Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar attended the convocation as the Chief Guest, while Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also Chancellor of the University, presided over the occasion. Minister for Higher Education Shamim Firdous; Member of Parliament, Jammu, Jugal Kishore Sharma; MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta; and Vice-Chancellor Cluster University Jammu, Professor K.S. Chandrasekhar were also present.

Congratulating the graduating students and gold medallists, the Chief Minister described them as pioneers whose achievements would lay the foundation for future generations. He also acknowledged the contribution and sacrifices of parents, families and teachers in shaping the academic journeys of the graduates.

Highlighting the distinctive character of Cluster University of Jammu, Omar Abdullah, who was a special guest on the occasion, said the institution was conceived as a collegiate federation bringing together five established institutions—GGM Science College, MAM College, SPMR College of Commerce, Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, and Government College of Education.

He said the concept of pooling academic resources, faculty, libraries and laboratories while encouraging multidisciplinary learning had helped create a collaborative model of higher education. Referring to the University's placement in the 151–200 band of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), he described it as an encouraging achievement.

The Chief Minister, however, stressed the need for sustained investment in common infrastructure, digital connectivity, modern laboratories and hostel facilities, particularly for students from far-flung areas such as Poonch, Rajouri, Doda and Kishtwar.

He also emphasised the importance of timely academic calendars and examination cycles, asserting that no student should lose an academic year waiting for examinations or the award of a degree.

"My government is committed to providing our universities with the necessary institutional support, academic autonomy, faculty strength and infrastructure to enable them to become genuine centres of knowledge, innovation and regional problem-solving," he said.

Addressing the graduating students, the Chief Minister said rapid technological changes, particularly the emergence of artificial intelligence, had transformed the employment landscape, making continuous learning, critical thinking, judgement and empathy increasingly important.

He urged young graduates to look beyond conventional career paths and explore entrepreneurship and emerging economic opportunities, observing that government employment alone could not absorb every graduate.

"Sustainable prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir will come when our youth move beyond being exclusively job seekers and become value creators, innovators and entrepreneurs," he said.

Identifying agribusiness and food processing, sustainable tourism, cultural heritage, renewable energy, disaster resilience and the digital economy as sectors with significant potential, the Chief Minister called upon graduates to leverage their academic knowledge to develop enterprises and generate employment.

He pointed out that Jammu and Kashmir's agricultural produce, including basmati rice, Bhaderwah rajmash, saffron, walnuts, kaladi and citrus fruits, offered considerable scope for value addition, branding and access to wider markets.

Similarly, he said, graduates could explore opportunities in heritage tourism, eco-tourism, digital media, renewable energy, climate-resilient infrastructure and technology-enabled services.

The Chief Minister said his government was determined to support young entrepreneurs by strengthening the start-up ecosystem, simplifying clearances and improving access to credit.

Emphasising the importance of character and social responsibility, Omar Abdullah urged graduates to remain lifelong learners, respect the dignity of labour, uphold integrity, stay connected with their communities and prioritise their mental and physical well-being.

He also called upon them to carry Jammu and Kashmir's pluralistic cultural ethos and heritage wherever their professional journeys took them, while contributing their skills, experience and ideas towards the development of their home region.

The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the first graduating batches of Cluster University of Jammu would make meaningful contributions to society and help shape the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

Later, the Chief Minister, along with other dignitaries, presented medals and certificates to the graduating students.

Search operation

to review the prevailing security situation and operational preparedness across Kashmir.

According to a CRPF statement, the conference was attended by senior officers, including SDG (Operations) Vitul Kumar, SDG J&K Zone Sandeep Khirwar, IG Operations Kashmir Sector Vineet Brijlal, IG Srinagar Sector Pawan Kumar Sharma and ground commanders of Valley-based CRPF units.

During the meeting, the DG directed senior officers to intensify counter-insurgency operations across the Valley, strengthen the security grid, improve real-time coordination among security forces and maintain heightened operational readiness to neutralise terrorist elements and dismantle their support networks.

The conference also reviewed strategies for sustained and intensified counter-insurgency operations across the region.

Pertinently, on Wednesday, three CRPF personnel were injured when terrorists opened fire on a security checkpoint near Nowpora Akhran in Kulgam district. One of the injured personnel was airlifted to Srinagar for specialised medical treatment.

Since the attack, security forces have intensified search operations across several villages in the district.

Around 500 suspected overground workers (OGWs) have reportedly been questioned as part of the investigation.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has also joined the investigation and is collecting evidence from the attack site. Security agencies have expanded surveillance and intensified searches to track down the attackers and identify their possible support network—(KNO)

Gulmarg freezes

agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Sonamarg recorded a minimum temperature of 2 degrees Celsius, Kulgam 4.4 degrees, Ganderbal 6.3 degrees, Baramulla 7.3 degrees and Bandipora 8.7 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 15.3 degrees Celsius, while Banihal registered 6 degrees, Bhaderwah 3.8 degrees, Batote 7.8 degrees, Katra 13.8 degrees and Kathua 15.6 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, several parts of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed rainfall during the past 24 hours, while higher reaches received fresh snowfall. The Meteorological Centre said generally cloudy weather with a brief spell of light rain in the plains and light snowfall over higher reaches was expected at scattered to many places towards Saturday afternoon and evening.

The weather department has forecast generally dry conditions across Jammu and Kashmir from November 15 to 21, although cloudy weather is likely towards November 20 and 21. Dry weather is also expected from November 22 to 25.

The department has advised farmers to resume agricultural activities from November 15 onwards. It has also cautioned about the possibility of thunder and gusty winds at isolated places towards Saturday afternoon and evening—(KNO)

Nearly 2,000 Kg

Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), while further investigation was underway to establish the identity of those involved in transporting the meat. She added that the consignment was unmarked and had not been booked in the name of any identifiable person.

Police are also examining how such a consignment was accepted for transportation without proper documentation. Iqbal said the transportation of meat requires mandatory documents, including slaughterhouse, veterinary and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) certificates, besides adequate refrigeration facilities to maintain the prescribed temperature of minus 18 degrees Celsius or below.

However, the seized consignment had reportedly arrived in ordinary packaging without ice or any refrigeration arrangement, she said.

Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Budgam, Mufti Umar, said the department received information from Railway Police at around 3 pm on Friday, following which a team immediately reached the railway station for inspection. He said the meat was found in an extremely deteriorated condition, with containers leaking blood and emitting a foul smell. The consignment had also not been transported under the mandatory frozen conditions.

He said the findings of the Veterinary Surgeon were subsequently verified by the Food Safety team, including the Food Analyst and officials of the Mobile Food Testing Van. A Magistrate deputed by the district administration ordered the disposal of the seized meat to ensure that the unsafe consignment did not enter the public distribution or commercial supply chain.

ANOTHER 380 KG SEIZED ON SATURDAY

In a fresh enforcement action on Saturday, authorities seized another consignment weighing approximately 380 kilograms, or four quintals, of rotten meat from a parcel train at Budgam Railway Station. Officials said the consignment was also found in a highly deteriorated condition and declared unfit for human consumption following inspection. The entire quantity was destroyed in accordance with the prescribed procedure and in the presence of the concerned authorities.

Wall Collapse At

Drugmulla Syed Basharat confirmed to Headlines Today that the girl came under the collapsing wall during the lunch break. She was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her dead. The incident has triggered serious concerns over the safety and maintenance of government school infrastructure, with local residents alleging that the boundary wall had been constructed around seven years ago but collapsed within a relatively short period. They have demanded a comprehensive and impartial investigation into the quality of construction material, the contractor's role and the supervision exercised by the concerned authorities. Residents also called for accountability and strict action against anyone found responsible for negligence or the use of substandard material. Kupwara Police have initiated proceedings and prepared a report as per law, while further investigation into the circumstances leading to the collapse is underway. The tragedy has renewed demands for proper safety audits and regular inspection of school infrastructure to prevent such incidents and ensure the safety of children.

Showkat Mahiuddin Lone Re-elected as Druggists and Chemists Association President in Sopore

Lone secures 73 votes against 43 polled by rival Altaf Ahmad Sofi



Aadil Nazir

SOPORE, NOV 14 : Showkat Mahiuddin Lone (Shahji) has been re-elected as president of the Druggists and Chemists Association Sopore for a consecutive second term, following an election held on Saturday.

According to the election results, a total of 116 votes were cast out of 122 registered votes.

Lone secured 73 votes, defeating his rival, senior chemist Altaf Ahmad Sofi, who received 43 votes.

With this victory, Lone has retained the association's presidency for the second consecutive term.

The election witnessed participation from members of the association, who exercised their franchise to elect their representative.

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Justice Sanjeev Kumar celebrates Children's Day with Children at Paresha and Palash Homes in Srinagar

Emphasizes on children's right to protection, education and equal opportunities

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 14: In a heartfelt gesture reflecting compassion, commitment and institutional concern towards the welfare and well-being of children, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, celebrated Children's Day with the children residing at Paresha (Children Home for Girls) and Palash (Children Home for Boys), at Ishber, Nishat, Srinagar, on Saturday.

The celebration was organised in an atmosphere of warmth, affection, enthusiasm and exuberance, with the objective of making the children feel valued, encouraged and empowered, while reaffirming the collective responsibility of institutions and society towards safeguarding the rights, dignity, safety and overall development of every child. The occasion served as a meaningful platform to strengthen the bond between the institutional authorities and the children and to reiterate the importance of providing them with a safe, nurturing, inclusive and enabling environment.



The Executive Chairman was accompanied by Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority; Naseer Ahmad Dar, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar; Naseer Ahmad, Director, School Education, Kashmir; Jahangir Ahmad Bakhshi, Joint Registrar Protocol, Srinagar, High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Dr. Mukhtiyar Ahmad, District Social Welfare Officer, Srinagar; Wajahat Majeed, Joint Secretary, Cricket Association of Jammu & Kashmir; Showkat Ahmad Mir, Superintendent, Palash; Sitander Kour, Superintendent, Paresha; Feroz Ahmad, Convener Jammu & Kashmir Alternative Care Network; and, along with other officers and officials.

During the visit, the Executive Chairman interacted with the children residing in both homes and engaged with them in a warm, friendly and encouraging atmosphere. He patiently listened to their experiences, aspirations and interests and encouraged them to pursue their education, cultivate positive values, develop their individual talents and remain confident in their abilities. He emphasized that every child deserves equal opportunities, care, affection, protection and a dignified environment in which to grow and realise their full potential.

The Executive Chairman underscored that children constitute the foundation of the nation's future and that their protection, education, health, emotional well-being and holistic development must remain a collective priority. He observed that children residing in institutional care deserve particular attention, sensitivity and sustained support so that they may grow up with confidence, self-respect and a sense of belonging. He further emphasised the importance of ensuring that no child is deprived of opportunities to participate in educational, cultural, recreational and sporting activities.

The celebration witnessed several vibrant cultural and recreational activities, with the children enthusiastically participating and showcasing their talents.

A special highlight of the programme was the traditional Kashmiri Rauf performance presented by the boys and girls of Paresha and Palash, which beautifully reflected the rich cultural heritage and artistic traditions of Kashmir. The performance was appreciated by the Executive Chairman and the accompanying dignitaries.

Adding further cheer and excitement to the celebrations, various recreational activities, including musical chairs and spoon race, were organised for the children. The enthusiastic participation of the boys and girls transformed the occasion into a memorable celebration filled with laughter, joy and youthful energy.

The activities provided the children with an opportunity to express themselves, demonstrate their sporting spirit and experience the happiness of collective participation.

SWD Budgam organises Awareness-cum-Enrollment Drive at Kanigund Beerwah

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 14: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Budgam, through SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women (SANKALP-HEW), under Mission Shakti, organised an Awareness-cum-Enrollment Drive at Kanigund, Beerwah, with the objective of promoting women empowerment, creating awareness about government welfare schemes and sensitising the community about child rights. During the programme, participants were sensitised about the role and objectives of SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women and the various support services available for women. Emphasis was laid on inter-departmental convergence and facilitating linkages with different government departments to ensure that eligible women can access the benefits of various welfare schemes and livelihood opportunities. The participants were also informed about the importance of handholding support in facilitating the enrollment process, addressing their queries and guiding them in availing the benefits of available government initiatives.

DC reviews progress of PMGSY, other road projects in Udhampur District

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 14: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi today chaired a meeting with officers of the Public Works Department and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to review the overall functioning of the departments and the progress of ongoing developmental works in the district. During the meeting, the DC undertook a detailed review of the physical and financial progress of various schemes and projects being implemented under the PWD and PMGSY sectors. He also reviewed the subdivision-wise progress of ongoing works under CRIF and NABARD, physical and financial achievements under the UT Capex sector, road and bridge projects, progress of works in urban areas and expenditure under the District Capex Budget 2026-27. A comprehensive road-wise and work-wise assessment was conducted, covering the status of ongoing and completed projects, stages of execution, pending works and bottlenecks affecting implementation. The DC directed the concerned officers and executing agencies to expedite the pace of execution, ensure adequate deployment of field staff and achieve all targets within the stipulated timelines. He emphasised the need for close monitoring and accountability to ensure the timely completion and quality execution of all projects.

DC Kathua reviews physical, financial progress of development works under CAPEX budget

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, NOVEMBER 14: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma today convened a meeting of officers of the line departments to review the physical and financial progress of development works being executed under the CAPEX Budget in the district. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Kathua, ADC Billawar, ADC Basohli, Chief Planning Officer, XEN PWD, XEN PDD, Assistant Commissioner Development Kathua, Chief Education Officer Kathua, Block Development Officers (BDOs) and officers of various departments.

DC Pulwama flags off Waste Collection Vehicles for Door-to-Door Solid Waste Management across District

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, K.K. Sidha, today flagged off 11 dedicated waste collection vehicles for door-to-door solid waste collection and management services across all 11 blocks of the district, marking a significant step towards strengthening sanitation infrastructure and ensuring scientific waste management at the grassroots level.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by ADDC Pulwama, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat; ACD Pulwama; ACP Pulwama; BDOs and other concerned officials of the Rural Development Department.

The initiative, being implemented by the Rural Development Department (RDD), aims to streamline door-to-door waste collection, promote



segregation of waste at source and ensure its proper disposal through an organised collection and management mechanism across rural areas of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of responsible waste management practices, particularly segregation of recyclable and non-recyclable waste at source. He urged people to refrain from dumping garbage in water bodies, near religious places or other public spaces, emphasising that such practices adversely affect the environment and public health.

He called upon the public to make proper use of the newly flagged-off vehicles and extend cooperation to the concerned field functionaries for effective implementation of the initiative.

The DC emphasised that maintaining cleanliness and ensuring scientific waste disposal is a collective responsibility, requiring active participation from every household and community.

ADC Shopian inspects JKSSB Examination Centres, reviews arrangements for Accounts Assistant Examination

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 14: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz today visited and inspected various examination centres across the district to take stock of the arrangements being put in place for the smooth and hassle-free conduct of the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) examination scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026.

The ADC was accompanied by Member, JKSSB, Mudasir Ahmed, District-Level Nodal Officer for JKSSB Examination, Owais Ahmed and other concerned officials.

During the visit, the ADC thoroughly reviewed the availability of essential facilities at the examination centres, including drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, heating arrangements, toilet and washroom facilities, installation of CCTV cameras, jammers and other requisite arrangements to ensure a conducive, secure and transparent examination environment.

The ADC interacted with the concerned Centre Superintendents, invigilators and Heads



of Institutions of the Education Department and obtained detailed feedback regarding the preparedness of the centres. He stressed the importance of ensuring that all arrangements are put in place well in advance, leaving no scope for any inconvenience to the candidates appearing in the examination.

He also impressed upon the concerned officers and officials to maintain close coordination and ensure strict adherence to the prescribed examination guidelines and instructions with special focus on transparency, discipline and fairness throughout the examination process.

Div Com Kashmir directs DCs to Achieve Agristack, SVAMITVA targets

Reviews facilities at Migrant Transit Accommodations, Progress of Work on Srinagar Ring Road, other Matters

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 14: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Saturday chaired an extensive review meeting to assess the progress of various revenue-related initiatives, public service delivery, rehabilitation measures and key infrastructure projects across the Kashmir Division.

The meeting reviewed the implementation and progress of AgriStack, SVAMITVA, Property Card Distribution, Jan Sugam, Revenue Plus, RCCMS and JK SAMADHAN, besides CCTV coverage of migrant labourer clusters, the status of transit accommodations for PM Package employees, SRO-43 cases of terror victims, filling of vacant posts of Lumberdars and Chowkidars, constitution of District-level Media Cells, pending honorarium of Lumberdars and Chowkidars, transfer and disposal of mutation appeals by SDMs, removal of bottlenecks in various phases of Srinagar Ring Road, SBU and RKCTC projects, and disposal of pending public grievances.

The meeting was attended by Deputy



Commissioners of various districts, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Additional Commissioners and Assistant Commissioner Central, OSD to the Divisional Commissioner and Deputy Director Planning, among other officers.

While reviewing the progress of AgriStack, the Divisional Commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners to ensure achievement of prescribed daily targets and bridge the existing gap through optimal utilisation of available manpower. He instructed that officers remain stationed in their respective areas and utilise holidays to maintain the pace of work and achieve the targets within the stipulated timelines.

He also directed the Deputy Commissioners to compile and submit a list of villages situated on State land where generation of Farmer IDs is not feasible.

Reviewing the progress under SVAMITVA, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the need to reconcile the gap between surveys received and returned under Map-1 and Map-2. He specifically directed the Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag, Baramulla and Budgam to expedite the process and ensure timely completion of pending work.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the status of issuance of various certificates under Jan Sugam, including Income Certificates, Legal Heir Certificates, RBA/OBC/ST/SC Certificates, Unemployment Certificates, Agriculture Certificates and Property Certificates.

He further assessed the progress of Revenue Plus services, including issuance of Fards, attestation of mutations, Change of Land Use (CLU) permissions, extracts of Girdawari and Jamabandi, and copies of mutation records.

Taking note of the disposal of mutation appeals following the delegation of powers to Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs), he directed Deputy Commissioners to assess the improvement in disposal rates and ensure expeditious resolution of pending cases.

CIPMC organises "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" at Lar Ganderbal

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 14: The Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, Ganderbal, today organised a farmer awareness programme under the banner of "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" at Lar, Ganderbal.



During the programme, Abir Shankhari, APPO (WS), highlighted the importance of the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices for the timely identification and effective management of pests and diseases affecting crops. He sensitised farmers about the judicious use of pesticides in accordance with the approved list of the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIB&RC) and stressed adherence to necessary safety precautions during pesticide application to prevent adverse health effects. Ghulam Ahmad Rather, SMS SDL, delivered an informative lecture on the safe and judicious use of pesticides, emphasising the importance of adopting scientific practices to ensure crop protection while safeguarding human health and the environment.

Kawal Nain Singh, SA, conducted practical demonstrations on the installation and use of yellow sticky traps and delta traps. He also explained the application of biopesticides and highlighted the importance of conserving beneficial insects and natural enemies in agricultural fields as part of sustainable pest management. Syed Murtaza, AEO Lar, spoke about various aspects of natural farming and encouraged farmers to adopt eco-friendly agricultural practices, including the use of neem oil and other natural oils for crop protection.

District Administration Pulwama organises Yoga Sessions on World Diabetes Day

DC participates in yoga session; stresses regular exercise, balanced diet and healthy lifestyle for diabetes prevention

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 14: District Administration Pulwama, in collaboration with the District Ayush Office Pulwama, today organised a special yoga session at the DC Office Complex, Pulwama, to mark World Diabetes Day 2026, observed under the theme "Early Action on Diabetes."

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, K.K. Sidha, participated in the session along with ADC Pulwama, Dr. S.M. Ashraf, CPO Pulwama, Aashiq Khanday, ACR Pulwama, Shabaaz Ahmad Bodha, ACD Pulwama, DSWO, DYSSO and other district officers and officials.

During the session, participants performed various yoga asanas under the guidance of yoga practitioners, highlighting the role of yoga and regular physical activity in maintaining overall health and preventing lifestyle-related diseases, particularly diabetes.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner expressed concern over the growing prevalence of diabetes and its adverse impact on human health. He observed that sedentary lifestyles, lack of physical activity, excessive sugar consumption, prolonged screen time, inadequate sleep and stress are among the key factors contributing to lifestyle-related diseases.Emphasising the importance of preventive healthcare, he called for greater awareness and timely intervention, urging people to adopt healthier routines through regular exercise, yoga, balanced nutrition, adequate sleep and effective stress management.The Deputy Commissioner also highlighted the significance of Children's Day, observed on November 14, and stressed the need to inculcate healthy habits among children from an early age. He encouraged them to participate in outdoor activities, remain physically active, follow a balanced diet and limit excessive screen time.

The Deputy Commissioner further emphasised the importance of sustained awareness initiatives and community participation in promoting preventive healthcare, stating that collective efforts are essential to encourage healthier lifestyles and strengthen the overall health and well-being of society.

Similarly, yoga sessions were also organised at the sub-divisions at Mini-Secretariat Awantipora and Indoor Stadium Bajwani Tral besides Sessions were also organised across the Degree Colleges of the district. Similarly, yoga sessions were also organised at the sub-divisions at Mini-Secretariat Awantipora and Indoor Stadium Bajwani Tral besides Sessions were also organised across the Degree Colleges of the district. The Deputy Commissioner also highlighted the significance of Children's Day, observed on November 14, and stressed the need to inculcate healthy habits among children from an early age. He encouraged them to participate in outdoor activities, remain physically active, follow a balanced diet and limit excessive screen time.The Deputy Commissioner further emphasised the importance of sustained awareness initiatives and community participation in promoting preventive healthcare, stating that collective efforts are essential to encourage healthier lifestyles and strengthen the overall health and well-being of society.Similarly, yoga sessions were also organised at the sub-divisions at Mini-Secretariat Awantipora and Indoor Stadium Bajwani Tral besides Sessions were also organised across the Degree Colleges of the district.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for JKSSB FAA Examination

All arrangements in place for smooth conduct of examinations in district

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of the JKSSB Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA) examination scheduled to be held tomorrow across the district.

During the meeting, the DC took stock of the arrangements at the examination centres and stressed the need for strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines to ensure a fair, transparent and hassle-free examination process.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure proper CCTV surveillance and coverage at all examination centres. He also reiterated that the use of mobile phones and other prohibited electronic gadgets shall not be permitted inside the examination centres.The DC instructed Centre Superintendents and Magistrates to ensure proper management and close monitoring at their respective centres. He emphasised that all necessary arrangements ust be put in place well in advance and that any issues affecting the smooth conduct of the examination should be addressed promptly.The meeting was attended by ADC Kulgam, ACD, SDM D.H Pora, Tehsildars, DTO, Dy. SP and concerned Officers and officials.

Karnah Admin organises Table Top, Practical Mock Exercise for disaster preparedness

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 14: In compliance with the instructions of the District Administration Kupwara, the Karnah Administration organised a Tehsil-level Table Top and Practical Mock Exercise in collaboration with the Fire & emergency service and health department today at Mini Secretariat, Tangdar.

The exercise was aimed at strengthening disaster preparedness, enhancing inter-departmental coordination and familiarising stakeholders with effective response mechanisms during emergency situations.

The line departments, Aapda Mitra volunteers, Red Cross volunteers, Lambardars and Chowkidars participated in the event.

The initiative is part of the administration's efforts to strengthen disaster management preparedness and ensure coordinated, timely and effective response during any unforeseen disaster or emergency.

The exercise will provide an important platform for assessing preparedness and improving coordination among all concerned stakeholders.

Agriculture Department Bandipora organises Awareness Activities under Khet Bachao Abhiyan–Rabi 2026

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 14: The Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, District Bandipora, has been actively implementing the nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyan–Rabi 2026 across the district from 22 October to 30 November 2026, with the objective of promoting soil health, balanced fertiliser application and sustainable agricultural practices among the farming community.

As part of the ongoing Khet Bachao Abhiyan, awareness activities were conducted at village Guzerbal in Zone Athwatoo and Panchayat Halqas Chittaybanday B and C in Zone Nadihal, to promote the protection of agricultural land and sensitise the farming community.Under the campaign, farmers are being sensitised about the importance of judicious and balanced use of chemical fertilisers, integrated nutrient management, natural farming and the adoption of environment-friendly agricultural practices.Special emphasis is being laid on soil health management through soil testing, promotion of organic manure, bio-fertilisers and green manuring, besides encouraging farmers to adopt scientific nutrient management practices in accordance with soil health requirements and recommended fertiliser doses.The campaign also focuses on crop diversification, particularly the promotion of pulses and oilseeds, effective utilisation of paddy fallow land, crop residue management, water conservation and integrated farming systems to enhance farm productivity and farmers' income.

J&K Police organises One-Day workshop for Investigating Officers (IO's) at DPHQ Ganderbal

■ HT News Network



Ganderbal November 14: J&K Police in Ganderbal organised a one-day workshop for Investigating Officers (IO's) at the Conference Hall, District Police Headquarters (DPHQ) Ganderbal, with the objective of strengthening professional investigation skills and enhancing the quality of criminal investigations.

During the workshop, various issues and challenges faced by Investigating Officers during different stages of investigation were discussed in detail. Emphasis was laid on adopting a professional, scientific and result-oriented approach towards investigation, ensuring accuracy, transparency and adherence to established legal procedures.

The Investigating Officers were particularly briefed on the importance of identifying, collecting and preserving electronic and technical evidence while investigating the cases. They were also advised to ensure proper documentation of all relevant facts and proceedings through audio-visual recording, wherever required, in accordance with the prescribed legal provisions. The workshop aimed at enhancing the investigative capabilities of police personnel, promoting the effective use of modern technology and ensuring more professional, transparent and evidence-based investigations.

Police remains committed to strengthen its investigative framework through regular capacity-building initiatives and professional training programmes.

Social Forestry Department organises Kissan Mela in Karnah under Farm Forestry initiative

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 14: The Department of Social Forestry, Karnah, organised a Kissan Mela-cum-Awareness Programme in the Jabdi and Budwan areas of Karnah under the Farm Forestry initiative, with the objective of promoting plantation activities, environmental conservation and sustainable farming practices.

The programme was organised under the supervision of Jaswinder Singh, Block Officer (BO), Social Forestry Department Karnah, who sensitised farmers and local residents about the importance of farm forestry, benefits of tree plantation and the role of green cover in maintaining ecological balance.

On the occasion, plants were distributed free of cost among farmers under the Farm Forestry initiative to encourage plantation on agricultural and vacant lands. Farmers were also made aware of the importance of protecting planted saplings and ensuring their proper care and maintenance.

The initiative aims to encourage greater community participation in plantation drives, enhance green cover and promote environmental sustainability in the border areas of Karnah.

J&K Police holds piping ceremony to mark confirmation of DySP Talat Mehmood and DySP Surinder Kumar

■ HT News Network

Awantipora November 14: A piping ceremony was held today at the District Police Office Shopian to mark the confirmation of DySP Talat Mehmood and DySP Surinder Kumar following the successful completion of their probationary period.

On the occasion, SSP Shopian, Sh. Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary-JKPS, along with Addl. SP Shopian Shri Abdul Maajid Magray-JKPS, formally pinned the rank insignia on DySP Talat Mehmood and DySP Surinder Kumar in the presence of other police officers. The ceremony marked an important milestone in the professional careers of the officers and acknowledged the successful completion of their probationary tenure. The officers present on the occasion congratulated both officers and extended their best wishes for their future assignments.

SSP Shopian also conveyed his best wishes to the officers and expressed confidence that they would continue to discharge their duties with dedication, sincerity and professionalism.

GMC Srinagar observes World Diabetes Day with Awareness, Screening, Community Outreach Programmes

Organises 3rd Edition of Diabetes Run

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 14: The Department of Endocrinology, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, in collaboration with Super Speciality Hospital (SSH), today observed World Diabetes Day through a series of awareness, screening and community outreach programmes under the global theme "Early Action on Diabetes."

The programme was held under the guidance of Principal/ Dean, GMC Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan. Addressing the gathering, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan described diabetes as one of the fastest-growing public health challenges and stressed that prevention through healthy lifestyle choices remains the most effective strategy. She said the theme underscores the importance of early diagnosis, regular screening and timely treatment to prevent complications. She urged people to adopt healthy eating habits, maintain an ideal body weight, avoid tobacco and engage in at least 30 minutes of physical activity daily to reduce the risk of diabetes and its cardiovascular, kidney and eye-related complications.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Hayat Bhat, Head, Department of Endocrinology, advised that every adult should undergo blood sugar screening at least once, while individuals with risk factors such as family history, obesity, hypertension, sedentary lifestyle or gestational diabetes should be screened regularly. He emphasized that uncontrolled diabetes can silently damage the heart, kidneys, eyes and nerves, making early detection, strict glycaemic control, balanced nutrition, regular exercise and adherence to treatment essential.Masarat Hashim, Administrator, Associated Hospitals, GMC Srinagar, appreciated the efforts of the Department of Endocrinology in organising the awareness programme. He reaffirmed the institution's commitment to providing all necessary administrative and logistical support for such public health initiatives and urged patients and the general public to take greater responsibility for their health through regular health check-ups, healthy lifestyle practices and timely medical consultation.Dr. Shahnaz, Associate Professor, Department of Endocrinology, highlighted the importance of public awareness and community participation in diabetes prevention and self-management. She appreciated the enthusiastic participation of students, healthcare workers and members of the general public in the Diabetes Run.

The highlight of the celebrations was the 3rd Edition of the Diabetes Run, flagged off from Nishat Garden Gate to Duck Park and back, with over 300 participants, including faculty members, doctors, nursing staff, postgraduate residents, interns, MBBS students and members of the general public. Winners in the men's and women's categories were felicitated.

A special interactive session for children living with Type 1 Diabetes was also organised to provide education, counselling and support for children and their parents.A Free Diabetes Screening and Patient Education Camp was conducted at the lawns of Super Speciality Hospital, where more than 500

JKRLM, CSB hold Sericulture Awareness Programme for SHGs in Wakura Ganderbal

Experts highlight bivoltine silk potential for women; 3 day Training program for members planned

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 14: Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM), Block Wakura, in collaboration with the P4 Basic Seed Farm, Central Silk Board (CSB), Manasbal, today organised an awareness programme on the field scope and economic importance of sericulture for 50 Self-Help Group (SHG) members associated with JKRLM Block Wakura.

The day long awareness programme aimed to introduce SHG members to sericulture as a practical, skill-based livelihood option and familiarise them with the technical and financial support available for adopting the enterprise.



Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Scientist-D and Unit In-Charge of P4 Basic Seed Farm, Manasbal, said Ganderbal's agro-climatic conditions are highly conducive to bivoltine silk production, which is renowned for its superior quality. He described sericulture as a low-investment, high-return, home-based enterprise capable of empowering women and generating supplementary household income, as much of the work can be managed at home alongside routine domestic responsibilities.

Dr. Kumar also briefed the participants on scientific rearing practices, covering the key stages of silkworm rearing, from the maintenance of mulberry plants, which serve as the silkworms' primary feed, to the harvesting of cocoons. He further detailed the financial and technical assistance available to beneficiaries under the Silk Samagra-2 scheme and urged the women to avail themselves of these benefits.

Participants were also informed about the importance of ensuring the purity of silk through the Silk Mark label. A hologram-based quality assurance mark promoted under the aegis of the Central Silk Board, the Silk Mark certifies products made of pure natural silk. It helps consumers identify genuine silk and avoid synthetic imitations, while building buyer trust and supporting better market value for authentic silk products.

Speaking on the occasion, Block Programme Manager (BPM) Wakura, Madina Bukhari, stated that the initiative seeks to diversify rural livelihoods by connecting SHG members with sustainable, skill-based sectors like sericulture. She noted that this goal would be achieved through continued awareness, technical orientation and upcoming 3 days training program at Manasbal farm, allowing participants to observe rearing practices first-hand.

DLSA Srinagar Celebrates Children's Day in slum areas, distributes Sweets, Educational Kits among Children

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER14: On the occasion of Children's Day, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized a special outreach programme under the direction of Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman DLSA (Principal District and Sessions Judge) Srinagar and under the supervision of Tabassum Qadir Parray Secretary DLSA Srinagar, in the slum areas of Srinagar to celebrate the day with underprivileged children.

On the occasion, PLVs of DLSA Srinagar distributed sweets and educational kits among the children. During the programme, the children and their parents were made aware of the rights of children, the importance of education in shaping their future, and the need to ensure that every child gets an equal opportunity to learn and lead a dignified life.

They were also sensitized about the availability of free legal aid services through DLSA Srinagar and the procedure for approaching the authority for legal assistance whenever required.

The programme aimed at spreading awareness about child rights, promoting education and ensuring access to justice for underprivileged and marginalized sections of society.

Children's Day Celebrated at Palaash and Pareesha Child Care Institutions of Bandipora

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 14: Children's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Palaash Child Care Institution for Boys and Pareesha Child Care Institution for Girls in Bandipora, with a series of colourful activities and celebrations aimed at spreading happiness among children and highlighting their rights, welfare and overall development.

The celebrations witnessed children participating in various fun-filled activities and enjoying memorable moments in a cheerful and festive atmosphere.

Officials from Mission Vatsalya also interacted with the children and highlighted the significance of Children's Day. They threw light on the importance of ensuring a safe, supportive and nurturing environment for every child, while emphasising the need to protect child Rights, promote their education and ensure their emotional and social well-being.

District Child Protection Officer Bandipora, Bashir Ahmad Malik, in his message, extended warm greetings to the children on the occasion and stressed that every child deserves love, care, protection, dignity and equal opportunities to grow and prosper. He highlighted that Children's Day is not merely a day of celebration but also a reminder of the collective responsibility of society, families and institutions towards safeguarding childhood and creating opportunities for children to realise their full potential.

SWD Srinagar celebrates Children's Day 2026 at Anganwadi Centre Hazratbal

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 14: Social Welfare Department (SWD), through SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) Srinagar, celebrated Children's Day 2026 at an Anganwadi Centre in Hazratbal with great enthusiasm and active participation of children, Anganwadi workers and local community members. The programme was organized with the objective of promoting child welfare, recognizing the importance of childhood and creating awareness about the rights, health, nutrition, education and overall development of children. On the occasion, various fun-filled and recreational activities were organized for children, providing them with an opportunity to showcase their talents and enjoy the spirit of the celebration. The children participated enthusiastically in the activities, making the event joyful and memorable. The programme also highlighted the importance of providing children with a safe, healthy, nurturing and supportive environment. Emphasis was laid on the role of parents, caregivers and the community in ensuring proper nutrition, early childhood care, education and holistic development of every child.

The Department reiterated its commitment towards strengthening community-level initiatives for child welfare through Anganwadi Centres and Mission POSHAN, ensuring that every child receives the care, protection and opportunities necessary for a healthy and bright future. The celebration concluded with a message of love, care and encouragement for children, recognizing them as the foundation of a progressive and prosperous society.

Documentary Screening to commemorate Janjatiya Gaurav Divas organised at GDC Ramkote

■ HT News Network

RAMKOTE, NOVEMBER 14: Government Degree College (GDC) Ramkote organised a documentary screening programme to mark the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, commemorating the birth anniversary of the great tribal freedom fighter and revolutionary leader, Bhagwan Birsa Munda. The event was organised under the guidance and supervision of Dr Rakesh Kumar Koul, Principal of the college.

The programme aimed to create awareness among students about the rich cultural heritage, traditions, struggles and invaluable contributions of tribal communities to India's freedom struggle. The documentary highlighted the remarkable life and legacy of Birsa Munda, who emerged as a symbol of courage, resistance, self-respect and social awakening among tribal communities.

Through the screening, students were sensitised to Birsa Munda's relentless struggle against colonial oppression, exploitation and injustice. His historic role in mobilising tribal communities through the Ulgulan (Great Revolt) and his commitment to protecting tribal identity, land rights and cultural traditions were highlighted. The programme also emphasised the significance of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas in recognising and honouring the sacrifices and contributions of tribal freedom fighters who played a significant role in shaping India's history.

DLSA Budgam celebrates Children's Day at Little Angels Garden School

■ HT News Network



BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 14: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, celebrated Children's Day with great enthusiasm and fervour at Little Angels Garden School, Budgam, with the objective of spreading awareness among children about their rights, duties, safety, education and overall development.

On the occasion, Advocate Feroz Ahmad Khan attended the programme as the Resource Person and delivered an informative and insightful lecture on the significance of Children's Day and the importance of protecting and promoting the rights and interests of children. He highlighted various aspects of child rights, including the right to education, right to equality, right to protection against exploitation and abuse, and the importance of providing children with a safe, healthy and supportive environment for their growth and development.

The Resource Person also sensitized the students about the role and functioning of Legal Services Authorities in providing free and competent legal services, particularly for the protection of children and other vulnerable sections of society. He emphasized that every child deserves equal opportunities, care, protection and access to education, irrespective of their social or economic background. The students were also encouraged to remain aware of their rights and responsibilities and to actively participate in educational and extracurricular activities.

The interaction with the students provided an opportunity to educate and encourage young minds about the importance of their rights, dignity, safety and responsibilities in society.

The celebration was organized as part of the ongoing efforts of DLSA Budgam to promote legal awareness and sensitization among children and to ensure that the message of child rights, protection and access to justice reaches every section of society.

The programme concluded with a message emphasizing that children are the future of the nation and that their protection, education, empowerment and overall well-being are the collective responsibility of society.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students of Little Angels Garden School, school staff, officials and staff members of DLSA Budgam, and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs).

DLSA Ganderbal commences DAWN, Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat Awareness Campaigns at BHSS Khalmulla on Children's Day

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 14: On the occasion of National Children's Day, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, commenced awareness activities under the NALSA DAWN (Drug Awareness and Wellness Navigation) Fortnight Awareness Campaign and the Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat Campaign at BHSS Khalmulla, in collaboration with the Chief Education Officer, Ganderbal.

The programme was organised under the chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, and under the supervision of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal.

The awareness sessions were conducted by Advocate Kausar Masoodi, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Ganderbal; Sajid Irfan, Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel; and Advocate Bilal Bhat, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Ganderbal, who sensitised the students on various issues concerning child protection, welfare and legal rights.

Under the Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat Campaign, special emphasis was laid on eliminating early and forced child marriage, highlighting its harmful social, educational and psychological consequences, as well as its legal implications. The students were sensitised about the importance of preventing child marriage, protecting the rights of children, promoting education, and encouraging parents, guardians and community members to play an active role in eliminating this social evil. The availability of free legal aid and the role of Legal Services Institutions in providing assistance and support in matters concerning child marriage were also highlighted.

The significance of 27th November, being observed as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage, was also emphasised.

Under the NALSA DAWN Campaign, the students were made aware of the harmful effects of substance abuse, preventive measures, early identification of children requiring support, and the importance of timely counselling, treatment, rehabilitation and legal assistance. Issues relating to child rights and protection, including the provisions of the POCSO Act, 2012, were also discussed.

As part of the awareness initiative, the awareness videos, as directed by the J&K Legal Services Authority, were screened for the students to enhance their understanding and reinforce the messages of prevention, protection and awareness.

It was further informed that the awareness activities under both campaigns shall continue from 14th November to 27th November 2026 across the district through educational institutions, community-level programmes and outreach activities, with the active involvement of Para Legal Volunteers and other concerned stakeholders.

IUST to host 2-day National Conference on emerging technologies for governance, development planning

■ HT News Network

Awantipora, Nov 14: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) is organising a two-day National Conference on 'Emerging Technologies for Governance and Development Planning in Jammu and Kashmir: Policy and Implementation' at IUST Main Campus on November 17-18. The conference is being organised by the Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis (CGG&PA), IUST, in collaboration with the Centre for Good Governance (CGG), Hyderabad, and the Information Technology Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

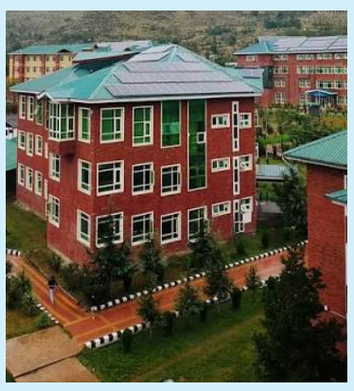
The conference aims to deliberate on the transformative potential of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Geospatial Technologies, Data Analytics and Integrated Digital Systems, in strengthening governance, improving public service delivery and facilitating evidence-based development planning in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The main objective of this conference is to demonstrate the applications of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Geospatial Technology, Internet of things (IoTs) and so on in day-to-day governance. At national and international levels, there has been tremendous advancement in the use and applications of emerging technologies in good governance delivery," said Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST.

Director, CGC&PA, IUST, Dr. G. N. Itoo, said, this is the first-ever conference of its kind and scale being organised to deliberate on this critical subject. It will bring together senior-level functionaries, policy makers and researchers from across the country, along with retired senior officers of J&K, to discuss key challenges, explore practical solutions and chart a way forward for strengthening governance and improving planning in J&K."

"Drawing on the insights and recommendations emerging from the deliberations, the conference aims to develop a comprehensive working paper that will be shared with the government for consideration and further action," he added.

With the region's diverse geographical landscape, dispersed settlements and varying development needs, the conference seeks to explore how technology-enabled solutions can help identify service gaps,



improve resource allocation, strengthen institutional coordination and connect grassroots priorities with broader development strategies. It will also examine the policy and institutional frameworks required to ensure that technological interventions translate into measurable public value.

The conference shall include seven thematic sessions featuring presentations by domain experts, followed by panel discussions. The deliberations will focus on key themes, including accountability and transparency in good governance, performance-based governance and institutional transformation, institutional capacity building, reimagining governance in Jammu and Kashmir, mapping development opportunities through village-level planning, spatial data infrastructure for governance and the One University One Data initiative, with particular emphasis on Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) in universities.

The conference will also examine the role of digital platforms in enhancing citizen participation, grievance redressal and administrative responsiveness. Discussions will address the responsible use of AI and automation, data protection, cybersecurity, institutional accountability and the need for human oversight in technology-driven decision-making.

A conference policy brief consolidating key recommendations and implementation strategies will also be prepared by CGG&PA, IUST, for consideration by relevant departments and collaborating institutions.

The conference has been sponsored by the Information Technology Department, Government of J&K, and Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd, and Renewable Energy Pvt. Ltd, while reputed newspaper, Daily Excelsior, serves as media partner for the conference.

HT EDITORIAL

A School Should Never Become A Death Trap....

The tragic death of a Class 3 student in Kupwara exposes the neglect of existing educational infrastructure, unequal development priorities and the urgent need to make every government school safe for children. The death of Class 3 student Gaziya Parvaiz after a boundary wall collapsed at a government school in Janbazpora, Drugmulla, on Children's Day is a tragedy that demands more than expressions of grief and routine official assurances.

A little girl who had gone to school to learn and celebrate a day dedicated to childhood never returned home. Her death has brought into sharp focus an uncomfortable question that the education establishment can no longer afford to avoid: how safe are the schools in which thousands of children spend a substantial part of their lives? An institution entrusted with nurturing young minds must first guarantee their physical safety. When a school premises itself becomes a potential source of danger, the failure extends far beyond an individual structure or a single administrative lapse.

The incident should serve as a wake-up call for the government, particularly the School Education Department and the agencies responsible for constructing and maintaining public infrastructure. Considerable funds are being spent on expanding educational facilities, constructing new buildings, introducing smart classrooms and upgrading selected institutions. Yet, across Kashmir, a substantial number of existing government schools continue to function in ageing, poorly maintained and structurally vulnerable buildings. The emphasis on new construction and visible infrastructure development appears to have overshadowed an equally important responsibility: preserving, renovating and maintaining the assets already available. A government cannot claim meaningful educational progress while the buildings in which children study are allowed to deteriorate.

The problem is not necessarily the absence of public expenditure but the manner in which priorities are determined. Infrastructure development must respond to actual requirements rather than being driven by visibility, influence or political considerations. There is a growing perception that certain constituencies and localities receive greater attention in terms of educational upgradation, while schools in remote and politically less influential areas remain neglected. If this disparity reflects the reality on the ground, it requires immediate correction. The quality of education and the safety of students cannot be determined by the political representation enjoyed by a particular area. Every child, irrespective of geographical location or political influence, deserves access to a safe, adequately equipped and functional school.

The Drugmulla incident also raises serious questions about the quality of construction and the mechanisms through which public works are monitored. A boundary wall reportedly constructed around seven years ago collapsing during school hours is sufficient reason to examine the entire chain of responsibility. Was the construction executed according to prescribed specifications? Was the quality of material properly assessed? Were the required inspections conducted? Did the concerned authorities undertake periodic maintenance? These questions must be answered through an impartial and technically sound investigation. Accountability should not be confined to the contractor alone if supervisory failures or administrative negligence are established. Public money is spent on these projects, and those responsible for its utilisation must remain answerable for the safety and durability of the structures they create.

More importantly, the tragedy should prompt a comprehensive safety audit of government educational institutions across Jammu and Kashmir. The assessment must not be restricted to boundary walls. School buildings, roofs, staircases, retaining walls, electrical installations and other potentially hazardous structures require professional inspection. Institutions found to be structurally unsafe must be repaired without delay, while children should not be allowed to occupy buildings that pose an immediate threat to their lives. Such an exercise should be undertaken on a priority basis, beginning with older buildings and institutions located in remote and vulnerable areas.

The need for renovation becomes even more pressing when the overall condition of educational infrastructure is examined. A large number of government schools continue to lack adequate heating arrangements, reliable electricity, proper ventilation, functional toilets, clean drinking water and sufficient classroom facilities. These shortcomings are not confined to the winter season. Several institutions struggle to provide a comfortable and hygienic learning environment even during summer. The problem, therefore, is much deeper than seasonal arrangements or the number of working days in an academic calendar. It concerns the basic preparedness of the education system to provide a safe and dignified environment for children throughout the year.

Against this backdrop, the recurring debate over winter vacations and the demand by certain commentators to extend school sessions or abolish seasonal holidays also deserve a more grounded approach. Academic continuity and the utilisation of instructional days are legitimate concerns, but they cannot be discussed in isolation from the physical conditions prevailing in schools. Before questioning the rationale behind winter vacations in a region known for prolonged and severe cold, those advocating longer school sessions must also examine whether institutions have adequate heating, electricity, safe classrooms and other essential facilities. Educational reforms cannot be designed around ideal conditions that do not exist on the ground. The priority must be to create those conditions rather than simply demand more classroom hours from children and teachers.

There is a tendency among some self-appointed education experts and social commentators to evaluate the performance of the education system primarily through academic calendars, examination results and the number of instructional days. Such assessments, while relevant in their own context, remain incomplete if they overlook infrastructure, accessibility, sanitation and student safety. The quality of education cannot be measured exclusively by the time a child spends inside a classroom. It must also be assessed by the environment in which learning takes place. A school without basic amenities, a properly maintained building or adequate protection against extreme weather cannot be expected to deliver the desired educational outcomes merely by extending its working hours.

The School Education Department must consequently move towards a systematic and transparent infrastructure management policy. Every government school should undergo periodic structural assessments, with its renovation and maintenance requirements documented and prioritised. Dedicated funds must be allocated for repairs rather than allowing existing buildings to deteriorate until they become unfit for occupation. Equally important is the need to ensure that budgetary allocations reach institutions on the basis of genuine requirements. New construction, modernisation and technological interventions are welcome, but they must not come at the cost of maintaining the basic infrastructure on which the entire education system rests.

Gaziya Parvaiz's death must not become another tragic headline followed by a temporary administrative response. An impartial investigation, identification of responsibility and appropriate action are essential, but the larger institutional lessons must not be ignored. The government needs to look beyond individual incidents and confront the systemic weaknesses that make such tragedies possible.

Children are sent to schools with the trust that they will be protected, educated and nurtured. Parents do not expect these institutions to be luxurious, but they have every right to expect that their children will not be exposed to preventable dangers. The first measure of an educational institution is not the sophistication of its classrooms or the number of facilities listed in official reports. It is the safety and well-being of the children entrusted to its care.

Gaziya should have returned home with memories of Children's Day, not become a victim of the very institution meant to safeguard her future. Her death must awaken the system to a simple but fundamental truth: before building schools for tomorrow, we must make the schools of today safe for every child.

A Childhood Picnic on Dal & Nigeen, Forever in My Heart



By Syed Majid Gilani



A simple family outing on Dal and Nigeen Lake becomes a memory that shines like sunlight on water, full of laughter, love, and joy. I was almost eleven years old when that joyous day came into my life, a day so bright and warm that even now, at the age of 50, thinking of it makes my heart smile. Families in Kashmir were large then. Picnics were for everyone, grandparents, parents, children, cousins, aunts, and uncles, moments to be enjoyed together, laughing and sharing memories. Life was simple and full of love. In those times, the hearts and intentions of people were clean and unadulterated. Food was home cooked, clean, and made with care. There was no hurry, no showing off, just laughter, chatter, and togetherness.

That morning, Gilan House, our home in Botshah Colony, Lalbazar, was full of excitement. Papa had invited Naani and some of our cousins the day before, so that we could leave early and enjoy the day to the fullest. My younger sister Yasmeen ran around me, laughing. Little Sabiyah, the youngest, sat in our mother's lap, holding her shawl. Both grandmothers gave gentle instructions. Cousins shouted and giggled. We carried utensils, plates, cups, and a kerosene stove, simple picnic things, yet treasures for the day. Private cars were rare, so we walked. From our home to the western banks of Nigeen Lake, on the Lalbazar side, our footsteps echoed on quiet lanes. The morning air was cool and pleasant. Every child held someone's hand. Every laugh, every tug of a sleeve added to the excitement. That walk itself felt like the start of the adventure.

A super deluxe shikara waited at the shore. Papa, Syed Iftikhar Gilani, helped each child and elder board safely. Bags were arranged so nothing would fall into the water. I remember looking at him and feeling safe and loved. The shikara moved slowly over Nigeen. Willows leaned over, touching the water. The breeze brushed our faces.

We made hot Kehwa on the kerosene stove right there in the boat. Saffron and almond kernels gave it a warm, sweet smell that filled the air. We also had freshly brought sweet kulchas, which tasted even better with the hot kehwa. The soft splash of water against the boat made everything feel calm and peaceful. Sunlight danced on the lake, and for a while, it felt like the world had stopped just for us. That moment felt so perfect and bright that even as I remember it today, it seems almost like a dream.

As we entered Dal Lake through the narrow channel, life on the water came alive. Boats selling Kashmiri shawls and crafts floated by. Vegetable boats were full of nadru, haakh, and other vegetables. Colourful tourist shikaras passed, their laughter mixing with the water's gentle sound. Many people were carrying fishing rods in their boats, catching fish. A few were trying to catch fish while sitting on the shore. I stared, wide eyed, feeling happy to be part of this moving, living world. We visited Silver Island, Golden Island, and the serene Nehru Park, where we had a little rest, moving from one place to another through the day.

In the floating markets of Buchwara and Moti Mohalla, Papa bought mutton and onions. My mother and Daadi cooked lunch inside the shikara. By noon, the boat smelled of boiling rice, frying onions, and spices. The elders offered Zuhr namaz on the wooden steps of a houseboat. Then we ate, simple, hot food that tasted like happiness.

We got down from the shikara at the Shikara Ghat near Nishat Garden. The shikara waited while we visited the sprawling terraced garden. The fountains sparkled, chinars swayed gently, and the breeze carried the scent of flowers. We, the children, splashed and played in the shallow flowing water amid Nishat Garden and enjoyed ourselves. Then we went towards Hazratbal. The white dome of the shrine shone over the water. We bought milk and warm halwa paratha, made noon chai, and drank it under the big chinar tree. Pigeons flew above us, cooing softly. The elders offered Asar namaz while we children watched quietly, our hearts full of calm wonder.

All day, we tried to pluck lotus flowers near Char Chinar and the open lotus fields, but Papa did not allow it. We were disappointed then, but today I understand that it was his love keeping us safe and our laughter alive. I don't remember where we got water for drinking and cooking, but one thing is certain, the lake water was clear, pure, and fresh, just like the world around us that day.

By evening, the shikara brought us back to the western Nigeen shore, on the Lalbazar side. Papa gave the shikarawala a crisp 100 rupee note with a gentle smile. Even now, I don't know if it was payment or a tip, but the memory of that moment shines in my heart. Then, with tired legs but happy hearts, we walked back home. The evening breeze carried the laughter of children, the gentle voices of elders, Daadi and Naani, and the warm embrace of family. Every step through the lanes of Lalbazar felt magical. That simple walk, every laugh, every hand held, every glance shared, was as precious as the day itself.

That day was not just a picnic. It was a piece of heaven, with simple living, pure love, and unconditional care. Looking back, it seems like a bright, fleeting dream that still warms my heart.

Syed Majid Gilani is a Storyteller, Opinion Writer, and a Government Officer. He writes on family, faith, betrayal, resilience, and moral values. He can be contacted at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.

The Expanding Desert



Surinderpal Singh



The expansion of deserts is becoming one of the most serious environmental challenges of the modern world. Once fertile agricultural lands, green forests and grasslands are gradually turning into dry, unproductive areas. This process, commonly known as desertification, is threatening food security, water resources, biodiversity and the livelihoods of millions of people. Although deserts are natural features of the Earth, their rapid expansion into productive land is a matter of growing concern.

Desertification does not simply mean that a desert becomes larger. It refers to the gradual degradation of land in dry regions due to climatic changes and human activities. Rising temperatures, irregular rainfall, prolonged droughts and changing weather patterns are making many regions increasingly dry. At the same time, human activities such as deforestation, excessive grazing, overuse of groundwater and improper farming practices are accelerating this process.

One of the major causes of desertification is climate change. Global warming is increasing temperatures and disturbing natural rainfall patterns. In many regions, rainfall has become uncertain, while heatwaves and droughts are becoming more frequent and intense. When the soil loses its moisture for long periods, vegetation begins to disappear. Without plants and trees to hold the soil together, wind and water easily carry away the fertile top layer, leaving the land barren and unproductive.

Human interference with nature has further worsened the situation. Forests are being cleared for agriculture, industries, roads and urban development. Excessive grazing by livestock prevents grass and small plants from growing again. Similarly, intensive farming and the excessive use of chemical fertilisers can damage soil quality over time. Unplanned irrigation may also increase soil salinity, making agricultural land unsuitable for cultivation.

The consequences of expanding deserts are far-reaching. The most immediate impact is the decline in agricultural productivity. As fertile soil disappears, farmers struggle to grow sufficient crops, resulting in economic losses and food shortages. Water scarcity becomes more severe because dry land cannot retain moisture effectively. Desertification also destroys natural habitats, threatening several species of plants, birds and animals.

Another serious consequence is the forced migration of people. When agricultural land becomes unproductive and water sources disappear, rural communities are often compelled to leave their homes in search of employment and basic necessities. This increases pressure on cities, creates social challenges and deepens poverty. In some regions, competition over limited land and water resources may also lead to conflicts.

The problem is particularly important for countries such as India, where agriculture supports a large section of the population. Several parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana and other dry regions face challenges related to land degradation and water scarcity. Even Punjab, traditionally known for its fertile agricultural land, must remain alert to the dangers of declining groundwater levels, soil degradation and unsustainable agricultural practices. Protecting productive land is essential for the country's food security and economic stability.

However, desertification is not an irreversible process. With proper planning and collective efforts, degraded land can be restored. Afforestation and the protection of existing forests are among the most effective measures. Planting native trees, grasses and shrubs helps bind the soil, reduce erosion and improve moisture retention. Rainwater harvesting, the restoration of ponds and wetlands, and the construction of small water-storage structures can improve water availability in dry regions.

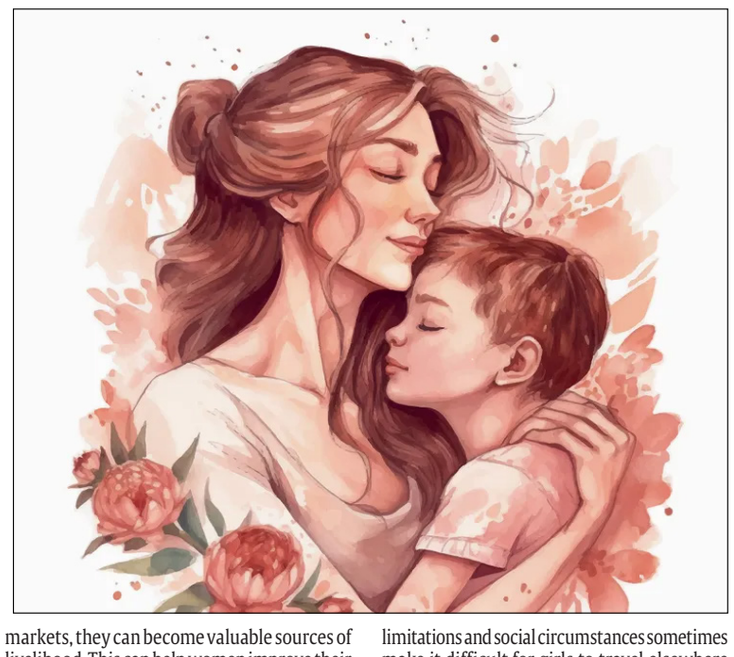
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A Mother's Love and Skills Are Shaping the Future of Daughters

Mawan-Dhiyan Di Hatti: Giving Wings to the Dreams of Rural Girls



Dr. Vijay Garg



The real progress of society is possible only when daughters are provided with opportunities not only for education but also for becoming self-reliant. Even today, many girls in rural areas possess talent, dedication and a desire to achieve something meaningful. However, their dreams often remain unfulfilled due to a lack of proper guidance, training and resources. In such circumstances, an initiative that provides them with opportunities to learn skills and become financially independent becomes more than a source of employment; it becomes an inspiring story of social transformation.

Mawan-Dhiyan Di Hatti represents such a meaningful vision, where efforts are being made to shape the future of rural girls through a mother's affection, guidance and skills. The objective is not merely to train girls in particular activities but also to develop their confidence, self-reliance and ability to make independent decisions in life.

In Indian villages, many women possess traditional skills and household expertise. Their talents are reflected in stitching, embroidery, weaving, handicrafts, designing and other creative activities. If these skills are supported by organised training and connected with markets, they can become valuable sources of livelihood. This can help women improve their family's financial condition while establishing their own identity.

One of the most important aspects of such an initiative is that girls can learn and progress without having to leave their villages and families. In rural communities, financial limitations and social circumstances sometimes make it difficult for girls to travel elsewhere for vocational training. Having a skill-development centre within the village can therefore provide them with a valuable opportunity.

The relationship between a mother and daughter is built on love, trust and values. When a mother guides her daughters, teaches them useful skills and encourages them to become independent, this relationship becomes a powerful instrument of social change. Such initiatives convey an important message: daughters are not meant only to fulfil family responsibilities; they are equally capable of achieving their dreams and contributing meaningfully to society.

Today, self-reliance does not simply mean getting a job. Starting a small business based on one's skills, working from home, selling products online and creating employment opportunities for others are also important forms of economic independence. Digital technology has opened new doors for rural women and girls. If they receive training in digital marketing, financial literacy and entrepreneurship along with practical skills, their opportunities can expand significantly.

The government, social organisations and local communities should also encourage such initiatives. Providing market access after training, ensuring fair prices for products and recognising successful women as role models are equally important. Merely teaching a skill is not enough; opportunities must also be created to convert that skill into a respectable source of income.

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Every Life Matters: India's Roads Must Not Become Corridors of Grief

On World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, the focus must shift from mourning lost lives to preventing avoidable tragedies.



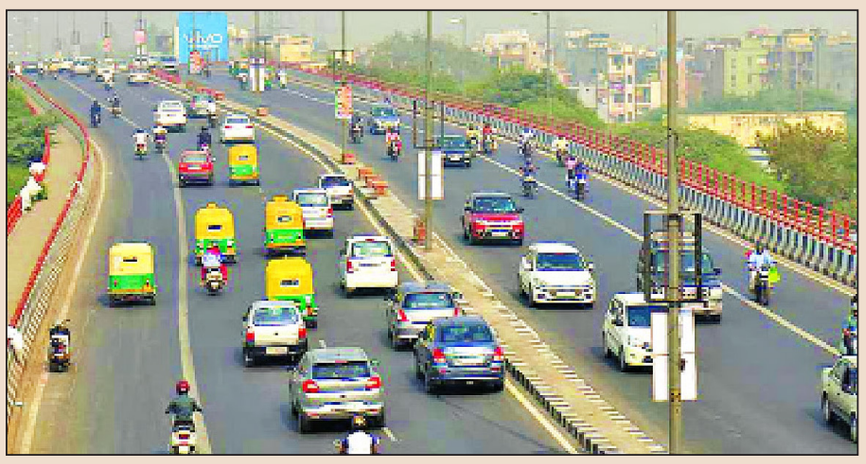
By Syed Yunis Bukhari

Every road accident leaves behind more than damaged vehicles and shattered glass. It leaves families waiting for someone who will never return, children growing up without parents, parents mourning their children, and countless lives permanently altered in a matter of seconds. Behind every road accident statistic is a human story, a family, a dream and a future that may have ended far too soon. Road accidents have become one of the most pressing public health and social challenges of our time. What makes this crisis particularly disturbing is that many of these deaths and injuries are preventable. Yet, year after year, thousands of families continue to experience the devastating consequences of unsafe roads, reckless driving, inadequate enforcement and delayed emergency medical assistance. The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, observed on the third Sunday of November, provides an opportunity to remember those who have lost their lives, stand in solidarity with injured survivors and bereaved families, and renew our collective commitment to making roads safer. It is not merely a day of remembrance; it is a call for responsibility, compassion and meaningful action.

India continues to face an enormous road safety challenge. Figures presented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in Parliament reveal the magnitude of the problem. According to official Government of India data, the country recorded 4,87,707 road accidents in 2024, resulting in 1,77,175 deaths and 2,18,245 grievously injured persons. These figures are not simply numbers in an official report; they represent an enormous human and social loss. Over-speeding remains a particularly serious concern. Government data recorded 3,45,024 road accidents under the category of over-speeding in 2024. Other reported causes include wrong-side driving, drunken driving, mobile phone use, violation of traffic signals and failure to follow basic road safety rules. These figures raise an uncomfortable but necessary question: how many of these lives could have been saved if drivers had exercised greater caution, roads had been better designed and maintained, and emergency assistance had reached victims in time? Road safety cannot be treated as a matter of convenience or individual preference. It is a shared public responsibility that demands consistent attention from government institutions, law enforcement agencies, road authorities and citizens.

For Jammu and Kashmir, road safety carries an additional dimension. The region's mountainous geography, winding roads, steep gradients, unpredictable weather and landslide-prone stretches make safe transportation particularly important. Several roads pass through difficult terrain, where a minor driving error, excessive speed or sudden loss of vehicle control can have serious consequences. During winter, snowfall, black ice, reduced visibility and slippery road surfaces create further challenges for motorists. The situation calls for a comprehensive approach to road safety across the region. Regular maintenance of roads, scientifically designed protective barriers, proper drainage, visible warning signs, adequate lighting and timely identification of accident-prone locations must receive priority. Equally important is the need to strengthen emergency response systems, particularly along highways and remote mountainous routes. Ambulances, trained emergency personnel, trauma-care facilities and effective communication networks can make a crucial difference when every minute matters. Road safety in Jammu and Kashmir should not be viewed only through the lens of traffic management. It must also be understood as an essential component of public health, regional development and human security.

One of the most concerning aspects of road accidents is that many are linked to behaviours that can be avoided. Over-speeding, dangerous overtaking, driving under the influence of alcohol, using mobile phones while driving, ignoring traffic signals and refusing to wear helmets or seat belts continue to put lives at risk. For some motorists, speeding has become a display of confidence or driving skill. For others, traffic rules are



treated as obstacles rather than safeguards. Such attitudes reflect a serious lack of awareness about the value of human life. A mobile phone notification can wait. A few minutes saved by reckless driving cannot justify the risk of losing a life. A helmet may appear uncomfortable, and a seat belt may seem unnecessary during a short journey, but these simple safety measures can significantly reduce the risk of serious injury or death. Young drivers, in particular, must understand that driving is not a competition. Roads are shared public spaces, and every driver has a responsibility towards pedestrians, cyclists, passengers and other motorists. The need of the hour is to develop a culture in which responsible driving becomes a social norm rather than merely a legal obligation. Preventing accidents is essential, but strengthening post-crash medical care is equally important. In trauma medicine, the initial period following a serious injury is often referred to as the golden hour. Timely medical intervention can significantly influence the chances of survival and recovery, although the appropriate treatment window varies with the nature and severity of injuries. Unfortunately, victims of road accidents in remote and difficult-to-access areas may face delays because of inadequate ambulance availability, long distances to hospitals, poor communication networks and limited trauma-care facilities. There is an urgent need to strengthen emergency medical services, establish accessible trauma-care centres along major highways, train police personnel and first responders in basic life support, and improve coordination between ambulance services and hospitals. Public awareness about first aid and responsible assistance to accident victims must also be encouraged. Citizens should know how to alert emergency services and provide safe assistance without putting themselves or the injured person at additional risk. The Good Samaritan framework in India also deserves greater public awareness so that people who voluntarily help road accident victims are not discouraged by fear of unnecessary legal harassment. The consequences of road accidents extend far beyond the moment of impact. A family that loses its earning member may face years of financial hardship. Children may lose access to education, elderly parents may be left without support, and spouses may struggle to rebuild their lives after an unexpected tragedy. Survivors of serious accidents may experience permanent disabilities, psychological trauma, loss of employment and social isolation. Their rehabilitation requires more than medical treatment; it demands sustained emotional, financial and social support. On this day, our thoughts must extend to these families and survivors. Remembering victims should also mean acknowledging their suffering, respecting their dignity and ensuring that they are not forgotten once public attention moves elsewhere. Government support systems, insurance mechanisms, rehabilitation services and accessible legal assistance must work effectively for those affected by road crashes.

Road safety cannot improve through slogans and occasional awareness campaigns alone. It requires sustained institutional commitment and measurable action. Traffic laws must be enforced consistently, without discrimination or selective action. Over-speeding, drunk driving, dangerous overtaking and other serious violations must attract appropriate consequences. Road infrastructure must be designed around human safety. Engineering interventions such as safer intersections, pedestrian crossings, speed-calming measures, road markings, protective barriers and adequate signage should be prioritised, particularly near schools, hospitals, residential areas and accident-prone locations. Governments must regularly identify and correct accident black spots, and road safety audits should become an essential part of infrastructure planning rather than an exercise undertaken only after repeated tragedies. Road safety education must begin at the school level, where children and young people should be taught pedestrian safety, responsible cycling, helmet use, seat-belt compliance and the dangers of distracted driving. Accident data must also be collected, analysed and used to develop evidence-based interventions. Every serious crash should provide lessons that help prevent the next one. The United Nations' Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030 has set a global target of reducing road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50 per cent by 2030. Achieving this objective will require governments, institutions, communities and individuals to work together with determination.

About the Author
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The National Security Guard (NSG) is the primary agency responsible for carrying out kinetic operations in this regard



By M S Nazki

The Seven Pillars of PRAHAAR: The Hindi word PRAHAAR (meaning "strike") functions as an acronym representing its core pillars that include the following…

•P - Prevention: Proactive, intelligence-led measures—coordinated via the Multi Agency Centre (MAC)—to intercept and disrupt threats before they materialize.

• R - Responses: Swift, decisive, and proportionate counter-terror responses executed through a coordinated chain of command between state police and central forces like the National Security Guard (NSG).

•A - Aggregating Capacities: A "whole-of-government" approach that pools and synchronizes internal administrative, investigative, and security capabilities.

• H - Human Rights & Rule of Law: Ensuring that all counter-terrorism operations, investigations, and prosecutions strictly adhere to legal safeguards and human rights.

•A - Attenuating Conditions: Programs targeting radicalization, socio-economic vulnerabilities, and the broader ecosystems that enable terrorism.

• A - Aligning International Efforts: Collaborating globally through diplomacy, multilateral bodies (such as the Financial Action Task Force), and shared intelligence to combat transnational terror.

• R - Recovery & Resilience: A "whole-of-society" approach focused on community healing, critical infrastructure protection, and long-term stabilization after incidents.

-The story which we got we ny something like this:

-Inspector General (Operations) of the National Security Guard (NSG), Major General Mukesh Kumar Bhanwala, says, "A key pillar of the Government of India's 'Prahar' policy is ensuring a swift and proportionate response to any terrorist incident.

-The National Security Guard (NSG) is the primary agency responsible for carrying out kinetic operations in this regard. Furthermore, the policy focuses on enhancing the capabilities of police forces across various states and Union Territories. The objective is to promote a 'whole-of-nation' approach, enabling state-level agencies and federal forces to work together to counter such incidents.

-The exercise we witnessed, titled 'Sarvatra Pratighat', represents an initial step towards achieving this approach. It involved a collaborative effort by all security stakeholders in Mumbai, including the NSG, the Army, the Air Force, the Navy's MARCOS, the Mumbai Police, Force One, Mumbai Police Quick Response Teams (QRTs), the CISF and the Intelligence Bureau (IB).

-Through this exercise, we have successfully validated several key parameters related to counter-terrorism operations."

-PRAHAAR (Policy for Response Against Hostile Activities and Radicalism) is India's first comprehensive National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy, unveiled by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on



February 23, 2026.

-The policy formalizes a proactive, intelligence-led, zero-tolerance stance against terrorism, shifting the nation from a reactive security approach to a unified, multi-agency framework.

-Key Focus Areas

• Technology & Emerging Threats: Addresses modern security challenges, including the misuse of drones, cybercrime, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

• Critical Infrastructure: Enhances protection for sensitive sectors like power grids, railways, aviation, space, and atomic energy.

• Secular & Non-Religious Stance: Explicitly separates terrorism from any specific religion, nationality, or ethnicity.

-A 'whole-of-nation' approach is a collaborative strategy that unites state-level agencies, federal or national forces, local bodies, and non-state or private stakeholders to tackle complex threats, security crises, or large-scale public initiatives.

-Key Characteristics

• Cross-Agency Integration: Breaks down bureaucratic silos so civilian departments (such as health, finance, education, and home affairs) and law enforcement or military/federal forces operate under a shared mission.

• Multi-Tier Coordination: Connects grassroots or local entities with state and national authorities to streamline intelligence, resource allocation, and incident response.

•Comprehensive Scope: Goes beyond a "whole-of-government" framework by actively engaging civil society, communities, and private partners alongside official state machinery.

-For example, officials have applied this model in joint operations against organized crime, cross-border drug trafficking, national security incidents, and large-scale public safety or election resilience efforts.

-The National Security Guard (NSG)—commonly known as the Black Cats—is India's federal elite counter-terrorism and special operations unit.-Key Details of the NSG•Motto: "Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha" (Best Security Everywhere).

• Founded: October 16, 1984, and formalised under the National Security Guard Act, 1986.• Parent Agency: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India.• Headquarters: New Delhi, with regional hubs in Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Gandhinagar.

• Leadership: Headed by a Director-General (typically drawn from the Indian Police Service), currently B. Srinivasan.

• Composition: Personnel are drawn on deputation from the Indian Army and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

Primary Functions

•Counter-Terrorism & Hostage Rescue: Neutralizing high-risk terrorist threats and managing hostage crises (e.g., Operation Black Tornado during the 26/11 Mumbai attacks).

• Counter-Hijacking: Handling land, sea, and air hijacking interventions.

• Bomb Disposal: Search, detection, and neutralisation of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) along with post-blast investigations.

• Critical Infrastructure Protection: Securing vital installations and high-profile events.

-The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy PRAHAAR policy document provides clear, concise direction for India's counter-terrorism campaign. It is a definite step forward in eliminating the threat posed by the amorphous, multi-vector nature of terrorism. It also epitomises the challenges of drafting a Counter-Terrorism policy for a vast, socio-culturally diverse country like India.

-PRAHAAR in the Backdrop of Operation Sindoor-India has adopted a new, more assertive approach in fighting terrorism in recent years, which was on full display in the first burst of Operation Sindoor in May 2026, when several terror infrastructure sites across Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) were targeted and taken out by Indian armed forces using precision weapons. The punitive strikes following the Pahalgam terror attacks sent a hard-hitting message to the Pakistani establishment and its terror proxies that India would employ both kinetic and non-kinetic actions to deliver a decisive blow to the recalcitrant neighbour.

-Subsequently, New Delhi launched a major international diplomatic offensive, dispatching seven all-party delegations to 33 countries to expose Pakistan globally as a state sponsor of terrorism and to block Islamabad's traditional strategy of playing the victim card or turning the Kashmir dispute into a multilateral issue.-On 23 February 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) unveiled 'PRAHAAR' as India's first comprehensive National Counter Terrorism Policy and Strategy, comprising a 'whole of government' and 'whole of society' approach to combat the threat of terrorism. Several observers have hailed 'PRAHAAR' as marking the doctrinal consolidation of hitherto mostly decentralised Counter-Terrorism (CT) approaches, shaped by geo-spatially diverse and socio-culturally complex challenges.

Children Day An Unfinished Promise To Indian Children

So have we done enough? Not quite. The scourge of child labour, trafficking, physical exploitation and school dropouts remains a grim reality even today.



BY-MOOL RAJ

Bal Diwas is a reminder that children are not merely the citizens of tomorrow but citizens today, entitled to care, opportunity, protection and dignity

Bal Diwas, the children's day, commemorates the birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru, who was particularly fond of children. Children are the future of any country, yet more than seven decades after Independence, the question is whether India has done enough to give every child an equal opportunity to grow, learn and live with dignity.

To be fair, we have come a long way from the sixties, when malnutrition and child exploitation were the norm, as most children worked to earn a living, keeping them away from formal education. It changed with the Right to Education Act, 2009, which made free and compulsory education a fundamental right for children between six and 14 years.

The expansion of government schools, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and subsequent Samagra Shiksha programme have brought millions of children into classrooms. Add to this the mid-day meal scheme, now PM POSHAN, which has addressed hunger and malnutrition and increased school attendance. Besides, Anganwadis and programmes such as POSHAN Abhiyaan have extended the focus to nutrition and all-round development. The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, made strict provisions against child labour by prohibiting the employment of children below 14 in most occupations.

Stories you may like

Age-appropriate use of social media by children by year-end

A sanctum lost and a system broken

Patel at 151: Remembering a secularist and nationalist

There is yet another factor that prevents the issues of children living in rural areas with meagre resources from coming to light. Their concerns and issues are poles apart from the children, even in low income group children residing in the cities. Urban children dominate public conversations about education, digital learning, mental health and recreational opportunities. In a city, child obesity might be an issue, but for a child in a village, malnutrition is a far bigger menace. The fact is that the number of those children may be way higher than the number of children in urban areas. The child in a remote village or a migrant worker's family faces a very different set of challenges. For such children, a school may be miles away, and a classroom may lack a teacher. But their problems rarely command the same public attention.

Some states offer valuable lessons. Kerala has demonstrated how sustained investment in education and social protection can improve outcomes. Tamil Nadu's long-standing nutritious meal programme is a case study to emulate. Both states demonstrate that welfare programmes work best when supported by strong local institutions and administrative accountability. India now needs to move beyond enrolment figures. Schools must have trained teachers, safe

buildings, functional toilets, clean drinking water, libraries and playgrounds. Special provisions are needed for migrant, disabled and tribal children. Most importantly, children must be heard. Their safety, mental well-being, and creativity are as important as their presence in schools.

The Author Is A Regular Columnist And Freelance Writer On Various Issues

LoP, MLA Kishtwar, DC pay floral tributes to Martyrs of Kiyar-Dachhan

■ HT News Network



KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 14: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Sunil Kumar Sharma (MLA Paddar-Nagseni), MLA Kishtwar Shagun Parihar and Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma paid floral tributes to the two Special Police Officers (SPOs) of Jammu and Kashmir Police Rashpal Kumar and Babhi Chand, who were martyred in the upper forest area of Deharna village in Marwah on November 11, 2026.

The deceased SPOs were residents of the remote Kiyar area of Tehsil Dachhan. They were killed while on their way to Deharna to perform their official duty.

Upon receiving information about the incident, the Leader of Opposition, MLA Kishtwar and Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, accompanied by officers of the civil and police administration, visited Kiyar-Dachhan to take stock of the situation and meet the bereaved families.

They remained in the area till the last rites of the deceased were performed, extending support and expressing solidarity with the grieving families in this difficult time.

The Leader of Opposition, MLA Kishtwar, DC and other officers paid floral tributes to the departed souls, visited the bereaved families and conveyed their heartfelt condolences.

During their interaction with the bereaved families, the Deputy Commissioner assured them that all possible assistance would be extended by the District Administration. He further informed that cases for compassionate appointment of eligible dependent family members under the Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme, 2022 (formerly SRO-43) along with compensation admissible under the applicable rules, would be dully processed as per the prescribed procedure.

The Deputy Commissioner also interacted with local residents and assured them that issues concerning road connectivity, mobile network coverage and other developmental requirements of the Kiyar area would be assessed by the concerned departments and taken up on priority for appropriate action.

The departed souls were remembered with deep respect and heartfelt condolences were extended to their families.

The District Administration reiterated its commitment to standing by the bereaved families of the martyrs and addressing the genuine developmental concerns of the residents of the remote Kiyar-Dachhan area.

CMO reviews NQAS preparedness of health facilities in Gandoh Block

■ HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER 14: Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma today convened a virtual review meeting with the Incharges of the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and AAM Sub-Centres (SCs) of Medical Block Gandoh to review their preparedness for National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) National Assessment.

The meeting was virtually attended by Block Medical Officer Gandoh Dr. Farooq Saleem, along with the Incharges of the concerned health facilities, while the District Quality Assurance Unit (DQAU), Doda, participated physically.

The CMO conducted a detailed review of the progress and preparedness of health facilities scheduled for National Assessment under NQAS. He assessed the status of the quality assurance parameters and stressed the need for focused efforts to address gaps and ensure compliance with prescribed NQAS standards.

Dr. Vinod Sharma emphasized coordinated efforts, accountability and active involvement of all concerned officials to strengthen the quality of healthcare services and ensure successful NQAS assessment of the identified health facilities.

2nd IAP Neonatal Resuscitation Program (first golden minute Project) held at SDH Bhaderwah

■ HT News Network

BHADERWAH, NOVEMBER 14: The 2nd Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) Neonatal Resuscitation Programme, under the First Golden Minute Project, was successfully conducted today at Sub-District Hospital Bhaderwah.

The programme witnessed active participation from Medical Officers, paramedical staff and other healthcare professionals of SDH Bhaderwah, with a focus on strengthening skills and competencies in neonatal resuscitation and ensuring timely intervention during newborn emergencies.

A team of experts from Govt Medical College Doda participated in the programme, comprising Dr. Satish Sharma, Consultant Pediatrics, along with the instructors viz Dr. Najmus Saqib, Professor, Pediatrics GMC Doda, Dr. Narinder Singh, Assistant Professor GMC Doda and Dr. Sangita Kotwal, Consultant Pediatrics from SDH Bhaderwah.

The expert faculty imparted valuable knowledge and practical training on essential neonatal resuscitation techniques, highlighting the importance of timely and appropriate intervention during the first golden minute of a newborn's life. On the occasion, BMO Bhaderwah Dr Versha Sharma expressed gratitude to the expert team from GMC Doda for their valuable contribution, technical expertise and commitment towards capacity building of healthcare personnel. She also appreciated the participation of the staff and emphasized the importance of such training programmes in improving newborn care and reducing preventable neonatal deaths.

Healthcare services scenario, NHM progress reviewed in Udhampur

DC calls for intensive TB screening & awareness activities

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 14: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, today chaired a meeting of the District Health Society to review the physical and financial progress achieved under the National Health Mission in the current financial year (2026–27).

At the outset, Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil Manhas delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation. He highlighted the physical and financial achievements under NHM including TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness and Non-Communicable Diseases Control Program, besides implementation Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK). He gave block-wise achievements regarding X-ray utilisation, public screening for hypertension, diabetes, cervical and breast cancer, utilization of Khushi Chatbot app, district and block-wise presumptive TB testing, the status of the Kayakalp, National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) assessment of healthcare facilities, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) among other issues.

The DC directed all BMOs to prepare a comprehensive schedule and organise extensive awareness camps across their respective blocks to sensitise the public on health sector initiatives. He also stressed the need to intensify screening activities to ensure early detection and timely treatment of the diseases.

The CMO was directed to undertake a comprehensive review of the performance of all BMOs and submit weekly progress reports to the Deputy Commissioner, highlighting achievements against assigned targets.

The BMOs were asked to intensify their efforts, improve healthcare service delivery, ensure effective implementation of various health schemes and achieve the prescribed targets within the stipulated timelines.

DC Udhampur reviews progress of RDD schemes

Directs for timely completion of ongoing works

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 14: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi today convened a meeting of the Rural Development Department to review the progress of works taken up under District Capex Budget, Constituency Development Fund, MPLADS, ADP, ABDP, across the district.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, Assistant Commissioner Development Om Parkash, ACP Dr Ashwani Hansa, all Block Development Officers and other senior and concerned officers. The DC conducted a detailed review of the work-wise status of physical and financial progress of ongoing and newly sanctioned works being executed under various RDD schemes. The DC directed the BDOs to expedite the pace of execution, intensify field inspections and activate field staff to ensure regular monitoring of ongoing works, with particular emphasis on maintaining quality standards and completing projects within stipulated timelines.

The ACD was directed to undertake regular inspections of different blocks, closely monitor the progress of ongoing works on a daily basis, ensure quality checks and submit weekly progress reports.

The DC further instructed all BDOs to achieve the assigned targets within the stipulated timelines and ensure effective implementation of all RDD schemes at the grassroots level.

He called upon the officers and field functionaries to discharge their duties with dedication, accountability and commitment to ensure timely execution of works and achieve the desired outcomes. The DC further instructed all BDOs to achieve the assigned targets within the stipulated timelines and ensure effective implementation of all RDD schemes at the grassroots level. He called upon the officers and field functionaries to discharge their duties with dedication, accountability and commitment to ensure timely execution of works and achieve the desired outcomes.

Celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2026 culminates with cultural program at GDC Paloura

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 14: Government Degree College Paloura Jammu celebrated the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas (JJGD) 2026 under the patronage of the Principal, Dr. Savi Behl. A series of activities, highlighting the rich culture, heritage, traditions and contribution of tribal communities were organised on the college campus.

As part of the celebration, the Scholarship Committee, in collaboration with the Department of Music, organised educational and cultural activities. An awareness programme was organised on November 6, 2026, to familiarise students belonging to the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community with scholarship schemes, hostel facilities and educational opportunities. The resource persons were Dr. Abdul Haque, Associate Professor in Urdu and Prof. Ashwani Kumar, Convener, Scholarship Committee.

Storytelling competition on Tribal Culture and Heritage was held on November 11, 2026. Neharika Sudan of Semester 3rd secured first position, while Tenzin Tsepa of Semester 3rd and Mohd. Azam of Semester 1st secured second and third positions, respectively.

A quiz competition was held on November 11, 2026 on Tribal Freedom Fighters with the participation of five teams. Lakshya Raina and his team secured first position, followed by Nazia and her team bagging second position and Sameer Khan and his team securing third position.

The concluding day, November 14, 2026, witnessed a series of colourful cultural and educational presentations. Lakshya Raina and Neharika Sudan of Semester 3rd presented a painting based on the theme "Cultural Economy of Pahari Tribe" and explained its significance. The Department of Music organised a scintillating theme-based cultural programme featuring students Nazia, Sameer Khan, Mohd. Azam, Mohd. Aftab, Krish Surmal and Mohd. Asif. Their performances were highly appreciated by the audience.

J&K Startup Policy 2024–27

JKEDI convenes 2nd sitting of Screening Committee meeting for seed funding

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 14: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), the designated Nodal Agency for implementation of the J&K Startup Policy 2024–27, today convened the second sitting of the Startup Screening Committee meeting here at its Regional Office Bari Brahmana, to evaluate startup proposals seeking seed funding assistance under the policy. A total of 108 applications were received for seed funding assistance under the initiative, out of which 86 applications were found to have complete documentation and were considered ready for placement before the Screening Committee.

The screening exercise was conducted in two sittings to facilitate the evaluation of eligible applicants from across the Union Territory. During the first sitting, held at JKEDI Headquarters, Pampore, Kashmir, 63 aspiring entrepreneurs presented their business ideas before the committee. In today's second sitting at Bari Brahmana, another 25 applicants pitched their startup ideas and business proposals for consideration under the seed funding component of the policy.

The Committee evaluated the proposals on various parameters, including innovation, business viability, scalability, market potential, problem-solving capabilities, feasibility and the potential of the proposed ventures to generate employment and contribute to the economic development of Jammu and Kashmir. The exercise provided aspiring entrepreneurs an opportunity to present their innovative business concepts before a panel of experts and receive valuable observations and feedback to strengthen their business models and enhance their prospects for commercialisation. The seed funding component of the J&K Startup Policy 2024–27 provides financial assistance of up to ₹ 20 lakh to eligible startups, in four installments, to support prototype development, product development, market entry and business expansion, subject to the prescribed eligibility conditions and operational guidelines. The initiative assumes significance in view of the expanding startup ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. Till October 2026, 1,414 startups were registered on the Startup JK Portal, including more than 200 women-led ventures. Further, 27 startups have already been sanctioned seed assistance amounting to ₹ 5.40 crore.

Director, Urban Transport, MoHUA reviews PM-eBus Sewa progress, existing electric bus operations in Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 14: A team from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), led by Bhanu Pratap Singh Bhadoria, Director, Urban Transport, on Saturday visited the under-construction electric bus depot at Bhagwati Nagar to review the progress of infrastructure development under the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme and assess arrangements for expanding Jammu's electric public transport network.

The visiting team also comprised Divya Jain, State Representative, Programme Management Unit (PMU), PM-eBus Sewa.

Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and CEO, Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL), Ayushi Sudan, accompanied the team during the site visit along with Vivek Chopra, Assistant Executive Engineer, and Narinder Singh, Senior Manager (Finance and Revenue) and In-charge Operations, JSCL, besides other officials of JMC and JSCL.

During the visit, the officials were briefed on the ongoing construction of the new depot, its physical and financial progress, and the infrastructure being developed to accommodate the additional electric buses proposed for the city.

The team was informed that Jammu has been allocated 100 additional electric buses under the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme.

The proposed fleet comprises 12-metre buses and 75 seven-metre buses. While the larger buses are intended to cater to routes with higher passenger demand, the smaller vehicles will provide greater flexibility for operations in congested and narrower parts



of the city. The implementation arrangements for the 25 twelve-metre buses have been taken forward through an agreement with PMI Electro Mobility Solutions Private Limited, while the procurement process for the remaining 75 seven-metre buses has also progressed, with the Letter of Confirmation of Demand (LoCD) issued by Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL).

The visiting officials were apprised of the development of the Bhagwati Nagar depot by JSCL, which is being established as a dedicated facility to support the expanded electric bus fleet.

The depot project has a budgeted cost of ₹ 16.72 crore, comprising ₹ 15.05 crore in Central Assistance and ₹ 1.67 crore as the UT share.

The team also reviewed the supporting Behind-the-Meter (BTM) power infrastructure being developed by Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) to meet the electricity requirements of the depot and charging facilities.

Besides reviewing the new infrastructure, the visiting team was also briefed on the existing electric bus services in Jammu.

The city currently operates a fleet of 100 electric buses, which were allocated under the FAME-II Scheme and are being operated by JSCL, providing public transport within Jammu and connecting it with several adjoining destinations.

The existing fleet is equipped with passenger-oriented facilities, including CCTV cameras, emergency panic buttons, real-time vehicle tracking and passenger information systems.

The services have also expanded connectivity to destinations such as Kathua, Udhampur, Katra and Khour, besides various routes within Jammu.

Bhanu Pratap Singh Bhadoria, Director, Urban Transport, MoHUA, expressed satisfaction over the physical progress of the under-construction electric bus depot at Bhagwati Nagar under the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme.

DC Kathua reviews progress of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

■ HT News Network



KATHUA, NOVEMBER 14: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting here in the DC Office Complex to review the progress and implementation status of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner took stock of the progress achieved under the scheme, particularly the status of registrations, pending applications and installation of rooftop solar systems.

The DC directed the concerned departments and stakeholders to expedite the process and take focused measures to clear all pending cases related to installations. He emphasised the need for effective coordination among all stakeholders to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme and timely resolution of issues affecting its progress.

He further instructed the concerned department to identify and remove operational bottlenecks, ensure timely inspections of installed systems and streamline the process at every stage to avoid unnecessary delays.

Stressing the importance of effective field-level monitoring, the DC directed the officers to maintain close coordination, regularly review progress and ensure that eligible beneficiaries are facilitated in availing the benefits of the scheme within stipulated timelines.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Kathua Ranjeet Thakur, XEN JPDCL Kathua and officers of the concerned departments and other stakeholders associated with the implementation of the scheme.

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

It is notified that the applicant namely Manzoor Ahmad Parra S/o Gh Ahmad Parra R/o Check kawoosa Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of BIRTH certificate of his own namely as Manzoor Ahmad Parra S/o Gh Ahmad Parra
The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his own as per records 01 / 03/ 1980
If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .

13/11/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Name...MUBEENA QADIR
D/O....GH QADIR KUMAR
R/O.. WATERGAM WAGOORA BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My son's 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

I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME NAJIMA NIGHAT TO NIKHAT ASHRAF .IN FUTURE I WILL BE KNOWN AS NIKHAT ASHRAF . IF ANYBODY IS HAVING ANY OBJECTION HE / SHE MAY CONTACT PASSPORT OFFICE SRINAGAR WITHIN 7(SEVEN) DAYS .AFTER 7 DAYS NO OBJECTION WILL BE ACCEPTED.

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, QAZIGUND

Present: Rabyia Sanober Gulzar
In the Case of:

Mohammad Ashraf Bhat S/o Gull Mohammad Bhat, R/o Khaloora, Tehsil Pahloo, District Kulgam.

Applicant

V/S

B.D.O. Pahloo
Non-Applicant

Whereas, the applicant, namely Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, has sought a direction against the non-applicant for registration of the birth particulars of his daughter, namely Iqra Bint-e-Ashraf, who was born on 05-09-2011.
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 do so on or before 05-12-2026, when the matter is listed for further proceedings.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court today on 14-11-2026.
Announced.

Sd/
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Kulgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the father of my minor child, hereby give the following declaration for the correction of his name in the Aadhaar records:That I am the father and legal guardian of my minor child, UMAID AHMAD BHAT.
That the Aadhaar Number of my child is 336242210172.
That due to an inadvertent error, my child's name has been incorrectly recorded as MOHAMMAD UMAID BHAT in his Aadhaar Card instead of his correct name, UMAID AHMAD BHAT.That the correct name of my child is UMAID AHMAD BHAT, which should be reflected in all official records, including the Aadhaar database.
That I am issuing this Public Notice to declare the correct name of my minor child and to request the concerned Aadhaar Authority to make the necessary correction in the Aadhaar records.Any person having any objection to the above-mentioned name correction may raise the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

PLACE NADBAL BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Masroor Lateef, Teacher, Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Amirakadal, Srinagar, hereby notify the general public that my father's name has been inadvertently recorded as MOHAMMAD LATEEF BHAT in my Service Book, whereas the correct name is MOHD LATEEF BHAT.
I intend to get the said discrepancy corrected in my Service Book.
Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may submit the same in writing at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Amirakadal, Srinagar, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated period.

Sd/-
MASROOR LATEEF
Teacher
GGHSS Amirakadal, Srinagar

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 BARAMULLAAadhar number 416624114129

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

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER NAGAM

Email-sdhnagam@gmail.com Phone:- 01951466424
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

Sealed tenders affixed with a Revenue Stamp of Rs 10/- (Rupees Ten only) and accompanied by a Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) / Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) of 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) from any scheduled/ nationalized bank pledged to the Block Medical Officer, Nagam, are hereby invited from authorized and registered LPG distributors/dealers for the supply/refilling of Commercial LPG Cylinders (19 Kg capacity) to various Health Institutions functioning under the administrative control of Health Block Nagam for the winter season 2026-27.
The complete tender documents sealed in a proper envelope must reach the office of the undersigned by or before 18-11-2026 up to 04:00 PM. The tenders will be opened on 19/11/2026 at 02:00 in the office chamber of the undersigned in the presence of participating tenderers or their authorized representatives who choose to remain present.
Terms and Conditions
1. Tenders must be submitted in a double-sealed envelope superscribed with "Tender for Supply/Refilling of Commercial LPG Cylinders (19 Kg) - Winter 2026-27", along with the NIT number, date, and name/address of the bidder.
2. Only properly sealed commercial 19 Kg cylinders with intact safety caps, seals, and correct net tare/gross weight as per standard weights and measures regulations shall be accepted.
3. Supply must be delivered to the designated health institutions within 24 hours from the issuance of formal supply/requisition orders. In case of emergency or severe weather contingencies, the supplier must ensure round-the-clock (24x7) availability and immediate replenishment.
4. The rates quoted per 19 Kg refilled cylinder must be strictly on a FOR (Free on Rail/Road) destination basis at the designated central store or peripheral health facilities, inclusive of all transportation charges, loading, unloading, carriage, toll/entry charges, and applicable GST. No escalation or hidden charges shall be entertained during the contract period.
5. The bidder must submit self-attested copies of:
Valid Dealership/Distributorship Authorization Certificate issued by an Oil Marketing Company (IOCL / BPCL / HPCL).
Valid GST Registration Certificate along with latest GST-3B return filing clearance.
Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card.
Valid Trade License / PESO (Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization) storage/handling authorization.
6. Tenders containing conditional clauses, handwritten alterations, or overwriting without proper countersignatures shall be rejected summarily.
7. The rates quoted must be competitive and reasonable, and under no circumstances higher than the rates offered or billed by the bidder to any other Government department, hospital, or public sector undertaking during the concurrent period.
8. In the event of default, delayed delivery, or failure to supply within the stipulated 24-hour timeline, the department reserves the right to procure supplies from open market/alternative sources at the risk and expense of the defaulting contractor, with the price differential deducted from pending bills or security deposits.
9. The Block Medical Officer, Nagam reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. Any legal dispute arising out of this procurement shall fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the competent local courts in District Budgam.

DIPK-7704/26
Send Date: Nov 14 2026

Sd/-
Block Medical Officer
Nagam

Health & Medical Education Department, Govt. of J&K

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG

College Campus, Dialgam Anantnag J&K-192210 Email ID: principal-gmca@jk.gov.in

Subject :-Engagement of Senior Resident in the Department of Anatomy, Govt. Medical College Anantnag.
Ref:-1. Advertisement Notice No. 10 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 10.06.2026.
2. Selection Notification No. 18 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 30.09.2026.
3. CID Verification Report received from CID J&K vide Form No. 177272,
Dated: 10-11-2026 Engagement of Senior Resident in the Department of Anatomy, Govt. Medical College Anantnag.

ORDER NO.: 792 GMCA OF 2026
DATED: 1-11-2026

Pursuant to the Selection Notification issued vide No. 18 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 30.09.2026, below mentioned candidate is provisionally engaged as Senior Resident on Academic Arrangement Basis under S.O 364 of 2020, Dated 27.11.2020, in the Department of Anatomy, Government Medical College Anantnag initially for a period of one (01) year which is extendable upto (03) years only on the basis of goop performance to be certified by the concerned Head of Department.

Name of Candidate	Parentage	Address	Whether In-Service
Dr Mir Iffat Khurshid	Mr. Khurshid Ahmad Mir	Gudoora, Pulwama	No

The above candidate is directed to join in the office of the Principal, Govt. Medical College Anantnag within 21 days from the date of publication of this order and shall be allowed to join on production of following ocuments in original for verification.
1. Essential Qualification Certificate(s).
2. Registration Certificate(s) of Essential Qualification.
3. Date of Birth Certificate.
4. Domicile Certificate.
Terms and Conditions:
1. The above candidate shall have to execute an agreement with the institution on a prescribed format (Form A of S.O 364) with regard to the various terms and conditions applicable during academic arrangement. The candidate shall strictly ensure that he/she shall not leave the post (College) before the completion of tenure of six months, however abandoning/terminating in the specialty will require onemonth prior notice on either side falling which the salary shall not be paid for one month to the incumbent which shall be released on completion of stipulated sanctioned term.
Before joining the Department, the selected candidate shall submit an affidavit in the Establishment Section (Main Campus), Govt. Medical College Anantnag duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) to the effect that:
a. I understand all the terms and conditions set out in the agreement (Form A of S.O 364 of 2020) and I shall be bound by all such terms and conditions (Form A of S.O 364) duly executed by me.
If any of the information furnished by me to the college is found wrong at any point of time, I shall be liable to be punished under rules including confiscation of the Registration of the Doctor.
I will not participate in any kind of strike during the period of my tenure engagement. In the event I proceeded on strike, my tenure engagement shall be terminated without any notice as this service is covered under ESMA Act.
d. I shall remain disciplined during the tenure period; any kind of misconduct shall make me liable for termination without any prior notice.
e. I am not involved in any criminal activity nor is there is any FIR/Court case pending/registered against me in any criminal department or police station/Hon'ble Court.

DIPK-7675/26
Send Date: Nov 14 2026

Sd/-
Prof. Dr) Junald S Wani,
Principal,
Govt. Medical Colfege, Anantnag.

Mega Job Fair held in Kupwara; over 1,600 Youth connect with 30 Employers

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 14: The District Employment and Counselling Centre (DECC), Kupwara, and REACHA organised a job fair at Kupwara today, in association with Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) and Indian Army, providing a significant platform for local youth to connect with leading employers and explore employment opportunities.

The District Employment and Counselling Centre, coordinated closely with the REACHA team and facilitated mobilisation and outreach efforts for the event.

The job fair witnessed participation from over 30 employers from across Kashmir, while several reputed companies from different parts of the country joined virtually. Prominent participating organisations included Taj Dal View, Snow Land, Radisson Collection, Rose Petal, Sarovar Portico, Lemon Tree, Arco Group of Hotels, Blinkit, Kabo, KFC and Aditya Birla Group, among others.

The event received an encouraging response, with more than 1,600 youth from Kupwara and adjoining areas registering and attending the fair. The programme witnessed active interaction between recruiters and aspiring candidates and concluded on a positive note.

The initiative aimed at strengthening the district's employment and placement ecosystem by facilitating direct engagement between job seekers and prospective employers, while fostering partnerships to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for local youth.

The initiative assumes particular significance in view of Kupwara's geographical and developmental challenges as an Aspirational District. It demonstrated the potential of collaborative efforts involving the administration, industry, civil society and other stakeholders in expanding employment avenues and connecting youth from remote areas with mainstream industry.

Senior officers of the District Administration, representatives of REACHA, participating recruiters and a large number of youth attended the event.

FDA seizes, destroys 1,600 kg of buffalo meat in Budgam Railway Station for violation of Food Safety requirements

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 14: The FDA, J&K, along with the Railway Police, railway authorities and the District Administration, Budgam, seized and subsequently destroyed approximately 1,600 kg of buffalo meat at Budgam Railway Station following the detection of serious violations relating to its declaration, transportation and maintenance of prescribed cold-chain conditions.

The enforcement action was initiated following specific information received from the railway authorities regarding the transportation of a consignment of buffalo meat. Acting promptly on the information, the Food Safety Team, Budgam, inspected the consignment and it was observed that adequate refrigeration or dry-ice arrangements had not been made to maintain the prescribed transportation temperature of -18°C or below, thereby compromising the mandatory cold-chain requirements.

The consignment was further subjected to preliminary testing through the Food Safety on Wheels facility, which indicated that the meat was unfit for human consumption.

Accordingly, the entire consignment, weighing approximately 1,600 kg, was seized and subsequently destroyed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the prescribed procedures for disposal of food articles unfit for human consumption.It is pertinent to mention that, in an earlier enforcement action, the Food Safety Authorities had seized approximately 2,600 kg of meat in Srinagar. The FDA, J&K, continues to maintain strict vigilance across all districts to prevent the transportation, distribution and sale of unsafe and non-compliant food commodities, with stringent legal action being initiated against violators in accordance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the rules and regulations framed thereunder.The Department has urged consumers to remain vigilant and report any instance of the sale or distribution of unsafe or adulterated food through the official email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

2nd IAP Neonatal Resuscitation Program (first golden minute Project) held at SDH Bhaderwah

■ HT News Network



BHADERWAH, NOVEMBER 14: The 2nd Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) Neonatal Resuscitation Programme, under the First Golden Minute Project, was successfully conducted today at Sub-District Hospital Bhaderwah.

The programme witnessed active participation from Medical Officers, paramedical staff and other healthcare professionals of SDH Bhaderwah, with a focus on strengthening skills and competencies in neonatal resuscitation and ensuring timely intervention during newborn emergencies.

A team of experts from Govt Medical College Doda participated in the programme, comprising Dr. Satish Sharma, Consultant Pediatrics, along with the instructors viz Dr. Najmus Saqib, Professor, Pediatrics GMC Doda, Dr. Narinder Singh, Assistant Professor GMC Doda and Dr. Sangita Kotwal, Consultant Pediatrics from SDH Bhaderwah.The expert faculty imparted valuable knowledge and practical training on essential neonatal resuscitation techniques, highlighting the importance of timely and appropriate intervention during the first golden minute of a newborn's life.

On the occasion, BMO Bhaderwah Dr Versha Sharma expressed gratitude to the expert team from GMC Doda for their valuable contribution, technical expertise and commitment towards capacity building of healthcare personnel. She also appreciated the participation of the staff and emphasized the importance of such training programmes in improving newborn care and reducing preventable neonatal deaths.

The programme concluded with a renewed commitment towards strengthening newborn healthcare services and ensuring quality maternal and child healthcare delivery in the district.

J&K Startup Policy 2024–27 JKEDI convenes 2nd sitting of Screening Committee meeting for seed funding

■ HT News Network



SJAMMU, NOVEMBER 14: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), the designated Nodal Agency for implementation of the J&K Startup Policy 2024–27, today convened the second sitting of the Startup Screening Committee meeting here at its Regional Office Bari Brahmana, to evaluate startup proposals seeking seed funding assistance under the policy.

A total of 108 applications were received for seed funding assistance under the initiative, out of which 86 applications were found to have complete documentation and were considered ready for placement before the Screening Committee.

The screening exercise was conducted in two sittings to facilitate the evaluation of eligible applicants from across the Union Territory. During the first sitting, held at JKEDI Headquarters, Pampore, Kashmir, 63 aspiring entrepreneurs presented their business ideas before the committee. In today's second sitting at Bari Brahmana, another 25 applicants pitched their startup ideas and business proposals for consideration under the seed funding component of the policy.

The Committee evaluated the proposals on various parameters, including innovation, business viability, scalability, market potential, problem-solving capabilities, feasibility and the potential of the proposed ventures to generate employment and contribute to the economic development of Jammu and Kashmir.The exercise provided aspiring entrepreneurs an opportunity to present their innovative business concepts before a panel of experts and receive valuable observations and feedback to strengthen their business models and enhance their prospects for commercialisation.

The seed funding component of the J&K Startup Policy 2024–27 provides financial assistance of up to 20 lakh to eligible startups, in four installments, to support prototype development, product development, market entry and business expansion, subject to the prescribed eligibility conditions and operational guidelines.

SWD Srinagar organizes Community Awareness Programme on Financial Literacy, Social Security Schemes in Hazratbal area

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 14: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, through SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), organized Community Awareness Programme on Financial Literacy, Financial Assistance Schemes and various Social Security Schemes in Hazratbal area of District Srinagar with the objective of empowering women and community members by enhancing their awareness about available government welfare initiatives and financial support mechanisms.During the programme, participants were sensitized about the importance of financial literacy, financial planning, savings, responsible financial management and the benefits of various government-sponsored financial assistance and social security schemes. Detailed information was also shared regarding the eligibility criteria, application procedures.

Director Agriculture reviews Khet Bachao Abhiyan implementation in Kashmir division

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 14: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today conveyed a meeting to review the progress under Khet Bachao Abhiyan in Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by joint Director Agriculture Extension Jammu and all the Chief Agriculture Officers of Kashmir division through virtual mode.

Director Agriculture underscored the importance of this vital nationwide campaign being implemented from 22nd October to 30th November for the promotion of sustainable agriculture, improvement of soil health and encouragement of the judicious use of agricultural resources with minimum intervention of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Mobilisation Drive for two newly Registered FPOs held at Handwara; ₹2 Lakh support distributed

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 14: A mobilisation drive for two newly registered Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Sara Farmer Producer Organization Cooperative Limited, Magam, Handwara, and Lolab Agro Farmer Producer Organization Cooperative Limited, Chandigam, Lolab, was organised today at Town Hall, Handwara, under the JKCIP initiative of SKUAST-Kashmir, sponsored by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The programme was graced by Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir, as the Chief Guest, while Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, as the Guest of Honour. Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Bhat, Coordinator, Upscaling Collectivisation, JKCIP, along with officers from various line departments, scientists and farmers, also participated.

On the occasion, mobilisation support cheques of 1 lakh each were distributed to the two FPOs, amounting to a total of 2 lakh, to facilitate farmer mobilisation, strengthen institutional capacity and promote collective farming enterprises. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth emphasised the importance of FPOs in improving farmers' income, strengthening market linkages and promoting entrepreneurship. She congratulated the JKCIP and KVK



Kupwara teams for their dedicated efforts in the formation and registration of the two FPOs. She also acknowledged the continued support of the Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, Dr. Nazir Ahmad Ganie, IFAD and the Agriculture Production Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

ADC Handwara appreciated the initiative and stressed coordinated efforts among farmers, government departments and agricultural institutions for sustainable rural development.

Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Bhat highlighted the importance of professional management, transparent functioning and collective marketing for the long-term sustainability of FPOs. Representatives of various line departments also assured technical guidance and institutional support to the newly established organisations.

The programme concluded with a commitment to strengthening farmer collectivisation and promoting sustainable, market-oriented agricultural development in the region.

Director Agriculture reviews expenditure status, progress of departmental schemes

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 14: Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu Anil Gupta today chaired a high-level review meeting here in the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Agriculture Krishi Bhawan Talab Tillo to assess the expenditure status against funds released during the current financial year and review the physical and financial progress of the departmental schemes.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Director (E&S) Mudassir Yaqoob Zargar, Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu Manohar Lal Sharma, SMS (RL) Krishan Kant, Technical Officer HADP and JKCIP Raj Kumar, In charge CSS Section Shri Deep Gupta, along with officers from the Planning, CSS, JKCIP and Technical Sections of the Directorate. Chief Agriculture Officers and District Agriculture Officers of Jammu Division participated through Video Conferencing.

The Director emphasized that expenditure must strictly correspond to the approved Action Plan and stressed the need for timely and optimum utilization of allocated funds. While reviewing CAPEX, he directed the districts to expedite the submission of bills under Apiculture and Mushroom Development and furnish updated physical achievements under Strengthening, Intensive Vegetable Development and Spices components. He also stressed the need to focus on brand promotion and marketing activities to enhance the visibility and marketability of agricultural produce. He directed all Chief Agriculture Officers to submit updated Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs) to the Deputy Director Planning within one day.

Reviewing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the Director assessed the physical and financial progress under ATMA, NFSM and MIDH and directed the concerned officers to submit



pending bills without delay. He also emphasized organizing exposure visits for farmers and departmental officers under ATMA to facilitate knowledge sharing and adoption of improved agricultural practices.

The Director reviewed the status of pending infrastructure projects under NABARD and instructed the concerned officers to maintain close coordination with executing agencies to ensure their timely completion. He directed the concerned Chief Agriculture Officers to submit Utilization Certificates (UCs) for the ongoing Centre of Excellence (CoE) project so that the second phase of the project is not delayed. The progress of the Baba Jitto Scheme under NABARD was also reviewed, with directions to expedite all pending works. He particularly emphasized that micro-irrigation is an essential component of the Baba Jitto Project and instructed the concerned districts to accelerate its implementation.

While reviewing the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Anil Gupta took stock of the progress of all projects and directed the officers to ensure that updated Monthly Progress Reports are regularly submitted to the Directorate. Under JKCIP, he reviewed the physical progress of the Protected Cultivation project and directed the concerned officers to submit pending bills promptly.

The Director also reviewed the progress of various key projects under HADP and JKCIP including Agri-Tourism, Hill Garlic, Water Management, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Honey Production and Promotion and the Seed Village Programme and stressed the need to achieve the prescribed physical and financial targets within the stipulated timelines.

Emphasizing financial discipline and accountability, Anil Gupta directed all officers to work in close coordination with executing agencies and ensure that expenditure is incurred strictly in accordance with approved plans and guidelines. He issued clear instructions that all pending expenditure bills must be submitted within one week to ensure timely financial reporting and effective implementation of departmental schemes. The Director also reviewed the progress of various key projects under HADP and JKCIP including Agri-Tourism, Hill Garlic, Water Management, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Honey Production and Promotion.

Health Concerns in Kashmir During Winter



Sahil Manzoor

Stay Healthy, Stay Happy

Winter is approaching in Kashmir. During this season, we need warm homes, healthy food, and proper care to protect ourselves from common health problems such as colds, coughs, and fever.

During winter, temperatures sometimes fall below zero degrees. This makes daily life difficult for many people. However, winter is not new to us. We should be prepared for this cold season and take proper care of our health.

Many people enjoy winter by taking part in different activities, such as going to the gym, playing cricket and volleyball, and enjoying indoor games.

My advice to the people of Kashmir is simple: Do not be afraid of winter. Enjoy the season, stay active, eat healthy food, and take care of your health. We should spend our time doing activities that keep us fit and happy.

Remember, a healthy body leads to a happy life.

Importance of Regular Exercise

Healthy People, Healthy Nation

Regular exercise helps us stay fit, healthy, and active. It also teaches us discipline and helps us live a better life.

Today, many people face health problems such as obesity, fatty liver, high cholesterol, and heart diseases. Stress and anxiety have also become common. To avoid many of these problems, we need to follow a healthy routine.

We should eat a balanced diet, exercise regularly, get enough sleep, and go for medical check-ups when needed. Small changes in our daily routine can make a big difference to our health.

Importance of a Home Gym

Nowadays, many people suffer from health problems such as obesity, digestive problems, fatty liver, heart diseases, and joint problems.

Our bodies perform many important functions every day. For example, our bodies digest food, circulate blood, and remove waste materials. These natural processes are amazing and remind us of the greatness of Almighty Allah.

As human beings, we should be thankful for the blessings we have received. We should also understand the importance of protecting our health and taking care of our bodies.

The Cell: A Basic Unit of Life

A cell is the basic structural and functional unit of life. All living organisms are made up of cells. Some organisms have only one cell, while others have many cells.

The human body contains trillions of cells. Each cell performs important functions that help our bodies work properly.

Different parts of a cell have different functions:

Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER): Helps make and transport proteins and fats.

Golgi Apparatus: Packs and sends proteins and fats to different parts of the cell.

Ribosomes: Help make proteins.

Lysosomes: Break down waste materials inside cells.

Vacuoles: Store water, nutrients, and waste materials.

Peroxisomes: Help break down fats and remove certain harmful substances.

Cytoskeleton: Gives shape and support to the cell.

Centrioles: Help in cell division in animal cells.

Chloroplasts: Found in plant cells, they help plants make food using sunlight.

When we learn about these tiny structures, we understand how wonderfully the human body and other living things are organised.

Atoms: The Tiny Building Blocks of Matter

Everything around us is made up of atoms. Atoms are so small that we cannot see them with our naked eyes.

An atom has a central part called the nucleus, with electrons found around it in different energy levels.

Science helps us understand how the universe works. However, there is still much more to learn about the world around us.

As Muslims, we believe that Almighty Allah is the Creator of the universe. We should always be thankful for His blessings and use our knowledge to help others.

We have been blessed with a wonderful mind that allows us to think, learn, and discover new things. We should use this ability for the betterment of society.

Although medical science has made great progress, some serious diseases, including cancer and AIDS, continue to create major health challenges. Scientists and doctors are working to find better treatments and improve people's lives.

Through this article, I want to remind readers of the blessings of Almighty Allah and the importance of respecting every living creature. No country, person, or nation should consider itself superior to everyone else. Every human being has value, and we should treat others with kindness and respect.

Health Is More Important Than Wealth

Today, I want to share my thoughts on the importance of regular exercise and how it helps us stay happy, fit, and energetic.

First, we should ask ourselves an important question: What matters most in life—health, money, buildings, or fame?



Without good health, it becomes difficult to enjoy many other things in life. Therefore, we should give our health the same importance that we give to education, money, and success.

Today, we encourage people to achieve their goals and become successful. However, we should also encourage them to take care of their health.

The Importance of Physical Work

Some people are lucky because their jobs involve physical activity. Workers and labourers, for example, remain active while performing their daily duties.

Unfortunately, many labourers earn very little despite working hard to support their families. They deserve our respect, appreciation, and better support from society and the government.

The government should introduce helpful schemes and fair wages to improve their living conditions.

Sportspeople are also fortunate because sports keep them physically active. Through sports, they can improve their fitness, develop discipline, make friends, and sometimes achieve fame and financial success.

What Is a Home Gym?

Many people say that they do not have enough time to visit a gym. For such people, a home gym can be a useful option.

A home gym is a place in your house where you can exercise regularly. You do not need a large room or expensive equipment to begin.

You can start with a small space and some basic equipment. For example, you can use a yoga mat, skipping rope, and light exercise weights, depending on your needs.

As your budget allows, you can gradually add more equipment.

You can also ask your friends and relatives to give you simple fitness equipment as a gift on special occasions instead of expensive presents.

The main purpose of a home gym is to make exercise easy and convenient.

My Experience with Gym Exercise

I was in Class 8 when I started going to the gym. In Kashmir, many people call bodybuilding the iron game.

During this journey, I met many kind and helpful people, including teachers, businesspeople, sportspersons, and government employees. They encouraged me and helped me stay motivated.

Like every journey, mine also had ups and downs. However, exercise gave me a feeling of happiness and positivity. I felt more energetic and noticed improvements in my daily routine.

My experience taught me that regular physical activity can help us develop discipline and confidence.

Based on my experience, I encourage young people to take part in sports and fitness activities. These activities can help them use their free time positively, develop good habits, and learn kindness and discipline.

Young people should also stay away from smoking, drugs, and other harmful habits.

However, everyone should exercise according to their age and ability. Beginners should learn the correct techniques from a qualified trainer to avoid injuries.

How to Start a Home Gym

Before setting up a home gym, it is helpful to consult a qualified fitness trainer.

A trainer can guide you about suitable exercises, basic equipment, and safe ways to exercise different parts of the body.

You can also encourage your brothers, sisters, and parents to join you in simple fitness activities.

Family exercise can be enjoyable and can help everyone develop healthy habits.

Remember, you do not need an expensive gym to stay active. Walking, stretching, cycling, and playing outdoor games are also good ways to improve your fitness.

The important thing is to remain active and make exercise a regular part of your life.

The Importance of Gyms in Schools and Colleges

Schools can play an important role in promoting physical fitness among students.

Small gym facilities can be established in schools where students can learn simple exercises under proper supervision. This can help them understand the importance of physical activity from an early age.

Colleges that already have gym facilities should make them available to interested students under proper supervision.

Such facilities can encourage students to take part in healthy activities, reduce stress, and develop discipline.

Along with academic education, schools and colleges should teach students the importance of physical and mental well-being.

A healthy student can develop good habits that may benefit them throughout life.

Keeping Young People Away from Harmful Habits

In many villages, some young people are becoming involved in harmful habits such as smoking and drug use.

This is a serious concern for families and society. We should work together to protect our young generation and guide them towards a better future.

Parents, teachers, community members, and the government all have an important role to play.

We should encourage young people to participate in sports, reading, cultural programmes, and other positive activities.

Local gym centres, sports clubs, and playgrounds can provide useful opportunities for young people to spend their free time productively.

We should also remember that people facing stress, anxiety, or depression may need support from their families, trusted people, and qualified health professionals.

Exercise can support mental well-being, but it is not a replacement for professional medical care when someone needs it.

Our goal should be to build a society where young people feel supported, respected, and encouraged to make healthy choices.

Conclusion: Exercise for a Better Life

Good health is one of the greatest blessings in life. We should never ignore it while working towards money, fame, and success.

Regular exercise, healthy food, proper sleep, and good daily habits can help us lead a better life.

A home gym is one way to remain active, but it is not the only way. Walking, playing games, cycling, and doing simple exercises can also help us stay fit.

During winter in Kashmir, we should take special care of our health, dress warmly, eat balanced meals, and remain physically active in safe ways.

Let us encourage our families, friends, students, and neighbours to adopt healthy habits.

Let us work together to build a healthier society and a brighter future for our young generation.

Stay active, eat healthy, think positively, and take care of yourself and others.

Alhamdulillah for the blessings of Almighty Allah.

Healthy People, Healthy Nation.

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti
sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Young focused on NZ's success with CWC27 spot up for grabs

Uniteds News Of India

MOUNT MOUNGANUI, NOV 14 :New Zealand batter Will Young insists he is placing team success ahead of personal selection ambitions ahead of next year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, following his career-best century against India here.

Young anchored New Zealand's commanding 244-run victory in the fourth ODI at Bay Oval on Friday, striking 125 off 108 balls that included 14 fours and four sixes to propel the hosts to 333 before Matt Henry's six-wicket haul dismantled India for 89.

The result trimmed India's series lead to 2-1, setting up a decisive fifth ODI at the same venue on Sunday.

With the 2027 Men's Cricket World Cup in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia approaching, Young acknowledged the battle for places within the Black Caps setup, though he maintained that individual milestones take a back seat.

"I'm trying not to look at it that way, to be honest," Young said during a media interaction on Saturday.

"There is a World Cup around the corner, and there's a lot of people that want to be in that squad

nd on that plane to Africa, so I think at the moment every player that gets an opportunity is

looking to put their best foot forward.



"The best thing about this team is it's all about contributing to the team success rather than

worrying about your own game and looking over your shoulder as to who else is doing well.

"But it is an important series, and there's a couple more series as well leading up to the World

Cup that are important to try to stake your claim to make that squad.

"But the most important thing I think is being a good team man and trying to contribute in different ways towards the team success that will get you on that plane."

Young's fifth ODI hundred did not come without early fortune, as India put down two catches when the right-hander was on five. Having been dismissed in similar fashion during the second ODI in Wellington, Young admitted he had to quickly reset after the reprieves, according to ICC.

"The first time I was quite frustrated at myself, because it was a similar way that I got out in the second ODI, but then after the second one happened, the very next ball, I just had to laugh it off,and that's exactly what I did," Young said."I laughed it off and just tried to concentrate on the next ball as if it was any other ball."

Once settled, Young benefitted from an explosive 85-run opening stand alongside Tim Seifert,

who hammered 58 off 48 balls to give New Zealand early momentum inside the powerplay.

"I think you've got to remember that cricket is a team sport and thankfully Seifert was seeing it

like a beach ball at the other end and I could sort of just ride along with the momentum that he'd created," Young said.

"Then after a while, I managed to find my timing as well and created some meaningful partnerships throughout the innings, so that was great."A notable feature of Young's knock was his proactive use of the sweep against India's spinners,a shot he credited to years of touring the subcontinent across domestic, New Zealand A, and international assignments."I didn't always sweep," Young said."Growing up in New Zealand, the sweep isn't a shot you really need. It doesn't turn as much here; it's normally the bounce that can get you stuck, but thankfully over my cricketing career I've travelled to India and other parts of the subcontinent and have had the chance to grow my game and learn.

Brar gets Test call-up for NZ tour; Kuldeep released for domestic cricket

Uniteds News Of India

MUMBAI, NOV 14 :India's pace attack has received fresh reinforcement with Gurnoor Brar earning a place in the Test squad for the upcoming two-match series against New Zealand, while wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav has been released to return to domestic cricket, the BCCI announced on Saturday.

The move also means Brar will miss the fifth and final ODI against New Zealand, with the selectors opting against naming a replacement.

The Test series begins in Wellington on November 19, with captain Shubman Gill leading a 16-member squad. Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant has also joined the team in Wellington, strengthening India's options ahead of the series.Brar's inclusion comes as India reshuffles its resources ahead of the red-ball assignment, while Kuldeep's release allows him to turn his attention to domestic cricket. KL Rahul has been named vice-captain of the Test side, which also features Yashasvi Jaiswal, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel, Ravindra Jadeja, Anshul Kamboj, Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Sai Sudharsan, Nitish Kumar Reddy,



Washington Sundar and Mohammed Siraj. Meanwhile, Shreyas Iyer will lead India in the fifth ODI, with Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli featuring in the 14-member squad. Ishan Kishan has been named vice-captain and wicketkeeper.

The ODI squad also includes Tilak Varma, Axar Patel, Naman Dhir, Auqib Nabi, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Arshdeep Singh, Kumar Kushagra, Mohammed Siraj, Yash Thakur and Kuldeep Yadav.

J&K Pencak Silat Association to Organise 11th UT Championship in Srinagar from November 28

Adil Khan

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 13: The Pencak Silat Association of Jammu and Kashmir will organise the 11th Edition of the J&K UT Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior Pencak Silat Championship 2026–27 for boys and girls, men and women, at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex, Srinagar, from November 28 to 30, 2026.



The three-day championship will serve as a selection platform for athletes across all age groups and both genders for the upcoming 4th All India Pencak Silat Championship 2026–27, as well as the All India Inter-District Pencak Silat Championship 2026 for Women. Both national-level competitions are scheduled to be held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi, in the last week of December 2026 and at the end of January 2027, respectively.

According to the Association, only those players who have participated in the 2026 District Pencak Silat Championships in their respective districts will be eligible to compete in the UT-level championship. All participant entries and related data must be submitted exclusively through the authorised representatives of their respective districts.

All participants have been directed to report to their respective coaches or district heads along with their date-of-birth certificates and Aadhaar cards for verification and registration.

The championship will be conducted under the aegis of the J&K Sports Council and the Pencak Silat Association of Jammu and Kashmir.

The last date for submission of entries is November 25, 2026. The Association has clarified that no entries will be entertained after the stipulated deadline.

For further information and registration-related queries, interested participants may contact the Association at jksilat@gmail.com or 9797194893.

Pochettino to take charge of Manchester United

Uniteds News Of India

LONDON, NOV 13 :Argentine coach Mauricio Pochettino will become the head coach of Manchester United from November 18, the Premier League club announced on Friday.

Manchester United said it had reached an agreement with the U.S. Soccer Federation for Pochettino and his staff to be released after the conclusion of their current responsibilities with the U.S. men's national team.

The club said Pochettino is "renowned for his high-intensity, attacking style of football," as well

as "his dedication to building strong, cohesive teams" and "his outstanding record of developing individual players."

Pochettino began his coaching career with Espanyol in 2009 before moving on to Southampton, Tottenham Hotspur, Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea.

At Southampton, he guided the club to a then club-record Premier League points tally in 2014. During five full seasons at Tottenham, Pochettino established the club as regular UEFA Champions League contenders, securing qualification in four consecutive seasons and leading Tottenham totheir first Champions League final in 2019.

India beat Guam 12-0 in AFC U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers

Uniteds News Of India

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 14 :Dominant India U17 men's team notched up their second victory in Group E of the AFC U17 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2027 Qualifiers, trouncing Guam 12-0 at the Kuala Lumpur Football Stadium here in Malaysia on Saturday.

Raj Singh Wahengbam and Dallalmuon Gangte scored a hat-trick each, with the former nettingour. Leo Thongbam gave the Blue Colts the lead in the fifth minute before Gangte scored three more goals to add to his treble against Singapore.The captain was then rested at half-time. Hrishikesh Manavathi put one home as well, and India led 5-0 at the break. On resumption, Mehrajuddin Wadoo's boys piled more misery on their opponents, scoring seven more goals as Raj, David Mangang Irom, Felix Meitei Saikhom and Ristik Maity got on the scoring sheet.It marked the third biggest win in an AFC qualifying match for the Indian U17 men's team, narrowly behind the 13-0 wins over Macau and Brunei Darussalam in 1984 and 2024, respectively.

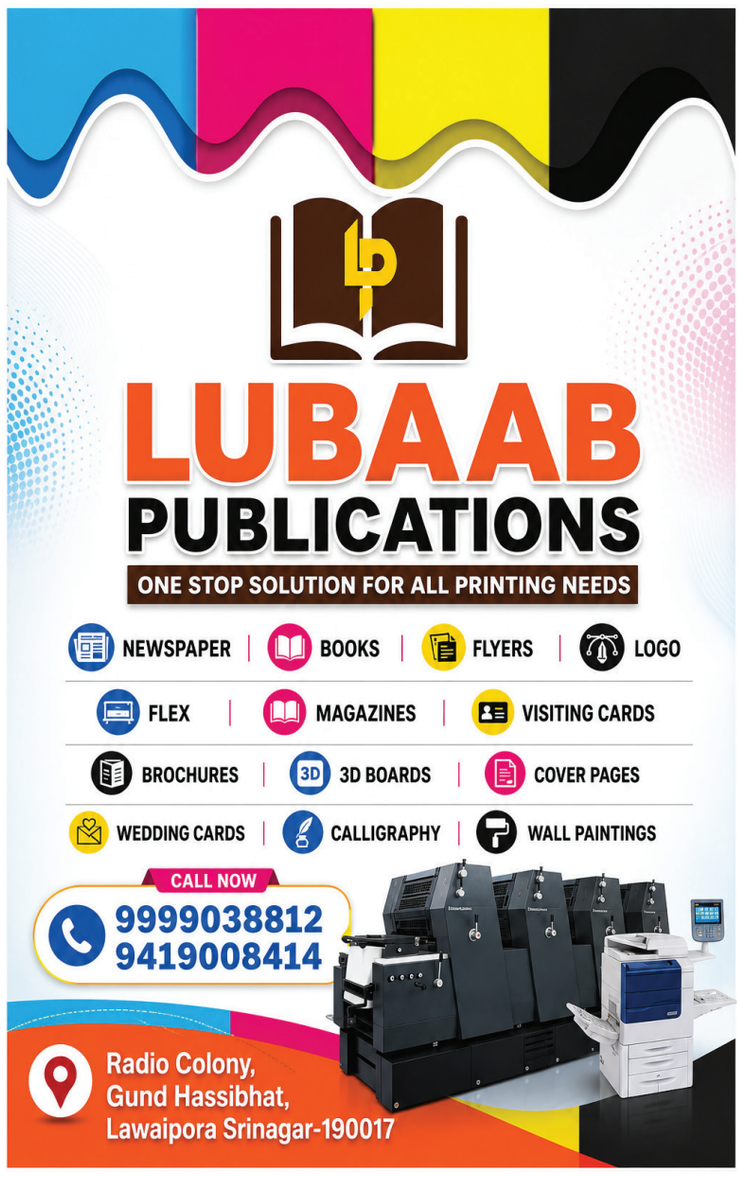
India, with six points, are now top of the table on goal difference ahead of Palestine, their next opponents on Tuesday. Singapore have



three points, while Malaysia and Guam are yet to opentheir account. Only the group winners will qualify for the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2027.

Coming off the win over Singapore, the Blue Colts proved to be far superior to Guam, who had lost 0-5 to Palestine and 0-6 to Singapore. It rained rather heavily for a good portion of the second half. But it rained goals all through







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