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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

'Attempts to Compromise Recruitment Exams Will Be Dealt With Strictly': Jammu Police

14 Arrested in Alleged JKSSB Finance Accounts Assistant Examination Cheating Racket; Three FIRs Registered, SIT Constituted

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, NOV 16: Jammu Police have arrested 14 persons for their alleged involvement in a racket to facilitate cheating in the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) Finance Accounts Assistant examination through wireless communication devices, officials said on Monday. Three FIRs have been registered at Domana Police Station, while a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted to investigate the alleged conspiracy and identify other persons involved. According to a police handout, intelligence inputs indicated that a group was planning to help selected candidates use unfair means during the examination held on Saturday. Acting on the information, multiple police teams were

>>> MORE ON P 02

'India Committed to a Free, Open and Rules-Based Indo-Pacific' : PM Modi

Prime Minister Arrives in Manila for ASEAN-India and East Asia Summits; Regional Security, Maritime Cooperation and Trade to Dominate Discussions

HT NEWS DESK / UNI



MANILA, Nov 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Manila, the Philippine capital, on Monday for a two-day visit to participate in the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit (EAS), with regional security, maritime cooperation, trade and stability in the Indo-Pacific expected to figure prominently on the agenda. Announcing his arrival, the Prime Minister's Office said in a social media post that Modi would participate in both high-level gatherings. The visit, at the invitation of the Philippines, assumes significance amid evolving geopolitical and security dynamics in the region and India's efforts to strengthen its strategic, economic and diplomatic engagement with Southeast Asian nations. The ASEAN-India Summit is expected to review the comprehensive strategic partnership between India and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), while exploring opportunities for cooperation in trade, investment, connectivity, digital technology, defence and people-to-people exchanges. The East Asia Summit will provide a broader platform for regional powers to deliberate on pressing political, economic and security challenges, including maritime security, freedom of navigation, regional stability and respect for international law. India's participation also reflects its commitment to ASEAN centrality under the Act East Policy and its vision of a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Manila, the Philippine capital, on Monday for a two-day visit during which he will attend the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit (EAS), with regional security, maritime cooperation, trade and stability in the Indo-Pacific expected to dominate discussions. Announcing his arrival, the Prime Minister's Office said

>>> MORE ON P 02

'Ajit Pawar's Contributions Will Remain Part of Maharashtra's Legacy' : Amit Shah

Home Minister Pays Tribute to Former Deputy Chief Minister at Statue Unveiling Ceremony in Pune, Recalls His Leadership and Public Service



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

PUNE, Nov 16: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday paid tribute to former Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar at a statue unveiling ceremony in Pune, describing his demise as an irreparable loss to Maharashtra, particularly Pune, Baramati and Pimpri-Chinchwad. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Sunetra Pawar, Union Minister of State for Cooperation Murlidhar Mohol and other dignitaries

>>> MORE ON P 02

"Courage Displayed by Jawans Foiled Terrorists' Designs": Special DG CRPF

Kulgam operation underway to bring perpetrators of November 11 attack to justice; CRPF stresses heightened vigilance and operational coordination

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 16: Special Director General of CRPF's J&K Zone, Sandeep Khirwar, on Monday lauded the courage and determination of CRPF personnel who foiled the designs of terrorists during the recent attack in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, asserting that the force remains on heightened alert to prevent further incidents. Speaking on the sidelines of the inauguration of the fourth edition of the CRPF Cup at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Srinagar, Khirwar said operational discipline, vigilance and coordination among personnel were being maintained to ensure success in ongoing operations. Referring to the operation launched after three CRPF personnel were injured in the November 11 attack at Nowpora Akhran, Kulgam, he said security forces were committed to bringing those responsible to justice, adding that the operation had entered its fifth day. He also described the participation of more than 100 teams seeking entry into the T20 tournament, of which 16 were shortlisted, as a reflection of the growing enthusiasm of local youth



for sporting activities and normalcy.

Lauding the courage of CRPF personnel who thwarted the recent terrorist attack in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, Special Director General (SDG), CRPF, J&K Zone, Sandeep Khirwar, on Monday said the force is maintaining heightened alertness and operational discipline to prevent such incidents from recurring.

>>> MORE ON P 02

'Food Safety Is Non-Negotiable; Violators Will Face Full Force of Law': Sakina Ittoo

FDA Inspects 85 Meat Processing Units Across J&K, Issues 16 Improvement Notices and Recommends Legal Proceedings in 11 Cases

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



SRINAGAR, NOV 16: Jammu and Kashmir Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Masood Ittoo on Monday warned that food safety violations would invite strict legal action, asserting that the government would adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards practices endangering public health. In a post on X, the minister said enforcement measures would be intensified to ensure strict compliance with prescribed food safety standards. She disclosed that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), J&K, had inspected 85 meat processing units across the Union Territory, issued 16 improvement notices to establishments found deficient in compliance and recommended legal proceedings in 11 cases. "Enforcement will be intensified, accountability ensured, and those found violating food safety standards will face the full force of the law," she said, reiterating that public health remained the government's highest priority. The enforcement drive comes amid heightened scrutiny of meat processing, storage and transportation facilities following the recent seizure and destruction of 1,600 kg of frozen buffalo meat at Budgam Railway Station,

>>> MORE ON P 02

"Yoga Can Help Tackle J&K's Drug Menace": Sunil Sharma Seeks S-VYASA Intervention

LoP proposes de-addiction programmes in educational institutions, wellness centres in hilly areas and research on Kashmir's Shaiva traditions

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 16: Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma has urged the Bengaluru-based Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) to extend its yoga-based healthcare and wellness initiatives to Jammu and Kashmir, proposing specialised de-addiction, meditation and stress-management programmes to address the growing drug menace among youth. Addressing the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Prashanti Kutiram in Bengaluru as Chief Guest, Sharma called for introducing community-based yoga initiatives in schools, colleges and remote border areas, besides establishing wellness centres at Patnitop, Kishtwar and Bhaderwah and an S-VYASA centre in Jammu. Highlighting Kashmir's spiritual and intellectual legacy, he also proposed a dedicated research chair to explore the region's Shaiva yoga traditions, particularly the contributions of



Vasugupta and Abhinavagupta and the meditation practices described in the Vijñā na Bhairava Tantra. Sharma invited the S-VYASA leadership to visit Jammu and Kashmir and explore institutional collaboration, saying yoga and holistic healthcare could play an important role in strengthening

>>> MORE ON P 02

Finance deptts to ensure timely payment of electricity dues

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 16 : The Finance Department of J&K Government has expressed concern over the non-payment of electricity bills by several government offices within the stipulated time frame, saying the delays have resulted in the accumulation of substantial arrears against various departments and subordinate offices.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in a circular, the Finance Department said that the failure to settle electricity dues on time has not only led to mounting outstanding liabilities but has also caused avoidable financial losses to the government in the form of late payment surcharges and penalties.

The department stated that timely payment of electricity dues is essential for maintaining the financial viability of power utilities, ensuring reliable power supply, and reducing the Average Cost of Supply (ACS)-Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) gap.

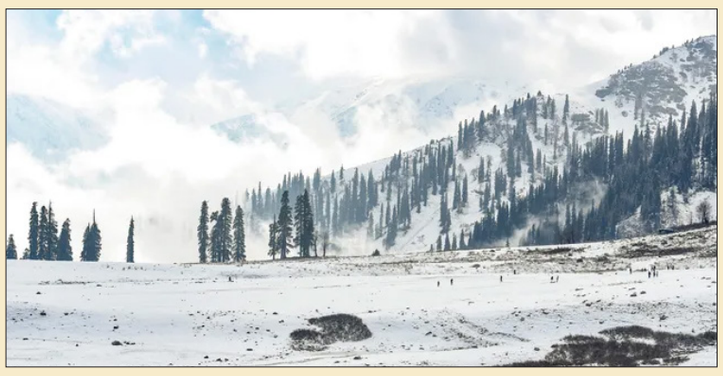
It further pointed out that the pre-qualification criteria under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) mandate 100 per cent payment of current electricity dues by all government departments, local bodies and autonomous

>>> MORE ON P 02

HT BOTTOM NEWS

'Gulmarg, Pahalgam Shiver at Minus 3.5°C as Winter Chill Intensifies Across Kashmir'

Qazigund Records Season's First Sub-Zero Night at Minus 0.4°C; Meteorological Department Forecasts Predominantly Dry Weather Till November 25



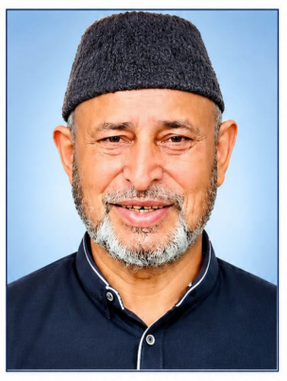
HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 16: Night temperatures continued to plummet across Kashmir, with Gulmarg and Pahalgam recording the season's coldest night at minus 3.5 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund registered its first sub-zero temperature of the season at minus 0.4 degrees Celsius, officials said on Monday. According to a senior Meteorological Department official, Kupwara in north Kashmir also recorded a minimum temperature of minus 0.2 degrees Celsius, indicating a further intensification of cold conditions across the Valley. The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast predominantly dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir over the coming days, although partly cloudy to cloudy conditions are expected on November 20 and 21. The department has predicted mainly dry weather from November 15 to 21, followed by another spell of dry conditions between November 22 and 25, while advising farmers to resume agricultural activities in view of the favourable forecast. The temperature decline follows a western disturbance that affected Jammu and Kashmir on November 12 and 13, bringing widespread rainfall to the plains and snowfall to higher reaches, including Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg. The precipitation marked a further transition towards winter, with freezing night temperatures now being recorded in several parts of the Valley. Gulmarg and Pahalgam recorded the season's coldest night so far,

>>> MORE ON P 02

Syed Farooq Andrabi is No More

Retired Revenue Officer, father of Senior Anchor Syed Tajamul Andrabi, passes away in road accident



HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Nov 18: Senior revenue officer (retired) Syed Farooq Andrabi passed away in a tragic road accident today, leaving behind a family and community in deep grief.

The deceased was the father of senior news anchor Syed Tajamul Andrabi and Joint Director, State Motor Garages, Syed Mourif Andrabi.

Known for his piousness, simplicity and humane nature, Syed Farooq Andrabi was widely respected in official circles and among the people for his dignified personality and service to society.

Chief Editor of Headlines Today, Dr Syed Jahangir Bukhari, has expressed heartfelt condolences with the bereaved family. In his message, he described the departed soul as an epitome of piousness and simplicity.

According to family sources, Fatiha Khawani (congregational prayer) will be held at the ancestral graveyard at Syed Pora Bhat Pora on 19th of November at 10:30 am.

Funeral Details
Fatiha Khawani
on 19th of November at 10:30 am
Syed Pora Bhat Pora Ancestral Graveyard

Deeply Mourned

Lubaab Publications Group and the entire team of Headlines Today extend heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pray for the departed soul's eternal peace and grant strength to the family in this hour of grief.

— Dr Syed Jahangir Bukhari —
Chief Editor, Headlines Today

Sarnagath Kour Passes Away In Dardpora Kreeri

Lubaab Publications Group Expresses Condolences and Solidarity with the Bereaved family

HT NEWS DESK

DARDPORA KREERI: Sarnagath Kour, wife of Master Harjeet Singh ji and resident of Dardpora, Kreeri, Baramulla, passed away today. Her cremation was held at 2:00 PM at Shamshan Ghat, Dardpora, Kreeri in which a good number of people participated and bid good by to the departed soul. The deceased was an epitome of simplicity and a respected lady of the area.



The Chief Patron of Lubaab Publications Group, Syed Sad-ud-Din Saidi, and Editor-in-Chief of Daily Headlines Today, Dr Syed Jahangir Bukhari, have expressed deep sorrow over her demise and conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. Later Mr Bukhari visited the residence of Master Harjeet Singh ji and condoled the sad demise and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength, courage and patience for the family to bear the irreparable loss.

Continue from Front Page.....

'Attempts to Compromise

deployed around identified examination centres, leading to the apprehension of 14 suspected persons from peripheral and adjoining areas before the commencement of the examination. Several electronic devices, including wireless radio sets allegedly intended to transmit answers to candidates inside examination halls, were also seized. The SIT will investigate the suspected network, establish the roles of facilitators and beneficiaries, trace the source of the electronic equipment and ascertain whether others were involved. The examination was conducted for 600 vacancies in the Finance Department, with more than 1.61 lakh candidates appearing, translating into nearly 270 aspirants competing for each post. Police said strict legal action would be taken against anyone found attempting to undermine the fairness and transparency of competitive recruitment examinations.

Jammu Police have arrested 14 people for their alleged involvement in a racket to facilitate cheating in the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) Finance Accounts Assistant examination through the use of wireless communication devices, officials said on Sunday.

Three FIRs have been registered in connection with the case at Domana police station, while a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted to investigate the alleged conspiracy and identify others involved, police said.

According to a police handout, intelligence inputs indicated that a group was planning to help selected candidates use unfair means in the examination held on Saturday.

Following the inputs, multiple police teams were deployed around identified examination centres to thwart the alleged attempt and apprehend those involved.

During the operation, 14 suspected persons were apprehended from peripheral and adjoining areas of various examination centres before the commencement of the examination. Several electronic devices, including wireless radio sets allegedly intended to transmit answers to candidates inside examination halls, were also seized, the handout said.

The SIT will investigate the suspected network, establish the roles of facilitators and beneficiaries, trace the source of the electronic devices and ascertain whether other individuals were involved.

The development comes against the backdrop of intense competition for government jobs in Jammu and Kashmir, where recruitment examinations attract a large number of unemployed youth.

The Finance Accounts Assistant examination was conducted by JKSSB on Saturday for 600 vacancies in the Finance Department. More than 1.61 lakh candidates appeared in the examination, with nearly 270 aspirants competing for each post.

Police said strict legal action would be taken against those found involved in attempts to compromise the fairness and transparency of competitive examinations. (KNS)

'India Committed

in a post on social media, "PM Modi arrives at Manila, Philippines. During the visit, he will participate in the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit (EAS)."

The visit, at the invitation of the Philippines, assumes significance against the backdrop of evolving geopolitical and security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region, as India seeks to deepen its strategic, economic and diplomatic engagement with Southeast Asian nations and other regional partners.

The ASEAN-India Summit is expected to provide an opportunity to take stock of the comprehensive strategic partnership between India and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), besides identifying new avenues for cooperation in trade, investment, connectivity, digital technology, defence and people-to-people exchanges.

The 21st East Asia Summit, which brings together major regional powers and other key stakeholders, will offer a broader platform to deliberate on pressing political, economic and security challenges facing the Indo-Pacific. Maritime security, freedom of navigation, regional stability and respect for international law are expected to figure prominently in the discussions.

India has consistently underlined ASEAN's centrality to its Act East Policy and its vision of a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific. The two summits are therefore expected to provide Modi an opportunity to reaffirm New Delhi's commitment to strengthening regional partnerships and advancing collective efforts for peace, stability and shared prosperity.

Modi's participation in the two high-level gatherings also reflects India's continuing efforts to position itself as an active partner in shaping the regional architecture through dialogue, cooperation and closer engagement with countries across the Indo-Pacific. UNI SKA AAB

'Ajit Pawar's Contributions

attended the ceremony. Addressing the gathering, Shah described Pawar as an experienced people's leader with a broad vision and deep understanding of Panchayati Raj, agriculture, the cooperative sector and urban development. Recalling their personal association, he said Pawar had risen from grassroots politics in Baramati to the highest levels of state leadership while remaining connected with the people. He praised his straightforward approach, decisiveness, discipline and ability to translate ideas into action. Shah also recalled Pawar's active involvement in COVID-19 relief operations during the pandemic's second wave, particularly his efforts to address oxygen shortages and other essential requirements. Highlighting his contribution to the cooperative sector, the Home Minister referred to Pawar's work involving milk cooperatives, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, sugar factories and cooperative banks. He said Pawar's commitment to public service, systematic planning and sensitivity towards people's concerns would continue to inspire younger political leaders, adding that his contributions would remain an enduring part of Maharashtra's political and developmental legacy.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday paid tribute to former Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar at a statue unveiling ceremony in Pune, describing his demise as an irreparable loss for Maharashtra, particularly Pune, Baramati and Pimpri-Chinchwad.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Sunetra Pawar, Union Minister of State for Cooperation Murlidhar Mohol and other dignitaries attended the ceremony.

Addressing the gathering, Shah said Maharashtra had lost a people's leader with a broad vision and extensive experience in Panchayati Raj, the cooperative sector, agriculture and modern urban development. He also described Pawar's demise as a personal loss, recalling their friendship and association.

Shah said Pawar had risen from grassroots politics in Baramati to the highest levels of state leadership while remaining connected with the people. He described him as a straightforward and decisive leader who was known for his positive attitude, discipline and ability to translate ideas into action.

Recalling Pawar's contribution during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, Shah said he remained actively involved in relief efforts and was available at the state Secretariat from early morning to address requirements related to oxygen and other essential arrangements.

The Home Minister also highlighted Pawar's contribution to Maharashtra's cooperative sector, saying he had a deep understanding of milk cooperatives, primary agricultural credit societies (PACS), sugar factories, urban cooperative banks and district cooperative banks.

He said Pawar worked extensively to strengthen the cooperative sector and address its challenges, remaining closely associated with farmers, rural communities and milk producers.

Shah said Pawar's work ethic, characterised by sensitivity towards public concerns, systematic planning, discipline and timely execution, would continue to inspire young political leaders in Maharashtra.

He added that although Pawar's life had ended prematurely, his contributions and approach to public service would remain part of the state's political and developmental legacy.

'Food Safety

an incident that raised concerns over food safety compliance and regulatory monitoring across the region.

Jammu and Kashmir Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Masood Ittoo on Monday warned that those found violating food safety regulations would face strict legal action, asserting that the government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards practices endangering public health.

In a post on X, the minister said food safety was non-negotiable and enforcement measures would be intensified to ensure compliance with prescribed standards.

She said the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), J&K, had inspected 85 meat processing units across the Union Territory and issued 16 improvement notices to establishments found lacking in compliance.

The minister further said that legal proceedings had been recommended in 11 cases, indicating stepped-up action against those violating food safety norms.

"Enforcement will be intensified, accountability ensured, and those found violating food safety standards will face the full force of the law," she said.

Minister Ittoo said protecting public health remained the government's highest priority and warned that no compromise would be made with food safety standards.

The enforcement drive comes amid heightened scrutiny of meat processing and storage facilities following the recent seizure and destruction of 1,600 kg of frozen buffalo meat at Budgam Railway Station, which had raised concerns over food safety and regulatory compliance in the region. (KNS)

"Yoga Can

preventive healthcare and promoting the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of the younger generation.

Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, has urged S-VYASA to extend its yoga-based initiatives to Jammu and Kashmir to help tackle the growing drug menace among youth through de-addiction, meditation and stress-management programmes.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Sharma made the appeal while attending the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Prashanti Kutiram in Bengaluru as the Chief Guest on November 16, marking 50 years of its contribution to yoga, research, wellness and holistic healthcare.

The occasion also commemorated the birth centenary of Manneeya H.V. Sheshadri Ji, whose guidance helped shape the institution during its formative years.

Padma Dr. H.R. Nagendra, President of S-VYASA Society, presided over the function. Sharma was received by Chancellor Dr. H.R. Dayananda Swamy, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Manjunath Sharma N.K. and Registrar Prof. Sony Kumari.

Paying tribute to H.V. Sheshadri Ji, Sharma recalled his life of simplicity, dedication and selfless service, saying his ideals continued to inspire generations of karyakartas across the country.

He also praised Dr. Nagendra for leaving his scientific career at NASA to return to India and dedicate his life to yoga. He observed that a modest yoga centre established five decades ago had evolved into a globally recognised institution, with S-VYASA making contributions to yoga, Ayurveda, research and holistic healthcare.

Highlighting yoga's global recognition, Sharma said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India's ancient tradition had emerged as a worldwide movement, with International Yoga Day celebrated across continents. He stressed that achieving Viksit Bharat 2047 required a healthy, disciplined and value-driven younger generation, in shaping which institutions like Prashanti Kutiram had an important role.

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir's spiritual heritage, Sharma highlighted its contribution to Kashmir Shaivism through masters such as Vasugupta and Abhinavagupta, and recalled the Vijñā na Bhairava Tantra, which describes 112 meditation techniques.

He also acknowledged Vivekananda Kendra's contribution, particularly through Nagdandi Ashram at Achabal in Anantnag, envisioned by Eknath Ranade Ji as a living cultural bridge between Kashmir and Kanyakumari.

Making a special appeal for S-VYASA's expansion in Jammu and Kashmir, Sharma stressed the need to address the growing drug menace among youth through yoga-based de-addiction, meditation and stress-management programmes in schools and colleges.

He proposed wellness centres at Patnitop, Kishtwar and Bhaderwah, community yoga initiatives in remote, hilly and border areas, an S-VYASA centre in Jammu on the lines of its recently established centre in Kerala, and a dedicated research chair to explore Kashmir's rich Shaiva yoga traditions.

Sharma invited Dr. Nagendra and the S-VYASA team to visit Jammu and Kashmir and explore institutional collaboration, expressing confidence that their expertise could strengthen preventive healthcare and the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of people in the region. He also thanked the organisers for their hospitality. The ten-day Golden Jubilee celebrations, themed "Towards Viksit Bharat 2047," were inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 13 and will continue until November 23—(KNO)

"Courage Displayed

Talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), on the sidelines of the inauguration of the fourth edition of the CRPF Cup at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium here, Khirwar said, "The courage displayed by the jawans foiled the nefarious designs of the terrorists."

He said, "CRPF is maintaining alertness, discipline and coordination among colleagues to achieve success in ongoing operations."

Asked about the ongoing operation in Kulgam, which has entered its fifth day, Khirwar said the operation had been launched to ensure that those responsible for the attack were brought to justice. "We have launched the operations. We owe it to the people of J&K, to our own forces and our injured colleagues that the perpetrators are brought to justice," he said.

Pertinently, three CRPF personnel were injured in a terrorist attack at Nowpora Akhran in Kulgam district on November 11, following which security forces launched an operation to track down the assailants.

Earlier, inaugurating the T20 tournament, Khirwar said more than 100 teams had applied for participation, of which 16 were shortlisted due to limited capacity. "This is our normalcy. Our youth want to participate fully. Like in the rest of the nation, we participate in sporting events and live a normal life," he said—(KNO)

Finance deptts to

bodies during the year under evaluation.

It has advised departments to put in place an effective mechanism for the prompt settlement of electricity bills to prevent the accumulation of arrears and avoid any additional burden on the government exchequer.

The Finance Department has directed all Directors Finance and Financial Advisors to ensure strict compliance with these instructions.

According to details, Rs 763.91 crore was budgeted and released under Detailed Head 008 (Electricity Charges) for various departments during 2026-27. Against this, an expenditure of Rs 495.89 crore had been incurred, leaving an unspent balance of Rs 268.03 crore available for the settlement of electricity dues—(KNO)

'Gulmarg, Pahalgam

with the minimum temperature settling at minus 3.5 degrees Celsius, as cold conditions intensified across Kashmir, officials said on Monday.

A senior official of the Meteorological Department told Kashmir News Service (KNS) that Qazigund, the gateway to the Valley, recorded its first sub-zero night of the season at minus 0.4 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara in north Kashmir registered a minimum temperature of minus 0.2 degrees Celsius.

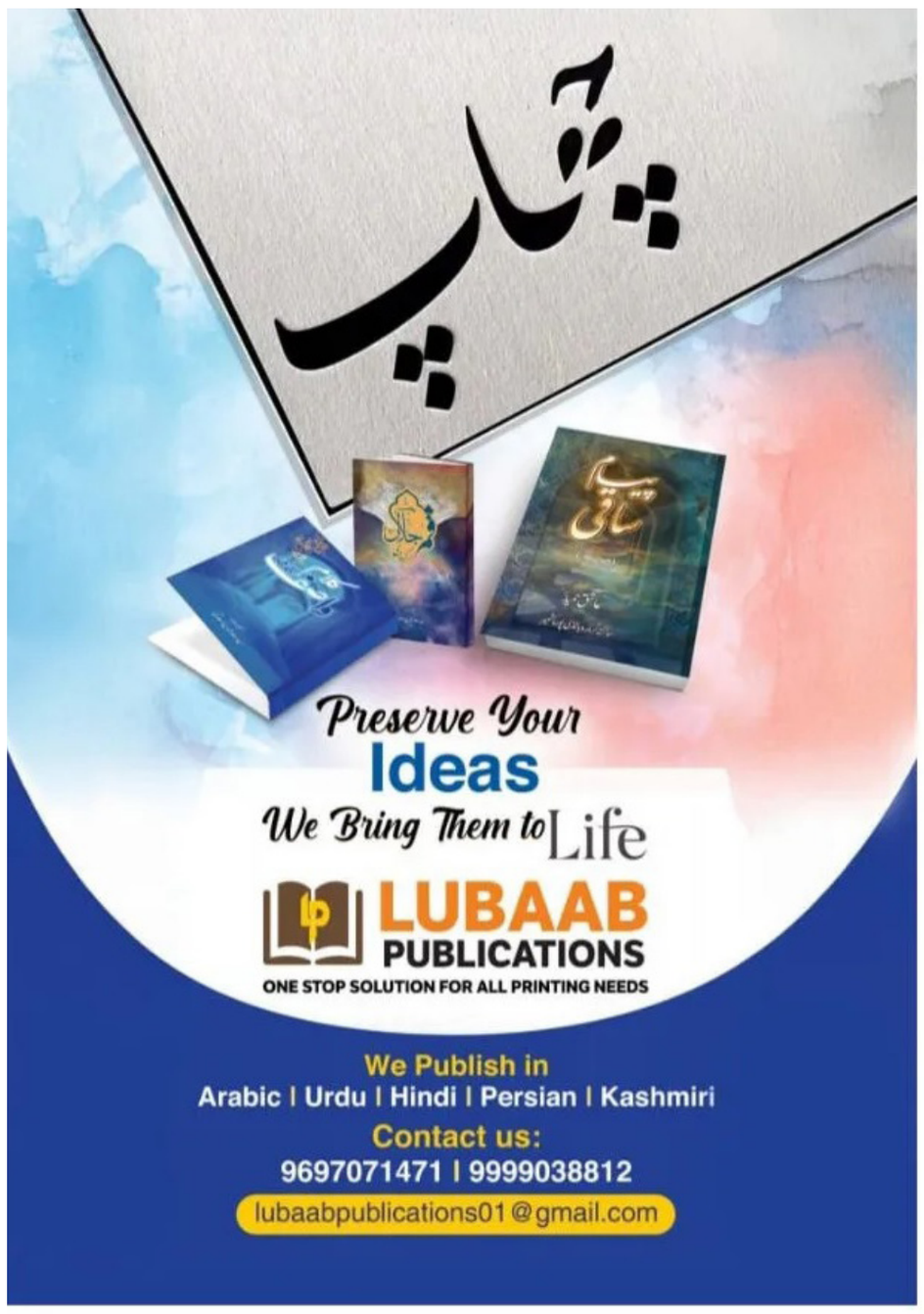
The latest readings indicate a further decline in night temperatures, with several parts of the Valley experiencing freezing conditions as winter gradually sets in.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, weather is likely to remain predominantly dry across Jammu and Kashmir over the coming days, although partly cloudy to cloudy conditions are expected on November 20 and 21.

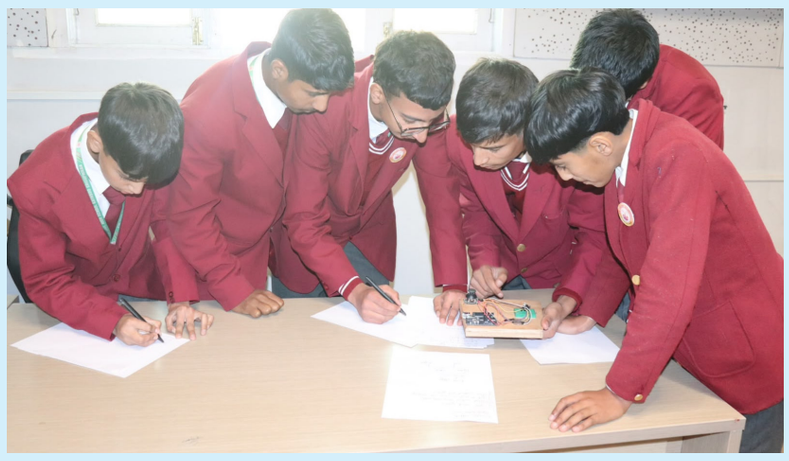
The department has forecast mainly dry weather from November 15 to 21, followed by another spell of dry conditions from November 22 to 25. It has also advised farmers to resume their agricultural activities in view of the favourable weather forecast.

The latest dip in temperatures comes days after a western disturbance affected Jammu and Kashmir on November 12 and 13, bringing widespread rainfall to the plains and snowfall to higher reaches, including Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg.

The precipitation marked a shift towards colder winter conditions across the Valley, with temperatures continuing to fall, particularly during night hours. (KNS)



CIED-IUST Foundation Organises One-Day Workshop on Robotics and Automation in Collaboration with AICTE IDEA LAB for PM Shri Govt. High School Kathsoo.



Showkat Dar

AWANTIPORA: CIED-IUST Foundation, in collaboration with AICTE IDEA LAB, organised a one-day workshop on Robotics and Automation for students of PM Shri Government High School, Kathsoo, Srigufwara, Anantnag, at the IUST Innovation Campus. The workshop aimed to provide students with practical knowledge and hands-on experience in the emerging fields of robotics and automation, while familiarising them with modern technological innovations and their applications in everyday life.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Tahir Showkat Bazaz, Assistant Manager, CIED-IUST Foundation, in the presence of Mr. Shameem Iqbal, Manager CIED-IUST Foundation, esteemed members of the CIED-IUST Foundation, faculty members accompanying the students and participants from the school.

During the inaugural session, Mr. Tahir Showkat Bazaz highlighted the growing importance of robotics and automation in today's rapidly evolving technological landscape. He emphasised the need to equip young students with practical skills and technological awareness to prepare them for future opportunities. He also demonstrated various robotics equipment, providing participants with an insight into their functioning and applications.

As part of the technical sessions, Mr. Danish Shafi Dar, Junior Technical Assistant, CIED-IUST Foundation, and Ms. Nuzhat Bilal, Administrative Intern, AICTE IDEA LAB, CIED-IUST Foundation, conducted hands-on sessions for the students. They provided practical guidance on the fundamentals of Robotics and Automation, familiarising participants with the basic concepts,

tools, and real-world applications of these emerging technologies. The sessions offered students an opportunity to gain valuable practical exposure and develop an understanding of technological innovations.

The workshop provided an interactive learning environment, allowing students to gain practical exposure, develop curiosity and understand the relevance of emerging technologies in today's world.

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Sakeena Itoo reviews functioning of Drug Testing Laboratory, GMC Kathua

Emphasises quality testing, optimum utilisation of medical infrastructure

■ HT News Network



KATHUA, NOVEMBER 16: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, today visited the Modern Drug Testing Laboratory and Government Medical College (GMC) Kathua to review their functioning, assess the infrastructure and measures aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery and drug quality surveillance in the district.

During her visit to the Modern Drug Testing Laboratory, the Minister emphasised the need for its smooth and uninterrupted functioning. She emphasised effective, accurate and time-bound testing of drug samples in accordance with the prescribed quality standards and regulatory requirements.

Sakeena Itoo stressed that public health safety remains the foremost priority of the Government and there can be no compromise on the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines being made available to the public. She called for optimum utilisation of the infrastructure and testing facilities available at the laboratory to strengthen drug quality surveillance and ensure that only safe and quality-assured medicines reach the public domain.

The Minister directed the concerned authorities to accord top priority to clearance of all pending drug samples and ensure their expeditious analysis and timely submission of analytical reports. She said that an efficient testing mechanism is vital for strengthening regulatory oversight and preventing the circulation of substandard and spurious drugs.

During the visit, key decisions were also taken to address the operational requirements of the laboratory. It was decided that JKMSCL would provide five months' salary in advance to the laboratory staff to facilitate its priority functioning.

The Minister also directed for deployment of two Personal Security Officers (PSOs) to strengthen the security arrangements of the laboratory.

Later, Sakeena Itoo chaired a review meeting at Government Medical College (GMC), Kathua and took stock of the institution's functioning, healthcare delivery mechanisms and ongoing infrastructure development works.

Emphasising optimum utilisation of the available infrastructure and human resources, Sakeena Itoo called upon the authorities to make full use of the institution's existing capacities to provide quality healthcare services to the public. She stressed that referrals should be restricted to acute cases requiring specialised intervention, saying that GMC Kathua has good infrastructure and capabilities that need to be effectively utilised.

The Minister directed the Principal, GMC Kathua, to expedite the remaining infrastructure improvement works and ensure their timely completion. Regarding creation of requisite staff posts for the Homoeopathic College, she informed that the proposal was in its final stage.

Earlier, Principal GMC Kathua, Dr. Surinder Attri, presented a detailed overview of the institution's functioning, infrastructure and healthcare services. He informed that a 50-bedded Critical Care Block is coming up at the Associated Hospital of GMC Kathua and is scheduled for completion by March 2027.

He apprised the Minister that GMC Kathua has entered into Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Chandigarh, Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu. Besides, 128-slice CT Scanner had provided under CSR initiative by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) to strengthen its institutional capabilities and healthcare services.

The Principal also highlighted the range of specialised healthcare facilities being provided by the institution, including an ICMR-supported project aimed at strengthening breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Among those present during the visit were Managing Director, JKMSCL; Tariq Hussain Ganai, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, J&K; Khalid Jahangir, DC Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, Director, Health Services, Jammu; Poonam Sethi, Director FW, MCH&I Afsana Bano, State Drugs Controller, J&K; Rajesh Kumar, Principal, GMC Kathua; Dr Surinder Attri, Programme Officer, ICDS, Kathua; Mohammed Syed Khan and Chief Medical Officer Dr Vijay Raina.

Mission Vatsalya Bandipora conducts Awareness Programmes in Schools to promote Child Protection Services

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 16: Mission Vatsalya (Child Protection Services), Bandipora organised awareness programmes in various schools to sensitise students and teachers about Child Rights, child protection mechanism and welfare services available for children.

During the programme officials provided detailed information about Child Helpline 1098, highlighted its importance as a crucial support service for children in distress and those requiring care and protection. The participants were also sensitised about various services, facilities, and welfare schemes available under Mission Vatsalya.

The officials emphasised the importance of identifying Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and ensuring that such cases are promptly reported to the concerned authorities through Child Helpline 1098. They also encouraged teachers and school authorities to play an active role in safeguarding children and creating a safe, supportive, and child-friendly environment within educational institutions.

The awareness initiative aimed to enhance understanding of child protection services, promote awareness about available government welfare schemes, and strengthen coordination between educational institutions and child protection authorities.

Through these outreach programmes, Mission Vatsalya, Bandipora, reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring the safety, care, protection and well-being of every child and extending timely assistance to children in vulnerable circumstances.

Hakeem Yaseen seeks immediate regularisation of daily wagers, says no need for more committees

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Nov 16 (KNS): Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) President and former minister Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen on Monday urged the Jammu and Kashmir government to immediately regularise daily wagers and casual employees, saying the formation of successive committees had failed to resolve their long-pending demands.

Yaseen said three committees had already been constituted to examine the issue, but no concrete action had been taken to ensure the permanent absorption of eligible workers.

He said the government had already prepared a list of eligible employees and should now proceed with their regularisation instead of setting up more committees.

Questioning the National Conference government's approach, Yaseen said the party had promised to regularise daily wagers within six months of coming to power, but the commitment remained unfulfilled even after more than two years.

He expressed concern over the reported proposal to restrict the number of daily wagers eligible for regularisation to 63,000, saying such a ceiling should not deprive deserving employees of their rights.

Yaseen said thousands of workers had spent decades serving various government departments without job security and continued to face uncertainty despite repeated assurances.

"These poor employees have served various government departments for decades. Keeping them waiting despite the preparation of the list and repeated assurances amounts to grave injustice. The government has a responsibility to ensure their permanent absorption without any further delay," Yaseen said.

DC Ganderbal reviews SANJY 2026 execution, ongoing Works

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 16: To review the overall execution of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026, a meeting was convened today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal.

The meeting was attended by the Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Harshal R. Mahajan, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, Dr. Syed Faheem A. Bihaqi, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ganderbal, Dr. S. Salah ud Din, ACD Ganderbal, SDM Kangan, Superintending Engineer, KPDCL, besides sectoral heads and other concerned departmental officers.

At the outset, the ADC briefed the Chair on the overall conduct of SANJY 2026, highlighting the arrangements made by various departments, key achievements, and operational aspects of the Yatra.

During the meeting, the concerned departments presented detailed assessments of the works undertaken, funds allocated and utilized, progress of ongoing projects, and challenges encountered during SANJY 2026. The deliberations focused on identifying gaps and areas requiring further improvement, particularly in strengthening transit camp facilities, augmenting water and power supply infrastructure, improving sanitation and waste management, enhancing disaster preparedness and medical facilities along the Baltal Axis.While appreciating the coordinated efforts of all departments and stakeholders in ensuring the smooth conduct of SANJY 2026, the DC emphasized that the meeting was aimed at undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the works executed, reviewing pending activities and identifying priority interventions well in advance of the next Yatra.

District Admin Kulgam felicitates Media on National Press Day

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 16: The Department of Information and Public Relations, Kulgam, today celebrated National Press Day by organising a seminar and felicitation ceremony at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Kulgam.

Media representatives from various print and electronic media organisations of the district attended the programme.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, in his address, highlighted the importance of a free, responsible and credible media in a democratic society. He stressed the need for maintaining professional integrity, factual accuracy and public trust while reporting on issues of public importance.

The DC emphasized the strength of the media as a watchdog and connecting link between the administration and the public at large. He appreciated the efforts of the media in highlighting important issues of the public of the district, besides creating awareness of government initiatives.

Deputy Director Information, Headquarter Kashmir, Mohammad Zubair Latoo, also deliberated on various aspects of journalism ethics, emphasising the role of credible and responsible media in strengthening democratic institutions and keeping the public informed. He also spoke on length on the evolving role of digital media and artificial intelligence uses for media.

Assistant Director (News), Doordarshan Kendra, Srinagar, Shabir Ahmad Dar, through a presentation, spoke at length on the importance of journalism ethics, stressing the need for responsible reporting, accuracy, impartiality and adherence to professional values while discharging journalistic duties. Beyond breaking news and the urgency of speed, he deliberated on the fundamental parameters of journalism.

DDC Shopian reviews Physical, Financial Progress under District Capex Plan 2026–27

Directs accelerated execution and data reconciliation

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 16: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the District Capex Plan 2026–27 to assess the physical and financial progress of ongoing developmental works across the district.

During the meeting, Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Shopian, Mudasir Ahmed presented a detailed sector-wise abstract highlighting the current status of approved works, fund releases and expenditure.

Out of 1,794 approved works under the District Capex Plan 2026–27, 1,268 works (70.7%) have been taken up for execution, while 847 works (47.2%) have been completed till date.

Against a total approved cost of Rs 4,669.54 lakh, an amount of Rs1,640.19 lakh has been released during the current financial year.

Departments have recorded a cumulative expenditure of Rs 378.82 lakh, representing 23.1% utilization of the released funds.

The DDC reviewed the performance of executing agencies including R&B (Shopian and Zainapora), Jal Shakti (PHE), Education, Health & Medical Education, Irrigation, Urban Development (UDD) and Youth Services & Sports.

While R&B Zainapora achieved 100% utilization of released funds and Education recorded 68.6%, the DDC expressed concern over slow expenditure in sectors like PHE (6.3%) and Youth Services & Sports (0%).

Taking serious note of lagging expenditure in certain departments, the District Development Commissioner directed all sectoral and executing officers to expedite the tendering and execution process to ensure 100% physical completion and optimal utilization of released funds well within the stipulated timeframe.

Emphasizing financial accuracy and transparency, the DDC instructed the concerned departments particularly KPDCL and engineering wings to reconcile discrepancies in annual allocation figures and ensure strict alignment between physical reporting and financial abstracts prior to final certification.

Officers were further directed to maintain strict quality control on ground and conduct regular field inspections to remove bottlenecks hindering project completion.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, Irrigation and KPDCL, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer and other district and sectoral officers. Emphasizing financial accuracy and transparency, the DDC instructed the concerned departments particularly KPDCL and engineering wings to reconcile discrepancies in annual allocation figures and ensure strict alignment between physical reporting and financial abstracts prior to final certification.Officers were further directed to maintain strict quality control on ground and conduct regular field inspections to remove bottlenecks hindering project completion.

DC Srinagar conducts Tehsil wise review of Revenue services, Farmer ID Creation in District

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 16: To conduct Tehsil wise review of Provision of Revenue Services and the progress of Farmer ID generation and implementation of AgriStack in the District, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting of senior Officers from the Revenue Department and other stakeholder Departments at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, SDM West Seerat Baji, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umar Gulzar, Chief Agriculture Officer, Aijaz Hassan, Chief Horticulture Officer, Jyoti Prasad, all Tehsildars, District Manager CSC and other concerned.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a comprehensive assessment of the provision of revenue services under PSGA timelines and progress made in generating Farmer IDs and implementing the AgriStack initiative across all Tehsils of the District.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that a total of 12545 Farmer IDs have been generated across the district so far. The meeting was further informed that 99.83 percent progress has been achieved in the implementation of AgriStack in the District.

Taking stock of the progress, the Deputy Commissioner directed Revenue Officers and stakeholder Departments to expedite the enrolment of all remaining eligible farmers in Srinagar District and complete the exercise within a week's time. He instructed the Officers to undertake focused outreach to the target population and ensure that no eligible farmer is left out of the enrolment process, enabling them to avail the benefits of various Government schemes and services.

DC Srinagar reviews progress of developmental works under District Capex Budget 2026-27

Stresses optimal, accelerated execution of works to achieve physical & financial targets while ensuring quality standards

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR NOVEMBER 16:- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday convened a comprehensive meeting of all executing agencies and line Departments here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the physical and financial progress of approved developmental works taken up under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 across the district.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, Secretary SMC, Tahir Magrey, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tariq Ahmad Reshi, Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohi-Ud Din, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Bashir Ahmad Para, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, KPDCL, SMC, UEED, Block Development Officers and all other District and Sectoral Officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook an executing-agency-wise detailed review of the progress achieved in the tendering process, allotment of approved works, commencement of projects and completion of developmental works so far under the District Capex Budget 2026-27. He also took stock of the works taken up under the savings plan.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that 99 percent of the works have already been allotted, with 87 percent works started on ground, while over 60 percent works have been completed on ground.

While appreciating the efforts of the Officers, the Deputy Commissioner directed all executing agencies to maintain the momentum and further accelerate the pace of work on the ground to ensure timely completion of projects.

The DC underscored the need to make optimal use of the ongoing working season to accelerate the physical execution and financial progress of developmental works. He further stressed strict adherence to prescribed technical standards and stipulated timelines to ensure quality execution, timely completion of projects and effective delivery of developmental benefits to the public.

Reviewing the status of developmental works approved under the savings plan for the current financial year, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned executing agencies to accord these works priority, expedite the execution process and ensure visible progress on the ground within the stipulated timelines, while maintaining the prescribed quality standards.

DC Shopian chairs Civil-Military Liaison Meeting

Reviews issues requiring Coordinated Action

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, today chaired a Civil-Military Liaison Meeting to discuss various issues requiring collective action and consensus among the stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by the Senior Commanding Officer, 02 Rajput, Zawoora Manloo; Commanding Officer, 44 RR, Lassipora; Commanding Officer, 55 RR, Panzgam; Commanding Officer, 34 RR, Behigagh; Commanding Officer, 14 Bn CRPF, Batpora Shopian; Commanding Officer, 178 Bn CRPF, Zainapora; Officer Commanding, 52 RCC, C/o 56 APO; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian; ASP Shopian, ACR Shopian, SDM Zainapora, DFO Shopian, all Tehsildars and other concerned officers from civil administration and Army.

The agenda included issues related to requisition, de-requisition and land transfer. Detailed deliberations were held on each agenda item, with particular focus on issues requiring coordinated action for their early resolution.

District-wise mutation, compensation and other important matters requiring action from the civil and Army authorities were also discussed threadbare.

The DC directed the concerned officers to take necessary action at their respective levels at the earliest to ensure timely disposal of the issues.

He exhorted all stakeholders to maintain seamless coordination and ensure timely sharing of information on all concerned matters for effective resolution of issues and strengthening civil-military cooperation.

SWD Budgam organises Awareness-cum-Training Programme on POSH Act at Chadoora

■ HT News Network



BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 16: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Budgam, through SANKALP–Hub for Empowerment of Women (SANKALP-HEW), under Mission Shakti, organised an Awareness-cum-Training Programme on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act), at Town Hall, Chadoora.

The programme witnessed participation from Anganwadi Workers , Supervisors, representatives of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and teachers.

The programme was aimed at sensitising participants about the legal provisions of the POSH Act, institutional mechanisms for prevention and redressal of workplace sexual harassment, and the importance of ensuring a safe, dignified and harassment-free working environment across different institutions and workplaces.

The programme commenced with the registration of participants, followed by an introductory address by Asifa Manzoor, Gender Specialist, SANKALP-HEW Budgam. She highlighted the significance of awareness and capacity-building initiatives in strengthening gender sensitivity and promoting safe working environments.

DLSA Ganderbal organises Awareness Programmes under DAWN and Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat Campaigns

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 16: Continuing its district-wide awareness initiatives, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, organised awareness programmes at Qamaria Model School, Saloora, and Government High School (GHS), Shallabugh, under the NALSA DAWN (Drug Awareness and Wellness Navigation) Fortnight Awareness Campaign and the Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat Campaign.

The programmes were organised under the chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, and under the supervision of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, in collaboration with the Chief Education Officer, Ganderbal.

At Qamaria Model School, Saloora, Advocate Younis Saleem Wani, Panel Lawyer, conducted an awareness session on Dowry and Maintenance Laws, sensitising students about the legal provisions relating to dowry prohibition, women's rights and maintenance laws. He also highlighted the legal consequences of misuse of social media, including cyber offences, cyberbullying, online harassment and the importance of responsible use of digital platforms. At Government High School, Shallabugh, Advocate Aslam, Panel Lawyer, sensitised students about the harmful consequences of child marriage, its legal implications and the importance of protecting children's rights.

Tanveer Ashraf, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, also conducted an awareness session under the NALSA DAWN Campaign, highlighting substance-use risks, preventive measures and the importance of seeking timely help and assistance. Both programmes aimed at strengthening legal literacy among students, promoting awareness about their rights and responsibilities, and encouraging them to become informed and responsible members of society.

The awareness activities form part of the ongoing fortnight-long campaigns, which shall continue up to 27th November 2026 across the district through educational institutions and community outreach programmes, with the active involvement of Para Legal Volunteers and other concerned stakeholders.

DC Ganderbal flags off No Tobacco Awareness Rally

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 16: To raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption, a No Tobacco Awareness Rally was organised today in District Ganderbal.

The rally commenced from the lawns of the Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal, and culminated at the Office of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Ganderbal.

The rally was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, who was accompanied by the Chief Medical Officer, Ganderbal, and the Medical Superintendent, District Hospital, Ganderbal.

While interacting with the students, she urged them to act as ambassadors of awareness and take the message of a tobacco-free society to their families, homes and neighbourhoods. She encouraged them to motivate people around them to refrain from tobacco consumption in all its forms. On the occasion, a pledge-taking ceremony was also held, during which the DC administered the oath to the participants. The participants collectively pledged to abstain from tobacco use and contribute towards building a healthier, tobacco-free society.

The rally was organised by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Ganderbal, in collaboration with the District Administration, Department of School Education and ICDS Department. A large number of participants, including students and teachers from various educational institutions, Anganwadi Workers and ASHA Workers, took part in the rally. Carrying awareness messages and raising their voices against tobacco consumption, the participants highlighted the importance of adopting a healthy and tobacco-free lifestyle.

DLSA Budgam inaugurates 60-Days Mega Drive for implementation of NALSA Schemes at Grassroots Level

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 16: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, today inaugurated 60-Days Mega Drive for implementation of NALSA Schemes at Grassroots Level under Phase-I (Part-II) at village Mujpathri Khansahib Budgam with the objective of strengthening awareness and ensuring effective implementation of various legal services and welfare schemes at the grassroots level.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of the Chairman, DLSA Budgam, O. P. Bhagat, and the guidance of Secretary, DLSA Budgam, Tabassum Qadir Parray.

Advocate Zahoor Ahmad Malik and Advocate Aamir Hamid Mir, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Budgam attended the programme as resource persons and deliberated on the objectives and significance of various NALSA schemes. They highlighted the importance of taking legal services and welfare initiatives to the doorsteps of the common people, particularly vulnerable and marginalised sections of society.

DC Kulgam flags off over 100 young trekkers for Pahalgam

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today flagged off a group of more than 100 young trekkers from the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam to Pahalgam.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the Youth Services and Sports Department, Kulgam, for providing young people with opportunities to participate in adventure activities and promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. He encouraged the young trekkers to actively engage in sports and other constructive activities, while staying away from social evils and negative influences.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized the importance of sports and adventure activities in nurturing discipline, confidence, teamwork and a positive outlook among youth.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Kulgam, Narinder Pal Singh, along with other officials of the Youth Services and Sports Department, Kulgam.

The duration of the camp for the selected boys of the six zones of the district is five days.

World Diabetes Day 2026: Landmark Book "Diabetes Simplified for Kashmir" released Experts emphasise Region-Specific Awareness, Research and Lifestyle modification

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 16: On the occasion of World Diabetes Day 2026, a special academic and awareness event was organised by a distinguished group of endocrinologists and physicians, to deliberate on the growing burden of diabetes and the need for region-specific approaches to its prevention and management.

The programme commenced with an introductory address by Dr. M. Hayat Bhat, Head of the Department of Endocrinology, Government Medical College, Srinagar, who highlighted the significance of World Diabetes Day.

The highlight of the programme was the Lecture of Excellence delivered by Prof. Ab. Hamid Zargar, former Director, SKIMS, who provided valuable insights into the local diabetes scenario. He discussed the evolving challenges, regional issues and research contributions in the field of diabetes over the past three decades, underscoring the importance of locally relevant research and evidence-based interventions.

A major highlight of the occasion was the release of the book "Diabetes Simplified for Kashmir", jointly authored by Dr. Shahnawaz Mir, Associate Professor, Department of Endocrinology, GMC Srinagar; Dr. Nasir Shamas, Consultant Physician and HOU, JLNM Hospital; and Prof. M. Hayat Bhat, Head, Department of Endocrinology, GMC Srinagar.

The book is among the first comprehensive attempts to address diabetes through the lens of Kashmir's unique regional context. It offers insights into local dietary habits, cultural practices, food preferences, lifestyle patterns and their implications for diabetes, while providing practical, evidence-based recommendations for prevention and management. The initiative aims to bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and its practical application in the everyday lives of the local population.

The book was formally released by an eminent panel



comprising Prof. Ab. Wahid, Prof. Saleem Khan, Prof. Shariq Masoodi, Prof. Nazir Mushtaq, Saleem Beigh and Prof. A.R. Nasti.

The distinguished panel unanimously emphasised the importance of such locally relevant publications in promoting health literacy, awareness and sensitisation among the Kashmiri population. They appreciated the authors for undertaking an initiative that brings scientific knowledge closer to the community by incorporating its cultural and dietary realities.

Dr. Shahnawaz Mir expressed gratitude to his teachers, students, patients, researchers and all those who contributed to and supported the initiative. He acknowledged their collective role in making Diabetes Simplified for Kashmir a meaningful academic and public-health endeavour.

The gathering was notable for its diverse participation, with doctors, researchers, innovators, writers, historians, journalists, conservationists, students, dieticians and entrepreneurs in attendance, reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of the fight against diabetes.

Beyond conventional medical interventions, the programme also highlighted the importance of dietary innovation and physical activity in diabetes prevention and control. Special emphasis was laid on the consumption of high-fibre foods and low-glycaemic-index alternatives. Information was shared about "Sugar Cut Rice", an innovative low-GI rice initiative by Aadil Jeelani, as an example of efforts to explore healthier food choices for the community. Promoting physical activity as an essential component of a healthy lifestyle, a walking guidebook titled "Five Miles", authored by Dr. Nasir Shamas, was also distributed among participants. The book seeks to encourage daily walking, fitness and a healthier lifestyle through walks along Kashmir's heritage routes, combining physical well-being with an appreciation of the region's cultural legacy.

The event concluded with a collective message that effective diabetes prevention and management require more than medical treatment alone. Community awareness, culturally appropriate dietary choices, regular physical activity, research, innovation and sustained public participation remain essential to addressing the growing diabetes challenge in Kashmir.

Div Com reviews arrangements for Annual Jhiri Mela

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 16: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Vikas Kundal, today visited Jhiri to review the arrangements for the annual Jhiri Mela, scheduled to be held from November 23 to December 3.

On his arrival at the historic Baba Jitto Shrine, the Divisional Commissioner paid obeisance and subsequently inspected the Mela venue to assess the status of preparations being undertaken by various departments.

He was accompanied by MLA Marh Surinder Kumar, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range Shridhar Patil, Deputy Commissioner Jammu Minga Sherpa, SSP Jammu Joginder Singh and other senior officers.

The Divisional Commissioner also chaired a comprehensive review meeting with the officers of concerned departments to assess the level of preparedness and take stock of the arrangements for the smooth and orderly conduct of the Mela.

During the meeting, the concerned officers apprised him of the arrangements put in place with regard to security, sanitation, road connectivity, drinking water supply, healthcare facilities, traffic regulation, parking management, fire safety and other essential services.

Emphasising seamless inter-departmental coordination, the Divisional Commissioner directed the establishment of a Joint Control Room with designated representatives of all concerned departments to facilitate real-time coordination, effective monitoring and prompt resolution of issues during the Mela.

He further directed the installation of CCTV cameras at vulnerable and sensitive locations to ensure comprehensive surveillance and strengthen the overall security apparatus.

Taking stock of fire safety preparedness, he directed the deployment of fire tenders and installation of fire hydrants at appropriate locations to ensure an effective emergency response. He also stressed that all Jhullas (swings) must undergo mandatory safety inspection and obtain the requisite safety certification before being permitted to operate during the Mela.

The Divisional Commissioner underscored that all departments must ensure close coordination, timely execution of assigned responsibilities and completion of requisite arrangements well ahead of the commencement of the Mela, with a focus on ensuring the safety, convenience and comfort of pilgrims and visitors.As part of the preparatory measures, the Divisional Commissioner also launched a sanitation drive at Jhiri, aimed at ensuring cleanliness and hygiene in and around the Mela venue. Officers, officials, local residents, students and staff members participated in the drive.

SKUAST-Kashmir Applauded for Transforming Horticulture Sector Over Past Five Years.

■ Farooq Rather



Srinagar,Nov. 16: The Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union has appreciated and congratulated Dr. Nazir Ahmad Ganie, Vice-Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), and his team for playing a pivotal role in transforming Jammu and Kashmir's traditional horticulture sector into a modern, technology-driven and entrepreneurial industry over the past five years. In a press statement, the Union said that SKUAST-K has made significant contributions to the development of horticulture through scientific research, field demonstrations, farmer outreach, capacity building and technology transfer. These initiatives have strengthened orchard productivity, improved fruit quality and encouraged young farmers and entrepreneurs to view horticulture as a modern commercial enterprise.The Union highlighted the University's role in promoting high-density plantation systems in apple and other temperate fruit crops. Research on improved rootstocks, elite cultivars, planting techniques, trellis systems and canopy management has encouraged growers to shift from traditional orchards towards more productive and commercially viable plantations.

It also appreciated SKUAST-K's efforts in promoting scientific harvesting based on maturity indices instead of conventional calendar-based practices. The University has been guiding growers on proper harvesting, grading, sorting, packaging, pre-cooling and storage management to improve fruit quality and market value. The statement noted that the region's controlled-atmosphere storage capacity had reached approximately 3.2 lakh metric tonnes by 2026, further strengthening the horticultural value chain.The Union also highlighted SKUAST-K's contribution in taking scientific research from laboratories to farmers' fields through research stations, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), demonstrations and extension programmes. These initiatives include scientific pruning, fruit thinning, integrated nutrient and water management, safe pesticide use and improved orchard sanitation. Emphasising diversification, the Union said that SKUAST-K has supported the promotion of pear, cherry, walnut, almond and other temperate fruit crops, besides encouraging protected cultivation, nursery development, mechanisation and value addition. The statement further observed that horticulture is increasingly emerging as an important avenue for educated youth, agricultural graduates and private entrepreneurs, generating opportunities in commercial nurseries, cold storage, processing, packaging, logistics and organised marketing. The Union stressed the need for stronger collaboration among SKUAST-K, government departments, fruit growers, nursery operators, storage facilities and private industry to ensure wider adoption of modern technologies and sustainable growth.It said that the achievements of the past five years reflect a significant transformation in the way horticulture is practised and perceived in Jammu and Kashmir, adding that the region's horticultural economy is gradually moving towards a modern, knowledge-driven and investment-oriented model.Bashir Ahmad Basheer, Chairman, Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union**, said that the progress achieved under the leadership of Dr. Nazir Ahmad Ganie provides a strong foundation for the next phase of horticultural development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mushtaaque Ali Ahmad Khan Calls for Unity and Institutional Support for Artists at Artist Convention 2026

■ GULFAM BARJI



Srinagar:November:16 Prominent theatre,kashmir world film festival "KWFF " director and film personality Mushtaaque Ali Ahmad Khan has called for unity, dignity and institutional support for artists in J&K, stressing the need for concrete measures to address their professional and economic concerns.Speaking during the first panel session of Artist Convention 2026, held in Srinagar, Khan expressed concern over the creation of a parallel film festival instead of strengthening the already established Kashmir World Film Festival (KWFF). He demanded transparency regarding public expenditure on the recent festival and stressed that local filmmakers and cultural professionals must be given meaningful representation in future events.The convention was attended by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, MLAs Peerzada Farooq Ahmad Shah and Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, Zafar Iqbal Khan Manhas, former Doordarshan Director Shehzadi Simon, former Radio Kashmir Director Rukhsana Jabeen and noted poetess Naseema Shafaie among other dignitaries. Khan also expressed concern over the declining commissioning and in-house production activities at Doordarshan Srinagar and DD Kashir stating that the situation has adversely affected the livelihood opportunities of hundreds of artists, writers, directors, producers and technicians.

He urged the artistic fraternity to remain united and work collectively towards safeguarding the dignity, rights and professional interests of artists across Jammu and Kashmir.

Handicrafts & Handloom Department organises Awareness-Cum-Registration Camp at Sopore

■ HT News Network



BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 16: The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Baramulla organised a one-day Awareness-Cum-Registration Camp at Dak Bungalow, Sopore, on Monday to sensitise local artisans, weavers and unemployed youth about various government welfare schemes and support facilities.The programme was attended by MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar, ADC Sopore Shabir Ahmad Raina and Joint Director Handicrafts Kashmir Sameer Jan, besides other officers and dignitaries.During the camp, participants were briefed about various government initiatives, including the Credit Card Scheme for Artisans and Weavers, scheme for skill upgradation, scholarships for children of artisans, training programmes for unemployed youth and marketing support for handicraft products.

The officers emphasized the importance of registration with the department to avail benefits under different welfare schemes and encouraged artisans and weavers to utilize the available financial assistance, skill development programmes and marketing facilities.The initiative aims to strengthen the traditional handicrafts and handloom sector, empower local artisans, promote entrepreneurship and generate employment opportunities for unemployed youth.

Jolly Phonics Holds Teacher Training Workshop in Srinagar to Promote Foundational Literacy

■ HT News Network



Srinagar,Nov 16: Jolly Phonics, an internationally recognised English literacy programme developed by Jolly Learning Ltd., UK, organised a teacher training workshop at Hotel Golden Leaf, Hyderpora West, Srinagar, on November 14.

The workshop was part of the organisation's 10-city India tour, aimed at equipping educators with effective and interactive techniques to improve children's foundational English reading, writing and spelling skills.

The session was led by Shefali Juneja, an experienced educator and Jolly Phonics specialist, who demonstrated practical teaching methods, including letter sounds, blending and segmenting words, and multisensory classroom activities.

Founded by Chris Jolly, Jolly Learning promotes systematic synthetic phonics, helping children develop literacy skills through sounds, actions, stories and interactive learning techniques.

Speaking on the initiative, Chris Jolly said that strong literacy skills are essential for lifelong learning and emphasised the important role of teachers in building children's reading and writing abilities from an early age.

The workshop also highlighted the importance of teacher development and innovative classroom practices in making English learning more engaging and accessible.

Established in 1992, Jolly Phonics aims to strengthen foundational literacy by helping children recognise letter sounds, blend them to read words and segment them to improve spelling. Established in 1992, Jolly Phonics aims to strengthen foundational literacy by helping children recognise letter sounds, blend them to read words and segment them to improve spelling.

JKBOSE hosts School & District-Level Red Ribbon Quiz Competition 2026-27 across 20 districts of J&K

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 16: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS), on Monday conducted the School Level and District-Level Red Ribbon Quiz Competition 2026-27 across all 20 districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir through DIETs.

The initiative aimed at promoting awareness among students regarding HIV/AIDS, its prevention, associated health concerns and the importance of informed and responsible behaviour.

The competition was organised in two phases through the respective District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETS), ensuring extensive participation and effective coordination at the district level.

In the first phase, a total of 50 schools from each district, comprising 25 government and 25 private institutions (1000 schools) participated in the School-Level Competition. Following the School-Level Competition, 20 teams from each district qualified for the District-Level Competition, which was conducted on the same day in the second phase. The District-Level Competition culminated in the selection of one winning team from each district, which will now represent its respective district in the forthcoming Divisional/UT.

Division Level Red Ribbon Quiz Competition would be conducted separately at Jammu and Srinagar. The three position holder teams were awarded Rs. 2,000, Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,000 respectively.

The successful conduct of the competition across all 20 districts was made possible through the concerted efforts of the DIETs, participating schools, district-level coordinators and the officers/officials of Academic Division, JKBOSE. The initiative also reflects JKBOSE's continued commitment to supplementing classroom learning through meaningful co-curricular activities, fostering health awareness and engaging students in issues of wider social relevance.

The entire programme was conducted under the guidance and leadership of Chairman, JKBOSE Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, Director Academics, JKBOSE Dr. Parveen Singh, Deputy Director Academics-JD, Dr. Yasir Hamid Sirwal, Deputy Director Academics-KD Dr Arif Jan and Assistant Director-KD Dr. Aliya Qayoom.

Academic Officers viz. Dr. Meena Kumari, Syed Kashif Hashmi and Yasmeen Ali extended their dedicated support and coordinated efforts towards the successful planning and execution of the programme.

Director Archives, Archaeology& Museums J&K reviews preparations for World Heritage Week- 2026 celebrations

Series of events planned at heritage sites, monuments across U T

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 16: The Director, Archaeology and Museums, Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Pranjal J Hazarika today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to finalize preparations for the upcoming World Heritage Week 2026 celebrations across both the Jammu and Kashmir divisions.The Director emphasized the Department's commitment to preserving, promoting and creating widespread public awareness about the rich historical, architectural and cultural legacy of the Union Territory. He directed officials from both divisions to ensure seamless coordination and high levels of public participation—particularly among students, researchers and youth—throughout the week-long observance.

To mark the occasion, the Directorate has chalked out an extensive calendar of events across key heritage sites, monuments and museums in both divisions. The planned programmes feature guided heritage walks through historic precincts, ancient temples, cleanliness drives at monuments and sites and heritage trails in Jammu and Srinagar, alongside special museum visits and interactive open houses at the SPS Museum in Srinagar and the Dogra Art Museum in Jammu, offering closer access to rare manuscripts, numismatics, paintings and archaeological artifacts.In addition, departmental conservators and experts will conduct hands-on conservation and restoration workshops, focusing on traditional preservation techniques and the scientific care of antiquities, complemented by thematic photo and archival exhibitions showcasing rare historical records, treaties and ongoing excavations, as well as youth outreach initiatives including inter-school heritage quizzes, painting competitions and symposiums.Reviewing the logistical arrangements, Pranjal J Hazarika instructed the concerned officers to ensure proper upkeep, illumination and signage at all protected monuments and museum galleries ahead of the celebrations. He also stressed the importance of collaborating with local educational institutions, cultural bodies and heritage enthusiasts to make World Heritage Week 2026 a meaningful and impactful public outreach initiative.World Heritage Week is observed annually from November 19th to November 25th to raise awareness about the preservation of cultural heritage and historical monuments worldwide. In addition, departmental conservators and experts will conduct hands-on conservation and restoration workshops, focusing on traditional preservation techniques and the scientific care of antiquities, complemented by thematic photo and archival exhibitions showcasing rare historical records, treaties and ongoing excavations, as well as youth outreach initiatives including inter-school heritage quizzes, painting competitions and symposiums.Reviewing the logistical arrangements, Pranjal J Hazarika instructed the concerned officers to ensure proper upkeep, illumination and signage at all protected monuments and museum galleries ahead of the celebrations. He also stressed the importance of collaborating with local educational institutions, cultural bodies and heritage enthusiasts to make World Heritage Week.

HT EDITORIAL

Kashmir's Winter Test : Litmus Test For KPDCL to Keep Its Promises

With snowfall approaching and memories of erratic summer power supply still fresh, the corporation must demonstrate that its winter preparedness extends beyond plans and assurances to tangible results on the ground.

Winter in Kashmir is not merely a seasonal change; it is an annual test of public infrastructure, administrative preparedness and institutional accountability. As the Meteorological Department forecasts adverse weather conditions, with moderate to heavy snowfall expected in the higher reaches, the Valley is once again preparing for the challenges of the harsh winter ahead. Amid these concerns, one question is increasingly troubling electricity consumers: is the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) genuinely prepared to ensure a dependable power supply when it is needed the most?

The apprehension is rooted in people's recent experience. The summer months, despite relatively favourable weather conditions, were marked by complaints of inadequate electricity supply, frequent interruptions and unscheduled power cuts. For consumers who struggled to receive uninterrupted electricity during the warmer months, expectations of reliable supply during freezing temperatures are understandably low. The approaching winter, therefore, demands more than routine assurances from the power distribution authorities.

KPDCL has recently released its Digital Handbook on Winter Preparedness 2026–27, outlining its strategy to tackle the anticipated challenges. The initiative is welcome, but the credibility of any preparedness document ultimately depends on its implementation. A handbook can explain procedures, list resources and offer assurances, but it cannot, by itself, prevent power failures or restore damaged infrastructure during heavy snowfall. What consumers need is evidence of preparedness on the ground.

The scale of KPDCL's responsibility is considerable. The corporation caters to approximately 13.53 lakh consumers through a vast distribution network comprising 353 receiving stations, 135 33 kV feeders, 1,334 11 kV feeders and nearly 50,000 distribution transformers. Maintaining such an extensive network in Kashmir's difficult winter conditions is undoubtedly a challenging task. Snow accumulation, falling trees, damaged transmission and distribution lines, inaccessible roads and transformer breakdowns can disrupt electricity supply and delay restoration. However, these are recurring seasonal challenges, not unforeseen emergencies. An administration operating in a region where winter conditions are well known must anticipate such eventualities and prepare accordingly.

The real concern is whether the lessons of previous winters and the shortcomings witnessed during the recent summer have translated into meaningful improvements. Adequate stocks of essential equipment, standby transformers, trained technical personnel, snow-clearing arrangements and efficient breakdown response mechanisms must be ensured well before severe weather sets in. Equally important is the timely maintenance of vulnerable infrastructure and the identification of areas where electricity supply is particularly susceptible to disruption.

Transparency must also become an essential component of KPDCL's winter strategy. Consumers have a right to know the realistic power availability position, the prescribed curtailment schedule and the arrangements being made for emergency restoration. Unscheduled power cuts and prolonged uncertainty only aggravate public frustration. Divisional and sub-divisional offices must remain responsive, while grievance redressal mechanisms should function effectively throughout the winter. People should not have to run from one office to another to seek information or assistance during an electricity breakdown. At the same time, consumers must recognise their responsibilities. Timely payment of electricity bills, discouraging power theft and adherence to prescribed safety measures are necessary for maintaining a sustainable distribution system. However, consumer responsibility must be matched by institutional accountability. Payment of electricity charges should translate into a reasonable standard of service, particularly when electricity becomes indispensable for survival and daily functioning during the harsh winter months.

The importance of dependable electricity in Kashmir cannot be overstated. Households, hospitals, educational institutions, businesses and vulnerable sections of society rely heavily on regular power supply when temperatures fall sharply. For many families, electricity is not simply a convenience but an essential requirement for heating, healthcare, education and everyday life. Prolonged outages during severe cold can create serious hardships, particularly for the elderly, children and people requiring medical assistance.

KPDCL must, therefore, move beyond the conventional approach of issuing advisories and publishing preparedness documents. Public confidence cannot be restored through assurances alone; it must be earned through consistent service delivery, timely response to complaints and visible accountability. The corporation must also ensure that its field-level officials are adequately equipped and empowered to respond swiftly to emergencies.

As snowfall begins to cover the higher reaches and winter gradually tightens its grip on the Valley, the time for preparations on paper is running out. Kashmir's electricity consumers have endured repeated disruptions and uncertainty for long enough. They should not be expected to spend another winter planning their daily lives around unpredictable power cuts.

The true measure of KPDCL's winter preparedness will not be the contents of its handbook or the promises made by its officials, but the reliability of electricity supply when snow blankets the Valley and temperatures plunge. This winter, the corporation must ensure that the cold outside does not translate into darkness inside people's homes.

Preserving Humanity in a Technology-Driven World



Sheik Haqib



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the world at an unprecedented pace. From automating routine tasks and analysing complex information to supporting decision-making and driving innovation, AI has become an integral part of modern organisations and society. It is reshaping the way people work, communicate, learn, and lead. As machines become increasingly capable of performing tasks that once required human intelligence, an important question emerges: What does leadership mean in the age of AI?

The answer lies in recognising that while technology can enhance efficiency, accuracy, and productivity, leadership remains fundamentally human. AI can process information, identify patterns, generate solutions, and predict outcomes, but it cannot fully replace human empathy, moral judgement, emotional intelligence, compassion, and the ability to inspire people through shared values and purpose. Human leadership in the age of AI is therefore not about competing with machines but about using technology responsibly while keeping people at the centre of progress. The leaders of tomorrow will be those who combine technological understanding with human wisdom, ensuring that innovation serves humanity rather than making humanity subordinate to technology.

For generations, leadership was closely associated with authority, experience, knowledge, and decision-making ability. Leaders were expected to possess expertise, provide direction, solve problems, and guide their teams towards organisational objectives. However, artificial intelligence is fundamentally changing these expectations. Information that once required years of professional experience can now be accessed and analysed within seconds. Complex reports can be generated automatically, business trends can be predicted through algorithms, and repetitive administrative activities can be performed by intelligent systems.

As a result, the role of leadership is gradually shifting from being the primary source of knowledge to becoming a source of direction, judgement, inspiration, and purpose. In an AI-driven environment, leaders must learn to ask better questions rather than simply provide answers. They must interpret AI-generated insights, challenge assumptions, recognise limitations, and make decisions that consider both organisational performance and human consequences. The true value of a leader will increasingly depend not on how much information they possess but on how wisely they use that information to create meaningful outcomes.

One of the most significant qualities of effective human leadership is emotional intelligence. It involves understanding one's own emotions, recognising the feelings of others, managing relationships, demonstrating empathy, and responding appropriately to different human situations. Although AI can identify emotional patterns in language and analyse behavioural data, understanding the deeper human experience requires sensitivity, context, and genuine interpersonal connection.

Employees do not work merely for salaries, targets, and performance indicators. They also seek recognition, respect, belonging, encouragement, and opportunities for personal growth. During difficult times, they need leaders who listen to their concerns, understand their challenges, and provide reassurance. A human-centred leader recognises that employees are not simply resources to be managed but individuals with aspirations, emotions, responsibilities, and potential.

As automation reduces certain routine human interactions, the importance of meaningful relationships in the workplace becomes even greater. Leaders must consciously create opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, mentorship, and personal connection. Technology may improve workplace efficiency, but empathy builds trust, and trust creates stronger organisations. In the age of AI, emotional intelligence is not a soft leadership skill; it is a fundamental requirement for organisational success.

The growing influence of AI in organisational decision-making has made ethical leadership more important than ever. Artificial intelligence is increasingly being used in recruitment, employee evaluation, customer management, financial planning, and resource allocation.

However, these systems are not automatically fair, neutral, or free from errors. They may reproduce existing social biases, compromise personal privacy, or generate misleading conclusions when trained on incomplete or inaccurate information.

For instance, an AI-based recruitment system may unintentionally disadvantage certain candidates because of biases present in historical data. Similarly, excessive workplace monitoring through digital technologies may undermine employee privacy and create an atmosphere of distrust. Such developments demonstrate that technological capability must always be accompanied by ethical responsibility.

Human leaders have a duty to ensure that AI is developed and implemented in ways that respect human dignity, fairness, transparency, and accountability. They must understand that important decisions affecting people's lives cannot be delegated blindly to algorithms. Human judgement and oversight must remain central, particularly when decisions involve employment, individual rights, social welfare, and organisational responsibility. Ultimately, responsible leadership is not about adopting every available technology but about making thoughtful choices regarding how, why, and where technology should be used.

Trust is the foundation of every successful organisation. However, the introduction of artificial intelligence can create uncertainty and anxiety among employees, particularly when they fear that automation may threaten their jobs or reduce the value of their skills. While some employees may view AI as an opportunity for professional growth, others may perceive it as a threat to their careers and financial security.

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Turn Social Media into a Digital Classroom

A Medium of Learning Along with Entertainment



Dr. Vijay Garg



Today, social media has become an integral part of our lives. Whether children, youngsters, students or elderly people, almost every age group uses platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and WhatsApp. Social media is generally considered a means of entertainment, passing time and sharing personal activities. However, its proper use can transform it into an effective digital classroom.

Today, the internet offers a vast ocean of knowledge. YouTube provides thousands of useful lectures on science, mathematics, history, languages, computers and competitive examinations. Students can learn from expert teachers while sitting at home, revisit difficult topics and find answers to their questions. Study materials, e-books, question papers and important information can also be shared through various educational groups.

The greatest advantage of social media is that it removes barriers to learning. Students living in small towns and villages can also access educational resources prepared by renowned teachers and institutions across the country. It can be particularly beneficial for students from economically weaker backgrounds.

However, social media must be used wisely. Watching reels without any purpose, wasting time in meaningless arguments and remaining constantly engaged with mobile phones can affect students' concentration and study habits. Not every piece of information available on the internet is reliable. Therefore, students should depend on trustworthy sources and verify information before sharing it with others.

Parents and teachers also have an important role to play. Instead of simply advising children to stay away from mobile phones, they should teach them how to use these devices positively. Teachers can share short educational videos, quizzes, academic messages and useful links related to their subjects. Students can also develop the habit of sharing informative content with their friends.

Merely acquiring knowledge through social media is not enough; sharing knowledge is equally important. Students can share their creativity, scientific experiments, book reviews and newly acquired information with others. This will help develop their confidence, communication skills and creative thinking.

Today, the need is to stop viewing social media merely as a source of entertainment and start using it as a medium of learning, teaching and personality development. If even a small part of the time spent on mobile phones every day is devoted to gaining knowledge, social media can give a new direction to students' futures.

Remember, a mobile phone is not merely a device for passing time; it is also a gateway to the world of knowledge. All that is needed is to open this gateway in the right direction.

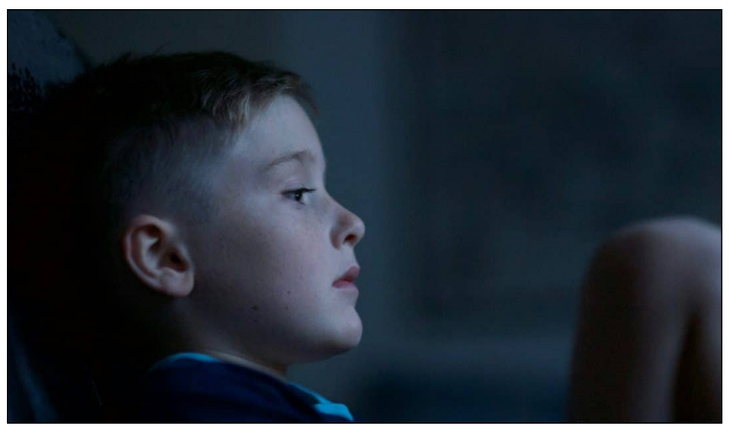
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The Silence That Betrays Childhood

Why body safety education, parental awareness and collective responsibility are essential to protecting our children.



Aubaid Ahmad Akhoon



The great South African leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Nelson Mandela once rightly observed:

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

These profound words remind us that the true character of a society is reflected not merely in its achievements, institutions or material progress, but in the care, dignity and protection it extends to its youngest members. Childhood is supposed to be the most beautiful chapter of human life, a period defined by innocence, curiosity, unconditional love and dreams yet to unfold. Every child deserves to grow up in an environment where they feel secure, respected and protected.

Protecting children is more than just parental love. It's about being aware, being able to talk openly, having the institutions that are responsible for children's welfare actually take that responsibility and having a society that is brave enough to face the difficult truths.

Childhood is the most beautiful period of human life, the period of innocence, of curiosity, of unconditional love and of dreams yet to be realised. Every child is entitled to a childhood in which they feel safe, respected and protected. Under the surface of the very familiar and comforting world of home, school and the social environment there are realities which we are all too often unwilling to face. Child sexual abuse and inappropriate physical contact are amongst the most sensitive of all issues not simply because of the gravity of the offences but because of the silence which so often prevails.

Our body is a gift from Allah and it is absolutely essential that we teach children to respect and look after it. We teach them how to cross the road, how not to touch dangerous things, how to look after themselves in terms of hygiene and what to do in an emergency. Just as important, though, is the lesson that we don't always teach them about personal boundaries, about their own body and the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touch.

The resistance to talking about this is absolutely down to socialisation. A lot of parents find the idea of discussing it with their kids quite uncomfortable, quite inappropriate for a young child, or indeed against the grain of what they consider to be normal. Some will say it's just too upsetting for a child. We have to bear in mind though that awareness doesn't in any way destroy innocence. It's ignorance which leaves you vulnerable. A child who is aware of their own safety is in a much better position to spot inappropriate behaviour, to know what to do if it happens and to be able to tell someone.

The 'good touch / bad touch' concept should therefore be a fundamental part of child education, taught in a simple, sensitive and age appropriate way. A good touch is one that conveys affection, care and reassurance (a mother's hug, a father's gentle pat, a teacher's appropriate gesture of encouragement etc). A child must also be made aware that affection should never be coerced. A child has the right to say no to a hug, a kiss or indeed any physical contact that makes them feel uncomfortable, no matter what the relationship is. An inappropriate touch is one that breaches a child's privacy, their sense of dignity or their bodily boundaries. Touching a child in a private area for any reason other than a legitimate caring or medical purpose is a red flag. Asking a child to touch someone else's private parts is inappropriate. Coercing a child into physical intimacy or into engaging in any form of sexual activity is a serious issue. A child should also be made aware of inappropriate requests, threats, manipulation and attempts to make them keep any uncomfortable interactions secret. One myth that needs to be busted is that danger always comes from a stranger. It may just as easily come from someone you know, from a relative, a neighbour, a family friend, an acquaintance or indeed someone the child already trusts. That's why it's not enough just to teach children to avoid strangers. They need to learn to spot inappropriate behaviour rather than simply decide that someone is safe or not on the basis of who they are or who they know.

About the Author
Aubaid Ahmad Akhoon is an educator, columnist, motivational speaker, and Associate Editor of Education Quill. He also offers modern home security solutions, including VDP and CCTV systems across Kashmir.
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They alone live, who live for others



By M S Nazki

Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life; dream of it; think of it; live on that idea. Let the brain, the body, muscles, nerves, every part of your body be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success, and this is the way great spiritual giants are produced……..Vivekananda!

-You have to grow from the inside out. None can teach you, none can make you spiritual. There is no other teacher but your own soul…….. Vivekananda!

-In a conflict between the heart and the brain, follow your heart…….Vivekananda!

-In a day, when you don't come across any problems - you can be sure that you are travelling in a wrong path!.....Vivekananda!

-All power is within you; you can do anything and everything. Believe in that, do not believe that you are weak; do not believe that you are half-crazy lunatics, as most of us do nowadays. You can do any thing and everything, without even the guidance of any one. Stand up and express the divinity within you…… Vivekananda

-The story which we got went something like this:

-VIF extends a warm welcome to Gen. Anil Chauhan as he assumes charge as Director of the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF). As VIF begins a new chapter under Gen. Chauhan's leadership, we also acknowledge with sincere gratitude the distinguished tenure of Dr. Arvind Gupta and his valuable contributions to the Foundation.

-India's second Chief of Defence Staff and former Director General Military Operations, Gen. Chauhan is widely regarded as a distinguished strategic thinker and defence scholar. His extensive experience in national security, defence policy, geopolitics and military transformation will further strengthen VIF's research and strategic dialogue. We look forward to this new chapter of institutional excellence and strategic engagement under Gen. Chauhan's leadership and wish him every success in his new role!

-Vivekananda International Foundation

-The Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) is an Indian public policy think-tank set up by Vivekananda Kendra, a Sangh Parivar organisation. It is considered closely associated with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party of India, even though the organisation denies any formal links.

-Origins and history

-The Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) describes itself as an "independent, non-partisan institution that promotes quality research and in-depth studies." The Foundation was established in December 2009, by Vivekananda Kendra, a Sangh Parivar organisation, at a site in Delhi allotted to the latter by the P. V. Narasimha Rao government in 1993.

-Ajit Doval, who retired as the director of the Intelligence Bureau in 2005, became its founder Director.

- Swaminathan Gurumurthy, associated with another Sangh Parivar organisation Swadeshi Jagran Manch, was a force behind its creation.

- The Foundation made news in 2011–2012 when it was described as being instrumental in bringing together Anna Hazare, Arvind Kejriwal and Kiran Bedi, along with Baba Ramdev, to form the 'Team Anna'. The anti-corruption protests of the team which helped discredit the Indian National Congress government were run from the VIF.

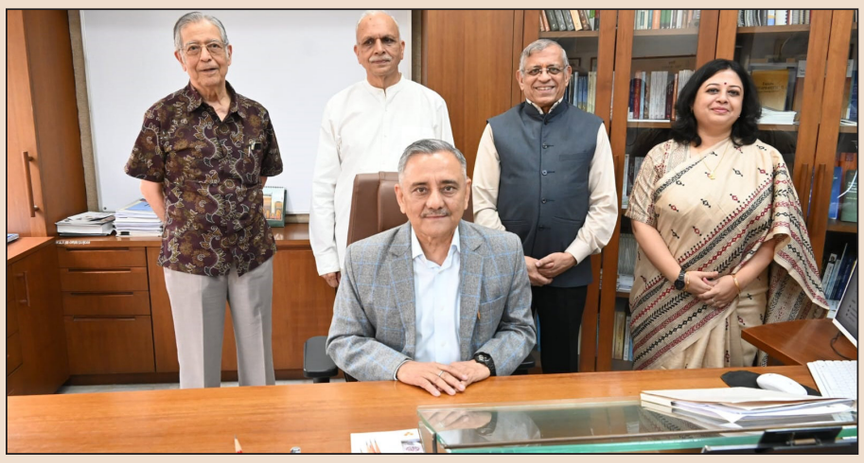
-In 2014, its director Ajit Doval was appointed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi as India's National Security Advisor. The Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Nripendra Misra and the Additional Principal Secretary P. K. Mishra were also recruited from the Foundation's staff.

- The Prime Minister Modi is said to have been following the Foundation for some time and is impressed with its work.

-Output

-The Foundation's primary output ranges from short articles and reports published online to monographs and occasional papers and a quarterly journal called National Security.

- In addition, the Foundation also holds regular



seminars and a monthly discourse on contemporary subjects titled Vimarsh. The think tank has also worked with other think tanks on joint reports. A monthly magazine Vivek is brought out too.

-The Vivekananda International Foundation is an independent, non-partisan public policy think tank based in New Delhi, India:

Key Details

•Founded: 2009 (established under the Vivekananda Kendra)

• Founder: Ajit Doval (current National Security Adviser of India)

•Location: 3, San Martin Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi

• Leadership: Headed by Director Arvind Gupta and Chairman Swaminathan Gurumurthy

-Core Focus Areas

The foundation conducts research and organizes dialogues across six primary centers of study:

•National Security and Strategic Studies: Analyzes security challenges, counter-terrorism, and defense issues.

• International Relations and Diplomacy: Focuses on global strategy, foreign policy, and Track-II diplomacy.

• Neighbourhood Studies: Concentrates on seven neighboring countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

• Governance and Political Studies: Examines transparency, institutional efficiency, and public policy.

•Economic Studies: Tracks macro-economic policies and regional economic trends.

• Historical and Civilisational Studies: Explores India's cultural, traditional, and civilizational history.

-Political Context and Influence:

• Affiliation: While the VIF describes itself as an independent and non-partisan institution, observers and commentators frequently identify it as having a right-of-centre or nationalist orientation, with ties to the wider Sangh Parivar through the Vivekananda Kendra.

•Government Influence: Several prominent figures from the foundation—including Ajit Doval, Nripendra Misra, and P.K. Mishra—assumed key roles within Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration.

-Major Activities:

• Publications: Publishes the quarterly journal National Security, the monthly magazine Vivek, and various policy briefs, monographs, and books.

• Events: Hosts regular lectures, international conferences, and the monthly Vimarsh discourse series.

-The great secret of true success

, of true happiness, is this: the man or woman who asks for no return, the perfectly unselfish person, is the most successful.!

-The greatest religion is to be true to your own nature. Have faith in yourselves!

-Anything that makes weak - physically, intellectually and spiritually, reject it as poison!.

-We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live; they travel far…… Vivekananda

-Dare to be free, dare to go as far as your thought leads, and dare to carry that out in your life……

-They alone live, who live for others……

-The Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) appointed and welcomed former Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan as its new Director on October 5, 2026, succeeding Dr. Arvind Gupta.

-VIF brought General Chauhan into the role for several key reasons:

•Strategic and Defence Expertise: General Chauhan brings extensive background in national security, military reform, jointness, and theatre-command planning from his tenure as India's second CDS (September 2022 to May 2026).

• Strengthening Policy Research: VIF stated that his deep operational and strategic insight will deepen the New Delhi-based think tank's research, dialogue, and policy inputs on geopolitics and defence transformation.

• Precedent and Continuity: VIF has a history of transition between top national security figures and the foundation (such as founder Ajit Doval before he became National Security Advisor), aligning retired defense leadership with the think tank's strategic roadmap.

-About General Anil Chauhan"

-General Anil Chauhan PVSM UYSM AVSM SM VSM (born 18 May 1961) is a retired four-star general of the Indian Army who served as the 2nd Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of the Indian Armed Forces.

-On 28 September 2022, Gen Chauhan was recalled from retirement and was appointed as Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) by the Government of India, following a June 2022 notification which permitted military retirees under the age of 62 to be qualified for the post.

- Assuming charge two days later, he became the first three-star retiree to be appointed to the post, traditionally held by a four-star officer.

He succeeded General Bipin Rawat, the inaugural holder of the post, who had died in a helicopter crash in December 2021.

The Workplace Burnout



By M S Nazki

In today's fast-moving world, work has become an important part of our identity and daily life. People are working very hard to achieve their goals, earn a good living and build a successful career. However, in the race for success, many people are slowly losing something much more valuable than money or professional status and that is their mental peace. Long working hours, heavy workloads, strict deadlines, job insecurity and the pressure to perform better every day are making workplace stress a serious concern. Many employees are continuously working despite feeling mentally and physically exhaustion. They often ignore their tiredness because they fear criticism, failure or losing their jobs. This situation can gradually lead to a condition known as workplace burnout.

Workplace burnout is not simply feeling tired after a busy day. It is a condition of continuous physical, emotional and mental exhaustion caused by long-term work-related stress. A person experiencing burnout may lose interest in work, feel frustrated, become emotionally weak and find it difficult to perform even simple tasks. The psychiatrist has recognised burnout as an occupational phenomenon resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed. The most worrying thing about burnout is that it often develops slowly. In the beginning, a person may feel proud of working extra hours and handling many responsibilities. Gradually, however, the same person may begin to feel exhausted, irritated and unhappy. Work that once brought satisfaction may start feeling like a burden. Even after taking rest, the person may not feel refreshed.

There are several reasons behind the growing problem of workplace burnout. One major reason is the increasing workload. In many organisations, employees are expected to complete several tasks within limited time. They are often required to work beyond office hours without proper rest. Modern technology has also made the situation more difficult. Mobile phones, emails and online meetings keep people connected to their workplaces even during holidays and family time. As a result, the boundary between professional and personal life is slowly disappearing. Another important reason is the lack of appreciation and support. Employees who work sincerely but receive little recognition may gradually lose their motivation. Unhealthy competition, office politics, pressure from



senior officers and fear of job loss can also create continuous mental stress. Sometimes, employees are not given enough freedom to make decisions about their own work, which increases frustration and helplessness.

Workplace burnout affects not only professional performance but also personal life. A person suffering from burnout may experience headaches, sleep problems, poor concentration, constant tiredness and irritability. Such individuals may become less interested in meeting friends, spending time with family or enjoying their favourite activities. They may also feel that their efforts are never enough, even when they are working hard. The situation becomes more serious when people fail to recognise these warning signs. Many employees consider exhaustion a normal part of professional life. Some feel ashamed to discuss their mental health problems because they fear being judged as weak or incapable. However, mental exhaustion should never be treated as laziness or a lack of dedication. It is a warning that the mind and body need attention and care.

The responsibility for preventing workplace burnout does not belong to employees alone. Employers and organisations must also understand the importance of mental health. A healthy workplace should provide reasonable workloads, proper working hours, respectful behaviour and opportunities for employees to express their concerns. Managers should appreciate sincere efforts and avoid creating unnecessary pressure. Employees should also be encouraged to take breaks, use their holidays and maintain a healthy balance between work and personal life. At the individual level, people need to understand that they cannot do everything at once. Learning to manage time, setting realistic goals and refusing unnecessary responsibilities can help reduce pressure. Regular exercise, proper sleep, healthy food and spending time with family and friends can also improve emotional well-being. Most importantly, people should not hesitate to seek professional help when stress and emotional exhaustion become difficult to manage.

We must also change our traditional understanding of success. Working late every night, remaining busy throughout the day and sacrificing family time should not be considered signs of great achievement. Being productive does not mean working continuously without rest. In fact, a tired and unhappy employee cannot give their best for a long time. Rest, recreation and mental peace are essential for a healthy and successful professional life. Work is necessary for survival, growth and self-respect, but it should not become a reason for losing our happiness and health. Organisations must understand that employees are human beings, not machines that can work endlessly. Their feelings, personal responsibilities and mental well-being deserve equal importance.

It is time to take workplace burnout seriously. A successful organisation is not one that extracts the maximum amount of work from its employees, but one that creates an environment where people can work with confidence, dignity and satisfaction. After all, the real purpose of work is to improve the quality of life, not to sacrifice life in the name of work.

SURINDERPAL SINGH
FACULTY IN SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT
SRI AMRITSAR SAHIB
PUNJAB.

Ten Years Of Demonetisation

Cash remains attractive amid the digital revolution



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

On the night of November 8, 2016, a momentous decision was made in the history of the Indian economy that profoundly impacted the country's economic, social, and commercial life. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement to demonetize old 500 and 1000 rupee notes was not merely a currency change, but was presented as a blow to black money, counterfeit notes, corruption, and terrorist financing. At that time, these two notes accounted for approximately 86 percent of the total value of currency in circulation. Ten years later, as this decision is evaluated, an important paradox emerges. While digital payments have expanded unprecedentedly in the country, cash circulation has also steadily increased. This paradox holds the key to understanding the true achievements and limitations of demonetization.

The most significant change following demonetization was in the area of digital payments. Although the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) had already been launched before demonetization in April 2016, the sudden shortage of currency prompted people to adopt digital payment options. Mobile wallets, internet banking, debit cards, and QR code-based payments gradually became a part of everyday life. In fiscal year 2025-26, over 241 billion transactions were recorded through UPI. Its acceptance among small shopkeepers, street vendors, service providers, and general consumers represented a major shift in the Indian payment system. It would be fair to say that demonetization accelerated the adoption of digital payments. Another consequence of this decision was a temporary increase in deposits in the banking system. The deposit of old notes into banks increased liquidity in the banking system and provided financial institutions with the opportunity to identify unusual transactions. Details of many cash deposits previously outside the banking system became available. This helped the Income Tax Department investigate suspicious transactions, detect tax evasion, and enhance financial transparency. Furthermore, counterfeit notes of old denominations were immediately invalidated, dealing a blow to existing counterfeit currency networks. Demonetization also encouraged the expansion of banking services, electronic payments, and financial awareness.

However, despite these achievements, the economic consequences of demonetization raise several important questions. The biggest question concerns the return of black money and its actual prevention. According to the Reserve Bank of India, approximately 99.3 percent of the demonetized currency returned to the banking system. Of the approximately 15.41 lakh crore of demonetized currency, approximately 15.31 lakh crore returned to banks. This figure was contrary to expectations that a large amount of black money, being in cash, would automatically disappear. While it is true that not all of the money deposited in banks can be considered legitimate, it clearly demonstrates that the cash permanently eliminated through demonetization was relatively small.

The root cause is that black money isn't just held in cash. A significant portion of it is invested in real estate, gold, benami properties, money stashed abroad, shell companies, and other financial assets. Therefore, simply demonetizing high-value currency notes will not fully address the black money problem. Transparency in the tax system, monitoring of property transactions, and effective action against corruption are essential.

The continued reliance on cash also highlights the limitations of demonetization. Around November 2016, currency in circulation was approximately 17.77 lakh crore, while by October 2026, it had risen to approximately 43.16 lakh crore. This increase indicates that despite the expansion of digital payments, cash remains a vital medium of the Indian economy. Cash remains essential for rural areas, small businesses, daily wage laborers, and those with limited internet access. This does not mean that digital payments have failed, but rather, it makes clear that both cash and digital channels have their own utility in India's economy.

The unorganized sector was most severely affected by demonetization. Small shopkeepers, street vendors, agricultural laborers, construction workers, and micro-enterprises faced a sudden cash shortage. Many businesses experienced reduced sales, production was affected, and some establishments were forced to temporarily close. Incomes of those dependent on daily wages declined. Normal economic activity in rural markets was disrupted. Given the vital role of small enterprises and the unorganized sector in the country's economy, this disruption was not a temporary problem but had widespread social and economic consequences.

Furthermore, the presence of counterfeit notes in the new currency was also revealed. This made it clear that the problem of counterfeit currency cannot be eliminated simply by demonetizing old notes. It requires improved security features, intelligence, border surveillance, and effective legal action. Similarly, sudden economic decisions also put pressure on consumption, production, and short-term economic growth.

Today, the need is greater to prevent tax evasion by not limiting the fight against black money to cash. Technology-based surveillance, action against benami properties, transparency in property transactions, and improved coordination among various investigative agencies are essential to prevent tax evasion.

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Mechanise sanitation work, secure every workers' rights: NCSK Chairperson

Reviews implementation of Prohibition of Manual Scavenging Act in J&K Directs social security, occupational safety for sanitation workers, dignity and due rights for the Valmiki community

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 16: Chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), Bhagwat Prasad Makwana, today called for an end to all forms of manual scavenging in Jammu and Kashmir. He directed officers to give priority to mechanised sanitation and to guarantee insurance, training, protective gear and social security to every sanitation worker.

He was chairing a meeting at the Convention Centre here to review the implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by District Magistrate Jammu, Minga Sherpa; Director Social Welfare Jammu-cum-Managing Director, J&K Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes Development Corporation, Ranjeet Singh; Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu, Kapil Sharma; Secretary, J&K Advisory Board for Welfare and Development of Scheduled Castes, Seema Bharti; Joint Commissioner (Administration), Jammu Municipal Corporation; Additional Superintendent of Police, Jammu; Deputy Director Information (PR), Jammu; District Social Welfare Officer, Jammu; Assistant Labour Commissioner, Jammu. Officers of the State Programme Management Units of the NAMASTE Scheme (Rural and Urban) and representatives of Safai Karamcharis were also present.

Makwana said the law leaves no room for ambiguity. Cleaning dry latrines, sewers, septic tanks, open nallahs or railway tracks by hand, in towns or in villages, amounts to manual scavenging and is prohibited under the Act. Such work may be permitted only in exceptional circumstances, with the approval of the competent authority and depending on the gravity of the situation, he said, adding that machines must always come first.

The Chairperson sought a detailed account of how the Act is being implemented in J&K. He directed that the District Vigilance Committee constituted under the Act be reconstituted.On worker safety, Makwana directed that every sanitation worker be provided insurance cover, proper training and PPE kits. He also directed officers to ensure that EPF and ESI contributions are deposited for all workers.

The Chairperson said the Act can protect sanitation workers only if they know their rights under it. He directed the administration to hold awareness camps with the participation of multiple departments.

DC Udhampur reviews implementation of clean Himalayan and hill city Initiative

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, today convened a review meeting to assess the implementation of the Clean Himalayan and Hill City Initiative.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh; Chief Executive Officer, Patnitop Development Authority, Rakesh Dubey; District Information Officer Neeraj Bhargav and other concerned officers.Detailed deliberations were held on various components of the initiative, with focus on the effective implementation of activities envisaged under the approved CHHCI Action Plan. The progress, execution strategy and responsibilities of the concerned departments were also discussed.The DC directed the concerned departments and officers to ensure the timely execution of the approved action plan and discharge their assigned responsibilities with proper planning, close inter-departmental coordination and effective monitoring, strictly adhering to the prescribed rules and guidelines.

Emphasising the importance of collective efforts and coordinated action among all stakeholders, the DC called for a mission-oriented approach towards achieving the objectives of the initiative.

DLSA Jammu organises awareness programme on Constitutional Safeguards for Women, Domestic Violence Act

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 16: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Jammu under the guidance of Chairman (Principal District & Sessions Judge / Chairman) Tahir Khurshid Raina and under the supervision of Secretary Maleeka Sharma (Civil Judge (Senior Division), in collaboration with District Mission Coordinator, Mission Shakti, Hub for Empowerment of Women, Jammu, organised an Awareness Programme on Constitutional Safeguards for Women and Domestic Violence Act here at Government Polytechnic for Women.

Panel Lawyer DLSA Advocate Neetika Bali was the Resource Person. She sensitized the students to the Safeguards provided to Women under the Constitution of India. She explained that the Constitution guarantees equality to women, prohibits discrimination on the ground of sex and provides for special provisions for the welfare, protection and empowerment of women.She further deliberated in detail on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. She explained the meaning of domestic violence, including physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse.

DDMA meeting...

DC reviews disaster mitigation measures in Udhampur

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, who is also the Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority, today convened a meeting with officers of the stakeholder departments to review disaster mitigation measures and preparedness in the district.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh; Additional SP and other senior officers from the concerned departments attended the meeting.

Taking detailed department-wise review, the DC stressed the need for close coordination among the stakeholders to strengthen disaster preparedness and mitigation measures.

The DC directed the NDRF and SDRF teams to conduct regular mock drills to assess preparedness and ensure an effective response during emergencies. He also instructed Tehsildars to make optimum use of locally available resources, maintain a buffer stock of essential supplies and identify suitable lodging and relief centres in their respective areas.

Emphasising a proactive approach, the DC directed all concerned officers to prepare a comprehensive roadmap for disaster preparedness and mitigation. He further stressed the need to hold regular meetings with field-level teams, ensure effective inter-departmental coordination and conduct periodic field inspections to assess preparedness and address any gaps.

The DC underscored that timely planning, effective coordination and preparedness at the grassroots level are crucial for minimising the impact of disasters and ensuring public safety. Emphasising a proactive approach, the DC directed all concerned officers to prepare a comprehensive roadmap for disaster preparedness and mitigation. He further stressed the need to hold regular meetings with field-level teams, ensure effective inter-departmental coordination and conduct periodic field inspections to assess preparedness and address any gaps.

DLSA Udhampur promotes NALSA Scheme at grassroots level

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 16: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Udhampur, under the guidance of Chairperson (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Kalpana Revo and under the supervision of Secretary, Sumati Sharma, on Monday organised a Mega Awareness Programme to promote various schemes of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) here at Village Ghordi, Tehsil Ramnagar.

On the occasion, Secretary, DLSA Sumati Sharma visited Village Ghordi and convened a meeting at the Block Development Office, which was attended by the Block Development Officer, former Panchs and Sarpanchs besides Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of Tehsil Ramnagar. The programme also marked the inauguration of a Temporary Legal Aid Clinic in the village with the objective of bringing free legal services closer to the people at the grassroots level.

During the meeting, Panel Lawyer DLSA Advocate Sanjeev Kumar Bavouria sensitised the participants to various NALSA schemes, including NALSA SHIKSHA Scheme, SPRUHA Scheme, Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana, NALSA DAWN Scheme, SAMVAD Scheme and other schemes relating to senior citizens, children, persons with disabilities, victims of human trafficking, acid attacks and workers in the unorganised sector.

The participants were also informed about the objectives and benefits of these schemes and the procedure for reaching out to eligible beneficiaries. Emphasis was laid on identifying deserving persons at the village level and ensuring that the benefits of various legal services and welfare schemes reach those who need them the most.

The Secretary DLSA Udhampur highlighted the important role of local administration and PLVs in spreading legal awareness and identifying eligible beneficiaries. She stressed the need for active coordination among all stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of NALSA schemes and to make free legal aid accessible to the weaker and disadvantaged sections of society.

DC Poonch reviews arrangements for grand celebration of Shri Guru Nanak Jayanti

■ HT News Network



POONCH, NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting in the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office Complex to review arrangements for the celebration of Prakash Divas of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Amarjeet Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mohammad Sayeed; Deputy Superintendent of Police, CMO, ARTO, District Information Officer and representatives from the government departments, besides prominent citizens and religious leaders.The Deputy Commissioner held detailed discussions with the concerned officers regarding the arrangements required to ensure that the sacred occasion is celebrated in a grand, hassle-free, smooth and well-organized manner across the district.

Special emphasis was laid on ensuring uninterrupted power supply, adequate drinking water facilities, proper sanitation, cleanliness of roads and streets, waste management, beautification and other essential civic amenities.

The Municipal Council was directed to conduct special cleanliness drives in the town, particularly around religious places, Gurudwaras, main roads, markets and other locations expected to witness large gatherings of devotees. The Jal Shakti Department was asked to ensure an adequate and uninterrupted supply of drinking water, while the Power Development Department shall ensure necessary arrangements for uninterrupted power and timely resolution of any power-related issues.Discussions were also held regarding traffic regulation and smooth vehicular movement during the celebrations. The Health Department was asked to ensure necessary medical facilities and emergency healthcare arrangements, while the Fire and Emergency Services Department will take appropriate measures to maintain fire safety and emergency preparedness.

DC Kathua launches official anthem of Cyclothon-2026

Scheduled on Nov 22, event aims to promote fitness, healthy lifestyles and public participation in sports

■ HT News Network



KATHUA, NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, today launched the official anthem of Cyclothon-2026 here at a press conference held in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

The launch marks an important step towards building enthusiasm and awareness for the upcoming Cyclothon 2026, scheduled to be organised on November 22, 2026. The event aims to promote physical fitness, healthy lifestyle, environmental awareness and greater public participation in sports activities.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the importance of promoting cycling as a healthy and environment-friendly mode of transport. He called for active participation of people, particularly youth, in the upcoming event.

He emphasised that such initiatives provide an opportunity to encourage fitness, sportsmanship and community participation while spreading awareness about the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sachin Jamwal; Chief Planning Officer Ranjeet Thakur; District Information Officer Gurpreet Singh, besides other concerned officers and stakeholders were present on the occasion. Additional Deputy Commissioner Sachin Jamwal; Chief Planning Officer Ranjeet Thakur; District Information Officer Gurpreet Singh, besides other concerned officers.

IGP Traffic inspects National Highway

Reviews accident prone stretches, landslide zones, ongoing construction works and winter preparedness

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 16: Inspector General of Police, Traffic J&K, Mohammad Suleman Choudhary today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway to assess accident-prone stretches including Dalwas, Peerah, Seri, Kela Morh, Monkey Morh in Ramban, vulnerable landslide zones including Tharad, Dewal in Udhampur and the progress of ongoing construction works including Digdol, Khooni Nalla and Ramsoo Viaduct.

He was accompanied by SSP Traffic NHW Ramban K.M. Priyanka, Dy.SP Traffic Ramban Vinod Kumar, Dy.SP Traffic Banihal S. Surinder Pal Singh, Dy.SP Traffic Udhampur Pankaj Soodan, DTIs and officers of NHAI.

The IGP reviewed critical locations requiring immediate attention and emphasized the need for appropriate road safety measures including installation of crash barriers, parapets and rumble strips wherever required, in coordination with NHAI. He further directed for timely removal of obstructions to ensure safe and smooth movement of traffic.

He impressed upon NHAI officers to expedite the ongoing construction of Khooni Nalla Tunnel and Panthyal Tunnel, besides completing the turn correction work at Ramsoo. "These projects are vital for improving road safety and reducing traffic congestion along the highway," he added.



In view of the approaching winter season and expected rainfall, the IGP stressed the need for comprehensive preparedness to deal with possible landslides, shooting stones and other weather related eventualities. He stressed upon NHAI and other concerned agencies to ensure adequate availability and strategic deployment of men and machinery, including snow-clearance equipment, cranes and recovery vehicles, at vulnerable locations for prompt response to any emergency. He also emphasized regular monitoring of vulnerable stretches and ensuring proper drainage, road signage and safety arrangements.

Traffic officers were directed to maintain close coordination with NHAI and other agencies, keep a strict vigil on vulnerable locations and ensure timely dissemination of road and weather-related advisories. They were further instructed to ensure efficient traffic regulation and extend necessary assistance to commuters.

The IGP reiterated the department's commitment to road safety and emphasized that all concerned agencies must work in close coordination to ensure safer, smoother and uninterrupted movement of traffic along the National Highway, particularly during the challenging winter months. The IGP reiterated the department's commitment to road safety and emphasized that all concerned agencies.

Inter-Departmental Sports Tournament to begin in Pulwama from November 19

DC distributes Sports Uniforms among participating Teams

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 16: District Administration Pulwama, in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSSO), Pulwama, is organising an Inter-Departmental Sports Tournament from November 19, 2026, with the participation of nearly 10 teams representing various government departments.

The tournament aims to encourage government employees to take part in sports and physical activities while providing an opportunity to interact and compete in a healthy sporting environment.

As part of the preparations, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, K.K. Sidha, today distributed sports uniforms among the participating teams. The uniforms were handed over to the respective team captains.

The tournament will bring together employees from different departments on a common platform, encouraging teamwork, coordination and a spirit of healthy competition beyond their routine official duties.

The District Administration is making necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of the tournament, which is expected to see active participation from the departments concerned.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nazreena Yousf, D/O MOHD YOUSF MIR R/o Buchoo, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, hereby notify the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Aadhaar Card as NAZRA NA BANO, whereas my correct name is NAZREENA YOUSF.
That I intend to rectify the said mistake in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. 5429 5523 8985.
Any person having any objection regarding the proposed correction may submit the same before the concerned Aadhaar Authority within the prescribed period.

Applicant:
Nazreena Yousf
R/o Buchoo, Tehsil Pattan,
District Baramulla.

PUBLIC NOTICE

it is notified that the applicant namely Ghulam Hassan Khan S/o Ghulam Rasool Khan R/o kawoosa Khalisa Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of Death certificate of his father namely as Ghulam Rasool Khan S/o Abdul Razaq Khan
The applicant intends to register the Death of his father as per records is ; 11 / 01/ 1994
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 .

17/11/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Manzoor Ahmad Bhat S/o Habib _ ullah_ Bhat R/o Gundi Khalil Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of Birth certificate of his own namely as Manzoor Ahmad Bhat S/o Habib _ ullah _ Bhat
The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his own as per school records is ; 01 / 04/ 1991
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 .

17/11/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Manzoor Ahmad Bhat S/o Habib _ ullah_ Bhat R/o Gundi Khalil Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of Birth certificate of his own namely as Manzoor Ahmad Bhat S/o Habib _ ullah _ Bhat
The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his own as per school records is ; 01 / 04/ 1991
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 .

17/11/2026

99 Driving Licenses suspended across Pulwama for serious Traffic Violations; Action taken in NDPS Case

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA NOVEMBER 16: In an extensive enforcement drive aimed at curbing traffic violations and reinforcing commuter safety, the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Pulwama has suspended 99 driving licenses across the district for breaches of the Motor Vehicles Act.The penalised motorists were intercepted during joint checks conducted by enforcement squads of the MVD and Traffic Police, having been found compromising established safety norms and endangering both pedestrians and fellow commuters.

The infractions spanned a wide spectrum of serious non-compliance, including riding without helmets, driving without seat belts, rash and negligent driving, overspeeding, operating under the influence of alcohol or intoxicants, jumping red lights, dangerous overtaking, carrying excess passengers or goods (overloading), unauthorized commercial plying, dangerous use of mobile phones behind the wheel, and operating vehicles devoid of valid registration, fitness certificates, or insurance documents.

In a related yet distinct regulatory action, the department suspended another driving license following formal recommendations from District Police Budgam, after the individual was implicated in an offence under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

In the Court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Qazigund

In the case of: Shabir Ahmad Mir, S/o Gh Hassan Mir, R/o Berigam Devsar, Tehsil Devsar, District Kulgam.
Versus
BDO Devsar (Registrar Births & Deaths).
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the applicant, Shabir Ahmad Mir, has sought a direction against the non-applicant for registration of the birth particulars of his son, namely *Musaib Shabir, S/o Shabir Ahmad Mir*, who was born on 06-04-2007.
Through this public notice, the general public is hereby informed that anyone having any objection regarding the registration of the above-mentioned birth particulars shall submit the same on or before 14-11-2026, before the competent court, where the matter is listed for further proceedings.
Issued under the authority of the Court on 07-11-2026.

Sd/
Judicial Magistrate Ist Class Qazigund

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rouhista Majid, resident of Kreeri, District Baramulla, hereby notify the general public that my name has been incorrectly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as **ROUHISTA ASIF, whereas my correct name is **ROUHISTA MAJID*.
That my Aadhaar Number is *3996 0910 3300*.
Now, I intend to correct my name in the Aadhaar records from *ROUHISTA ASIF* to *ROUHISTA MAJID*.
Any person having any objection regarding the above-mentioned correction may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority within the prescribed period.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that the dates of birth of my two daughters have been incorrectly recorded in their respective school records.
1. Mehvish Fatima(student of class UKG): Her date of birth has been recorded as 14/12/2020 instead of her actual date of birth, i.e. 14/12/2018.
2. Nazneen Khanam: Her date of birth, recorded as 16/06/2019 in the school records (Class 2nd), is incorrect. Her actual date of birth is 16/06/2017.
I intend to apply for the necessary corrections in their respective school records. Any objection in this regard may be submitted in the office of the Headmaster, Government Model Middle School, Balti Bazar, Kargil, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.
Parent of Mehvish Fatima and Nazneen Khanam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, hereby declare that my name has been wrongly recorded as SAEEDA BEGUM in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. 3909 2998 8646.
My correct name is SAYDA BEGUM. Therefore, I intend to correct my name in the Aadhaar records from SAEEDA BEGUM to SAYDA BEGUM.
Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid name correction may approach the concerned Aadhaar Authority, Baramulla.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my mother's name MOHAMMAD SHABAN TELI R/O.. WATERGAM WAGOORA
Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040001013 wants to be registered on my name MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL TALI S/O Late MOHAMMAD SHABAN 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...MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL TALI
S/O....Late MOHAMMAD SHABAN TALI
R/O ...WATERGAM
BLOCK..WAGOORA

DDC Reasi reviews progress of road projects, district Capex

■ HT News Network



REASI, NOVEMBER 16: District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of ongoing and approved road and bridge projects being executed under various centrally sponsored schemes and development programmes across the district.

The meeting reviewed the physical and financial progress of projects under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Central Road and Infrastructure Fund, NABARD-Rural Infrastructure Development Fund and Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI). The status of road connectivity, construction and upgradation works, bridge projects and issues affecting their execution were also discussed.

Taking stock of PMGSY projects across different phases and batches, the DDC emphasised the need to strengthen road connectivity, particularly in rural and remote areas. He also reviewed CRIF and NABARD-RIDF projects, besides assessing the progress and expenditure of SASCI-funded works. The status of the Domail-Katra-Reasi-Pouni-Bhambla National Highway was also reviewed, with particular focus on ongoing permanent restoration works in the Katra and Reasi divisions.

The DDC directed the concerned officers and executing agencies to expedite the pace of execution and take up pending blacktopping works at the earliest. He stressed that projects nearing completion must be completed on priority, while major ongoing projects should be completed within the stipulated timelines.

Reviewing SASCI-funded projects, he stressed the need for optimum utilisation of available funds within the prescribed timeframe and directed the executing agencies to closely monitor expenditure and ensure timely completion of all sanctioned works.

The DDC also reviewed the District CAPEX Budget for 2026-27 and directed all concerned departments to accelerate the execution of approved works and ensure their completion within the current financial year. He called for regular monitoring of physical and financial progress to prevent delays.

He also reviewed issues pertaining to the Revenue and Mining Departments and directed the concerned officers to expedite pending departmental works, ensure timely submission of requisite geological reports and facilitate the smooth execution of developmental projects. The status of the proposed new EVM Warehouse building was also reviewed and the concerned officers were directed to take necessary measures to ensure timely progress of the project.

Reviewing issues concerning the Forest Department, the DDC stressed effective inter-departmental coordination and directed the concerned officers to conduct joint field inspections to resolve pending issues and facilitate the smooth execution of developmental works.

Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar, Superintending Engineers of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and Public Works Department, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Nitin Verma, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Wildlife Protection
Office of the, Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division, Kashmir.
Zainakoot, Srinagar.
STAGE CONTRACT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
E-NIT No. 08 OF 2026-27 Dated: 14/11/2026
(Please read the tender document carefully before submission of bid)

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

S No	*Name of Work*	*Tentative Adv.*	*Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)*	*Earnest Money / EMD*	*Time of completion*	*Class of Contr*
1	Plugging of breaches in the existing bunds all Wetlands (stage contract for exigency works upto ending March – 2027)	2.00	Rs 100/- online submission. Wildlife Protection Department	2 % of advertised cost, online submission. Wildlife Protection Department	Upto ending Mar-2027	DEE
NOTE	**Allotment shall be made item wise as per requirement at site. The successful bidder is bound to start execution of the assigned work within twenty-four hours from issuance of allotment/work order.**					

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

1. Schedule of Dates

No	Event	Date / Time
1	**Date of Publishing of Tender Notice**	**14/11/2026**
2	**Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents (online)**	**16/11/2026 from 01:00 PM to 26/11/2026 upto 06:00 PM**
3	**Bid Submission – Start Date**	**16/11/2026 from 01:00 PM**
4	**Bid Submission – End Date**	**26/11/2026 upto 06:00 PM**
5	**Opening of Technical Bids (Online)**	**27/11/2026 at 03:00 PM** (Office of the Regional Wildlife Warden, Rajbagh, Srinagar)
6.	**Opening of Financial Bids (Online)**	To be notified after technical bid evaluation (Office of the Regional Wildlife Warden, Rajbagh, Srinagar)
7	**Clarifications / Q&A**	**02:00 PM – 04:00 PM** on any day between Issue-Date and Closing-Date
8	**Submission of Hard-Copy Documents by Lowest-First (L1) Bidder**	Within **3 working days** of Financial-Bid opening

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

2. Tender & Bidding Documents

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

Bidders are required to read the e-tender Submission Manual (available under Downloads on the portal) before preparing their bids).

3. Pre-Qualification (mandatory)

S No	Particulars	Pre-Qualification Criteria	Scanned Self-Attested Copies Required
a	**Tender Fee**	Online Submission as detailed below	Receipt (original)
b	**Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)**	2 % of advertised cost, Online submission of EMD must fall **between** the Bid-Submission start-date and end-date.	Receipt (original)
e	**Permanent Account Number (PAN)**	---	PAN Card
f	**Goods & Services Tax (GST)**	Valid GST registration; latest clearance certificate **FORM GST-3** (or **GSTR-38**) of the month/quarter preceding the issue of NIT. If the taxpayer has not opted for the QRMP scheme, the latest **GSTR-3B** must also be uploaded.	GST Registration Certificate Latest GST return (Form GST-3/GSTR-38 or GSTR-3B)
g	**JKPWDOMS Contractor Registration**	Valid JKPWDOMS contractor card (online) for FY 2026-27, duly renewed. The **name on the JKPWDOMS certificate must be identical to the name on the GST registration certificate** (any difference in trade name or spelling shall result in outright rejection).	JKPWDOMS Certificate (downloadable from https://kpwdomsik.gov.in/)
h	**GST-Linked Bank Account**	Bank account number linked with the GSTIN (format as per Annexure-I).	Bank-Account Verification Certificate
i	**Notarised Affidavits (Undertaking – not black-listed & document verification)**	As per format attached (Annexure-II & VI).	Notarised Affidavit
j	**Aadhaar Card & Contact Number**	Mandatory (must be shown on the registration card).	Aadhaar Card copy Mobile number (printed on registration card)

*All scanned documents must be in **English, black & white, 100 dpi**.*

4. Security Requirements

- **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) – 2 %** of the advertised cost. Must be submitted, In pursuance to Finance Department Circular instructions issued vide No. FD-Code/290/2026 Dated: 22-05-2026 and S.O 247 OF 24-09-2026 to implement online system for depositing Bid Security (EMD), Tender Fee and IT Service Charges for all works Departments. The Bidders shall deposit the EMD & IT Service Charges Fee in the Centralized Pooling Bank Account of this Department, circulated vide endorsement No: WLP/Acctts/2026-27/73-76 Dated: 30-06-2026. Account details of Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account of Wildlife Protection Department are as below:
  Account : PCCF / Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K.
  Name of the Bank: Jammu and Kashmir Bank.
  Branch : Civil Secretariat
  IFSC Code : JAKA0MOVING
  Account No : 0110010200001104
- **Performance Security**: Performance Security shall be 3% of the contract value, as per PWD norms, and shall be submitted as above.
  The same shall remain valid till completion of work and Defect Liability Period (DLP). Forfeiture: Performance Security shall be forfeited in case of:
  - Failure to execute awarded work
  - Non-compliance with contract conditions
  - Poor quality or abandonment of work.
- **Additional Security for Unbalanced / Abnormally Low Bids (ALB)** – If the successful bid is unbalanced or qualifies as an ALB, the contractor shall provide extra performance security as specified in Annexure-A. In case a bidder quotes below 50% of the advertised cost, the bid shall not be accepted directly. The matter shall be placed before the Tender Opening Committee, which shall:
  - Examine justification submitted by bidder
  - Assess feasibility and execution capability
  - Decide acceptance/rejection based on reasonable grounds Decision of committee shall be final and non-arbitrary.

1. All scans must be clear and legible; any illegible document will lead to rejection.

DIPK-7712/26
Send Date: Nov 16 2026

Sd/-
Wildlife Warden
Wetland Division, Kashmir,
Srinagar

DC Kathua reviews progress under Mission YUVA
Calls for effective youth outreach

■ HT News Network



KATHUA, NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, today chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved under Mission YUVA in the district.

Assistant Director Employment Muneer Hussain gave a detailed account of the applications received, cases processed and approved, besides loan disbursements and the status of entrepreneurial units established under the scheme. He also briefed the meeting on the status of pending applications and the steps being taken to facilitate aspiring entrepreneurs.

The DC stressed the need for coordinated efforts among the concerned departments and financial institutions to ensure effective implementation of Mission YUVA to facilitate aspiring entrepreneurs in establishing their own ventures.

He directed the officers to expedite the processing of pending applications and timely removal of bottlenecks, if any. " We need to avoid unnecessary delays and provide timely benefits to eligible individuals," he stressed. He further emphasised the need to intensify awareness and outreach activities, particularly in rural and far-flung areas, to encourage more youth to explore entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Surender Mohan Sharma, ACR Vishav Pratap Singh, CPO Ranjeet Thakur, Deputy Director Employment and officers of the concerned departments and representatives of financial institutions associated with the implementation of the scheme. He directed the officers to expedite the processing of pending applications and timely removal of bottlenecks, if any. " We need to avoid unnecessary delays and provide timely benefits to eligible individuals," he stressed. He further emphasised the need to intensify awareness and outreach activities, particularly in rural and far-flung areas, to encourage more youth to explore entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Group of 100 Ramnagar farmers visit to Agriculture Directorate Jammu

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 16: A one-day within-state farmers' exposure and training tour was organised by the Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Udhampur, under the ATMA Scheme.

The tour, comprising as many as 100 farmers from different areas of Ramnagar, was flagged off by MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia. He encouraged the farmers to actively participate in such educational and exposure programmes to enhance their agricultural knowledge and adopt modern farming practices.

The programme was conducted under the overall guidance of Chief Agriculture Officer Vikas Padha.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by ADO Vinod Gupta, DAO Sudhir Manhas, ASC Sunil Gupta and SDAO Ramnagar Ashwani Abrol along with other departmental officials.

During the visit, the farmers will visit the Directorate of Agriculture Jammu, where they will get an opportunity to interact with agricultural experts, gain first-hand knowledge about modern agricultural technologies, improved farming practices, government schemes and innovative interventions in the agriculture sector.

Dir Agri Kashmir reviews District-Wise Expenditure Performance under various Schemes

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 16: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today chaired a review meeting at Directorate of Agriculture Lalmandi to assess the physical and financial progress achieved by all the districts under HADP, JKCIP, CSS, Capex, Revex and SASCI.

The meeting was attended by all the chief Agriculture officers of Kashmir division along with drawing and disbursing officers.

During the review, the Director instructed the chief agriculture officers to identify all the bottlenecks which are hampering the pace of expenditure, and sought their timely removal for achieving all the physical and financial targets within shortest possible time. The director undertook a detailed assessment of district-wise expenditure achievements, financial progress and the implementation status of various schemes. He also reviewed the pace of execution of approved activities under each component of various schemes, and the progress



achieved against the targets set for the current financial year.

The Director called for expediting the pace of expenditure for those districts which are lagging behind, and instructed the concerned chief Agriculture officers to achieve all the allocated targets within a week.

Shah stressed on achievement of all physical targets earmarked for each district under JKCIP and directed all the district officers to implement this international funded project as per the guidelines within stipulated time period. He also instructed the concerned officers to submit the success stories under JKCIP on priority basis.

Shah directed the concerned district officers to ensure that the benefits of various departmental interventions are effectively extended to the farming community.

Reiterating the department's commitment to result-oriented implementation of government schemes, Sartaj Ahmad Shah called upon all district officers to adopt a proactive approach, strengthen field-level monitoring and ensure that the available resources are translated into tangible outcomes for the agricultural sector.

He emphasized that regular review and close supervision of district-level performance are essential for ensuring transparency, efficiency and timely delivery of departmental programmes.

Zamin Foundation Organises Drug Awareness Programme at Judda Dhansal in Reasi

■ HT News Network



Reasi, Nov16: With the aim of promoting a drug-free society, the Judda Dhansal Team of Zamin Foundation, District Reasi, organised a drug awareness programme on Sunday to sensitise people, particularly the youth, about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of collective efforts to combat substance abuse.

The programme was attended by Zamin Foundation Chairman Sheikh Idrees Ahmed and Vice-Chairman Jugal Kishor as special guests. Former Sarpanches from various Panchayats and prominent members of the local community also participated. Addressing the gathering, the speakers highlighted the devastating impact of drug addiction on individuals, families and society. They stressed the importance of public awareness, education and active community participation in preventing drug abuse. Chairman Sheikh Idrees Ahmed urged parents, youth and community members to work together to protect the younger generation from the growing drug menace. He also emphasised the need to identify drug-related activities and encourage affected individuals to seek proper support and rehabilitation.

Vice-Chairman Jugal Kishor stressed the importance of grassroots-level awareness campaigns and sustained community efforts in the fight against drug abuse. The programme concluded with an appeal to people from all sections of society to unite and contribute towards the vision of a Drug-Free Jammu and Kashmir.

Zamin Foundation reaffirmed its commitment to organising more awareness programmes and strengthening grassroots initiatives to eradicate drug abuse from society.

GCOE Jammu organises 2-day awareness programme

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 16: The Road Safety Club of Government College of Education (GCOE), Jammu organised a two-day awareness programme to sensitise students about the importance of road safety and responsible road behaviour. The programme comprised two activities: screening of a documentary on road safety on 13th November and a Slogan Writing Competition on 16th November 2026. The theme of the programme was "Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha", highlighting the importance of following traffic rules and adopting safe practices to prevent road accidents. The activities were organised under the guidance of Principal of the college, Dr. Jyoti Parihar, whose constant support and motivation inspired the successful conduct of the programme. The documentary screening aimed to generate awareness among students about traffic regulations, road safety measures and the consequences of negligent driving. The Slogan Writing Competition provided a creative platform for students to express their thoughts and spread the message of road safety through impactful slogans. As many as 15 students enthusiastically participated in the competition and expressed their creativity through meaningful slogans highlighting the importance of road safety.

ADDC Bandipora inaugurates Training Programme for selected SHG Members of Imaan Cluster to operate Rural Mart

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 16: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Mir, today inaugurated a training programme at the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Bandipora, for selected members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) belonging to Imaan Cluster of Bonakoot Block, who have been selected to operate the Rural Mart at Pethkoot.

The training programme aims to equip the selected SHG members with essential entrepreneurial skills, business management techniques and practical knowledge required for the effective establishment and operation of the Rural Mart. Speaking on the occasion, ADDC Bandipora emphasised the importance of skill development and capacity building in empowering.

JKEDI Pulwama commences Entrepreneurship Development Programmes under RAMP

■ HT News Network



RePULWAMA, NOVEMBER 16: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir National Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKNRLM), organised two six-day Entrepreneurship Development Programmes at Aglar, Pulwama, under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme.

The program has been designed to equip rural youth and aspiring entrepreneurs with practical skills in business planning, opportunity identification, financial management, marketing, and enterprise sustainability. These initiatives form part of JKEDI's ongoing efforts to promote self-employment and strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in rural areas of the Union Territory.

The program witnessed presence and active engagement of various dignitaries including Mohammad Ashraf, Block Development Officer, Shadimarg/Ichegoza; Raiyees Manzoor, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Pulwama; Sajad Wali, Principal Govt Hr. Sec. Litter; Dr Imran Ahmad, District Officer NRLM Pulwama; Other dignitaries and staff members of various allied Departments.

Experts interacted with the participants. They encouraged the trainees to embrace entrepreneurship as a viable career option and urged them to take their businesses to the next level.

Through such collaborative capacity-building programmes, the JKEDI continues to sow and nurture the seeds of entrepreneurship across Pulwama District, empowering youth to become job creators rather than job seekers.

Six Youth selected to represent Shopian at VBYLD 2027 following District-Level Challenge Track

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 16: The District Youth Services and Sports Office (DYSSO) Shopian successfully organised a district-level Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2027 Challenge Track today at the Meeting Hall, Shopian, featuring a presentation round. The programme was inaugurated by District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Shopian, Mohd Ayoub Bhat, who interacted with the participants and encouraged them to present their ideas with confidence and clarity. Youth selected through the preliminary rounds of VBYLD 2026–27 from across Shopian district participated in the event, presenting their perspectives on the assigned theme, "Safeguarding the Himalayan Frontiers".

A panel of jury members evaluated the presentations based on content, creativity, thematic understanding and presentation skills. Following a comprehensive assessment, the jury selected the top six participants to represent District Shopian at the next level of the competition. The event was also graced by Divyanshu Jaiswal, District Youth Officer (DYO) Pulwama, who shared valuable insights and tips with the participants, motivating them to excel in the upcoming rounds. Speaking on the occasion, DYSSO Shopian expressed gratitude to the jury members for their valuable time and impartial evaluation, candidates for their enthusiastic participation, NIC Team, District Information Officer and the concerned officials for their cooperation.

FDA continues enforcement drive to ensure safety of meat & meat products across UT

108 Inspections conducted, three FSSAI Licenses suspended, expired Food Articles Worth Rs77,500 destroyed

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 16: Continuing its enforcement activities to ensure food safety and prevent the sale of substandard, unsafe and expired food products, Food and Drugs Administration, J&K (FDA), conducted inspections of meat processing units, meat shops and other establishments dealing with meat and meat products.

During the latest enforcement drive, a total of 108 inspections were conducted across various districts, and five food samples were lifted for laboratory analysis to assess their compliance with the prescribed standards under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

As part of the enforcement action, five cases were recommended for proceedings under Section 56 of the Act, which provides for a penalty of up to 1 lakh for manufacturing or processing food under insanitary or unhygienic conditions. Additionally, one case was initiated under Section 58 in connection with the sale of expired food articles, attracting a penalty of up to 2 lakh, subject to adjudication.

Taking cognizance of violations of food safety requirements, the FSSAI licences of three establishments, viz. M/s Nadam Poultry, Anantnag; M/s Asalam Chicken, Anantnag; and M/s The Frozen Hub, Kothanwal, Jammu, were suspended for violations of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Furthermore, expired food articles worth approximately 77,500 were destroyed to prevent their further sale and consumption. In another enforcement action, three cases were compounded under Section 69 of the Act, with a total compounding fee of 3,000 realized. FDA, J&K, reiterated that enforcement activities will continue across all districts, with particular focus on establishments involved in the processing, storage, transportation and retail sale of meat and meat products.



Food Business Operators have been advised to maintain the highest standards of hygiene during the handling, processing and storage of meat and meat products and to ensure that no expired, unsafe or non-compliant food articles are offered for sale. Any violation shall invite stringent action under the relevant provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Consumers are also urged 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. FDA, J&K, reiterated that enforcement activities will continue across all districts, with particular focus on establishments involved in the processing, storage, transportation and retail sale of meat and meat products.

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WHO issues first guidelines on type 1 diabetes for adults



•Marking World Diabetes Day 2026 on November 14, the World Health Organisation (WHO) issued its first guidelines on the diagnosis and management of type 1 diabetes in adults, with recommendations designed to apply across all settings, including low-resource, emergency and humanitarian settings.

• The 2026 World Diabetes Day focuses on "Early action on diabetes".

Some facts on diabetes:

• Diabetes is a chronic disease, which occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin, or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces. This leads to an increased concentration of glucose in the blood (hyperglycaemia).

• The technical name for diabetes is diabetes mellitus.

• Type 1 diabetes (earlier known as insulin-dependent or childhood-onset diabetes) is characterised by a lack of insulin production. Type 1 diabetes is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin by itself.

•Type 2 diabetes (earlier known as non-insulin-dependent or adult-onset diabetes) is caused by the body's ineffective use of insulin. It often results from excess body weight and physical inactivity. Type 2 diabetes occurs when the body becomes resistant to insulin or doesn't make enough insulin.

• Gestational diabetes is hyperglycaemia that is first recognised during pregnancy. It can lead to serious health risks for both the mother and child.

• The rising prevalence of diabetes and other noncommunicable diseases is driven by a combination of factors — rapid urbanisation, sedentary lifestyles, unhealthy diets, tobacco use, and increasing life expectancy.

• Obesity and being overweight are the most important risk factors responsible for diabetes. Much of the diabetes burden can be prevented or delayed by behavioural changes favouring a healthy diet and regular physical activity.

• Diabetes can lead to serious complications, including blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, stroke, and lower-limb amputation.

•The global burden of diabetes has more than quadrupled since 1990. In 2022, 830 million people were living with diabetes worldwide, the majority with type 2 diabetes.

•More than 40 per cent of people with diabetes are unaware that they have the condition and therefore remain undiagnosed.

Key points of the guidelines:

• More than 100 years after the discovery of insulin, many people living with type 1 diabetes still cannot access the insulin and care they need to survive.

•Type 1 diabetes is a lifelong condition in which the body does not produce enough insulin, making people dependent on daily insulin to survive.

•In 2025, around 9.5 million people lived with type 1 diabetes globally, with an additional 500,000 diagnosed in the same year.

•While often considered primarily a childhood condition, type 1 diabetes is increasingly affecting adults.

• In the new guidelines, WHO recommends that people with type 1 diabetes receive insulin injections several times per day, with doses adjusted to blood glucose levels.

• Human insulin, a manufactured medicine that works like insulin naturally produced by the human body, is an appropriate and effective option. Other types of insulin can be used when needed.

•The guidelines recommend regular monitoring of blood glucose levels. At clinics, this can include a regular blood test that shows average blood sugar levels over the past few months.

• At home, people can check their own levels with a finger prick test or a continuous glucose monitor, through a small sensor worn on the skin. Where blood glucose testing is not available, urine glucose testing can be considered.

•The new guidelines support efforts to achieve WHO targets to ensure that all people with type 1 diabetes have access to affordable insulin treatment and blood glucose self-monitoring by 2030.

manoramayearbook.

One of the most commonly injured parts of the body that many of us never train

They are the body's primary shock absorber, vital for balance, standing, walking and running, but most of us rarely think about our ankles - until we hurt them.

These painful incidents are very common, says Genevieve Tawiah, a performance physiotherapist who has worked on shows like Strictly Come Dancing.

Ankle injuries account for 5% of visits to A&E in the UK, according to NICE.

But Tawiah tells What's Up Docs? they can be avoided "if you are strong and aware of your foot and ankle and the chain that affects it". Here are three ways to strengthen your ankles:

1. Build your mind-body connection

The foundation to building strong ankles and reducing the risk of injuries is being "brain to body aware", says Tawiah - meaning you can sense what movements your ankles are making without relying on looking down at them.

"It's about sending information from the brain down to our foot and ankle to ground us and build a good foundation for any exercise training that follows," she says.

To build brain body awareness Tawiah has some examples of exercises that require you to watch your foot while you do them.

She suggests starting with smaller movements of the toes as this can affect how we "load [weight] through the ankles". Two examples are:

Pressing the tip of your big toe into the floor, holding it and watching how the arch of your foot engages. "This will feel like something pulling through the arch of your foot," she says.

Putting a pen on the floor next to, and parallel with, your big toe. Then try to move the big toe towards the pen, which is called toe "abduction".

2. Build strength, control and balance

Tawiah says the function of the ankle is to help us balance, weight bear and transmit force.

Strength exercises might include:

Heel raises - Stand next to a sturdy surface and lift your heels off the floor and roll onto your toes, making sure your ankles don't wobble or stick outwards.

Balance - Walk with one foot in front of the other, like a gymnast along a beam, and maintain your foot control.

Control - Moving from a sitting to a standing position on one or two legs and going up or down stairs are also examples of exercises used to improve ankle balance and control.

"If you go up the stairs and you find that you lead with one leg, practice leading with the other side."

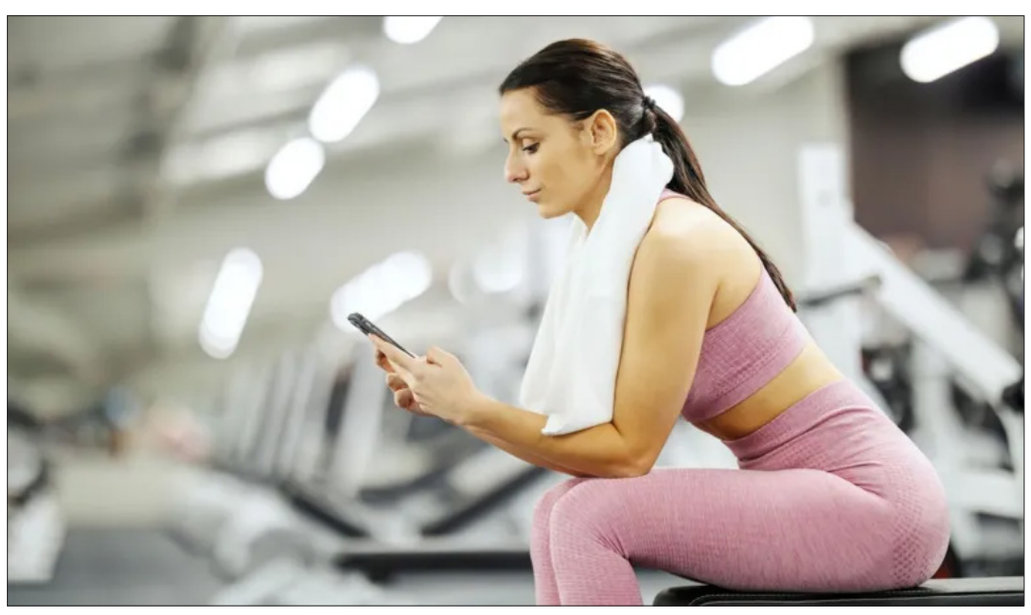
Those recovering from ankle sprains might want to try balancing on one leg while throwing and catching a ball. Or work on their landing control by stepping to either side and balancing on the landing leg.

And for those with tendinopathy, chronic pain in the tendon, a slow and heavy load is important. Try calf raises with weight - for instance on a leg press.

3. Wear the right footwear

Tawiah says picking the right type of shoes is important in supporting your ankles.

(BBC NEWS)



My mother told me I would die if I sought treatment for Ebola - I am proof you can survive



When Dr Raymond Kasereka Kamwanga told his family he suspected he had Ebola and was going to a treatment centre in the city of Butembo in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, his family were horrified.

They regarded the specialised unit as a "death house" as not many patients do recover - especially those admitted in the late stages of the illness. His 50-year-old mother was in tears, pleading with him not to go there.

"Why are you choosing to die at the Ebola treatment centre?" Masika Ndungo had asked him.

But as a doctor at Butembo's Katwa Hospital, he knew that if stayed at home, he was unlikely to survive.

This was in July, two months after the World Health Organization (WHO) had declared the Ebola outbreak in DR Congo a public health emergency of international concern. Since then 5,400 people have died and 11,000 have been infected, making it the second-most deadly outbreak ever recorded.

Butembo is in North Kivu province, the epicentre of the crisis, with the highest number of reported cases, according to the Congolese health ministry.

Dr Kamwanga is one of 3,031 people who have survived - and is evangelical about sharing his story in an effort to help stop the spread of infections devastating his community.

After staring death in the face and overcoming ostracisation, he has even started writing a book about his experience.

"As someone who has recovered, I am living proof that the disease exists, but also that it is possible to recover from it," he tells the BBC outside Katwa Hospital where he still works.

The 30-year-old medic believes he contracted the virus through contact with a patient in a setting where protective measures are not always adequate.

The first symptoms appeared gradually: a bitter taste in his mouth, headaches and a general feeling of malaise. He contacted the Ebola response team.

After an initial consultation and some tests, he returned home, but his condition did not improve.

Butembo does not have the equipment to quickly test for Ebola - samples need to be sent to the city of Beni, 54km (33 miles) north.

This delays diagnosis as the condition of roads in this war-torn and underdeveloped part of DR Congo means it can take between 48 and 72 hours to travel even this relatively short distance.

After three days at home, Kamwanga felt extremely weak and experienced muscle pain. On the fourth day, he began vomiting and had diarrhoea.

This is when he gathered his family members - including his mother - to tell them he had to go to the Ebola treatment centre."She had started crying, along with my sisters. I told them everything would be alright, that I was a doctor and that I was confident. But they weren't reassured," he says.Around 18:00, he set off on foot to the nearby centre but refused to use the main entrance.

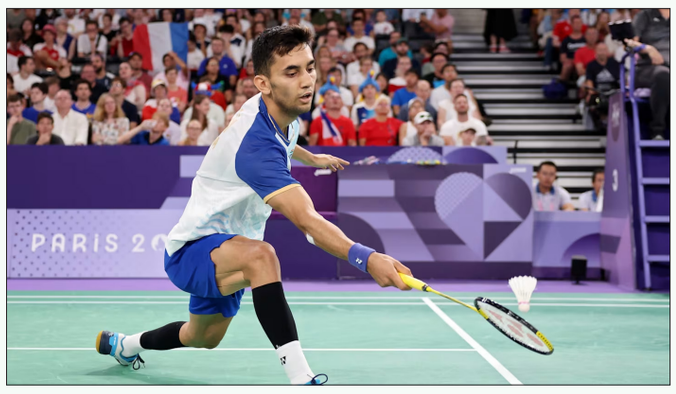
He called his colleagues and asked them to put on their protective gear before they approached him and isolated him. The virus spreads from one person to another by contact with infected bodily fluids.

The current outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo species of the virus for which there is no approved vaccine or treatment."The treatment given to Ebola patients is symptomatic - meaning that doctors treat the symptoms the patient presents," says Kamwanga, explaining that in his case it was severe vomiting and diarrhoea.

(BBC NEWS)

Lakshya Sen looks to seal World Tour Finals spot at Hong Kong Open

Uninted News Of India



KOWLOON (HONG KONG), NOV 16 :India's Lakshya Sen will aim for a deep run in the Hong Kong Open 2026 badminton tournament scheduled to start on Tuesday as he looks to make a final push to seal a spot at the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals.

Back-to-back title wins at the Hylo Open and Kumamoto Masters Japan are expected to propel Lakshya to sixth in the Race to BWF World Tour Finals standings, putting him inside the top-eight qualification cut-off for the season-ending tournament, according to olympics.com.

However, Lakshya is yet to seal his qualification for the 2026 BWF World Tour Finals scheduled in Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China, from December 9 to 13.

Japan's Koki Watanabe, whom Lakshya beat in the Kumamoto Masters Japan final, and Paris 2024

silver medallist Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand are still in contention and can knock the Indian badminton player out of the top eight.

The Hong Kong Open is the final tournament in the qualifying window and where Lakshya, Watanabe and Vitidsarn finish in the men's singles draw will decide the final spots.

Lakshya will need to reach the semi-finals in Hong Kong China to be certain of his place in the season finale.

The Indian badminton player will open his campaign against local favourite Lee Cheuk Yiu, while Kunlavut Vitidsarn will face a qualifier.

If both Lakshya and the Thai shuttler win their opening matches, they will set up a potentially decisive second-round encounter. Watanabe, meanwhile, is in the other half of the draw.

Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth is the other Indian in the men's singles draw.

The women's singles draw features six Indians despite the absence of two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, who has already qualified for the BWF World Tour Finals.

Anmol Kharb, Unnati Hooda, Devika Sihag and Rakshita Ramraj will all feature, while Ashmita Chaliha and Isharani Baruah clash in an all-Indian opening-round match.

The men's doubles draw features world No. 6 Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty as well as Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun.

World Championships bronze medallists Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will spearhead India's challenge in women's doubles, while Hariharan Amsakarunan and Tanisha Crasto, and Dhruv Rawat and Maneesha K feature in the mixed doubles.

Live streaming of the Hong Kong Open 2026 badminton matches will be available on FanCode.

Hong Kong Open 2026: India badminton squad

Men's singles: Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth

Women's singles: Anmol Kharb, Unnati Hooda, Ashmita Chaliha, Isharani Baruah, Devika Sihag, Rakshita Ramraj

Men's doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty, Hariharan Amsakarunan-MR Arjun

Women's doubles: Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand Mixed doubles: Hariharan Amsakarunan-Tanisha Crasto, Dhruv Rawat-Maneesha K, Dhruv Kaplia-Radhika Sharma (Q)

Adaptability' key takeaway for India from New Zealand tour, says Iyer

Uninted News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 16 :India's stand-in captain Shreyas Iyer believes the team's ability to handle different conditions and situations was among the biggest gains from their ODI series against New Zealand, even as he acknowledged that the challenges awaiting them at next year's World Cup will be quite different.



India wrapped up the five-match series with a 22-run win in the final match at Mount Maunganui on Sunday, sealing a 3-1 result. The campaign had its share of highs and lows, but the performance of the bowling attack emerged as a major positive for Iyer's side with less than a year remaining before the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

India will head into the tournament, to be hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, looking to improve on their runner-up finish in 2023, when they lost to Australia in the final on home soil.

Iyer, however, cautioned against drawing direct comparisons between the conditions in New Zealand and those expected at the World Cup, while underlining the value of testing the team's adaptability.

"We are in New Zealand, so we can't really compare with South Africa. Weather will be different. Especially from the batting point of view, both teams, it did not happen, our bowling was consistently good and theirs too, and the wicket was predominantly bowler support," Iyer said.

Tiigers of Kolkata strengthen bid for second ISPL crown with Rajat Mundhe, Krushna Gawali signings

Uninted News Of India

MUMBAI, NOV 15 :Tiigers of Kolkata secured Rajat Mundhe for Rs 15.05 lakh and Krushna Gawali for Rs 14.75 lakh at the ongoing Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) Season 4 auction, strengthening their batting line-up as they target a second title.



Under-19 underdog Amay Jitendra Lad was among seven players acquired by the inaugural champions, taking their squad to eight alongside retained batter Saif Ali.

Owned by Aksha Kamboj and Aspect Sports, with Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan as

co-owners, Tiigers are aiming to go one better than their runners-up finish in Season 3.

The franchise has retained Saif Ali, the league's all-time leading run-scorer and last season's Best Batter, and appointed its inaugural title-winning captain Prathamesh Pawar as coach.

Aksha Kamboj, Group Chairperson & Managing Director, Aspect Global Ventures India Pvt. Ltd., said: "Reaching the final last season has sharpened our ambition for Season 4. We want to challenge for the trophy again, and that requires clear decisions, disciplined preparation and a squad whose strengths complement one another. Retaining Saif and appointing Prathamesh as coach give us continuity and valuable experience. We came into the auction with specific roles to strengthen and clear idea of the character we want in this team. Our responsibility is to give the players the support and confidence to perform consistently."

Mundhe and Gawali headlined the franchise's auction acquisitions, with Gawali secured through the Right to Match (RTM) option. Tiigers also exercised RTM for bowler Vivek Shelar, while adding all-rounders Amay Lad,

Jay Shah gets second term as ICC chairman

Uninted News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 16 :Jay Shah has secured a second consecutive term as chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), consolidating his leadership of world cricket at a defining moment when the sport prepares for a major global expansion through the 2027 ODI World Cup and its return to the Olympic Games at Los Angeles in 2028.

Shah, 38, was re-elected unopposed after emerging as the sole candidate for the position, with his name proposed by ICC directors at their meeting in Bali over the weekend. He will continue for another two years, overseeing a crucial phase in the ICC's efforts to expand cricket's international reach, strengthen its global profile and tap into new audiences through the Olympic platform.

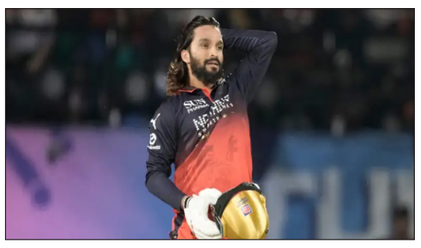
His re-election gives continuity to the ICC leadership as it prepares for two major events that could shape the sport's future - the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup in Southern Africa and cricket's much-anticipated return to the Olympics at LA28."Serving as chair of the ICC is both a privilege and a responsibility, and I remain committed to working with our members to advance the interests of cricket across the world," Shah said, describing his re-election as a deep honour.

Patidar's 48-ball 135 powers MP to 131-run rout of Assam

Uninted News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 16 :Rajat Patidar produced a stunning display of power-hitting, smashing an unbeaten 135 off just 48 deliveries to guide Madhya Pradesh to a massive 131-run victory over Assam in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2026 on Monday. Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh also secured wins in their respective Elite Group encounters.Patidar's blistering knock, which featured a flurry of boundaries, powered Madhya Pradesh to an imposing 250/6 at the PCA International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh. He received excellent support from Shivang Kumar, who struck 61 off 38 balls, as the pair laid the foundation for a formidable total. Ankush Singh chipped in with 23 off 13 deliveries, while Akshat Raghuwanshi made 19. Akash Sengupta picked up three wickets for Assam, while Mrinmoy Dutta claimed two.

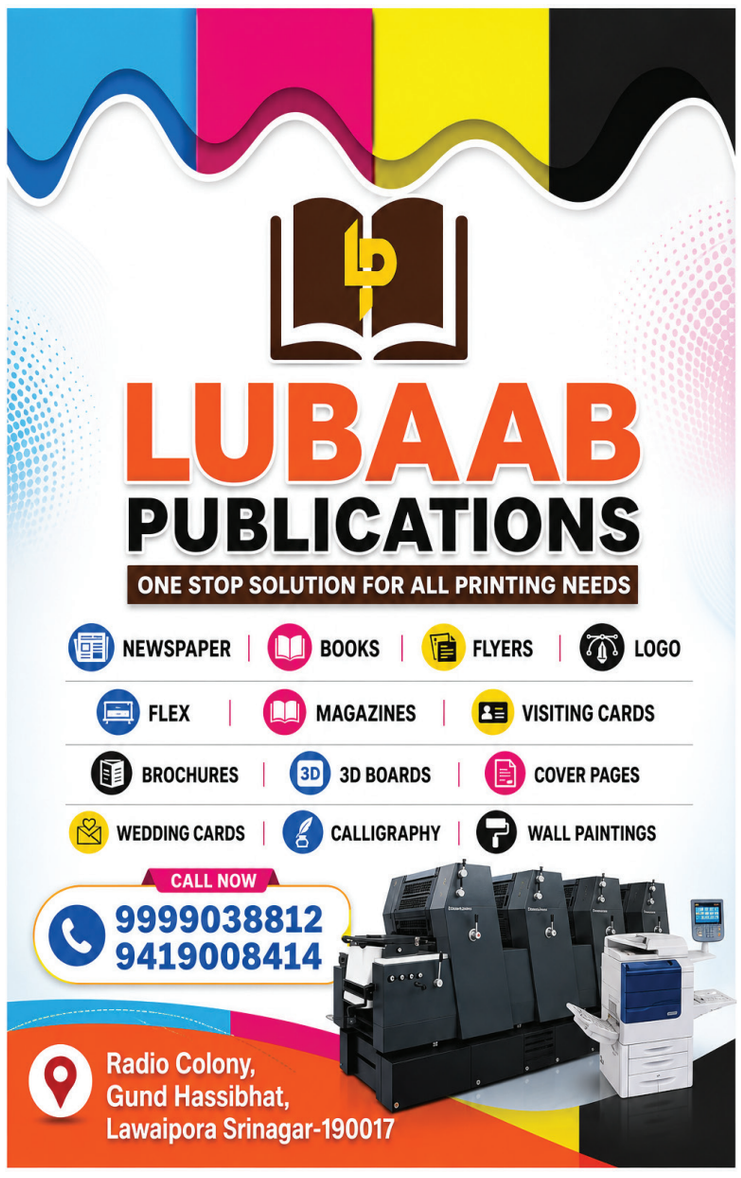
The chase never took off as Assam were dismissed for 119 in 17.4 overs. Sibsankar Roy top-scored with 32, but the rest of the batting struggled against Madhya Pradesh's disciplined attack. Kumar Kartikeya returned figures of 3/17, while Avesh Khan and Rahul Batham took two wickets apiece.At the Holkar Stadium in Indore, Jammu and Kashmir edged past Tamil Nadu by



six runs in a closely

fought contest. Qamran Iqbal (70 off 37) and Shubham Khajuria (53 off 34) led the batting charge with half-centuries, while Abdul Samad provided a late boost with a 14-ball 29 to take their side to 201/7.Tamil Nadu responded strongly through Amit Sathvik, who hammered 67 off 31 balls, while Narayan Jagadeesan contributed 35. R Rajkumar's quickfire 24 off 10 deliveries kept the chase alive, but Tamil Nadu finished at 195/9. Lone Nasir Muzaffar claimed three wickets.







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