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Voice To The Voiceless



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

NC a 'sinking ship', says BJP's Sat Sharma amid rift buzz

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, NOV 06 : BJP's Jammu and Kashmir president and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma on Friday described the National Conference (NC) as a "sinking ship", citing its recent electoral setbacks and reports of internal discontent within the ruling party.

Speaking to reporters in Jammu, Sharma, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the NC's performance over the past two years reflected growing public dissatisfaction.

"The fact that the National Conference has failed to deliver over the past two years is, in itself, an indication that it is a sinking ship. The party has lost two by-elections. In Budgam, the Chief Minister vacated his seat, but another political party won the election. In Nagrota, the National Conference forfeited its deposit. This itself indicates that the party is a sinking ship and nobody would want to board a sinking ship," he said. Calling the differences within the NC an internal

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UNESCO Recognises Kalhana's Rajatarangini, Kashmir's Historic Manuscript : Manoj Sinha

LG, CM hail inscription in Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register as recognition of J&K's rich intellectual and cultural heritage



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 6: The 12th-century manuscript of Kalhana's Rajatarangini, preserved at the Oriental Research Library in Srinagar, has been inscribed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register, bringing international recognition to Kashmir's centuries-old literary and historical heritage. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha described the recognition, alongside the inclusion of the Mahabharata and Arthashastra, as a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir and the nation, while Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the honour acknowledged the region's profound historical and cultural legacy.

Composed in Sanskrit by Kashmiri scholar Kalhana, Rajatarangini, meaning 'River of Kings', chronicles the rulers, dynasties, political developments and social life of Kashmir, remaining one of the most significant historical sources of the Indian subcontinent. The 12th-century manuscript of Kalhana's Rajatarangini, preserved at the Oriental Research Library in Srinagar, has been inscribed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register, drawing congratulations from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The recognition places one of Kashmir's most significant historical chronicles on an international register dedicated to preserving documentary heritage of outstanding regional importance.Welcoming the development, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha described the inscription of Rajatarangini, along with

>>> MORE ON P 02

NC Leadership Assures Action on MLAs' Grievances, Rules Out Party Split

Farooq acknowledges legislators' concerns as Gurezi says demands will be addressed in phases



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 6: National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday met a group of party legislators who had recently raised concerns over governance, organisational functioning and implementation of election promises, assuring them that their grievances would be addressed in phases. Acknowledging the concerns as genuine, Farooq said some issues would be resolved immediately while others would take time, firmly dismissing speculation about a possible split within the ruling party. Senior legislator Nazir Ahmad Gurezi also rejected reports of a separate group, maintaining that the legislators had approached

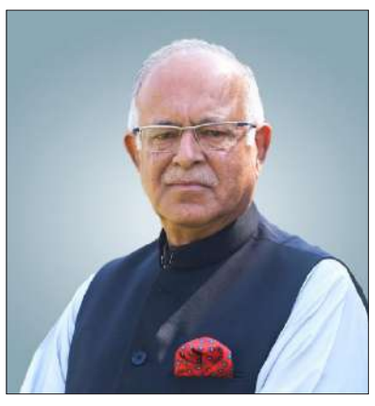
>>> MORE ON P 02



Congress Vows to Intensify 'Vote Chori' Campaign : Karra

Bhalla alleges BJP ignored Akhnoor-Rajouri railway connectivity project for over 13 years

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



AKHNOOR, NOV 6: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hameed Karra on Friday reiterated that the Congress would continue its campaign against alleged electoral irregularities, asserting that protecting voting rights was essential for safeguarding democracy. Addressing a party gathering in Akhnoor, Karra accused the BJP-led Central Government of undermining democratic institutions and alleged that more than 13 crore people had been deprived of their voting rights. He also reiterated the Congress demand for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, describing it as the party's foremost political priority. JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla, meanwhile, accused the BJP of neglecting the proposed railway connectivity project linking Rajouri and Poonch through Akhnoor and Sunderbani, claiming that it had remained pending for over 13 years. Other Congress leaders criticised the government over unemployment, rising prices and the hardships faced by economically weaker sections. Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC)

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IGP Traffic Orders Special Arrangements for Diwali, Winter Season

Officers asked to strengthen market regulation, identify vulnerable routes and ensure snow-clearance preparedness

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



JAMMU, NOV 6: Inspector General of Police (Traffic) M. Suleman Choudhary has directed traffic officers to put in place special arrangements for Diwali and strengthen preparedness for the approaching winter season, particularly in vulnerable areas of Kashmir and along national highways. During a review meeting, he stressed effective traffic regulation, accident prevention and congestion control, directing adequate deployment of personnel in busy markets and religious places. Reviewing winter preparedness, the IGP called for identifying landslide-prone and snowbound stretches, particularly along Qazigund, Mughal Road and Sonamarg, and ensuring the availability of snow-clearance machinery and manpower. He also stressed coordination with road-maintaining agencies and directed that vehicular movement be restricted on vulnerable routes whenever road conditions become unsafe. Inspector General of Police (Traffic), M Suleman Choudhary, has

>>> MORE ON P 02

Keran draws 55,000 tourists, eyes 1 lakh footfall this year

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 06 : The border village of Keran in north Kashmir's Kupwara district has recorded more than 55,000 tourist arrivals till November this year, with the administration targeting over one lakh visitors, including foreign tourists, in the near future.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that tourist footfall in the scenic Line of Control (LoC)

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ACB Books Former Naib Tehsildar, Patwari in Alleged State Land Grab Case

FIR registered over alleged manipulation of revenue records and wrongful occupation of government land in Jammu

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, NOV 6: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered an FIR against a former Naib Tehsildar, a Patwari and several private individuals over their alleged involvement in facilitating the wrongful occupation of State land at Gurha Brahmana village in Jammu. The case follows a verification

>>> MORE ON P 02

CIK Conducts Raids At Multiple Locations Across Kashmir In 2023 UAPA Case

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 6 :The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) on Friday conducted searches at multiple locations in Srinagar, Budgam and Anantnag districts in connection with a case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in 2023, officials said.

Officials said CIK teams searched residential premises in Srinagar and Budgam, while similar operations were carried out at two houses in Bijbehara and another location in Mattan area of Anantnag district.

The case, registered as FIR No. 07/2023 at Police Station CIK, invokes Sections 153-A and 505 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 13, 18, 18-A and 39 of the UAPA.

During the Srinagar operation, officials said, the premises of a graduate were searched. They added that the person's mother was deported to Pakistan on April 29, 2025, and is currently residing there.In Budgam, the search was conducted by a CIK team accompanied by local police

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HT BOTTOM NEWS

Haj 2027: Selected Pilgrims Asked to Deposit Rs 1.25 Lakh by November 30

Haj Committee warns of cancellation of allotted seats over failure to meet payment deadline



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

MUMBAI, NOV 6: The Haj Committee of India has directed all selected pilgrims for Haj 2027 (1448 Hijri) to deposit the second instalment of Rs 1.25 lakh per pilgrim by November 30, warning that failure to meet the deadline may result in cancellation of their allotted seats. According to a circular issued by the committee under the Ministry of Minority Affairs, payments can be made online through its official website or the Haj Suvidha App using credit cards, debit cards or net banking. Pilgrims can also deposit the amount at designated branches of the State Bank of India and Union Bank of India using the prescribed pay-in-slip and their unique Bank Reference Number. The committee said the third and final instalment would be determined after the finalisation of expenses in India and Saudi Arabia.

The Haj Committee of India has directed all selected pilgrims for Haj 2027 (1448 Hijri) to deposit the second instalment of Rs 1.25 lakh per pilgrim by November 30, warning that failure to meet the deadline could result in cancellation of their allotted seats.

According to a circular issued by the Haj Committee of India under the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, pilgrims can make payments online through the committee's official website, www.hajcommittee.gov.in, or the Haj Suvidha App using credit cards, debit cards or net banking.

The committee said pilgrims can also deposit the amount at any branch of the State Bank of India or Union Bank of India through the prescribed pay-in-slip, using the unique Bank Reference Number allotted to each cover.It emphasised that the Bank Reference Number must

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Rain, Snow Likely Across J&K from November 10 : MeT

Light to moderate precipitation expected on November 12–13; farmers advised to complete harvesting by November 10



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 6: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir until November 9, followed by a spell of rain and snowfall over several parts of the Union Territory. According to the forecast, generally cloudy conditions with light rain at scattered to many places and light snowfall over higher reaches are likely on November 10 and 11, with precipitation expected to begin from late evening on November 10. Light to moderate rain at many places and snowfall over higher reaches are likely on November 12 and 13

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Continue from Front Page.....

NC a 'sinking

matter, Sharma said the resentment among some legislators was understandable as, according to him, the government had failed to address public grievances and meet expectations.

"Even the MLAs feel that by remaining part of a political party that has failed to live up to people's expectations and address their grievances, they risk being sidelined. People have faced difficulties and hardships, and their concerns have not been addressed. They know the party could be pushed to the margins and, therefore, their anger is justified," he said.

Sharma also targeted NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah over his recent remarks on Pakistan and Kashmir, accusing him of making such statements to remain politically relevant and appeal to his vote bank.

"Dr Farooq Abdullah always tries to remain in the limelight. He knows that Article 370 has been buried and Article 35A has been abolished, but for the sake of vote-bank politics, he continues to make such statements," Sharma said.

He reiterated that the BJP-led Centre would not restore Articles 370 and 35A and claimed that people had understood the political intent behind such remarks and would respond accordingly—(KNO)

UNESCO Recognises

the Mahabharata and Arthashastra, as a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir and the country.

"Proud moment for Jammu Kashmir & the nation! Kalha?a's Rajatarangini, Mahabharata & Arthasastra have been inscribed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register," Sinha said in a post on X.

He said the inclusion of Rajatarangini celebrated the Union Territory's rich intellectual heritage.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also congratulated the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the international recognition, describing it as an acknowledgement of the region's profound historical and cultural legacy.

The Chief Minister said the manuscript, preserved at the Oriental Research Library in Srinagar, represented an invaluable repository of Kashmir's historical and cultural traditions.

He observed that the recognition underscored the importance of safeguarding the region's documentary heritage for future generations.

Composed by the 12th-century Kashmiri scholar Kalhana, Rajatarangini, meaning "River of Kings", chronicles the history of Kashmir's rulers and dynasties, offering accounts of political developments, society and governance across different periods.

Written in Sanskrit, the work occupies a distinctive place in the historical literature of the Indian subcontinent and remains an important source for understanding Kashmir's early history.

UNESCO's Memory of the World programme seeks to preserve documentary heritage, improve public access to historically significant records and promote awareness of their cultural and intellectual value.

The inclusion of Rajatarangini in the Asia-Pacific Regional Register marks an important recognition of Kashmir's centuries-old literary and historiographical traditions. (KNS)

NC Leadership

the leadership through established party channels. The meeting followed an eight-point memorandum seeking time-bound implementation of the 2024 election manifesto, cabinet restructuring, greater consultation in decision-making, organisational reforms and restoration of statehood and special constitutional status. However, no specific decisions on the demands were announced.

A group of National Conference legislators, whose recent meetings and demands for changes in the party and government had sparked speculation about internal differences, met party president Dr Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday, with the leadership acknowledging their grievances and assuring that steps would be taken to address them.

The meeting came days after the legislators submitted an eight-point memorandum to the party leadership, seeking time-bound implementation of election promises, organisational reforms, greater consultation in decision-making and changes in the functioning of the government.

Speaking to Kashmir News Service (KNS) after the meeting, Dr Farooq Abdullah acknowledged that the concerns raised by the legislators were genuine and said the leadership had heard them in detail.

"We have spoken to them. Their problems were genuine and they were heard properly. We will take some steps quickly and some steps slowly," Abdullah said.

He said efforts would be made to strengthen both the party organisation and the government to ensure that public grievances were addressed effectively.

Rejecting reports of a possible rebellion or split within the ruling party, Abdullah asserted that the National Conference remained united.

"The news that a split is taking place in the National Conference is completely baseless. This community is organised, and those who think they can break it should remember that it has never been broken and never will be," he said.

Senior NC legislator Nazir Ahmad Gurezi, who was among those who met the leadership, also dismissed speculation about the formation of a separate group within the party.

"We are the legislators of the National Conference. We come to our party leadership every time with our issues," Gurezi said.

He said a recent gathering of legislators had been portrayed on social media as an attempt to form a separate political group.

"There was no party. There were some issues that we brought in front of the Honorable Chief Minister and Honorable Farooq," he said.

Gurezi said the leadership had assured the legislators that some issues would be resolved immediately while others would be addressed gradually.

The developments followed a meeting of NC legislators at the residence of Lolab MLA Qaiser Jamsheed Lone, after which an eight-point memorandum was submitted to Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah.

The memorandum sought implementation of the party's 2024 election manifesto within a defined timeframe, restoration of statehood and special status, and implementation of assurances made during an earlier meeting at Dachigam.

The legislators also sought cabinet restructuring, changes in ministerial portfolios, removal of the Chief Minister's adviser, constitution of a four-member consultative advisory group and reforms in the party's organisational and media structures.

They had expressed concern that several issues discussed at the Dachigam meeting had not been acted upon despite assurances from the leadership.

The legislators' meetings had assumed significance following the recent cabinet expansion, amid reports of dissatisfaction among some party MLAs over representation and the functioning of the government.

Friday's meeting provided an opportunity for the legislators to directly convey their concerns to the party's top leadership.

However, no specific decisions on cabinet restructuring or other demands were announced following the interaction.

Meanwhile, Farooq Abdullah reiterated the National Conference's commitment to pursuing restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and special constitutional status.

"Our fight for the restoration of statehood will continue. Our fight for Article 370 and Article 35A will also continue, and, God willing, we will take the matter to the Supreme Court," he said.

The meeting comes amid growing demands within the National Conference for greater consultation between the party leadership and its legislators and faster implementation of commitments made to the people during the Assembly elections.

While the leadership has acknowledged the concerns and assured action, the legislators have indicated that they will continue to raise political and governance-related issues through the party's internal forums. (KNS)

IGP Traffic Orders

directed traffic officers to ensure smooth traffic management during Diwali and make advance preparations for the winter season, particularly in vulnerable areas of Kashmir and along national highways.

During a review meeting, the IGP stressed effective traffic regulation, accident prevention and congestion control. He directed officers to prepare special plans for busy markets and religious places during Diwali and ensure adequate deployment of personnel.

Reviewing winter preparedness, he called for identifying landslide-prone and snowbound stretches, particularly along Qazigund, Mughal Road and Sonamarg, and ensuring the availability of snow-clearance machinery and manpower.

He also directed officers to coordinate with road-maintaining agencies and restrict vehicular movement on vulnerable routes whenever road conditions are unsafe.(KINS)

ACB Books Former

initiated on a complaint by Sohan Singh, who alleged that despite purchasing one kanal of land under Khasra No. 65-min through a registered sale deed in January 2005, he was handed over land falling under Khasra No. 96, recorded as State land. The ACB's verification prima facie indicated that the then Patwari Babu Ram and Naib Tehsildar Ram Lal Sharma allegedly acted in connivance with private individuals and prepared revenue documents on the basis of an unauthenticated land sketch without proper verification of original records. A subsequent report by the Tehsildar, Jammu North, also confirmed the discrepancy. The case has been registered under relevant provisions of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act and RPC, with further investigation underway. The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered an FIR against a former Naib Tehsildar, a Patwari and several private individuals for their alleged involvement in facilitating the wrongful occupation of State land at Gurha Brahmana village in Jammu.

According to the ACB, the case follows Verification No. 02/2024, initiated on a complaint filed by Sohan Singh. The verification prima facie revealed that the accused public servants allegedly misused their official positions and failed to follow prescribed procedures, thereby facilitating wrongful gain to private individuals and causing loss to the complainant and the State.

The complainant had alleged that he purchased one kanal of land under Khasra No. 65-min through a registered sale deed dated January 17, 2005, followed by the attestation of Mutation No. 2229 on February 18, 2005. However, the verification revealed that the land actually handed over to him falls under Khasra No. 96, which is recorded as State land.

The ACB further found that the then Patwari Babu Ram and Naib Tehsildar Ram Lal Sharma allegedly acted in connivance with private individuals Chaman Lal and Ram Chand to prepare and issue revenue documents on the basis of an unauthenticated Dasti Khaka, without properly verifying the original revenue records and the actual position of the land.

The investigation also revealed that the private individuals, through their attorney holders Ram Pal and Kasturi Lal, allegedly executed the sale deed and handed over possession of land under Khasra No. 96 instead of the land covered under Khasra No. 65-min.

A report submitted by the Tehsildar, Jammu North, on July 10, 2026, also confirmed that the complainant was occupying land under Khasra No. 96, recorded as State land, and was not in possession of the land under Khasra No. 65-min.

Accordingly, the ACB has registered a case under Section 5(1)(d) read with Section 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, Svt. 2006, and Sections 120-B, 420, 467, 468 and 471 RPC. Further investigation into the matter is underway. (KINS)

Congress Vows

president Tariq Hameed Karra on Friday said the Congress would continue its campaign against alleged electoral irregularities, asserting that protecting citizens' voting rights and ensuring free and fair elections remained central to safeguarding democracy.

Addressing a party gathering in Akhnoor organised by newly appointed JKPCC Scheduled Caste Department chairman Ashok Bhagat, Karra accused the BJP-led Central government of undermining the electoral process and depriving citizens of their democratic rights.

Referring to the campaign launched by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Karra alleged that various forms of "vote chori" had been exposed and claimed that more than 13 crore people had been deprived of their voting rights.

He accused the Modi government and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar of facilitating electoral irregularities, alleging that manipulation of the electoral process had continued for several years.

Karra said the right to vote was fundamental to democracy and asserted that the Congress, along with like-minded political forces, would resist any attempt to undermine it.

Referring to the recent Congress rally in Delhi against alleged electoral irregularities, he claimed that the gathering reflected growing public concern over the issue and urged party workers to intensify their campaign.

Turning to Jammu and Kashmir, Karra reiterated that restoration of statehood remained the Congress's foremost political priority.

He accused the BJP of stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its statehood and other constitutional rights, saying people continued to face difficulties because of the prevailing administrative arrangement.

Congratulating Ashok Bhagat on his appointment as chairman of the party's Scheduled Caste Department, Karra praised his performance in the Assembly elections and said his academic and administrative background would help strengthen the representation of marginalised communities.

He also recalled the contributions of former legislators Pandit Dharam Pal Sharma and Madan Lal Sharma, describing the Akhnoor-Chhamb belt as a traditional Congress stronghold where the party would work to rebuild its organisational base.

Addressing the gathering, JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla accused the BJP of neglecting the proposed railway connectivity project linking Rajouri and Poonch through Akhnoor and Sunderbani.

Bhalla said the project had been awaiting clearance for more than 13 years and questioned the BJP's failure to pursue it despite its importance for the border population.

He said improved railway connectivity was essential for the development of the region and accused the BJP of ignoring the transport requirements of people living in remote and border areas.

Bhalla also criticised the continued delay in restoring statehood, saying people were caught between two centres of power under the existing administrative arrangement.

He asserted that the Congress would continue its struggle until Jammu and Kashmir regained statehood.

Former minister Mula Ram accused the BJP government of failing to address rising prices, unemployment and the concerns of economically weaker sections.

He said poor families and unemployed youth were facing increasing hardships and called for policies aimed at protecting their interests.

Mula Ram and Jammu Rural District Congress president Neeraj Kundan congratulated Ashok Bhagat on his appointment and expressed confidence in his organisational abilities.

Earlier, Assembly constituency in-charge Kuldeep Sharma and other local leaders welcomed the JKPCC president and thanked the party leadership for appointing Bhagat.

Among those present were Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, former MP T S Bajwa, former legislators Balbir Singh, Ved Mahajan and Hari Singh Chib, former ministers Yash Pal Kundal, former MLA Krishan Bhagat, Vijay Sharma, Hussain Ali Wafa, Ajay Lakhotra, Ashok Sharma, Sanjeev Panda, Bharat Priye, Mangal Bral, Baldev Bhagat, Latish Sharma, Vijyant Pathania, K P Singh, Amit Sayal and Ram Paul Sharma. (KNS)

Rain, Snow

, while partly cloudy conditions are expected on November 14 and 15. Meanwhile, farmers have been advised to complete harvesting and other agricultural activities by November 10 and ensure safe storage of harvested crops. Travellers and transporters have also been urged to plan their journeys accordingly and follow official traffic advisories.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir till November 9, followed by cloudy conditions and the possibility of rain and snowfall over the subsequent days.

According to the latest weather forecast, November 6 to 9 is expected to remain generally dry.

On November 10 and 11, generally cloudy weather is likely, with a spell of light rain at scattered to many places and light snowfall over higher reaches, particularly from late evening on November 10.

For November 12 and 13, the Meteorological Centre has forecast generally cloudy conditions, with light to moderate rain at many places and light to moderate snowfall over higher reaches from the evening or night of November 12.

On November 14 and 15, partly cloudy weather is expected.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Centre has advised farmers to continue harvesting and other agricultural activities until November 10 and ensure the safe storage of harvested crops.

Travellers and transporters have also been advised to plan their journeys accordingly and follow the traffic advisories.(KINS)

CIK Conducts Raids

and was underway at the time of filing the report.

The searches in Anantnag were carried out with the assistance of local police and revenue officials. (KNS)

Haj 2027

be mentioned on the deposit receipt to ensure proper identification and processing of payments.

The committee further clarified that the third and final instalment would be calculated after the finalisation of expenses in India and Saudi Arabia, with the remaining amount to be communicated to pilgrims subsequently.

Urging selected pilgrims to complete the payment process within the stipulated period, the committee warned that non-payment of the second instalment by November 30 could lead to cancellation of their Haj seats. (KNS)

Keran draws

village has been rising steadily year after year, reflecting its growing popularity as an emerging tourism destination.

Speaking at the inauguration of a heritage cafe and flag site in Keran, Sharma said the administration is focused on strengthening tourism infrastructure while preserving the village's natural beauty and unique character.

"Keran has already crossed 55,000 tourist arrivals till November this year, and we are aiming for a footfall of over one lakh, including foreign tourists. The increasing number of visitors every year is encouraging," he said.

The DC said the goal was not only to attract tourists but also to create an experience that encourages them to return and share their memories with others.Highlighting the Indian Army's contribution to promoting tourism in the border area, Sharma said it has consistently supported efforts to develop Keran and improve visitor facilities."Facilities are being created so that tourists leave with beautiful memories. This requires collective effort, and the Indian Army has always played its role in that direction," he said.Sharma said Kupwara's border areas hold immense tourism potential, which can be fully realised through coordinated efforts by civil society, the Indian Army, local entrepreneurs and the administration.

"We have tremendous potential and numerous opportunities. With a joint effort, we can make Keran one of the world's finest tourism destinations," he said.

He also urged travel enthusiasts to visit Keran and experience its scenic beauty, heritage and distinctive border-village charm—(KNO)

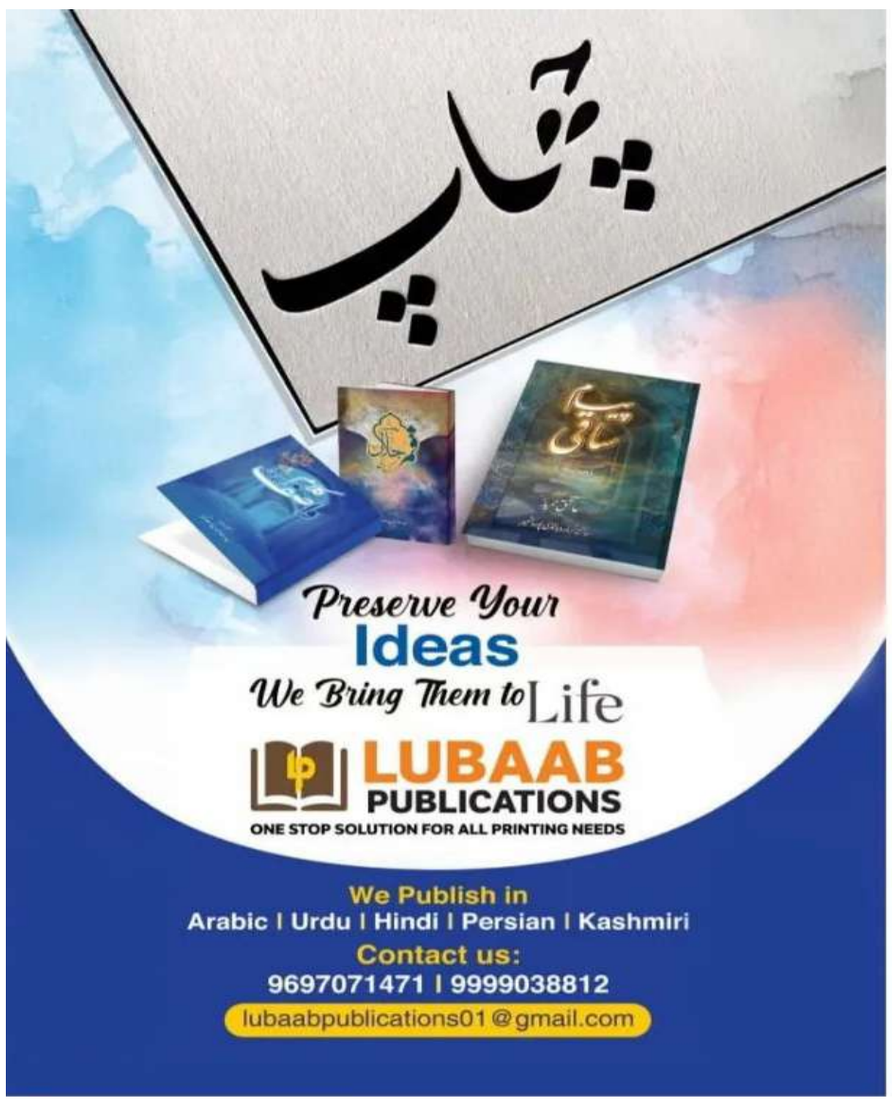
ACB Books Former Naib Tehsildar, Patwari in Alleged State Land Grab Case

JAMMU, NOV 6: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered an FIR against a former Naib Tehsildar, a Patwari and several private individuals over their alleged involvement in facilitating the wrongful occupation of State land at Gurha Brahmana village in Jammu. The case follows a verification initiated on a complaint by Sohan Singh, who alleged that despite purchasing one kanal of land under Khasra No. 65-min through a registered sale deed in January 2005, he was handed over land falling under Khasra No. 96, recorded as State land. The ACB's verification prima facie indicated that the then Patwari Babu Ram and Naib Tehsildar Ram Lal Sharma allegedly acted in connivance with private individuals and prepared revenue documents on the basis of an unauthenticated land sketch without proper verification of original records. A subsequent report by the Tehsildar, Jammu North, also confirmed the discrepancy. The case has been registered under relevant provisions of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act and RPC, with further investigation underway. The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered an FIR against a former Naib Tehsildar, a Patwari and several private individuals for their alleged involvement in facilitating the wrongful occupation of State land at Gurha Brahmana village in Jammu.

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The complainant had alleged that he purchased one kanal of land under Khasra No. 65-min through a registered sale deed dated January 17, 2005, followed by the attestation of Mutation No. 2229 on February 18, 2005. However, the verification revealed that the land actually handed over to him falls under Khasra No. 96, which is recorded as State land.The ACB further found that the then Patwari Babu Ram and Naib Tehsildar Ram Lal Sharma allegedly acted in connivance with private individuals Chaman Lal and Ram Chand to prepare and issue revenue documents on the basis of an unauthenticated Dasti Khaka, without properly verifying the original revenue records and the actual position of the land.

The investigation also revealed that the private individuals, through their attorney holders Ram Pal and Kasturi Lal, allegedly executed the sale deed and handed over possession of land under Khasra No. 96 instead of the land covered under Khasra No. 65-min.A report submitted by the Tehsildar, Jammu North, on July 10, 2026, also confirmed that the complainant was occupying land under Khasra No. 96, recorded as State land, and was not in possession of the land under Khasra No. 65-min.Accordingly, the ACB has registered a case under Section 5(1)(d) read with Section 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, Svt. 2006, and Sections 120-B, 420, 467, 468 and 471 RPC. Further investigation into the matter is underway. (KINS)



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DC Pulwama reviews progress of AIIMS Awantipora

Calls for strengthening biomedical waste disposal mechanism, timely completion of critical infrastructure, and employment opportunities for qualified local youth

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a meeting at the District Administrative Complex, Pulwama, to review the progress of the AIIMS Awantipora project, assess the status of essential infrastructure and address issues requiring inter-departmental coordination for its operationalisation.

During the meeting, the Executive Director, AIIMS Awantipora, briefed the chair about the progress achieved and highlighted various issues requiring intervention and coordination. The meeting discussed the additional land requirement for the project, power and water supply, CCTV installation, operationalisation of lifts and other vital installations, besides transport and road connectivity arrangements.

Regarding the additional land requirement, ADC Awantipora informed the meeting that approximately 300 kanals of land have already been identified and the case forwarded to the competent authority for necessary action.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements for seamless vehicular movement from the National Highway to the AIIMS main gate, internal transportation and adequate parking facilities.

It was apprised that arrangements for transport facilities had been finalised, while internal transportation arrangements are being made by the executing agency. The DC advised the executing agency to explore the provision of two buses under its CSR initiative to facilitate internal transport within the campus. He also stressed the need for effective traffic regulation and prevention of indiscriminate parking along the approach road. The issue of macadamisation of the approach road leading to the electricity receiving station was also taken up with the executing agency for necessary action.

The chair was further informed that the police station within the AIIMS premises is ready for handover. The meeting decided that the police station would be formally taken over next week.

Reviewing the arrangements for commencement of healthcare services, the DC directed the executing agency to put in place a well-structured biomedical waste management and disposal mechanism. He also advised exploring the feasibility of constructing an emergency helipad within the premises to facilitate emergency medical response.

Emphasising the project's potential to strengthen the local economy, the DC called upon the AIIMS authorities to provide employment opportunities to local educated unemployed youth, wherever feasible. He also stressed wide publicity of recruitment notifications to ensure that eligible local candidates are adequately informed and get sufficient time to apply.

Taking note of the sloping terrain and challenging winter conditions in the area, the DC sought details of the snow-clearance plan and measures proposed to prevent slippery road conditions. He directed the Mechanical Engineering Department to formulate a coordinated plan for the procurement and deployment of adequate machinery to ensure timely snow clearance and uninterrupted connectivity.

The meeting also deliberated on drainage, water harvesting and water inundation mitigation measures in view of the area's topography and the possibility of heavy rainfall and cloudbursts. The chair was apprised that a comprehensive plan had been devised to prevent waterlogging and inundation of the AIIMS campus and adjoining areas.

DC Ganderbal visits old Age Home Pandach

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today conducted a visit to the Old Age Home at Pandach, Ganderbal, to review the facilities and interact with the elderly residents.

The DC was accompanied by the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Ganderbal and other concerned officials.

The DSWO briefed the DC on the overall functioning of the institution and detailed the various welfare measures being implemented by the department for the care and well-being of senior citizens in the district.

During the visit, the DC inspected various sections of the facility, including accommodation, sanitation, healthcare services, and other essential amenities being provided to the senior citizens.

Interacting with the senior citizens, the DC enquired about their health, daily routines, and specific requirements. She emphasized the administration's responsibility to ensure a safe and dignified living environment for senior citizens.

DC Kupwara visits Machil Valley

Reviews Winter Preparedness and availability of Essential Supplies

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, today undertook an extensive tour of the remote and border Machil Valley to review winter preparedness, availability of essential commodities and delivery of public services ahead of the approaching winter season.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner chaired a comprehensive review meeting with sectoral and field officers at the Tehsil Office, Machil, to assess department-wise preparedness, including advance stocking of food grains, fuel, LPG, firewood and medicines, besides the status of power and water supply and readiness of snow-clearance machinery.

Emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts, the DC directed all departments to ensure adequate arrangements well in advance, remain stationed at their respective headquarters and maintain round-the-clock emergency response mechanisms. He stressed that no resident of the remote valley should face hardship due to heavy snowfall or disruption of road connectivity.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected Food and Civil Supplies stores to assess the availability and quality of essential commodities. He directed the concerned officers to maintain adequate buffer stocks to meet the requirements of the local population during prolonged winter road closures.

During the tour, the DC visited AGS Chountiwari Payeen, where he interacted with students and took stock of the facilities and academic environment. He also interacted with local residents, who shared their concerns and requirements. He issued on-the-spot directions for redressal of several grievances and instructed the concerned officers to resolve the remaining issues within stipulated timelines.

Arrangements reviewed for SSB Accounts Assistant Examination in Kulgam

■ HT News Network



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 06: Arrangements for the smooth, transparent and fair conduct of the J&K Services Selection Board (SSB) Examination for the post of Accounts Assistant, scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026, were reviewed today at Mini Secretariat, Kulgam.

A detailed review meeting was chaired by Member JKSSB and District Coordinator for Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather, wherein comprehensive arrangements to be put in place by the District Administration for conducting the examination at 25 centres across the district were discussed.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri, who is also the Chief Inspector for the examination, briefed the chair about the district administration's preparedness and presented a detailed overview of the centre-wise arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the examination.

On the occasion, District Coordinator briefed the officers concerned about the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be followed during the examination. He stressed upon strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines, ensuring transparency, fairness and foolproof arrangements at all examination centres. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that no laxity is allowed and all instructions issued by the SSB are followed in letter and spirit.

The meeting also held detailed deliberations on various arrangements, including seating capacity and infrastructure, electricity, security, videography and CCTV surveillance, strong room arrangements, transportation, deployment of medical teams, staff deployment and other requisite facilities.

The meeting was attended by ACR Kulgam, ASP Kulgam, Principals of Government Degree Colleges, District Information Officer, District Treasury Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer and other concerned officers and officials.

District Hospital Ganderbal gets Licence for PRBC to enhance availability of blood component services

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 06: In order to strengthen the healthcare services and improving access to safe and quality blood transfusion facilities, the Drug Control Organization, J&K has granted a licence to the District Hospital Ganderbal for additional blood component facility viz Packed Red Blood Cells (PRBC), Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP), Platelet Concentrates, Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) and Cryoprecipitated Anti-Haemophilic Factor.

The license marks an important milestone in enhancing the availability of blood component services in the district Ganderbal and will facilitate better patient care particularly for patients requiring specific blood components during medical emergencies, surgeries and other critical treatments.

The initiative reflects the department's commitment to ensuring the availability of safe, effective and quality-assured blood and blood components through a robust regulatory framework and strict adherence to prescribed standards.

This development is expected to provide considerable relief to patients and their attendants in Ganderbal by strengthening local blood transfusion support and reducing dependence on facilities outside the district wherever services are available locally.

The Drug Department, J&K reiterated its commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure, ensuring compliance with statutory requirements and facilitating improved access to essential healthcare services for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

DC Anantnag reviews arrangements for Accounts Assistant Examination

Instructs Officers to ensure Proper arrangements for Smooth, Fair and Transparent Conduct of Examination

■ HT News Network



ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a review meeting to assess the preparedness and finalise arrangements for the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the OMR-based written examination for the post of Accounts Assistant in the Finance Department, scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026.

During the meeting, it was informed that 43 designated examination centres have been established across the district, where approximately 12,500 candidates are expected to appear in the examination.

The DC reviewed the arrangements being made by various departments and instructed the concerned officers to ensure effective inter-departmental coordination for the peaceful and hassle-free conduct of the examination.

He took stock of the availability of essential facilities at examination centres, including proper seating arrangements, furniture, drinking water, electricity, heating facilities, sanitation, security, transportation, traffic regulation and medical assistance.

The DC directed the concerned education authorities and Centre Superintendents to personally inspect all designated examination centres and ensure that the venues are fully equipped and all necessary facilities are put in place well in advance.

He instructed to ensure strict adherence to the examination guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) prescribed by JKSSB, particularly regarding candidate verification, frisking, entry procedures and the secure handling of examination material and OMR answer sheets. He also directed the supervisory staff to remain fully conversant with their assigned duties and responsibilities.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed the designated Nodal Officers to maintain close coordination with their respective departments, regularly monitor the arrangements and ensure timely redressal of any shortcomings.

Emphasising collective responsibility, he instructed all concerned officers to work in close coordination and ensure that the examination is conducted in a peaceful, fair and transparent manner.

The meeting was attended by Member JKSSRB, Showket Ahmad Rather, Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC) Assistant Commissioner, Revenue(ACR) Sub-Divisional Magistrates, (SDM) Bijbehara Tanver Ahmad Tanver, Additional Superintendent of Police, Chief Medical Officer, officers from PDD and PHE, ARTO, DSP Traffic, Heads of Government Schools and Colleges, and other concerned district officers.

DC Shopian presides over Training Programme for JKSSB Accounts Assistant Examination at GDC Shopian

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, today presided over a training programme for officials deployed on examination duties in connection with the upcoming JKSSB Accounts Assistant (Finance) Examination, scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026, at Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner stressed upon all officials to discharge their assigned duties with utmost dedication, sincerity and responsibility, while ensuring strict adherence to the prescribed instructions and guidelines. He emphasised that all necessary arrangements must be put in place well in advance to ensure the smooth conduct of the examination in a free, fair and transparent manner.

The DC briefed the participating officials about their respective roles and responsibilities and highlighted the importance of effective coordination among all stakeholders involved in the conduct of the JKSSB examination.

The training programme was organised to familiarise Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, Centre Observers and Invigilators with examination-related guidelines, procedures and responsibilities to ensure the smooth and impartial conduct of the examination.

Master Trainers imparted detailed training to the participating officials, highlighting various aspects of examination management, adherence to prescribed guidelines, maintenance of discipline and observance of confidentiality and fairness throughout the examination process. Additional Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, Principal GDC Shopian, Tariq Ahmed, and other concerned officials were also present on the occasion.

DC Pulwama visits CSIR-IIIM Field Station Bonera Envisions Bonera Field Station as Centre of Excellence with Pulwama as an emerging Science City

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today visited the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Field Station at Bonera, Pulwama, to take stock of its research initiatives, technological interventions and contribution towards agricultural diversification, scientific innovation and farmers' livelihood enhancement.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Dr. Shahid Rasool, Principal Scientist and Scientist In-charge, CSIR-IIIM Field Station Bonera, who gave a detailed briefing on the various research activities, ongoing projects and achievements of the institution. Dr Shahid informed that research endevours pursued at the Field Station are in conformity with agrarian landscape of the region and the challenges faced by the farming community in light of depleting natural resources, climate change and weather extremes and post harvest risks.

During the visit, the DC took a detailed overview of the station's work in development of crop models and agro-technologies of medicinal and aromatic crops, saffron, floriculture, apiculture, essential oil extraction and advanced processing techniques for value addition. He was apprised of the station's initiatives in promoting scientific bee keeping and effective pollination practices and diversified honey production, including lavender honey, apple honey and other monofloral varieties, thereby creating an additional income opportunity for farmers and enhanced livelihood generation.

The Deputy Commissioner also took stock of the institution's pioneering work in tulip cultivation and indigenous bulb production. He was informed that the station has increased its tulip bulb production from around 25,000 to nearly 1.5 lakh bulbs, with further expansion underway. The initiative, besides promoting indigenous production of tulips, holds potential for developing a dedicated tulip garden and strengthening the district's floriculture landscape. The DC also reviewed the facilities and technological interventions related to plant biotechnology and varietal development of region-specific high value industrial crops including MAPs, essential oil extraction, research and value addition in aromatic crops, particularly lavender and appreciated the role of CSIR-IIIM in translating scientific technologies with practical agricultural applications.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated CSIR-IIIM's contribution towards promoting indigenous agricultural innovations and developing locally suited varieties and technologies. He said that the institution has demonstrated immense potential in transforming traditional agriculture into a high-value, knowledge driven enterprises.

He emphasised the need to further strengthen the Field Station as a Centre of Excellence, with greater focus on research, technology dissemination, farmer training and entrepreneurship development. He also stressed the importance of exploring convergence with the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) to extend scientific interventions and modern agricultural practices to a wider farming community.

Envisioning a broader role for scientific institutions in the district's development, the DC called for exploring the concept of a Science Village and positioning Pulwama as a Science City, where research institutions like CSIR IIIM's Bonera Station with its diverse and robust technology development and innovation ecosystem can significantly contribute in shaping the science and technology led development of the district by creating multitude of sustainable livelihood and income generating opportunities and can play a pivotal role in promoting scientific temper, encouraging young innovators and agri-entrepreneurs and making agriculture more remunerative.

BJP holds workshop for Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Abhiyan on 151st Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda

■ HT News Network



Jammu, 06 November 2026: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir organized a workshop on upcoming Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas (Tribal Pride Week) Abhiyan on 151st birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma accompanied by MP Ghulam Ali Khatana, General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra, Baldev Singh Billawaria and Gopal Mahajan, and ST Morcha president Choudhary Abdul Ghani addressed the workshop.

Sat Sharma, while addressing the workshop, announced that Tribal Pride Week will be organized on a broad social scale from 11 to 15 November. He directed the ST community office bearers, including the in-charges of all districts, to ensure that the main programme is held on 15 November to mark Tribal Pride Day. He said BJP J&K plans to hold programmes focusing on the tribal community's identity, culture and traditions, its contribution to the freedom struggle, and issues related to development. Describing Bhagwan Birsa Munda as a symbol of tribal pride, unity and resistance against injustice, he said the leader's struggle against colonial exploitation and social oppression continues to inspire the ongoing movement for the empowerment of tribal communities. He asked the ST Morcha to celebrate the upcoming Birsa Munda Pakhwada with great enthusiasm and grandeur, and to take its message to every village and household.

Ghulam Ali Khatana said Bhagwan Birsa Munda is not merely a historical figure but a symbol of India's civilizational resilience. He said Birsa Munda awakened a spirit of self-respect, cultural identity and nationalism among the oppressed, and that the struggle against injustice he led remains a guiding force for every Indian. He added that under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the nation is honouring Birsa Munda's contributions through policies that empower tribal communities and preserve India's indigenous heritage.

Choudhary Abdul Gani said Birsa Munda's life is a beacon of courage, sacrifice and service to society, and that it should inspire the younger generation to work for the welfare of the community and the nation. He added that the growing acceptance of the BJP in the region reflects the developmental transformation brought about by the Modi Government.

Sat Sharma releases special edition of BJP magazine 'Kamal Sandesh' on SIR

■ HT News Network



Jammu, 06 November 2026: Jammu and Kashmir BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma CA released a special edition of the party's magazine Kamal Sandesh, exclusively dedicated to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, at a function held at the party headquarters in Jammu.

The special edition was released in the presence of BJP General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra, Baldev Singh Billawaria and Gopal Mahajan, Publication Department Incharge Rajnish Jain and Department for Development of Literature Incharge S. Varinderjeet Singh, BJP ST Morcha President Ch. Abdul Gani.

The special edition contains informative articles, poems, columns and other writings highlighting the importance, objectives, benefits and significance of SIR in strengthening the democratic system.

Senior BJP leaders have contributed their writings and efforts towards preparing this edition to create greater awareness among the people.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that bringing out a special edition of Kamal Sandesh on SIR is indeed a commendable initiative aimed at educating the people about the importance of maintaining accurate, transparent and updated electoral rolls.

He said that every eligible citizen has the right to vote and it is equally important to ensure that electoral rolls are free from errors, duplicate entries and names of deceased or otherwise ineligible persons, following the prescribed procedure.

Sat Sharma said that SIR is an important exercise which can strengthen public confidence in the electoral system and help ensure free and fair elections. He stressed that genuine voters should not face difficulties and that public awareness is essential for the successful implementation of such an exercise. Appreciating the efforts of the Publication Department, Department for Development of Literature and all contributors, Sat Sharma said that literature and publications play an important role in spreading awareness and presenting important issues in simple and understandable language.

DC Udhampur chairs CLU committee meeting

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee on Change of Land Use to review cases submitted by applicants.

The committee examined a total of nine cases received through the online portal. After detailed deliberations, one case was approved.

The DC emphasised the need for timely communication of deficiencies to applicants. He directed the concerned officers to ensure prompt issuance of no objection certificates after thorough verification of the requisite documents.

He further instructed the officers to conduct joint site inspections and verify geo-coordinates of the sites before granting approvals to ensure transparency and compliance with the prescribed norms.

Among others, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Umesh Shan and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Altaf Bukhari bereaved as sister-in-law passes away

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Nov 6 (KNS): Apni Party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari was bereaved on Friday following the demise of his sister-in-law, who passed away at her residence in Sanat Nagar, Srinagar, after a brief illness. According to a party statement, senior leaders and workers gathered at the party headquarters in Srinagar to mourn the demise and express condolences to Bukhari and the bereaved family. The condolence meeting was chaired by Chairman of the party's Parliamentary Affairs Committee, Mohammad Dilawar Mir. During the meeting, party leaders prayed for eternal peace for the departed soul and expressed heartfelt sympathies with the family. They said the entire Apni Party leadership stood in solidarity with Bukhari and his family during this difficult time. Among those who attended the meeting or issued condolence messages were party Vice Presidents Javaid Mustafa Mir and Mohammad Syed Akhoon, General Secretary Rafi Ahmad Mir, Additional General Secretary Hilal Ahmad Shah, Chief Coordinator Abdul Majeed Padder, Provincial President Kashmir Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Chief Spokesperson Muntazir Mohiuddin.

Director, NIELIT Ladakh, Shri Puntsog Toldan, Meets Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Shri Rakesh Kumar, IAS

■ HT News Network



Leh, NOVEMBER 06: Director, National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) Ladakh, Shri Puntsog Toldan, held a meeting with the Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Shri Rakesh Kumar, IAS, to discuss the progress, achievements, ongoing activities and future initiatives of NIELIT Kargil.

During the meeting, the Director briefed the Deputy Commissioner about various skill development programmes, short-term training courses, AI Courses digital literacy initiatives, and other educational and technical activities being undertaken by NIELIT Kargil for the benefit of students and youth of the region.

A key point of discussion was the upcoming Mega Job Fair Mela, proposed to be organised in December 2026 at Kargil. The event aims to provide a common platform for local youth, job seekers, employers and recruiting organisations, creating opportunities for employment, career guidance and professional development.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the initiatives and efforts of NIELIT Ladakh in promoting digital education, technical skills and employment opportunities in the region. He also discussed the importance of strengthening coordination and cooperation among various departments and stakeholders for the successful implementation of such initiatives.

The meeting concluded with a positive outlook towards further strengthening NIELIT's role in skill development, capacity building and employment generation in the Kargil district.

Army Public School Miran Sahib Hosts Alumni Meet

■ HT News Network

Miran Sahib: 06 Nov 2026

"Rekindling old bonds, revisiting cherished memories, and celebrating lifelong connections."Army Public School (APS) Miran Sahib hosted 'Reminiscence–26', its much-anticipated Alumni Meet, on 6 November 2026, bringing together former students and teachers for a memorable celebration of nostalgia, camaraderie and enduring bonds. The occasion provided a cherished opportunity for alumni to reconnect with their alma mater, revisit the defining moments of their school years and celebrate the lifelong connections forged within its walls. The event was graced by Mrs. Lavinder Kaur, former Principal, APS Miran Sahib, as the Chief Guest. The programme commenced with a welcome address, followed by the digital inauguration of the ceremony, symbolising the harmonious confluence of tradition, innovation and the enduring spirit of the institution.

A particularly significant aspect of the occasion was the presence of former teachers, whose dedication, guidance and unwavering commitment had played an instrumental role in shaping generations of students. Their contribution extended far beyond the classroom, laying the foundation of knowledge, character and values that continue to guide their students through life. Inviting them was a heartfelt gesture of gratitude and recognition, providing an opportunity for alumni to reconnect with their mentors.

Congress has started its own 'Congress Clean Abhiyan': Bali Bhagat mocks suspension of IYC workersg

■ HT News Network

Jammu: Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat today launched a sharp and sarcastic attack on the Congress leadership over the suspension of its own Youth Congress office-bearers for failing to attend the INDIA bloc rally held at Ramlila Maidan, New Delhi, on November 1. Taking a jibe at the Congress leadership, Bhagat remarked that the party seems to have launched its own 'Congress Clean Abhiyan', where instead of winning over disgruntled workers, it is busy cleaning its own organisation by suspending those who do not fall in line with the leadership's instructions. "Congress leaders are busy dreaming of winning the hearts of 140 crore Indians, but they have apparently forgotten how to win the hearts of their own party workers. If they cannot convince their own leaders and grassroots workers to attend a rally voluntarily, how do they expect the people of India to rally behind them?" Bhagat quipped. Taking a direct swipe at Rahul Gandhi, Bhagat said, "Rahul Gandhi keeps talking about democracy, protecting institutions and saving the Constitution, but what kind of democracy.

BJP celebrates Deepawali with religious fervour, Sat Sharma calls for peace, prosperity and collective well-being

■ HT News Network

Jammu, 06 November 2026:

J&K BJP celebrated the auspicious festival of Deepawali with religious fervour and traditional enthusiasm at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Senior party leaders participated in special Pooja rituals, praying for peace, prosperity, happiness and the well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the entire nation.

J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA), accompanied by MP Lok Sabha Jugal Kishore Sharma, former Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Nirmal Singh, Rajya Sabha MP Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana, MLAs Prof. Gharu Ram and Ch. Vikram Randhawa, and other senior leaders, participated in the religious ceremonies.

Sat Sharma, addressing on the occasion, extended warm Deepawali greetings to the people, emphasizing that the festival symbolizes the eternal victory of light over darkness, truth over falsehood and good over evil. He said that Deepawali is not merely a festival of celebrations but a reminder of India's glorious civilizational values, spiritual traditions and the strength of its cultural heritage. He called upon everyone to celebrate the occasion with harmony, compassion and a renewed commitment towards social unity and national progress. He further expressed hope that the festival would bring happiness, prosperity and new opportunities to every household.

Jugal Kishore Sharma said that Deepawali represents India's timeless cultural ethos and reinforces the values of family, togetherness and mutual affection. He urged people to celebrate the festival while preserving its rich traditions and spreading happiness among



the less privileged.

Dr. Nirmal Singh said that Deepawali holds immense spiritual significance as it inspires society to overcome negativity and move towards righteousness, knowledge and enlightenment. He stressed the importance of preserving India's cultural identity and passing its traditions to future generations.

Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana said that the festival conveys the universal message of brotherhood, peace and collective prosperity. He appealed to people to strengthen social harmony and contribute towards building a progressive and united society.

J&K BJP Vice Presidents Priya Sethi, Rajeev Charak, and Rekha Mahajan, General Secretaries Baldev Singh Billawaria, Sanjita Dogra, and Gopal Mahajan, Former MLC Ashok Khajuria, former MLAs Sharm Choudhary, and Ashwani Sharma, former MLC Charanjit Khalsa, Secretaries Reema Padha and Pawan Sharma, Treasurer Prabhat Singh Jamwal, Chief Spokesperson Sr Adv Sunil Sethi, Office Secretary Tilak Raj Gupta, Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, District Presidents Naresh Jasrotia, and Adv Rajesh Gupta, Morcha Presidents Dharminder Kumar, Neha Mahajan, and Rakesh Pant, Spokespersons Purnima Sharma, Dr Tahir Chowdhary, Balbir Ram Rattan, Dr Abhijit Jasrotia, and others were present on the occasion.

NIT Srinagar faculty deliver invited talks on Semiconductor, Neuromorphic Technologies at EU-India Conference

■ HT News Network



Srinagar, Nov 6: Research initiatives in semiconductor and emerging digital technologies being pursued at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar were highlighted through invited talks at the EU-India Digital Cooperation Conference 2026, held at South Asian University, New Delhi, on November 2 and 3.Dr. Sheikh Aamir Ahsan and Dr. Arshid Nisar, faculty members of the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering at NIT Srinagar, delivered the invited talks, presenting their ongoing research in two emerging areas: Power Gallium Nitride (GaN) technology for electric vehicles and AI data centres, and neuromorphic computing using spintronic devices.

The talks were delivered under the framework of INPACE, a Horizon Europe-funded project aimed at strengthening cooperation between the European Union and Indo-Pacific countries in semiconductor and digital technologies.Dr. Sheikh Aamir Ahsan presented his research on Power GaN technology and compact modelling for applications in electric vehicles and AI data centres, highlighting ongoing research at NIT Srinagar aimed at advancing next-generation power electronics and semiconductor applications.Dr. Arshid Nisar spoke on neuromorphic computing using spintronic devices, an emerging approach inspired by the functioning of the human brain, with potential applications in developing energy-efficient computing systems. His research is being undertaken with support from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, under the DST INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship.

The conference brought together experts, researchers and policymakers from India and the European Union to deliberate on cooperation in semiconductor development and digital technologies.Padma Shri Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Institute Professor at IIT Madras, attended the conference as the chief guest. The programme featured invited talks, panel discussions and an interactive working session involving experts from participating countries.

DC Shopian chairs Consultative Meet for Maiden 'Jashn-e-Hurud' Festival to boost Culture, Tourism, Local Economy

■ Farooq Rather



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 06: In a landmark initiative to foster community engagement and promote local heritage, the District Administration Shopian, led by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Charandeep Singh, held a high-level interactive meeting today at the Mini-Secretariat, Shopian.The meeting was convened for celebrating 'Jashn-e-Hurud', a first-of-its-kind festival planned for the district.The comprehensive consultative interaction brought together key stakeholders, including prominent members of civil society, traders associations, youth representatives and the media fraternity.Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that 'Jashn-e-Hurud' will mark a new dawn for Shopian by celebrating its unique identity, promoting local talent and bringing the community together in a festive environment. He stated that the festival is envisioned as a catalyst to spotlight Shopian's tourism potential and support local vendors, artisans and businesses.The District Administration assured full administrative backing for the event, emphasizing structured setups, robust media outreach and comprehensive security arrangements to make the maiden celebration a resounding success.Deliberations focused on collaborative planning to ensure the event serves as a vibrant platform showcasing Shopian's rich cultural ethos, scenic beauty and local enterprise.

Community-driven insights and suggestions were gathered during discussions with civil society members and trade unions.

AIIMS Jammu Doctors Perform Radiofrequency Ablation for Trigeminal Neuralgia in High-Risk Patient with Multiple Diseases

■ HT News Network



Jammu , Nov6: Doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Jammu, successfully performed Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA) for Trigeminal Neuralgia in a high-risk patient with multiple comorbidities, including diabetes, hypertension, chronic kidney disease and heart block.

The 72-year-old male patient from Samba district had been suffering from severe facial pain for almost 10 years and had consulted multiple doctors. Over time, the pain had become refractory to medications and was severely affecting his quality of life, as he was unable to eat or sleep properly. He presented to the Pain Clinic at AIIMS Jammu and was diagnosed with Trigeminal Neuralgia.Trigeminal Neuralgia causes severe, electric shock-like pain in the face that occurs multiple times a day, often triggered by simple activities such as eating or talking. The pain is so intense that the condition is also known as the "suicide disease".In view of his heart block, a pacemaker was first inserted by the Department of Cardiology. Performing RFA in a patient with a pacemaker requires specialised care, as the radiofrequency current can interfere with the device. The mode of the pacemaker was therefore changed accordingly, and the patient was kept under advanced haemodynamic monitoring throughout the procedure.The advanced interventional procedure was performed under X-ray guidance by Dr. Kanika Gupta, Associate Professor, Department of Anaesthesiology, Critical Care and Pain. Anaesthesia and advanced haemodynamic monitoring were managed by Dr. Jagriti and Dr. Disha.

GDC Vijaypur Organises Diya Decoration and Rangoli Making Competition on the Occasion of Diwali Celebration

■ HT News Network

GDC Vijaypur, celebrated the festival of Diwali by organizing a Diya Decoration and Rangoli Making Competition on 7th October 2026 under the aegis of the Cultural Committee.

The programme was organized with the support and guidance of the worthy Principal, Dr. Sanjeet Kaur. the Teachers extended their wholehearted support and actively participated in the celebration.

Students enthusiastically participated in the activities and showcased their creativity, artistic talent, and traditional skills through beautifully decorated diyas and colourful rangoli designs. the programme was coordinated by Prof. Ritu Bhagat (Convener Cultural Committee) and Co- Cordinated by Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (HoD English).

The Diya Making competition was judged by Dr. Arti Sharma, Dr. Manoj Heer, and Mr. Amit Sharma, while the Rangoli Making competition was evaluated by Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat, Prof. Meetu Sharma, and Prof. Sonia Devi

The celebration aimed to promote Indian cultural heritage, preserve traditional art forms, encourage creativity, and foster a spirit of joy, harmony, and togetherness among students.The Principal appreciated the efforts of the Cultural Committee, participating students, and faculty members for making the celebration vibrant and successful.The Principal appreciated the efforts of the Cultural Committee, participating students, and faculty members for making the celebration vibrant and successful.

DC reviews functioning of ICDS in Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 6: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi today chaired a meeting with officers of ICDS Department to assess the functioning of Anganwadi Centres and implementation of the nutritional and healthcare schemes.The meeting was attended by PO Poshan Subash Dogra, Chief Planning Officer, Uttam Singh, CDPOs and other concerned officials.At the outset, the Programme Officer Poshan briefed the DC about the functioning of Anganwadi Centres across the district and provided details regarding their activities and implementation of various departmental schemes.

Dhanwantri Jayanti celebrated with religious fervour at District Ayush Office Kathua

■ HT News Network



KATHUA, NOVEMBER 06: Dhanwantri Jayanti was celebrated with religious fervour and devotion at the District Ayush Office Kathua, here today.

Former Director Ayush J&K Dr. Suresh Sharma and Director EDI J&K Chand Kishore Sharma graced the occasion.The celebrations commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by traditional Pooja and Hawan performed by Dr. Rakesh Kumar, District Ayush Officer to invoke the blessings of Lord Dhanwantri, revered as the divine physician and embodiment of health and healing.

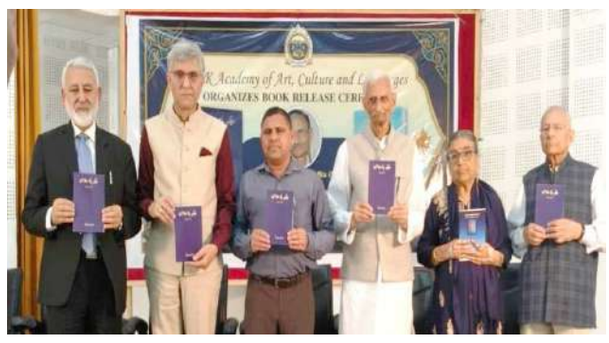
The occasion also highlighted the rich legacy and relevance of Ayurveda, which emphasises a holistic approach towards health, wellness and disease prevention. The celebration served as a reminder of the importance of traditional systems of medicine in promoting healthy lifestyles and strengthening public awareness about the benefits of Ayurveda and other Ayush systems.

The programme was attended by Medical Officers Dr. Des Raj, Dr. Bodh Paul, Dr. Rajesh Basotra, Dr. Nittan Sharma, Dr. Yash Paul, Dr. Jyoti Sharma, Dr. Shivani Mahajan, Dr. Ruby Ubbot, Dr. Ritu Bala, Dr. Mousami Sharma, Dr. Rekha Sharma, Dr. Sakshi Sharma and other staff members of the department.

The celebration concluded with the distribution of Prasad and collective prayers for the good health, prosperity and well-being of all.

Two significant books by Prem Nath Pandita 'Prem' released at K.L. Saigal Hall Jammu

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages today organised a literary function here at K.L. Saigal Hall to release two significant books authored by noted Kashmiri writer Prem Nath Pandita 'Prem'.The books released on the occasion were "Kamraz Sondar Buthraath", a historical work described as the first of its kind in Jammu and Kashmir and "Yali Yaad Pyavaan", a collection of Kashmiri Shayri reflecting the depth, beauty and emotional richness of Kashmiri poetry.

The function was graced by Syed G.M. Andrabi, (Retd) SSP, J&K Police; Manoj Pandita Sheri, (Retd SSP) and Additional Secretary J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages Lal Chand as Special Guests. The programme was presided over by eminent story writer and novelist M.L. Pandita.

The literary session featured scholarly presentations on both books. Piarey Hatash presented a paper on "Kamraz Sondar Buthraath", highlighting its historical significance and contribution towards documenting the cultural and literary heritage of the Kamraz region. A paper on "Yali Yaad Pyavaan" was presented by Vijay Wali, who dwelt upon the richness and literary significance of Kashmiri poetry.

Speaking on the occasion, the author, Prem Nath Pandita 'Prem', shared his experiences and inspiration behind the two publications. He emphasised the importance of preserving and documenting Kashmiri language, literature, history and cultural traditions for future generations.

Mementos were presented to the distinguished guests as a token of appreciation. The programme was conducted by Smt. Seema Pandita Kaw, while Kashvi Pandita delivered the closing remarks. A special musical presentation by Rishab Dorgee and his group added a cultural dimension to the literary gathering.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks by the author, who expressed gratitude to the guests, scholars, writers, poets and all those present for their encouragement and support.

The event was attended by a large gathering of eminent poets, writers, intellectuals and literary personalities, including Dr. Rattan Talash, Tej Sagar, Sham Bihari, Ashok Gavhar, Ashok Dilbar, Santosh Shah Nadan, B.N. Abash, Rajinder Agosh, M.K. Bhat, Dulari Pandita Durga, Babli Bhat, Rajinder Bhat, C.L. Pandita, Vinay Pandita, Naveen Chander Pandita, Deep Kumar Pandita, Ashok Pandita, Pawan Pandita, Meenakshi Pandita, Monika Pandita, Nisha Pandita Tickoo and Ishan Pandita, among others.

CUKashmir organises panel discussion on 'Hr Edu in India Post-NEP-2020: Challenges and Opportunities'

■ HT News Network

Ganderbal, Nov 6: The Department of Education (DoE), Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir), organised a panel discussion on 'Higher Education in India Post-NEP-2020: Challenges and Opportunities' at Tulmulla campus here Friday. During the programme, noted academicians and educationists deliberated upon the emerging trends, policy interventions, challenges and opportunities in the Indian higher education system in the context of the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020.

In his welcome address, Prof. Syed Zahoor Ahmad Geelani, Head, Department of Education, highlighted several issues confronting India's contemporary higher education system. He deliberated upon the role of National Research Foundation, the growing significance of digital learning and Artificial Intelligence (AI), the implications of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET), and the increasing concerns surrounding the mental and emotional well-being of students pursuing higher education.

One panellist, Dr L. V. K. Reddy, Registrar, Dr B. R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad, discussed the challenges facing government-run higher education institutions and their relationship with industry. He expressed concerns over the increasing commercialisation and privatisation of higher education institutions, highlighting the need to safeguard the public character, accessibility and quality of higher education in the country.

Another panellist, Prof. D. Harichandan, an educationist from Mumbai University,



discussed the positive implications of CUET in promoting a common admission framework. He highlighted the growing digitisation of higher education through initiatives such as the SWAYAM platform and underscored the facilitative role of AI-powered tools in enhancing teaching-learning processes, improving academic efficiency and strengthening the overall quality of higher education.

Addressing another dimension about the theme, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Patel, an educationist from Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, emphasised the importance of developing mental and emotional resilience among students in higher education institutions. He identified peer support, mentoring, professional counselling, career guidance, life skills education, digital awareness, inclusiveness and the promotion of self-employment as important strategies for addressing students' psychological and academic concerns and preparing them to meet emerging challenges.

The panel discussion was followed by an interactive question-and-answer session during which students and research scholars of the Department of Education engaged with the panellists. They raised questions and sought clarification on various issues concerning the implementation of NEP-2020, digital transformation, institutional reforms and student well-being.

Prof. C. Naseema, Dean, School of Education, proposed the vote of thanks. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Gawhar Ahmad Bhat, Assistant Prof. Department of Education, while Assistant Prof. Mr Reyaz Ahmad Wani was the rapporteur. Addressing another dimension about the theme, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Patel, an educationist from Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, emphasised the importance of developing mental and emotional resilience among students in higher education institutions. He identified peer support, mentoring, professional counselling, career guidance, life skills education, digital awareness.

HT EDITORIAL

A Major Boost to Healthcare: J&K Government Posts 306 Medical Officers

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has taken a commendable step towards strengthening the public healthcare system by ordering the posting of 306 newly appointed Medical Officers across the Union Territory. The decision reflects the Government's commitment to improving healthcare delivery, reinforcing medical institutions and ensuring better access to medical services for the people.

At a time when an efficient and accessible healthcare system remains a key public priority, the induction of fresh medical professionals is a significant development. The deployment of 306 doctors is expected to strengthen government hospitals and health centres, improve patient care and provide much-needed support to the existing medical workforce.

According to the Health and Medical Education Department, appointment orders had initially been issued to 335 candidates following the receipt of their Character and Antecedent Verification Reports from the J&K CID. Of these, 306 candidates submitted their joining reports within the stipulated 21-day period and have now been assigned their respective places of posting. The Directors of Health Services, Jammu and Kashmir, have also been directed to submit compliance reports within a week.

The Government's initiative deserves appreciation, particularly for its emphasis on translating recruitment into actual deployment. Timely placement of newly appointed doctors is essential for ensuring that available human resources are effectively utilised and healthcare institutions function with greater efficiency.

The decision also provides an opportunity to strengthen medical services in rural, peripheral and far-flung areas, where government healthcare institutions play a crucial role in meeting the medical needs of local populations. An equitable distribution of doctors will go a long way towards reducing the burden on major hospitals and making basic healthcare more accessible to people closer to their homes.

Equally encouraging is the Government's emphasis on administrative accountability and transparency. The direction to Drawing and Disbursing Officers to verify the authenticity of educational and other requisite certificates before authorising salary payments reflects a responsible approach towards safeguarding public resources and maintaining the credibility of government recruitment.

The posting of 306 Medical Officers should also be viewed as part of the broader efforts to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and human resources across Jammu and Kashmir. Continued investment in medical facilities, modern equipment, essential medicines and professional manpower will further enhance the capacity of government health institutions.The State Government deserves appreciation for taking this important step towards addressing healthcare manpower requirements. The initiative is expected to bring meaningful relief to patients and strengthen public confidence in government medical institutions.Ultimately, a strong healthcare system is built on the availability of qualified doctors, efficient administration and accessible medical facilities. By facilitating the deployment of 306 newly appointed Medical Officers, the Government has taken a constructive step in that direction. The people of Jammu and Kashmir will look forward to the positive impact of this initiative on healthcare delivery across the Union Territory.

A Life in Literature: Dr. Vijay Garg



Aubaid Ahmad Akhoon

Writers are not only those who write. They are those who observe society, understand human emotions, challenge conventional practices and inspire new ways of thinking. They are able to educate whole generations, raise awareness and act as a voice for positive change in society. As an educationist and writer Dr. Vijay Garg has dedicated large parts of his life towards educating, sharing knowledge and raising awareness.

Dr. Vijay Garg is an accomplished writer, educator, educator mentor and public servant having been born on 15 August 1962 in Fatuhi Khera, Punjab. He has an array of qualifications including an M.Sc, B.Sc, B.Ed, and Postgraduate Diploma in Statistics. This gave him a strong base of maths and scientific skills. He has had a long career as a Mathematics Lecturer within the Punjab Education Department spanning almost 20 years. He has also worked as a Principal. After retiring Dr. Garg still continues to engage with education.

Writing As A Mission

Dr. Garg sees writing as a mission to educate and inspire others. He has written thousands of articles in English, Hindi and Punjabi for national and international papers, magazines and educational resources.

His work covers a variety of topics including education, science, technology, the environment, societal issues, health awareness, career advice, human values and modern issues. His work always tries to inspire readers to think outside the box and understand how knowledge can impact everyday life.

He has regularly contributed to a publication called Junior Science Refresher. This has enabled him to share scientific concepts with an easy to understand format. He believes that science should not be seen as something reserved for the lab.

Diverse Writing

One thing that stands out about Dr. Garg's writing is how diverse his content is. He believes a writer shouldn't stick to one topic. He writes articles aimed at students, teachers, parents, policy makers and everyday people.

His writing covers many topics including changes to education, competitive exams, career advice, scientific breakthroughs, protecting the environment, empowering women, developing rural areas, public health and our social responsibilities. He also includes new technologies such as artificial intelligence and how they have impacted education, employment and human life.

He keeps things simple by making complex topics easy to understand for the average reader. He believes knowledge should be shared so it means something.

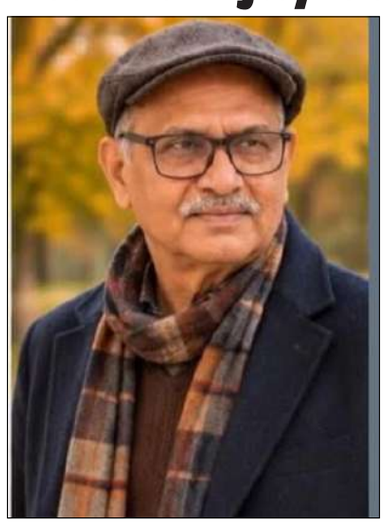
Vast Writing Portfolio

Dr. Garg has written over 150 books, including education, science, maths, career advice, competitive exams and general knowledge. The books aim to help make learning easy, practical and fun.

Some of his most well known books include Career Handbook, Most Influential Indian Scientists of All Time, The Hybrid Teacher, Visual Dictionary, From Failure to Success and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Practice Kit.

His books show his passion for creating educational resources for students of all levels. They also highlight his passion for helping rural students and those from economically weaker backgrounds gain access to quality resources.

His book 'From Failure to Success' contains



an important message. Failure should not be seen as the end of the road. It should be seen as a learning opportunity to improve and move forwards.

Contributions Outside Of Writing

In addition to writing Dr. Garg has created the New National Digital Library. This provides students with digital resources, competitive exam resources, books and academic support. He has also supported those wanting to take exams such as NEET, JEE, UPSC, IAS and Olympiads through academic WhatsApp groups.

He also acts as an Academic Editor for FnBWorld.com.

His contribution to literature was recognised in 2026 with the Surjeet Patra Award.

(Imphal Times +1)

The Philosophy Of Writing

Dr. Garg believes that a writer should challenge readers to think critically, create a scientific mindset, challenge damaging societal practices and inspire positive change.

He believes that without values education is not complete, without social responsibility science is limited and without practical applications knowledge is not important.

Throughout his writing he often reminds readers that change starts with awareness. Whether it be environmental damage, inequality within education, changing family dynamics, technological advances or human values, he tries to link personal responsibility with positive change.

Continuation Of Learning

Despite retiring from government work Dr. Vijay Garg has continued to learn, teach and write. He now has more time to fully commit to his literary work, education and awareness.

In a time where we have endless information but struggle to gain true understanding, writers like Dr. Garg help us realise the importance of responsible communication.

His journey shows us that teachers can continue to educate society even after leaving the classroom. Articles can become lessons, books can become guides and thoughtful sentences can inspire someone to change the course of their life.

The true greatness of a writer is not how many articles they have written or books they have written but how many thoughts they have inspired, minds they have enlightened and lives they have positively impacted.

Dr. Vijay Garg's journey as a writer shows his passion for knowledge, education and social responsibility. His pen is used to educate, his ideas to inspire and his writing to create a more informed, thoughtful and enlightened society.

About the Author
Aubaid Ahmad Akhoon is an educator, columnist, motivational speaker, and Associate Editor of Education Quill. He also offers modern home security solutions, including VDP and CCTV systems across Kashmir.
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Chrysanthemum: An Autumn Flower



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

The Kashmir Valley is blessed with extraordinary natural beauty, and every season brings a new charm to its landscapes. From the colourful tulips of spring to the lush green meadows of summer, the golden leaves of autumn, and the snow-covered mountains of winter, Kashmir offers a beautiful display of nature throughout the year. Among the many flowers that enhance the beauty of the valley, the chrysanthemum holds a special place. Known for its attractive colours, different shapes, and seasonal charm, this flower adds freshness and elegance to gardens, parks, and household surroundings during autumn.

Although chrysanthemums are widely admired for their beauty, their importance extends beyond decoration. They encourage people to develop an interest in gardening, promote environmental awareness, and offer opportunities for employment through floriculture. By nurturing a love for flowers, we can make our surroundings more beautiful while contributing to environmental protection and economic development.

Chrysanthemum: A Symbol of Autumn Beauty

Chrysanthemums are among the most popular ornamental flowers cultivated during the autumn season. They are available in a wide range of colours, including white, yellow, pink, red, purple, and orange. Their attractive petals and different flower forms make them suitable for pots, flower beds, parks, and decorative arrangements.

In Kashmir, the arrival of autumn provides an excellent opportunity to appreciate the beauty of these flowers. As the weather becomes cooler and the landscape begins to change, chrysanthemums bring colour and freshness to gardens. Their presence reminds us that nature continues to offer beauty even as the seasons change.



Every household should try to maintain a small garden with chrysanthemums and other seasonal flowers. Even a limited space can be transformed into a beautiful corner of nature with a few pots, suitable

soil, and regular care. Such a practice can encourage families, particularly children, to develop an appreciation for plants and understand the importance of protecting the environment.

Home Gardens: A Natural Source of Freshness

A home garden is more than a collection of plants; it is a source of peace, freshness, and happiness. In today's busy lifestyle, people often spend much of their time indoors or in front of electronic devices. A garden provides an opportunity to reconnect with nature and enjoy a refreshing environment.

Plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen through photosynthesis, helping maintain the balance of gases in the atmosphere. Trees and shrubs also provide shade, support biodiversity, and improve the appearance of our surroundings. Flowers add colour and fragrance, making gardens pleasant places for relaxation.

Kashmir is naturally rich in vegetation, including herbs, shrubs, trees, and grasses. Its mountains, meadows, plateaus, and riverbanks reflect the extraordinary diversity of the natural world. By developing home gardens, we can bring a small part of this natural beauty into our daily lives.

People should plant flowers according to the available space, soil conditions, and local climate. Those with larger spaces can establish flower beds, while people living in smaller houses can use pots and containers. The main objective should be to develop a habit of caring for plants and appreciating nature.

Floriculture: Beauty with Economic Value

Floriculture refers to the cultivation, management, and commercial production of flowers and ornamental plants. It is an important branch of horticulture that offers considerable economic opportunities.

The demand for flowers increases during weddings, festivals, religious occasions, official functions, and other celebrations. Flowers are also

used in landscaping, decoration, hotels, public parks, and commercial establishments. Consequently, floriculture can provide employment for growers, nursery owners, gardeners, flower sellers, designers, and transport workers.

Kashmir has considerable potential for developing this sector because of its suitable climatic conditions and the growing interest in ornamental gardening. Chrysanthemums, roses, marigolds, and other seasonal flowers can contribute to the local economy when cultivated and marketed properly.

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti
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The symbiotic bond between the Indian army and the Industry eco system towards finding indigenous solutions to combat healthcare requirements



By M S Nazki



MedTech Conclave: Driving Mrdical Excellence through technology innovation and enhanced patient care!

-Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Army Cdr NC visited MedTech Conclave organised at Military Hospital, #Jammu under the aegis of White Knight Corps.

-Bringing together medical professionals and technology stakeholders from across the country, the conclave featured live demonstrations, technical seminars and panel discussions on combat-zone patient safety, medical innovation and next-generation military healthcare.

-This initiative gave a unique opportunity to the Industry to showcase their products and align their pursuits in sync with the requirements of the field army. The scale of participation by the Industry reflected the symbiotic bond between the #Indian Army and the #Industry eco system towards finding indigenous solutions to combat healthcare requirements.

A story we will dish out:

-The fluorescent lights of the hospital basement hummed in a low, tired C-sharp. It was 3:15 AM, and Clara—a medical technologist (Med-Tech) with ink-stained lab logs and permanent circles under her eyes—sat cross-legged on a swivel stool, watching a chemistry analyzer glow like a miniature neon city.

-To the rest of the hospital upstairs, life and death played out in high-stakes drama: footsteps rushing down polished corridors, muffled code blues, and families weeping in waiting rooms. Down here, the drama arrived in little plastic tubes.

-A pneumatic tube hissed open near the wall, rattling a red-capped vial onto the foam tray. Clara picked it up. Name: Baby Boy Vance. Unit 4B. Stat CBC and electrolyte panel.

-She spun around to her console. For most people, a tube of blood was a messy, unsettling sight. For Clara, it was a silent language. She loaded the sample into the cell counter, her fingers tapping a steady rhythm against the edge of the workbench while the machine whirred through its internal choreography.

-The printer began to chatter, spitting out a strip of thermal paper.

-Clara's eyes scanned the numbers. Her breath hitched. The potassium was climbing past critical—dangerously high, threatening to short-circuit a newborn's tiny heart before the morning rounds even began.

-There was no hesitation. She didn't wait for the batch run to finish. Her fingers flew across the intercom keys, punching the extension for the 4B nurse station.

-"ICU/4B, this is Clara in Lab. I've got a critical potassium on Baby Boy Vance. Repeat: critical high. I'm pushing the flag to your terminal right now."

-"Got it, Clara," a voice rasped back, wide awake and tense. "We're moving on it."

-Clara exhaled, leaning back against the cold laminate of the counter. She pulled off her nitrile gloves, her skin smelling faintly of bleach and antiseptic. No one in room 4B would ever know her name. No plaque would bear her face, and the baby would grow up never knowing the quiet girl in the basement who caught the silent spike in his blood at 3:16 AM.

-She turned back to the rack, picked up the next barcode scanner, and fed the next tube into the dark, steady heart of the machine

-The History:

-The history of medical technology spans from ancient healing traditions and early diagnostic theories to modern digital and robotic healthcare systems.

-Ancient and Early Eras (Pre-18th Century)

•Folk & Spiritual Medicine: Early civilizations relied on a blend of ritual, superstition, and herbal remedies. Sumerians and Egyptians used willow bark (a natural source of aspirin) for pain relief over 3,500 years ago.

•Theory of the Four Humors: Ancient Greek physician Hippocrates (c. 460–377 BC), known as the "father of medicine," and later Galen advanced natural explanations for disease tied to bodily fluids (blood, phlegm, yellow bile, black bile).

•Early Instruments: Rudimentary surgical tools, trepanation (skull drilling), and early forms of acupuncture and pulse diagnosis emerged across ancient Greece, India (Ayurveda and Sushruta), China, and Egypt.

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CMYK

HT SATURDAY- GOSSIP ---

Short Story

Where Love Finds a Home



Yousuf Mir, Bandipora



(This story explores a bond that grows not from blood relations, but from care and affection.)

"Hello, Majid."

Sajid spoke into his phone.

"My friend, go to my house. There's a shoe rack in the veranda. On the third shelf, on the right, you'll find a red shoe. The house key is hidden inside it. Take the key and open the door."

He paused, then continued.

"Go up to the roof, too. Remove the sheet covering the cage and give both birds some food and water."

After a moment, he added, "Please make sure you do that. All right, I'll hang up now."

Sajid ended the call and slipped his phone into his pocket.

It was the evening of October 4, and the wedding was to take place the following day. Sajid had arrived a day early to attend the wedding of a close relative. Relatives and friends had gathered at the house, where preparations were in full swing. In one corner of the courtyard, food was being prepared, while chairs had been arranged nearby for the guests.

Sajid sat among them, with Sahil beside him.

The phone conversation had caught Sahil's attention. As soon as Sajid ended the call, Sahil asked, "Even here, you're worrying about home?"

Sajid smiled.

"Not about the house."

Sahil looked puzzled. "Then what?"

"I have two birds at home. I was calling about them."

"Two birds?"

"Yes, two birds."

Sahil smiled. "You care about them so much that even at a wedding, you have to make sure they get their food and water?"

Sajid looked at him.

"Of course. They're no longer just birds. They've become part of my home."

Sahil was quiet for a moment before asking, "Tell me how it all began."

Sajid leaned back in his chair.

"It happened about seven years ago…"

"One day, I returned home from my shop and found a tiny bird lying near the veranda. It had probably been attacked by an animal. It was terribly weak. When I picked it up, its little body was trembling."

He paused before continuing.

"I brought it inside, gave it some water and food, and treated its wound. For the first two or three days, I thought it might not survive. But gradually, it began opening its eyes and looking at me."

Sahil listened attentively.

"Within ten or twelve days, it had recovered considerably. One day, I let it go, thinking it would fly away and return to its own world. And it did fly away… but by evening, it was back."

"Back?" Sahil asked.

"Yes. It flew away again the next day, only to return once more. After a few days, I got into the habit of looking for it as soon as I woke up. Sometimes it was in the veranda, sometimes near the window, and sometimes on the roof."

A faint smile appeared on Sajid's face.

"Eventually, I made a small cage for it and named it Chinnu."

"Chinnu?" Sahil repeated with a laugh.

"Yes."

"And then?"

"Then I began to think that it spent the whole day alone. It needed a companion."

Sajid continued, "One day, I went to the market and saw a man selling different kinds of birds. There were brown ones, white ones, yellow ones… and among them was a blue bird. My eyes kept returning to that one."

"And you bought it?"

"For three hundred rupees."

Sahil smiled. "And named it Neelu?"

"Yes."

After a brief pause, Sajid said, "At first, I wondered whether Chinnu would accept the newcomer. But perhaps Chinnu, too, had been waiting for company. When I placed them together, they watched each other for a while. Then Neelu gave a soft chirp, and Chinnu immediately replied."

Warmth entered Sajid's voice as he recalled those moments.

"Before long, they were inseparable, as if they had known each other for years."

"Do they still live in the cage?" Sahil asked.

"The cage is their home, not their prison."

Sahil looked at him curiously.

"What do you mean?"

"When the door is open, they come out. Sometimes they sit on the roof, sometimes in the veranda, and sometimes inside a room. After a while, they return to the cage on their own. By evening, their chirping fills the whole house."

"Can you understand what they're saying?" Sahil asked.

Sajid laughed.

"Perhaps."

Then he added, "When Chinnu chirps for a while, Neelu answers. Sometimes, if one falls silent, the other goes and sits beside it. It feels as though they're having a conversation."

"What do they talk about?" Sahil asked.

Sajid thought for a moment.

"Sometimes, I imagine Chinnu asking, 'Who is truly our own?'"

He smiled gently.

"And Neelu seems to answer, 'The one who makes you their own.'"

For a while, neither spoke.

The clatter of utensils came from a nearby corner, and someone called out, "Tea is ready!"

Sahil glanced towards the voice, then turned back to Sajid.

"How did you become so attached to these two little birds?"

Sajid did not answer immediately.

"Perhaps because they never asked me what I was to them."

Sahil looked at him, waiting.

"I picked up Chinnu when it was injured. It didn't know me at all. I treated its wound and gave it food and water. Once it recovered, it kept coming back."

He paused.

"I had no connection with Neelu either. I brought it home from the market. Yet, within days, both birds had grown comfortable with me."

Just then, a young man passed by and placed a hand on Sajid's shoulder.

"Sajid Bhai, could you come over for a moment? There's some work to be done."

"I'll be there," Sajid replied.

The young man walked away.

Sahil watched him go, then asked, "Have you ever thought that we humans make the same mistake in our relationships?"

Kashmir Then and Now

The Changing Realities Catching Our Eye



Wani Arfat &
Dr Batula Rashid

The way of life in Kashmir was quite different in the past. People lacked many facilities, but there used to be a sense of affection and brotherhood. People used to sit together, neighbours would come to each other's places and children would play outdoors for long periods of time. People didn't need any invitation to go to someone's place; they could just visit them, have tea and spend time together. However, things have changed today; education, transport, technology and career prospects have advanced, but many of our old values are disappearing.

The biggest change that has taken place is the change in our language. Kashmiri was spoken in almost all homes, markets and areas in the past. In the present times, many parents feel like speaking English to their kids because they think it will help them in their studies and careers in the future. English is important, but we shouldn't forget our mother tongue. Many kids understand what their grandparents say in Kashmiri but cannot respond in Kashmiri.

Family life has changed as well. In the past, it was common to find grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts and cousins living together in one house. Children learned respect, sharing and patience from their seniors. Nowadays, small families have become common due to work, education and migration. Children today spend most of their time playing with their cellphones rather than being with their grandparents. In many cases, children continue playing with their cellphones even when their parents are sitting beside them. At times, they do not pay attention to what their seniors say. Dressing and behaviour have also changed among some of the younger generation. It is not the new dress and freedom of choice that are the issue, but decency and respect for family members.

The neighbourhood used to be close-knit. There used to be assistance among people during marriages, illness and tough times. When there was a marriage in any family, people from the neighbourhood used to help out. Now, when we have hundreds of people stored in our mobile phones, we don't even know about the things happening in the neighbouring house. It seems that now we have lost patience with each other. Minor disagreements turn into quarrels, and people tend to forget the importance of forgiveness and understanding.

Childhood too has undergone a lot of changes. Children used to play traditional games in the open fields and return home in the evenings. Nowadays, children use most of their free time watching videos and playing games on mobile phones. Social media is also making young children compare their clothing, mobile phones and lifestyles with others. We should also consider the absence of playgrounds and outdoor activities for children. Children need books, sports, friends and family life.



Our food, dress and hospitality reflect the Kashmiri culture. The kandur waan with fresh girda, lavasa, tsot and kulcha hold an important place in our life. In winter, the pheran and kangri are part of our household items. To sit together drinking noon chai or kehwa from a samovar is yet another tradition. The Wazwan brings families and friends together for marriages and other festivals. Rouf, Wanwun, Chakri, Bhand Pather and Sufiana music are other aspects of our culture. The poetry of Lal Ded and Sheikh-ul-Alam and sayings like 'Ann poshi teli yeli wan poshi' tell us about our history and our relationship with nature. Our culture should be taught to children in our homes and schools.

Marriage celebrations have also changed. Some people spend money beyond their means on clothes, decorations and food. Some even take loans out of fear of criticism from others. Marriage is a happy occasion, not a money-making one. Simplicity can also be beautiful. Relationships are more important than showing off.

Ramadan and Eid continue to be gatherings of people. People organize iftar parties, visit each other and help needy families. These kinds of events educate children about kindness, generosity and thankfulness. But these qualities should not be restricted only to such festivals. They should be followed throughout the year.

Education has brought many good things. Many young people have gone to colleges and universities, and women are showing their talents in fields like medicine, nursing, teaching and administration. Girls from villages are also getting chances to build their careers. But the stress of examinations, family pressures and uncertainty about the future put pressure on students. Stress, anxiety and loneliness should not be considered signs of weakness. Young people require understanding and professional assistance whenever required. Unemployment is yet another major issue that compels many people to migrate from Kashmir in search of jobs.

Drug abuse is yet another problem affecting the family and society. Instead of ignoring the problem and pointing fingers at those affected by it, what is needed is awareness, counselling, treatment and assistance. The youth should be motivated in sports, education and other constructive activities.

Village life has also seen some changes. Agriculture, horticulture and handicrafts have sustained Kashmiri families for years. Apple orchards, rice fields and walnut gardens are an important part of the rural life of Kashmiris. However, farmers find it difficult to cope with low prices or insufficient transportation and marketing facilities. Nevertheless, the good thing is that improved road transport, mobile phones and internet facilities have made things much easier. But traffic rule violations, roadside littering, plastic littering, water wastage and the cutting of trees are still major issues. The Jhelum River, Dal Lake, forests and mountains need protection.

There has been a change in our reading and spending habits as well. A lot of young people these days spend more time on social media than reading newspapers, books and magazines. Some feel sad because they cannot buy the costly items shown on social media. Information is shared without verification. We should promote reading, encourage local authors and educate our children about verifying information. Technology can help us preserve our culture by recording our old Kashmiri tales, folk songs and the experiences of our elders.

We cannot go back to our past, but neither should we ignore modern development. Education, employment, transportation and technology are required in Kashmir. But at the same time, we should not ignore our language, family relations, reverence for parents and teachers, respect for elders and proper conduct with others. We usually demand good manners from others but fail to practise them ourselves.

Kashmir will continue to change with time. What matters is that we do not lose the things that make our society special. Real progress is not only about better roads, buildings and jobs. It is also about caring for one another, respecting our traditions, helping those in need and protecting the land we call home.

Dr Batula Rashid is the Head of the Psychiatric Department at Ramzaan College of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, Galander, Pampore. Mohammad Arfat Wani is a writer, social activist and nursing student from Kuchmulla, Tral, Kashmir. He writes on social issues, culture and public concerns, aiming to raise awareness and inspire positive change. He can be reached at wania6817@gmail.com.

Collect Fees From Parents Seat Not From Child s Tears



BY-MOOL RAJ

A school fee is a parent's responsibility. A child's dignity is everyone's responsibility.

These two principles should never come into conflict. Schools need regular income to pay teachers, support their staff, maintain classrooms, and provide education. Parents, in turn, must understand that paying school fees on time is a serious commitment, not an expense to be pushed aside whenever something else appears more attractive.

But when a payment is delayed, who should answer for it?

The parent who manages the household finances—or the child who walks into the classroom carrying a schoolbag and trusting the adults around them?

The answer should guide every school's approach: speak to the parents, seek payment from the parents, and resolve the matter with the parents. Do not turn the child into a messenger for a financial dispute.

A Child Does Not Control the Family's Finances

Children do not decide how much their parents earn. They do not control a business setback, a delayed salary, a medical expense or the household budget. They cannot decide which bill is paid first.Get Parenting Tips

Yet a child can become the most exposed person when school fees remain unpaid.

Consider what we ask of a child when we say: "Bring the fees, or you will not receive your result." Or: "Tell your parents that you cannot attend class until they pay."

To an administrator, these may sound like reminders. To a child, they may sound like rejection.

A child may not understand the outstanding amount or the payment deadline. What the child understands is that something is wrong, that other children are being treated differently, and that their school place suddenly feels uncertain. Accept Payments

No child should have to stand before classmates and explain a financial problem they neither created nor have the power to resolve.

This Is Not an Argument Against School Fees

Let us be fair to schools. Enroll in Classes

Teachers deserve their salaries on time. Administrative staff and support workers have families and commitments of their own. A school cannot function on promises alone, and repeated non-payment cannot simply be ignored.

Nor should parents mistake compassion for permission to neglect their obligations.

Education must occupy a central place in the family budget.

Where there is a genuine choice between discretionary spending and school fees, the fees should come first. An expensive celebration, an unnecessary purchase or a lifestyle upgrade should not take priority over a commitment already made to a child's school.

If a family finds that a school's fees are no longer sustainable, the parents should discuss the situation honestly with the management and carefully consider affordable alternatives. Such decisions should protect the child's continuity of learning as far as possible—not become another source of blame or embarrassment.

Both sides are responsible. Parents must not avoid the school, and schools must not make children answer for their parents.

Firmness Does Not Require Humiliation

A school can be firm about payment without being harsh towards a child.

It can contact parents privately, send clear reminders, request a meeting, and explain the outstanding dues. Where a family faces genuine difficulty, the school can consider a realistic payment schedule or a clearly defined concession, according to its circumstances and policy.

Not every request can necessarily be granted. But every conversation can be conducted respectfully.

The important distinction is between recovering fees and using a child's discomfort to recover fees.

Publicly naming a child, repeatedly sending them out of class, threatening them over results, or making them feel unwelcome should not become collection methods. A fee dispute belongs in a private conversation between responsible adults—not in a classroom, at an assembly or at the school gate.

The child should not become the pressure point through which adults negotiate.

Compassion Must Be Practised, Not Merely Taught

Schools speak about kindness, empathy, respect and good character. These values appear in lessons, speeches and assemblies.

Their real meaning, however, is revealed in difficult moments.

It is easy to speak about compassion when everyone has paid on time. The greater test comes when a parent misses a deadline, asks for more time, or arrives with an uncomfortable explanation.

Can the school protect its financial interests while protecting the child's self-respect?

That is where values become practice.

A school's response can communicate two very different messages. It can tell a child, "Your family owes money, so you must feel ashamed." Or it can say, through its conduct, "This matter will be discussed with your parents. You remain worthy of respect."

The second approach does not erase the outstanding fee. It simply keeps the child out of a dispute that adults must resolve.

Parents Must Also Examine Their Priorities

An appeal to schools must be accompanied by an equally sincere appeal to parents.

Do not wait for repeated reminders before communicating. If there is a genuine difficulty, approach the management early. Explain the situation truthfully, propose what you can realistically pay, and honour the arrangement you make.

Do not make promises merely to postpone an uncomfortable conversation.

The Author Is A Regular Columnist And Freelance Writer

DDC Doda reviews progress of district plan (CAPEX) Works

Stresses timely execution, judicious utilisation of funds

■ HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER 06: District Development Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a review meeting in the conference hall of DC Office to assess the physical and financial progress of developmental works being executed under the District Capex Budget and various other funding components.

The DDC conducted a detailed review of the sector-wise and block-wise progress of works taken up under Tied and Untied Funds, Constituency Development Fund (CDF), Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC), BDC, PRI grants and other developmental programmes.



The DC inquired about status of administrative approvals, tendering, allotment, issuance of Letters of Intent (LOIs), commencement and completion of works, besides expenditure incurred in the current financial year.

The review also covered the progress of works under PRI, BDC and ABDP components. He also reviewed pending dispute cases related to developmental works and the issues requiring inter-departmental coordination. He stressed the need for timely resolution of such cases to avoid unnecessary delays in execution and ensure completion of approved projects within the stipulated timelines.

The officers were directed to closely monitor the progress, expedite pending formalities, ensure optimum utilisation of allocated funds and maintain transparency and accountability in project implementation.

Emphasis was also laid on adherence to quality standards and ensuring that the benefits of developmental initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries.

The meeting was attended by DFO, Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B), Superintending Engineer Hydraulic, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineers, EO Municipality, BDOs, CDPOs and other concerned officers.

Legal Services Week celebration

Exhibition-cum-Sale of products made by Jail inmates held at District Court Complex Janipur

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06: As part of the ongoing Legal Services Week celebration, District Legal Services Authority, Jammu under the guidance of Principal District & Sessions Judge (DLSA Chairman) Tahir Khurshid Raina and under the supervision of Civil Judge (Senior Division)-DLSA Secretary, Maleeka Sharma, today organised an Exhibition-cum-Sale of products made by the inmates of Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal and District Jail Amphalla here at District Court Complex.The stalls were inaugurated by the DLSA Chairman Tahir Khurshid Raina, in presence of Secretary DLSA Maleeka Sharma, Judicial Officers, Advocates, litigants and court staff.A wide range of products prepared by the inmates inside the jails, including candles, bedsheets, furniture items, bakery items and other handicraft items were displayed for the sale.

The exhibition aimed to showcase the skills of the inmates, encouraging their rehabilitation and reintegration into society and providing them a platform to become self-reliant. Judicial Officers, Advocates, Litigants, Court staff and public visited the stalls and purchased the items, thereby extending their support and encouragement to the inmates.

MC Rajouri introduces Face Authentication-Based Attendance System for Staff

■ HT News Network



RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 06: In a significant step towards promoting digital governance, transparency and accountability in public service delivery, the Municipal Council Rajouri has introduced face authentication-based attendance marking through the Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS) for all its staff members, including sanitation workers. The initiative has been taken under the directions of the Deputy Commissioner.Under the introduced system, employees can now mark their attendance through face authentication using the AadhaarBAS mobile application on their personal mobile devices. The system enables sanitation workers to mark their attendance directly from their respective duty locations/assigned wards, subject to the configured entry points and location-based authentication requirements. One of the major benefits of this initiative is that sanitation workers are no longer required to visit the Municipal Council office merely to punch their attendance on a conventional biometric machine.

Awareness events held in Khaleni schools, Market to promote Child Helpline 1098 services

■ HT News Network



DODA, NOVEMBER 06: Child Helpline Doda today organised an awareness programme at two Khaleni schools to sensitise students about Child Helpline 1098 and various issues concerning child rights, safety and protection.

The students were educated about the importance and functioning of Child Helpline 1098, which provides support and assistance to children in distress.The team highlighted key child protection concerns, including child labour, child marriage, child abuse, missing and abandoned children, children's rights, safety and protection, besides other child-related issues.

The team also conducted an awareness drive in Khaleni Market to reach out to the wider community. Informative pamphlets highlighting the services of Child Helpline 1098 and various child protection measures were displayed and distributed at different public places and outside schools to spread awareness among the general public.

The initiative aimed at encouraging students and community members to remain vigilant, identify cases of child rights violations and promptly report such incidents through Child Helpline 1098.

Health checkup, TB screening camp held at NTPHC Pranoo; 42 Hand-Held X-Rays conducted

■ HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER 06: A General Health Check-up-cum-TB Screening Camp was organised today at NTPHC Pranoo, Block Ghat, under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).During the camp, around 90 patients were screened by the health team for general health conditions and tuberculosis. As part of the active TB detection initiative, 42 on-the-spot hand-held X-ray examinations.

Addiction Treatment Facility established at DH Reasi to strengthen fight against drug abuse

■ HT News Network

REASI, NOVEMBER 06: In a significant step towards strengthening the district's efforts to combat substance abuse, the district administration Reasi has established an Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital under the special initiative of Deputy Commissioner Kumar Abhishek.

The facility aims to provide accessible, comprehensive and confidential treatment services to individuals struggling with substance dependence, while supporting the district administration's mission to build a drug-free society.The ATF will provide medical consultation, treatment, counselling and guidance to help individuals overcome addiction and lead healthy, drug-free lives. Prescribed medicines will also be provided free of cost, subject to availability.

Special emphasis will be laid on safeguarding the dignity, privacy and well-being of patients. All personal information, medical records and treatment details will be maintained with strict confidentiality. The dedicated ATF team will provide appropriate medical care, prescribed medication and continued support throughout the recovery process, helping patients reintegrate into a healthy and productive life.

Decks cleared for up-gradation of AAM Gutasa

■ HT News Network

BHADERWAH, NOVEMBER 06: The pending up-gradation work at Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) Sub Centre Gutasa- Bhaderwah sanctioned under District CAPEX is expected to move on after a health department team resolved a land dispute hampering the execution.Under the directions of the Chief Medical Officer, a joint team comprising Block Medical Officer Bhaderwah, Assistant Director Planning (Health), Junior Engineer, PWD (R&B), Girdawar and Patwari, visited Gutasa to resolve the land-related dispute. The team held necessary discussions and coordinated with the concerned stakeholders to address the issue.After the intervention of the visiting team, the land dispute was successfully resolved, paving the way for the execution of the pending sanctioned CAPEX work at the facility.

DM Doda reviews arrangements for JKSSB Accounts Assistant Examination

■ HT News Network



DODA, NOVEMBER 06: District Magistrate (DM) Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the JKSSB OMR-based examination for the recruitment of Accounts Assistants in the Finance Department.The examination, being conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), is scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026, at 1:00 PM. A total of 5,478 candidates are expected to appear in the examination at 19 designated examination centres across the district.The meeting was attended by ADC Anil Kumar Thakur, who is also the Chief Inspector for the JKSSB examination, ADC Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, ASP Mohammad Aslam, SE PWD (R&B), ACD, CEO, CMO, DySP Traffic, JKSSB representatives, district officers, principals of government colleges, heads of educational institutions, teaching staff and representatives of various government departments. Several officers also participated through virtual mode.The DM directed the concerned authorities to establish well equipped control rooms at all examination centres, with clear signage for easy identification. He also stressed the timely installation and functional readiness of CCTV cameras to ensure close monitoring and transparency throughout the examination process.Reviewing the availability of essential facilities, the DM directed the Executive Engineers of PDD and Jal Shakti to ensure uninterrupted power supply and adequate drinking water arrangements at every examination centre.

Extension & Publicity Wing AHD conducts awareness drive in Doda, Kishtwar districts

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06: The Extension and Publicity Wing of the Animal Husbandry department today concluded its awareness drive in Doda and Kishtwar districts.

During the drive, the Publicity team organised awareness seminars at village Bheja in Bhaderwah and Kishtwar to generate awareness among the livestock farmers about the departmental initiatives and activities.

Extension Officer Dr. Suresh Kumar sensitised the farmers to the benefits provided under various government initiatives and encouraged them to make effective use of the facilities and services being extended by the department. The sessions provided an opportunity for interaction, exchange of information and clarification of queries raised by the participants.

Special emphasis was also laid on the '1962' veterinary helpline, which provides assistance to livestock owners in case of veterinary emergencies and facilitates access to timely animal healthcare and treatment services. Farmers were encouraged to make use of the facility whenever emergency veterinary assistance is required.

The participants were also sensitised to the initiative for opening Pashu Aushadhi Vikray Kendras (PAVKs), on an operating margin of twenty percent on MRP, thereby facilitating access to essential generic veterinary medicines for livestock farmers at affordable costs.

VAS Publicity Wing Dr. Sandeep Kumar spoke extensively on the prevention and control of the diseases affecting livestock. He emphasised the importance of timely vaccination, regular health monitoring, proper animal husbandry practices and early identification of disease symptoms to prevent outbreaks and minimise economic losses to farmers. Dr. Bisma and Dr. Kashish Khan highlighted various aspects of livestock healthcare and departmental activities.

Jammu Expo 2.0 Concludes on a Successful Note; Provides Major Boost to Local Entrepreneurs

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06: The five-day "Jammu Expo 2.0 – A Celebration of Craft, Culture & Cuisine", organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Industries & Commerce Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, successfully concluded at Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, with an encouraging response from exhibitors, visitors and stakeholders.

Jammu Expo 2.0 celebrated the entrepreneurial spirit, cultural identity and culinary heritage of Jammu The enthusiastic participation of the public translated into impressive and strong consumer engagement, providing exhibitors with valuable market exposure and direct customer interaction.

The concluding ceremony was graced by Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Department, besides other senior government officials.

The Expo witnessed participation of 60 exhibitors representing local entrepreneurs, artisans, MSMEs, start-ups, women-led enterprises, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and emerging brands from across Jammu & Kashmir. The exhibition provided a vibrant platform for showcasing the region's rich handicrafts, handloom, traditional products, agriculture and horticulture produce, food products, while facilitating direct consumer engagement and business networking.

A significant highlight of this edition was its emphasis on promoting women entrepreneurship and providing greater market visibility to women-led enterprises. Out of the 60 participating stalls, 40 were represented by women entrepreneurs, accounting for nearly two-thirds of the total participation. Through dedicated spaces for HAUSLA women entrepreneurs, rural women SHGs and emerging business owners, JKTPO continued its efforts towards creating meaningful opportunities for women to showcase their products, access markets, strengthen business networks and expand their entrepreneurial activities.



In a significant step towards connecting local enterprises with digital marketplaces, the Expo facilitated linkages with leading e-commerce platforms to promote digital adoption among MSMEs. As part of this initiative, 20 participating MSMEs were enrolled under the Walmart Vriddhi Programme, while 07 out of the 20 registered MSMEs were successfully onboarded onto Flipkart, enabling local businesses to explore digital commerce opportunities, expand their customer base, enhance market access and strengthen their online presence.

This edition of Jammu Expo was particularly special as it coincided with the festive shopping season, positioning the exhibition as a vibrant shopping destination for visitors. The Expo showcased an extensive range of traditional handicrafts, handloom products, locally manufactured goods, lifestyle products and unique offerings from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir.

The dedicated "

" Food Corner emerged as a major attraction, bringing together authentic Dogra delicacies and popular local favourites, including Queer, Rajma Chawal, Maa Madra with Khamere, Kachalu, Kaladi Kulcha, Desi Ghee Halwa and other regional specialities. The Expo also featured cultural performances celebrating the rich Dogra heritage, adding to the overall visitor experience.

Speaking on the occasion, the Managing Director, JKTPO, stated that Jammu Expo 2.0 was conceptualised as a consumer-oriented.

Bandipora: Blaze renders 3 families homeless, turns wedding dreams into ashes

■ HT News Network

Bandipora, Nov 06 (KNO): A massive fire rendered three families homeless at Quilmuqam village in North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the blaze caused extensive damage to the houses, leaving the affected families with little of their belongings. "Among victims was a family preparing for their daughter's wedding. Fire destroyed clothes, household items and other arrangements that were made for the occasion," said a resident. "What was meant to be a joyous occasion for the family has now turned into a period of distress, as the wedding preparations they had made over time were reduced to ashes along with their home," he added.

The blaze also engulfed a cowshed, causing further losses to the affected households.

Soon after the fire broke out, local residents rushed to the spot and joined Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel and Indian Army soldiers in efforts to bring the flames under control and prevent them from spreading to nearby structures.

The incident left the affected families devastated, with residents expressing concern over the loss of shelter and household belongings, particularly for the family whose daughter's wedding is approaching.

Locals have appealed to the district administration to assess the losses and provide immediate financial assistance, temporary shelter and rehabilitation support to the affected families.

They said the family facing the upcoming wedding needed urgent assistance to overcome the losses and make arrangements for the occasion.

The cause of the fire and the exact extent of the damage were not immediately known—(KNO)

DISTRICT RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP BARAMULLA 2026–27BOYS & GIRLS

■ Aashiq Hussain

Baramulla, 05 Nov (HT): The District Rugby Association Baramulla is organising the District Rugby Championship Baramulla 2026–27 (Boys & Girls) in collaboration with the J&K Rugby Association, under the aegis of the J&K Sports Council, at SRM Welkin Educational Trust, Sopore. The championship will be held from 11th to 12th November 2026.Last Date for Submission of Entry Forms is 7th November 2026For Registration all players and Teams have been. asked to contact:6005960215 8899966419

All interested teams are requested to submit their entry forms before the deadline.

Kashmir maps 30,000 Chinar trees in digital conservation drive

QR-enabled identification plates installed on 13,500 prominent trees as J&K expands efforts to document, preserve itsnatural heritage

■ HT News Network



Srinagar, Nov 06 (KNO): Jammu and Kashmir has geo-tagged nearly 30,000 Chinar trees and created a digital database to document the iconic species, marking a major step towards digitally recording the region's natural heritage.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the exercise is part of a wider initiative to identify and document prominent trees across the Union Territory, with QR-enabled metal identification plates being installed to make information about individual trees accessible through digital technology.

He said 13,500 such plates have been installed so far, including 10,000 on prominent Chinar trees in Kashmir and another 3,500 on Peepal and Bargad trees in Jammu region.

The official said that the progress was reviewed at a meeting chaired by Forests, Ecology and Environment Minister Altaf Ahmad Wani at the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force in Jammu.

During the meeting, officials informed the minister that geo-tagging of approximately 30,000 Chinar trees had been completed and their details incorporated into a digital database.

The second phase of the initiative will cover the remaining Chinar, Bargad and Peepal trees across Jammu and Kashmir.

The digital documentation is expected to provide a systematic record of the trees, helping authorities identify their locations and maintain information about individual specimens. The QR-enabled plates also introduce a digital identification system for trees that hold ecological, historical and cultural significance.

The Chinar, known for its distinctive broad canopy and changing colours during autumn, occupies a special place in Kashmir's landscape. Found in public gardens, university campuses, village commons and along roadsides, the trees have remained an integral part of the region's cultural identity for generations.Beyond their visual and cultural significance, mature Chinars contribute to the local ecosystem by providing shade, supporting biodiversity and absorbing carbon dioxide.

The initiative also extends to Jammu, where Peepal and Bargad trees are being included in the identification exercise, bringing three prominent tree species under a common documentation programme.

Appreciating the initiative, Wani said the protection of Jammu and Kashmir's natural heritage was a collective responsibility of the government and the people.

He also directed officials to involve concerned legislators in development works undertaken in their respective districts, saying their participation would help improve transparency and ensure that local realities were taken into account.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, Sheetal Nanda; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Sarvesh Rai; Chairman, PCC, Vasu Yadav; Chief Wildlife Warden and Director, Jammu and Kashmir Forest Research Institute, Dr Suneesh Buxy, besides regional wildlife wardens, divisional forest officers and other senior officials.

With the second phase planned, the department aims to expand the digital documentation exercise to cover more of Jammu and Kashmir's prominent trees—(KNO)

Pulwama farmer sets up solar-powered cold storage

Brings 29 growers under FIG to boost vegetable farming, improve farmers' market returns through 10-MT storage facility

■ HT News Network

Pulwama, Nov 06 (KNO): In a significant push towards modernising agriculture and strengthening the local vegetable-growing sector, a progressive farmer from Tahab area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district has introduced a solar-powered mini cold storage facility, offering local growers an opportunity to preserve their produce and fetch better market prices.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Farooq Ahmad, a resident of Tahab, has taken a different approach from the growing trend of converting agricultural land into orchards, turning his horticultural land back into agricultural fields and venturing into large-scale vegetable cultivation.

By adopting modern farming techniques and cultivating organic as well as improved varieties of vegetables, he is attempting to demonstrate the economic potential of vegetable farming. His initiative has also inspired other local growers to explore vegetable cultivation as a sustainable source of income.

To expand the effort through collective participation, he has brought together 29 other farmers under a Farmers Interest Group (FIG), with the objective of increasing production, promoting improved agricultural practices and strengthening farmers' access to markets.

A key component of this initiative is the installation of a 10-metric-tonne-capacity mini vegetable cold storage unit at Farooq's farmland, provided free of cost by an organic foundation. The facility operates on solar energy and is being described as the first such facility in the area.

"The cold storage unit is expected to address a longstanding challenge confronting vegetable growers, who often have limited options to preserve their harvested produce and are compelled to sell it immediately, sometimes at lower prices due to market fluctuations and excess supply," Farooq said.

With the facility, members of the FIG will be able to store their vegetables and release them into the market according to demand, particularly during the off-season, when better prices can be secured.

Farooq said modern agricultural technology had become indispensable for improving farm productivity and ensuring better economic returns, and that farmers could significantly enhance production even with limited resources by adopting scientific cultivation methods and making effective use of available technological facilities.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of WASIF ZAHOOR BHAT S/O LATE ZAHOOR AHMAD BHAT R/O AUTHOORA RESHIPOAR Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of income Dependent certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of income dependent certificate in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant family consists of (06) members and having annual income / the details of family of the applicant are as fallows
1...MEEMA BEGUM Widow 41 years House Wife(widow)
2...WASIF ZAHOOR Son (applicant) 18 years student unmarried
3... LUQMAN ZAHOOR Son 14 years student Un , married
4... SULAIMAN ZAHOOR Son 10 years student //
5...MOHD MAQBOOL Father of deased 71 years farmer married
6....SITARA BEGUM Mother of deceased 64 years House Wife //
It is further submitted that WASIF ZAHOOR BHAT S/O Late ZAHOOR AHMAD BHAT is student by profession and is sole earnings in the said family .The applicant needs income dependent certificate in favour of self WASIF ZAHOOR for The applicant has applied for the issuance of income dependent certificate as such the instant matter is published through newspaper .
if anyone is having any kind of objection He/She may approach this office within (07)seven days of the publication of this notice .After passing of Stipulated time of 07 days No objection will be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of SHABIR AHMAD RESHI S/O AB RASHID RESHI R/O DANDMOOH Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his/her their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of DANDMOOH of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the RESHI community having annual income 366000// the details of family of the applicant are as fallows
1...AB RASHID Father 65 years Shopkeeper
2.RAJA BEGUM Mother 60 years H/W
3... SHABIR AHMAD applicant 32 years Labour
4...MUDASIR AHMAD Brother 27 years private employee
5...MUQSOOD AHMAD Brother 22 years Labour
6...QURAT UL AIN sister in Law 25 years H/W
7...MOHD HUZAF NEPHEW 2months minor
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 KREERINAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mehraab Ashiq S/o Ashiq Ahmad Pampori R/o Patlipora Bala Chattabal, Srinagar - 190010, do hereby inform the general public that the Number Plate of my Motorcycle bearing
Registration No. JK01AQ1161
Make: Bajaj Auto Ltd - CT 110 X
Chassis No: MD2B85AX3MPE44686
Engine No: PFXPME14492has been lost somewhere.I have searched for the same but could not find it. If anybody finds the said Number Plate, kindly inform / return to me at above mentioned address or contact on 7889326178.I have applied for issuance of duplicate number plate before the RTO Srinagar.Finder will be suitably rewarded.

Mehraab Ashiq
Patlipora Bala Chattabal, Srinagar
Mob: 7889326178

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Taja begum daughter of Abdul Salam Khan R/o Kawoosa Khaloisa Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of BIRTH certificate of own Taja Begium D/o Abdul Salam khan
The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his own as school records 08/ 05/ 1954
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 .

06/11/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

It iis notified that the applicant namely Farida Akhter daughter of Mohd Assan Khan R/o Kawoosa Khaloisa Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of BIRTH certificate of own Farida Akhter D/o Mohd Assan khan
The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his own as school records 01 / 02/ 1966
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 .
07/11/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Government of Jammu & Kashmir.
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Special Forest Division Tangmarg.

e- NIT NO: - 14 OF 2026-27 DATED:- 05 - 11 - 2026

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (In Two cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following work:-

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. In lacs)	EARNEST MONEY (Rs. In Lacs)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Document. (Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION	Receiving/ Opening Committee.
1	Development of Basic Facilities in and around Eco Park at Gogaldara Tangmarg. Special Forest Division Tangmarg.	**90.80**	**1.816**	**"A "**	Rs. 1600/=	Two working Season	Tender Opening Committee

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website: -www.jktenders.gov.in.

Name of Scheme:- UT CAPEX
Position of Funds: Budgeted.
Position of AA/TS: Accorded.

Publishing Date: -	05-11-2026
Download Start Date:	06-11-2026 from11:00 AM
Bid submission Start Date:	06-11-2026 from11:00 AM
Bid submission End Date:	**18-11-2026 Upto 04:00 PM**
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online.	19-11-2026 at 11:30 AM in the office of the Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle at Sheikh Bagh Srinagar.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:	To be opened (on Line) after completion of Technical Evaluation and the date will be notified separately.

Important Note: "In pursuance of Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026 and Circular issued by the Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), J&K vide No. PCCF/Acctts./2026-27/435-43 dated 24.06.2026, Bid Security (EMD), Tender Fee and applicable transaction/service charges shall be deposited online in cash through the prescribed online mechanism. Submission of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR/Bank Guarantee shall not be accepted. Bidders shall comply with the aforesaid instructions while submitting their bids."

01. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - https://jktenders.gov.in
02. The Technical bids shall be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
03. The financial bids shall be opened online after completion of Technical Evaluation and the date will be notified separately.
04. Bids uploaded online shall be accompanied by proof of payment of the Cost of Tender Document (Tender Fee) through the prescribed online mechanism, and proof/receipt of online cash deposit of 2% Bid Security (EMD) through the designated pooling account notified by the Finance Department, as generated by the e-tendering system. **Submission of Bid Security (EMD) in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR/Bank Guarantee or any other offline instrument shall not be accepted.** The date of payment of the Tender Fee and EMD shall be between the date of downloading the bidding document and the bid submission end date. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
05. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Divisional Forest Officer Special Forest Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority). The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP of 18 months.
7. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

DIPK-7426/26

Send Dated: 06-11-2026

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Special Forest Division,
Tangmarg.

J&K Bank to open 40 branches this year, targets 60-70 more next year: CEO

Amitava Chatterjee says recruitment notification to be issued today; bank inaugurates new extension counter

■ HT News Network



Srinagar, Nov 6 (KNS): Jammu and Kashmir Bank Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Amitava Chatterjee on Friday announced plans to expand the bank's branch network, saying at least 40 new branches would be opened during the current year, followed by another 60 to 70 branches next year.

Speaking to Kashmir News Service (KNS), Chatterjee said the expansion was part of the bank's efforts to strengthen its banking network and improve accessibility for customers.

"This year, we will open at least 40 branches across the bank's network. Our target is to open another 60 to 70 branches by next year," he said.

The MD and CEO was speaking after inaugurating a new extension counter, which he said would further strengthen the bank's services.

Responding to a question about the progress of the bank's recruitment process, Chatterjee said the relevant notification would be issued to newspapers during the day.

"The notification will be sent to newspapers from our office today," he said, without elaborating on the number of vacancies or the recruitment schedule.

The announcement comes as the bank moves ahead with its plans to expand its physical presence while also undertaking recruitment-related measures.

Extending greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on Diwali, Chatterjee expressed optimism about the period ahead.

"I wish everyone a happy Diwali. Some people consider this the beginning of a new year. I believe it marks a new beginning, and the future will be very good," he said. Speaking to Kashmir News Service (KNS), Chatterjee said the expansion was part of the bank's efforts to strengthen its banking network and improve accessibility for customers.

"This year, we will open at least 40 branches across the bank's network. Our target is to open another 60 to 70 branches by next year,"

GDC Katra celebrates Diwali with enthusiasm, festive spirit

■ HT News Network

KATRA, NOVEMBER 06: Government Degree College Katra celebrated Diwali with great enthusiasm and festive spirit. The celebration featured colourful campus decorations, a Rangoli Making Competition, a Diya Decoration Competition and cultural performances amid enthusiastic participation from students.

The competitions provided students an opportunity to showcase their creativity and artistic talent. First, Second and Third prizes were awarded to the winners of both competitions in recognition of their outstanding performances.

The programme was organised under the guidance of the Principal, Dr. Rajni Bhagat, with the active support and coordination of the college's NSS Unit, Red Ribbon Club, NCORD Unit and Sports Unit.

The Principal extended heartfelt Diwali greetings to the students and encouraged them to celebrate the festival responsibly, emphasising the importance of observing necessary safety precautions while lighting diyas and using fireworks.

Refreshments were distributed among the participating students. The faculty members also extended their warm Diwali wishes to the students and conveyed their best wishes for a happy, safe and prosperous festive season.

Janjatiya Gourav Pakhwada

Community Outreach, awareness activities held across 31 Panchayats of Kathua

■ HT News Network



KATHUA, NOVEMBER 06: As part of the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwara 2026 (November 1–15), a series of community outreach and awareness activities were organised across 31 Panchayats of Kathua district, today.

The events were held in tribal habitations, focusing on education, healthcare, nutrition, livelihood opportunities and various government welfare schemes aimed at the socio-economic empowerment of tribal communities.The activities focused on sensitising tribal residents about the importance of education, school enrolment, regular attendance and girls' education. Awareness was also imparted on preventive healthcare, personal hygiene, sanitation, maternal and child health, balanced nutrition and healthy dietary practices.

Special emphasis was laid on creating awareness about livelihood generation through skill development, self-employment, entrepreneurship, sustainable agriculture and allied activities. Community members were also informed about various government welfare schemes pertaining to education, healthcare, social security, employment, housing and financial assistance, along with the procedures for availing benefits under eligible schemes.The outreach activities were conducted through educational institutions, Anganwadi Centres, health institutions and community-level platforms across the identified Panchayats, ensuring wider participation and dissemination of information among tribal communities. The Anganwadi Centres actively organised awareness activities focusing on nutrition, maternal and child healthcare, hygiene and community participation. Health institutions also conducted awareness programmes to promote preventive healthcare and healthy living practices.

The programmes witnessed active participation from students, teachers, Anganwadi workers, health functionaries and local residents, providing a platform for interaction, dissemination of information and awareness.

ADC, JKSSB District Coordinator inspect Exam Centres in Poonch

■ HT News Network

POONCH, NOVEMBER 06: Additional Deputy Commissioner and Chief Inspector for the JKSSB Accounts Assistant Examination Tahir Mustafa Malik, accompanied by Member Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) Sudhir Bali, today inspected arrangements at 18 examination centres established in the District Poonch for Accounts Assistant Exam. The examination is scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026.

The officers conducted a comprehensive review of the facilities and arrangements at each examination centre, including seating arrangement, frisking facility, biometric verification system, control room, washroom, lighting, CCTV camera and other essential infrastructure. They also interacted with Centre Superintendents and Heads of Institutions (HOIs) and inquired about the status of arrangements.

The officers asked authorities to complete requisite arrangements well in advance. They emphasised strict adherence to the prescribed JKSSB examination guidelines, effective supervision, maintenance of discipline and robust security measures to ensure a fair, transparent and hassle-free examination process.

The inspection was undertaken as part of the district administration's efforts to ensure foolproof preparedness across all 18 examination centres for smooth, impartial and transparent conduct of the JKSSB Accounts Assistant Examination in the District.

DC Udhampur reviews arrangements for Accounts Assistant Examination

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER-06:- Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the smooth and fair conduct of the OMR-based written examination for the recruitment of Accounts Assistant in the Finance Department. The Exam being conducted by the JKSSB is scheduled on November 15, 2026.The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police and other concerned officers.

Market checking intensified in Bhaderwah ahead of Diwali

■ HT News Network



BHADERWAH, NOVEMBER 06: The local administration has intensified market checking in Sub-District Bhaderwah ahead of the Diwali to prevent overcharging and keep a check on unfair trade practices amid the festive season.

A multi-department team, under the supervision of ADC Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, inspected the shops selling sweets, bakery, milk & milk products, vegetables and fruits to check compliance with food safety standards, approved rates and hygiene conditions.

The team consisted of SDPO, SHO, Traffic personnel, Naib Tehsildar, officials from Municipal Committee, Veterinary Department, FCS&CA and others.

The Municipal Committee officials issued challans against shopkeepers found violating market regulations. The Traffic Police also took measures to regulate traffic and ensure smooth movement of vehicles in the busy market areas.

DC Jammu approves 43 cases under JKREGP

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of the District Level Task Force Committee under the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) to review the applications seeking financial assistance under the scheme.

The scheme, implemented by the J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), supports unemployed youth in setting up self-employment ventures by offering loans. After thorough review and scrutiny, the Committee approved 43 of the total applications placed before it.The Deputy Commissioner directed the bank representatives to process the approved cases at the earliest so that the beneficiaries can start their units without delay.Additional Deputy Commissioner Ishita Rathi; Lead District Manager Ajay Thapa; District Officer KVIB, Mohd Sadiq besides representatives.

Dal Lake's Floating Post Office to remain open till 9 pm

Postal department extends working hours to 12 hours following public demand

■ HT News Network



Srinagar, Nov 6 (KNS): The Department of Posts has extended the working hours of the iconic Floating Post Office at Nehru Park on Dal Lake, allowing customers and tourists to avail postal services from 9 am to 9 pm.

The decision follows an encouraging public response to the extended working hours at Lal Chowk Head Post Office, which is also operating from 9 am to 9 pm.

Chief Postmaster General, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, Col Sagar Hanuman Singh, accompanied by Director Postal Services Prateek and Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Srinagar Postal Division, Adam Mohi U Din, visited the Floating Post Office to review facilities and interact with customers, tourists and local residents.

Officials said the decision was taken in view of the considerable footfall at Nehru Park and growing demand for postal services beyond regular office hours.

Speaking on the occasion, Col Sagar Hanuman Singh said the extended timings would provide greater convenience to tourists, local residents and other customers.

He reiterated the department's commitment to making postal services more accessible, customer-friendly and responsive to public requirements.

Director Postal Services Prateek said the initiative was part of continued efforts to improve service delivery and provide greater flexibility to customers.

He said the Floating Post Office, besides serving as a postal facility, remained a distinctive tourist attraction on Dal Lake.

The extended hours would particularly benefit houseboat operators, tourists, local residents and visitors who require postal services during evening hours, he added.

Senior Superintendent of Post Offices Adam Mohi U Din said the positive response to extended working hours at Lal Chowk Head Post Office had encouraged the department to introduce similar arrangements at the Floating Post Office.

He said the department was also exploring the possibility of extending working hours at more post offices across the region in the coming days.Speaking on the occasion, Col Sagar Hanuman Singh said the extended timings would provide greater convenience to tourists, local residents and other customers.

He reiterated the department's commitment to making postal services more accessible, customer-friendly and responsive to public requirements.

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Gold may glitter at Rs 1.68 lakh as global uncertainties bolster outlook: Report

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Nov 6: Gold prices in the domestic market could climb to Rs 1.60-1.68 lakh per 10 grams over the next 6-12 months, with price corrections offering buying opportunities amid sustained investment demand and central-bank purchases, according to a report.

Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL), in its latest precious metals quarterly report, projected international gold prices to reach USD 4,500-4,700 per ounce in the medium term, while domestic prices could touch Rs 1.48 lakh per 10 grams in the short term.

In its report titled 'Gold's Rally: Deferred, Not Derailed', MOFSL said precious metals have witnessed volatility in 2026 following an exceptional rally in the previous year, amid changing expectations around US interest rates, persistent inflation, elevated bond yields and geopolitical developments.

International gold prices surged to a record of nearly USD 5,600 per ounce in January 2026 before correcting below USD 4,000 and subsequently recovering.

Silver also rallied beyond USD 100 per ounce before witnessing a sharper correction.

Fluctuations in the rupee-dollar exchange rate further added to volatility in domestic bullion prices.

Unlike the largely one-directional rally in 2025, precious metals have experienced sharper price swings this year, reflecting changing global macroeconomic conditions and monetary policy expectations, it added.

In the domestic market, gold prices during Diwali have risen from around Rs 30,000 per 10 grams recorded in 2016 to nearly Rs 1.5 lakh in 2026, highlighting the significant appreciation over the past decade.

Diwali and Dhanteras remain important occasions for precious-metal purchases, supported by traditional buying patterns, the wedding season



and the cultural significance of gold and silver.

However, historical trends indicate that festive demand has a stronger correlation with domestic premiums, imports and physical buying volumes than with international price movements. Historical performance also suggests that gold has generally delivered stronger returns during the 30 days preceding Diwali than in the subsequent 30 days.

The trend was particularly pronounced in 2025, when gold gained nearly 20 per cent and silver around 38 per cent in the month leading up to the festival.

Despite elevated prices, investment demand has remained relatively resilient. In India, gold ETF inflows increased 71 per cent month-on-month to Rs 4,450 crore in September 2026, while silver ETFs attracted inflows of Rs 1,970 crore.However, gold imports moderated to USD 1.8 billion in September from USD 2.3 billion in August, reflecting the impact of higher prices and measures to restrain bullion inflows.

Globally, gold ETF holdings increased by about 187 tonnes during August and September 2026, taking total holdings to a record 4,256 tonnes, while third-quarter inflows reached a record USD 31 billion.

"Gold continues to retain its importance as a defensive asset amid global economic and geopolitical uncertainties. However, its near-term trajectory will remain sensitive to the Federal Reserve's monetary policy, inflation trends, movements in the US dollar and real bond yields," said Navneet Damani, Head of Research of Commodities at MOFSL.

He said the US Federal Reserve's 25-basis-point rate hike in September, taking the policy rate to 3.75-4 per cent, had reinforced concerns around tighter monetary conditions.

At the same time, central-bank diversification, sustained investment demand and fiscal uncertainties continue to provide structural support to gold."In India, elevated prices have moderated discretionary jewellery demand, although wedding-related purchases and investment demand have remained relatively resilient," Damani added.According to Manav Modi, Commodities Analyst at MOFSL, gold and silver were navigating a more complex market environment, with the interplay between safe-haven demand and macroeconomic headwinds driving heightened volatility.

Tempted by snacks before bed? Here's why - and what you can do about it

You've eaten dinner, you're comfortably full, and yet half an hour later you're raiding the kitchen cupboards. Sound familiar?

Research suggests about a third of people are snacking every night after their evening meal - for those aged 18-24, four in five are unable to resist.

Dietitian Dr Kristine Beaulieu says this spells trouble. She points to evidence showing that the more people eat within two hours of going to bed, the "greater the odds" of weight gain and obesity.

So, why are evening cravings so common? And what can you do to keep them in check?

Appetite peaks in the evening

Despite the fact we spend longer going without food when we are sleeping, research suggests our appetite naturally peaks in the evening, almost regardless of how much we have eaten earlier in the day.

Prof James Betts, who researches how the body handles food and energy at the University of Bath, says a big factor is that our "hunger hormone" ghrelin is generally higher later in the day.

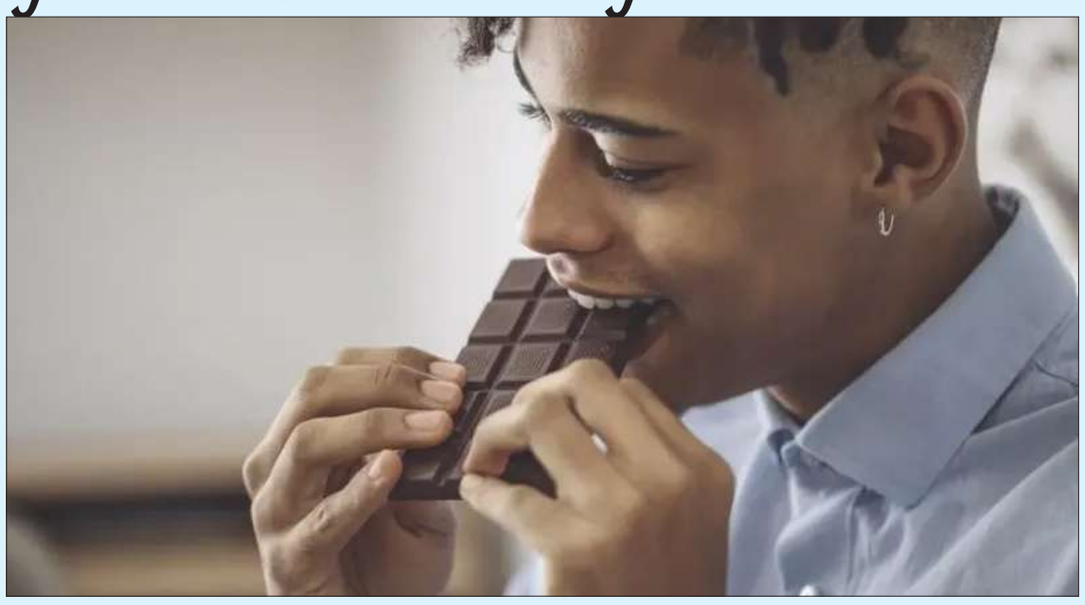
"While it tends to be suppressed by meals, that really only happens after the first meal of the day, not after lunch or dinner."

But what you eat also matters. Meals rich in protein, fibre and volume tend to keep us satisfied for longer.

Betts says not having a nutritious or satiating evening meal can lead to a "crash" later, which sees people snack.

For others, the fear of waking up hungry during the night is also a motivating factor, while habit plays a role too.

"If snacking often happens in the same setting, the surrounding cues can start to trigger cravings," says Prof Suzanne Higgs, an expert in appetite at



the University of Birmingham.

"For example, if someone usually snacks while watching TV, simply turning the TV on may make them feel like eating."

Why sweet treats are so tempting

It's not just feelings of hunger that increase later in the day. Research suggests our appetite for calorie-dense foods also becomes stronger, driven by the brain's reward system rather than a genuine need for energy.

"Our liking and wanting for high-fat foods are greater later in the day compared to low-fat foods," says Beaulieu, who splits her time between the University of Leeds and University of Moncton in Canada.

"That hedonic drive can override signals of fullness, making us want to snack or eat a dessert even though we're full."

Even after a substantial evening meal, foods rich in sugar, fat or salt can continue to activate reward pathways in the brain, helping explain why many people find themselves reaching for something more.

So when you find yourself standing in front of the biscuit tin at 9pm, it may not be a lack of willpower. Your biology is stacked against you.

Does snacking make it harder to sleep?

The evidence is mixed. But certainly eating a large meal late affects digestion and the body's normal preparation for sleep.

What about snacking? Here the research becomes less clear.

There is some evidence that foods high in refined carbohydrates and added sugars, from white bread and white rice to biscuits and cakes, may be linked to poorer sleep.

Researchers think this could be because such foods cause bigger swings in blood sugar levels and may alter some of the hormonal signals involved in regulating sleep and appetite.

However, teasing out cause and effect is difficult. People with poor sleep may be more likely to snack on sugary foods.

"Sleep deprivation is known to not only increase appetite, but also a desire for energy-dense foods," says Prof Jonathan Johnston, a sleep and body clock expert at the University of Surrey.

It means it is very difficult to draw firm conclusions on whether snacking in late evening disrupts sleep, says Betts.

"The evidence is far from clear and perhaps may reflect that some people respond differently to others to different foods before bed."

How to snack in a healthier way

First, work out what's driving the snacking.

If you are genuinely hungry, it may help to make earlier meals more filling

If snacking is mainly habitual, changing routines and planning snacks in advance can help

"Eating while distracted, for instance watching TV, can lead people to consume more because they pay less attention to how much they've eaten," says Higgs.But there's no need to ban evening snacks completely, says Beaulieu.

A reasonable portion of something enjoyable is often more sustainable

eep healthy options, such as fruit, yoghurt and nuts available

ven a little chocolate every now and then is not the end of the world

It's OK to eat those craved foods once in a while in moderation."

The trick, she says, is to make the healthy choice the default.

"If those craved foods aren't in the cupboard on a regular basis and a healthy option is, it means you are more likely to choose the healthier option."

(BBC News)

How we can exercise more without even trying

Incidental activity can reduce our risk of cardiovascular disease and even death. You can try some simple forms of it in a meeting, on a flight or while reading this article.

It can be easy to spend an entire day sitting. First at your desk at work, then perhaps in your car, followed by a couple of hours on the sofa. Before you know it, you're having dinner and realise you haven't exercised all day.

Many global studies have found that a sedentary lifestyle can increase the risk of serious health conditions. Everything we can do to decrease sedentary time therefore benefits our overall health. But it can be challenging to find the time.That's where incidental exercise comes in. This is the moving around we do outside of deliberate exercise. It's also known as "non-exercise activity thermogenesis", or NEAT. This refers to any energy we use for movement that isn't sleeping, eating or deliberate exercise, says Anantha Narayanan, a research fellow at the Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand.Incidental exercise can be as simple as tapping your leg when you are sitting down or doing the washing up. "Smaller movements like shifting posture, rolling the shoulders or flexing the feet count too," says Narayanan.

Incidental exercise is emerging as a surprisingly powerful tool for protecting our health, helping us to burn more calories, reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, and even lower our risk of death.

Once we're aware of this "incidental activity", we can build more of it into our everyday routine with a few simple lifestyle tweaks. Here are some you might want to try.

Fidgeting

Take, for instance, leg fidgeting.

Growing up, we're encouraged not to fidget, which is seen as a sign of boredom and not paying attention. There are many reasons to ignore this advice.

During prolonged periods of sitting, muscles in our legs are relatively inactive. This reduces the regular muscle contractions that help to clear glucose from the bloodstream and support healthy blood circulation, says Narayanan.

But fidgeting increases muscle activity and therefore helps us to burn more calories compared with when we are sitting still, a recent study has found."Some earlier research suggests that leg fidgeting may help maintain blood vessel function and improve blood sugar control," says Narayanan. Standing as you do this may enhance these benefits. (Read more from the BBC about when you do and don't need to worry about blood sugar spikes.)Similarly, a small study found that habitual leg shaking, a form of fidgeting, burns about 16% more energy compared with sitting still.

(BBC NEWS)



UK doctor infected with Ebola being treated at London hospital



A British doctor who tested positive for Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been flown back to the UK.

The man, who has not been identified, landed at RAF Northolt before being transported to a specialist infectious diseases unit at the Royal Free Hospital in north London.

It is the first confirmed case of a UK national contracting Ebola during the most recent outbreak of the rare but deadly virus in DR Congo, which has so far led to more than 5,000 deaths.

Dr Renu Bindra, deputy director of the All Hazards Public Health Response team at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said there are "well-established procedures for dealing with cases like this" and the risk to the public remains low.

What is Ebola and why is stopping the latest outbreak so difficult?

The infected doctor was brought to the UK on a medical evacuation flight as part of a joint effort by the UK and DR Congo governments and their international health partners, the Department of Health (DoH) said.

A convoy of emergency vehicles were on hand to complete the transfer following the man's arrival at the RAF base.

Three large police vans travelled at either end of the convoy, while two ambulances and another support car were involved.

Traffic was stopped and police exited the vans to keep the public away as the convoy arrived at the Royal Free Hospital.

The man is now being treated in a "highly specialised" isolation unit at the hospital, the DoH said.

The Royal Free Hospital successfully treated three health workers who had been evacuated after the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014 and 2015.

There have only been four confirmed cases of the virus in the UK - one, in 1976, resulting from a laboratory incident, and three involving health workers who were responding to an outbreak in West Africa between 2014 and 2015.

None of these cases have resulted in a death.

There have been more than 10,000 confirmed cases since the recent outbreak in DR Congo started in May, which has grown to become the second most deadly recorded spate of infections, behind the outbreak in West Africa in the 2010s.

The current outbreak in DR Congo has a fatality rate of 48.6% reported at the end of last month.

Ebola can result in serious illness and death. Early symptoms include vomiting and diarrhoea but it can progress to organ failure and internal bleeding.

The virus spreads from one person to another by contact with infected bodily fluids such as blood or vomit.

The ongoing outbreak centred on DR Congo is fuelled by the Bundibugyo variant of the virus.

There is no approved vaccine but the World Health Organization said experts have recommended adding two new candidate drugs to an ongoing clinical trial.

The vaccines, one developed by the University of Oxford and the Serum Institute of India, and another by the firm Moderna, will join the trial once they are approved by Congolese health authorities.

It will be the first time jabs specifically designed to protect against the Bundibugyo virus are tested during an outbreak.

Since the outbreak, Ebola cases have also been confirmed in Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda.

(BBC NEWS)

Education Department Clinches Baramulla Cricket Forum's 3rd Corporate Cup, Defeats Police Department by 40 Runs

United News Of India



Baramulla, November 6: Baramulla Cricket Forum (BCF), in collaboration with the District Administration Baramulla, successfully concluded the Third Edition of the Corporate Cup 2026 at the prestigious General Bipin Rawat Stadium, Baramulla. The tournament, dedicated to the noble motto of the Fit India Movement, witnessed enthusiastic participation from 28 government departments across the district.

The grand finale was played between the Police Department and the Education Department, in which the Education Department emerged victorious, defeating the Police Department by a convincing margin of 40 runs to lift the coveted Corporate Cup trophy.

The grand finale was graced by distinguished guests were the CEO of 46 rr SHO Baramulla, Deputy Chief Education Officer and several other prominent dignitaries and officials who attended the occasion as Guests of Honour.

The winning Education Department team was felicitated with a cash prize of 15,000 along with a trophy, while the runner-up Police Department received 8,000 and a trophy. The prestigious Man of the Series award was presented to Asif Hussain, who was honoured with a cash prize and a trophy. Other outstanding performers were also recognised with awards and mementos for their contributions throughout the tournament.

The Corporate Cup provided a vibrant platform for employees from different government departments to come together through sports, promoting physical fitness, teamwork, discipline, mutual understanding and camaraderie beyond their professional responsibilities.

The tournament witnessed tremendous enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout its course, reflecting the growing sporting culture in District Baramulla. The successful organisation of the event was made possible through the support and cooperation of the District Administration Baramulla and the dedicated efforts of Baramulla Cricket Forum.

Speaking on the occasion, Baramulla Cricket Forum reiterated its commitment to promoting sports as a powerful instrument for building a healthy society, strengthening social bonds and engaging people in positive activities. The Forum also emphasised that initiatives like the Corporate Cup are in line with the vision of the Fit India Movement and the broader objective of making Baramulla a prominent sporting destination in Kashmir.

Baramulla Cricket Forum extends its sincere gratitude to the District Administration, all participating departments, dignitaries, officials, players, supporters and everyone associated with making the Third Edition of the Corporate Cup a grand success. Baramulla Cricket Forum (BCF) Say No to Drugs, Yes to Cricket!

ICC men's cricket world cup qualifier playoff commences in Nepal on Dec 4

United News Of India

DUBAI, NOV 6 :Eight teams will be vying for the last four spots in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2027 when they begin their campaign in the round-robin Qualifier Playoff to be played from December 4 to 21.



Hosts Nepal will take on Italy at the Tribhuvan University Cricket Ground on the opening day of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier Playoff with Namibia and Uganda contesting simultaneously at the Mulpani Cricket Ground.

Canada, Kuwait, Jersey and the United Arab Emirates are the other teams competing for the remaining slots in the 10-team Global Qualifier to determine the final four places at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027.

ICC General Manager - Events and Operations, Gaurav Saxena, said, "The Qualifier Play-off is a crucial stage in the pathway to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027, and I am sure all eight teams will be eager to seize this opportunity and secure a place in the next stage.

"Associate cricket is vital to the continued growth and global development of our sport. Competitions such as this provide teams with valuable opportunities to showcase their talent, gain experience and raise their standards.

"The progress these teams have shown in recent years is encouraging, and I am confident we will witness some exciting and competitive cricket. On behalf of the ICC, I wish all the teams the very best."

U-19 Asia Cup: Sehwag, Raichandani fifties help India thrash Nepal by 10 wkts

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 6 :India began their U-19 Asia Cup campaign in emphatic fashion, crushing Nepal by 10 wickets after Aaryavir Sehwag and Lakshya Raichandani guided the chase with unbeaten half-centuries on Friday.



The Indian bowlers first restricted Nepal to 128 in 42.3 overs, with Ishan Sood claiming 3/18 and Arjun Rajput returning figures of 3/8. Sehwag then led the response with an unbeaten 70, while Raichandani made 53 not out as India reached 129 without losing a wicket in just 19.1 overs. The victory came with 185 balls to spare.

Nepal struggled from the outset after being asked to bat, losing four wickets for 51 runs. Darsh Sonar tried to steady the innings with a 93-ball 43, hitting a four and a six, while Aashish Luthar added 29. But the Indian attack kept the pressure on, with Sood making early inroads before Rajput cleaned up the lower order.

India made a confident start to the chase, with Raichandani taking the initiative in the opening overs.

Sehwag, son of former India opener Virender Sehwag, soon took charge, striking seven fours and four sixes in his 52-ball knock.

Raichandani remained unbeaten on 53 from 63 deliveries, including seven boundaries, as the pair completed a comfortable victory.

India will next take on Pakistan on Sunday in what promises to be one of the most eagerly awaited matches of the tournament.

Nepal to host ODI World Cup qualifier playoff from December 4

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 6 :Nepal will host the men's ODI World Cup Qualifier Playoff in December, with the ICC confirming the schedule for the eight-team tournament on Friday.

The competition will begin on December 4, with hosts Nepal taking on Italy at the Tribhuvan University Cricket Ground. At the same time, Namibia will face Uganda at the Mulapani Cricket Ground.

Canada, Kuwait, Jersey and the United Arab Emirates are the other teams in the tournament. The eight sides will compete for the final four places in the 2027 ODI World Cup Qualifier, which will feature 10 teams.

Ireland and the West Indies have already secured their places in the global qualifier as the two highest-ranked teams outside the eight automatic qualifiers, with South Africa and

Zimbabwe exempt as host nations and Full Members. The USA, Scotland, the Netherlands and Oman have also qualified through the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2.

Jaypal Malviya secures India's first LA 2028 shooting quota

United News Of India

DOHA (QATAR), NOV 6:Jaypal Malviya won the silver medal in the men's 10m air pistol event

at the ISSF World Championship 2026 here to secure India's first LA 2028 Olympics quota in shooting.

The Indian shooter finished with a total of 242.2, finishing behind the People's Republic of China's Hu Kai, who scored 243.9 on Thursday. Olympian Jind ich Dubový of Czechia bagged bronze with 220.9, according to olympics.com.

Earlier, Jaypal Malviya entered the men's 10m air pistol final after finishing third in qualification with a total of 585-23x.

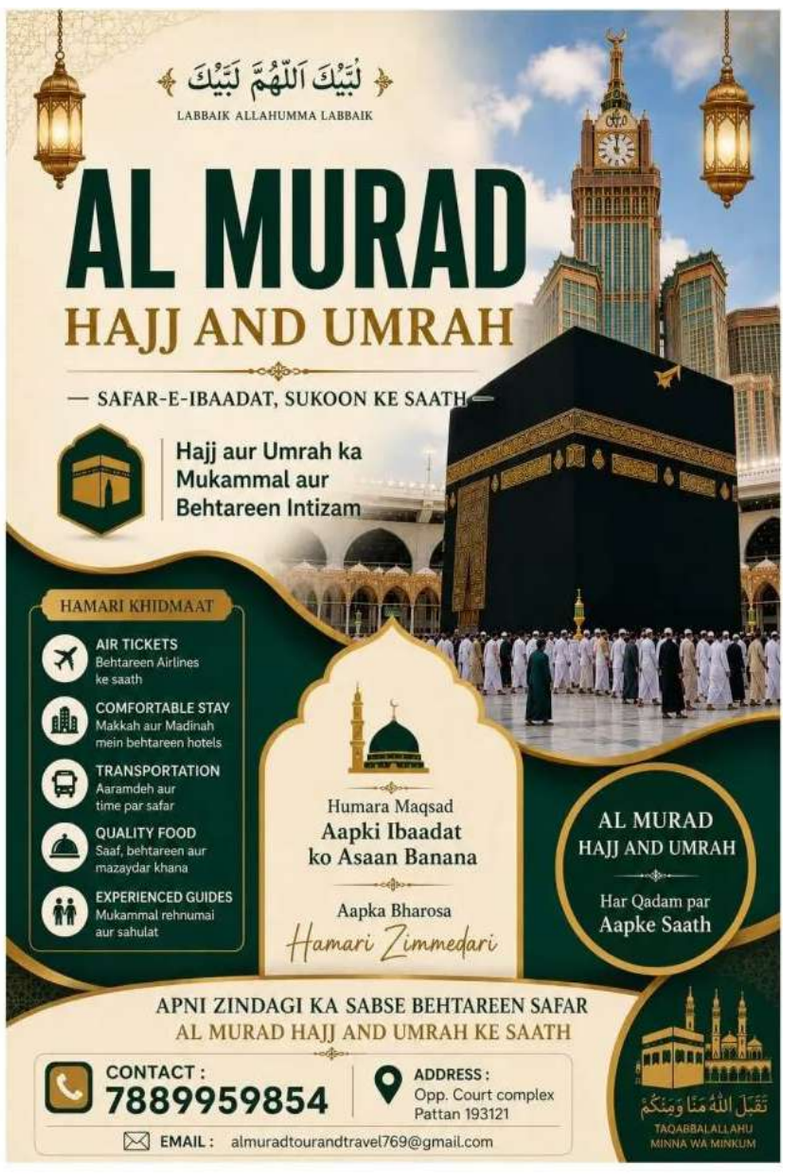
India's Kamaljeet and Ravin Kumar missed out on the final after finishing 18th and 83rd in qualification, respectively. As National Olympic Committees have the exclusive authority for the representation of their respective teams at the Olympic Games, athletes' participation at the LA Games depends on their NOC selecting them to represent their delegation at LA28.

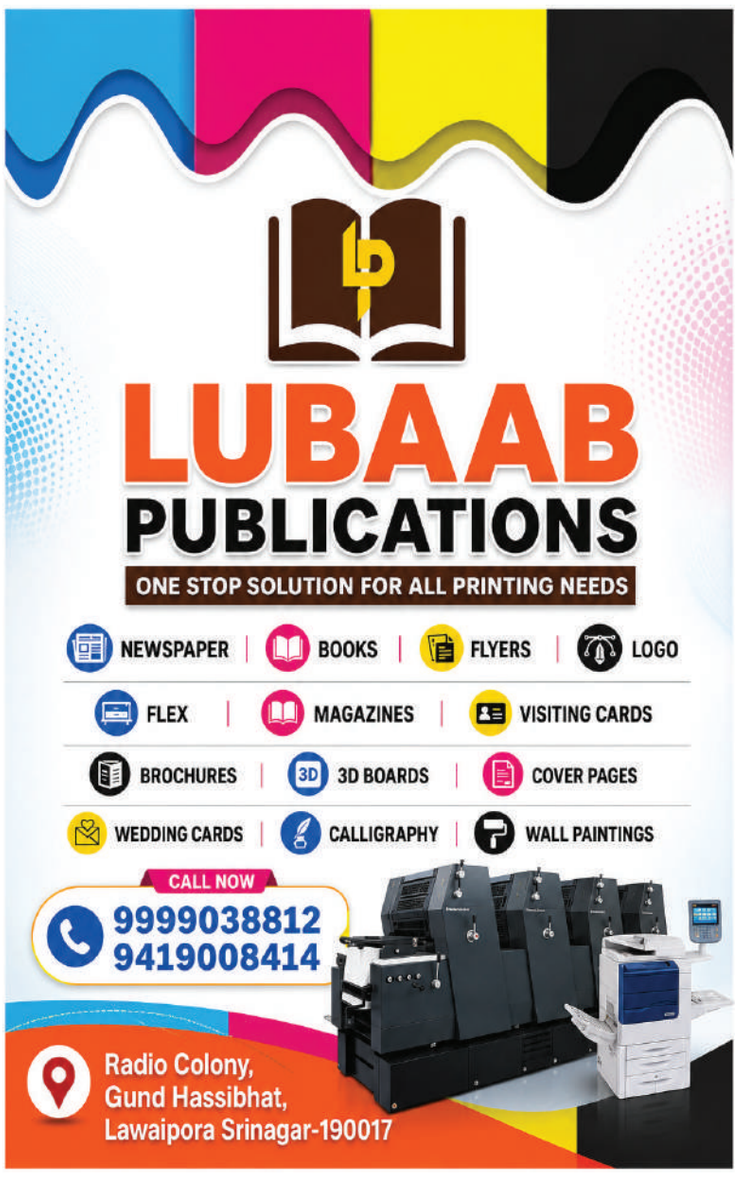


Meanwhile, India's Manu Bhaker, Suruchi Singh and Sainyam Vij combined to win the silver medal in the women's 10m air pistol team event.

The Indian trio finished with a combined score of 1738-61x points, seven behind China, who claimed gold with 1745-65x. The Republic of Korea took bronze with 1729-49x.

Bhaker led the Indian trio with 583-21x points, while Suruchi Singh managed 580-24x and Sainyam Vij added 575-16x.







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