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Voice To The Voiceless



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

Wet Spell Likely to Wash Away Pollution, Improve Kashmir's Air Quality

MeT Director attributes rising pollution to orchard waste and paddy stubble burning; western disturbance expected to bring relief

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: An approaching western disturbance is likely to bring much-needed relief from rising pollution levels in Kashmir, with the expected wet spell helping improve air quality across the Valley, Director Meteorological Department Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said on Monday. Speaking to Kashmir News Service, Ahmad said pollution levels had increased to some extent due to the burning of orchard leaves and paddy stubble, coupled with stable atmospheric conditions and other local factors. He said weather conditions had remained largely dry in recent days, while daytime temperatures were relatively comfortable and mornings and evenings comparatively colder. However, the approaching western disturbance is expected to bring precipitation, which

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Spiritual Heritage and Valour Inspire the Nation': LG Sinha

Lok Bhavan celebrates 26th Foundation Day of Uttarakhand ; LG highlights its cultural legacy, religious harmony and developmental achievements

HT NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lok Bhavan on Monday celebrated the 26th Foundation Day of Uttarakhand, with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha extending warm greetings to the people of the Himalayan state and describing its spiritual heritage, cultural richness, valour and developmental progress as an inspiration for the nation. Paying tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for his visionary role in the creation of Uttarakhand, the LG highlighted the state's identity as Devbhoomi, its revered Char Dham shrines, the spiritual significance of the Ganga and Yamuna, and its traditions of religious harmony and coexistence. He also lauded Uttarakhand's contribution to literature, art, music and national defence, describing it as both Devbhoomi and Veerbhoomi. Appreciating the developmental transformation achieved under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Sinha highlighted improvements in connectivity, education, healthcare, digital infrastructure, tourism, organic farming, handicrafts and entrepreneurship, while calling for preservation of the state's cultural and environmental heritage.

Jammu Kashmir Lok Bhavan today celebrated 26th Foundation Day of Uttarakhand. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Uttarakhand. He said that the day celebrates the rich cultural, spiritual and civilisational heritage of the State.

Paying homage to the former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Lieutenant Governor recalled his visionary leadership and unwavering commitment that led to the creation of Uttarakhand. He noted that Shri Vajpayee understood the long-standing aspirations of the people of the hill region and transformed them into reality.Describing Uttarakhand as "Devbhoomi",

>>> MORE ON P 02

Uttarakhand Scaling New Heights of Development' : PM Modi

PM greets people on 26th Foundation Day, hails state's spiritual legacy, natural beauty and cultural traditions

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday extended heartfelt greetings to the people of Uttarakhand on the occasion of the state's 26th Foundation Day, praising its spiritual heritage, breathtaking natural beauty and vibrant cultural traditions. In a message on X, Modi described Uttarakhand as a sacred land blessed with spiritual consciousness, majestic Himalayan mountains, holy rivers and the revered Char Dham pilgrimage sites. He credited the hardworking, talented and progressive people of the state for its achievements across various sectors and expressed confidence that Uttarakhand would continue to scale new heights of development. The Prime Minister also wished the people happiness, peace and prosperity. Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh and became India's 27th state on November 9, 2000, following a prolonged popular movement for a separate hill state. While celebrating its developmental journey, the state continues to face the

>>> MORE ON P 02

Omar Abdullah Orders Immediate Relief for Fire-Hit Traders in Jammu

CM directs administration to assess losses and extend all necessary assistance after massive blaze at Bikram Chowk



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday expressed deep grief over the massive fire incident at the Warehouse market near Bikram Chowk in Jammu, conveying his heartfelt sympathies to the traders and others affected by the devastating blaze. The Chief Minister directed the district administration to ensure immediate relief and extend all necessary assistance to those affected. He also instructed officials to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the damage and initiate appropriate measures to address the needs of the affected families and business establishments. The massive fire broke out at the Warehouse area on Sunday evening and spread to several adjoining structures, including commercial establishments, causing extensive damage.Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed deep grief over the massive fire incident at Bikram Chowk, Jammu, conveying his heartfelt sympathies to all those affected.

>>> MORE ON P 02

Government to Crack Down on High-Priced Textbooks in Private Schools : Shameema Firdous

Education Minister acknowledges book sets costing up to Rs 10,000; promises meeting with education directors to explore corrective measures

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



SRINAGAR: Education Minister Shameema Firdous on Monday said the government would examine the issue of exorbitantly priced textbooks in private schools, acknowledging that some book sets cost parents between Rs 6,000 and Rs 10,000. Speaking topics reporters, the minister said she would convene a meeting with the Directors of School Education and other concerned officials to examine the matter and explore possible measures to provide relief to parents. She said the provision of free textbooks and uniforms in government schools was aimed at reducing the financial burden on economically weaker families and encouraging enrolment in government institutions. Stressing the need to improve educational standards, Firdous said government school teachers were working hard and that public institutions must achieve standards comparable with private schools. On the demand for raising the upper age limit for open merit candidates applying for Jammu and Kashmir Bank recruitment, she supported increasing it to 40 years, citing the absence of recruitment opportunities

>>> MORE ON P 02

Dr Jitendra Singh Felicitates Srinagar Dermatologist Dr Mir Shahnawaz

DERMIS founder recognised for contributions to dermatology, aesthetic medicine and hair restoration

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



JAMMU: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh felicitated Srinagar-based dermatologist Dr Mir Shahnawaz, Founder and Director of DERMIS – Skin, Laser and Hair Transplant Clinic, in recognition of his contributions to dermatology and aesthetic medicine. The felicitation ceremony was held in Jammu on November 7 as part of an event recognising doctors from across Jammu and Kashmir for their contributions to different medical disciplines and patient care. Appreciating Dr Shahnawaz's clinical and academic work, the Union Minister said his professional contributions had brought recognition to the region at national and international platforms. Dr Shahnawaz, whose areas of work include clinical dermatology, laser treatments, aesthetic medicine and hair restoration, dedicated the recognition to his patients, acknowledging their trust as his greatest motivation. He also appreciated the efforts of his colleagues and the DERMIS team, saying the recognition would further encourage them to strengthen patient care.Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh felicitated Dr Mir Shahnawaz, Founder and

>>> MORE ON P 02

JKBOSE targets to declare Classes 10, 11, 12 results by Jan 10

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 09 : The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) on Monday said that it aims to declare results of annual regular exams of 10th, 11th and 12th by the second week of January.

Speaking to the reporters, JKBOSE Chairman, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Our exams are going very smoothly and in the coming two weeks we are going to culminate the exams. We hope that by the January-10, we will try to declare the results of all the classes."

About the distribution of textbooks, the Board Chairman said that, "The process of distributing free textbooks to educational zones will be completed in 8-10 days. We distribute the free textbooks to Zonal Education Offices and after that it is the job of the Directorate of School Education to provide it to the eligible students."

He said, "There are 8,20,000 students from classes 1st to 8th including 3,31,000 students of Kashmir division who are eligible for these free textbooks. This is the first time in years that we have started the work of book

>>> MORE ON P 02

Zainkote Grid Station to Get Rs 89.46-Crore Upgrade, Capacity to Rise to 780 MVA

Ali Mohammad Sagar reviews winter power preparedness in Srinagar; tendering process scheduled to begin on November 10

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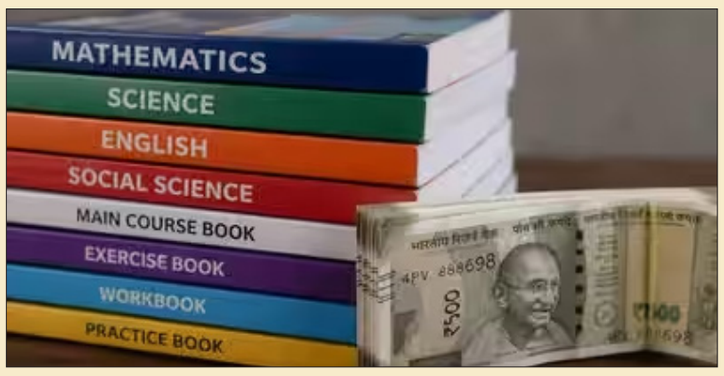
SRINAGAR: Minister for Power Development Department Ali Mohammad Sagar on Monday reviewed winter power preparedness in Srinagar and inspected key transmission infrastructure at Zainkote and Bemina, announcing a major augmentation of the Zainkote Grid Station at an estimated cost of Rs 89.46 crore. The proposed project will enhance the grid station's capacity from the existing 450 MVA to 780 MVA to strengthen power transmission and meet the growing electricity requirements of Srinagar and adjoining areas, including Shari-Khas. Officials informed the minister that the Detailed Project Report had been approved and the tendering process was scheduled

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HT BOTTOM NEWS

Parents Raise Alarm Over Costly Textbooks, Poor-Quality Uniforms in Private Schools

Complaints pour in at Headlines Today office as families question exorbitant book prices, restricted purchases and quality of school uniforms



Dr ABDUL QAYOOM...
HT CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR: The growing financial burden on parents sending their children to private schools in Jammu and Kashmir has triggered concern, with several parents approaching Headlines Today to complain about exorbitantly priced textbooks, poor-quality uniforms and alleged lack of transparency in school-related purchases.

The issue came into focus after a parent of a student enrolled in a private school in the vicinity of the Headlines Today office contacted this reporter and expressed concern over the unusually high cost of prescribed textbooks. The parent questioned the justification for such expensive book sets, pointing out that the financial burden was becoming increasingly difficult for families to manage.

Following the initial complaint, several other parents, requesting anonymity, also contacted this newspaper and personally visited the office of Headlines Today at Lawaipora, Srinagar, to highlight what they described as an increasingly difficult situation for families. Their grievances were not confined to textbook prices but also included concerns over the quality of school uniforms and the amounts charged for essential school-related items.

"Education is already expensive, and parents have to manage tuition fees, transportation and other expenses. Why should textbooks and uniforms become another

>>> MORE ON P 02

Warehouse Fire: Speaker Seeks Immediate Ex-Gratia Relief for Affected Traders

Abdul Rahim Rather expresses solidarity with business community, appreciates firefighters and police for containing devastating blaze



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Monday expressed solidarity with traders affected by the devastating fire at the historic Warehouse–Nehru Market near Bikram Chowk in Jammu, urging the administration to provide immediate ex-gratia relief to those who suffered massive losses. Describing the incident as deeply unfortunate, the Speaker said the blaze had gutted dozens of business

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Wet Spell Likely

could help clear the atmosphere and reduce locally generated pollution.

: The upcoming wet spell triggered by a western disturbance is likely to improve air quality in Kashmir, where pollution levels have risen due to the burning of orchard waste and paddy stubble, Director Meteorological Department Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said on Monday.

↱ ↱ Speaking to Kashmir News Service (KNS), Ahmad said weather conditions had remained largely dry in recent days, with daytime temperatures also recording a rise.

↱ ↱ He said weather conditions were expected to change in the coming days, with an approaching western disturbance likely to bring precipitation to the region.

↱ ↱ The MeT Director said the wet spell could help clear the atmosphere and reduce locally generated pollution, particularly during the ongoing autumn season.

↱ ↱ "Due to the burning of orchard leaves and paddy stubble, pollution levels have increased to some extent. Stable atmospheric conditions and local factors have also contributed to the situation," he said.

↱ ↱ Ahmad said the expected wet spell could bring considerable improvement in air quality, particularly in areas affected by local pollution.

↱ ↱ He said daytime temperatures had remained relatively comfortable, while morning and evening conditions were comparatively colder.

↱ ↱ The forecasted weather change is expected to provide some relief from the prevailing dry conditions and help improve atmospheric conditions across the Valley.(KNS)

Spiritual Heritage

the Lieutenant Governor said that the State embodies India's spiritual consciousness through the grandeur of the Himalayas, the sacred flow of the Ganga and the rich traditions of faith and devotion. Referring to the revered shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri, he said the pilgrimage of faith represents India's cultural continuity and civilisational values.

"In the caves of the Himalayas, our sages and seers kindled the light of knowledge. On its peaks, the tradition of austerity flourished, and in its valleys flowed the streams of devotion, compassion, and humanity. The Ganga and Yamuna flowing from Gangotri and Yamunotri, Badrinath dedicated to Lord Vishnu, and Kedarnath, the sacred abode of Lord Shiva, all are invaluable symbols of our faith, our cultural continuity, and our civilisational identity," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the Ganga is not merely a river but a symbol of India's cultural heritage, spiritual traditions and life-giving values. He urged the younger generation to recognise the importance of preserving the purity and uninterrupted flow of the Ganga, describing it as both an environmental and moral responsibility.

Highlighting Uttarakhand's inclusive spiritual heritage, the Lieutenant Governor said Hemkund Sahib, Gurudwara Meetha Reetha Sahib and the Mindrolling Monastery are symbols of harmony, coexistence and mutual respect among diverse faiths. He observed that the State's fairs and festivals reflect the vibrancy of its cultural life and folk traditions.

"The proclamation of our ancient Vedic tradition is 'Ekam sad vipra bahudha vadanti', truth is one and the wise describe it in many ways. I believe that this diversity of Uttarakhand tells us that India's strength lies in the coexistence, mutual respect, and harmony of its diverse faiths. This is the distinctive character of our cultural heritage," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded Uttarakhand's contribution to literature, art, music and national service. Describing the State as both "Devbhoomi" and "Veerbhoomi", he expressed gratitude to the armed forces, veterans and families of brave soldiers from the region who have served the nation with distinction.

"In the field of painting, the Garhwal style, which developed in the seventeenth century, and the contribution of its great artists are invaluable chapters of our artistic heritage. In the world of music, Uttarakhand's folk songs are extremely popular both in India and abroad. It is our responsibility to make these traditions part of the creativity, innovation, and life of the new generation," he said.

Commending the developmental progress achieved under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted historic transformation in connectivity, education, healthcare, digital infrastructure and local economic activities such as homestays, organic farming, handicrafts, tourism and start-ups.

"Just as the Ganga and Yamuna, emerging from the soil of Uttarakhand, connect many regions and nourish India's public life, in the same way the cultural consciousness of "Devbhoomi" binds the entire nation in a thread of emotional unity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Uttarakhand Scaling

challenge of balancing economic growth and tourism with environmental conservation and preservation of its unique Himalayan heritage. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday extended his greetings to the people of Uttarakhand on the occasion of the state's Foundation Day, praising its rich spiritual heritage, breathtaking natural beauty and vibrant cultural traditions, while expressing confidence that the Himalayan state would continue to make rapid progress on the development front.

In a message posted on social media platform X, Modi described Uttarakhand as a sacred land endowed with spiritual consciousness and extraordinary natural beauty. Referring to its majestic mountains, holy rivers and the revered Char Dham pilgrimage sites, he highlighted the state's distinctive identity as a land where nature, spirituality and culture come together.

"Heartfelt greetings to all residents of the state on the occasion of Uttarakhand Foundation Day," the Prime Minister said, extending his wishes to the people of the state.

Acknowledging the role of its people in shaping Uttarakhand's progress, Modi described them as hardworking, talented and progressive, crediting their active participation for the state's achievements across different sectors.

"Uttarakhand is today touching new heights of development in every field through the active participation of its hardworking, talented and progressive people," he said.

Expressing optimism about the state's future, the Prime Minister said he was confident that Uttarakhand, admired for its natural splendour and cultural richness, would continue to advance rapidly on the path of progress. He also wished that the Foundation Day would usher in happiness, peace and prosperity in the lives of all its residents.

Popularly known as Devbhoomi, or the Land of the Gods, Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh and became India's 27th state on November 9, 2000, following a prolonged popular movement for a separate hill state. Its formation marked the culmination of years of political mobilisation and public demand for an administrative identity that would better address the distinctive geographical, economic and developmental challenges of the Himalayan region.

The state is home to the four celebrated pilgrimage destinations of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri, collectively known as the Char Dham. Its identity is also shaped by the Himalayan mountain ranges, sacred rivers, dense forests, rich biodiversity and centuries-old religious and cultural traditions.

Uttarakhand's Foundation Day is both a celebration of its journey as a separate state and a reminder of the aspirations that inspired its creation. Alongside economic growth, infrastructure development and improved opportunities for its people, the state continues to face the challenge of balancing modernisation with environmental conservation, sustainable tourism and the preservation of its

Dr Jitendra Singh

Director of DERMIS – Skin, Laser and Hair Transplant Clinic, Srinagar, for his contributions to dermatology and aesthetic medicine at a ceremony held in Jammu on November 7.

The event was organised to recognise doctors from across Jammu and Kashmir for their contributions to different disciplines of medicine and patient care.

On the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh praised Dr Shahnawaz for his work in dermatology and said his clinical and academic contributions had helped bring recognition to Jammu and Kashmir at national and international platforms.

Dr Shahnawaz's professional work includes clinical dermatology, laser treatments, aesthetic medicine and hair restoration. He has also represented the region at various national and international scientific forums.

Expressing gratitude for the recognition, Dr Shahnawaz dedicated the award to his patients, saying their trust and confidence had remained his biggest motivation.

"I humbly dedicate this award to all my patients who have placed their faith and trust in me over the years. Their confidence in my care is my greatest motivation, and this recognition strengthens my commitment to serving them with dedication, honesty and compassion," he said.

He also acknowledged the contribution of his colleagues and the DERMIS team, saying the recognition would encourage them to continue working towards improving patient care.(KNS)

Government to

over the past decade. Education Minister Shameema Firdous on Monday said the government would examine the issue of high-priced textbooks in private schools, acknowledging that some book sets cost parents between Rs 6,000 and Rs 10,000.

↱ ↱ Speaking to reporters, Firdous said she would convene a meeting with the Director of School Education and other concerned officials to examine the matter and explore possible measures.

↱ ↱ "We are getting very expensive books. It is true that these books are very expensive. Some sets cost Rs 6,000 to Rs 7,000, while others cost Rs 10,000. I will call a meeting to see what needs to be done," she said.

↱ ↱ The minister's remarks came in response to a question about the financial burden on parents purchasing textbooks from private schools.

↱ ↱ On the provision of free textbooks and uniforms in government schools, Firdous said the initiative was intended to ease the financial burden on parents and encourage enrolment in government institutions.

↱ ↱ "Some children cannot afford books and other things. That is why we have provided these books, so that their parents do not face difficulties and children can study without financial constraints," she said.

↱ ↱ She said government school teachers were working hard but stressed the need to improve the standard of education to bring government institutions at par with private schools.

↱ ↱ "Why do we give more importance to private schools? Our teachers are working hard. They have to be at the same level as private schools so that children and their parents do not face difficulties," she said.

↱ ↱ On the demand for raising the upper age limit for open merit candidates in Jammu and Kashmir Bank recruitment, Firdous favoured increasing it to 40 years, citing the absence of recruitment opportunities over the past decade.

↱ ↱ "Thirty years is not enough. They should keep it up to 40 years because there has been no appointment here for the last 10 years. They should keep that in mind and think about it," she said. (KNS

Omar Abdullah

The Chief Minister directed the district administration to ensure immediate relief and extend all necessary assistance to the affected persons.

He also instructed the administration to undertake a thorough assessment of the damage and take appropriate measures to address the needs of those affected.

A massive fire broke out at the Ware House near Bikram Chowk last evening, spreading to several adjoining structures, including business establishments.

JKBOSE targets

distribution along with the session."

"We have issued a distribution schedule to the zonal officers and have directed them to keep an eye on the schedule," he said.

Pertinently, JKBOSE has informed that at least 2,70,000 students were registered to appear in board exams of 10th, 11th and 12th standard.

JKBOSE Chairman had informed that 2,70,000 students were enrolled for exams in all three classes. "There are 10 districts of the Kashmir region and six districts of winter zone areas of Jammu division," he said.

He also said that the Board has set up 2402 exam centres for all the three classes. "We have appointed the staff including superintendents, deputy superintendents and supervisors. So, that kind of process has already been completed."—(KNO)

Warehouse Fire

establishments, causing extensive property damage and severe financial distress to traders. Highlighting the historic and economic significance of the market, which has served as a major wholesale trading hub since the 1950s, he extended sympathies to the affected business owners and their families. Rather appreciated the timely response of the Fire and Emergency Services Department, police and local administration in containing the blaze and preventing further loss of life and property. He urged the authorities to conduct an immediate assessment of losses and provide adequate financial assistance to enable affected traders to restore their livelihoods and resume commercial activities.

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, has expressed deep concern over the devastating fire incident at the historic Warehouse–Nehru Market near Bikram Chowk, Jammu, which gutted dozens of business establishments on Sunday night, causing extensive damage to property and huge financial losses to traders.

Describing the incident as deeply unfortunate, the Speaker extended his heartfelt sympathies to the affected traders and business owners, whose shops and livelihoods have suffered heavily in the blaze. He said that the Warehouse–Nehru Market, one of Jammu's oldest and most prominent wholesale trading hubs, has been serving traders, retailers and consumers since the 1950s and holds significant economic importance for the city.

The Speaker lauded the timely efforts of the Fire and Emergency Services Department, police and local administration in containing the massive blaze and preventing further damage to life and property. He appreciated the dedication and prompt response of the personnel who worked under challenging circumstances to bring the situation under control.

Expressing concern over the huge losses, reportedly running into crores of rupees, Rather urged the administration to undertake an immediate assessment of the damages and provide adequate ex-gratia relief to the affected traders at the earliest to help them overcome the financial distress caused by the tragedy.

The Speaker also stressed the need for appropriate measures to support the affected business community in restoring their livelihoods and resuming commercial activities at the earliest.

Zainkote Grid

to commence on November 10, 2026. Sagar also inspected the 132/33 kV, 200 MVA Grid Station at Bemina, which supplies several densely populated localities of the city. Stressing the need for reliable and uninterrupted electricity during winter, he directed officials to expedite ongoing works, remove operational bottlenecks, maintain coordination and ensure prompt redressal of public grievances.

Minister for Power Development Department (PDD), Revenue, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, today visited Zainkote and Bemina to review the power supply scenario, assess winter preparedness and inspect key power infrastructure in Srinagar.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar, Managing Director JKPTCL, Managing Director KPDCL, Chief Engineers, Executive Engineers and other senior officers of the Power Development Department.

During the visit, the Minister reviewed the functioning of the existing power infrastructure and stressed the need for ensuring reliable, uninterrupted and quality power supply, particularly during the winter months when electricity demand witnesses a significant increase.

At Zainkote Grid Station, the Minister was informed about the proposed major augmentation of its capacity from the existing 450 MVA to 780 MVA at an estimated cost of Rs. 89.46 crore. The project is aimed at strengthening the transmission network and meeting the growing electricity requirements of Srinagar and its adjoining areas, including Shari-Khas.

The augmentation will also strengthen power supply to the 132/33 kV Grid Station at Waganpora and GIS Khanyar. It was informed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been approved and the tendering process is scheduled to be initiated by November 10, 2026.

The Minister also inspected the 132/33 kV, 200 MVA Grid Station at Bemina, which caters to several densely populated areas of Srinagar, including Bemina, Qamarwari, Karanagar, Fatehkadal, Barbar Shah, PC Depot, JVC and adjoining localities through its associated receiving stations.

He directed the officers to ensure timely completion of all ongoing and proposed works, remove operational bottlenecks and maintain close coordination to minimise power disruptions during the winter season.

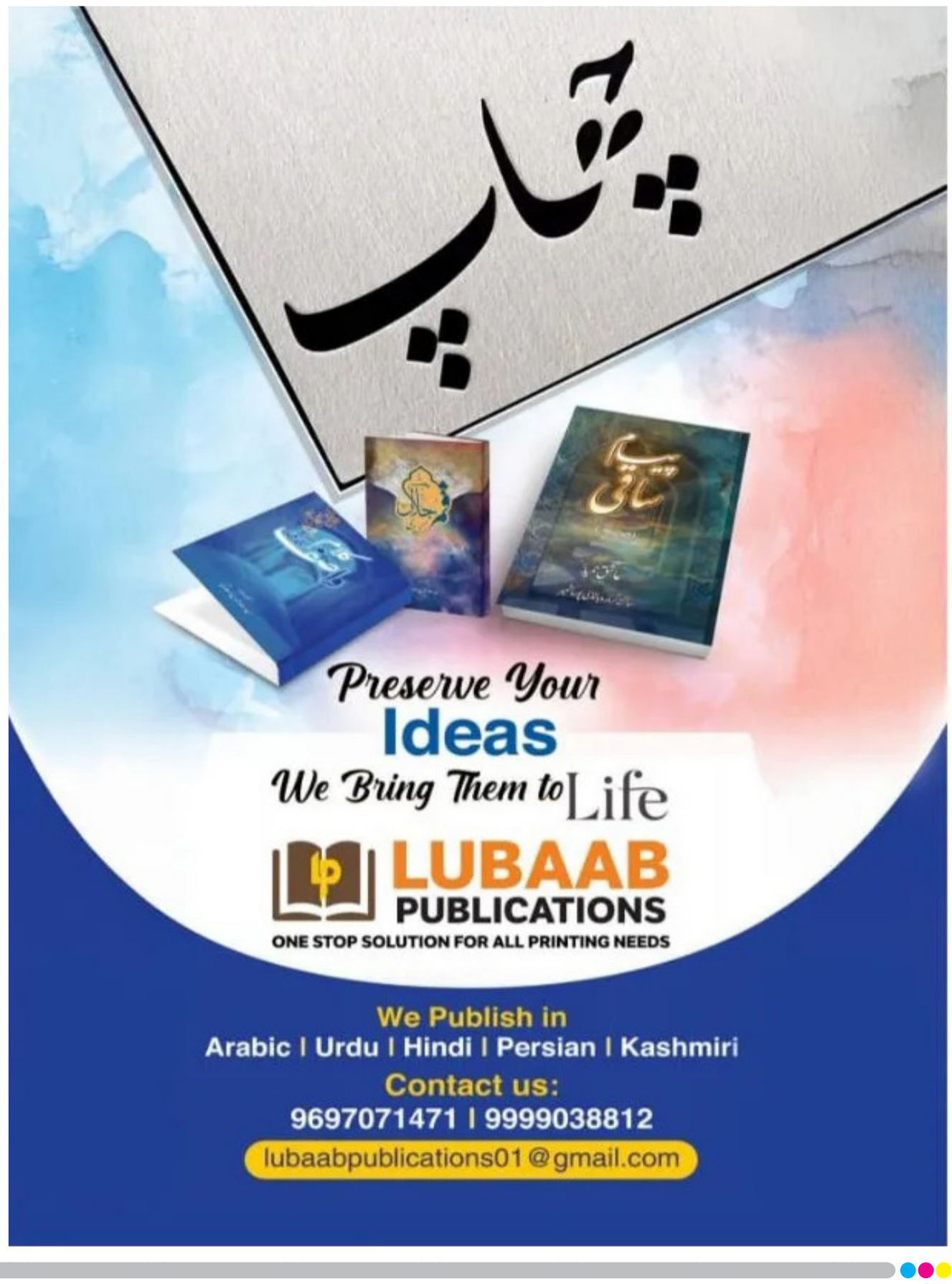
The Minister also visited the Overview Data Centre at Bemina and took stock of its functioning and related infrastructure.

Emphasising the importance of strengthening the power transmission and distribution network in view of Srinagar's expanding urban landscape and rising electricity demand, Sagar called for a proactive and coordinated approach to winter preparedness. He directed the concerned officers to remain responsive to public grievances and ensure prompt resolution of power-related issues.

Parents Raise

source of financial pressure?" a parent questioned.

Another parent alleged that the quality of uniforms supplied or prescribed by certain institutions did not always justify the prices charged. Parents, they said, expected durable material and reasonable pricing rather than being compelled to spend heavily on items requiring frequent replacement.



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Javed Rana visits fire-ravaged Warehouse Nehru Market, Assesses damage; Interacts with affected shopkeepers, assures all possible assistance

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 9: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Transport, Javed Ahmed Rana, today visited Warehouse Nehru Market at Bikram Chowk, Jammu, to assess the damage caused by the devastating fire that engulfed several shops in the historic commercial hub late Sunday night.

During the visit, the Minister conducted an on-ground assessment of the affected establishments and interacted with shop owners, traders and representatives of the Warehouse Association to understand the extent of losses, hear their grievances and discuss measures for their timely redressal.

Expressing deep concern over the incident, Rana sympathised with the affected traders and their families, assuring them of the Government's full support and all possible assistance. He stressed that the genuine concerns of those who have suffered losses must be addressed promptly and that no affected trader should be left without due consideration.



The Minister directed the concerned authorities to ensure close coordination among all departments for a comprehensive assessment of the losses and to facilitate necessary relief and rehabilitation measures.

Highlighting the commercial importance of Warehouse Nehru Market, Rana said that the market is one of Jammu's prominent and historic wholesale trading centres, dealing in foodgrains, edible oils and other essential commodities. He observed that the fire has not only caused substantial property losses but has also severely affected the livelihoods of traders, employees and families dependent on the market.

The Minister further stressed the need to strengthen fire safety infrastructure, preparedness and emergency response mechanisms in densely populated commercial areas to prevent such incidents and minimise potential losses in the future.

Rana also said that all circumstances and factors leading to the outbreak and spread of the fire would be thoroughly investigated and called to identify measures to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies.

Reaffirming the Omar Abdullah led Government's commitment to stand firmly with the affected business community, the Minister assured that every possible effort would be made to facilitate their early recovery and restoration of normal business activities. Highlighting the commercial importance of Warehouse Nehru Market, Rana said that the market is one of Jammu's prominent and historic wholesale trading centres, dealing in foodgrains, edible oils and other essential commodities. He observed that the fire has not only caused substantial property losses but has also severely affected the livelihoods of traders, employees and families dependent on the market.The Minister further stressed the need to strengthen fire safety infrastructure, preparedness and emergency response mechanisms in densely populated commercial areas.

Public representatives, delegations, citizens call on CM Omar Abdullah in Jammu

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 09: Several public representatives, delegations, professionals and citizens today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here and discussed a range of issues concerning public welfare, development and various sectors.

Former Minister Sukhnandan Choudhary called on the Chief Minister and discussed issues of public importance.

MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia met the Chief Minister and discussed developmental issues, public welfare concerns and other matters pertaining to his Assembly constituency.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, Prof. B. N. Tripathi, also called on the Chief Minister and discussed various matters related to the university.

A delegation of the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), led by its Chairman Sanjay Aggarwal, met the Chief Minister and discussed issues concerning the automobile industry in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. Abhinav Gupta of ASCOMS, Jammu, also called on the Chief Minister. The interaction provided an opportunity to acknowledge his professional accomplishments.

A delegation led by Principal of British International School, Sainik Colony, Jammu, accompanied by teachers and students, also called on the Chief Minister. The students interacted briefly with him during the meeting.

Several other individuals and citizens also called on the Chief Minister during the day.

Javid Dar assures JK NOPRUF delegation of examining teachers' service issues

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 9: A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir National Old Pension Restoration United Front (JK NOPRUF) led by its General Secretary, Sakoon Manir today called on Minister for Agriculture Production, Finance, Mining and Cooperative Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar and apprised him of a range of long-pending service related issues concerning the teachers and employees across Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation submitted a detailed memorandum seeking Minister's intervention for addressing the issues pertaining to pensionary benefits, career progression, transfer policy and other matters affecting the teaching fraternity.

During the interaction, the delegation sought extension of benefits of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to eligible Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers whose



recruitment advertisements were issued on or before December 24, 2009, including those engaged subsequently, in accordance with Government Order No. 305-F of 2026.

The delegation highlighted the need for convening regular Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meetings to clear the long-pending promotion cases of eligible teachers to the post of Masters. They also urged for formulating a separate, transparent and comprehensive transfer policy for ReT teachers.

Other major issues brought to the Minister's attention included formulation of a suitable transfer policy for Reserved Category and PM Package employees serving in Kashmir, acceptance and onward submission of OPS-related cases of all eligible employees to the Finance Department and expeditious disposal of pending intra-district transfer cases of Reserved Category and PM Package employees.

The representatives emphasised that these issues have a direct bearing on the professional security, career advancement, pensionary entitlements and overall welfare of teachers and other employees, warranting their timely consideration and resolution.

Javid Dar assured its members that the genuine issues raised in the memorandum would be examined and addressed in a phased manner.

DC Anantnag reviews Physical, Financial Progress of Development Works

Instructs Officers to expedite Works, ensure optimum utilization of Working Season

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial progress of ongoing development works being executed across the district.

During the meeting, a detailed sector-wise review was conducted regarding the status of various ongoing works, expenditure incurred, targets achieved and bottlenecks, if any, affecting the pace of execution.

The Deputy Commissioner took stock of the progress of works being implemented by different departments and executing agencies and directed the concerned officers to closely monitor the pace and quality of works on the ground.

He instructed all concerned to expedite the execution of ongoing works and ensure that the available working season is utilised to the maximum for completing works within the stipulated timelines.

The DC stressed the need for effective inter-departmental coordination, timely resolution of bottlenecks and regular field



inspections to ensure that projects are executed as per approved specifications and timelines.

He further directed officers to maintain close monitoring of both physical and financial progress and ensure optimum utilisation of funds, while according due priority to projects having direct public benefit.

The Deputy Commissioner called for a result-oriented approach and directed the executing agencies to work with greater coordination and commitment to achieve the set targets within the prescribed timelines.

Deputy Chief Minister visits fire hit Bikram Chowk; assesses damage, assures prompt relief measures

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 9: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today visited the fire-affected area of Bikram Chowk, here, to assess the damage caused by the devastating fire incident and assured prompt relief measures for the affected people.He expressed solidarity with the affected shopkeepers and traders.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister interacted with the affected traders and shopkeepers, listened to their concerns and took stock of the losses suffered by them due to the incident. He expressed deep concern over the destruction caused by the fire and conveyed his sympathies to all those whose businesses and livelihoods have been affected.

Surinder Choudhary assured prompt assistance and appropriate relief measures for the affected traders. He stressed that the concerns of those who have suffered losses would be addressed on priority and all necessary support will be extended to help them overcome this difficult situation. He also underscored the importance of strengthening emergency response mechanisms to ensure timely intervention during such unfortunate incidents.

DC Shopian convenes Revenue Review, enforces Zero-Tolerance against encroachments

Directs immediate disposal of Migrant Grievances

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 09: In a major push toward transparent governance and robust public service delivery, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, chaired a comprehensive revenue meeting at the Mini-Secretariat, Shopian today.

The meeting focused on evaluating the functioning of the Revenue Department, tightening administrative accountability and accelerating key field-level initiatives across the district.

Taking a firm stance against land grabbing, the DC issued clear instructions to Tehsildars to initiate immediate, aggressive anti-encroachment drives targeting Khacharie and State land.

Emphasizing a strict zero-tolerance policy, the Deputy Commissioner directed that illegal encroachments be handled with utmost seriousness to guarantee the prompt retrieval of all occupied state and Kahcharie land.

The meeting also featured a thorough operational review of field personnel,



including Lumberdars and Chowkidars. Directing these officials to execute their duties with unyielding dedication, the Deputy Commissioner ordered the immediate submission of comprehensive work verification and performance reports to ensure absolute accountability at the grassroots level.

Prioritizing public relief, the DC closely examined pending migrant grievances. He stressed the necessity for speedy, high-quality and priority disposal of all such cases to ensure fair and timely justice for affected individuals.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed all revenue officers to maintain seamless inter-departmental coordination, uphold complete transparency in land records management and treat the resolution of public grievances as a top administrative priority.

Among others the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar, SDM, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed, Tehsildars, Naib-Tehsildars, Girdawars, Partwaris, Numberdars and Chowkidars.

DC Ganderbal chairs review meeting for upcoming JKSSB Examination

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today chaired a review meeting in the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal, to ensure the smooth, transparent, and successful conduct of the upcoming JKSSB OMR-based written examination for the post of Accounts Assistant (Finance Department), scheduled for November 15, 2026.The meeting was attended by the ADC Ganderbal, Dr. Syed Faheem A. Bihaqi, representatives from the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), Centre Superintendents, Observers, and appointed Magistrates.

During the meeting, the ADC Ganderbal briefed the DC in detail on the administrative, operational, and security arrangements put in place. He outlined the specific roles, duties, and responsibilities assigned to Magistrates, Observers, and Centre Superintendents to maintain absolute integrity throughout the examination process. As part of the proceedings, specialized training was also organized for Centre Superintendents, conducted by Principal Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Kangan.

Addressing the officers, the DC emphasized that although conducting such examinations is a regular administrative function, it remains an event of significant importance. She directed all deployed personnel to execute all guidelines and examination protocols in letter and spirit.

The DC stressed the importance of maintaining a supportive, compassionate, and considerate approach toward candidates appearing for the exam, ensuring they face no unnecessary hassle or discomfort at the examination venues.

Mega Gram Sabha held at Block Kanjiullar Shopian to mark Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas

Awareness and disposal of FRA claims of ST community held; locals project developmental demands

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 09: On the eve of Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas, celebrated on the birth anniversary of Shri Birsa Munda Ji, a Mega Gram Sabha was organized by the Tribal Affairs Department, District Shopian in collaboration with District Administration Shopian.

The Gram Sabha was held for awareness and disposal of claims of ST community including AKs/ASKs/Dajgua and others under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

Program Officer ICDS Shopian, Mohammad Imran Khan, who is also Nodal Officer for Tribal Department District Shopian, Block Development Officer Kanjiullar, Tariq Ahmad Padder, besides officials from Tribal Department and other line departments were also present on the occasion.

During the programme, detailed awareness was given regarding the highlights of the Forest Rights Act, including individual and community rights, procedure for filing claims, role of Gram Sabha and Forest Rights Committees, and the benefits accruing to the tribal community under the Act. Claims of the ST community were also taken up for disposal.

On the occasion, the locals projected several demands including check Shamshipora, establishment of a library, macadamization of link road, macadamization of main road from Jamia Masjid to house of Ab Rahim Sheikh, and provision of drinking water reservoir for the tribal community.

The people also demanded establishment of a Primary Health Centre for the said area and construction of bund of Nallah.

The officers gave a patient hearing to the demands and assured that all genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned departments for early redressal. Program Officer ICDS Shopian, Mohammad Imran Khan, who is also Nodal Officer for Tribal Department District Shopian, Block Development Officer Kanjiullar, Tariq Ahmad Padder, besides officials from Tribal Department and other line departments were also present on the occasion.

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Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrated with enthusiasm at Block Sukhnag Budgam

■ HT News Network



BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 09: Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas was celebrated with great enthusiasm and public participation at Ringzabal, Block Sukhnag, with the objective of honouring the rich heritage, culture and contributions of tribal communities while creating awareness about various government welfare schemes and initiatives.

The programme witnessed the presence of several senior officers and dignitaries, including Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Budgam, Javaid Ahmad; Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Khansahib, Jahangir Ahmad Giri; and Project Officer ICDS Budgam, Samar Naik, besides various departmental heads and officials from different government departments.

During the programme, officers and representatives from various departments interacted with the general public and provided detailed information about different government-sponsored schemes, welfare initiatives and development programmes available for the benefit of the people. They also highlighted the eligibility criteria, benefits and procedures for availing these schemes, encouraging people to take maximum advantage of the opportunities provided by the government.

A large number of people from Ringzabal and adjoining areas participated in the programme, with particularly encouraging participation from members of the tribal community.

The event served as an important platform for strengthening public awareness, promoting government-public interaction and ensuring that the benefits of various welfare schemes reach deserving and eligible beneficiaries, especially those belonging to tribal and other underserved communities.

The celebration reaffirmed the importance of inclusive development, community participation and the preservation of the rich cultural heritage and identity of tribal communities.

DLSA Shopian celebrates Legal Services Day 2026

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 09: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Shopian, today celebrated Legal Services Day 2026 with a grand function at the Court Complex, Shopian.

The event started with the reading of Natinal Song and National Anthem and NALSA theme song. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from all Judicial Officers, advocates, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), and a large number of litigants from across the district. The programme was presided over by Mehmood Ahmad Chowdary, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Shopian, who graced the occasion as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, Chowdary highlighted the significant achievements of DLSA Shopian over the past year, particularly in the areas of legal aid, awareness campaigns, and the resolution of disputes through Lok Adalats and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. He reiterated the Authority's commitment to ensuring that justice reaches every section of society, especially the marginalized and underprivileged.

The Chairman also praised the dedicated work of the Legal Aid Defence Counsel in the district, commending their commitment to providing competent legal representation to undertrial prisoners and indigent litigants. He acknowledged their role in safeguarding the rights of the accused and ensuring that no person is denied justice due to poverty or lack of legal knowledge.

In his address, the Chairman made an earnest appeal to all participants, including litigants and advocates, to refer their cases to the DLSA for amicable settlement. He emphasized that mediation and conciliation not only reduce the burden on the courts but also provide parties with faster, cost-effective, and mutually satisfactory outcomes.

DLSA Srinagar celebrates Legal Services Day at ADR Centre, Concludes Legal Services Week

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 09: Under the directions of Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman DLSA (Principal District Sessions Judge), Srinagar and overall supervision of Secretary DLSA, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized week long celebration through PLVs at their respective Free Legal Aid Clinics and Legal Literacy Clubs, culminating with the concluding ceremony on the eve of Legal Services Day at the ADR Centre, Srinagar.

The concluding ceremony was attended by Secretary DLSA Srinagar, staff members and Para legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Srinagar.

The concluding ceremony was inaugurated by Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman DLSA Srinagar, who delivered the special address, interacted with the PLVs and highlighted their significance in the discharge of legal services duties, with emphasis on the importance of free legal aid and the vital role played by Legal Services Institutions in ensuring access to justice for all. The Chairman also sensitized the participants about various modes of dispute resolution, including pre-litigation services, mediation, conciliation, and arbitration.

The week long celebrations included organization of awareness programmes at Free Legal Aid Clinics and Legal Literacy Clubs, with the aim of sensitizing the general public about the legal aid services available to them through the distribution of pamphlets highlighting Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The Para Legal Volunteers along with Panel Lawyers also marked the day by organizing a rally from the ADR Centre to the Main Gate of the District Court Complex and also distributed pamphlets among the general public at the entrance of the court premises to create awareness about eligibility for free legal aid.

DC Anantnag reviews progress under SVAMITVA, AgriStack, Farmer ID Generation

Directs Officers to expedite Coverage of Eligible Farmers

■ Farooq Rather



ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress achieved under various flagship digital initiatives, including SVAMITVA, AgriStack and Farmer ID generation in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress under the SVAMITVA scheme and took stock of the status of data compilation, generation and distribution of property cards.

It was informed that 245 villages have completed the final data compilation, while approximately 9270 property cards have been generated, of which 7184 have been distributed among the beneficiaries. The status of pending maps under Map 1.0 and Map 2.0 was also reviewed, with emphasis on expediting the completion of the remaining work. The DC also reviewed the progress of AgriStack implementation and Farmer ID generation across the district. Chair was informed that 335 out of 394 villages have been made active under the initiative, while the process of Farmer ID generation is currently underway.

DLSA Pulwama concludes week long Awareness Drive to promote access to Justice for all

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 09: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Pulwama, in collaboration with all the Tehsil Legal Services Committees of the district, today concluded a week-long awareness programme organised in connection with the observance of Legal Services Day, reaffirming its commitment to ensuring access to justice for all.

The awareness programme was organised from November 4 to November 9, 2026, under the chairmanship of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Pulwama, Malik Shabir Ahmad, and under the supervision of Secretary, DLSA Pulwama, Mudasar Farooq.

During the week-long observance, a series of awareness programmes, legal literacy camps, door-to-door campaigns and interactive sessions were conducted at various locations across the district, including KCEF Law College, Government Degree College Pulwama, Higher Secondary Schools and Special Jail Correctional Home, Pulwama.

Resource persons, including Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), elaborated on the role, mandate and functioning of various Legal Services Institutions, including the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), J&K Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority and Tehsil Legal Services Committees.



The participants were sensitised about various legal services and welfare schemes, including Free Legal Aid, Lok Adalats, Victim Compensation Scheme and legal assistance available to women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, prisoners and other marginalised sections of society.

Awareness was also imparted about various NALSA initiatives relating to Child-Friendly Legal Services, Legal Services to Victims of Drug Abuse, Mental Health and Cyber Safety.

Special emphasis was laid on the rights of women and children, the protection of undertrial prisoners, the procedure for availing free legal aid and the importance of amicable settlement of disputes through Lok Adalats and Mediation. Participants were also informed about the toll-free legal aid helpline number 15100.

A large number of students, teachers, Para Legal Volunteers and members of the general public participated in the programmes with great enthusiasm and actively engaged in the awareness activities.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary, DLSA Pulwama, Mudasar Farooq, highlighted that the primary objective of the Awareness Week was to ensure that legal awareness reaches every section of society and that no individual is deprived of legal assistance due to poverty, social barriers or lack of awareness.

The week-long programme concluded today with a collective pledge to strengthen legal literacy, promote awareness about citizens' rights and entitlements, and ensure that the benefits of legal services reach every doorstep, upholding the spirit of "Access to Justice for All."

DLSA Budgam, TLSCs organise Week-long Legal Awareness Activities, celebrate Legal Service Day

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 09: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, in collaboration with all the Tehsil Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) of the district, organised a series of comprehensive legal awareness and outreach programmes across District Budgam during Legal Services Week 2026.

The week-long campaign was aimed at spreading awareness about the availability of free and competent legal aid, fundamental and statutory legal rights, access to justice and various welfare-oriented schemes launched by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

As part of the week-long observance, an extensive door-to-door awareness drive was also conducted through Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) deputed at various Legal Aid Clinics, Legal Literacy Clubs and other institutions across the district. The PLVs reached out to people at the grassroots level, particularly in rural and far-flung areas and sensitised them about their legal rights, the availability of free legal assistance and the role of Legal Services Institutions in ensuring that justice remains accessible to all irrespective of their social or economic background.

The week-long observance culminated in the celebration of Legal Services Day today, at the District Headquarter as well as at the headquarters of all Tehsil Legal Services Committees across District Budgam.

The occasion marked the successful conclusion of a series of awareness and outreach initiatives undertaken throughout the district to promote the objectives of the Legal Services Authorities Act and strengthen the delivery of legal aid services at the grassroots level.

On the occasion the programme held at ADR Centre DLSA BUdgam, resource persons including Advocate Mohammad Iqbal Wani, Aamir Hamid, Mehreen Zaffar and Advocate Feroz Ahmad Khan, addressed the gatherings and highlighted the significance of Legal Services Day, the objectives of the legal services movement and the vital role played by Legal Services Authorities in ensuring equal access to justice.



They further elaborated on the various provisions relating to free legal aid, the functioning of Legal Services Institutions and the different schemes and initiatives introduced by NALSA for the benefit of marginalised and weaker sections of society.

The resource persons emphasised that access to justice is a fundamental component of a just and equitable society and that lack of awareness, financial constraints or social barriers should never prevent any individual from seeking legal remedies. They also stressed the need to further strengthen legal awareness at the grassroots level and encouraged members of the public to approach DLSA Budgam and the concerned TLSCs for availing themselves of free legal services and assistance in appropriate cases.

Throughout the week, DLSA Budgam, in close coordination with the Tehsil Legal Services Committees at Magam, Chadoora, Charar-i-Sharief and Beerwah organised a range of awareness programmes, interactive sessions and outreach activities at different locations across the district. Special Legal Aid Desks were also established in the premises of all Subordinate Courts to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding legal aid services, guide litigants and members of the public and provide necessary assistance to eligible persons seeking legal support.

The awareness programmes primarily focused on the availability and benefits of free legal aid, various NALSA schemes, legal rights and entitlements of citizens, access to justice, the functioning of Legal Aid Clinics and the importance of Legal Literacy Clubs in promoting legal awareness among students and the general public. Special emphasis was laid on reaching out to rural and remote areas through door-to-door campaigns, public interactions and awareness sessions so that the benefits of legal services could reach the most deserving sections of society. The initiatives also highlighted the important role of Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers in bridging the gap between legal institutions and the general public. Through their continued efforts, the participants were sensitised about the procedure for seeking free legal aid, the importance of timely legal assistance and the various avenues available for resolving disputes through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Free Books, Uniforms To Encourage Parents To Enroll Children In Govt. Schools: Education Minister Shameema Firdous

■ HT News Network



Srinagar, 09 Nov, 2026: Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Adv. Shameema Firdous on Monday distributed free textbooks among students of Classes 1st to 8th in Srinagar, reaffirming the government's commitment to promoting enrolment in government schools, supporting economically weaker families and ensuring access to quality education for every child.

Speaking on the occasion, Shameema Firdous said that the provision of free textbooks and uniforms would help ease the financial burden on parents and encourage more families to enroll their children in government schools.

She emphasised that such initiatives aim to make education more accessible and affordable, particularly for children from economically weaker sections, including BPL, EWS and low-income families, while also strengthening the public education system.

The Minister also highlighted the importance of improving educational infrastructure, learning facilities and the overall academic environment in government schools. She stressed that sustained efforts are required to enhance public confidence in government institutions and ensure better educational opportunities for students.

Calling for greater coordination among all stakeholders, She underscored the role of teachers, parents and educational institutes in improving learning outcomes and raising the overall standard of education.

Adv. Shameema reiterated that the government's focus remains on ensuring that no child is deprived of educational opportunities due to financial constraints and that every student receives the support needed to pursue education.

District Admin Pulwama commences awareness sessions on Financial Literacy, Cyber Security, PO Programme at GDC Pampore

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 09: District Administration Pulwama commenced the series of awareness sessions on Financial Literacy, Cyber Security Awareness and the Probationary Officers (PO) Programme.

The first session was held today at Government Degree College (GDC) Pampore in collaboration with ICICI Bank.

The session focused on enhancing students' understanding of financial literacy, safe banking practices and the importance of securing digital financial transactions.

It also sensitized participants to various forms of cyber fraud and the precautionary measures required to protect themselves against online financial scams.

An important component of the programme was an introduction to the Probationary Officers (PO) Programme, offering students insights into career prospects in the banking sector, professional requirements and opportunities for pursuing a career in banking.

The interactive session provided a valuable platform for students to broaden their practical knowledge, develop financial awareness and understand the importance of digital responsibility.

ETK Elections 2026 Conclude; Akhter Ali Gazi Elected President

Er Ahmad Ali wins Chief Organiser's post by five votes; Dr Ali Muhammad Rather elected General Secretary unopposed

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, November 9: The four-yearly elections of Educational Trust Kashmir (ETK) concluded on Sunday with a voter turnout of 55 per cent, as 733 out of 1,331 registered voters exercised their franchise at six polling centres across the Valley. In the keenly contested presidential election, Akhter Ali Gazi emerged victorious, securing 418 votes against 290 polled by his rival, Dr Syed Nazim Hussaini, with a winning margin of 128 votes. Er Ahmad Ali was elected Chief Organiser after defeating Ajaz Ahmad Dar by a narrow margin of five votes, securing 355 votes. Meanwhile, Dr Ali Muhammad Rather was elected General Secretary unopposed, completing the election of the key office-bearers of the Central Executive Council. Iqbal Khomeini Hall, Shribhat Hawal, recorded the highest turnout with 313 votes, followed by Hyderia Hall, Dalgate (154), Budgam (116), Hanjivera Pattan (113) and Magam (37). A total of 64 votes were declared invalid. The elections were conducted in a fair and transparent manner under the supervision of a five-member Independent Election Authority headed by Syed Afzal Rizvi. Gazi, who has been associated with ETK for nearly two decades and served as Vice President of the outgoing Central Executive Council, will succeed Muhammad Shafi Khan, who served two consecutive terms since 2018. The newly elected Chief Organiser, Er Ahmad Ali, has also served the Trust in various capacities. The new leadership assumes charge at an important juncture as ETK continues its educational mission through its network of Imamia Public Schools across the Valley. The Patrons of the Trust, headed by Justice Hakim Imtiyaz, expressed gratitude to voters, candidates, members, polling staff and election officials for their cooperation and participation in ensuring the successful completion of the electoral process.

IUST to celebrate 21st Foundation Day with series of events; University Open Day to welcome aspirants

■ HT News Network

Awantipora, Nov 9: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) will celebrate its 21st Foundation Day on November 11 with a series of academic, innovation, cultural and community engagement activities.

The celebrations will feature a University Open Day, Technology Festival, Alumni Meet, Industry Meet, Food Festival, Book Festival, Art Exhibition and cultural programmes. The University Open Day will welcome aspiring students, parents and visitors to the campus, offering them an opportunity to explore the University's academic programmes, interact with faculty and students, visit laboratories and research facilities, and experience campus life. Departments and centres will showcase their academic achievements, research initiatives and facilities, helping prospective applicants make informed choices about higher education. The Technology Festival will showcase innovative projects and technology-based solutions developed by students and research scholars, while the Industry Meet will facilitate interaction between academia and industry. The Alumni Meet will bring former students together to reconnect with their alma mater and explore avenues of engagement. The Food and Book Festivals, Art Exhibition and cultural programmes will further add vibrancy to the celebrations. Over the past 21 years, IUST has steadily evolved as a centre of higher education, research and innovation in Jammu and Kashmir. Its expanding academic portfolio, growing research output, and emphasis on entrepreneurship.

IGNOU Releases Admit Cards for December 2026 Term-End Examinations

■ HT News Network

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has officially announced the release of the Admit Cards (Hall Tickets) for the upcoming December 2026 Term-End Examinations (TEE) vide Notification No.IG/SED/2026/10375 Dated 06.11.2026. All eligible students enrolled either in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) or online programmes can now access and download their Admit Cards/Hall Tickets online, as the university gears up for the comprehensive examination cycle scheduled to commence on 25th November, 2026 and conclude on 14th January, 2027.

To ensure a smooth examination process, the Regional Centre advises students that hall tickets will not be sent by post and must be downloaded directly from the official portal at ignou.samarth.edu.in or via the main university website at www.ignou.ac.in. Upon downloading the document, candidates are urged to carefully verify all personal and academic details, including their enrolment number, name, allocated exam centre, course codes, and specific session timings. The Regional Centre emphasizes that carrying a clear printout of the downloaded hall ticket along with a valid IGNOU Student Identity Card is mandatory for entry, and no student will be permitted into the examination hall without both documents.

Paigham-e-Adab-o-Ilm Organises Naat Mushaira on the Occasion of Ayam-e-Fatimiyah (AS)

■ HT NEWS NETWORK



Ganderbal/November:09 Paigham-e-Adab-o-Ilm Dab Ganderbal organised a special Naat Mushaira at Astaan-e-Aaliya Hazrat Syed Mohammad Daniyal (RA) Dab Ganderbal on the occasion of Ayam-e-Fatimiyah(sa) Prominent poets and literary personalities from across Kashmir participated in the gathering and presented devotional poetry in praise of Prophet MOhammad (PBUH) The poets expressed their profound love, respect and devotion through their soulful Naat compositions which were warmly appreciated by the audience. The participating poets included Imtiaz Anjum, Majeed Rabtari, Syed Manzoor Raees, Ashfaq Hameed, Syed Mohammad Madani, Dilshad Mustafa, Ghulam Hussain Haq Nawaz, Syed Rizwan Shalhari, Masroor, Syed Masood Shadab, Dr. Showkat Shahbaz, Saleem Yousuf, Syed Akhtar Hussain Mansoor and Syed Abbas Johar. The Mushaira was presided over by Syed Abbas Johar Chief Patron of Paigham-e-Adab-o-Ilm, while Saleem Yousuf

JKSA Seeks LG's Intervention Over J&K Bank Recruitment Age Limit, Demands Relaxation to 40 Years; Stresses Priority to Merit

■ HT News Network



Srinagar/November:9 The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) on Sunday has expressed serious concern over the upper age limit prescribed in the Jammu and Kashmir Bank's latest recruitment notification for Probationary Officers (PO) and Banking Associates, urging Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene and take up the matter with the J&K Bank management and other competent authorities in the larger interest of Jammu and Kashmir's educated unemployed youth.

National Spokesperson of Association Dr Zubair Reshi said that while the announcement of fresh recruitment after a prolonged gap of nearly six years is a welcome development, restricting the upper age limit to 30 years has left thousands of otherwise eligible and deserving aspirants disappointed and effectively excluded from an opportunity they have waited years to pursue.

He said that the recruitment process must take into account the extraordinary delay in announcing vacancies and the ground realities confronting educated youth in Jammu and Kashmir. Thousands of candidates have spent years preparing for banking examinations, investing considerable time, resources and effort, only to find themselves rendered ineligible because of an age restriction that fails to account for the prolonged recruitment gap. The Association particularly highlighted that the upper age limit for PO posts in the previous J&K Bank recruitment was 32 years, whereas the latest notification has reduced it to 30 years. This reduction, coupled with the nearly six-year gap since the previous recruitment cycle, has further compounded the difficulties of aspirants who have lost valuable years waiting for fresh employment opportunities. JKSA maintained that young people should not be made to bear the consequences of delayed recruitment and administrative inaction. The Association pointed out that the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) provides an upper age limit of up to 40 years for Open Merit candidates in its recruitment processes. It urged J&K Bank to adopt a more inclusive and equitable approach by extending the upper age limit to 40 years, in line with the prevailing age criteria followed in government recruitments in the Union Territory. At the very least, the Bank should restore the previous upper age limit of 32 years for PO aspirants and consider special age relaxation in view of the prolonged recruitment hiatus.

J&K-PSA Announces District-Level Grievance Cells, Assures Action Against Schools Violating Govt. Norms

■ HT News Network

Anantnag: The Jammu & Kashmir (Regd.) Private Schools Association (J&K-PSA) convened a high-level meeting of its State Executive Council to review pressing issues confronting private educational institutions across Jammu and Kashmir, assess progress on previously raised concerns and formulate a comprehensive roadmap for addressing pending challenges.

A major outcome of the meeting was the Association's decision to establish district-level grievance redressal cells across Jammu and Kashmir, providing parents with an accessible mechanism to formally register complaints against private schools and ensuring appropriate action in cases of violations of prescribed rules and regulations, particularly the directions and norms of the Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee (FFRC).

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of J&K-PSA State President Bilal Ahmad Bhat and hosted by the J&K Private Schools Association's Anantnag district team. Senior office-bearers, district presidents, members of the State Executive Council and representatives from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir participated, with several senior members joining virtually.

The meeting was attended virtually by Dr. G.N. Var, PSAJK Founding President and Chief Patron; Manzoor Ahmad Rather, Senior Vice President J&K-PSA; Advocate Ghulam Hassan Rather, Vice President, Kashmir Province; Mohammad Syed Wani, State General Secretary (Organisation); Hilal Ahmad Khan, Treasurer and District President Shopian; Dr. Owais Mattoo, Director Media & Communications and District President Budgam; Mushtaq Shaheen, North Kashmir Coordinator; Er. Mehmood, District President Anantnag; Zameer Ahmad Thakur, Vice



President; Aijaz Ahmad Wani, Secretary; Dr. Yasir Ramzan Bhat, District President Bandipora; Dr. Waseem Siddiqui, District President Kulgam; Altaf Ahmad Shah, District Vice President Kupwara; Mohammad Shafi, District Vice President Ganderbal; Sheikh Abid Hussain, District Vice President Shopian; besides Srinagar district executive members, Women's Wing representatives, Zonal Level and other members of the State Executive Council.

Addressing the concerns of parents, J&K-PSA State President Bilal Ahmad Bhat reiterated that the Association would not tolerate violations of established rules by any member institution and urged parents to submit complaints in writing so that the matter could be properly examined and necessary action initiated.

"Our doors are open to every parent. Wherever a violation is noticed, we request parents to submit a written complaint to the Association. We will take up the matter with the concerned school and ensure that appropriate action is taken. If a violation is brought to our notice" Bhat said.

He emphasised that transparency in school functioning was essential for building confidence among parents and educational institutions. Referring to the directions issued by the Education Department regarding transparency in school book lists, he said that schools had increasingly adopted the practice of displaying their prescribed book lists on official websites or notice boards, enabling parents to exercise their choice.

The State President also highlighted the importance of resolving misunderstandings between parents and school administrations, observing that many grievances arise from communication gaps that can be addressed through timely intervention and constructive dialogue.

He encouraged parents facing difficulties to approach the Association through its Central office, District & Zonal Level offices, assuring them that genuine complaints would receive due attention.

General Secretary (Organisation) Mohammad Syed Wani, while explaining the purpose of the monthly executive council meetings, said that the Association follows a structured mechanism of reviewing its activities, assessing achievements and setting fresh priorities for the coming month.

"Our objective is to hold an Executive Council meeting every month, with deliberations organised across different districts of Jammu and Kashmir. These meetings provide an opportunity to review the progress made on our previous.

HT EDITORIAL

Textbook Loot in Private Schools: Education Minister Must Act, Not Merely Assure

Education is a fundamental necessity, not a commercial luxury. Yet, for thousands of parents in Jammu and Kashmir, providing quality education to their children is becoming increasingly expensive. The revelation that some private schools are prescribing textbook sets costing between Rs 6,000 and Rs 10,000 exposes a disturbing trend in which education is increasingly being burdened by commercial interests.

The issue is not merely the high cost of books but the questionable practices adopted by certain private schools, where parents are often left with little choice but to purchase prescribed textbooks from particular vendors or outlets. Such high-handedness raises serious concerns about transparency and possible commercial arrangements between institutions, publishers and booksellers. Textbook procurement must remain an academic decision, not a money-minting exercise.

Private schools have an important role in the education sector, but that does not place them above accountability. Their managements cannot be allowed to exploit parents through arbitrary textbook lists, unnecessary changes of editions or restrictive purchasing arrangements. Parents already struggle with tuition fees, admission charges, transportation and uniform expenses. Adding an unreasonable textbook burden is both unfair and unacceptable.

Education Minister Shameema Firdous has rightly acknowledged the issue and promised a meeting with the Directors of School Education and other concerned officials. However, the matter requires more than administrative discussions. The Jammu and Kashmir Government must introduce a transparent monitoring mechanism to examine textbook prices, prescribed publishers and procurement practices in private institutions.

The Education Department should obtain detailed textbook lists from schools, scrutinise their prices and ensure that parents are not compelled to purchase books from designated shops. Schools must also be discouraged from changing editions unnecessarily or prescribing supplementary material that adds to expenditure without corresponding academic value. An effective grievance-redressal mechanism should enable parents to report overpricing and other unfair practices, with appropriate action against institutions found violating applicable rules.

The minister's reference to free textbooks and uniforms in government schools is welcome. However, it must be recognised that parents sending their children to private institutions are not necessarily affluent. Many belong to modest-income families who make considerable sacrifices to secure better educational opportunities for their children. Their concerns deserve equal consideration.

Simultaneously, the government must strengthen public education through improved infrastructure, teaching standards and institutional accountability so that government schools emerge as credible alternatives to private institutions.

The issue demands urgent intervention from the Education Minister and the government. A time-bound review, transparent pricing and strict enforcement of existing regulations can provide meaningful relief to parents.

Schools are meant to impart knowledge, not turn textbooks into instruments of profiteering. The government must ensure that no private institution, however influential, is permitted to place commercial interests above the educational and financial interests of parents. The time for assurances is over; decisive action is now imperative.

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The High Cost of Weddings

How Social Competition and Lavish Celebrations Are Turning Happy Occasions into Financial Hardships



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Marriage is traditionally considered one of the most beautiful and memorable occasions in human life. It brings two individuals together, unites families, and strengthens social relationships. In Kashmir, weddings have always been celebrated with warmth, hospitality, and cultural pride. Our traditions, especially the famous Kashmiri Wazwan, reflect our rich heritage and the spirit of welcoming guests.

However, the changing nature of wedding celebrations has raised serious concerns. What was once an occasion of happiness and family bonding is increasingly becoming a display of wealth, social position, and financial strength. Lavish arrangements, expensive clothing, costly jewellery, and unnecessary demands have created a culture in which even financially weak families feel compelled to spend beyond their capacity.

This growing trend is not merely an economic issue; it is also affecting the dignity, emotions, and self-respect of poor families. It is time to ask ourselves whether weddings are meant to celebrate a new beginning or to create financial difficulties for parents.

When Celebrations Become a Competition

Kashmiri weddings are famous for their hospitality and traditional food. The Wazwan, consisting of several traditional dishes, is an important part of our cultural identity. In many celebrations, it includes 20 to 30 dishes, representing the richness of Kashmiri cuisine.

There is nothing wrong with preserving our traditions. The real concern arises when these traditions become a means of competition.

Today, some families organise expensive wedding functions simply because their relatives, neighbours, or friends have arranged similar celebrations. A fear of criticism and social judgement often prevents people from choosing simpler ceremonies.

Unfortunately, this mentality has created an unhealthy competition. One family spends beyond its financial capacity, while another feels pressured to do the same or even more. Gradually, the happiness associated with marriage is overshadowed by the desire to impress society.

We must understand that a family's respect should never depend on the number of dishes served or the money spent on a wedding.

The Economic Cost of a Single Wedding

For many middle-class and economically weaker families, arranging a wedding has become a major financial challenge. Parents who spend their entire lives earning and saving money sometimes find themselves under tremendous pressure when marriage arrangements begin.

Some families use their lifelong savings, while others sell agricultural land, jewellery, or valuable belongings to meet wedding expenses. There are also families who borrow money and spend several years repaying their debts.

This situation deserves serious attention. Money that could have been invested in children's education, healthcare, house construction, or a small business is sometimes spent within a few days of celebration.

Is it reasonable for parents to sacrifice their financial security merely to satisfy the expectations of relatives and society?

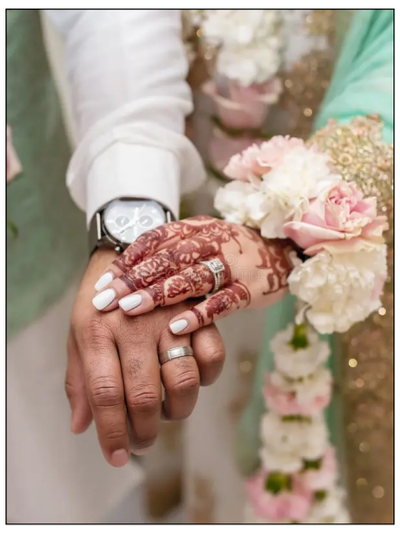
A marriage should mark the beginning of a new life, not the beginning of financial hardship. Families must be encouraged to organise ceremonies according to their means without feeling embarrassed about simplicity.

Kashmir's Wedding Season and Its Growing Expenses

In the Kashmir Valley, the period from August to November is generally considered a particularly busy wedding season. During these months, marriage halls, markets, catering services, and clothing shops experience increased activity.

Wedding celebrations, however, continue throughout the year. The growing demand for expensive arrangements has made marriage a costly affair for many families.

During the wedding season, even families



with limited financial resources sometimes feel pressure to maintain a particular standard. They worry about what relatives and neighbours might say if their arrangements are simple.

This attitude needs to change. Simplicity should never be considered a weakness or a sign of poverty. Rather, it reflects financial responsibility, wisdom, and consideration for one's circumstances.

Delayed Marriages and Unnecessary Financial Expectations

Another important concern in our society is the issue of delayed marriages. Many young men and women wish to settle down but face different social, personal, and financial challenges.

In some cases, families postpone marriage because they cannot afford the expected expenses. Excessive demands for gifts, jewellery, expensive clothing, and other arrangements may also create difficulties.

Such expectations can place unnecessary pressure on young people and their parents. Marriage should not become a privilege reserved only for those who can afford lavish celebrations.

At the same time, we should remember that marriage is a personal decision that requires maturity, mutual consent, emotional readiness, and responsibility. There should be no pressure to marry at a particular age.

Families should give greater importance to character, education, compatibility, and mutual understanding rather than financial status and material possessions.

Our society must create an environment in which people can make responsible marriage decisions without unnecessary financial or social pressure.

Islamic Teachings Encourage Simplicity

Islam gives marriage a special status and regards it as an important foundation of family and social life. It encourages companionship, mutual respect, kindness, and responsibility.

The teachings of Islam emphasise simplicity and discourage unnecessary hardship. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) encouraged making marriage easy rather than creating difficulties through excessive demands and expenses.

Unfortunately, there is sometimes a considerable difference between the simplicity encouraged by religious teachings and the extravagant practices followed during some wedding celebrations.

Religious scholars, imams, teachers, and community elders have an important responsibility to address this issue. Friday sermons, religious gatherings, and community discussions can help spread awareness about the importance of affordable marriages.

The dignity of a family should never be measured by its financial position. A simple ceremony conducted with sincerity and mutual respect can be far more meaningful than an expensive celebration organised merely for public appreciation.

Social Pressure and the Emotional Well-being of Young People

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AI and Children: A Growing Threat to Independent Thinking?

Growing dependence on artificial intelligence raises concerns over learning, creativity and critical-thinking skills



Farzana Hafiz

Artificial intelligence is rapidly becoming part of children's everyday learning, but growing dependence on AI tools is raising concerns among educators and parents over its impact on independent thinking, creativity and basic learning skills.

The debate has gained fresh attention after Google announced this week that AI tools, including its Gemini chatbot, will be switched off by default on K-12 student accounts unless school administrators choose to enable them. The company said the change followed concerns from schools about students using AI to take shortcuts in their schoolwork.

The move comes amid growing evidence that students are increasingly turning to AI for homework. A RAND study released in March found that AI use for homework increased among students during 2025, while 67 per cent of surveyed students said they believed AI was harming critical-thinking skills.

The concern is not simply about students using technology. Educators are increasingly worried about how children use it. When a student asks an AI chatbot to write an essay, solve a problem or provide an answer without first attempting the task independently, the technology can remove the learning



process itself.

"AI can give children quick answers, but education is not only about getting the right answer. Children need to learn how to question, analyse, make mistakes and find solutions on their own," said an education expert.

Teachers have also raised concerns about students becoming dependent on AI for basic academic tasks. A 2025 report cited by Education Week found that 70 per cent of teachers surveyed were concerned that AI could weaken students' critical-thinking and research skills.

Artificial intelligence is making education easier for students, but we must also think about what children are losing in the process. Nowadays, many students want instant answers rather than making an effort to understand a subject themselves. When children depend on AI for every assignment, essay or question, they gradually lose the habit of thinking independently. Technology should support teachers and students, not replace the effort, creativity and reasoning that education is meant to develop," said Aamir Malik.

For younger children, the issue may be even more significant because their learning habits are still developing. Excessive dependence on ready-made answers could discourage curiosity, patience and the willingness to struggle with difficult questions.

The problem is already being noticed in India. A study involving Class IX students in Mumbai's civic schools found widespread awareness of AI tools and warned that overdependence could encourage students to search for answers instead of developing independent reasoning and deeper engagement with textbooks and classroom discussions.

However, educators say banning AI completely may not be the answer. Artificial intelligence can also help students understand difficult concepts, generate ideas, practise skills and access personalised learning support when used under proper supervision.

The challenge, therefore, is to ensure that AI remains a learning aid rather than a replacement for learning.

Schools may need clearer rules on when students can use AI, greater teacher supervision and more assignments that require students to explain their reasoning rather than simply provide an answer.

As AI becomes increasingly accessible to children, the question facing schools is no longer whether students will use the technology, but whether they will use it to think better or simply avoid thinking altogether.

Why is love marriage still a taboo?



Raqif makhdoomi

Costly marriages, unnecessary events on marriages, loud music and how many people are unmarried because of unwanted spending per and post marriage have become hot topics because they have started to effect people in way that everyone wants these practices to stop. Just some 10 years back the lane marriages used to be fun and where not as costly as they are today. But nowadays the marriages are have become a battle ground where one wants to succeed the other one in spending. But we can't put the whole burden on the person who's getting married. The responsibility for costly marriages also weights on the relatives who have fixed one line to everything "Hath kha osukh. Shikaslad, kha ouskh rounmut". The expression of displeasure leads to over spending but one must know come what may some relatives shall never express happiness even after the best possible is offered. Such negative people shall not be considered for opinion they must be treated as noise and ignored. Even though the overspending and wastage has become topics that are being discussed and how to control the growing hazards one important thing is yet to recognized and needs to be discussed more than the other problems. The important thing that's missing the recognition and discussion is "Who shall decide who to marry". Before spending and many other things comes who shall be the bride or the bridegroom. You might be thinking how's that important.



Let me tell you, choosing a life partner is much more important than to decide how much to spend or how many to invite. If the couple doesn't the compatibility to live together everything will go waste.

"Love marriage" a word that still makes people rise the eyebrows and also makes people judge the character of the bride and the bridegroom. But is it actually bad? No, it's not, love marriage is in any way a bad way of getting married and people need to stop judging others from love marriages.

I fail to understand how do people call a man or a woman "Good man" or a "Good woman" who gets married to person chosen by his or her family or at times by relatives. Who made it a measuring scale for character? The one who did is for sure dead by now and his or her mess shouldn't keep troubling generations after generations. Many would not want this article to be read by their son or daughter and honestly even I don't want them to read this article, I want the whole parent community to read my article and understand that choosing life partner for their son or daughter isn't their job and nor is it an obligation for them. The obligation for them is to facilitate the marriage not to decide who their son or daughter should get married to because it's not them who have to get married it's their children who have to get married.

"Amm kar na love marriage" people whisper that to each other on marriage ceremony and then have a long discussion on "how his or her behaviour always used to make them suspicious" while happily enjoying the feast of the love marriage they never wanted to happen. Why do they not wanted it to happen? Because "Mali sie maji drav paith". The explanation looks more of a victim card than an explanation. There has to be a concrete reason to oppose the marriage because simply getting married against the will of parents is in no way a reason to oppose marriage. And the relatives need to stay out of it because they have no role to play in their marriage, they should come and leave. Instead of appreciating the arrangements and giving courage to the one hosting the wedding they take up issues to create more troubles. Some relatives have only one motivate and that's to be upset during the whole wedding just because things are the way they aren't.

It needs to be understood that love marriage is in no way a bad thing, instead it's the best way to get married. Parents need to understand when their son or daughter marries of their own will it in no way makes any difference to their reputation in the society. More than "Loukh kha wanna" they must worry about the happiness of their son or daughter. The society that comes to put their leg in every affair should know because of them many things have been going wrong and those who are going through the burden are dealing with so many unnecessary things just because society wanted things to happen their way. The marriage is between two people but uncounted people come to give their opinion regarding it. Who should one get married should be left to one who's getting married the relatives may have their say regarding how should marriage functions be conducted but who should one get married should be none of their business. While I advocate love marriage, I must make it clear that while choosing someone for getting married it must be kept in mind that they are choosing someone who they are going to spend the rest of life.

Raqif makhdoomi is a law student and a human rights activist.

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A powerful example of the indian Army empowering communities through education



By M S Nazki

Doda in Jammu and Kashmir is a hidden Himalayan gem defined by deep river gorges, alpine meadows, dense deodar forests, and snow-capped peaks. But it has many other aspects too and most of them are directly related to Indian Army and also the Assam Rifles!

-Key Scenic Highlights & Valleys

• Chinta Valley: A lush basin sitting at 6,500 feet featuring rolling green meadows, dense pine forests, and the ancient Thuba Shiva Temple.

• Jai Valley: A peaceful 6-kilometer meadow valley known for its sweeping open grass fields and calm atmosphere.

•Lal Draman & Dal Draman: High-altitude meadows near Sufi Village Bharath, popular for trekking, camping, and panoramic views.

•Chenab River: The majestic Chenab River cuts through the rocky terrain, offering dramatic canyon and valley vistas along the winding mountain roads.

• Khani Top: A prominent natural lookout point providing sweeping views of the surrounding Himalayan ranges.

-In Doda, J&K, the Indian Army's Rashtriya Rifles (Silver Tiger Battalion) under Operation Sadbhavana has launched a free eight-week coaching programme in Thaleela for underprivileged students preparing for the Sainik School Entrance Exam. Inaugurated by Commander 9 Sector RR, Brigadier Vikrant Shinde, the initiative provides quality study material and guidance so that local youth get equal opportunities to pursue a career in the armed forces. A powerful example of the Army empowering communities through education

-About Doda:

-Doda is a town and district in the Chenab Valley region of the Jammu and Kashmir union territory in northern India.

-Etymology and Origin of the Name

• Deeda the Utensil Maker: Local history indicates the town is named after Deeda, a utensil maker from Multan (now in Pakistan) who was invited by an ancient Raja of Kishtwar to settle in the area and open a factory; the name Deeda eventually evolved into Doda.

• Poppy Cultivation: Another local tradition notes the name comes from the word doodah or dodi, referring to the opium poppy plant once widely cultivated in the region.

• Faridabad: Followers of the Sufi saint Hazrat Shah Farid-ud-Din, who arrived in 1650 and stayed for 14 years, sometimes called the town Faridabad in his honor.

-Early History and Rulers

•Early States: The region was originally split between the independent hill states of Kishtwar and Bhaderwah, and was ruled over time by local Ranas, Rajas, and chiefs from dynasties like the Katoch, Jaral, Bhaus, Chibs, Thakkars, and Gakkars.

• Winter Capital: Doda town historically served as the winter capital of the erstwhile Kishtwar State.

• Dogra Rule: Maharaja Gulab Singh conquered the region in 1822, and it formally became part of the unified princely state of Jammu and Kashmir under the Treaty of Amritsar in 1846.

• Doda Fort: A strategic fort with 4-foot-wide walls and defensive towers was built on the left bank of the Chenab River to guard against potential attacks from neighboring Bhaderwah. The fort was demolished in 1952, and the Government Boys Higher Secondary School now stands on its site.



-Formation of the District

-• 1948 Partition: Doda was carved out as a distinct administrative district in 1948 from the former Udhampur district..

•Recent Reorganization: The larger historical district of Doda was later bifurcated into smaller administrative units, including modern Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban districts.-Strategic importance of Doda:

-Doda is important to the Indian Army primarily as a strategic counter-terrorism and security zone within the Chenab Valley (alongside Ramban and Kishtwar) in the Jammu division.

-Key Strategic Reasons for Doda's Importance:

•Counter-Terrorism and Area Domination: The rugged, mountainous, and densely forested terrain of Doda makes it a sensitive zone for militant movements and infiltration attempts. Units like the Rashtriya Rifles maintain continuous high-altitude patrols and drone surveillance to prevent security gaps.

• Grassroots Defense and Village Defence Guards (VDGs): The Army actively trains local volunteers—including men and women in remote pockets like Bhalessa—in automatic weapons handling, bunker construction, and guerrilla warfare. This empowers local communities to hold the ground and deter hostile attacks during harsh winters when isolation is high.

• Protecting Communal Harmony and Regional Stability: Situated near the Chenab Valley and bordering areas like Chamba (Himachal Pradesh), maintaining peace in Doda prevents sectarian or demographic destabilization and secures major tourist routes such as Bhaderwah.

•Civic Engagement and Youth Integration: Through initiatives like free coaching for Sainik School, RIMC, and military entrance exams (run by units like the Rashtriya Rifles), the Army works to integrate local youth and foster community trust.

-About Thalella:

-Thalella (also commonly spelled Thalela or Thaleela) is a notable village and rural hub located in the Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, India.

-Geography & Location• Administrative Setup: The village falls under the Thathri/Bhella sub-district region and is represented politically within the Bhaderwah Assembly constituency.• Proximity: It is situated roughly 15 km away from the main town of Doda and about 10 km from Thathri.

•Landscape: Like most of the Doda district, the area features a mountainous, scenic terrain characteristic of the lesser Himalayan region.

-Strategic & Community Significance

Thaleela serves as a vital strategic base for security forces and community development initiatives in the region:

• Assam Rifles Headquarters: The village houses a major Battalion Headquarters of the Assam Rifles (under the 9 Sector Rashtriya Rifles).

•Operation Sadbhavana: The Indian Army frequently runs community and educational outreach programs here. For instance, they host specialized free coaching programs and provide study materials at the Thaleela base to help underprivileged local students prepare for the All India Sainik School Entrance Examination.

-Culture & Local Life

• Thalela Dangal: The village is locally famous for hosting the Historic Thalela Dangal, a traditional wrestling festival that draws massive crowds and celebrates the rich cultural heritage and folk music of the region.

-Now to the romantic angle:

In the rugged foothills of the Pir Panjal range, nestled along the winding mountain routes of Doda district, lies the peaceful village of Thalella. Known for its steep terraced slopes, high literacy rates, and panoramic views of the cascading streams feeding into the Chenab River, Thalella is a place where life moves to the steady, unhurried rhythm of the seasons.

-This is a story of Aarav and Zoya, whose love grew not from grand gestures, but from the simple, quiet truths of everyday life in the mountains.-The Rhythm of the Terraces-Aarav was a builder of houses, working with the local gray stone and seasoned deodar wood that could withstand the fierce winter snows. Zoya helped her family tend to the stepped fields of maize and wheat that draped the village hillsides.

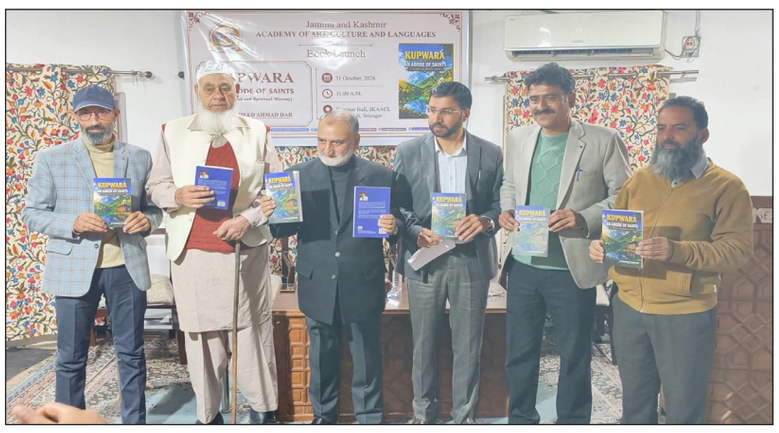
JKAACL Releases Khursheed Dar's Kupwara an Abode of Saints



Rayees Ahmad Kumar

The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages released the book Kupwara An Abode of Saints at its Seminar Hall, Lal Mandi, Srinagar. Authored by Khursheed Ahmad Dar, a teacher and educationist from Kupwara district, the book introduces readers to the forgotten shrines and heritage sites of the district. The proceedings of the book release ceremony commenced exactly at 11:15 am, with Dr Abid, Editor English Section, Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, warmly welcoming the participants. This was followed by the invitation to the distinguished members of the presidium to take their seats on the dais. Dr Abid first invited Dr Rafiq Masoodi, former Secretary of the Academy and Additional Director, Prasar Bharati, to occupy the chair as the Chief Guest. Dr Masoodi is also the patron of Adbi Markaz Kamraz, one of Jammu and Kashmir's oldest and largest literary organisations. Expressing his pleasure at having him on the occasion, Dr Abid referred to the title of 'Royal Secretary' bestowed upon him in recognition of his dedicated and committed efforts towards promoting the literary activities of the Academy. Prof Mohd Amin, from the Department of Education, University of Kashmir, joined the presidium as the Guest of Honour. The author and man of the moment, Khursheed Ahmad Dar, shared the presidium with Gh Hassan Dar. Dr Abid then invited Dr Showkat Ali to present his review of the book. Dr Showkat began his insightful and remarkably engaging review with a couplet by the renowned Kashmiri poet Prakash Ram.

("Taari Torum Mukhta Phoeli Phoeli Reachh Manz."). He observed that, in mysticism, nights hold greater significance than illuminated days. A scholar well-versed in Persian, English, Urdu and Kashmiri literature, Dr Showkat described himself as a practising Sufi with a research background in Islamic mysticism. He offered a comprehensive analysis of every chapter of the book and also discussed the observations and comments of established literary figures included in it. With remarkable care, precision and critical insight, he presented an exceptionally well-crafted review. He not only highlighted the literary and scholarly merits of the book but also drew attention to certain minor shortcomings and errors committed during its compilation. He concluded by offering some valuable suggestions to the author for addressing these shortcomings and enhancing the quality of the work. This was followed by the formal launch and release of the book amid thunderous applause from the audience. In his brief address, Khursheed Ahmad Dar spoke about his literary journey and his efforts



to document the cultural heritage and spiritual legacy of Sufi saints. He revealed that his primary motivation was to explore the forgotten spiritual history of Kupwara by visiting shrines, villages and places associated with these revered personalities. He attributed his success to the blessings and support of his parents, particularly his mother. He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to Heaven Mail, the editors of Kashmir Scan and Dr Rafiq Masoodi for their constant guidance, encouragement and mentorship throughout his journey. Advocate Noor-ul-Shahbaz began his speech with the Quranic verse, "Ala inna awliya Allahi la khawfun alayhim wa la hum yahzanun," followed by a beautiful Naat couplet ("Qad Chouni Wuchh Mei Bala Ya Muhammad Mustafa.")

He described the book as a significant contribution to the literature on Sufi saints and congratulated the author for undertaking such a commendable scholarly endeavour. He believed that the author deserved immense appreciation and accolades for bringing this valuable spiritual heritage to light. Nazir Qureshi also spoke on the occasion. His address was enriched by poetic references, particularly verses from the works of his father, Ali Mohammad Shahbaz, and Allama Iqbal. Prof Mohd Amin Dar, while congratulating the author, appreciated his efforts in documenting and chronicling the spiritual history of Kupwara. He suggested that Khursheed Ahmad Dar should take this initiative to the next level by writing individual accounts of the numerous forgotten saints associated with the region. He emphasised that many shrines and spiritual centres still await proper documentation and referred to several examples to substantiate his point. The highlight of the ceremony was the thought-provoking presidential address delivered by Dr Rafiq Masoodi. Recalling his association with the author, he revealed that it was in 1989, when he was posted in Nagaland, that he came across Khursheed Ahmad Dar's column in Greater Kashmir. Impressed by his writing, he contacted him through email, and their correspondence gradually developed into a lasting intellectual and personal association. During his address, Dr Masoodi narrated several fascinating and extraordinary incidents associated with local Sufi saints, illustrating their spiritual influence and the deep faith people have in them. One such incident concerned his father, who suffered a severe bout of black motions when Dr Masoodi was studying in the third or fourth standard. The family was so worried that arrangements were being made for his surgery. It was then that Amma Sob Yuor visited their home, dressed in a long robe, and addressed his father as Amma Sahab. A day or two later, when the family took him to the renowned Dr Ali Jan, they were astonished to learn that his condition had remarkably improved and that he was perfectly fine. Dr Masoodi also recalled some extraordinary incidents associated with Hussain Sahib Kutlari, the maternal uncle of the great poet Nisar Azam, who gave the title Yeli Zoon Lej Dars to one of his poetry collections. Zoon was his mother. Speaking about the author's temperament and literary approach, Dr Masoodi observed that Khursheed Ahmad Dar never writes unless he is completely satisfied with his research. He considered this an admirable quality that distinguishes him as a writer. He further recalled his college days, when he, Shahnaz Rashid and Ashraf Lone were classmates and close friends. Prof Habibullah Wani was their English teacher at Sopore College. Describing him as a person with the temperament of a darvesh, Dr Masoodi narrated how they once decided to follow him after 4 pm. Their teacher eventually entered a house where the towering Sufi saint of the time, Habba Sahib Hathlangoo, used to stay. When they reached the house and waited outside, Habba Sahib Hathlangoo reportedly told Prof Habibullah Wani that his students were waiting for him outside. This left all of them astonished.

Another fascinating anecdote concerned Ahad Sahib of Sopore. Dr Masoodi recalled that Ahad Sahib once stopped at Ummar Abad and remarked, "Yeteth Shifa Khan." Today, Noora Hospital stands at that very place. Its manager, Manzoor Sahib, is the son of Noora Begum, whose family had served and fed Ahad Sahib for nearly twenty-five years. Dr Masoodi also narrated an incident involving his childhood friend, Gh Mohd Moun of Palpora, Baramulla, a leading orchardist of the area. Years ago, Moun developed a serious health complication, and doctors advised him to undergo surgery at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi. Just a few days before the scheduled operation, his father advised him to visit Ahad Sahib at Sopore. According to Dr Masoodi, Ahad Sahib reprimanded him severely during the meeting, even though those present believed that Moun was almost beyond recovery. Astonishingly, within a couple of days, his health improved remarkably, and he returned to normal life.

Through these accounts, Dr Masoodi highlighted the extraordinary spiritual influence of Sufi saints and their unparalleled closeness to the Almighty. He also revealed that it was on the advice of Ahad Sahib of Sopore that he approached Shafi Sahib of Tral for spiritual mentorship and guidance. Shafi's earlier had served as Tehsil Education Officer in Sopore. Towards the conclusion of his address, Dr Rafiq Masoodi congratulated Khursheed Ahmad Dar on his remarkable literary achievement and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all those who had participated in making the occasion memorable. Following the conclusion of the book release ceremony, the participants proceeded to Tagore Hall, Srinagar, to attend another literary gathering organised in memory of the legendary poet Dr Aziz Hajini. The programme was organised by the Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Wahad Cultural Society and Halqa Adab Sonawari.

Among others present on the occasion were Masrat Peeraza, Nazir Qureshi, Dr Naqeeb Akhter, Rafiq Ahmad, Dilawan Yaseen, Merajuddin Ganai, Ajaz Rashid, G. M. Faraz, Arshad Sagar, Faheem Khursheed and Rayees Kumar.

RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR
Writer is a columnist based in Qazigund Kashmir

Margaret Atwood the Global Literary Conscience : Power Survival and Resistance in Her Fiction



Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee

Canadian literature is shaped by a rich tradition of voices exploring identity, survival, landscape, and history. Few contemporary writers have shaped modern literature as profoundly as Margaret Atwood. Novelist, poet, essayist, critic and public intellectual, Atwood has spent more than six decades exploring some of the most urgent questions of human existence: power, gender, identity, environmental destruction, technology, memory and survival. Born in Ottawa, Canada, in 1939, she developed into one of the world's most influential literary voices, producing an extraordinary body of work that continues to challenge and inspire readers across generations. While many readers know her best through The Handmaid's Tale, Atwood's achievement extends far beyond a single novel. Her fiction ranges from psychological realism to historical reconstruction and speculative futures. Throughout her career, she has consistently pushed the boundaries of storytelling while maintaining a sharp awareness of the political and social realities that shape human lives. In her time as a writer, Margaret Atwood has authored 17 books of poetry, 16 novels, 10 fictional books, along with short fictional stories, children's books, and a graphic novel. She has been awarded the Man Booker Prize, the Franz Kafka Prize, and other prestigious awards that have given her international acclaim.

Canadian literature is marked by diversity . Robertson Davies' popular Deptford trilogy (Fifth Business, 1970; The Manticore, 1972; World of Wonders, 1975) examines the growth of its protagonists into maturity within a Jungian paradigm. Exploration of Canadian identity and of the world of art form much of the interest of Davies' Cornish trilogy (The Rebel Angels, 1981; What's Bred in the Bone, 1985; The Lyre of Orpheus, 1988) and Murther & Walking Spirits (1991). Alice Munro in Lives of Girls and Women (1971), set in southwestern Ontario, and Margaret Laurence in her Manawaka novels (The Stone Angel, 1964; A Jest of God, 1966; The Diviners, 1974) explored their heroines' rebellion against a constricting small-town heritage. Munro's short stories—in collections ranging from Dance of the Happy Shades (1968) to The View from Castle Rock (2006)—depict the domestic lives and relationships of women in Toronto, small-town Ontario, and British Columbia in an increasingly enigmatic style. Leonard Cohen's Beautiful Losers (1966) probes the relationship between sainthood, violence, eroticism, and artistic creativity. Mavis Gallant's stories depict isolated characters whose fragile worlds of illusion are shattered (The Selected Stories of Mavis Gallant, 1996). In her collection of stories Across the Bridge (1993), she probes the thin line between good and evil in the lives of ordinary people. With trenchant irony, Margaret Atwood dissected contemporary urban life and sexual politics in The Edible Woman (1969), Lady Oracle (1976), and The Robber Bride (1993). Bodily Harm (1981), The Handmaid's Tale (1985), and the speculative Oryx and Crake (2003) are cautionary tales of political violence and dystopia, while Alias Grace (1996) and The Blind Assassin (2000), winner of the Booker Prize, are situated in a meticulously researched historical Ontario and expose the secret worlds of women and the ambiguous nature of truth and with justice. As one of the most well-known Canadian writers of all time, Margaret Atwood remains an active participant on the literary and social stages today. Perhaps most known for her dystopian novel The Handmaid's Tale, which has since been reworked in film and television productions, Margaret Attwood shines as a Canadian voice that speaks out for environmental causes. Atwood's early life played an important role in the development of her imagination. Because her father was an entomologist, she spent significant periods of her childhood in the forests of northern Ontario and Quebec.

International Tagore Awardee multilingual writer Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee is a former Affiliate Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University and President of Kolkata Indian American Society .Email profratanbhattacharjee@gmail.

Sunil Sharma Visits Fire-Hit Warehouse Complex at Nehru Market; Constitutes Six-Member MLA Committee for Nehru Market Warehouse Complex and Shiv Market Traders

■ HT News Network



Jammu, 09 November 2026: Leader of Opposition in the J&K Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, today visited the Warehouse Complex near Nehru Market, Jammu, where a massive fire broke out on Sunday evening, completely damaging more than 15 shops.

He was accompanied by Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma, former J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, MLAs Arvind Gupta, Yudhvir Sethi and Vikram Randhawa, and BJP State General Secretary Baldev Singh Billowria.

During the visit, Sunil Sharma met the affected traders, many of whom suffered losses worth crores of rupees within minutes. He expressed solidarity with the victims and assured them that the Bharatiya Janata Party stands firmly with every family affected by this tragedy.

Sunil Sharma said, "In barely two weeks, Jammu has witnessed two devastating market fires: first at Shiv Market near the Railway Station and now at Nehru Market. These are not just shops; they represent the livelihoods of hundreds of families. Traders cannot be sent home with mere words of sympathy. They need relief on the ground and a concrete plan to ensure that such incidents do not happen again."

In consultation with Party State President Sat Sharma MP (Rajya Sabha), Sunil Sharma announced the constitution of a six-member committee headed by MLA Sham Lal Sharma (Jammu North), comprising Dr. Narinder Singh, MLAs Yudhvir Sethi, Vikram Randhawa and Arvind Gupta, and Party General Secretary Shri Baldev Singh Billowria.

The committee will assess the losses suffered by traders at both Nehru Market and Shiv Market and prepare a comprehensive list of affected traders. It will subsequently take up the matter with the Government to ensure time-bound relief and rehabilitation. The committee will also pursue the demand for allowing MLAs to utilise their Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to extend assistance to the affected traders.

Sunil Sharma demanded adequate and time-bound compensation for the affected traders of both markets, over and above the routine relief norms, keeping in view the extent of losses suffered by them.

He also called for the deployment of additional fire tenders in the Warehouse area, including compact fire tenders and quick response vehicles capable of entering narrow market lanes, to ensure their availability near Jammu's crowded commercial areas.

Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026: Various Activities organised across Bandipora

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 09: As part of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026, various awareness and educational activities were organised across District Bandipora to highlight tribal heritage, rights and welfare initiatives.

On the occasion, a Special Gram Sabha was convened at Aragam Gojerpati for identification and prioritisation of works under VB-GRAMG. Awareness regarding the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, was also imparted to the participants.

A painting event was organised at Government Degree College Tulail, providing students an opportunity to express their creativity and showcase themes related to tribal heritage and culture. Similarly, a painting competition was organised at Gujjar and Bakarwal Boys Hostel Bandipora, encouraging students to highlight the rich traditions, identity and contributions of tribal communities.

Meanwhile, the Agriculture Department Bandipora organised an awareness programme under Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada at Binlipora Aloosa, sensitising the tribal community about various agricultural schemes and government initiatives aimed at their welfare and development.

DLSA Jammu celebrates Legal Services Day with inmates of Muskan Home for Children

■ HT News Network

AMMU, NOVEMBER 09: District Legal Services Authority Jammu, under the guidance of Principal District and Sessions Judge (Chairman, DLSA Tahir Khurshid Raina and supervision of Civil Judge (Senior Division) Secretary DLSA Maleeka Sharma on Monday organised a visit to Muskan 'Home for Children' Channi Rama to mark Legal Services Day. The Muskan 'Home for Children' Channi Rama is a specialised care and support centre for mentally challenged children.

The visit was conducted under NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024. Secretary DLSA Maleeka Sharma led the visit along with Advocate Kavita Raina and PLVs Dawood Ibrahim and Sahil Khosla.

During the visit, the children were sensitised in a very simple, loving and child-friendly manner about their rights, the concept of good touch and bad touch, the right to be heard, the right to free legal aid and the role of DLSA in protecting children. She also explained the salient features of the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024, which aims to provide legal services to children in a safe, sensitive and non-intimidating environment, with special focus on children in need of care and protection, children in conflict with law and children with special needs.

Various co-curricular activities were also organised for the children to make the day joyful and memorable for them. The children, together with the team of DLSA Jammu enthusiastically made beautiful paintings and colourful Diwali greetings in which they expressed their happiness, love and festive spirit in their own innocent and creative way.

DLSA Udhampur celebrates Legal Services Day 2026 with Week-Long awareness campaign

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 09: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Udhampur celebrated Legal Services Day by organizing an awareness programme in the Conference Hall-District Court Complex, here today.

As part of the celebration, the DLSA Udhampur organized a week-long legal awareness campaign commencing from November 3, 2026. The campaign was formally inaugurated on November 3 and included six (06) awareness programmes conducted at various schools and colleges across the district. The initiative aimed to spread awareness about legal rights, free legal aid and the importance of access to justice among students and the general public.

The programme held today was graced by Chairperson District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Kalpana Revo as the Chief Guest. Judicial Officers, President Bar Association, Panel Lawyers, staff members and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of the DLSA also attended the programme.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Panel Lawyer Sanjeet Kumar Bavouria, while the welcome address was delivered by Secretary DLSA Sumati Sharma (Sub-Judge), who welcomed the Chief Guest and all the participants.

A special attraction of the programme was the participation of renowned local poets and poetesses, namely Advocate Swatantra Dev Kotwal, Anu Atri, Naseem Akhter, Rekha Thakur, Ranjeet Bhagat and Kusam Antra.

They enthralled the audience with their beautiful poems and songs in Dogri and Gojri languages, adding a cultural touch to the celebration and making the occasion more lively and memorable.

As a gesture of respect towards nature and environmental awareness, saplings were presented to the Chief Guest and other Judicial Officers. The initiative also conveyed the message of environmental protection and the importance of nurturing nature. At the conclusion of the programme, the Chief Guest distributed certificates among the special participants in recognition of their valuable contribution and participation in making the celebration meaningful. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Chairperson District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Kalpana Revo. The chairperson expressed.

DC Poonch reviews progress of RDD works under District plan

■ HT News Network



POONCH, NOVEMBER 9: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a review meeting in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Poonch, to assess the physical and financial progress of of the Rural Development Department works being executed under the District Capex Budget 2026-27.

The DDC took a detailed review of the status of works, including Administrative Approval (AAA), tendering and allotment. He emphasized the need to accelerate the pace of execution and ensure timely completion of all development works.

Expressing concern over delays in the tendering process, the DDC directed Rural Engineering Wing (REW) to accord top priority to pending tendering and ensure that the entire process is completed by the end of the current month. He asked REW functionaries to avoid unnecessary delays and take effective measures to expedite the process.

The DDC further directed to maintain close coordination and ensure that development works are taken up and completed within the stipulated timelines while maintaining quality standards.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Executive Engineer REW, Chief Planning Officer (CPO and others, The Block Development Officers (BDOs) joined through video conferencing.

Vishwakarma Ji's teachings inspire dignity of labour, creativity and nation-building: Surinder Choudhary

"Respect for labourers and artisans is the true tribute to Vishwakarma Ji" : Rattan Lal Gupta

■ HT News Network



Jammu November 9th: Vishwakarma Day was celebrated with religious fervour and enthusiasm at Vishwakarma Temple, Katra, by the Mazdoor Districtkar Union under the chairmanship of its President, Jugal Kishore. Surinder Choudhary, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Rattan Lal Gupta, Adv., Provincial President, JKNC Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Rajesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Sher Singh were among the prominent dignitaries present.

Speaking on the occasion, Surinder Choudhary Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister J&K highlighted the religious, cultural and social significance of Bhagwan Vishwakarma Ji, who is revered in Hindu tradition as the divine architect, master craftsman and celestial engineer. He is regarded as the creator of divine palaces, weapons, tools and magnificent structures and is worshipped by artisans, engineers, craftsmen, mechanics, workers and people associated with different trades and professions.

Choudhary said that Bhagwan Vishwakarma Ji symbolises creativity, technical excellence, innovation, dedication and the dignity of labour. His divine message inspires people to perform their work with honesty, devotion, discipline and perfection. Vishwakarma Ji's ideals remind us that every worker, irrespective of profession, plays an important role in building society and strengthening the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu said that the contribution of the working class, skilled artisans, craftsmen and labourers is indispensable to the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

ADC Bandipora reviews Arrangements for Finance Accounts Assistant Examination

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 09: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, today chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review and finalise arrangements for the smooth, transparent and fair conduct of the OMR-based examination for the post of Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA), scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the preparedness of 18 examination centres across the district, including deployment of invigilators, security arrangements, establishment and security of strong rooms, and collection, transportation and distribution of examination-related material. On the occasion, the ADC stressed that all concerned officers must ensure the discharge of their assigned roles and responsibilities with utmost diligence, leaving no scope for negligence. The ADC directed the concerned departments to ensure foolproof arrangements for the safe conduct of examination, while the ARTO was asked to keep adequate transportation arrangements ready. He also called for deployment of flying squads, videography of all essential examination-related activities and close monitoring of the centres to ensure transparency and accountability. The ADC further emphasised that candidates belonging to far-flung areas should plan their travel in advance and reach their respective examination centres two days prior to the examination to avoid any inconvenience. He directed all departments to maintain close coordination and ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well before the examination date. Among others, the meeting was attended by the Principal, Degree College Bandipora.

PM Modi's Vision Is Transforming J&K's Healthcare Sector: Dr. Tahir Chowdhary Hails Expansion of PG Medical Seats at GMC Jammu

■ HT News Network

Jammu, 09 November 2026: Senior BJP leader and Spokesperson BJP J&K UT, Dr. Tahir Chowdhary, has warmly welcomed the significant enhancement of postgraduate medical seats at Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, describing it as another milestone in the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir's healthcare and medical education sector under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dr. Chowdhary stated that the addition of 12 postgraduate seats, taking the total strength from 242 to 254 for the academic session 2026–27, reflects the Central Government's sustained commitment to strengthening medical education, improving healthcare infrastructure and creating greater opportunities for young medical professionals.

He particularly appreciated the introduction of two postgraduate seats in Respiratory Medicine for the first time, along with the enhancement of seats in Pathology, Paediatrics, Pharmacology and Microbiology.

Dr. Chowdhary said that the remarkable transformation of the healthcare sector in Jammu and Kashmir is closely associated with the visionary leadership of Prime Minister



Narendra Modi, whose government has given unprecedented attention to the development of medical infrastructure in the Union Territory.

"For decades, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed limited expansion in medical education and healthcare infrastructure. However, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a new chapter has begun. The establishment of two AIIMS, one each in Jammu and Kashmir, the expansion of Government Medical Colleges, the creation of additional MBBS and postgraduate seats and the strengthening of healthcare facilities have transformed the medical landscape of the region."

He further said that after decades of limited opportunities, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a major expansion in medical education, giving thousands of aspiring doctors better opportunities to pursue their dreams without having to depend entirely on institutions outside the region.

Dr. Chowdhary credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP-led Central Government for bringing healthcare development to the forefront through visionary policies, sustained financial support and several transformative initiatives.

He also highlighted the importance of various Central Government schemes and initiatives, including Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission and the expansion of medical colleges and healthcare institutions, which are strengthening healthcare accessibility and delivery in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that PM Modi's vision of a developed and self-reliant Jammu and Kashmir includes a robust healthcare system, quality medical education, advanced treatment facilities and affordable healthcare for every section of society.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the General public that I Ghulam Nabi Khan S/o Ghulam Hassan Khan R/o Reban Rafiabad that my father was having an electricity connection bearing Consumer ID No. 0213010013911 at Reban Rafiabad. Through this public notice, I wish to inform that I intend to change the name of electricity connection from Late Ghulam Hassan Khan to my own name Ghulam Nabi Khan In this regard if anybody having any objection may contact concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
Name: Ghulam Nabi Khan
S/o Late Ghulam Hassan Khan
R/o Reban Rafiabad

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, QAZIGUND

CORAM:HINA PARVEEN GONEY
JO CODE: JK00338
IN THE CASE OF:
Imtiyaz Ahmad Rather
VERSUS
1. Block Development Officer, Devsar
2. Registrar of Births and Deaths
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the applicant, namely Imtiyaz Ahmad Rather, has sought a direction against the non-applicants for registration of the birth particulars of his son, namely Shahid Imtiyaz, who was born on 10-09-2012 at the residence of the applicant situated at Sopat Tangpora, Tehsil Devsar, District Kulgam.
Through the medium of this notice, the general public is hereby informed that if any person has any objection regarding the registration of the birth particulars of the aforesaid child, he/she shall file the same before this Court on or before 17-11-2026, when the matter is listed for further proceedings.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court today on 17-11-2026.
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
Qazigund

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of MAROOFA BANO for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujjar and Bakerwal)in favour of self
PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and GOJAR Bokda community, having annual income is 215000 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows
1..NAZIR AHMAD GOJAR BOKDA Father 60 years Labour
2.... SARIYA BEGUM Mother 55 years H/W
3..MAROOFA BANO self 21 years student

.The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self
if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as NUSRAT AKHTAR on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No ..8915 2648 4058 while my correct name is NUSRAT NAZIR D/O NAZIR AHMAD RESHIE 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 publicationof this notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name...NUSRAT NAZIR
D/O....NAZIR AHMAD RESHIE
R/O..KAKOTHAL KREERI BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my ALI MOHD PARRAY S/O GH MOHI UD DIN PARRAY R/O DAWLATPORA DUNGDARA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040006550 wants to be registered on my name LATIEF AHMAD PARRAY S/O ALI MOHAMMAD PARRAY If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication ofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name.....LATIEF AHMAD PARRAY
S/O..ALI MOHAMMAD PARRAY
R/O ..DOULATPORA DUNGDARA

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is 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

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, QAZIGUND

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

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

Sd/
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
Qazigund.

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, QAZIGUND

CORAM:Hina Parveen Goney
JOCODE: JK00338
In the case of:
Nazir Ahmad Rather
Father of: Amanul Arfeen Rather
R/O: Vessu Qazigund
Tehsil: Qazigund, District: Anantnag
(Applicant)
V/S
Union Territory of J&K
Through Block Development Officer,
Block Vessu
(Non-Applicant)
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the applicant namely Nazir Ahmad Rather has sought a direction against the non-applicant for registration of the birth particulars of his son namely Amanul Arfeen Rather, who was born on 27-05-2016.
Through the medium of this notice, the public at large is informed that if any person has any objection regarding the registration of the birth particulars of the applicant's son as mentioned above, he/she/they shall do so on or before 16-11-2026, when the matter is listed for further proceedings.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court today on 07-11-2026

Sd/
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
Qazigund

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohmad Latif Malik, father of Malik Usman Latif, resident of Khisipora, Kreeri, hereby notify the general public that the name of my son has been inadvertently recorded in his Aadhaar Card as "Usman Ahmad Malik" instead of his correct name, "Malik Usman Latif."
The Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3081 5165 8370 is required to be corrected accordingly.
Any person having any objection regarding the proposed correction may approach the concerned Aadhaar Authority within the prescribed period. In the absence of any objection, the necessary correction may kindly be carried out.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Son' name & parentage has been wrongly mentioned as MOHD MUTEEB S/O MOHD IRFAN MALLA in his date of Birth certificate issued by SDH kreeri bearing Registration No ..101002466449 While his correct name is MOHAMMAD MUTEEB MALLA & his correct parentage is MOHAMMAD IRFAN MALLA which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of SDH /BMO office KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name....MOHAMMAD IRFAN MALLA
F/O ...MOHAMMAD MUTEEB MALLA
R/O ...LALAD SOPORE
DISTT ...BARAMULLA

BJP Demands Immediate Compensation for Fire Victims of Jammu

■ **HT News Network**



Jammu, 09 November 2026: BJP Jammu & Kashmir Spokesperson Parimoksh Seth has demanded immediate compensation for the traders, shopkeepers and other affected persons who suffered heavy losses in the fire incidents at Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station and the Warehouse area of Nehru Market, Jammu.

Expressing concern over the damage caused by these unfortunate incidents, Seth said that the affected traders have suffered significant financial losses, and many families dependent on these businesses are facing uncertainty. Seth called upon the Jammu & Kashmir Government to take immediate steps to assess the losses and provide adequate financial compensation without unnecessary delay. Seth expressed concern that 40 shops were gutted in fire on 25th Oct 2026 in Shiv Market Railway Station Jammu and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his ministers visited Shiv market but no compensation has been announced till date by the NC Government leaving traders who lost everything in the fire high and dry. Seth said that last night's fire incident at Ware House Jammu has caused heavy losses to traders and it is the duty of CM Omar Abdullah to release immediate compensation to traders instead of just visiting the incident spot.

Seth further demanded that a special assessment team be constituted to conduct an on-the-spot survey of the affected shops, business establishments and property. He also called for the immediate release of interim relief by J&K Government so that affected traders can resume their business activities.

He emphasised that the administration must ensure that fire safety arrangements in commercial areas are strengthened, including proper firefighting infrastructure, accessible emergency routes, functional fire hydrants and regular safety inspections to prevent such incidents in the future.

The affected traders should not be left to face this crisis alone. The government must stand firmly with them, ensure transparent assessment of their losses and provide immediate and adequate compensation. Their rehabilitation and restoration of livelihoods must be treated as a priority Seth further stated.

He also urged the administration to coordinate with the Fire and Emergency Services Department and other concerned agencies to identify any lapses and take necessary corrective measures.

Awantipora Police Organises Debate Competition on "Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan" at Government Higher Secondary School, Dadsara

■ **HT News Network**

Awantipora November 09, 2026:As part of its sustained efforts to combat the drug menace and promote awareness among the younger generation, Awantipora Police organised a debate competition on the theme **"Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan"** at Government Higher Secondary School, Dadsara.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who expressed their views on various aspects of drug abuse, its harmful consequences on individuals, families and society, and the importance of collective efforts in eradicating this social menace.

The initiative aimed to sensitise students about the devastating impact of substance abuse, encourage healthy lifestyles and motivate them to stay away from drugs. Students were also encouraged to spread awareness among their peers and actively contribute towards building a healthy, responsible and drug-free society.

Awantipora Police reiterated its commitment to continuing such awareness programmes in educational institutions to engage youth in the fight against drug abuse and strengthen the collective resolve towards achieving the vision of a *Drug Free Bharat*.

SBSP Demands Compensation for Traders Affected by Fire at Shiv and Nehru Markets in Jammu

■ **HT News Network**

Jammu, 9 Nov : Vivek Bali, State President , Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP), Jammu and Kashmir, has expressed deep concern over the devastating fire incidents at Shiv Market and Nehru Market in Jammu, which have caused significant losses to traders and severely affected their livelihoods.Vivek Bali strongly urged the Jammu and Kashmir Government, particularly the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Lieutenant Governor, to immediately assess the losses suffered by the affected shopkeepers and provide adequate financial compensation to help them recover from the damage.He said that the affected traders have suffered not only substantial financial losses but also a serious setback to their businesses and families who depend on these establishments for their livelihood. He emphasized that the government must adopt a compassionate and proactive approach.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt
Ground Water Division Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.
E- mail: - hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in *Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285*

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

GIST of Detailede– NIT No: - 79/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27.

For and on behalf of Government of UT - J&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Firms/Companies/drilling agencies/Joint Ventures etc for **"registered experienced Contractors of Machine Drilled Hand pump wells"** as per details given below The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

Table-I

S. No.	S. No of AA	Name of work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Earnest money (EMD)	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Major Head /Programme	Technical Sanction	Tender Call
1.	01	**Installation of Bore well at Khanday colony ward No. 12, MC Chadoora in District Budgam.**	Rs. 2.92 Lacs	Rs.8,800/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	**MPLADS Grants of Hon'ble MP (18th LoK) Sabha Srinagar Constituency (Jenab Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi).**	**JS-PHE/GWDS/ MPLADS/79 of 11/ 2026, Dt: 04-11-2026**	1st
2.	04 viz 47 of Annexure	**Construction of Bore well at Gorwan Briangan in District Anantnag.**	Rs. 5.12 Lacs	Rs.15,400/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	**CDF, 2025-26 (Constituency Development Fund, 42- Kokernag ST).**	**JS-PHE/GWDS/ CDF Scheme/78 of 11/ 2026, Dt: 04-11-2026**	
3.	01	**Bore Well NLO Nelofar Gull at Goridraman Block Larnoo, in District Anantnag.**	Rs. 2.59 Lacs	Rs.7,800/- Lacs	Rs.100/-	10 Days	**District Capex Budget 2026-27 (Constituency Development Fund, 42-Kokernag ST)**	**JS-PHE/GWDS/ CDF Scheme/80 of 11/ 2026, Dt: 06-11-2026**	

Position of Funds: - Available:
For. Sl. No. 01: Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the District Development Commissioner Budgam Vide Order No: 735-DDCB of 2026, issued under endorsement No. DDCB/Dev./ MPLADS Srinagar/2026-27 9725-29, Dated: 31-10-2026.
For. Sl. No. 02: Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the District Development Commissioner Anantnag Vide Order No: 405-DDCA of 2026, issued under endorsement No.DDCA/ CDF-42- Kokernag ST/2026-27 /5947-56, Dated: 19-08-2026
For. Sl. No. 03: Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the District Development Commissioner Anantnag Vide Order No: 538-DDCA of 2026, issued under endorsement No. DDCA/ CDF-42-Kokernag ST /2026-27 /9119-23 Dated: 06-11-2026.

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website:
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website:
As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below

Table-II

1.	**Publishing Date**	**06-11-2026 (10:00 A.M)**
2.	**Period of Downloading of Bids**	**06-11-2026 (10:00 A.M) upto 25-11-2026 (11:00 A.M).**
3.	**Period of Submission of bids**	**06-11-2026 (10:00 A.M) upto 25-11-2026 (11:00 A.M).**
4.	**Date of opening of Tender.**	**26-11-2026 (11:00 A.M)**
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011	
6.	**Cost of Tender Document : To be deposited online (If available) or Non-Refundable should be in form of DD /TR/ deposited or to the Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply) Note: In case the firm/agency/contractor submits/uploaded scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of of DD /TR/ the hard copies shall have be submitted in the divisional office before opening of cover 2nd (Financial Cover) of e-NIT (if needed)**	
7.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www. Jktenders.gov.in	

No instrument—such as an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Treasury Receipt, or Challan-generated prior to the publication of the tender document will be accepted. Any bid submitted contrary to this requirement is liable for summary rejection. In the event the tender is retendered due to government exigencies or otherwise, an instrument shall be considered valid only if generated after the date of the initial tender publication.

The cost of Tender Document under **Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar** (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the **Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 26-11-2026 (11:00 AM)** If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

DIPK-7519/26
Send Date: Nov 9 2026

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

DC Shopian inaugurates JK Bank branch at Mini Secretariat Complex

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep singh today inaugurated newly established JK bank branch at the Mini Secretariat Complex, Shopian.

Present on the occasion were Zonal Head, Pulwama, J&K Bank, Masood Ahmad Lanker, senior bank officials, representatives of the district administration, local stakeholders and prominent citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the vital role of accessible, efficient and customer-oriented banking services in promoting economic development, strengthening financial inclusion and facilitating institutional credit.

He added that the establishment of the branch would significantly enhance banking convenience for government departments, employees, business establishments and the general public.

Zonal Head, Pulwama, reiterated the Bank's commitment to expanding its banking network and delivering efficient, accessible and technology-driven financial services. He highlighted the Bank's ongoing efforts towards strengthening customer services, promoting financial inclusion and extending the benefits of various government-sponsored schemes to eligible beneficiaries. The facility is expected to provide a significant boost to banking accessibility in the Mini Secretariat Complex and surrounding areas, while supporting the broader objectives of financial inclusion and economic empowerment. Present on the occasion were Zonal Head, Pulwama, J&K Bank, Masood Ahmad Lanker, senior bank officials, representatives of the district administration, local stakeholders and prominent citizens. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the vital role of accessible, efficient and customer-oriented banking services in promoting economic development, strengthening financial inclusion and facilitating institutional credit. He added that the establishment of the branch would significantly enhance banking convenience for government departments, employees, business establishments.

DC Jammu reviews implementation of HADP, JKCIP

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 9: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP) across agriculture and allied sectors.

The initiatives under the twin flagship programmes envisage modernisation of the agricultural and other farm activities, besides promotion of agro based entrepreneurship.

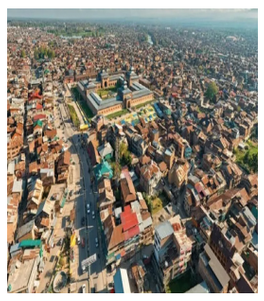
The officers briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the physical and financial progress achieved under different components of HADP and JKCIP in their respective departments. The DC was informed about the number of applications received, approved and units established on the ground, along with the status of output tracking and skilling of beneficiaries through the Daksh Kisan portal.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the department-wise targets and achievements in sectors including agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries and sericulture. He also took stock of the utilisation of funds released under the schemes.

Stressing timely implementation, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to clear pending applications at the earliest and ensure that the benefits of the schemes reach the eligible farmers in a time-bound manner.

Building Centre Srinagar organises Two-Day Training Programme on Cost-Effective, Eco-Friendly Construction Technologies

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 09: A two-day training programme-cum-workshop on Cost-Effective, Eco-Friendly and Innovative Construction Technologies and Materials was organised at Building Centre Srinagar, functioning under the Housing and Urban Development Department.

The programme witnessed the participation of around 50 final-year Civil Engineering students from various technical institutions, providing them an opportunity to bridge the gap between academic learning and practical applications in the construction sector.

The primary objective of the training programme was to disseminate information about various low-cost, sustainable and innovative construction techniques developed by Building Centre Srinagar, while familiarising the participants with their practical applications and benefits.

During the workshop, demonstrations were conducted on low-cost housing technologies and alternative construction materials. The participants were also introduced to modular construction practices, standardisation techniques, and the development of testing and quality-control facilities to ensure the durability and reliability of construction materials.

Emphasis was laid on technology transfer and promoting the adoption of cost-effective and eco-friendly construction practices by taking innovations from the laboratory to the field, thereby encouraging future engineering professionals and construction stakeholders to adopt sustainable building solutions.

On the occasion, Project Manager, Building Centre Srinagar, Masroor Ahmad Shah, briefed the participants about the various benefits, structural viability and practical applications of cost-effective and eco-friendly construction materials.

In addition to technical briefings, detailed presentations on specialised structural aspects and hands-on practical sessions were conducted to provide students with comprehensive exposure to sustainable and hazard-resistant construction methodologies.

Department of Agriculture Jammu celebrates Vishwakarma Day

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 09: The Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu today celebrated Vishwakarma Day with religious fervour and enthusiasm here at the Seed Processing Unit and Government Agriculture Workshop, Talab Tillo. The celebrations were graced by Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu, Anil Gupta.

Addressing the officers and workers, He highlighted the significant role of agricultural mechanization in transforming the agricultural sector and enhancing farm productivity.

The Director emphasized that farm mechanization plays a crucial role in improving productivity, efficiency and quality in the cultivation of both food and non-food crops. He stressed the need to embrace modern agricultural tools, machinery and technologies to promote sustainable farming practices and accelerate agricultural growth.

Special Puja ceremonies, dedicated to Bhagwan Vishwakarma, the divine architect and patron of artisans, craftsmen and engineers, were organized at the Seed Processing Unit and Government Agriculture Workshop, Talab Tillo.

The ceremonies included traditional worship of tools and machinery along with prayers for the safety, well-being and prosperity of all workers and machine operators. The celebrations concluded with the distribution of Prasad among the participants.

During the programme, the Director interacted with the workshop staff and inspected the machines and equipment installed at the workshop and Seed Processing Unit.

Meanwhile, Vishwakarma Puja was also performed with devotion at Seed Multiplication Farm Chinore and Seed Multiplication Farm Chakrohi, where officers and employees participated in the religious ceremonies.

The programme was attended by Joint Director (Inputs) Sanjay Anand; Joint Director (SLUB/Farms) Aman Jyoti Sharma; Joint Director (Extension) Suresh Kumar

Shiv Sena Slams Administration Over Nehru Market Fire, Demands Immediate Relief

■ HT News Network

Jammu: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir president Manish Sahni, along with party leaders, visited the fire-ravaged Warehouse-Nehru Market, where nearly a dozen shops were gutted in a massive blaze on Diwali night, and expressed solidarity with the affected traders.

Strongly criticising the administration, Sahni termed the incident a matter of serious concern and questioned the preparedness of the Fire and Emergency Services Department. He pointed out the alleged shortage of modern firefighting equipment, including CO_2 and ABC powder extinguishers, required to tackle fires involving flammable liquids, and demanded an inquiry into these shortcomings.

Referring to the recent fire at Shiv Market, Sahni said that despite similar complaints by traders, the administration had failed to learn any lessons. He questioned how fire tenders could reportedly take nearly one and a half hours to reach the spot despite the fire station being barely five minutes away, and why emergency.

SMVDU Organises Five-Day STTP on Building Energy Efficiency, Power Electronics, Renewable Energy and Electric Mobility

■ HT News Network

Jammu, Nov 9: The School of Electrical Engineering (SoEE), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, successfully organised a five-day offline Short-Term Training Programme (STTP) on "Building Energy Efficiency, Power Electronics, Renewable Energy, and Electric Mobility". The programme aimed to enhance technical knowledge, professional competencies, and practical understanding of emerging technologies in electrical engineering and sustainable energy systems.The first two days featured industrial visits to Electricfield Company and Sudhir Gen Set, Jammu, providing participants with valuable exposure to industrial practices, electrical technologies, generator-set operations, and power generation systems.

BTSM Strengthens Grassroots Network in South Kashmir; Choudhary Mohmad Aslam Joins Manch, Dr Vivek Sharma Calls for Reaffirming 1962 Resolution

■ HT News Network

ACHABAL, ANANTNAG: The Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch (BTSM) organised a workers' meeting and interaction programme at Dak Bungalow, Achabal, Anantnag, to strengthen its organisational structure, expand its grassroots presence, and raise awareness about the Tibet issue and matters of national importance.

Mushtaq Ahmad Khanday, State Secretary, Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch (Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh), chaired the meeting. Addressing the participants, Khanday stressed the need to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level, establish a strong network of dedicated workers and engage actively with local communities. He called upon the cadre to work with unity, discipline and commitment to advance the organisation's mission.

Several office bearers and members attended the meeting, including Tariq Ahmad Bhat, District Youth President, Anantnag; Farooq Ahmad Bhat, District Vice President, Anantnag; Muzaffar Ahmad Teeli, District Secretary, Anantnag; Arif Gulzar, District General Secretary, Anantnag; Haseena Banoo, District Secretary, Mahila Morcha, Anantnag; Shafeeq Ahmad Itoo, Block President, Achabal; and Ab Rashid Dar, Halqa President,



Nagam.

In a significant development, prominent political figure Choudhary Mohmad Aslam from Kulgam, along with several supporters, formally joined the Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch. The organisational leadership warmly welcomed the new entrants and expressed confidence that their association would further strengthen the Manch's outreach and organisational activities in South Kashmir.

Highlighting the mission and vision of BTSM, Dr Vivek Sharma, State President, BTSM (Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh UT) and National Co-Convenor of the Intellectual Forum, said that the organisation is committed to strengthening Indo-Tibetan friendship, preserving Tibetan language, culture, Buddhist heritage and identity, and creating awareness about Tibet's historical, cultural and strategic significance. He emphasised that BTSM is working to promote national unity, cultural understanding, peace and awareness about issues concerning India's national interests.

Referring to the historic Parliamentary Resolution of 14 November 1962, adopted following Chinese aggression against India, Dr Sharma appealed to the Members of Parliament in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to remember the spirit and significance of the resolution and raise the issue of territories under Chinese occupation through appropriate parliamentary and diplomatic channels.

Adv Devraj Sharma calls for stronger cancer awareness, early detection and affordable treatment in J&K

Stresses modern healthcare facilities, grassroots screening and special focus on people in remote and rural areas

■ HT News Network

Jammu: On the occasion of National Cancer Awareness Day, senior BJP leader and former Sarpanch Adv Devraj Sharma has called for a comprehensive and sustained campaign against cancer, emphasising early detection, preventive healthcare, public awareness and affordable treatment for all sections of society.

In his message, Sharma said that National Cancer Awareness Day, observed every year on November 7, is an important occasion to remind society that cancer is not merely a medical challenge but also a serious social and economic concern affecting thousands of families. He observed that awareness, timely medical consultation and access to quality healthcare can make a significant difference in addressing the growing burden of the disease.

Highlighting the importance of the occasion from the perspective of Jammu and Kashmir, Sharma said that the Union Territory requires a stronger and more accessible cancer-care network, particularly for people living in rural, border, hilly and far-flung areas. He pointed out that geographical challenges and limited access to specialised medical facilities often create difficulties for patients who have to travel considerable distances for diagnosis, treatment and regular consultations.

He stressed that cancer awareness should not remain confined to hospitals and medical institutions but must reach every village, Panchayat, educational



institution and urban locality. Panchayati Raj Institutions, social organisations, youth groups, women's organisations and community representatives should actively participate in spreading awareness about cancer prevention, early warning signs and the importance of timely medical examinations.

Sharma particularly emphasised the need to educate people about breast cancer, cervical cancer and oral cancer, while encouraging women to undergo appropriate screening and seek medical advice without hesitation. He also called for greater awareness about HPV vaccination in accordance with national health recommendations.

Expressing concern over tobacco consumption, he said that tobacco remains an important preventable risk factor for several types of cancer. There is an urgent need to intensify awareness campaigns against smoking and other forms of tobacco consumption, particularly among young people. Educational institutions should organise regular awareness programmes to encourage healthy lifestyles and discourage habits that increase cancer risks.

The BJP leader also called upon the Jammu and Kashmir administration to strengthen cancer diagnosis and treatment facilities at Government Medical Colleges, district hospitals and other healthcare institutions. He said that modern diagnostic equipment, specialised doctors, oncology departments, radiation therapy facilities and affordable medicines should be made increasingly accessible across the Union Territory. In his message, Sharma said that National Cancer Awareness Day, observed every year on November 7, is an important occasion to remind society that cancer is not merely a medical challenge but also a serious social and economic concern affecting thousands of families. He observed that awareness, timely medical consultation and access to quality healthcare can make a significant difference in addressing the growing burden of the disease.

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'We were inseparable': How imaginary friends help us in real life

From invisible ballerinas to chatty milk cartons, the benefits of made-up friends can last well into adulthood and help us master tricky real-life situations.

Throughout my childhood I had many great friendships, but one group truly left a mark. Capin, Mia and Hannah were my closest friends from an early age, and I recall lots of happy memories together. On hot summer days we would spend hours making daisy chains, spotting peculiar-shaped clouds as they blotted out the Sun's rays, baking fairy cakes, playing hide and seek, practising handstands, cartwheels – exerting ourselves day in and day out until summer drew to an end.

We were an inseparable foursome, yet not the conventional type: Capin, Mia and Hannah were a complete figment of my imagination.

They were my imaginary friends who I shared secrets with, looked to for guidance and turned to when I needed a good dose of fun. But I didn't create them because I was lonely or shy or lacking in real-life friends. In fact, all these years later I'm still not sure where they came from or why.

Whatever my friends' origin, research on imaginary friends suggests that I was lucky to have them. From chatty milk cartons to multi-coloured alligators and a magical ghost giraffe, studies reveal a dazzling range of imaginary creatures accompanying children through the ups and downs of childhood. There's emerging evidence that these have wide-ranging benefits, including enhanced empathy and creativity, which can last well into adulthood.

The friendly milk carton

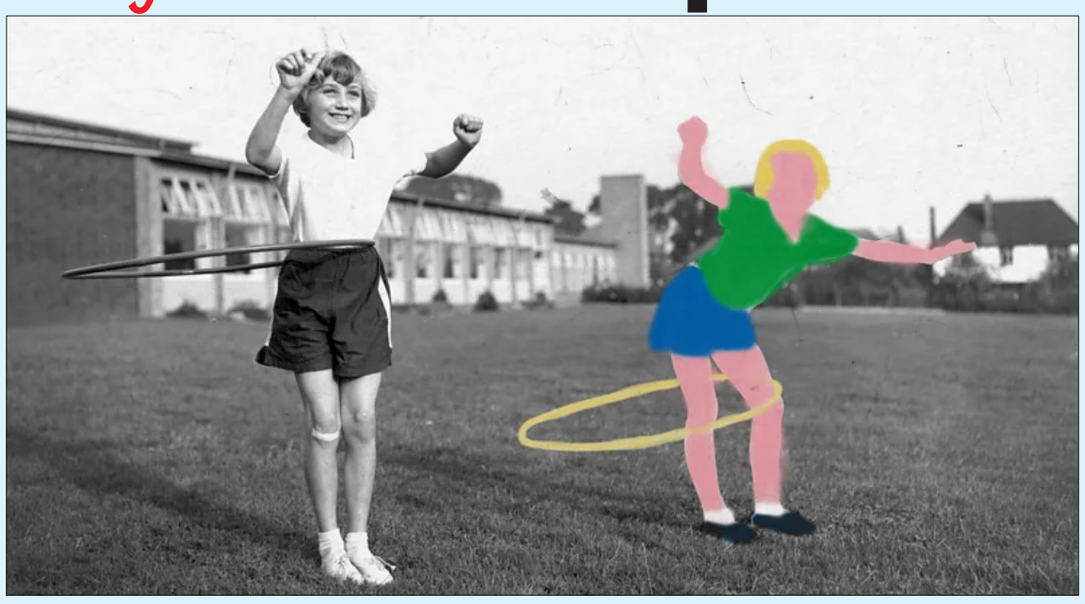
By the time they are seven years old, two-thirds of children have had an imaginary friend, a character created by them which they interact with or talk about on a regular basis, according to psychologists Naomi Aguiar and Marjorie Taylor.

"These children don't have fewer friends than other children, they have the same number of reciprocal friendships as kids without imaginary friends. And the reality of what the data shows is that they're just like other kids in almost every respect," says Aguiar, a psychologist and the author of Imaginary Friends and the People who Create Them. She currently researches online learning and child relationships with imaginary friends and AI chatbots at Oregon State University in the US.

Often, children's imaginary friends appear when there are no others around, according to Aguiar – not as a sign of deep loneliness, but just because in that specific moment, the child happens to be alone and would like some company.

"A lot of children create imaginary friends because they're fun and because they really like social interactions. So, if there's no social partner to interact with [in a given situation], they create an imaginary friend," says Aguiar.

But these made-up beings can have benefits far beyond just providing company, research suggests. Children with imaginary friends may excel at being creative storytellers, can be less shy, are more interested in fantasy, better able to focus their attention, use screens less and may have more vivid mental imagery than children without imaginary friendships.



Each imaginary friend is unique to its child creator and is often customised to match the ever-shifting whims and needs which appear throughout childhood, Aguiar explains.

One of her favourite examples is the case of a girl who had an invisible milk carton as a friend. What the girl loved about the milk carton was that it wasn't human, and so the milk carton taught her about what it was like to not be human, and she taught the milk carton about what it was like to be human, Aguiar says.

Invisible ballerinas and a boy with a cloud

My own imaginary friends appeared when I was around three years old. Hannah and Mia were inspired by two girls from a ballet film. They never walked, only jumped, leapt and spun in a constant cycle of ballet sequences, and they wore matching soft pink leotards, tutus and ballet slippers. But Capin, he truly was an enigma – I have no idea where he came from.

Capin was older than the three of us. He had dark hair which covered his eyes, and an air of sophistication that materialised in a grey cloud which trailed after him. He often hung back from the three of us, offering tidbits of knowledge when needed. Where the girls delighted me with their impressive allegros and pliés, Capin's thoughtful advice was a constant comfort.

Despite their differences, their abilities to entertain were the same. In the winter months we would paint, colour, glue and stick everything in sight. Draw faces on foggy, moisture slick windows, marvel at the explosions of colour which splattered the inky sky every November, flick through catalogues and circle gifts we hoped would come down the chimney on Christmas Day.

Learning about other minds

"The most important part of an imaginary companion for me is the creation of the mind and interacting with that mind," says Paige Davis, associate professor of developmental psychology and psychopathology at the University of Leeds, in the UK. Some are based upon real-life people or personified objects, and some materialise in the form of an animal or fantastical creature.

Marta Giménez-Dasí at the University of Valencia in Spain and her colleagues found that children aged four to six years old who had imaginary friends scored higher than children without imaginary friends in assessments of theory of mind and emotional understanding – meaning they were able to understand people have beliefs, desires and intentions which differ from their own.

It's not clear whether this emotional understanding is a result of cultivating imaginary companions – or if it's the other way round, and children who are interested in others' minds, are more likely to create companions.

Practising friendship

avis and her colleagues investigated whether the benefits of having imaginary friends extended beyond neurotypical children.

Autistic children make and maintain successful friendships, yet their approach to communication, social understanding and emotional understanding, is often different to their neurotypical peers, which can have an impact on relationships, Davis says. Also, they often indulge in imaginative play a little differently, usually engaging in imaginative activities such as drawing instead of make-believe, says Davis. Together, this suggests they may have less inclination to create imaginary friends.

However, when Davis interviewed the parents of 124 autistic children she found that 49% of participants reported their child had created an imaginary friend between the ages of one and 11 years old.

Through these companionships, children with autism create an opportunity to practice social interactions, which they may find challenging, experts say. "One of the struggles of autism is understanding and navigating social relationships, and creating an imaginary companion can be a risk-free forum for exploring," says Tracy Gleason, professor of psychology at Wellesley College in the US.

Consistent, repeated conversations and interactions with an invisible entity which has, in a way, its own mind and helps give an autistic child a foundational understanding of social interactions, which they may find useful, according to Davis and Gleason.

"The parents of autistic children who created an imaginary friend reported they felt their child had better theory of mind than parents of those without one," says Davis. "And the ones that created imaginary friends also had significantly more interest spending time or making new friends."

Imaginary arguments

While they can encourage children to form real-life relationships, imaginary friendships also provide children with a safe space to navigate social complexities, Davis, Gleason and Aguiar say. They can help children begin to develop their boundaries, understand their comfort levels, learn how to navigate difficult conversations and establish common ground to work through a problem.

Aguiar gives the example of a child that has a friend at school who keeps stealing their favourite truck. Maybe their imaginary friend is also always stealing their favourite truck, she says. Through the child's imaginary friend they can yell, apologise, and then work out a shared agreement. This solution can then be adapted to the child's real-life predicament.

"It's developmentally appropriate because the kid is directing the [problem solving]," Aguiar says. "It can be really powerful in terms of sense-making of the real world, and sense-making within around events and relationships that are happening, in a self-generated container."

Davis adds, "kids with imaginary friends are more likely to describe a real-life friend in terms of their mental state rather than their physical appearance. For instance, they are more likely to think 'oh, she has this sense of humour that everyone seems to get' rather than 'she wears plaits in her hair' or 'she's got a blue shirt on'," which suggests they may have a more developed level of empathy and social understanding.

Friends for life?

It seems clear that imaginary friends have a range of purposes in a child's life, yet, what happens to these companions as children transition from childhood into adolescence and then adulthood?

(BBC NEWS)

Moderna lifts annual revenue forecast on strong COVID vaccine demand overseas

Moderna (MRNA.O), opens new tab lifted its full-year revenue forecast on Friday after strong international COVID-19 vaccine demand and payments from partnerships helped the biotech swing to profit in the third quarter, sending its shares up over 10%.

The rally builds on a blockbuster year for Moderna, whose stock has skyrocketed more than eightfold, largely fueled by encouraging late-stage data from its personalized cancer vaccine candidate developed with Merck (MRK.N), opens new tab.

The upbeat results serve as a "cherry on top" of the company's recent cancer vaccine breakthrough, said Evercore ISI analyst Cory Kasimov.Detailed late-stage data last month showed the cancer vaccine, intismeran autogene, combined with Keytruda cut melanoma recurrence or death by 42%.

Moderna said it was working to ensure that the US marketing application for intismeran was submitted this year.

The companies target a commercial launch in 2027.

"We think we're at the very beginning of a scientific revolution, and we're excited to be in the lead," Stephen Hoge, president of Moderna, said on a call with analysts.

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New blood test matches gold standard for liver disease diagnosis



Nov 9 (Reuters) - Today we feature two studies being presented at The Liver Meeting, the annual gathering of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, opens new tab, which got underway on Thursday in Denver.

"LIQUID BIOPSY" STAGES LIVER DISEASE FROM BLOOD SAMPLE

An experimental blood test precisely determines the extent of patients' chronic liver disease, researchers reported on Thursday at the AASLD meeting in Denver.

The test's performance on routine blood samples matched that of magnetic resonance elastography, the most accurate non-invasive method for assessing liver disease.MRE is largely confined to specialist centers and clinical trials, however.

While currently available blood tests can detect liver cancer, they cannot tell whether and to what extent patients' livers are affected by metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis, or MASH, a condition involving inflammation and scarring that can advance to cirrhosis and liver failure.Establishing the stage of MASH today requires MRE or a liver biopsy.

The new test, LiquidTransformer from Hepta, determines liver biology from DNA circulating in blood.

"For years, MRE imaging has been the non-invasive benchmark we rely on in our research. It's the most accurate way we have to stage liver fibrosis without a biopsy," Dr. Rohit Loomba, of UC San Diego, Hepta's chief medical and scientific adviser, said in a statement.

Working with Hepta and Madrigal Pharmaceuticals (MDGL.O), opens new tab, which sells Rezdiffra, the first approved MASH therapy, researchers showed the test accurately staged patients' liver damage and identified those who were eligible for the drug.

In other experiments, the technology also distinguished between the three forms of steatotic liver disease: MASLD, driven by metabolic dysfunction; ALD, driven by alcohol; and MetALD, where the two coexist.

In patients receiving the GLP-1 drug semaglutide, LiquidTransformer detected molecular changes attributable to the drug. Semaglutide — sold by Novo Nordisk (NOVOb.CO), opens new tab as Wegovy for weight loss and Ozempic for diabetes — is known to provide liver benefits and has been approved in the US to treat MASH. Whether the drug has independent effects on the liver unrelated to weight loss has not been established.

Overall, in six separate AASLD presentations, LiquidTransformer was reported to be nearly as accurate as MRE and even more accurate than second-line alternatives, such as an ultrasound method known as vibration-controlled transient elastography and another blood test called the enhanced liver fibrosis test.

"Seeing a blood test approach the diagnostic accuracy of MRE and beat (other alternatives) at determining treatment eligibility is a real step forward, as that is an important unmet need given the wider availability and access of a blood test," Loomba said.

IPSEN DRUG IMPROVES LEVEL OF HARD-TO-CONTROL LIVER ENZYME Most patients with an inflammatory liver disease that had not completely responded to the usual treatment experienced significant liver-function improvement after receiving Ipsen's (IPN.PA), opens new tab Iqirvo, according to data from a late-stage trial.The study tested Iqirvo as a second-line treatment in 92 patients with primary biliary cholangitis who still had slightly to moderately elevated levels of a liver enzyme called alkaline phosphatase, or ALP, despite treatment with ursodeoxycholic acid.

Poland's Linette dethrones Janice of Indonesai, annexes WTA Chennai Open singles title

United News Of India



CHENNAI, NOV 9 :Down by a set, Magda Linette of Poland staged a remarkable come back, quelled a spirited challenge in the decider, dethroning Janice Tjen of Indonesia 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 to annexe the Singles title in the WTA Chennai Open tennis tournament on Monday.

In the singles final, which was deferred to today due to heavy rains last night, the Polish third seed completed the turnaround in two hours and 43 minutes, converting her first championship point to claim her fourth career WTA singles title and first of the 2026 season.

Switzerland's Simona Waltert and Naima Karamoko lifted the doubles title, signing off their fine run with a 6-2, 6-0 win against the Indian duo of Vaishnavi Adkar and Rutuja Bhosale in the title clash last evening. The Indian pair had become the first all-Indian combination to reach a WTA Tour doubles final.

The single summit clash was a keenly contested one with Tjen winning the first set, become Linette came out with all guns firing in the second, before knotting up the keenly contested decider. The match began at a high intensity, with Tjen showing the form that gave her the title in Chennai last year. The 24-year-old Indonesian, currently ranked World no. 75, edged a closely contested opening set 7-5. Linette, ranked number 68 in the world, responded emphatically in the second, raising her level to take the set 6-1 and force a decider.

The turnaround was another demonstration of Linette's resilience across the tournament. The 34-year-old Pole, who reached a career

high ranking of World no.19 in March 2023, came from a set down in each of her last three matches in Chennai to claim the title.

Linette's all-round game was central to her turnaround. She served effectively, struck strong and deep groundstrokes, and was equally assured at the net with her volleys and smashes. A key tactical feature was the depth she generated with her shots to counter Tjen's backhand slice, preventing the Indonesian from using it to disrupt rallies and dictate play. The players also had to contend with particularly hot conditions in Chennai.

The deciding set saw Linette move ahead 3-1 after breaking Tjen's serve. The Indonesian fought back, breaking Linette in the 6th game to level the score at 3-3. However, the Pole immediately regained the advantage with another break in the seventh game.

The 2023 Australian Open semi-finalist then showcased her touch and excellent court coverage drawing Tjen forward with a deft drop shot, pushing her back with a lob and again drawing her cloe to the net with another drop shot. She finally closed out the match, finishing the rally with a down the line backhand winner. Serving at 5-4, she led 40-0 and earned three championship points. There was no more drama as she converted the first to complete a hard fought victory.

The final was the first meeting between the two players on the WTA Tour. Tjen had arrived in Chennai looking to defend the title that brought her maiden WTA singles crown in 2025. That victory

made her the first Indonesian woman in 23 years to win a WTA singles title. She reached a career-high ranking of World no. 35 in August 2026 and today added a second title to her record.

Linette received the winner's purse of USD 37,390 (Rs.35.13 lakh) and 250 ranking points, while runner-up Tjen took home USD 22,125 (Rs.20.78 lakh) and 163 ranking points.

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

United News Of India

PERTH, NOV 9 :Australia have confirmed former No.1 ranked Test batter Marnus Labuschagne won't be considered for selection for their upcoming four-match ICC World Test Championship series against New Zealand.

Labuschagne has struggled for form in recent times, with the right-hander managing just 131 runs from six innings during Australia's recent three-game series in South Africa and you have to go way back to 2023 to find the last time he scored a Test century.

It's been a fall of grace for Labuschagne since he reached the pinnacle for Test batters in 2021 when he was ranked as the No.1 batter in the world, with the 32-year-old now slipping back to equal 40th in the category.

With one month until the start of that series against New Zealand in Perth on 9 December, Australia have decided to make an early call on the short-term future of Labuschagne with selection Chair George Bailey confirming the out of form right-hander won't be considered for the trans-Tasman series. "At this stage we won't be considering Marn (Labuschagne) for selection for certainly that first Test, but for



the New Zealand series," Bailey said on Monday.

"There's been a lot of speculation around his place in the team, and so I think this gives him a little bit of space and clears up a bit of conjecture as we work through the next round of Shield cricket."Australia currently sit in third place on the World Test Championship standings and will be looking for a bunch of positive results against the Kiwis to try and boost their chances of reaching next year's final at The Oval in June, according to ICC.

West Indies clinch WTC27 series after stalemate in Sylhet

United News Of India

SYLHET, NOV 9 :Towhid Hridoy and Mushfiqur Rahim produced a memorable batting performance to help Bangladesh secure a draw in the second Test against West Indies here on Monday.



Despite the hosts' spirited fightback on the final day, the visitors claimed the two-match series 1-0, thanks to their eight-wicket victory in the first Test in Dhaka.

Resuming their pursuit of a challenging 369-run target, Bangladesh finished on 184/4, with Hridoy scoring 82 and Mushfiqur contributing 49. The pair's 135-run partnership for the third wicket ensured the hosts avoided defeat after a difficult start to the final day.

Hridoy had already made history with an unbeaten 242 in Bangladesh's first innings. His second-innings contribution took his match aggregate beyond 300, the first Bangladesh batter to achieve the feat in a Test. He also became the ninth batter to aggregate 300 or more runs against West Indies in a Test.

Mushfiqur reached a landmark of his own, becoming the first Bangladesh batter to score 7,000 runs in Test cricket, according to ICC. Earlier, Jomel Warrican put Bangladesh under pressure with two wickets in the morning session, dismissing Tanzid Hasan and captain Najmul Hossain Shanto. Warrican also reached the significant milestone of 100 Test wickets during the match, adding another achievement to an impressive career.

West Indies had declared their second innings at 398/6, with Kavem Hodge scoring 142 and Kevin Wickham contributing 78. Nayeem Hasan claimed 2/72, while Amir Jangoo remained unbeaten on 39. Although Bangladesh could not complete the chase, Hridoy and Mushfiqur's resistance ensured a hard-earned draw and provided a positive finish to the home side's campaign.

Uncapped batter Mahfijul Islam named in Bangladesh's WTC27 squad for South Africa

United News Of India

DHAKA, NOV 9 :Bangladesh have announced their 16-member squad for the two-match ICC World Test Championship series against South Africa.

Uncapped batter Mahfijul Islam has earned a call-up following an impressive run of form in the ongoing first-class season in the National Cricket League, where he has a double century and a century across the last three games.

Overall, the 22-year-old has aggregated over 1000 runs in 19 first-class appearances so far at an average of 33.67.

The squad, largely unchanged from the one currently facing West Indies, sees

the return of Khaled Ahmed, replacing Nayeem Hasan in the squad owing to the expected pace-friendly South African conditions.

Opener Naim Sheikh has also earned a recall, having last featured in a Test in 2022, which was also his red-ball international debut against New Zealand.

Never seen KL Rahul under pressure: Kotak hails batter's versatility & consistency

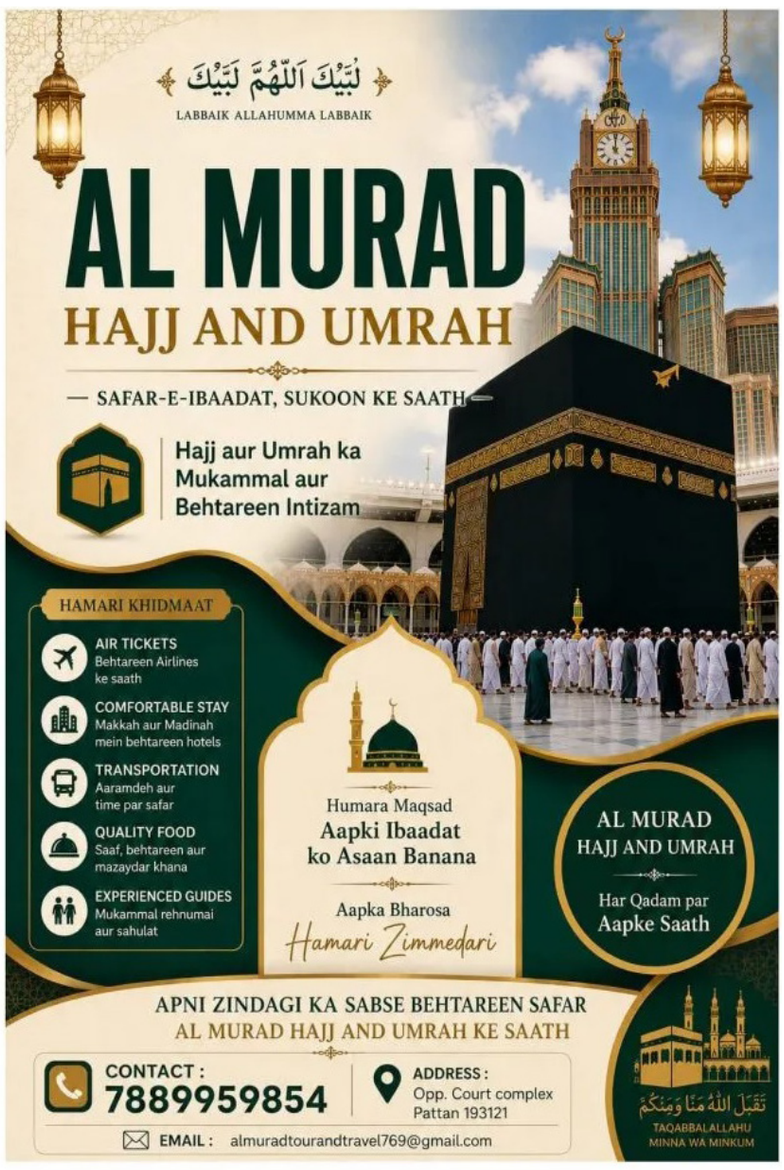
United News Of India



NEW DELHI, NOV 9 :India's assistant coach Sitanshu Kotak has praised KL Rahul's ability to adapt to different roles, describing the experienced batter as an invaluable member of the team who consistently delivers, even in challenging conditions.

Rahul has proved his versatility across formats, opening in Test cricket while batting in the middle order in ODIs. He has also shown that he can switch gears and take charge in the death overs, giving the team flexibility in its batting combinations.

Speaking ahead of the third ODI against New Zealand at Seddon Park in Hamilton, Kotak said Rahul's ability to adjust his approach according to the team's requirements was one of his biggest strengths."I think KL Rahul's biggest advantage is that he can open in red-ball cricket and bat in the middle order in white-ball cricket. Whenever required, he can also go with five overs left. His record there is also very good. So, he plays according to the team's needs," Kotak said on the eve of the third ODI in Hamilton. Rahul's unbeaten 26 in the rain-affected second ODI in Wellington was another example of his ability to handle difficult situations. With India struggling on a surface offering assistance to the seamers, the Karnataka right-hander held his nerve to help the visitors cross the finish line.







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