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Voice To The Voiceless



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

NIA Court Rejects Bail in Narco-Terror Case After SIA Opposition

Charges framed in July; prosecution evidence stage begins

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINGAR NOV18: A special NIA court in Srinagar on Wednesday rejected the bail application of Basharat Ali Poswal, an accused in a narco-terror conspiracy case, following objections filed by the State Investigation Agency Kashmir. Poswal is facing prosecution in FIR No. 19/2022 registered at Police Station CI-SIA Kashmir under provisions of the NDPS Act, UAPA and IPC relating to alleged narcotics trafficking and unlawful activities linked to national security. The SIA opposed the bail plea, citing the seriousness of the allegations and statutory restrictions governing bail under the relevant laws. The court rejected the application after hearing arguments from both sides. Charges against all accused in the case were framed on July 15, 2026, and the matter is now at the prosecution evidence stage. The rejection of bail does not constitute a finding of guilt, which remains subject to trial.

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"Only a Handful of Foreign Terrorists Remain; J&K Will Soon Be Terror-Free" : LG Sinha

LG addresses passing-out parade at SKPA; urges young officers to lead fight against terrorism, cyber threats and emerging security challenges

HT NEWS NETWORK



SRINGAR NOV18: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday addressed the passing-out parade of probationary Deputy Superintendents of Police, Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Directors of the Forest Protection Force at Sher-e-Kashmir Police Academy, Udhampur, paying tribute to police martyrs and urging newly inducted officers to uphold courage, professionalism and compassion while strengthening public trust. He said the home of a martyr was the greatest temple for him and assured martyr families of the nation's support. Emphasising modern, technology-driven and people-centric policing, Sinha said today's security threats could emerge through mobile screens as well as guns, calling for greater proficiency in cyber forensics, digital evidence, intelligence gathering and community engagement. He expressed confidence that Jammu and Kashmir would soon become terror-free, saying only a handful of foreign terrorists remained. The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed the Passing-Out Parade of Probationary Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs), Probationary Sub-Inspectors, and Assistant Directors of the Forest Protection Force at SKPA, Udhampur. Paying heartfelt tribute to the brave hearts of the Jammu Kashmir Police, Shri Rashpal Kumar and Shri Babi Chand, the Lieutenant Governor said that their courage, dedication, and supreme sacrifice would remain a source of inspiration for generations. The Lieutenant Governor assured their families that the nation stands firmly with them and reiterated the commitment to ensuring their welfare, dignity, and security.

"The home of a martyr is the greatest temple and pilgrimage site for me. I want to assure their families that, in this difficult hour, they are not alone. The entire nation stands

>>> MORE ON P 02

Modi Reviews Welfare Schemes, Pushes Ministries to Meet Viksit Bharat Goals

High-level meeting reviews implementation of 40–45 central schemes; focus on last-mile delivery, accountability and governance reforms

HT NEWS DESK / UNI



NEW DELHI NOV18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting of the Union Council of Ministers at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, to review implementation of key government programmes, governance priorities and inter-ministerial coordination, with a renewed emphasis on ensuring that welfare benefits reach every eligible beneficiary. The discussions covered around 40–45 major Central government schemes, focusing on identifying implementation gaps, improving grievance redressal and strengthening last-mile delivery. The Prime Minister stressed continuous monitoring, accountability and measurable outcomes, while reviewing progress following the September Chintan Shivir. The meeting also examined alignment of ministerial initiatives with the Viksit Bharat 2047 roadmap, alongside development programmes aimed at women and youth, administrative reforms and removal of

>>> MORE ON P 02

Omar Dedicates 13 Development Projects Worth 92.84 Crore to Mendhar

Inaugurates road, education and water supply projects; lays foundation for 50 MVA grid station and flood protection works; Mughal Road tunnel work to begin soon

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINGAR NOV18: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday dedicated 13 development projects worth 92.84 crore to Mendhar in Poonch district, comprising eight inaugurations and five foundation stone-laying ceremonies across road connectivity, power infrastructure, education, flood protection and drinking water supply. The major projects include a 50 MVA, 132/33 KV grid sub-station worth 49.40 crore, flood protection works worth 12.13 crore and six roads covering 16.30 kilometres. The Chief Minister also inaugurated school infrastructure and water supply projects, laid foundation stones for additional educational and road works, and flagged off new SRTC bus services and water tankers. Addressing a public gathering, Omar reiterated the government's commitment to restoration of statehood, welfare measures and employment, and said work on the proposed Mughal Road tunnel would commence soon to ensure all-weather connectivity between Pir Panjal and Kashmir.



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LeT Terrorist Lateef Bhat Killed in Kulgam Encounter; Amit Shah Hails Security Forces

Last known active local LeT terrorist in Valley eliminated; two terrorists involved in November 11 CRPF attack killed in separate operations

HT NEWS DESK / UNI



NEW DELHI NOV18: Security forces on Wednesday killed Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Mohammad Lateef Bhat in an encounter at Zangalpora in Kulgam district, bringing an end to an operation launched following the November 11 attack on a CRPF checkpoint that left three personnel injured. Bhat, identified as the last known active local LeT terrorist in Kashmir, was killed in a joint operation after several days of searches, two days after his associate Umar Nisar Dar was eliminated at Laroo. Security forces reportedly made repeated attempts to persuade Bhat to surrender after he took shelter inside a mosque, exercising restraint to protect the religious structure. Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, CRPF and intelligence agencies, describing the operation as a major achievement in the fight against terrorism. Both terrorists were identified as being involved in the CRPF checkpoint attack. Security forces on Wednesday killed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Mohammad Lateef Bhat in an encounter at Zangalpora in the Devsar area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district, bringing to an end an

>>> MORE ON P 02

"Only Two Kashmiri Youths Joined LeT in Two Years": DGP Nalin Prabhat

Local recruitment almost zero; police intensifying action against terror ecosystem and support networks

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



SRINGAR NOV18: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Wednesday said local recruitment into terrorist ranks had been reduced to almost zero, with only two Kashmiri youths joining Lashkar-e-Taiba during the past two years. He said the killing of Lateef Bhat in Kulgam marked the elimination of the last known active local LeT terrorist in the Valley, while his associate Umar had been killed earlier. Prabhat said Jammu and Kashmir Police had been combating Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for 35 years and were intensifying action not only against terrorists but also against the wider terror ecosystem, including networks supporting terrorist activities and properties linked to them. He paid tribute to 1,623 police personnel who had sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism and reaffirmed the force's commitment to dismantling terror networks. Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Wednesday said local recruitment into terrorist ranks had been brought down to almost zero, with only two Kashmiri youths

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Daughter-in-law arrested in murder of 70-year-old Pulwama woman

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

Pulwama, Nov 18 : In a significant breakthrough in the murder case of a 70-year-old woman in Parigam village of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, police have arrested her daughter-in-law for her involvement in the killing, officials said on Wednesday.

The arrested woman has been identified as Bilkees Akhter, wife of Javid Ahmad and daughter-in-law of the deceased, Jana Begum, a resident of Parigam Jagir.

Her arrest comes a week after police apprehended the main accused, Imran Ahmad Mir, son of Bashir Ahmad Mir, from the same village on November 11, during the course of the investigation into the brutal killing.

According to police, the case came to light on October 19, when Jana Begum was found murdered inside her residence. Following the incident, Police Station Pulwama registered FIR No. 211/2026 under Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and initiated an investigation. Given the seriousness of the crime, SSP Pulwama, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by DySP Headquarters

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Patient care hit as non-gazetted GMC employees continue protest

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 18 : Non-gazetted employees of five newly established Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) in Jammu and Kashmir continued their protest for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, pressing for immediate finalisation and notification of the long-pending Service Recruitment Rules (SRRs), with the ongoing agitation beginning to affect patient care, including OPD services and elective surgeries.

The protesting employees, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), held demonstrations at GMCs Rajouri, Doda, Kathua, Baramulla and Anantnag, expressing resentment over what they termed a seven-year delay in resolving their service-related issues despite repeated representations, meetings and assurances from successive authorities.

Officials said the protest has started having an impact on routine hospital functioning, with OPD services and elective surgical procedures being affected at some of the institutions. The disruption has added to the difficulties of patients visiting

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HT BOTTOM NEWS

Kashmir Records Sub-Zero Temperatures; Shopian Coldest at Minus 3.6°C

Pahalgam records minus 2.8°C, Pulwama minus 2.3°C; MeT forecasts dry weather till November 27



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINGAR NOV18: Cold conditions intensified across Kashmir on Wednesday, with most parts of the Valley recording sub-zero minimum temperatures and Shopian emerging as the coldest place at minus 3.6 degrees Celsius. Pahalgam recorded minus 2.8 degrees, Pulwama minus 2.3 degrees and Gulmarg minus 1.8 degrees, while Srinagar registered 0 degrees Celsius. Qazigund and Kupwara recorded minus 1 degree each, Budgam minus 1.4 degrees and Sonamarg minus 1.9 degrees. The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir till November 27, with partly cloudy conditions expected on November 20 and 21. Night temperatures are likely to decline further until November 19 before improving gradually by 1–2 degrees Celsius.

Cold conditions intensified across Kashmir on Wednesday, with most parts of the Valley recording sub-zero minimum temperatures and Shopian emerging as the coldest place at minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, according to weather data.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, followed by Pulwama at minus 2.3 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg recorded minus 1.8 degrees Celsius.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a minimum temperature of 0 degrees Celsius, marking the freezing point. Among other places

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Winter Vacations in Kashmir to Depend on Weather: Education Minister

Lack of heating facilities in schools a concern; Minister seeks strict action against rotten meat trade

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



SRINGAR NOV18: Education Minister Shameema Firdous on Wednesday said the government would decide on winter vacations in Kashmir depending on weather conditions, acknowledging that several schools lacked adequate heating facilities as temperatures continued to fall. She said school authorities had been directed to ensure students did not face difficulties during the winter months. The Minister also said shortage of land was delaying construction of government school buildings in Srinagar, forcing some institutions to function from rented premises despite availability of funds. Calling the sale and transportation of rotten meat a serious public health concern, Firdous demanded stringent action, including invocation of the Public Safety Act against those involved, and said the possible health consequences of consuming unsafe food required examination by medical experts. The Jammu and Kashmir

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Continue from Front Page.....

NIA Court Rejects

A special NIA court in Srinagar on Wednesday rejected the bail application of Basharat Ali Poswal, an accused in a narco-terror conspiracy case, following objections filed by the State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir.

According to a statement issued by SIA Kashmir, Poswal, son of Muhammad Siddiq Poswal, a resident of Tad, Karnah in Kupwara district and presently residing at Bemina, Srinagar, is facing prosecution in FIR No. 19/2022 registered at Police Station CI-SIA Kashmir.

The case involves charges under Sections 8-A, 27-B and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Sections 13, 18, 39 and 40 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and Sections 120-B, 121, 121-A and 201 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The agency said the case relates to allegations of a conspiracy involving narcotics trafficking and unlawful activities linked to threats against national security.

According to the statement, the court had directed the prosecution to file objections after the accused moved an application seeking bail.

SIA Kashmir subsequently filed detailed objections opposing the plea, citing the seriousness of the allegations, the nature of the offences and the statutory restrictions governing bail under the UAPA and NDPS Act.

The matter was heard over several hearings, during which the prosecution contested the accused's request for release.

After hearing arguments from both sides and examining the submissions, the court rejected Poswal's bail application on Wednesday, the agency said.

The SIA stated that charges against all accused persons in the case had already been framed through an order dated July 15, 2026, and the matter is now listed for recording prosecution evidence.

The agency said it remained committed to pursuing cases involving alleged narco-terror networks and ensuring effective prosecution of those accused of activities threatening peace and security.

The rejection of the bail application does not amount to a finding of guilt, which remains subject to determination during the trial. (KNS)

"Only a Handful

with them. It is true that no compensation can make up for an invaluable life. However, it is our responsibility to ensure that the families of these brave sons of the nation lead a respectable and dignified life.

It will be ensured that they receive all the necessary assistance, so that the future of their children and coming generations remains secure and bright. Every citizen of the country bows in salutations to the courage, dedication, and supreme sacrifice of these brave sons," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Congratulating the 74 officers who successfully completed their training, the Lieutenant Governor said the dedicated young officers has chosen the path of national service. He noted that their achievement marked a proud moment not only for their families but also for the Union Territory, adding a new chapter to its distinguished history of public service and courage.

Addressing the newly inducted officers, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that policing and environmental protection are noble responsibilities requiring sacrifice, commitment, and a deep sense of duty. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the exemplary record of the Jammu Kashmir Police in confronting terrorism, maintaining public order in challenging circumstances, and safeguarding citizens through decades of dedicated service and sacrifice.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the officers to wear the uniform with pride and responsibility, remembering the sacrifices made by those who came before them. Stressing that terrorism remains the greatest threat to peace and progress, the Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that continued efforts would further strengthen security and stability in Jammu Kashmir.

"Only a handful of foreign terrorists remain; Jammu Kashmir will soon be terror-free. For decades, an environment was created in which shops, schools, and businesses remained closed for half the year. The conflict entrepreneurs present in Jammu Kashmir were engaged in the business of terrorism and separatism. But, under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, the nation delivered a strong blow and the shops of conflict entrepreneurs were shut down," he said.

Highlighting emerging security challenges, the Lieutenant Governor called for a modern policing approach equipped to address cyber threats, digital radicalisation, drone-based threats, narco-terrorism, and other forms of asymmetric warfare. The Lieutenant Governor underscored the importance of technological proficiency, forensic capabilities, intelligence gathering, and inter-agency coordination in meeting contemporary security challenges.

"Today's security threat may also come through a mobile screen, not just a gun. If we fight today's challenges with yesterday's methods, we will fall behind. I want every jawan and every officer to be proficient not only in counter-terrorism but also in digital tools, forensic science, cyber forensics, digital evidence, and monitoring technology," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasized the significance of community engagement and effective beat policing, noting that trust between citizens and the police is fundamental to good governance. The officers were urged to serve with sensitivity, professionalism, and integrity. He said that sustaining public confidence must remain a key priority and improved law and order has contributed significantly to investment, tourism, entrepreneurship, and infrastructure development in Jammu Kashmir.

"Over the past 6 years, the stakeholders of peace in Jammu Kashmir have grown. Every citizen of Jammu Kashmir is committed to a safe home, good education, employment, business opportunities, and a bright future for their children. Now, you must be not only the guardian of their security but also the guardian of their trust," he said.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor took the ceremonial Salute and inspected the parade. He also felicitated the officers who had excelled during their training.

An oath was administered to the young officers for performing their duties with dedication and honesty.

Shri Pawan Kumar Gupta, Shri Balwant Singh Mankotia, and Shri RS Pathania - Members of Legislative Assembly; Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav, Chief Secretary; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Shri Chandraker Bharti, Additional Chief Secretary Home Department; Shri Sarvesh Rai, Director, J&K Forest Protection Force; Dr. Mohd. Haseeb Mughal, Director, SKPA Udhampur, senior officials of Police, Security Forces and civil administration and family members of the passing out Officers were present.

Modi Reviews

bottlenecks affecting priority projects.Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting of the union Council of Ministers at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi to review the implementation of key government programmes, assess governance priorities and ensure better coordination among ministries, with a renewed focus on delivering welfare benefits to every eligible beneficiary and advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The meeting, held following Modi's return from the Philippines, where he participated in the ASEAN-India Summit, the East Asia Summit and the Quad Leaders' Summit, focused on reviewing the progress of decisions taken during earlier ministerial deliberations and ensuring that policy commitments translate into tangible results on the ground.

According to sources, the discussions covered around 40 to 45 major Central government welfare schemes, with particular emphasis on assessing their actual reach, identifying gaps in implementation and ensuring that no eligible beneficiary is excluded from the benefits. The meeting also reviewed measures to improve ease of living, strengthen public grievance redressal mechanisms and introduce administrative reforms to make governance more efficient and responsive.

A key focus of the deliberations was the progress made following the Chintan Shivir, the brainstorming exercise held in September, during which ministers were asked to identify priority areas, improve the functioning of their respective ministries and formulate strategies for more effective implementation of government programmes.

The Prime Minister is understood to have underlined the need for continuous monitoring, coordination and accountability to ensure that government decisions deliver measurable outcomes. The emphasis was on assessing not merely the announcement or launch of schemes but also their implementation, coverage and actual impact on people's lives.

The meeting also examined ways to align the initiatives of individual ministries and inter-ministerial projects with the broader Viksit Bharat 2047 roadmap, which envisages transforming India into a developed nation by the centenary of its Independence. Improving coordination between ministries, removing administrative bottlenecks and accelerating the execution of priority projects figured prominently in the discussions.

Special attention was also given to strengthening development initiatives aimed at women and young people. The deliberations explored ways to make existing programmes more effective in addressing their aspirations, expanding access to opportunities and improving the delivery of welfare assistance and public services.

Wednesday's meeting was part of a broader series of consultations involving different categories of ministers. The session brought together Cabinet ministers for focused deliberations on major policy priorities, governance reforms and implementation-related issues. Separate interactions with Ministers of State and Ministers of State (Independent Charge) had also been organised as part of the wider consultative exercise.

The review of welfare schemes and the emphasis on saturation coverage reflect the government's stated commitment to ensuring that development benefits reach every eligible citizen without discrimination or exclusion. The exercise comes amid continuing efforts to improve administrative efficiency, strengthen last-mile delivery and make governance increasingly outcome-oriented. UNI SKA AAB

"Only Two Kashmiri

joining Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) during the past two years.

The DGP said the killing of Lateef Bhat in Kulgam on Wednesday marked the elimination of the last known active local terrorist associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba in Kashmir.

"Local recruitment in Jammu and Kashmir has been brought down to almost zero. In the last two years, only two Kashmiri youths have joined Lashkar-e-Taiba," Prabhat said while addressing a gathering.

"Today, the last terrorist, Lateef Bhat, has been killed in Kulgam. Two days earlier, Umar was also killed in Kulgam," he said.

The police chief said Jammu and Kashmir Police had been fighting Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for the past 35 years and remained committed to dismantling the networks supporting terrorist activities.

He said security forces were not only conducting operations against terrorists but were also taking action against the wider terror ecosystem, including through attachment of properties linked to terrorist activities.

Referring to terrorists operating from Pakistan, Prabhat said action was being pursued against networks connected with Jammu and Kashmir, including those operating from across the border.

The DGP paid tributes to 1,623 police personnel who had lost their lives in the fight against terrorism over the past three decades.

He also remembered two personnel, identified as Babichand and Rashpal Singh, who were killed in Kishtwar.

"The sacrifices of our martyrs strengthen our resolve. Their memory continues to guide and inspire us," he said.

Prabhat said the police force remained determined to continue its operations against terrorism and the networks providing support to it.

He also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for their leadership and support to Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The DGP said the sacrifices of police personnel remained a source of strength for the force in its continuing fight against terrorism. (KNS)

LeT Terrorist

intensive operation launched following the November 11 attack on a CRPF checkpoint in which three personnel were injured.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah hailed the operation as a major success in the fight against terrorism and congratulated Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, CRPF and intelligence agencies for their coordinated efforts.

Bhat, identified by security agencies as the last known active local LeT terrorist in the Kashmir Valley, was killed during a joint operation after security forces tracked him down to Zangalpora following several days of searches across Kulgam.

The operation came two days after his associate, Umar Nisar Dar, was killed in an encounter at Laroo in Kulgam on November 16. Police had identified both terrorists as being involved in the November 11 attack on a CRPF checkpoint at Akhran near Mir Bazar.

According to officials, the operation at Zangalpora was launched on specific intelligence inputs about Bhat's presence in the area. Joint teams of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army and CRPF established a cordon around the suspected location before contact was established with the terrorist.

During the operation, Bhat took shelter inside a mosque, following which security forces adopted a cautious approach to ensure that the religious structure remained protected.

Senior Superintendent of Police Kulgam Anayat Ali Chowdhary said security forces made repeated attempts to persuade Bhat to surrender.

He said he and the Commanding Officer of 9 Rashtriya Rifles contacted Bhat through a video call and asked him to lay down his weapon.

The officer said the priority of the security forces was to conclude the operation while ensuring minimum damage to the surrounding area and complete protection of the mosque.

"Security forces have maintained maximum restraint because of the mosque. It is in the middle of the cordon and we will try to handle it with minimal damage," the SSP said during the operation.

Officials said Bhat refused to surrender and opened fire, following which security forces continued the operation and killed him.

The Army's Chinar Corps said the joint operation, codenamed OP Zangalpura, was launched on specific intelligence provided by Jammu and Kashmir Police.

It said the security forces ensured the safety of the mosque and forced the terrorist to move outside its premises before killing him.

The operation concluded without damage to the mosque, officials said.

Bhat had been on the radar of security agencies for his involvement in several terrorist activities in south Kashmir.

The November 11 attack on the CRPF checkpoint at Akhran had prompted an extensive investigation and search operation across Kulgam district.

According to police, CCTV footage collected during the investigation showed Bhat and his associate Umar Nisar Dar conducting reconnaissance in Mir Bazar, Akhran, Hablish and Kilam on November 10, a day before the attack.

The two subsequently attacked the CRPF checkpoint at Akhran, injuring three personnel, before escaping from the area.

Police examined surveillance footage and gathered intelligence inputs to establish their movements and identify possible hideouts.

Investigators also found that Dar had been providing shelter and logistical support to Bhat for several months before the attack.

On November 16, security forces established contact with the two terrorists in the Laroo area of Kulgam.

Omar Dedicates

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today dedicated 13 development projects worth 92.84 crore to the people of Mendhar in the frontier district of Poonch, giving fresh impetus to infrastructure development and strengthening essential public services in the border constituency.

The projects, spread across road connectivity, power infrastructure, flood protection, education and drinking water supply, include eight inaugurations and five foundation stone-laying ceremonies, reflecting the Government's continued focus on improving basic amenities and extending development to remote and border areas.

Among the major projects, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a 50 MVA, 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Mendhar, being executed by JKP CL at an estimated cost of 49.40 crore. The project is expected to significantly strengthen the power infrastructure and improve electricity distribution capacity in the area.

He also laid the foundation stone for flood protection works at vulnerable locations between Gursai and Mankote on both banks of Mendhari Nallah in Tehsil Mendhar, at an estimated cost of 12.13 crore, aimed at safeguarding vulnerable habitations and adjoining land against flooding.

In the road connectivity sector, the Chief Minister inaugurated six road projects covering a combined length of 16.30 kilometres. Completed at a cumulative cost of over 20.19 crore, these include Jaranwali Gali to Dhara Wali Gali via CFC Rehmatpur, Main Babu More to Battangiya via Mohalla Khatana Ghai Kallar, SK Main Road to Thallan Kalaban, Main Road SK to Dharan Faizabad, Adar to Charoon Gali via High School Gorisian, and Gurah Nima Chughan to Hudian Gali (Phase-I).

Daughter-in-law

Pulwama, with the SHO Police Station Pulwama and DO Police Post Newa, as its members, to investigate the case.

Police said that during questioning, the arrested accused, Imran Ahmad Mir, disclosed the involvement of Bilkees Akhter, claiming that she had entered into a criminal conspiracy with him to eliminate her mother-in-law in exchange for monetary consideration.

Acting on the disclosure and other evidence collected during the investigation, including statements of material witnesses, the SIT arrested Bilkees Akhter on Wednesday, police said.

The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Srinagar, also provided crucial scientific inputs after examining relevant evidence, which, according to police, helped investigators establish important facts and circumstances surrounding the murder.

The killing had sent shockwaves across Parigam village after Jana Begum was found lying in a pool of blood inside her house on the morning of October 19, with her throat slit.

According to the details of the incident, the assailant entered the house around 5 am when the deceased's son had gone to a nearby mosque to offer Fajr prayers. Upon returning, he found his mother murdered, triggering panic and outrage among the local residents.

Further investigation is underway to establish all aspects of the alleged conspiracy, verify the role of the accused and ascertain whether any other persons were involved in the crime, police said.

Police said the investigation was being conducted in a fair, impartial and scientifically guided manner, adding that all those found involved would be dealt with in accordance with law—(KNO)

Patient care

these hospitals for consultations and scheduled medical procedures.

The employees said they had been left with no option but to resume their agitation after the authorities failed to fulfil the assurance of finalising the service rules by September 30, 2026.

The Coordination Committee representing the employees had earlier suspended its protest following the assurance but decided to restart the agitation on November 16 after the deadline passed without any notification.

The employees said the absence of approved SRRs had deprived hundreds of non-gazetted staff members of a defined service structure, affecting their seniority, career progression, promotional avenues and regular Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) proceedings.

"The issue has remained unresolved since 2019 despite several rounds of deliberations and changes in the administrative leadership of the Health and Medical Education Department," they said.

The committee pointed out that around six IAS officers had served as Secretary or held the corresponding senior administrative position in the department during the intervening period, but the employees' concerns continued to remain unaddressed.

It also questioned the disparity in career progression, alleging that gazetted employees had received three rounds of promotions or promotional advancements since 2019, while non-gazetted employees of the five newly established medical colleges were still waiting for a basic service framework.

The protesting staff further said the prolonged delay was not only affecting existing employees but had also hampered fresh recruitment. They pointed out that the JKSSB had issued the first recruitment advertisement for non-gazetted posts in these colleges in 2019, but no subsequent advertisement had been issued for such posts, as per the information available with them.

They also flagged difficulties in initiating permanent recruitment for non-gazetted posts at GMC Handwara and GMC Udhampur in the absence of the requisite service rules.

The employees have demanded immediate notification of the SRRs, initiation of pending DPC proceedings and a comprehensive assessment of the service and financial losses suffered by staff due to the prolonged delay.

They have also sought an inquiry into the administrative handling of the matter, including scrutiny of the drafting, processing and legal vetting of the proposed rules, besides fixation of responsibility wherever negligence or unjustified inaction is established.

The protesting employees appealed to the government to intervene and resolve the issue without further delay, saying that the prolonged uncertainty had adversely affected their professional interests and career prospects.

They said their agitation would continue until concrete steps were taken towards notification of the service rules and resolution of their long-pending demands—(KNO)

Kashmir Records

, Qazigund and Kupwara recorded minus 1 degree Celsius each, while Budgam registered minus 1.4 degrees, Anantnag minus 1 degree, Khudwani minus 1.5 degrees and Sonamarg minus 1.9 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag was relatively warmer at 1.3 degrees Celsius, while Bandipora and Ganderbal recorded minimum temperatures of 0.3 and 0.6 degrees, respectively. Baramulla also recorded 0.6 degrees Celsius, while Sopore registered minus 0.1 degrees.

The drop in temperatures comes amid the Meteorological Centre Srinagar's forecast of generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir till November 27.

Partly cloudy conditions are likely on November 20 and 21, while minimum temperatures are expected to decline further until November 19, the MeT department said.

A gradual improvement of 1-2 degrees Celsius in night temperatures is likely thereafter, it added.

The continuing cold spell has brought temperatures close to or below the freezing point across several parts of the Valley, signalling the gradual onset of winter conditions in the region.

November generally marks the transition towards harsher winter conditions in Kashmir, ahead of Chillai Kalan, the 40-day period of intense cold that begins on December 21 and ends on January 30.

During this period, temperatures frequently remain below freezing, water bodies freeze and higher reaches receive heavy snowfall, often disrupting normal life and affecting transportation.

Kashmir experiences its coldest winter conditions during Chillai Kalan, followed by Chillai Khurd (20 days) and Chillai Bachha (10 days), marking the gradual retreat of winter. (KNS)

Winter Vacations

government will take a decision on winter vacations in Kashmir depending on weather conditions, Education Minister Shameema Firdous said on Wednesday, admitting that several schools in the Valley lack heating facilities.

Speaking to reporters, the minister said the weather remained favourable for now, but the absence of heating arrangements in many schools was a concern as temperatures continued to fall.

"The weather is good at present. Once it turns severe, we will have to consider vacations. Many schools do not have heating facilities, and we have to keep the difficulties faced by children in mind," she said.

Firdous said a meeting had been held with school authorities and instructions issued to officials to ensure that students do not face difficulties during the winter months.

On school infrastructure, the minister said a shortage of land was delaying the construction of government school buildings in Srinagar, forcing several institutions to operate from rented accommodation.

"Funds are available, but land is not. Srinagar is congested, and finding suitable land for schools has become a major problem," she said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, MUHAMMAD NADEEM BABA, S/o FAYAZ AHMAD BABA, R/o Nunner, Ganderbal, J&K, hereby inform the general public that my name and my mother's name have been incorrectly recorded in my academic and official records.

My name is recorded as "MOHAMMAD NADEEM BIN FAYAZ BABA" instead of "MUHAMMAD NADEEM BABA", and my mother's name as "HASEENA AKHTER" instead of "HASSINA AKHTER".

Correct Particulars:
Name: MUHAMMAD NADEEM BABA
Father's Name: FAYAZ AHMAD BABA
Mother's Name: HASSINA AKHTER
DOB: 18-11-1995
Address: Nunner, Ganderbal, J&K

My correct name and date of birth are reflected in my Aadhaar, EPIC and PAN Card. I intend to rectify the aforesaid discrepancies in my JKBOSE, University of Kashmir, ITI, Passport and other official records.

Any person having any objection may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days of publication of this notice.

MUHAMMAD NADEEM BABA
S/o FAYAZ AHMAD BABA
R/o Nunner, Ganderbal, J&K

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DC Srinagar, SSP hold mega joint Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Nowhatta Shahr-e-Khaas

Assure prompt intervention to address raised public issues in a time bound manner

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr. GV Sundeep Chakraborty, on Wednesday held a mega joint Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Radpora, Nowhatta, in Shahr-e-Khaas to address public grievances and assess developmental needs at the grassroots level.

The camp was organised under the Public Outreach Programme of the District Administration and District Police to bring governance closer to the people and ensure speedy resolution of their day-to-day issues.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from residents of Nowhatta, Radpora, Shahampora, Khawaja Bazar, Rainawari, Zainakadal, Rajouri Kadal, Bohari Kadal, Kawdara, Gojwara, Eidgah, Qamarwari, Palpora, Achan, Noorbagh, Chattabal, Takanwari, Bakshipora and other adjoining areas falling under Khanyar, South and Eidgah tehsils.



Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, SP North, Showkat Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer Aakash Garg, Superintending Engineer R&B Tatheer Manzoor, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Deputy SP, Azhar Ahmad, Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohi Ud Din, Tehsildar Khanyar, Syed Shahid, besides other Zonal and Sectoral Officers, Executive Engineers, besides senior Police Officers.

During the camp, several public delegations, individuals and traders representatives raised various civic and developmental issues before the Deputy Commissioner. These included demands for the establishment of fire stations, creation of adequate parking facilities, strengthening of fire safety measures, tackling the stray dog menace, widening of roads, improvement of drainage infrastructure, augmentation of water supply and repairs of lanes and drains.

The people also demanded the restoration of the Sunday Market at Eidgah area to create livelihood opportunities for local youth and provide them with a platform for self-employment and economic empowerment.

A delegation of residents and representatives from Eidgah and adjoining areas submits this representation to sought immediate administrative intervention regarding the worsening environmental and public health crisis caused by the Achan dumping site in Saidapora Eidgah.

The participants of the camp also highlighted the food safety concerns and residents demanded strict action against those involved in the sale of rotten meat, stressing the need for stringent enforcement of food safety regulations to protect public health.

The people also stressed the need for dedicated fire stations in Shahr-e-Khaas to prevent major fire incidents and ensure a prompt emergency response.

During the camp, the people also appreciated the efforts of the District Administration and District Police in intensifying the crackdown against drug abuse and drug trafficking.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the grievances and demands raised by the delegations, individuals and traders' associations. He assured them that all genuine issues would be examined on priority and necessary steps taken for their time-bound redressal.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said the primary objective of organising such grievance redressal camps was to bring the administration to the doorsteps of the people and obtain first hand feedback on local issues for their proper assessment and effective resolution.

He highlighted the administration's efforts in combating the drug menace and taking action against drug peddlers, adding that the drive would continue with the aim of making Srinagar drug-free.

First Phase of Haj-2027 Orientation Programme scheduled for November 23 and 25 in Anantnag

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 18: The District Administration Anantnag has scheduled the first phase of the orientation and training programme for selected pilgrims of Haj-1448 (H) 2027 on November 23 and 25, 2026, at the Auditorium Hall of Government Women's Degree College, Anantnag.

According to a notice issued by the Additional District Magistrate Anantnag, the training sessions will commence at 10:30 AM on both days.

The Haj Pilgrims belonging to Anantnag, Sallar, Pahalgam, Larnoo, Kokernag and Srigufwara areas have been asked to attend the training programme on 23rd of November 2026, while the Haj pilgrims from Shangus, Shahabad Bala, Qazigund, Dooru, Mattan and Bijbehara areas will attend the session on 25th of November 2026.

The programme is being organised in pursuance of the directions received from the J&K Haj Committee to familiarise the selected pilgrims with Manasik-e-Haj (rituals of Haj), besides providing necessary guidance regarding travel arrangements, logistics and other important aspects of the pilgrimage.

All selected Haj pilgrims have been requested to attend the orientation programme strictly as per the notified schedule.

J&K SEC Shantmanu attends meeting with President at Rashtrapati Bhavan

■ HT News Network



NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18: The President of India had invited all State Election Commissioners of States and Union Territories last week.

About eighteen State Election Commissioners, including Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commissioner Shantmanu, attended the meeting with President Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

During the meeting, the State Election Commissioners briefed the President on the major challenges faced in conducting Panchayat and Urban Local Body (ULB) elections and how the Commissions are ensuring free and fair elections through active use of IT solutions for delimitation of constituencies, electoral roll management, manpower management and real-time dissemination of information during counting and results.

The meeting, held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, is significant from the perspective of India's democratic system and the importance of electoral institutions. These Commissions play a crucial role, ranging from conducting elections for Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies to maintaining public trust in democratic institutions.

J&K State Election Commissioner Shantmanu expressed happiness and gratitude after meeting the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

DC Pulwama conducts surprise Inspection of PHC Lajura

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, K.K. Sidha, today conducted a surprise inspection of the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Lajura to take stock of the functioning of the healthcare facility and assess the availability of essential medical services being provided to the public.

The DC was accompanied by ADC Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, during the inspection.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner checked the attendance of doctors and other staff members and reviewed their availability and punctuality. He also took stock of the overall functioning of the health centre and interacted with the medical staff to assess the facilities and services available for patients.



The DC also interacted with patients and attendants to obtain firsthand feedback regarding the quality of healthcare services, availability of medical staff and difficulties, if any, being faced by them. He emphasised the importance of ensuring timely medical attention, proper patient care and responsive healthcare services, particularly in rural and far-flung areas.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the winter preparedness of the health facility. He took stock of the arrangements in place to ensure uninterrupted healthcare services during adverse weather conditions and stressed the need for adequate preparedness to address any eventuality and ensure that patients do not face inconvenience during the winter season.

Furthermore, during the inspection, the DC took note of the non-availability of a Medical Officer to conduct USG examinations at the facility.

Weekly Block Diwas at Tangdar: SDM Karnah reviews Public Issues, calls for timely action

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 18: In pursuance of the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, a weekly Block Diwas programme was organised today at Dak Bungalow Tangdar under the supervision of Sub-Divisional Magistrate Karnah, Firdous Ahmed Qadri, with the objective of providing an effective platform for public interaction and ensuring timely redressal of public grievances.

The programme was attended by Tehsildar Karnah Mohd Amin Bhat, BDO Karnah, Mudasar Sikander and other concerned Officer were present.

During the programme, local residents and senior citizens projected various public grievances, developmental demands and issues concerning their respective areas before the officers of the concerned departments. The departmental representatives listened to the issues and provided necessary feedback regarding the steps being taken for their resolution.

SDM Karnah, stressed upon the officers to maintain close coordination, ensure accountability and take prompt action on the genuine grievances raised by the public. He



reiterated that such public outreach programmes are instrumental in bridging the gap between the administration and the people and ensuring responsive governance at the grassroots level.

Tehsildar Karnah, also interacted with the participants and emphasised the importance of coordinated efforts among departments for the effective resolution of public issues.

The programme witnessed active participation from Lambardars, Chowkidars and senior citizens, reflecting the importance of public participation in strengthening grassroots-level governance.

Sakeena Itoo participates in National Social Justice Summit in New Delhi

Highlights challenges faced by students in remote areas of J&K

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18: Minister for Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today highlighted the geographical, infrastructural and administrative challenges faced by students residing in remote and far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir while speaking at the two-day Departmental Summit, 'Samaveshi Niti Sankalp', organised by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan here today.

The summit, being held on November 18 and 19, aims to strengthen Centre-State coordination and cooperation for effective implementation of social justice and empowerment initiatives in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

During the thematic session on 'One Nation, One Scholarship Portal – Accessible Scholarships, Empowered Students', the Minister drew attention to the difficulties confronting students in remote and hilly areas of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly Basholi, Kishtwar, Reasi, Doda, Tanghdhar, Machil, Keran, Gurez, Uri and other areas where limited digital connectivity and challenging geographical conditions often impede access to various educational and welfare schemes.

She emphasised that while digital platforms have immense potential to simplify the delivery of scholarships and other benefits, their implementation must take into account the ground realities of geographically challenging regions to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left out.

"Jammu and Kashmir has several remote and hilly areas where students continue to face difficulties in accessing online services due to poor internet connectivity and other geographical constraints. These challenges need to be adequately addressed while designing and implementing a unified scholarship portal so that the benefits of such initiatives reach every eligible student, irrespective of their location", the Minister said.

Highlighting the procedural difficulties faced by students, Sakeena Itoo observed



that delays in the issuance of income and caste certificates often affect the timely submission and verification of scholarship applications, thereby depriving deserving students of benefits within the stipulated timelines.

She stressed the need for better coordination among the concerned departments and district administrations to ensure timely issuance of requisite documents and smooth processing of scholarship applications.

"Access to education and financial assistance should not be determined by a student's geographical location or administrative hurdles. We must put in place a responsive and time-bound mechanism to ensure that deserving students, particularly those belonging to economically weaker and disadvantaged sections, receive their entitled benefits without unnecessary delays," she added.

The Minister also underscored the need for focused interventions for girl students belonging to remote and difficult terrains, observing that ensuring their access to scholarships and educational support is essential for promoting gender equality, educational inclusion and social empowerment.

Informing the summit about the initiatives being undertaken by Jammu and Kashmir, Sakeena Itoo highlighted that the Social Welfare Department in Jammu and Kashmir would issue a comprehensive verification calendar well in advance of 2027 to streamline the verification process, facilitate timely processing of applications and ensure the efficient delivery of benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

DC Budgam visits Magam Town, holds Public Outreach Programme; Reviews Developmental issues

■ HT News Network



BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, today visited Magam Town and chaired a public outreach programme at Town Hall Magam to review developmental issues and address public grievances.

During the programme, the Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the demands and concerns raised by local residents, senior citizens, Civil society members, representatives from Bar Association, Street vendors and various stakeholders from Magam, Beerwah, Bedran, Kanihama and adjoining villages.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to expedite structural demarcation of various works and actively pursue the bridge-related issue for its early resolution, including necessary legal proceedings.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to take prompt action for their time-bound redressal of public issues and stressed expediting resumption of pending road developmental works in Magam.

He further directed the concerned departments to prioritise the construction and improvement of lanes and drains, ensure proper functioning of streetlights, address drainage-related issues and undertake regular cleaning of irrigation canals.

Directions were also issued for proper regulation of street vendors and maintenance and development of public parks in Magam Town. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply and expedite the completion of ongoing water supply schemes catering to Magam and Beerwah areas. He also stressed regular field inspections and monitoring to ensure effective delivery of essential public services.

DC Shopian presides over Mega Public Outreach Programme at Sedow

Redresses several issues on the spot, assures Time-Bound redressal of other grievances

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 18: As part of the government's sustained efforts to strengthen grassroots-level governance and ensure effective public grievance redressal, a comprehensive Public Outreach Programme was today organized at GHS, Sedow in Shopian.

The public interaction programme was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner along with SSP inspected stalls installed by various line departments showcasing their achievements, developmental initiatives, flagship schemes and ongoing activities.The DC took keen interest in the exhibits and interacted with the departmental representatives to gain insights into the progress made under various government sponsored schemes and programmes.

He appreciated the efforts of the departments in highlighting their accomplishments, public welfare initiatives and service delivery mechanism, emphasizing the importance of ensuring greater public awareness about government schemes and facilitating their effective implementation at the grassroots level.

The programme witnessed an overwhelming response, with a large number of people from Sedow and adjoining areas participating to project various demands and issues of public importance concerning their respective localities.

On the occasion, SSP Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary, ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, PO, Mohammed Imran CPO, Mudasir Ahmed, ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar, GM, DIC, Shurjil Naik, along with other district and sectoral officers were present.

The local residents and delegations highlighted several pressing developmental requirements and basic amenities pertaining to their areas, which includes,

construction and macadamization of roads, upgradation of High Schools and hospitals, completion of Shah Khul, provision of portable drinking water supply in Gujjar Basti and other uncovered areas, uninterrupted power supply, installation of new transformers and the optimal functioning of lift irrigation schemes,inspection of pesticide shops, addressing Forest Rights Act (FRA) issues, availability of adequate doctors in Primary Health Centres (PHCs), cleanliness drives for Veshu Nallah and local ponds, door-to-door waste collection, availability of firewood, deployment of snow cutters in anticipation of heavy snowfall and development of dedicated playing fields for local youth,

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the public deputations and individuals, taking meticulous stock of all issues raised during the extensive interaction.

While addressing the gathering, the DC assured the residents that all genuine demands and grievances would be examined on priority and addressed in a time-bound manner. He issued on-spot directions to the concerned district and sectoral officers to take immediate follow-up action on issues pertaining to their respective departments, emphasizing the need for prompt responses and visible ground-level action.

Emphasizing the significance of the initiative, the DC stated that such public outreach programmes provide an indispensable platform for direct communication between the administration and the citizenry. He noted that these interactions enable authorities to better understand grassroots needs, identify critical gaps in public service delivery, and ensure the transparent and effective redressal of public grievances.

The programme strongly mirrors the District Administration Shopian's unwavering commitment towards participatory governance, a responsive administration and ensuring that developmental benefits and essential public services reach the last mile.

GOC-in-Chief, Northern Command Confers Certificate of Appreciation on Defence Journalist M S Nazki

■ HT News Network



Poonch :Journalist, Special Defence Correspondent,& Author M S Nazki residen In Mendhar area of Poonch district has been conferred the Certificate of Appreciation by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, in recognition of his dedicated journalism and contribution to national interest. In the certificate, the GOC-in-Chief said, "Your dedicated journalism, impartial and fearless writing, and commitment to the national interest are highly commendable."

Highlighting Nazki's role in bringing defence and security issues to the public, the Officer said, "Your contribution, in bringing the realities of national security, as well as the indomitable courage, sacrifices, and dedication of our soldiers, to the public, has been vital in strengthening trust and harmony between the Army and the citizenry." The GOC-in-Chief further said, "The impartiality, foresight, and positive influence of your writing not only foster awareness within society but also provide a new direction for nation-building and national unity."

Concluding the citation, the Officer said, "I sincerely appreciate your remarkable contributions, dedication, and exemplary journalism, and I wish you a bright future."

DC Srinagar visits Proposed Site for Senior Citizen Recreation & Facilitation Centre

Reviews progress of Tehsil Office Complex at Panthachowk

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today visited the proposed site for the establishment of an approved Senior Citizen Recreation Centre at Zewan.

He also inspected the ongoing construction work of the new Tehsil Office Complex at Panthachowk.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer, R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, District Social Welfare Officer Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Executive Engineer, R&B, Fareed Khan, BDO Harwan Mohammad Muqsit, DMO Mohsin Noor and other concerned Officers.

During his visit to Zewan, the DC inspected the proposed site identified for the establishment of the Senior Citizen Recreation & Facilitation Centre, an initiative aimed at providing senior citizens with a dedicated space for recreation, rehabilitation, social interaction and participation in various social activities.

The DC assessed the suitability of the site and reviewed the proposed arrangements for taking the project forward. He directed the concerned authorities to initiate the tender allotment process at the earliest to ensure that construction work commences without delay.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the under-construction Tehsil Office Complex at Panthachowk and took stock of the progress of the ongoing construction work. He reviewed the construction status and assessed the pace of execution, stressing the importance of timely completion of the project.On the occasion, the DC stated that the new Tehsil Office Complex is nearing completion and is expected to provide improved infrastructure and better facilities for the smooth functioning of revenue administration in the Tehsil.

The DC added that the facility will also enhance public convenience by ensuring easier access to various revenue and administrative services.

Power Shutdown by KPDCL

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 18: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL has informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Kongamdara line will be observed due to which power supply to Khore, Agar, Ahmadpora, Lalpora, Hardaboora, Tarhama, Dhobiwan, Kunzer, Ogmuna, Mangloora, Wusan and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 21 November 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 132/33 KV GSS Bemina and 132 KV BZTL (Both Circuits) will be observed due to which power supply to Fatehkadal, Barbarshah, Basant Bagh, Karan Nagar, Shaheed Ganj, Bemina, PC Depot, Qamarwari, JVC, Batamaloo, Rakhi Arth and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 19 November 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Watergam line will be observed due to which power supply to Watergam, Dangiwachi, Palpora, Behrampora, Chotosa, Kangrosa, Hachipora, Hadipora, Ganapora, Safalpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 21 & 25 November 2026.

Furthermore, shutdown of 33 kV Uri line will be observed due to which power supply to Uri Town, Salamabad, Lalpul, Kamalkote, Garkote, Bandi, Mohra, Rampur, Bijhama, Dhani, Bagna and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 21, 23 & 25 November 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Lassipora-Pulwama-A line will be observed due to which power supply to Tenghar, Koil, Tengpuna, Babhara, Pinglena, Gundipora, Tahab, Trichal, Tenghar, Pinglena, Arihal, Ahgam, Achan, Lassipora, Odoora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 23, 25 & 29 November 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Lassipora-Landoora line will be observed due to which power supply to Landoora, Hermain, Hajipora, Hotline, Hermain Hospital, Mantribugh, Chakoora, Wachi, Aghal, Moman and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 24 & 28 November 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Kanipora-Pinjoora line will be observed due to which power supply to Arhama, Pinjoora, Killora, Imamsahib, Vehil, Nowpora, Reshinagri, Pahnoo, Zawoora, Shirmal, Mohanpora, Chowdrigund, Bemnipora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 22 & 26 November 2026.

DC Ganderbal inspects Educational Institutions in Kangan

Reviews Specialised Laboratories and Learning Facilities

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today conducted an extensive tour of educational institutions in the Kangan sub-division, visiting Government Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Kangan and Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Kullan to take stock of their academic functioning, infrastructure, and specialised learning facilities.During her visit to Govt. BHSS Kangan, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Cosmic Astronomy Classroom, Astrophysics Laboratory, Science Centre, and Vocational Laboratories. She reviewed the operational status of these specialised units, the resources available, and the manner in which they are being utilised to enhance the quality of teaching and experiential learning.

The DC also visited Govt. BHSS Kullan, where she reviewed the overall academic environment, classroom infrastructure, and the facilities available to students. She took stock of the ongoing teaching-learning activities and assessed the institutional requirements aimed at further strengthening educational delivery in the area.

Throughout the tour, Singhal interacted with students at both institutions, enquiring about their practical experiences, laboratory activities, and the extent to which these modern facilities are helping them develop scientific temperament, creativity, and vocational skills.

Stage 3 Viksit Bharat Challenge Track: District-Level PPT Championship organised at NM BHSS Kaloosa

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 18: The Department of Youth Services and Sports, Bandipora, successfully organised the Stage 3 Viksit Bharat Challenge Track – District-Level PPT Championship at NM BHSS Kaloosa.The programme was graced by Nazir Ahmad Mir, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Bandipora, as the Chief Guest. The DYSSO Bandipora, along with the Activity Incharges, were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the participants, the ADDC appreciated the enthusiasm, creativity and intellectual capabilities demonstrated by the young participants. He emphasised that such events should be organised regularly to provide young minds with meaningful platforms to express their ideas, develop critical thinking and enhance their knowledge on issues of national and global importance.He further highlighted the importance of engaging youth in constructive and innovative activities, stating that initiatives like the Viksit Bharat Challenge Track, play a significant role in nurturing leadership qualities, promoting awareness.

DC Ganderbal chairs Review Meeting on Winter Preparedness at Sonamarg

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the JKTDC Cafeteria in Sonamarg to assess winter preparedness and finalize arrangements for upcoming winter tourism and sports activities in the area.

At the outset, the Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA), delivered a detailed presentation outlining the readiness of various line departments to ensure enhanced facilities for visitors during the winter season. The chair was informed that a comprehensive calendar of events for the upcoming winter tourism season will be formally issued by the Department of Tourism to streamline activities and attract tourists.

The Chair was briefed that all essential public utilities, including uninterrupted power supply, drinking water, healthcare, fire and emergency services, and snow clearance operations, are being put in place for the smooth conduct of winter games and tourism events. Emphasis was also laid on inter-departmental coordination to ensure hassle-free traffic movement, adequate parking, and road safety along the Sonamarg route throughout the winter period.

Addressing the officers, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of proactive planning, close coordination, and timely execution of all preparatory measures by the civil administration, police, tourism authorities, and executing agencies. She underscored the need to ensure maximum convenience and safety for locals and tourists while positioning Sonamarg as a prominent winter tourism destination.

Spl Secy Cabinet Secretariat reviews deregulation reforms with Chief Secretary Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav

Hails J&K's reform momentum; Calls for going beyond national benchmarks to act as model for other regions

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 18: Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, K. K. Pathak, who heads the Centre's Task Force on Deregulation and Compliance Reduction, today appreciated the pace, commitment and vigour with which the UT has pursued the reform agenda under Deregulation 1.0 and 2.0, observing that several of its initiatives have the potential to serve as best practices for other States and Union Territories.

Pathak made these observations while co-chairing a review meeting with Chief Secretary, Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav, to assess the implementation status of identified Priority Areas (PAs), their impact on the ground and the extent to which the intended benefits of regulatory simplification were reaching businesses, institutions, stakeholders and the general public.

Appreciating the progress, Pathak observed that J&K had made considerable headway in advancing the reform agenda and encouraged the UT administration to sustain the momentum and aspire to go beyond the nationally prescribed framework and benchmarks for liberalisation and deregulation. He emphasised that the objective should not merely be to fulfil the prescribed reform parameters but to institutionalise a more progressive, facilitative and business-friendly regulatory environment.

Advocating a calibrated and risk-based approach to regulation, he stressed the need to categorise sectors and activities into low-, medium- and high-risk categories. While low-risk activities should largely be governed through self-certification, medium-risk sectors could adopt third-party certification mechanisms, with regulatory oversight and mandatory compliance requirements retained for high-risk activities wherever essential. Such an approach, he observed, would help eliminate unnecessary inspections and procedural hurdles without compromising public safety, quality standards or legitimate regulatory safeguards.

He also called for undertaking a systematic comparative assessment of the compliance burden on applicants before and after the introduction of deregulation measures in each Priority Area. Such an exercise, he emphasised, would help quantify the actual reduction in compliances, time, costs and procedural requirements, thereby establishing the tangible outcomes of the reform initiatives.

The Chief Secretary, while underscoring the importance of translating policy reforms into visible public benefits, directed all concerned departments to organise stakeholder dissemination workshops and extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns to familiarise businesses, institutions, professionals and other stakeholders with the changes introduced under each Priority Area.

He stressed that these outreach initiatives should clearly articulate the specific simplifications, procedural relaxations and benefits arising from the reforms so that intended beneficiaries are fully informed and able to avail themselves of the improved regulatory framework.

Dr. Yadav further emphasised that the ultimate test of deregulation lies in its actual impact on the ground and not merely in the issuance of notifications, amendments or government orders. He enjoined upon all departments to ensure that the benefits envisaged under each reform reach the intended stakeholders and the public in letter and spirit, with a clear focus on implementation, accessibility and measurable outcomes rather than compliance on paper alone.

During the detailed review, the Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh apprised the Special Secretary of the progress achieved across various sectors, highlighting the UT's efforts towards simplifying regulatory frameworks, removing redundant compliances, facilitating businesses and institutions, and creating a more enabling environment for economic activity and public service delivery.

The Commissioner Secretary also highlighted that under Deregulation 1.0, as many as 20 Priority Areas have been agreed as implemented, while two have been accepted as not applicable by the Deregulation Review Committee.

Under Deregulation 2.0, he apprised the meeting that 11 Priority Areas have been agreed as implemented, while nine implemented areas are awaiting acceptance by the Task Force/ DR Cell. Eight other Priority Areas are under implementation, including five being addressed through the J&K Ease of Doing Business Act, 2026.

DC Budgam visits Common Facility Centre at Craft Village Kanihama

Reviews facilities, interacts with Artisans, emphasises promotion of Traditional Craftsmanship

■ HT News Network



BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, today visited the Common Facility Centre at Craft Village Kanihama to take stock of the facilities available for artisans and review various aspects related to the promotion and development of traditional craftsmanship in the area.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with local artisans and sought feedback regarding their working conditions, requirements and challenges.

He also reviewed the functioning of the facility and discussed measures to enhance its overall utility, accessibility and effectiveness in supporting the artisan community.

The Deputy Commissioner focused on development of Kanihama as a tourist and craft village, strengthening of market facilities and linkages to artisans, design development and logistics management, promotion of handloom and traditional crafts, organisation of craft festivals, and effective utilisation of technology.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasised the importance of improving connectivity, facilitating the sale and marketing of locally produced crafts, ensuring better opportunities for artisans, and strengthening cooperative and institutional mechanisms.

The need for proper documentation, encouraging the younger generation to take up traditional crafts, and exploring opportunities for wider promotion of Kanihama's rich craft heritage was also discussed.

He further stressed the importance of artisan welfare, including the organisation of health camps and eye check-up facilities, besides addressing other essential requirements of the artisan community.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored the need for coordinated efforts by the concerned departments to ensure that the Common Facility Centre serves as an effective platform for skill development, promotion of traditional crafts, improved market access and sustainable livelihood opportunities for local artisans.

He was accompanied by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Beerwah; Joint Director Planning; Tehsildar Magam, officials from Handloom and Handicrafts Departments and other concerned officers and officials.

Baramulla hosts VBYLD 2026-27 PPT Chalange Round

20 Young Aspirants showcase innovative solutions for Climate Security, Border Development and Sustainable Mountain Development

■ HT News Network



BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 18: The Department of Youth Services & Sports Baramulla successfully organised the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2026–27 Challenge Track – PPT Round at the Auditorium of GHSS Baramulla, witnessing enthusiastic participation from 20 young boys and girls.

The programme was conducted under the overall direction of Director General, Youth Services & Sports J&K, Anuradha Gupta and was graced by Srijan Patel, District Youth Officer Baramulla, as Chief Guest.

Based on the theme "Climate Security, Border and Sustainable Mountain Development," participants presented innovative ideas, analytical perspectives and practical solutions through PowerPoint presentations (PPT), demonstrating remarkable confidence, creativity and leadership potential.

The presentations were evaluated by a distinguished jury comprising Prof. Tariq Ahmad Chalkoo, Iqbal Ahmad Malik, Senior Lecturer, and CSR Mushtaq Ahmad. The Chief Guest appreciated the department's initiative and encouraged participants to cultivate innovation, leadership and a strong sense of responsibility towards nation-building. Prof. Tariq Ahmad Chalkoo also interacted with the participants and motivated them through his insightful and inspiring remarks.

Following a rigorous evaluation, six outstanding participants were shortlisted for the next level of the VBYLD Challenge Track and felicitated with certificates and medals.

The initiative reaffirmed the department's commitment to empowering young minds, nurturing leadership and promoting innovation in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Mission Vatsalya organises Child Rights Awareness Programme at Govt HSS Ajas, Chuntimulla Bandipora

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 18: Mission Vatsalya Bandipora organised awareness and sensitisation programme at Government Higher Secondary School Ajas and Chuntimulla Bandipora to educate students and teachers about Child Rights.

During the programme, awareness was imparted about the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, Child Marriage Act, Child Labour laws, POCSO Act and COTPA. Speakers highlighted issues including child abuse, corporal punishment, child marriage, sexual exploitation and tobacco-related violations.

Students were sensitised about Child Helpline Number 1098 and various schemes under Mission Vatsalya. Awareness posters carrying information about the helpline were also distributed among students.

Special emphasis was laid on the mental health and emotional well-being of children. Teachers were urged to understand the emotional needs of students and ensure a safe, supportive and protective school environment. Speakers also stressed the collective responsibility of students, teachers and the community to report violations of child protection laws to the concerned authorities. The programme aimed to strengthen awareness about child rights and encourage collective efforts towards protecting children from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

2-day national conference on Emerging Technologies for Governance concludes at IUST

■ HT News Network

Awantipora, Nov 18: The two-day National Conference on 'Emerging Technologies for Governance and Development Planning in Jammu and Kashmir: Policy and Implementation' organised by the Centre for Good Governance and Public Analysis (CGG&PA), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) concluded on Wednesday.

The second day of the conference featured four technical sessions focusing on performance-based governance, geospatial technology, spatial and digital transformation in university administration, bringing together academicians, policymakers, administrators and experts to deliberate on technology driven approaches to governance and development planning.

Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, said, geospatial technology can transform the way people understand and plan development. "By integrating data on natural resources, connectivity, infrastructure and socio-economic conditions, we can identify local needs, map development opportunities and move towards more evidence-based and inclusive planning. The ultimate objective is to translate data into meaningful interventions that improve people's lives," he said.

He stressed the need for universities to embrace digital transformation to strengthen institutional efficiency. He observed that integrated data systems can improve coordination, facilitate informed decision-making and foster greater transparency in university administration.

The conference concluded with a valedictory session, with Prof. Romshoo joining as the chief guest. The session marked the conclusion of two days of deliberations on leveraging emerging technologies for strengthening governance mechanisms.

SWD Budgam organises Awareness Programme on Government Welfare Schemes at Khag

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 18: Social Welfare Department (SWD) Budgam, through SANKALP–Hub for Empowerment of Women (SANKALP-HEW), under Mission Shakti, organised an awareness programme on various government welfare schemes at Government High School Palpora, Khag, followed by door-to-door outreach activities to ensure wider dissemination of information among students and the local community. During the programme, participants were sensitised about various women-centric government welfare schemes, their objectives, eligibility criteria and benefits. Emphasis was laid on promoting awareness, facilitating eligible beneficiaries and strengthening grassroots-level outreach to ensure that deserving individuals are able to access the benefits of government initiatives. The programme also highlighted various child welfare schemes under Mission Vatsalya, focusing on the protection, care and well-being of children. Participants were further sensitised about Child Helpline 1098 and its role in providing timely assistance, protection and support to children.

Director Colleges reviews functioning of GDCs

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 18: Director Colleges, Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri today conducted inspection of Government Degree Colleges at Qazigund, Banihal and Ramban to review infrastructure, academic facilities and institutional functioning.

At Government Degree College Qazigund, Principal Prof. (Dr.) Sudhir Singh briefed her on the college's academic and administrative progress, achievements, ongoing initiatives and future plans. Dr. Suri appreciated the efforts of the Principal and his team in strengthening the academic environment and developing institutional infrastructure.

She inspected the laboratories, library, research laboratory, multipurpose sports hall, classrooms and browsing centre, assessing the availability and utilisation of facilities. Interacting with faculty and staff, she assured them of the Directorate's support in addressing genuine institutional requirements and service-related concerns.

Principal Government Degree College Banihal Prof. (Dr.) Sunil Kumar Bhat apprised her of the college's achievements, academic initiatives and developmental priorities. At Government Degree College Ramban, the Head of the Department of Physics briefed her on academic progress and ongoing activities.

Dr. Suri also interacted with students, faculty members and non-teaching staff to seek first-hand feedback on the academic environment and institutional requirements. She also gave a patient hearing to the grievances of Academic Arrangement staff and assured them that their genuine concerns would be examined sympathetically in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations.

The inspections focused on assessing infrastructure and academic facilities, identifying areas for improvement and ensuring a conducive teaching-learning environment.

JKBOSE inaugurates 2nd Phase Workshop for development of New Punjabi Language Textbooks

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 18: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) today inaugurated 2nd Phase of 5 days workshop for the development of new Punjabi language textbooks for Classes 5th to 8th after having completed the development of Punjabi textbooks for class 1st to 4th in first Phase.

The workshop brings together Punjabi language teachers, eminent scholars, poets and writers from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir to contribute their academic expertise and creative insights towards the development of the new textbooks.

During the inaugural session, Chairman, JKBOSE Ghulam Hassan Sheikh held an extensive discussion on various important aspects of textbook development. He emphasized that the new textbooks should adequately reflect the region's rich cultural diversity, environmental awareness, prominent historical and geographical places and the spirit of national integration. He stressed the importance of developing meaningful and engaging learning material that connects students with their cultural heritage while fostering a broader national outlook and global vision.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Director (Academics), JKBOSE Dr. Yasir Hamid Sirwal stated that the content of the new textbooks must be developed in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023. He emphasized the need to ensure that the textbooks are learner-centric, inclusive, engaging and aligned with the contemporary educational requirements and literary ecosystem.

The workshop is expected to provide a collaborative platform for subject experts and resource persons to develop quality Punjabi language learning material in accordance with prescribed curriculum framework.

Academic Officer Chander Kumar Sharma and Academic Assistant, CDR Wing Dilraj Kaur coordinated the workshop. The workshop is expected to provide a collaborative platform for subject experts and resource persons to develop quality Punjabi language learning material in accordance with prescribed curriculum framework.

Academic Officer Chander Kumar Sharma and Academic Assistant, CDR Wing Dilraj Kaur coordinated the workshop.

NIT Srinagar selects three teams for National-Level Design for Bharat 2027 challenge

Institute remains committed to promoting innovation, research and entrepreneurship among the younger generation: Dir

■ HT News Network



Srinagar, Nov18: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, designated as the State Nodal Institution for Jammu and Kashmir, organised the Union Territory-level judging for Design for Bharat 2027, a national youth innovation challenge being conducted under the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2027.

The initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports through the Department of Youth Affairs, aims to provide young innovators and designers with a national platform to develop practical, technology-driven solutions aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The state-level event was held on November 17 at NIT Srinagar, where shortlisted teams presented their innovative concepts and product design solutions before a jury comprising experts from industry, entrepreneurship and academia.

Addressing the gathering, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, said that young people must be encouraged to translate their creativity and innovative ideas into practical solutions addressing the challenges faced by society.

"India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047 will be shaped significantly by the creativity, technological capabilities and entrepreneurial spirit of its youth. Platforms like Design for Bharat provide an important opportunity for young minds to move beyond conventional thinking and develop solutions that have a tangible impact on people's lives," he said. Prof. Misra said that NIT Srinagar remains committed to promoting innovation, research and entrepreneurship among the younger generation.

Prof. Roohie Naaz, Dean Research and Consultancy, NIT Srinagar, also addressed the gathering and emphasised the importance of strengthening research, innovation and industry-academia collaboration. She highlighted the role of academic institutions in providing young innovators with the right platform, guidance and opportunities to transform their ideas into impactful solutions.

Er. Syed Parvez Qalander, Industrial Consultant and jury member, stressed the importance of developing practical, cost-effective and scalable innovations, saying that young innovators must focus on solutions addressing real-world challenges.

Dr. Saad Parvez, who delivered the welcome address and introduced the Design for Bharat initiative, highlighted the importance of developing indigenous design solutions and encouraging young innovators to address grassroots challenges.

Er. Ubaid Mairaj, alumnus, entrepreneur and jury member, highlighted the need to translate creative ideas into viable products, emphasising innovation, entrepreneurship and market relevance.

The event was also attended by Prof. M. A. Shah, Dean, Alumni and International Affairs; Sana Altaf, CEO, GIF; and Jehanagir Hameed Lone, Incubation Manager.

HT EDITORIAL

Kashmir's Conscience Is Under Siege : When Family Bonds Become Casualties of Greed

The Parigam murder has shaken the Valley to its core, exposing a disturbing collapse of moral values, humanity and the sanctity of relationships

The gruesome murder of nearly 70-year-old Jana Begum in Parigam, Pulwama, and the arrest of her daughter-in-law as the second accused in the case have sent shock waves across Kashmir. The alleged conspiracy behind the killing of an elderly woman by those who were expected to be part of her family is not merely a horrifying criminal episode—it is a chilling indictment of the moral degeneration gripping sections of our society.

What makes this incident particularly disturbing is not only the brutality of the crime but the alleged betrayal of a relationship that should have been defined by care, compassion and respect. An elderly woman, at a stage of life when she deserves affection, protection and dignity, allegedly became the victim of a conspiracy involving those within her own family. If the allegations established during investigation and trial prove true, it would represent a betrayal of humanity at its most fundamental level.

Is this the Kashmir we once knew?...

Kashmir was historically celebrated as the Valley of Saints—a land shaped by Sufi traditions, spiritual wisdom, compassion, tolerance and reverence for human life. Our cultural ethos placed elders on a pedestal, treated familial bonds as sacred and regarded cruelty towards the vulnerable as an affront to both religion and humanity. The teachings of our revered saints were not merely spiritual discourses; they were the foundations upon which our social conduct and collective identity rested.

Today, however, a disturbing question confronts us: What remains of those values?

From crimes within families to violence driven by greed, revenge, intolerance and personal interests, incidents of unimaginable cruelty are increasingly forcing society to confront an uncomfortable reality. The erosion of moral restraint appears to be reaching alarming proportions. The sanctity of relationships, once considered inviolable, is being compromised by selfishness, materialism and a growing insensitivity towards human suffering.

The Parigam tragedy should shake every household, every community and every institution of this society. It is a stark reminder that the crisis we face is not merely one of law and order. It is a crisis of conscience.

Police investigation and the judicial process will determine the culpability of those accused. Pulwama Police deserves recognition for pursuing the investigation and making the second arrest. The role of forensic evidence and scientific investigation is equally significant in establishing the facts. But while the law must take its course, society cannot afford to remain a silent spectator to the deeper moral questions raised by this crime.

We have become increasingly preoccupied with material success, social status, wealth and outward appearances, while the values that sustain human relationships are being pushed to the margins. Religious identity and spiritual symbolism often dominate public discourse, yet compassion, honesty, patience, respect for parents and elders, and accountability for one's actions are steadily losing their place in everyday life.

Faith without humanity is hollow. Tradition without compassion is meaningless. And a society that celebrates spirituality while tolerating cruelty is living in a dangerous contradiction.

The responsibility for reversing this decline cannot be placed on police, courts or government alone. It begins in our homes, where children must be taught the difference between right and wrong, the value of sacrifice, the sanctity of relationships and the importance of treating elders with dignity. It must be reinforced in schools, mosques, shrines, religious gatherings and community institutions—not through rhetoric alone, but through meaningful action and example.

Our Sufi heritage must not be reduced to annual celebrations, shrine visits, slogans or ceremonial speeches. The message of love, humility, service, tolerance and humanity preached by our saints must find expression in our behaviour. If we cannot protect the dignity of our elderly, respect the sanctity of family bonds and restrain our own greed and anger, then we have failed to understand the very essence of the spiritual legacy we proudly claim to inherit.

The murder of Jana Begum is a tragedy that demands justice. But it also demands something far greater—a collective awakening.

Kashmir cannot afford to lose its conscience. We may rebuild roads, bridges, institutions and economies, but rebuilding a society whose moral foundations have collapsed is far more difficult. If cruelty can enter our homes, if greed can overpower relationships, and if human life can become expendable in the pursuit of personal interests, then the alarm bells are already ringing. The Valley of Saints must rediscover the sanctity of humanity before the last remnants of its moral heritage are lost. The greatest tragedy would not be merely the murder of an elderly woman—it would be our failure to learn from it.

Village Life During Winters



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Village life during winter is very beautiful, peaceful and full of natural charm. Although winter brings cold weather, snowfall and many difficulties, it also gives village life a unique beauty. People living in villages enjoy a different atmosphere during this season. The mountains covered with snow, frozen water bodies, green fields turning white and smoke coming out of traditional houses create a wonderful picture of rural life.

Today, we are living in a global village where technology, education and modern facilities have brought people closer to one another. The difference between villages and cities is gradually becoming smaller. However, some people still believe that city life is better than village life. They think that cities provide more opportunities, modern facilities and a comfortable lifestyle. But the reality is that many educated and qualified people now prefer village life because it offers peace, fresh air, natural beauty and a healthy environment.

During winters, village life becomes more interesting and sometimes challenging. People follow their daily routines according to the weather. Some are engaged in farming, while others look after their domestic animals. Farmers prepare their fields for the next agricultural season. Some people collect firewood, repair their houses and make other arrangements to face the cold weather. In villages, we can also see people involved in dairy farming, grazing cattle, pruning trees and other agricultural activities. These activities make rural life active and meaningful.



One of the most attractive things about village life during winter is the natural environment. When snowfall covers the fields, trees, rooftops and mountains, the entire village looks like a beautiful painting. Children enjoy playing in the snow, while elderly people prefer sitting near traditional heating arrangements and sharing their experiences. The warmth of family relationships makes winter evenings more enjoyable.

In Kashmir, winter has its own importance. People prepare traditional foods and make special arrangements to protect themselves from extreme cold. The traditional Kangri, Pheran and Hamam are important parts of Kashmiri winter culture. People enjoy drinking hot tea, eating traditional food and spending time with their family members. During heavy snowfall, people often gather in one place and share stories, experiences and thoughts.

Village life also teaches us the importance of cooperation and humanity. During harsh winters, neighbours help one another in different ways. They share available resources, support families facing difficulties and participate in community activities. Such relationships create a strong sense of unity and belonging. Unlike busy city life, where people sometimes remain occupied with their personal schedules, village communities often maintain close social relationships.

On the other hand, city life has its own challenges. Traffic jams, air pollution, overcrowding, noise and unplanned drainage systems create many problems for urban residents. In some cities, roads are congested and public spaces are becoming limited because of rapid population growth. These problems sometimes make daily life uncomfortable and stressful. Although cities provide better access to certain facilities, they cannot always offer the peace and natural environment that villages provide.

However, we cannot ignore the difficulties faced by villagers during winter. Heavy snowfall sometimes blocks roads and affects transportation. People may face difficulties in reaching hospitals, schools and other important places. Electricity interruptions, water shortages and limited healthcare facilities can make life more challenging. Students sometimes find it difficult to attend schools, while elderly people and patients may require additional support.

Therefore, the government should focus on improving basic facilities in rural areas. Roads should be properly maintained, electricity supply should remain regular and healthcare facilities should be strengthened. Better educational institutions, internet connectivity and employment opportunities should also be provided in villages. Development should not remain limited to cities; rural areas deserve equal attention.

We should also protect our natural resources, agricultural land, forests and water bodies. Unplanned construction and environmental pollution can destroy the natural beauty of villages. People must understand that development does not mean damaging nature. Instead, real development means creating modern facilities while protecting our environment and cultural identity.

In conclusion, village life during winters is a beautiful combination of natural beauty, simplicity, culture and social cooperation. It may have certain difficulties, but its peaceful atmosphere and close connection with nature make it special. We should respect rural life and work together to make our villages cleaner, healthier, more educated and developed. A beautiful village is not only a place to live; it is a place where we learn the values of humanity, cooperation and a simple life.

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The father I never met



Raqif makhdoomi.

I met this guy on Club house. Club house is a social media app where unknown people talk to each other. A room is created where people can join in and talk to each other. I still remember how we interacted for the first time. While I was already in the room giggling with the friends I made on club house, he entered and said "Yaar, I don't know why people remove me from there rooms. They don't even let me speak. As soon as I enter the room they remove me. I don't know what I have done to them". Even though he said it with a laugh but I felt that frustration within him. Without even asking him any questions I replied "Stay here no one is going to remove you. I'm here for you". I strictly warned and forbidden others against removing from the room. I remember he being friendly and adjusted with us quite quickly. Mostly people on club house find it cool to abuse while speaking but he spoke without abusing and his presence didn't make us feel that we are speaking for the first time. And since then he used to come to our rooms. I didn't find his behaviour of such kind that he should be removed from the room a nice person who used to talk to us after having a busy day.

Like another day we were talking to each other but I don't remember what exactly we were talking about. All thanks to memory I forgot things really quickly. But what I remember is someone was speaking something about father and he said "Mera baap nahi hai". All of a sudden I froze at my place, I left that lump in my throat and I was unable to sallow. I didn't speak for few seconds and then I said "Kya bol raha hai bhai" to which he replied "Haan mera baap nahi hai . Woh mar gaya hai". I was unable to process what he just said. While he completed what he had to say he laughed and that laugh told me the story he doesn't want to narrate. Everyone in the room feel silent and no one spoke a word . To lighten the movement I said "Haan kya baath kar raha tha ham". With this we all started to speak again and tried to ignore what he just said. It was that day I came to know the guy who laughs the loudest is the saddest person in the room. One can never guess by his behaviour or the way he talks that what he's suffering with. I am not saying that he should sound sad Or he shouldn't be enjoying the way he is. But the people who are dealing with a problem like this at some point of time make you realize that something is wrong but in his case one can never guess that he has lost his father. He's a guy who's full of energy and is a living person. You'll never see his face without smile and he's always in a mood to joke. Every time we meet I see him smiling and excited about everything. The only thing to hate about him is his anger. He gets really angry over small things and looses his sense. He punched the wall of his room just because he had some argument with some of his friends. He punched so hard that it broke his right hand's little finger and the doctor said that a rod has to be put to get the joint back in place. As a friend to whom he's close to, I went to enquiry about his health and stayed at his place for night. I was served with a well cooked chicken and a well made "Chatnie" . The dinner tasted delicious. After we were done with the dinner we went back to his room. He sat silently on his bed, while we were in the kitchen he was laughing and making us laugh. I looked at him and after observing him for sometime I said "oi kya baath hai. Sab thik hai". He said nothing and didn't move but when I instead he said "Sab kuch nahi bata sekta hu bhai. Mai terko apne problem bol sekta hu, apnie personal baatein bol sekta hu lakin ghar kie baatein nahi bol sekta hu". He yelled at me while he was speaking. His yelling at me didn't get me angry it made realize what he's suffering alone. He did tell me what makes him worried but I don't want to put it here he trusted me with something that he has disclosed to no on before. I was unable to cheer him up. I was unable to find words to counsel him. I told him "All I can say is You need to be strong and deal with all this with all the strengthen". The only thing I was able to add up was "I will always be there for you and support you when you will find no one to support" I felt me saying that I'll always support him brought his smile back and he was again the same guy I met on club house.



His father has been a helping soul and he helped people to grow. But what is unfortunate is that his son finds their behaviour really strange they behave as if they never helped by anyone to grow.

There are many situations where on no can help anyone and one among those situations is to bring back the death ones. No amount of money or no amount of approach can bring back dead one. Once someone is lost the only thing his loved ones can do is to have patience and pray for him.

His father was a pure soul, I pray he finds place in paradise and my friend including his family gets enough strength to deal with what they have lost.

Sahitya Akademi remembers Eminent poet Dr Aziz Hajini



Rayees Ahmad Kumar

The Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari and Wahab Cultural Society, Hajin, organised a symposium on the life and literary contributions of noted Kashmiri poet, writer and former Convener of the Kashmiri Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, Dr Aziz Hajini. Eminent Writers, Scholars Discussed the Legacy of the Noted Kashmiri Literary Figure. The symposium brought together eminent writers, scholars, poets and literary personalities to reflect on Dr Hajini's contribution to Kashmiri literature and his enduring literary legacy. The inaugural session was presided over by renowned Kashmiri and Urdu writer Professor Mohammad Zaman Aazurdah. IAS officer Athar Aamir Khan attended as the chief guest, while distinguished pulmonologist Dr Naveed Nazir and Professor Shad Ramzan, Convener of the Kashmiri Advisory Board, were also present in the presidium. Shakir Shafi, President of Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari, delivered the inaugural address, while Professor Shad Ramzan presented the keynote address. The vote of thanks was proposed by noted broadcaster Azher Hajini. The session was moderated by Dr Riyaz-ul-Hassan, President of Wahab Cultural Society, Hajin. The second session was presided over by eminent Kashmiri writer and historian Professor Farooq Fayaz. Professor Aijaz Mohammad Sheikh and Shakir Shafi were also part of the presidium. During the session, Professor Aijaz Mohammad Sheikh, Nazir Javed, Dr Riyaz-ul-Hassan and Dr Adil Mohi-ud-Din presented scholarly papers highlighting different aspects of Dr Aziz Hajini's life, literary achievements and contributions to Kashmiri language and literature. The proceedings were moderated by Majeed Majazi. The third and concluding session was presided over by Mohammad Amin Bhat, President of Adabi Markaz Kamraz. Renowned theatre personality Shafiq Qureshi and Professor Shad Ramzan were also present in the presidium. During the session, Majeed Majazi, Ghulam Nabi Shakir and Shakir Shafi presented papers examining Dr Hajini's literary contributions and his place in the Kashmiri literary tradition. The session was moderated by well-known Kashmiri and Urdu poet Sagar Sarfaraz. The symposium provided a platform for literary scholars and cultural figures to revisit Dr Aziz Hajini's significant role in promoting Kashmiri language and literature and to reflect on his lasting influence on the region's literary and cultural landscape. The day-long event commenced with an insightful inaugural session, held amidst a profound literary atmosphere. Shakir Shafi, President of Hala-e-Adab Sonawari, delivered the welcome address, warmly welcoming the distinguished guests and participants. Prof Shad Ramzan, former Head of the Department of Kashmiri and Convenor of the Kashmiri Advisory Board, delivered a comprehensive keynote address. He emphasised the need to propagate and promote the Kashmiri language. Paying a rich and glowing tribute to Dr Aziz Hajini, he appreciated and commended Adbi Markaz Kamraz and its constituent units for remembering their stalwarts and founding members while highlighting their invaluable contributions to the literary and cultural landscape of Kashmir. The main highlight of the inaugural session was the presence of Athar Amir Khan, IAS, who described himself as a staunch admirer and follower of Dr Aziz Hajini. He observed that personalities like Dr Aziz Hajini are no less than precious gems and pearls of society. In his brief yet meaningful address, he revealed that he has read Dr Hajini's poetry and particularly admired the positivity and hope reflected in his verses. Dr Naveed Nazir Shah, the Guest of Honour, delivered a thought-provoking address, highlighting the importance of remembering and celebrating distinguished literary personalities like Dr Aziz Hajini. In his presidential address, Prof Mohd Zaman Azurdah, a noted academician and litterateur, paid a glowing tribute to Dr Hajini. He particularly appreciated his remarkable efforts towards securing an honourable status for the Kashmiri language and strengthening its literary institutions. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Azhar Hajini, renowned broadcaster and beloved son of Dr Aziz Hajini. The session was moderated by Riyaz-ul-Hassan, President of Wahab Cultural Society Hajin, while noted historian and academician Farooq Fayaz presided over it. Riyaz-ul-Hassan, Sheikh Ajaz and Shakir Shafi presented their scholarly papers during the session. This session, chaired by Majeed Majazi, a member of the Sahitya Akademi's Kashmiri Advisory Board, featured the presentation of three papers. The second session of the event commenced shortly after lunch in the same conference hall of Tagore Hall, Srinagar. It was chaired by Mohammad Amin Bhat, President of Adbi Markaz Kamraz. Three meticulously prepared and thought-provoking papers were presented by Majeed Majazi, G. N. Shakir and Adil Mohiuddin. The session was moderated by renowned poet Sagar Sarfraz. The major highlight of the session was the presidential address delivered by Mohd Amin Bhat, who became visibly emotional while recalling his all-weather friend, the late Dr Aziz Hajini. The tribute he paid to his departed friend was beyond the reach of words. His heartfelt emotions and sentiments vividly reflected the depth of their friendship, their long-standing association and the remarkable bond they shared. He fondly recalled how the duo had worked tirelessly together for the promotion and preservation of the Kashmiri language and the strengthening of its literary institutions. It was indeed a deeply moving moment that left a lasting impression on everyone present. Not only the esteemed members of Halqa-i-Adab Sonawari and Wahab Cultural Society Hajin participated in this function but literature enthusiasts including Hajini Gh Nabi Dar, Zameer Ansari, Sahil Dar, Saleem Yousuf, Azhar Hashmi, Sarwar Hashmi, Yousuf Shaheen, Shabir Haqaq, Laila Rasool, Shamim Rashid, Altaf Ahmed, Dr Abdul Majeed Badrawahi, Engineer Peerzada Hidayatullah, Prof. Manzoor Ahmed Rather, Engineer Hoor-e-Yasrab, Prof. Naseem Shafai, Ashraf Dildar, Mushtaq Ahmed Mushtaq, Prof. Neelofar Naaz, Kifayat Faheem, Tariq Margooob and Shabnum Vijpari also showed their presence. The symposium concluded on a reflective note, celebrating Dr Hajini's timeless contributions and reaffirming the collective commitment to preserving and promoting the Kashmiri language and heritage.



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PART 1

The Profession of an Imam and the Role of Masjid Committees and Other Authorities

Preserving the Dignity of Religious Leadership, Upholding Accountability, and Ending Unnecessary Interference



By Muhammad Elyass

Introduction: A Matter Worth Discussing

The dignity of an Imam, the responsibilities associated with religious leadership, and the role of Masjid Committees deserve serious reflection in our society. Although an Imam holds a position of considerable religious and moral significance, the relationship between Imams and those responsible for managing mosques is not always governed by mutual respect, consultation, and fairness.

An Imam is not merely someone who leads congregational prayers or recites the Holy Qur'an. He is also expected to provide religious guidance, promote moral values, educate the community, and address social challenges in the light of Islamic teachings.

However, an important question arises: Are we giving our Imams the dignity and professional independence their responsibilities demand, or are we reducing them to ordinary employees who must remain silent to protect their salaries and positions?

In some places, excessive interference by Masjid Committees and other authorities undermines the independence of religious leadership. At the same time, Imams must recognise that their position does not exempt them from accountability, consultation, or the fulfilment of their responsibilities.

Equally important is the question of who should manage our mosques, what qualities committee members should possess, and whether administrative authority should remain indefinitely in the same hands.

These issues are not merely administrative. They concern the principles of justice, trustworthiness, accountability, and collective responsibility that Islam upholds.

1. The Dignity and Responsibilities of an Imam

In Islam, religious leadership is an Amanah; a trust that demands knowledge, sincerity, integrity, humility, and responsibility.

An Imam should possess sufficient religious knowledge to guide his congregation, the wisdom to address sensitive matters, and the courage to speak the truth without creating unnecessary divisions. He should also recognise that religious leadership is not a privilege for personal benefit but a responsibility towards Allah and His creation.

The Holy Qur'an states:

"Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due."

Surah An-Nisa (4:58)

This principle applies to everyone entrusted with responsibility, including Imams, committee members, and administrative authorities.

Respecting an Imam does not mean treating him as infallible. He must remain open to legitimate criticism and correction. However, disagreement should never become an excuse for humiliation, intimidation, or interference in matters that fall within his legitimate religious responsibilities.

An Imam deserves respect without being idolised, and accountability without being humiliated.

2. Masjid Committees: Guardians of the Mosque, Not Masters of the Imam

Masjid Committees play an essential role in maintaining mosques, managing finances, organising facilities, appointing religious personnel, and ensuring the smooth functioning of these institutions. Their contribution deserves



appreciation.

However, administrative responsibility should not be confused with unrestricted religious authority.

A committee may establish reasonable rules, monitor the fulfilment of agreed duties, and address genuine concerns. It should not, however, use financial power or administrative influence to suppress legitimate religious advice, dictate every statement of the Imam, or compel him to satisfy the personal preferences of individual members.

Unfortunately, some Imams may hesitate to speak honestly about social wrongdoing or injustice because they fear losing their salaries, accommodation, or positions. Such pressure weakens religious leadership and creates an environment in which personal interests take precedence over moral responsibility.

A mosque must never become an instrument of personal dominance.

At the same time, Imams must fulfil their duties sincerely, respect legitimate administrative arrangements, and accept accountability for negligence or misconduct.

The objective should be a balanced relationship in which committees administer mosques responsibly while allowing Imams the independence necessary to fulfil their religious obligations.

A committee should support its Imam, not intimidate him; consult him, not unnecessarily control him; and hold him accountable without compromising his dignity.

3. Who Should Manage Our Mosques?

While considerable attention is given to the qualifications of Imams, the suitability of Masjid Committee members also deserves scrutiny.

Those entrusted with managing a mosque should possess at least a basic understanding of Islamic principles, particularly justice, honesty, consultation, trustworthiness, and the rights of others.

Ideally, committee members should be educated, responsible, impartial, and capable of making decisions in the collective interest of the congregation. They should understand that mosque management involves more than maintaining buildings and collecting or spending money; it also requires ethical judgement and respect for the religious character of the institution.

Young and educated individuals should be given meaningful opportunities to participate in mosque administration. Their involvement can introduce fresh perspectives, contemporary understanding, and greater engagement with the concerns of younger generations.

This should not come at the expense of experienced members, whose wisdom and service deserve recognition. Rather, experience should be combined with education, integrity, and openness to new ideas.

Most importantly, wealth, age, family background, and social influence should not automatically

qualify anyone for authority over a mosque. A person's suitability should be assessed through character, competence, trustworthiness, and commitment to community service.

Mosque management must remain open to capable individuals rather than becoming the preserve of a few influential families or individuals.

4. A Five-Year Tenure for Masjid Committees

Another important issue is the indefinite concentration of administrative authority in the same hands.

As a general principle, Masjid Committees should have a clearly defined tenure of five years, followed by a fair and transparent process for electing or constituting a new committee, subject to applicable laws, governing rules, and established arrangements.

This proposal is not intended to undermine the contributions of those who have served their mosques sincerely. Their efforts and sacrifices deserve appreciation. However, appreciation should not become a justification for permanent control.

A mosque is a communal religious institution, not anyone's personal property or family inheritance.

When the same individuals retain authority for decades without a transparent process of renewal, capable newcomers may be discouraged from participating, and questioning existing management may be wrongly treated as disrespect.

A five-year tenure could encourage wider participation, introduce fresh leadership, strengthen accountability, and prevent the unnecessary concentration of power.

Such a system must also include proper financial records, transparent handovers, continuity of essential services, and safeguards against factionalism.

Outgoing members should remain free to offer advice and share their experience without retaining permanent control over decision-making.

The willingness to relinquish authority when one's tenure ends is itself a sign of integrity and respect for collective responsibility.

The ultimate objective is not merely a change of personnel, but a system in which mosque administration remains transparent, accountable, and accessible to capable and trustworthy individuals.

5. The Qualifications and Professional Independence of an Imam

Memorising the Holy Qur'an, completing religious studies, and acquiring the qualifications necessary to lead prayers are valuable achievements. However, effective religious leadership requires more than memorisation and formal credentials.

An Imam should possess sound religious knowledge, good character, effective communication skills, and an understanding of the social challenges confronting his community.

Champion the cause of gender inclusivity in fields that are challenging .

Life is a test and mental toughness is the key



By M S Nazki

General NS Raja Subramani CDS, visited Kashmir Valley to review the security situation, operational preparedness and deployment posture across forward areas and the hinterland. Interacting with personnel from three services, the CDS conveyed his Diwali greetings to the troops deployed in forward areas and lauded their steadfast commitment to safeguarding the nation's frontiers and maintaining a robust security grid in challenging terrain and demanding conditions! This is the story which we got!

-Diwali celebrations end with Diwali on Bhaiya Dooj!

-That's what powerful men did. Stayed quiet. Held secrets. Ran things from inside a tight protective circle, making perilous decisions only they were savvy enough to make, leaving normal morality to the mere earthlings, who lived and ate and died dully down below, never knowing the extent to which they were being shielded by a beneficent distant pulling of strings…

-Who else could you have been but exactly who you are? I said. Did you…

-Now to the lighter side: Four legends of Bhaiya Dooj that will surprise you!

- In India, the legends are considered as the backbone of festival. They are also a great medium for parents to inculcate interest in the younger generation and to impart values of Indian festivals to them. There are many unique and interesting legends associated with Bhai Dooj festival. The various Bhai Dooj legends lays stress on the significance of the sacred relationship shared between a brother and a sister, making it an extremely vital festival. All these myths and legends mentioned below also effects the ritual and customs that are observed on this day. The famous legends associated with Bhai Dooj are as follows :

-The Legend Of Lord Vishnu:

-According to this legend, when Lord Vamadev was pleased with Bali maharaj and appeared in Vishnu-rupa, Bali asked a boon that Lord Vishnu would be on every door at Patalaloka. Vishnu agrees and goes to become a Dwarpalaka of Bali. When Goddess Lakshmi heard this news from Narad, she was in great distress. Laxmi plays tricks on Bali in order to make her husband return back to his original place.

-She went to Bali as a poor woman seeking help. She says that she doesn't have a brother and would dearly like one. Then Bali accepted her as his sister and told her to ask anything that she need. Then Laxmi replied that you have my everything in your service - please release Lord Vishnu. Thus, Lord Vishnu was released from the service of Bali.

-The Legend Of Yamaraj and Yamuna

-According to Veda, Yamraj-God of the dead is the son of Vivasvat. He had twin sisters named Yami or Yamuna. Yami, Yama's twin sister, was transformed into the sacred river Yamuna in whose purifying waters people bathe on holy days. Yama was given an equally important role and



made the god of Death, whom all fear. On Bhai Dooj day, Yami or Yamaraja was called to his sister's home Yamuna, where she offered Aarti and a small gift for her brother.

Yama then told her that on this day brothers would be invited to their sisters' home and in return the brother would bring a gift for his sister. Until today this tradition is maintained with great love. As Yama's sister is Yamuna and she fed Yama to his satisfaction he said that from now on any brother who visits the sister on Bhai Dhuj day will escape the hand of Yamaraj - the sister prays for her brother.

-The Legend Of Lord Mahavir:

-Another legend behind the origin of Bhai Dooj says that when Mahavir, the founder of Jainism, attained nirvana, his brother King Nandivardhan was distressed because he missed him and was comforted by his sister Sudarshana. Since then, sisters have been revered during Bhai Dooj.

The Legend Of Lord Krishna

-According to the legend, on the auspicious day of Bhai Dooj Lord Krishna, after slaying the Narakasura demon, goes to his sister Subhadra where she welcomes her brother with the lamp, sweets, flowers, etc and put the holy protective tilak on his forehead. Keeping this legend in mind, people celebrate the festival of Bhai Dooj with great enthusiasm and fervor.

-Now back to serious affair:

-According to security analysts and military historians, the Indian Army plays a central role in maintaining stability in Jammu and Kashmir through a combination of border defense, counter-insurgency operations, and community outreach.

-Because the security situation in Kashmir involves complex political and human rights debates, perspectives on the military's presence vary between security assessments and local civil society accounts.

-Border Security and Deterrence

•Counter-Infiltration Grid. The Indian Army maintains a multi-tiered surveillance and defense network along the Line of Control (LoC) to prevent cross-border infiltration and arms smuggling.

• Modernized Surveillance. Recent security upgrades include the integration of night-vision systems, tactical drones, and counter-drone umbrellas to monitor rugged, high-altitude terrain.

• Historical Defense. Since October 1947, when troops were airlifted to secure Srinagar against tribal raiders, the military has served as the primary line of defense against external aggression and territorial disputes.

-Internal Security and Counter-Insurgency

• Targeted Operations. Specialized infantry units like the Rashtriya Rifles work alongside the Jammu and Kashmir Police and central paramilitary forces to conduct intelligence-based raids and dismantle militant networks.

• Civil Assistance. Troops frequently support local authorities during emergencies, natural disasters, and periods of civil unrest to restore public order.

• Pilgrimage and Event Security. The Army provides security perimeters and logistical support for major public gatherings, including the annual Amarnath Yatra.

-Civic Action and Development

• Operation Sadbhavana. Through its "Goodwill" initiative, the Army builds and runs schools, medical camps, and vocational training centers in remote border areas where civilian infrastructure is limited.

• Infrastructure and Connectivity. Military engineering units construct roads, bridges, and communication links in isolated valleys, aiding local commerce and emergency access.-Perspectives and Ongoing Debates

• Security and Development View. Supporters and government officials argue that a strong military presence is essential for neutralizing terrorism, protecting civilians, and creating the safe environment needed for tourism and economic growth.

•Civil Liberties Concerns. Conversely, human rights organizations, local activists, and opposition figures have frequently raised concerns regarding the impact of heavy militarization on daily life, alleging that special powers granted to security forces can lead to civil liberties restrictions and friction with local residents.

-Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General N.S. Raja Subramani visited the Kashmir Valley and forward areas of the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan to review the prevailing security situation, operational preparedness, and force deployment posture.

-Key Highlights of the Security & Operational Review

•Winter Preparedness along the LoC: The review focused heavily on operational requirements and force deployments ahead of the winter season, when heavy snowfall and reduced visibility in high-altitude and rugged terrain can potentially be exploited for terrorist infiltration attempts.

• Tri-Service Interaction: General Subramani interacted with personnel from all three services, conveyed Diwali greetings, and commended their commitment to maintaining a robust security grid.

• Technology and Grid Integration: Recent deployments in sectors like Akhnoor and across Jammu and Kashmir have incorporated advanced surveillance capabilities, real-time intelligence support systems, and tech-assisted border monitoring tools.

• Hinterland & Counter-Terrorism Posture: Command reviews across the Northern Command and Corps headquarters have emphasized maintaining constant vigilance, intelligence-led counter-terrorism operations, and close synergy between the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), and civil administration.-Security forces and troops in the Kashmir Valley are maintaining a high state of operational alert amid active intelligence inputs concerning potential militant threats and winter infiltration attempts.-Key Security & Operational Updates:•High-Level Military Reviews: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General N.S. Raja Subramani reviewed the security situation across forward areas and the hinterland with top Army commanders. This followed a forward-area assessment in North Kashmir by Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, who lauded troop vigilance and preparedness.

Kucha: India's Buddhist Imprint On The Silk Route



BY- MOOL RAJ

Kucha deserves a far more serious place in India's reading of Central Asian history than it usually receives. It was no mere oasis town on the Silk Route; it was one of the principal Buddhist centres of the Tarim Basin, and it played a real part in carrying Indian religious and intellectual traditions towards China.

Set near the northern edge of the Taklamakan Desert, Kucha held an important position on the route linking India, Central Asia and China. In the old caravan world geography counted for a great deal, and a settlement placed on a difficult but busy road became something more than a marketplace — it became a meeting ground for traders, monks, artists, translators and travellers alike. Kucha was one such meeting ground.

Its connection with India came chiefly through Buddhism. The faith that began in India travelled through Kashmir, Gandhara and the other north-western regions before reaching the oasis kingdoms of Central Asia, and Kucha not only received this tradition but developed it and helped send it further east. That role made the kingdom a vital link in the chain through which Buddhist Asia took shape.

Few things show this connection more clearly than the Kizil Caves near Kucha. Their murals reflect a mix of influences, yet the core themes remain Buddhist, and the stories, symbols and spiritual ideas behind them came from the Indian Buddhist world. They reveal how Indian religious imagination was taken up in Central Asia and given form by local artistic hands.

Kucha was a place of learning as well. Its monasteries and strong Buddhist presence were not merely religious institutions; they were centres where texts were studied, translated and explained. In a world without printing or modern communication, such places preserved knowledge and allowed it to travel across great distances.

The figure most closely tied to Kucha is Kumarajiva. Born there, with family roots traditionally traced to Kashmir, he became one of the greatest translators of Buddhist texts into Chinese, giving Chinese Buddhism some of its most influential scriptures and interpretations. Through his work, Indian ideas did not merely reach China — they entered Chinese intellectual life and stayed there.

Kumarajiva's story is itself the reason Kucha cannot be dismissed as a minor stop on a trade route. Here the Indian, Central Asian and Chinese worlds met and mingled; the kingdom received from India, reshaped what it received, and passed it on. That made Kucha a transmitter, not merely a recipient.

Xuanzang's travels in the seventh century confirm the importance of this wider region. His road to India ran through the Buddhist centres of Central Asia, and while India was, for pilgrims like him, the original source of Buddhist knowledge, the journey to that source depended on places such as Kucha, where Buddhism had already struck deep roots.

This is the part of the story India tends to overlook. The arrival of Buddhism in China is well known; the road by which it travelled is much less understood. Between India and China stood a chain of societies that carried, protected and interpreted Indian thought, and Kucha was among the most important of them.

India's influence in Kucha was not that of a state but of a civilisation. No army was required for Indian ideas to take hold there — monks, manuscripts, teachers, traders and artists did the work. This is what gave Indian culture its reach across Asia: it moved through respect rather than compulsion.

The history has its present-day relevance too. India's conversation about Central Asia today usually turns on connectivity, energy, trade and security, and these are real concerns. But the older foundation of the relationship was cultural and intellectual, and Kucha reminds us that India's engagement with the region is no recent strategic discovery; it carries a long memory behind it.

That memory should be handled with balance. Kucha was not India — it had its own people, languages and political life — yet it was deeply marked by Indian Buddhist

traditions, and its art, learning and religious institutions belonged to a larger Asian Buddhist network that had India at its source.

Kucha stands, then, as an important chapter in India's

civilisational outreach, a place where ideas born in India crossed deserts, entered foreign societies and became part of their spiritual life. In that sense it was not only a bridge between India and China but one of the workshops in which Buddhist Asia itself was made.

The Author Is A Regular Columnist And Freelance Writer Who Writes Up On Various

DC Samba convenes Block Diwas at Birpur- Bari Brahmana
Reviews development works, addresses public grievances

■ HT News Network



SAMBA, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner Samba Dr. Rupesh Kumar today conducted a Block Diwas here at Panchayat Ghar Birpur Block Bari Brahmana to review developmental issues and take stock of public grievances in the area.

A large number of residents, public representatives attended the programme in presence of officers from government departments. The locals projected several demands and highlighted issues related to road connectivity, drinking water supply, power, healthcare, education and other civic amenities.

People demanded augmentation of water supply, rationalization of Electricity and completion of PMGSY and PWD road projects in the area. They also demanded up-gradation of Parmandal to Choti Kashi road, alternate motor for drinking water, space for parking, up-gradation of Playground, construction of Passenger Shed, Community hall and E-bus Services.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the grievances and demands raised by the public. He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for prompt redressal of the same. He instructed PMGSY authorities to ensure proper maintenance and clearance of roads and install night reflectors at vulnerable and accident-prone locations.

The DC reviewed the progress of ongoing development projects being executed by PWD and PMGSY. He directed the concerned officers to secure all requisite approvals and expedite the execution of works.

Stressing the importance of timely completion, the DC asked the agencies to make the roads motorable at the earliest for public convenience. He further directed the Medical Officer to facilitate the basic facilities at Hospital to strengthen healthcare services in the area.

Emphasizing responsive governance and efficient service delivery, he directed the departments to work in close coordination to ensure timely resolution of public issues and effective implementation of developmental programmes at the grassroots level. Emphasizing responsive governance and efficient service delivery, he directed the departments to work in close coordination to ensure timely resolution of public issues and effective implementation of developmental programmes at the grassroots level.

District-Level mock exercise on flood water rescue held at Uttri- Kathua

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, NOVEMBER 18: The District Administration Kathua, in coordination with the 13th Battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and other stakeholder departments, today conducted a District-Level Mock Exercise on Flood Water Rescue here at village pond Uttri .The exercise was organised with the objective of strengthening disaster preparedness, assessing the response capabilities of various departments and enhancing inter-agency coordination to ensure an effective and timely response during flood-like situations and other emergencies.

During the exercise, NDRF and SDRF teams demonstrated various rescue and emergency response techniques, including water rescue operations, procedures for evacuation, response to different emergency scenarios and fire control drills. The demonstrations highlighted the importance of preparedness, coordination and prompt action in minimising the loss of life and property during disasters.

Assistant Commandant, 13th Battalion NDRF and DySP SDRF Kathua were present on the occasion. Officials and personnel from the concerned departments also participated in the exercise.

ZSWO Rajouri organises Outreach Programme at Kalakote

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 18: The Zila Sainik Welfare Office (ZSWO), Rajouri, organised a Physical Outreach Programme for Ex-Servicemen (ESM), Veer Naris, widows and their dependents at Kalakote today, with the objective of taking welfare services closer to the veteran community and addressing their issues at their doorstep.

The programme witnessed participation from veterans and their families, who were provided an opportunity to project their grievances and seek guidance on various matters relating to pension, SPARSH, welfare schemes, documentation, identity cards and other service-related issues. The team from ZSWO extended necessary assistance and guidance to the participants for resolution and processing of their cases. An awareness programme on self-employment opportunities was also conducted by the District Employment Office, Rajouri, to familiarise Ex-Servicemen and their dependents with available employment avenues and related initiatives.

The ZSWO expressed sincere gratitude to the district administration Rajouri for its continued support towards welfare of the veteran community.

Speaking on the occasion, the ZSWO emphasised that such outreach initiatives are aimed at strengthening the bond between the Sainik Welfare Department and the veteran community, particularly those residing in far-flung and remote areas of the district. The office reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that no eligible Ex-Serviceman, Veer Nari, widow or dependent is deprived of entitled welfare benefits due to lack of awareness or procedural difficulties.

DLSA Kathua organises Legal Aid Clinic at Panchayat Ghar Flote

■ HT News Network



KATHUA, NOVEMBER 18: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kathua today organised a Legal Aid Clinic here at Panchayat Ghar, Flote under the guidance of its Chairman

The outreach facility aims at extending free legal services and facilitating effective implementation of the NALSA schemes at the grassroots level.

The Legal Aid Clinic was formally inaugurated by the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority Uvarshi Raina in the presence of the Block Development Officer (BDO), Barnoti, Akhil Bhau, Former Sarpanch Panchayat Halqa Flote Davinder Kumar and a large number of local residents and villagers.

In her inaugural address, the Secretary DLSA highlighted the significance of Legal Aid Clinics in providing accessible legal assistance to the general public, particularly women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable sections of society. The villagers were sensitised about their legal rights, the availability of free legal services and the important role played by Legal Services Authorities in ensuring access to justice for all.

Special emphasis was laid on the identification of eligible beneficiaries under various schemes launched by NALSA and other welfare schemes of the Government, so that the intended benefits reach the deserving persons at the grassroots level. The participants were also encouraged to approach the Legal Aid Clinic for free legal advice, assistance and guidance regarding their legal issues and entitlement to welfare benefits.

A Para Legal Volunteer (PLV) was temporarily deployed at the new Legal Aid Clinic to facilitate the identification of eligible beneficiaries, generate awareness regarding the NALSA schemes, assist villagers in accessing government welfare benefits and act as a link between the local community and DLSA Kathua.The BDO Barnoti and former Sarpanch Panchayat Halqa Flote appreciated the initiative and assured necessary cooperation and coordination for the effective functioning of the Legal Aid Clinic and the successful implementation of various legal aid and welfare initiatives in the area.

DC Jammu chairs Block Diwas at Trewa
Assures time-bound redressal of public grievances

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Minga Sherpa today chaired a Block Diwas programme here at village Trewa in Block Arnia, providing local residents a platform to present their issues and seek redressal through direct interaction with the district administration.

MLA Bishnah Dr. Rajeev Bhagat was also present on the occasion.

Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ishita Rathi, SDM Jammu South Manu Hansa, Chief Planning Officer Ajaypal Singh besides other district officers and officials of various departments also attended.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the grievances and demands projected by the public and took note of issues pertaining to various departments.

Matters concerning the Revenue Department, particularly land ownership rights, were brought to his notice. The Deputy Commissioner said that land ownership cases are being taken forward for resolution as per rules and procedure.

Responding to the demand for construction of a bridge connecting Chak Shera with Trewa, the Deputy Commissioner assured that efforts would be made to get the project sanctioned at the earliest. As an interim measure, he announced the construction of a footbridge over the Nallah to facilitate the movement of residents.

On the demand for bunkers in the border areas, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated the administration's commitment to addressing the security needs of the border population and said that compiled data has been forwarded to the Government. He added that two more Community Bunkers have been proposed under the Vibrant Villages Programme.

He also noted the other demands and grievances raised by the public and assured that all genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate redressal.

Issues relating to power supply and irrigation facilities were also noted for necessary intervention by the concerned departments. He also noted the other demands and grievances raised by the public and assured that all genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate redressal.

Block Diwas camp held at Siot- Rajouri
DDC announces Industrial cluster near Highway, hands over sanction letters to beneficiaries under different schemes

■ HT News Network



RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Dr. Devansh Yadav today convened Block Diwas cum Service Delivery Camp here at Siot enabling the local public to raise their issues and seek resolution of developmental concerns. The locals raised several demands, seeking early commissioning of the Jal Shakti scheme at Channi, renovation of Channi–Bakhar road, dialysis facility at Sunderbani, upgradation of transformers, ambulance service at Siot and construction of boundary wall at Higher Secondary School Sathal, among other issues.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing and directed the concerned officers to take necessary measures for redressal of the grievances on priority. Officers also responded to the issues raised by the public and apprised them of the steps being taken for their resolution.

Addressing the gathering, the DC highlighted the immense potential of Sunderbani, describing it as the gateway to Rajouri district."The area can emerge as a leading hub in education, industry and agriculture," he noted. He stated that the administration is exploring the development of industrial clusters in Sunderbani to promote employment and economic opportunities. Emphasising economic upliftment as a priority, he encouraged farmers to take advantage of the cooperatives already established in the area. He also stressed the need for strengthening Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and cooperatives to ensure better management of polyhouses, with proper revenue and profit-sharing mechanisms. Consultancy in this regard would be undertaken to facilitate their effective functioning, he announced.

Block Diwas: DC Kathua reviews public grievances at Ucha Pind
Directs for time-bound redressal; reviews key developmental demands

■ HT News Network



KATHUA, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today convened a Block Diwas programme here at NTPHC Ucha Pind, Block Nagrota Gujroo to listen to the demands of locals and assess the developmental needs in the area.Residents from Ucha Pind, Tharakalwal, Dhan Jasdhar, Sialna and Rajwalta projected demands related to road connectivity, healthcare, education, drinking water, power supply, public infrastructure, veterinary facilities, ration card bifurcation, mobile schooling for the ST population and measures to address wild animal menace.

After giving a patient hearing to the public, the DC issued directions to the concerned departments for timely action. The DC emphasised close monitoring of developmental works and urged both executing agencies and the public to ensure that quality is not compromised. He stressed accountability and timely completion of works. He also sensitised the participants about Mission YUVA, highlighting the opportunities available for aspiring entrepreneurs and urging eligible youth to avail benefits under the initiative.

Earlier, the DC inspected departmental stalls showcasing government schemes and services and interacted with officials and beneficiaries. He also planted a sapling at PHC Ucha Pind as part of the environmental conservation initiative.Later, the DC visited Ujh Pul shrine and interacted with members of the shrine committee to take stock of issues concerning the shrine. Subsequently, he inaugurated a Network and Security Operations Centre (NSOC) at Atomic North, Durang, aimed at strengthening network monitoring and security operations. ADC Billawar, Vishavjeet Singh, CPO Kathua, Ranjeet Thakur, ACD Kathua, Gulshan Kumar, Tehsildar Ramkote, BDO Nagrota Gujroo, and other district officers, besides former PRI representatives.

Block Diwas outreach camp held at Kahaljugasar – Doda; Departments provide on spot services
DDC assures timely redressal of grievances related to education healthcare, others

■ HT News Network



DODA, NOVEMBER 18: District Development Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal today convened a Block Diwas Public outreach camp at Serru Panchayat Kahaljugasar-A to listen to the public grievances, review the availability of essential services and assess the developmental needs of the area.

The locals and public representatives projected a wide range of demands concerning education, healthcare, road connectivity, power infrastructure, the Public Distribution System (PDS), tourism promotion and other basic amenities. The DDC gave a patient hearing and directed the concerned departments to take appropriate measures for the prompt and time-bound redressal of the grievances.

The officers, accompanying the Deputy Commissioner, responded to the public demands of their respective departments, resolving many issues on the spot and providing updates on the developmental activities in the area. Departmental stalls were put up at the venue to provide on the spot services and generate public awareness regarding various government schemes and programmes.

The residents demanded construction of the Higher Secondary School building, up-gradation of Middle School at Dhanodi to High School, strengthening of primary school infrastructure and provision of smart classrooms in Educational Institutions.

Projecting demands related to healthcare, the public sought the deployment of paramedical staff, a laboratory technician and a doctor at the PHC, provision of an ambulance, and making the Dialysis Unit at SDH Gandoh functional. The DDC directed the health department authorities to address the issues on priority. The Chief Medical Officer informed that the building-related work was being taken up, while the mechanical issue affecting the Dialysis Unit was being resolved.

The people also demanded improvement of mobile network connectivity, replacement of wooden electricity poles, installation of solar street lights, besides stocking of ration for winters, road widening, removal of roadside debris and establishment of bus stands at Gandoh and Gowari. The Executive Engineer PMGSY informed that work on the removal of roadside debris has already been initiated. The Tehsil Supply Officer informed that the process of stocking of essential food supplies has almost been completed to ensure uninterrupted availability during the winter months.The public also sought necessary measures for promotion of local tourist destinations and development of tourism infrastructure. The DDC assured that the demands raised would be examined by the concerned departments for appropriate action.The Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) briefed the public about the implementation of VB-GRAMG and encouraged the residents to identify and submit proposals for need-based developmental works under the scheme. He also informed that the construction.

DC presides over Weekly Block Diwas at Panchari; Listens to public grievances

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, today presided over the weekly Block Diwas programme here at Panchari to take stock of public issues and address the grievances of the people.During the programme, former PRI members and locals raised several issues, demanding augmentation of drinking water supply, road blacktopping and patchwork, adherence to winter timings in schools, inclusion of Panchari on the tourism map, upgradation of middle schools, construction of footbridges, adequate staff at the Primary Health Centre and establishment of a bus stand, among others.The DC directed the concerned departments to initiate road patchwork and blacktopping works immediately and ensure timely completion. He also issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for the prompt and time-bound redressal of the grievances raised by the public.The DC emphasized that Block Diwas serves as an important platform for direct interaction between the administration and the public. He directed all officers to take prompt action on public grievances, ensure effective inter-departmental coordination and provide timely relief to the people. Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, today presided over the weekly Block Diwas programme here at Panchari to take stock of public issues and address the grievances of the people.During the programme, former PRI members and locals raised several issues, demanding augmentation of drinking water supply, road blacktopping and patchwork, adherence to winter timings in schools, inclusion of Panchari on the tourism map, upgradation of middle schools, construction of footbridges, adequate staff at the Primary Health Centre and establishment of a bus stand, among others.The DC directed the concerned departments to initiate road patchwork and blacktopping works immediately and ensure timely completion.

PUBLIC NOTICE



I have passed / appeared in SSE (Class 10th) under Roll No. 8129497, Session / Year 2019-20 through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the Parents / Institution.My name has been wrongly recorded as Syed Minha Shah S/o Shah Parvez Hussain OR Syed Minha Shah S/o Syed Parvez Hussain Shah.Instead of correct particulars.Now I have applied for correction at The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard, he / she may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates, Kashmir Division within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained. This is published for the information of the general public.The correct particulars are mentioned as under:

Name: Syed Minha Parvez
Father's Name: Syed Parvez Hussain Shah
Mother's Name: Tabasum
Date of Birth: 26/06/2000
Residence: Khona Khan, Dal Gate, Srinagar
Mobile No: 7006069596

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

Itis notified that the applicant namely Ghulam Hassan Khan S/o Late 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 Date of birth of his father as per record is ; 10 _11 _ 2004
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 .

18/11/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Shabir Ahmad Khanday S/o Abdul Rasheed Khanday R/o Checki Kawoosa Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of birth certificate of his own namely as Shabir Ahmad Khanday S/o Abdul Rasheed Khanday
The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his own as per school record is ; 16_07_1992
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 .
19/11/2026

Audit Diwas 2026: workshop on "Revised SOP for Treasury Inspection held at Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 18: The Office of the Principal Accountant General (A&E/Audit), Jammu & Kashmir, Jammu, is celebrating Audit Diwas 2026 at its Jammu Office from 17 November 2026 to 30 November 2026 to mark its contribution to transparency, accountability and good governance.

In this regard, a series of activities are being undertaken to promote Capacity building in the Audit/A&E office through structured training, process optimization, and cross functional learning.

A workshop was organized today in the Office on "Revised guidelines/ Standard Operating Procedure relating to Treasury Inspection through Hybrid approach i.e., Desk review followed by field visit and its implementation using data analytics" in the presence of senior officers and officials of the office.

The presentation further highlighted the role of data analytics as an important tool in strengthening treasury inspections. The use of analytical techniques for examining financial and transactional data can facilitate the identification of anomalies, irregularities, trends and risk- prone areas, enabling audit personnel to adopt a more evidence-based and targeted approach. It was emphasized that leveraging data analytics would enhance the scope of audit scrutiny, improve the quality of findings and contribute towards more effective oversight of treasury operations. The presentation further highlighted the role of data analytics as an important tool in strengthening treasury inspections. The use of analytical techniques for examining financial and transactional data can facilitate the identification of anomalies, irregularities, trends and risk- prone areas, enabling audit personnel to adopt a more evidence-based and targeted approach. It was emphasized that leveraging data analytics would enhance the scope of audit scrutiny, improve the quality of findings and contribute towards more effective oversight.

In the Court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Qazigund

Present: Hina Parveen Goney
JO Code: JK00338
In the Case of:
Haziq Anwar
S/o Mohammad Anwar Bhat
R/o Drinen Daulatabad, Tehsil Qazigund, District Anantnag.
(Applicant)
Versus
1. Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir through Block Development Officer, Block Qazigund.
2. Station House Officer, Police Station Qazigund.
(Non-Applicants)
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the applicant namely Haziq Anwar has sought a direction against the non-applicants for registration of his birth, who was born on 10-08-2008
Through the medium of this notice, the general public is hereby informed that if any person has any objection regarding the registration of the birth particulars of the applicant mentioned above, he/she/they shall submit the same on or before 25-11-2026, when the matter is listed for further proceedings before the Hon'ble Court.
Given under the hand and seal of the Court on 18-11-2026.

Sd/
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
Qazigund

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shameema Bano D/o Ab. Karim Hajam R/o Batapora Kanihama, Tehsil Magam, District Budgam do hereby declare that I have applied for correction of my Name and Father's Name in my School Records at Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, Branch Office Magam.My particulars have been wrongly recorded as:FROM
Name: SHMEEMA BANO
Father's Name: MOHD KARIM HAJAMTO (Correct)
Name: SHAMEEMA BANO
Father's Name: AB. KARIM HAJAMIf any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may file objection in the office of the J&K BOSE, Branch Office Magam and in the office of Tehsildar Magam within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After expiry of said period, no objection shall be entertained.The same person with different spellings is one and the same person.Applicant:

Shameema Bano
D/o Ab. Karim Hajam
R/o Batapora Kanihama

PUBLIC NOTICE

Loss of motorcycle number plate bearing Registered No. JK05F2230 in between kalntra payeen to wagoora on dated 08-11-2026 Namely Shakeel Ahmad Najar son of Fayaz Ahmad Najar R/o kalantra bala ,Now I want apply for duplicate number plate if anybody has any objection they contact ARTO Sopore with in seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is certify that incorrect name mentioned in addhar card is FURQAN TARIQ
D/o. Tariq Ahmad Bhat. actually the correct Name is FURQANA TARIQ D/o. Tariq Ahmad Bhat. R/o. Pir Mohalla Narbal Distt. Budgam.
under Addhar No. 449142266686. If anybody has objection in that regard. He/She convince concerned authority, After publication of said notification, No objection will be entertained .
Furqana Tariq
D/o. Tariq Ahmad Bhat
R/o. pir Mohalla Narbal Budgam
Addhar No. 4491 226 6686

District admin Ramban conducts intensive market checking along NH-44; recovers fine from erring traders

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 18: An intensive market checking drive was conducted along National Highway-44 here today, targeting roadside dhabas, hotels, restaurants and other food establishments, to check the quality of food and adherence to prescribed safety and hygiene standards.The inspection was carried out by a joint team comprising Tehsildar Deep Kumar, SHO Chandrakote and officials from the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Food Safety Department, Labour Department and Fire & Emergency Services.

The inspection teams thoroughly checked the quality and hygiene of food items, cleanliness of kitchens and dining areas, food storage and handling practices, availability of essential commodities, fire safety arrangements and compliance with relevant labour and food safety regulations.

Several establishments were found violating prescribed norms and deficiencies were noticed during the inspections. Accordingly, fines were recovered on the spot, while the owners and management of the establishments were strictly directed to rectify the deficiencies and ensure compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. The inspection was carried out by a joint team comprising Tehsildar Deep Kumar, SHO Chandrakote and officials from the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Food Safety Department, Labour Department and Fire & Emergency Services.

The inspection teams thoroughly checked the quality and hygiene of food items, cleanliness of kitchens and dining areas, food storage and handling practices, availability of essential commodities, fire safety arrangements and compliance with relevant labour and food safety regulations.

Several establishments were found violating prescribed norms and deficiencies were noticed during the inspections. Accordingly, fines were recovered on the spot, while the owners and management of the establishments were strictly directed to rectify the deficiencies and ensure compliance with all applicable rules and regulations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, hereby notify the general public that my name and date of birth have been incorrectly recorded in my Aadhaar Card No.853285365617 as AHSAN AHMAD MIR and 01-02-2015, respectively, whereas my correct name and date of birth are AHSAN NISSAR and 08-06-2015, respectively.
Therefore, I intend tot rectify the aforesaid discrepancies in my Aadhaar records.
If anybody has any objection regarding the above-mentioned corrections, they may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority.
AHSAN NISSAR
R/O,BANGDARA RESHIPORA
BARAMULLA, PH.7005213128

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREER

Subject: Application of SUMAIRA HASSAN ,SAIMA HASSAN D/O GH HASSAN MOCHI for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujjar and Bakerwal)in favour of self
PUBLIC NOTICE
Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village KALANTARA PAYEEN and belongs to the ST caste and MUCHI community, having annual income is 48000 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows
1..GH HASSAN MOCHI Father 52 years Labour
2.... RAJA BEGUM Mother 48 years H/W
3....SAIMA BANO applicant 24 years student
4....SUMAIRA HASSAN applicant 20 years student
5....MUZAMIL HASSAN Brother 13 years student
.The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self
if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Asif Mohd Badoo, resident of Kreeri, District Baramulla, hereby notify the general public that my name has been incorrectly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as ASIF MOHD BUDOO, whereas my correct name is ASIF MOHD BADOO.
That my Aadhaar Number is 4686 6861 9860.
Now, I intend to correct my name in the Aadhaar records from ASIF MOHD BUDOO to ASIF MOHD BADOO.
Any person having any objection regarding the above-mentioned correction may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority within the prescribed period.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as MOHAMMAD SALEEM AHANGER S /O ABDUL AHMAD AHANGER on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..5676 7462 4546 while my correct name is MOHAMAD SALEEM AHANGER S/O ABDUL AHAD AHANGER which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publicationofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....MOHAMAD SALEEM AHANGER
S/O....ABDUL AHAD AHANGER
R/O..KREERI BARAMULLA
BLOCK... WAGOORA

GOVERNMENTOF(U.T)JAMMU&KASHMIR
Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan,NowsharaSrinagar.
E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in *Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285*

Extension Notice 9th.

Subject: Construction of Borewell at Nagbal (Vail Nagbal, K Pora in District Anantnag).
Reference: This office e-NIT No. **30/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27**, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/***4631-42***, **Dated: 14-07-2026**. Bearing Tender ID No. **2026_PHE_316831_2.**

Due to ***"NO Response"*** for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and **Tender ID No's** under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till ***16-11-2026 Up-to 02:00 PM*** are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	26-11-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	27-11-2026 11:00 AM

NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

DIPK-7800/26
DIPK-7800/26
send Dated: 18-11-2026.

Sd/=
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN DIVISION.
GIST OF E-NIT No.26/WSMP OF 11-2026, DATE: -17/11/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt., for the following Work.

S. No	Name of Work	ADVT COST. (Civil Component)	EMD COST in Rupees	COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS	Class of Contractor	Time Allowed For completion	Major Head of Account
1.	**Providing of Water supply pipe line from near the house of Ghulam Hussain Dar to the H/O Nusrat Hussain Mir at Balhama (under CDF)**	Rs.16300/-	2% of Advertised Cost	Rs. 50/-	DEE	08 Days	UNDER CDF

The E-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below:

S. No.	Description	Date		
		DD	*MM*	*YYYY*
1	Publishing date of ENIT	17	11	2026
2	Download start date	17	11	2026
3	Bid submission start date	17	11	2026
4	Bid submission end date	27	11	2026
5	Bid opening date	28	11	2026

DIPK-7788/26
Send Dated:- 18-11-2026

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti WSMP Division Srinagar.

CSB and JKRLM Conclude Three-Day Skill Training for Rural Women at Manasbal

20 SHG members receive practical exposure to sericulture, silk craft, calligraphy on silk and entrepreneurship opportunities

■ HT News Network/PIB



Ganderbal:The Central Silk Board (CSB), P4 Basic Seed Farm, Manasbal, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), Block Wakura, today concluded a three-day Farmers' Skill Training (FST) Programme for 20 women members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The training was conducted from 16 to 18 November 2026 at Manasbal.Building on a recent awareness initiative organised in Block Wakura, the programme aimed to familiarise rural women with sericulture activities, creative applications of silk and opportunities for developing innovative, marketable products to diversify livelihood options.During the training, Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Scientist-D, Central Silk Board, and his team provided practical exposure to participants on sericulture and the creative use of silk thread. The sessions covered the making of decorative items and explored the application of silk in calligraphy and other artistic forms. Participants were encouraged to experiment with silk as a versatile medium for developing aesthetically appealing products with market potential.The programme sought to enable SHG members to explore opportunities beyond conventional livelihood activities through creative product development, value addition and entrepreneurship, with a focus on potential women-led enterprises.Speaking at the concluding session, Madina Bukhari, Block Programme Manager (BPM), Wakura, thanked the Central Silk Board, Manasbal, for organising the training and providing valuable practical exposure to SHG members. She said such collaborations play an important role in introducing rural women to new skills, creative ideas and emerging livelihood opportunities. She expressed hope that participants would apply their learning to develop innovative products, explore new business activities and create sustainable livelihood opportunities.Shri Ahsanul Haq Chisti, KAS, Chief Development Officer, Wular and Manasbal Development Authority, attended the valedictory session as the Chief Guest. Appreciating the work, enthusiasm and skills demonstrated by the participants, he encouraged them to explore sericulture-based livelihood opportunities, develop entrepreneurial skills and promote traditional silk crafts for sustainable income generation. He also distributed certificates among the trainees on successful completion of the programme.The programme concluded with an interactive feedback session and distribution of participation certificates. The SHG members appreciated JKRLM and the Central Silk Board for organising the training and expressed enthusiasm about applying the skills acquired to develop creative products and explore entrepreneurial opportunities.The initiative reflects JKRLM's efforts to facilitate livelihood diversification among SHG members by connecting them with specialised institutions, skill development opportunities and innovative avenues for enterprise creation.Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Scientist-D, Central Silk Board, P4 Basic Seed Farm, Manasbal, delivered the vote of thanks. He expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, the Block Programme Manager, the SHG trainees and all officials and staff associated with the organisation of the programme. He appreciated the active participation of the women.

MLA Udhampur West flags off farmers' exposure visit under CSS-ATMA

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 18: In a significant initiative towards promoting agricultural diversification and



entrepreneurship to enhance farmers' income, the Agriculture Department Udhampur Sub-Division today organized a one-day training programme-cum-exposure visit for 110 farmers, with a special focus on Commercial Floriculture. The within state tour was hosted under the CSS-ATMA and Holistic Agriculture Development Programme

The farmers' delegation was flagged off by MLA Udhampur West Pawan Kumar Gupta. He appreciated the proactive efforts of the Agriculture Department in taking progressive agricultural initiatives to the grassroots level. He emphasized the need to encourage farmers to move beyond conventional farming and explore high-value agricultural ventures like commercial floriculture, which have immense potential for generating sustainable employment and improving rural livelihoods. He also encouraged farmers to take maximum benefit of government-sponsored schemes and adopt innovative practices to strengthen their economic position.

The programme was organized under the guidance and supervision of Chief Agriculture Officer Vikas Padha.

Among others present on the occasion were ADO Vinod Gupta;DAO Sudhir Manhas; ASCO Sandeep Gautam; ASC Sunil Gupta and SDAO Darshan Sharma, who collectively contributed towards the planning, coordination and successful organization of the programme.

Director Agriculture Jammu inaugurates First Harvest of Shiitake Mushrooms

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 18: Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu Anil Gupta today inaugurated the first harvest of Shiitake mushrooms (Lentinula edodes) at the Shiitake Development Laboratory of the Spawn Production Office, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo, marking a significant step towards promoting specialised mushroom cultivation and agricultural diversification in the Union Territory.

The Director highlighted the immense potential of Shiitake mushroom cultivation as a high-value agricultural enterprise, emphasising its prospects for employment generation, rural entrepreneurship and startup development, particularly among small and marginal farmers, rural youth, women and Self-Help Groups. He observed that the introduction of specialised mushroom varieties would further diversify the existing mushroom cultivation activities in Jammu and Kashmir and provide farmers with additional income-generating opportunities.

The Department's Spawn Production Laboratory plays a key role in producing and supplying quality mushroom spawn to farmers across Jammu Division. The Department is also focusing on strengthening the laboratory to ensure timely availability of spawn and meet the requirements of growers and district agriculture offices.

Special emphasis is being laid on Shiitake and Cordyceps as specialised avenues for diversification.

The programme was attended by Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Suresh Kumar Khajuria; SMS (RL), Krishan Kant; Spawn Production Officer, Ashu Kakoria; Mushroom Development Officer, Arun Gupta; besides other senior officers and staff of the Spawn Production and Mushroom Development Offices.

Financial Awareness, Government Schemes Sensitisation programme held at RSETI Bandipora

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 18: A Financial Awareness and Government-Sponsored schemes Sensitisation programme was jointly organised today at RSETI Bandipora by the RBI, NABARD and Lead Bank Office, Bandipora.

The programme was attended by Assistant General Manager (AGM), RBI, Anoop Kumar Sharma; District Development Manager (DDM) NABARD, Rouf Ahmad Zargar; Lead District Manager (LDM) Bandipora Liyaqat Maqbool; representatives of various banks, RSETI, FLCC, and the Mission YUVA Financial Expert and BHD Lead, Bandipora.

During the programme, participants were sensitised about various government-sponsored schemes, institutional credit facilities, eligibility criteria, credit appraisal procedures and financial modalities. Emphasis was laid on strengthening inter-institutional coordination, expediting application processing, addressing credit-related bottlenecks and ensuring timely institutional credit to eligible beneficiaries.

A detailed presentation was also delivered by the Mission YUVA Financial Expert, explaining the complete case-sponsorship mechanism under Mission YUVA, including the various stages through which an application passes before reaching the concerned bank for consideration.

The process, from initial mobilisation and applicant registration to scrutiny, verification, assessment, preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR), processing at designated levels and final sponsorship to banks, was explained in detail.

Participants were also apprised of the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders at each stage, with emphasis on proper documentation, financial viability, timely disposal of applications and effective coordination between Mission YUVA functionaries and banking institutions.

Banks were particularly urged to ensure timely appraisal of sponsored cases, provide clear and specific remarks on pending applications and facilitate eligible beneficiaries in accessing institutional credit.

Training Programme for Selected Pilgrims of Hajj-2027 of Baramulla District scheduled for November 23 and 25

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 18: The District Administration Baramulla has scheduled the first phase of the orientation and training programme for selected pilgrims of Haj-1448 (H) 2027 on November 23 and 25, 2026, from 10:30 am.

The Training Program, scheduled to be conducted on 23rd November for the pilgrims from Tehsils of Baramulla, Boniyar, Dangiwacha, Rohama, Sopore, Watergam, Zaingeer, Dangerpora and Uri at Masjid-e-Baitul Mukarramah Baramulla and for the pilgrims from Tehsils Pattan, Khoie, Wagoora, Kreeri, Singhpora, Tangmarg, Kunzer and Kawarhama at Jamia Hamdania Masjid Sharief Kunzer Baramulla on 25th November.

All the selected Haj Pilgrims of these Tehsils of District Baramulla have been requested to attend the orientation programme strictly as per the notified schedule at the respective venues.

MMU Medical Camps held in Gandoh; 298 patients avail service

■ HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER 18: Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) camps were organised today at Village Gali Batoli and Village Kunan in Medical Block Gandoh.At Village Gali Batoli, as many as 198 patients were examined and screened by the medical team. The camp offered a range of healthcare services, including general health check-ups, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) screening, blood sugar testing, X-ray facilities and free distribution of medicines.Similarly, at Village Kunan, around 100 patients availed the healthcare services provided by the MMU team, including general check-ups, NCD screening, blood sugar testing, X-ray services and free medicines.Besides providing medical services, health awareness and special awareness regarding Tuberculosis (TB) were also imparted to the local population. The general public was sensitised to the importance of early detection, timely diagnosis.

Block Diwas:DC Ramban holds Public Outreach Programme at Kalimasta; Resolves public grievances on the spot

■ HT News Network



RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today convened a public outreach programme under the Block Diwas initiative here at Kalimasta Panchayat of Sub-Division Gool to listen to public grievances and address the issues faced by residents of far-flung and remote areas of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the progress of ongoing developmental works in the area. He directed the concerned PMGSY engineers to expedite the construction of bridges, ensure timely completion of the works and maintain the required quality standards. He stressed the need for close monitoring and effective coordination to remove bottlenecks and ensure that the public gets the benefit of improved connectivity at the earliest.

ACD Mohammad Imran Naik, SDM Gool Imtiyaz Ahmed, SDPO Kuldeep Raj and other district and sectoral officers were present during the programme.

People from Kalimasta, Gagra, Bimdasa, Harra and adjoining areas attended the Public Graveness Redressal camp and projected their demands. The Deputy Commissioner patiently listened to the grievances and resolved most of the issues on the spot, while issuing necessary directions to the concerned officers for time-bound redressal of the remaining issues. Responding to the issues of public interest, the DC directed the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti, to expedite completion of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and other water supply schemes, make them functional and restore all damaged water supply schemes. The AD FCS&CA was directed to verify and update the details of deserving BPL families to ensure that eligible households receive ration benefits.

The Tehsildar Gool was directed to organise special revenue camps to provide services at the doorsteps of the people, while the Chief Agriculture Officer was directed to ensure timely availability of quality seeds and provide necessary technical guidance to farmers.

The DC directed Executive Engineer PMGSY to expedite road and bridge construction works on the Gool-Kalimasta-Gagra road. The CMO was instructed to deploy a medical team of Doctor and paramedical staff along with an ambulance and essential medicines in the area and organise a special camp for issuing disability certificates to eligible applicants.

The Chief Horticulture Officer was directed to provide quality walnut and other fruit plants to farmers. All allied departments were directed to organise awareness programmes and ensure maximum coverage of eligible beneficiaries under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The Executive Engineer, JPDCL, was directed to provide additional electricity poles to strengthen the power distribution network in the area. The Social Welfare Department was directed to organise special camps to facilitate eligible beneficiaries in availing old-age pensions, marriage assistance and other welfare schemes.

92 pc of Indian organisations report agentic AI security incidents: ServiceNow study

■ HT News Network/UNI



Hyderabad, Nov 18 (UNI) As many as 92 per cent of Indian organisations experienced an agentic AI security incident in the past year, but only 36 per cent managed to contain such incidents within 24 hours, according to a new study released by ServiceNow on Wednesday.

The report, titled 'Deployed but Ungoverned: The State of Agentic Security in India', based on a survey of 500 security leaders in the country, found significant gaps in the governance, visibility and control of AI agents despite their growing adoption by enterprises.

Only 19 per cent of organisations had a single designated individual accountable for agentic AI security governance, while just 18 per cent had unified visibility into their AI agents through a single interface.

Further, only 30 per cent had automated deployment checks to prevent agents from being deployed before clearing security requirements.

The study also found that 47 per cent of organisations could produce a complete evidence package on demand, indicating gaps in audit readiness and security accountability.

While 51 per cent of Indian organisations had automated real-time detection of abnormal AI agent behaviour, 67 per cent were unable to respond automatically when such behaviour was detected, leaving a significant gap between identifying threats and containing them.

Kulmeet Bawa, Group Vice-President and Managing Director for India and SAARC at ServiceNow, said AI agents had become part of enterprise operations, but security measures had not kept pace with their adoption.

He stressed the need for organisations to maintain a centralised record of AI agents, assign clear ownership and enforce security controls automatically to enable timely detection and response.

The report found that only 46 per cent of organisations involved security teams before the development of AI agents began. Further, 83 per cent were running AI agents in, or interacting with, operational technology or physical environments, but only 29 per cent had a separate governance framework for such deployments.

The issue of unregulated AI deployment, often referred to as 'Shadow AI', was also highlighted, with 37 per cent of organisations reporting that they had discovered AI agents operating in production during the past 12 months without being registered or known to their security teams.

The study noted that the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team's (CERT-In) October 2026 advisory on AI agents had brought agent visibility and control into focus. It also referred to the CERT-In directions issued in 2022, which require organisations to report cyber incidents within six hours of becoming aware of them.

Organisations using a unified platform for agentic security, accounting for 43 per cent of those surveyed, reported better security capabilities than others.

Among them, 62 per cent had automated real-time alerts for abnormal agent behaviour, compared with 43 per cent of other organisations.

Similarly, 45 per cent could automatically remediate policy violations, against 24 per cent, while 51 per cent continuously captured evidence, compared with 43 per cent.

The study was conducted by ServiceNow in association with Phronesis Partners and covered more than 3,700 senior security and technology decision-makers across 20 countries, including 500 security leaders in India.

PMOS: Breaking the Silence Around Women's Health in Kashmir

Why awareness, understanding and timely medical care matter



Ms. Nuzhat Bilal Bhat

A conversation that should no longer be whispered

In many homes, conversations about periods, hormonal changes and reproductive health are still held in whispers. Girls may hesitate to ask questions, and women sometimes put off seeking medical advice because they fear embarrassment or judgement. These silences can have real consequences. Women's health is not a private inconvenience to be ignored; it deserves the same attention and understanding as any other aspect of health.

One condition that brings this issue into focus is Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS), the new name for what was previously known as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS). The change was announced through an international consensus initiative in May 2026. It is more than a change of words: the new name aims to reflect the condition's wider hormonal, metabolic and ovarian features, rather than suggesting that it is simply a problem of cysts.

More than an issue of irregular periods

PMOS is common, affecting about one in eight women worldwide. Yet many people still have limited information about it. The earlier name could give the impression that ovarian cysts are the main feature. In reality, PMOS is a complex condition involving several body systems, and ovarian cysts are not required for a diagnosis.

Its effects can differ from one woman to another. Some may experience irregular periods, acne, unwanted facial or body hair, or thinning hair. Others may have difficulties linked to insulin resistance, weight changes, ovulation or fertility. The symptoms are not identical in every case, and not every woman will experience all of them. This is why self-diagnosis based on social media posts or isolated symptoms can be misleading. A qualified healthcare professional can assess the individual situation and recommend appropriate tests or care.

The condition can also affect confidence and emotional well-being. Concerns about appearance, fertility or repeated changes in the menstrual cycle may cause stress and anxiety. These experiences should not be dismissed or treated as a personal failing.



The Kashmir perspective: making space for honest conversations

In Kashmir, menstrual and reproductive health can still be difficult subjects to discuss openly. Social expectations, misconceptions and fear of being judged may prevent young women from asking questions or seeking help. Sometimes, symptoms are brushed aside as ordinary period problems, even when they continue or begin to affect daily life.

Research carried out in Kashmir has also drawn attention to the emotional side of the condition. A 2024 study published in the National Journal of Community Medicine, titled "A Study of Psychological Distress Among Women with Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome in Kashmir", reported experiences including stress, anxiety, sleep-related difficulties and other psychosocial challenges. The findings are a reminder that women's health cannot be understood through physical symptoms alone.

There is also a painful misconception that a diagnosis of PMOS means a woman will never become a mother. That is not true. PMOS can affect ovulation and may make conception more difficult for some women, but many women with the condition do become pregnant, sometimes with medical support. A diagnosis should never be used to judge a woman's worth, her future or her prospects for motherhood. What she needs is accurate information, respectful care and support.

Awareness begins at home, school and college

Change does not have to begin with a large campaign. It can begin with a simple conversation at home. Parents and family members can help girls understand menstruation and feel safe speaking about changes in their bodies. A young woman should not have to feel ashamed of asking a question about her health.

Schools and colleges can contribute by organising age-appropriate awareness sessions and inviting qualified health professionals to explain menstrual health, hormonal conditions and the importance of seeking medical advice. Such discussions can help young people separate reliable medical information from myths and online misinformation.

Families and communities also need to understand that a woman's health condition is not a matter for gossip or judgement. Listening without blame can make it easier for someone to seek help early.

Understanding diagnosis and care

PMOS should be assessed by a qualified healthcare professional. Depending on a person's symptoms and medical history, a doctor may recommend blood tests, an examination or an ultrasound. The assessment is individual; no single symptom or online checklist can confirm the condition.

Although PMOS is a long-term condition, its symptoms and related health concerns can often be managed. Care may include lifestyle changes, medical treatment and follow-up, depending on the person's needs. Women should avoid taking medicines or supplements on the basis of advice from social media or non-qualified sources. If menstrual changes or other symptoms persist, seeking professional advice is a sensible step—not something to feel embarrassed about.

Breaking the silence is a shared responsibility

The change from PCOS to PMOS gives us an opportunity to look again at a condition that has too often been misunderstood. But a new name alone will not improve women's lives. Awareness must reach homes, classrooms, healthcare settings and everyday conversations.

In Kashmir, creating a more understanding environment can help women speak up without fear and seek care without shame. Periods and hormonal health should not be treated as forbidden subjects. They are part of health, and they deserve open, informed discussion.

No woman should feel that she has to face a health concern in silence. Every woman deserves to be heard, respected and given the care she needs.

Ms. Nuzhat Bilal Bhat can be reached at
Email: bhatnuzhat82@gmail.com

Five surprising ways to boost your iron - that have nothing to do with meat

Japan has one of the oldest populations in the world, but some of the country's elderly aren't slowing down.

Mieko Nagaoka first started swimming in her 80s to help re

Ferment it, boil it, or sprinkle it with lemon. When it comes to iron absorption, it's not just what you eat, but how you eat it that matters.

Growing up I believed that if I ate plenty of spinach, I'd grow nice and strong. Even today I regularly add it to smoothies, pasta and omelettes.

I like it not only because it's versatile, easy to cook and rich in fibre, but because it's also a good source of iron – right?

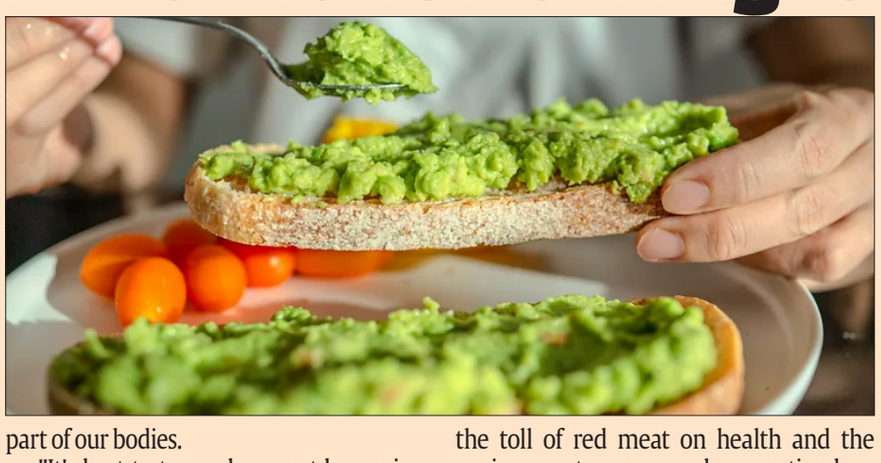
Well, while I'm not entirely wrong, we don't absorb that much iron from raw spinach.

Given that around one in three of us is iron-deficient, it's worth understanding it's not just what we eat – it's how we eat our food and prepare it – that gives us the best chance of getting the amounts we need.

The most common deficiency

Iron deficiency is the most common nutritional deficiency in the world, especially among children and women of reproductive age.

Feeling tired, weak or short of breath are all signs you may be low, since this essential mineral helps produce haemoglobin, the protein that carries oxygen to almost every



part of our bodies.

"It's best to try and prevent becoming anaemic by eating the right diet," says Susan Fairweather-Tait, professor of mineral metabolism at the University of East Anglia.

When it comes to how readily we absorb iron from food, however, not all iron-rich foods are equal.

Meat-free diets require extra care

There are two dietary forms of iron. Heme iron is found in meat and seafood, while non-heme comes from plant-based foods.

We tend to absorb the former more easily than the latter. Our body absorbs about 15-30% of heme iron, and less from various kinds of non-heme (about 2% of that in dried legumes and about 7-9% in leafy vegetables).

But as concerns rise about cost, as well as the toll of red meat on health and the environment, some people are eating less. That could contribute to iron deficiency if not replaced with other iron sources, says Yemisi Latunde-Dada, a senior lecture in nutritional sciences at King's College London.

1. Boil some greens, steam others

How food is prepared can affect how much iron is available to us.

My trusty go-to – spinach – contains compounds called oxalates. These can bind to iron and block how much our bodies take up. But when we boil it, the compounds are released and more iron can be absorbed.

This rule only applies, however, to leafy greens that are high in oxalates, such as spinach, Swiss chard and beetroot leaves.

Other greens, like lettuce, cabbage and bok choy, don't need their oxalates leached out. In fact, eating them raw or steamed helps retain more vitamin C, providing an iron-absorption boost.

2. Pair iron-rich food with vitamin C

When we add vitamin C to our diet, we absorb more iron, research has shown.

"Vitamin C is a potent enhancer of iron absorption from plant food sources," says Latunde-Dada.

Alongside foods containing iron, you could try squeezing lemon on a meal or having a (small) glass of orange juice alongside your sourdough toast for breakfast.

3. Embrace the ferment

Fermentation can also help your body absorb more iron. That's because it breaks down phytic acid, a naturally occurring compound found in grains, nuts and seeds, which makes it harder for the body to take up iron from food.

For this reason, you could consider swapping regular bread for sourdough.

4. Don't rely only on fortified

Many staple foods including breads and breakfast cereals are fortified with iron. But manufactures tend to use less absorbable forms that are "unreactive", and so don't affect the food's taste, colour or shelf-life.

"We don't absorb iron very well from most of the fortified products" says Fairweather-Tait.

In a study that measured iron absorption from fortified foods, researchers found that iron absorption from infant cereals was very low, ranging from 0.6 to 2.2%.

In contrast, the same study found that iron absorption was higher for bread rolls made with refined white flour. (Another study found that absorption from bread made with refined flour reached 13.6%.)

5. Watch what you drink with your food

What we drink whilst eating can also affect how much iron we absorb from our diet.

Like with oxalates, iron absorption can be reduced by compounds such as polyphenols, tannins, fibre and phytates, says Latunde-Dada.

Coffee and tea contain tannins and polyphenols, meaning if we're eating an iron-rich breakfast cereal alongside a brew, we won't absorb it as well.

If you want a cup of tea, it's best to have it at least two hours after a meal, advises Fairweather-Tait.

Enough, but not too much

ur daily recommended amount of iron also accounts for the fact that we absorb relatively little overall.

(BBC NEWS)

After Asian Games gold, India target fourth women's Asian Champions Trophy title

United News Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 18 :Defending champions India will look to extend their dominance in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy and end the year on a high when the six-team tournament begins at the newly-built International Sports Complex in Nathu Barkheda, Bhopal on Thursday.

Fresh from winning gold at the Asian Games in Japan last month, India will open their campaign against Malaysia, aiming to claim a record fourth title. They have won the last two editions, held in Ranchi and Rajgir, and are currently level with South Korea as the most successful teams in the competition, with three titles each.

The year has been particularly rewarding for the Indian women's team under chief coach Sjoerd Marijne. They qualified for the World Cup through the qualifiers in Hyderabad, won the FIH Women's Nations Cup in Auckland to earn promotion to the Pro League and finished fifth at the World Cup in Belgium, their best result in the tournament since 1974.

The biggest moment came at the Asian Games, where India ended a 44-year wait for gold in women's hockey at the continental event.

The hosts have already shown promising form ahead of the tournament, beating Japan 4-1 in a practice match. Marijne, however, is also keen to use the competition to test players in different positions and build squad depth.

"We want the players to be able to play in different positions. It's to create more depth in the squad and become helpful if a player gets injured, especially in a tournament like the Olympics," he said.

Captain Salima Tete said India would concentrate on their own plans rather than be distracted by their opponents.

"We are not focusing on what our opponents are doing. We are just focusing on ourselves, our structure, and following coach's instructions. In short, we want to play our game," she said.

China, Japan and South Korea are expected to provide the strongest challenge. China, who lost to India in the Asian Games final, will be keen to win their maiden title, while South Korea will aim for a fourth crown. Two-time champions Japan will also be among the contenders. Malaysia and Thailand complete the field.

The teams will play each other in a round-robin league, with the top four advancing to the semifinals on November 27. The final and third-place match will be held on November 28.

After facing Malaysia, India will take on South Korea on November 21, Thailand on November 22, China on November 24 and Japan on November 25.UNI TB AAB Fresh from winning gold at the Asian Games in Japan last month, India will open their campaign against Malaysia, aiming to claim a record fourth title. They have won the last two editions, held in Ranchi and Rajgir, and are currently level with South Korea as the most successful teams in the competition, with three titles each.The year has been particularly rewarding for the Indian women's team under chief coach Sjoerd Marijne. They qualified for the World Cup through the qualifiers in Hyderabad, won the FIH Women's Nations Cup in Auckland to earn promotion to the Pro League and finished fifth at the World Cup in Belgium, their best result in the tournament since 1974.

Haaland's late penalty sends Norway into Nations League quarterfinals

United News Of India

BERLIN, NOV 18 :Haaland converted a stoppage-time penalty as Norway rallied from twogoals down to beat Denmark 3-2 and secure a place in the UEFA Nations League quarterfinals, while defending champion Portugal defeated Wales 3-2 to finish top of League A Group 4.

Norway needed a victory to overtake Denmark in the standings, while a draw would have been enough for the hosts to advance.

Denmark made a flying start on Tuesday, with Rasmus Hojlund opening the scoring from close range in the 11th minute before Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg doubled the lead with a header three minutes later.

Norway struggled to contain the hosts early on but gradually found its rhythm. Haaland had an

effort ruled out for handball before capitalizing on a defensive error in the 37th minute.

Denmark goalkeeper Mads Hermansen's poor clearance was intercepted by Martin Odegaard, who set up Haaland to tap into an



empty net and reduce the deficit before halftime.

Norway continued to press after the break and drew level in the 83rd minute when Odegaard scored from inside the penalty area. The decisive moment came deep into stoppage time when Denmark defender Joachim Andersen was penalized for handball inside the box.

Mandaviya calls for greater collaboration among sports universities

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 18 :Emphasising the need for greater collaboration, specialised expertise and resource sharing, union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has called for sports universities across the country to work together and emerge



as key centres of India's sporting ecosystem.

Addressing representatives of 13 sports universities at a meeting here on Wednesday, Mandaviya said closer coordination among institutions would

be essential to strengthening India's capabilities in sports education, research and training, while improving the country's global standing.

"Our vision is to make Sports Universities the hub of the entire sports ecosystem, where athletes, coaches, training, research, competitions, and world-class infrastructure are all developed together," he said.

The minister encouraged each university to build expertise in specific disciplines and fields, including coaching, sports science and research, while making its knowledge and resources accessible to other institutions."Every university needs to develop its own specific expertise - whether in a particular sport, coaching, sports science, or research. This will benefit the entire nation," he said.Stressing the importance of collective efforts, Mandaviya said institutions should move away from working independently and establish stronger networks for exchanging coaches, knowledge and resources."We will no longer work in silos. By integrating our efforts, resources, and expertise, we will build a strong, collaborative national sports ecosystem. Every Coach exchange, knowledge exchange, and resource sharing among universities will be promoted," he added.

He also urged sports universities to widen their academic and professional focus beyond producing athletes, identifying areas such as sports science, sports law and sports tourism as fields with significant potential."Sports Universities must not limit themselves to just athletes, but also develop sports professionals who can contribute to sports management, administration, and the overall sports ecosystem," he said.

Disha Santosh packs off third seed Adarshini in Junior National Championships

United News Of India

GANGTOK, NOV 18 :Karnataka's Disha Santosh upset third seed Adarshini Shri NB of Tamil Nadu while Maharashtra's Yashwi Patel got the better of seventh seed Nakshatraa Jairaj to reach the girls singles pre-quarterfinals of the 49th National Junior (U-19) Badminton Championships here on Wednesday.isha came from a game down to beat Adarshini 5-15, 15-10, 16-14 while Yashwi kept her nerves under pressure in a three game thriller against Nakshatraa to win 15-12, 12-15, 15-13. The girls singles competition saw quite a few upsets in the third round of competition as ninth seed Nishika Gokhe of Maharashtra, 10th seed Haasana Sree Mallavarapu of Andhra Pradesh and 15th seed Garima Kundu of Haryana were also knocked out.Gokhe went down 15-10, 20-18 against Gursimrat Kaur Chahal of Punjab, Haasana lost to Avni Govind of Telangana 15-10, 17-15 while Garima was beaten 15-8, 11-15, 19-17 by Avni Rathore of Rajasthan. Meanwhile, the top seeds in the mixed doubles competition were knocked out in the pre-quarterfinals. Karnataka's Amith Raj Natraj and Suhina .

Setback for Atletico Madrid as Lookman injury more serious than expected

United News Of India



MADRID, NOV 18 :Atletico Madrid winger Ademola Lookman is likely to miss the rest of 2026 with a knee injury sustained on international duty with Nigeria.

Lookman twisted his knee while playing against Tanzania last Friday. Although initial indications suggested the injury was not serious, tests carried out by Atletico have shown it to be worse than first thought.

"Ademola Lookman has suffered a high-grade knee sprain, which occurred during Nigeria's match against Tanzania on Friday, Nov. 13," the club confirmed on Tuesday.

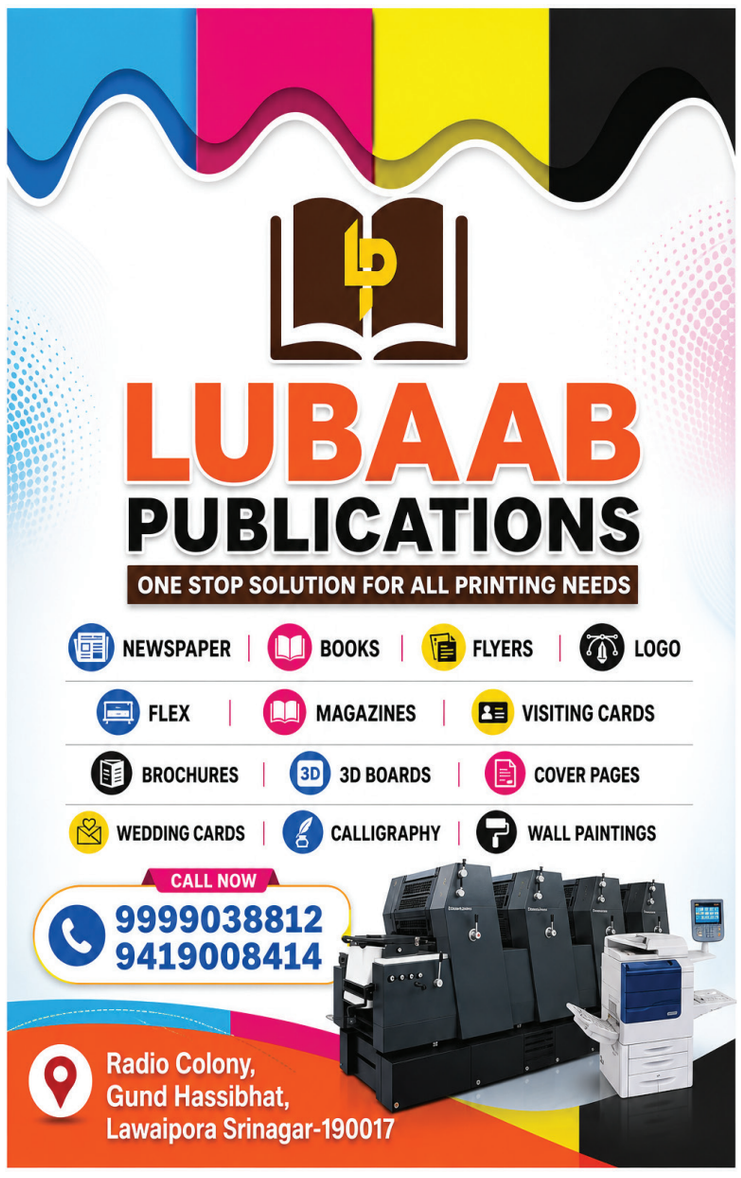
"Although the medical staff of the Nigerian national team initially reported that the attacker had suffered a mild sprain, the club's medical services examined the Nigerian footballer upon his

return to Madrid, in addition to carrying out further tests, and have confirmed the exact extent of his injury," Atletico said.

The club added that Lookman will "undergo physiotherapy sessions and rehabilitation work in the gym, and the progress of his injury will determine when he returns to competition."

Although no return date has been set, Lookman is likely to miss six La Liga matches against Getafe, Elche, FC Barcelona, Betis, Valencia and Celta Vigo, as well as Champions League fixtures against Viking and PSV Eindhoven and a third-round Copa del Rey tie away to an opponent yet to be determined, according to Xinhua.







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