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16TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION
HEADLINES TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



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

Scooty Rider Killed, Two Others Injured After Unidentified Vehicle Hits Two-Wheeler in Srinagar Outskirts

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 10,: A 27-year-old man died after succumbing to injuries sustained in a road accident at Umarhair, Ahmad Nagar area of Srinagar outskirts on Monday night, while two other persons travelling with him on a scooty were injured.

The deceased has been identified as Bashir Ahmad Khan, son of Ghulam Nabi Khan, a resident of Khaitengan, Baramulla.

According to details available, the trio were travelling on a scooty when an unidentified vehicle hit their two-wheeler at Umarhair. All three were subsequently shifted to SKIMS Soura by a police party from Police Station Ahmad Nagar.The injured were identified as Manzoor Ahmad Khan, son of Abdul Majid Khan, and Mehraj-ud-Din Wani, son of Ghulam Nabi Wani, both residents of Sheeri, Baramulla, and aged around 25 years.

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"May Govardhan Puja Bring Happiness, Good Fortune And Prosperity": PM Modi

Prime Minister Extends Festive Greetings, Invokes Lord Krishna's Govardhan-Dhari Form; Highlights Message Of Devotion And Gratitude Towards Nature

HT NEWS DESK / UNI



NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday extended greetings to the people on Govardhan Puja, praying that the auspicious occasion brings renewed energy, enthusiasm, happiness and prosperity into everyone's lives. In a message posted on X, the Prime Minister invoked Lord Krishna in his revered Govardhan-Dhari manifestation, sharing a Sanskrit verse describing the deity as the protector of devotees and an embodiment of truth and valour. Govardhan Puja, also known as Annakut, is celebrated on the day following Diwali in several parts of the country and commemorates Lord Krishna lifting Govardhan Hill to protect the people of Braj and their cattle from torrential rains unleashed by Lord Indra. The festival is marked by special prayers, devotional ceremonies and elaborate food offerings to Lord Krishna. The occasion also carries a message of humility, devotion, community participation and gratitude towards nature and the resources that sustain life. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday extended warm greetings to the people of the country on the occasion of Govardhan Puja, expressing hope that the auspicious festival would usher in renewed energy, enthusiasm, happiness and prosperity in everyone's lives.In a message posted on social media platform X, Modi said, "Heartiest

>>> MORE ON P 02

"SASCI Must Be Leveraged To Accelerate Capital Investment": Omar Abdullah

CM Directs Departments To Expedite Projects, Ensure Full Utilisation Of Approved Funds By March 2027; Calls For Maximum Incentive-Based Allocations

HTNEWSDESK/NETWORK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday directed departments to accelerate the implementation of projects under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), stressing that the scheme must be leveraged as a strategic instrument for strengthening infrastructure and improving governance outcomes across Jammu and Kashmir. Chairing a high-level review meeting, the Chief Minister called for full utilisation of approved funds by March 2027 to qualify for the second instalment, strict adherence to revised deadlines and advance preparation of encumbrance-free projects for 2027-28. The review covered Public Works, Jal Shakti, Youth Services and Sports, Power



Development, and Housing and Urban Development. The meeting was informed that against an overall allocation of 5,166.46 crore under SASCI for 2025-26, expenditure of 3,367.64

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18 Tourists Injured In Tempo Traveller Accident On SSG Road; 8 Referred To SKIMS

Eight critically injured passengers shifted to Srinagar for specialised treatment; others remain under observation at PHC Gund



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 10: At least 18 tourists were injured after a Tempo Traveller met with an accident at Sumbal Bala on the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) Road in Ganderbal district on Tuesday.

Immediately after the accident, all injured passengers were shifted to Primary Health Centre (PHC) Gund, where they were provided emergency medical care and underwent assessment by attending medical officers.

Following medical evaluation and triage, eight injured passengers, including those requiring specialised treatment, were referred to SKIMS Soura, Srinagar, for

>>> MORE ON P 02

LG Manoj Sinha Directs Best Possible Treatment For Tourists Injured In Ganderbal Accident

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday spoke to senior officials, Director SKIMS and Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, directing them to ensure the best possible treatment for tourists injured in the Sumbal Bala road accident. Eight critically injured tourists from Gujarat and West Bengal have been referred to SKIMS Soura, while 18 persons sustained injuries in the accident.

"MLAs Will Act As A Bridge Between Party And Government": Farooq Proposes Advisory Groups

NC President Seeks Three Ministerial Preferences From Legislators; Each MLA To Be Associated With Two Advisory Panels

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 10: National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah has proposed the constitution of informal advisory groups of party legislators to strengthen coordination between the party and the government, with ministers expected to regularly brief the groups on departmental functioning, policy initiatives and progress of ongoing works. In a communication addressed to party MLAs, Abdullah said the proposal had been discussed at a recent meeting with some legislators and was aimed at establishing a regular channel of communication between elected representatives and the Council of Ministers. Each legislator will be eligible to join two advisory groups and has been asked to submit the names of three preferred ministers in order of priority. The lists will be finalised and notified after receiving preferences from all legislators, who have been given two weeks to complete the exercise. The proposed arrangement is intended to keep party representatives informed about government decisions and improve coordination in the implementation of departmental programmes.

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"No Region Is Too Distant To Address People's Grievances": Mian Altaf After Hill Kaka Visit

MP Treks On Horseback To Remote Poonch Settlement; Residents Seek Electricity, Roads, Healthcare, Drinking Water And Better Welfare Delivery

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 10: Member of Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmad on Tuesday undertook a challenging horseback journey to the remote Hill Kaka area of Poonch district to interact with residents and assess the hardships confronting people in the geographically isolated mountainous region. During his interaction with community elders and local delegations, residents, particularly members of the Gujjar-Bakarwal community, highlighted the absence of electricity, poor road connectivity, drinking water shortages and inadequate healthcare facilities. Tribal representatives also raised concerns over the difficulties faced during harsh winter conditions and limited access to government welfare schemes, including the VB-G-RAM scheme. Addressing the gathering, Mian Altaf said geographical barriers should not prevent elected representatives from reaching people,



assuring residents that their genuine grievances would be taken up with the concerned administration and departments.

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"Be Prepared, Report Power Faults Promptly": KPDCL Opens Winter Readiness Handbook to Public

Digital Blueprint Details Infrastructure Serving 13.53 Lakh Consumers, 353 Receiving Stations, Buffer Stocks And Emergency Restoration Mechanism

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 10: The Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) on Tuesday launched its Digital Handbook on Winter Preparedness 2026-27, placing details of its distribution infrastructure, equipment reserves and emergency restoration arrangements in the public domain ahead of the winter season. The handbook outlines a network catering to 13.53 lakh consumers through 353 receiving stations with an installed capacity of 5,021.65 MVA, 135 33-kV feeders, 1,334 11-kV feeders and 49,935 distribution transformers. It details pre-winter measures, including clearance of power corridors, augmentation of overloaded transformers, renovation of receiving stations and deployment of Swift Restoration Teams at district and divisional levels. Division-wise buffer stocks include 1,096 and 824 distribution transformers, besides power transformers, conductors, electric poles, transformer oil and AB cables. The document also provides round-the-clock grievance redressal channels,

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Sopore Bids Tearful Farewell To Adnan Rather As Thousands Attend Funeral

26-Year-Old MBBS Student Who Died In Bangladesh Laid To Rest At Native Dangerpora Village; Community Mourns Young Life Lost

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SOPORE, NOVEMBER 10: Thousands of mourners on Tuesday attended the funeral prayers of 26-year-old Adnan Altaf Rather, a Sopore-based MBBS student who died in Bangladesh, as his mortal remains were laid to rest at his native village of Dangerpora amid scenes of profound grief. His body reached Srinagar from Bangladesh before being brought to the village, where relatives, friends, neighbours and residents from adjoining areas gathered to pay their final respects. Emotional scenes were witnessed as mourners assembled around the mortal remains, while the bereaved family struggled to come to terms with the loss of their young son. Rather was pursuing his MBBS

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HT BOTTOM NEWS

"Avoid Unnecessary Travel To Higher Reaches": Anantnag Administration Issues Weather Alert

Rain, Snow Forecast For November 12–14; Departments Directed To Activate 24×7 Control Rooms And Ensure Emergency Preparedness



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 10: The Anantnag district administration on Tuesday issued a weather advisory following the forecast of widespread light to moderate rainfall in the plains and snowfall in higher reaches of Kashmir from November 12 to 14, urging people to avoid unnecessary travel to high-altitude areas and exercise caution during the anticipated spell of inclement weather. Citing the forecast of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Srinagar, the administration directed the Roads and Buildings Department, Mechanical Engineering, Revenue, Flood Control, PMGSY, Urban Local Bodies, JKPDC, Jal Shakti and Health and Medical Education departments to undertake precautionary measures and activate their respective control rooms. The District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC), Anantnag, will remain operational round the clock to respond to emergencies and public grievances. Residents can seek assistance through DEOC numbers 01932-227112, 9697982527, 7780885759 and 9419091681, while the Police Control Room can be contacted at 01932-225870 or 9419051940. Tehsildars and other concerned officials have also been directed to maintain 24-hour preparedness to deal with any weather-related eventuality. In view of the forecast of widespread light to moderate rainfall in the plains and snowfall in the higher reaches of Kashmir from November 12 to 14, the Anantnag district administration on

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Verify Credentials, Don't Pay For Government Jobs": EOW Warns Public After Chargesheet In Impersonation Case

Accused Allegedly Posed As CID Officer, Used Forged Appointment Orders And Deputation Letter To Cheat People Of Lakhs; Chargesheet Filed In Absentia



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 10: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch Jammu and Kashmir has filed a chargesheet against a man accused of impersonating a CID officer and cheating people by promising government jobs and transfers in exchange for money. The accused, identified as Ghulam Hassan Dar, son of Mohammad Yousuf Dar, a resident of Dhobi Ghat, Hazratbal, has been chargesheeted before the court of Sub-Judge

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Continue from Front Page.....

Scooty Rider Killed

Manzoor sustained multiple injuries and was stated to be stable, while Mehraj-ud-Din suffered head injuries and was reported to be in critical condition.

Bashir Ahmad Khan, who had also sustained multiple injuries, later succumbed to his injuries at the hospital. [KNT]

"May Govardhan

greetings to all fellow countrymen on Govardhan Puja. May this sacred festival infuse new energy and enthusiasm into your lives. I pray that happiness, good fortune and prosperity continue to grow in everyone's life."

Alongside his greetings, the Prime Minister shared a Sanskrit verse invoking Lord Krishna in his revered manifestation as Govardhan-dhari, the deity who lifted Govardhan Hill to protect the people of Braj from torrential rains.

The verse, "Abheera-nagari-prana-priyam Satya-parakramam, Swa-bhritya-bhaya-bhettaram Govardhana-dharam bhaje," describes Lord Krishna as the beloved of the cowherd community, an embodiment of truth and valour, and the divine protector who dispels the fears of his devotees.

Govardhan Puja, also known as Annakut, is traditionally celebrated on the day following Diwali in several parts of the country. The festival commemorates the legend of Lord Krishna lifting Govardhan Hill on his little finger to shelter the residents of Vrindavan and their cattle from torrential rains unleashed by Lord Indra.

According to Hindu mythology, Krishna had urged the people of Braj to worship Govardhan Hill instead of offering prayers to Indra, explaining that the hill sustained their lives by providing pasture, water and other natural resources. Angered by this challenge to his authority, Indra unleashed devastating rainfall upon the region. Krishna responded by lifting the hill, providing a protective shelter to the villagers and their cattle until the rains subsided.

The episode is regarded as a reminder of the importance of humility, devotion and gratitude towards nature, while also symbolising the triumph of faith over arrogance.

The festival is marked by special prayers, devotional ceremonies and the preparation of Annakut, a traditional offering comprising a variety of food items presented to Lord Krishna. Temples and homes organise elaborate offerings, reflecting the spirit of thanksgiving, community participation and devotion.

Govardhan Puja also carries a broader message of respect for nature and the resources that sustain life, with the legendary protection of the people of Braj by Krishna remaining central to the festival's religious and cultural significance.

"SASCI Must

crore had been incurred. For 2026-27, 811 crore is available under Part-I Untied Funds, including 541 crore in current-year receipts and 270 crore carried forward, while departments have been assigned an expenditure target of 608 crore to qualify for the second instalment. The Chief Minister also stressed disaster preparedness, financial discipline, timely PFMS uploads and maximum mobilisation of the 2,890.51-crore incentive-based funding pool.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of works and projects taken up under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), taking stock of financial and physical performance, funds utilisation and plans for the coming financial years.

The review covered the physical and financial progress of projects undertaken during FY 2025-26, availability of funds and expenditure targets for FY 2026-27, besides steps taken for effective implementation of projects during FY 2027-28.

The Chief Minister reviewed progress across key sectors, including Public Works, Jal Shakti, Youth Services and Sports, Power Development, and Housing & Urban Development.

The Chief Minister called for special focus to be given to Disaster Management component, aimed at strengthening disaster mitigation and resilience, besides restoring infrastructure damaged in natural disasters.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Ministers Ali Mohammad Sagar, Javed Rana, Javid Dar, Mir Saifullah and Shamim Firdous; Acting Chief Secretary Shailendra Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments, senior officers of the Finance Department and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister directed expediting SASCI Part-I works and ensuring full utilisation of approved funds by March 2027 to qualify for the second instalment. He stressed strict adherence to revised deadlines for completion of works under the SASCI 2025-26 Disaster management Component and directed departments to achieve the prescribed financial targets within the stipulated period.

Emphasising financial discipline and transparency, the Chief Minister directed strict compliance with Public Financial Management System (PFMS) uploads and timely submission of action plans on BEAMS. He also called for the closure of all Single Nodal Agency (SNA) bank accounts relating to Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

In view of the forthcoming visit of the Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) to assess damages, departments were asked to finalise comprehensive, sector-wise damage assessment reports to facilitate the assessment process.

The Chief Minister further directed all departments to identify and prepare a robust shelf of encumbrance-free projects by March 2027 to facilitate timely tendering and smooth execution during FY 2027-28. He stressed advance planning and close inter-departmental coordination to ensure that the next year's SASCI plan is finalised well in time.

Reviewing the performance for FY 2025-26, the meeting was informed that against an overall allocation of 5,166.46 crore, comprising untied funds, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) shares, incentive-based allocations and disaster management components, an expenditure of 3,367.64 crore had been incurred.

The meeting was also informed that the State Executive Committee (SEC) has approved 1,416 crore for the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) across social, infrastructure, productive and cross-cutting sectors, against the NDMA ceiling of 1,534.58 crore. An amount of 424.79 crore has been proposed for immediate release.

For FY 2026-27, 811 crore is available under SASCI Part-I Untied Funds, including 541 crore in current-year receipts and 270 crore carried forward as unutilised funds from the previous financial year. Departments have been assigned an expenditure target of 608 crore to qualify for the second instalment.

Under Part-II, relating to Centrally Sponsored Schemes, J&K has received 116 crore, constituting 66 per cent of the 176 crore SASCI loan assistance sought for 10 major schemes linked to J&K.

The meeting also reviewed the J&K Administration's efforts to leverage the incentive-based funding pool of 2,890.51 crore available for FY 2026-27, linked to governance reforms, improved financial management and sector-specific performance benchmarks.

Significant progress was reported under the Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture initiative (AgriStack), with 7.59 lakh Farmer IDs generated, representing 59 per cent of the target. The Digital Crop Survey (DCS) has been completed in 5,714 villages, covering 83.3 per cent of the target and more than 30.27 lakh land parcels.

The meeting was informed that the pilot distribution of AgriStack-enabled fertilisers through Farmer IDs commenced on November 5, 2026, in Jammu and Srinagar districts, marking another step towards strengthening technology-driven agricultural service delivery.

Progress was also reviewed under other incentive-linked reform areas, including Mining Reforms, with a target of 350 crore; Livestock Sector Reforms (150 crore); Efficiency in Financial Management (400 crore); implementation of Right of Way (RoW) Rules (50 crore); and achievement of Capital Expenditure targets (218 crore). Proposals in these areas have either been submitted or are at various stages of verification.

The Ministers also shared their inputs and suggestions during the meeting, highlighting key priorities and issues concerning their respective departments. They emphasised the need for coordinated efforts to accelerate the implementation of SASCI-funded projects and ensure optimal utilisation of available resources.

The Chief Minister emphasised that SASCI should be leveraged not merely as a special funding window but also as a strategic instrument for accelerating capital investment, strengthening public infrastructure and improving governance outcomes across Jammu and Kashmir.

He underscored the importance of timely execution, efficient financial management and sustained coordination among departments to maximise the benefits available under the scheme.

"No Region Is

He also promised to pursue demands for improved telecommunication connectivity, health sub-centres, road infrastructure and faster execution of pending development projects.

): Member of Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmad undertook a challenging journey to the remote Hill Kaka area of Poonch district, travelling on horseback through rugged mountainous terrain to interact with residents and listen to their grievances.

According to a statement issued here, the MP visited the historically isolated region to assess the difficulties faced by residents, including members of the Gujjar-Bakarwal community, and review the availability of essential services in the area.

During his interaction with residents, community elders and local delegations, several issues concerning basic infrastructure and public services were raised, including the absence of electricity, poor road connectivity, drinking water shortages and inadequate healthcare facilities.

Tribal elders also highlighted the hardships faced by residents during harsh winter conditions and difficulties in accessing government welfare schemes, including the VB-G-RAM scheme. They sought immediate administrative intervention to improve basic amenities and ensure effective implementation of welfare programmes.

Addressing the gathering, Mian Altaf said geographical barriers should not prevent elected representatives from reaching people and addressing their concerns.

"No region is too distant when it comes to resolving the genuine grievances of our people. I am here to ensure that your voice reaches the highest halls of governance," he said.

The MP assured residents that their concerns would be taken up with the concerned administration and government departments. He called for expediting pending infrastructure projects and improving the delivery of essential commodities to remote and high-altitude settlements.

He also assured that demands relating to improved telecommunication connectivity, establishment of health sub-centres and road infrastructure would be taken up with the concerned authorities and prioritised in forthcoming development plans.

The residents welcomed the MP's visit and raised expectations that their long-pending demands would receive attention from the administration.

Hill Kaka, located in the remote mountainous belt of Poonch, has remained among the difficult-to-access areas of the district, with residents continuing to face challenges in accessing basic infrastructure and essential public services. (KNS)

"MLAs Will Act

National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah has proposed the formation of informal advisory groups of party legislators to be attached to each member of the Council of Ministers, with the stated objective of strengthening coordination between the party and the government.

In a communication addressed to party legislators, Abdullah said it had been decided at a recent meeting with some of the party MLAs to constitute informal advisory groups comprising legislators who would work as a bridge between the party and the government.

He said ministers would be asked to hold regular meetings with their respective advisory groups and keep them informed about major policy initiatives and the progress of work being undertaken by their departments.

According to the communication, each legislator would be eligible to become part of two such advisory groups.

To facilitate the allocation process, Abdullah has asked legislators to submit, in writing, their preferences for three ministers, in order of priority, so that they could be associated with ministers of their choice, as far as possible.

"The lists will be prepared and notified as soon as all legislators send their preferences," the communication reads.

The party legislators have been asked to complete the exercise within a period of two weeks.

The proposed arrangement is aimed at establishing a regular channel of communication between party legislators and ministers, enabling elected representatives to remain apprised of departmental functioning, policy decisions and implementation of government initiatives. (KNS)

18 Tourists Injured

further medical care. The remaining injured, who sustained comparatively minor injuries, continue to remain admitted at PHC Gund under medical observation.

Those referred to SKIMS have been identified as Sharda Rani (58), wife of Ramesh Ji, and Ramesh Ji (52), both residents of Ahmedabad, Gujarat; Jayesh (42), son of Subash Chander, from Surat, Gujarat; Shobhna Patel (50), wife of Rajesh Kumar Patel, and Rajesh Kumar, son of Devubhai Patel, both from Ahmedabad; and Swapnadyuti Ghosh (24), Mala Ghosh (48) and Surajit Ghosh (61), all residents of Murshidabad, West Bengal.

"Be Prepared

including helpline 1912, toll-free number 18001807666, JK Samadhan 2.0 and other platforms, besides electrical safety guidelines and details of the statutory grievance escalation mechanism.

The Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) on Tuesday launched its Digital Handbook on Winter Preparedness 2026–27, detailing its distribution infrastructure, equipment reserves, restoration arrangements and consumer grievance redressal mechanisms ahead of the winter season.

The handbook provides an overview of the corporation's electricity distribution network catering to 13.53 lakh consumers across Kashmir, comprising 353 receiving stations with an installed capacity of 5,021.65 MVA, 135 33 kV feeders, 1,334 11 kV feeders and 49,935 distribution transformers.

According to KPDCL, the document outlines pre-winter measures undertaken to minimise power disruptions, including clearance of power corridors, augmentation of overloaded distribution transformers, renovation of receiving stations and rectification of identified fault-prone areas.

A key component of the preparedness plan is the availability of buffer stocks for replacement of damaged equipment and faster restoration of electricity supply during adverse weather conditions.

The handbook provides division-wise details of stocks, including 1,096 and 824 distribution transformers, besides 33/11 kV power transformers and essential materials such as conductors, electric poles, transformer oil and AB cables. These materials have been positioned across different divisions, including areas vulnerable to floods and landslides.

KPDCL has also detailed the deployment of Swift Restoration Teams (SRTs) at district and divisional levels, supported by dedicated teams and control rooms to respond to power breakdowns and emergencies.

For consumer assistance, the handbook provides contact details of Assistant Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers and Junior Engineers across electric divisions and sub-divisions, allowing consumers to approach the concerned officials directly.

The document also lists round-the-clock grievance redressal channels, including helpline 1912, toll-free number 18001807666, JK Samadhan 2.0, the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), and KPDCL's official website and social media platforms.

It also outlines the statutory grievance escalation mechanism through the Internal Grievance Redressal Forum (IGRF), Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum (CGRF) and Electricity Ombudsman.

A separate section deals with electrical safety during winter, advising consumers to immediately report snapped conductors, maintain distance from damaged electrical installations and avoid touching fallen wires, climbing electric poles or attempting repairs themselves.

KPDCL said the handbook had been launched under the directions of the Power Minister to promote transparency, accountability and public participation in winter preparedness.

The digital document is available on the corporation's official website, kpdcl.jk.gov.in, and is also being disseminated through its social media platforms.

The corporation has urged consumers to promptly report power faults, damaged installations and unsafe conditions to the concerned authorities. (KNS)

"Verify Credentials

Srinagar in connection with FIR No. 24/2023 registered under Sections 420 and 468 of the IPC. According to the Crime Branch, the accused allegedly projected himself as a CID officer posted in Delhi and promised to facilitate the transfer of a Railway Department employee from Uttarakhand to Srinagar and secure an appointment as a Nursing Orderly in the Health Department. He allegedly supplied fake appointment orders and a forged deputation letter to substantiate his claims and cheated victims of lakhs of rupees. The EOW said the allegations were substantiated during investigation. As the accused is absconding, the chargesheet has been filed in absentia under Section 512 CrPC. The SSP EOW Kashmir has advised the public to verify official credentials and report such fraudulent activities.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch Jammu and Kashmir has filed a chargesheet against a man accused of impersonating a CID officer and cheating people by promising government jobs and transfers.

The chargesheet has been filed against Ghulam Hassan Dar, son of Mohammad Yousuf Dar, a resident of Dhobi Ghat, Hazratbal, before the court of Sub-Judge Srinagar in connection with FIR No. 24/2023 registered under Sections 420 and 468 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

According to a statement issued by the Crime Branch, the case was registered following a written complaint alleging that the accused falsely projected himself as a CID officer posted in Delhi and fraudulently induced people by promising government favours.

The accused allegedly assured the transfer of an employee of the Railway Department from Uttarakhand to Srinagar and also promised to secure an appointment as a Nursing Orderly in the Health Department.

To substantiate his claims, he allegedly provided fake appointment orders and a forged deputation letter to the victim and cheated people of lakhs of rupees in the process.

The EOW said the allegations were substantiated during the investigation, which was subsequently concluded as proved.

As the accused is absconding, the chargesheet has been filed in absentia under Section 512 CrPC for judicial determination, the statement said.

Meanwhile, SSP EOW Kashmir has advised the public to verify the credentials of individuals claiming official connections and refrain from paying money to anyone promising government jobs or transfers through unauthorised channels.

The public has also been urged to report such fraudulent activities to the EOW Kashmir. (KNS)

Sopore Bids Tearful

degree in Bangladesh, and his untimely demise has plunged his family and the entire locality into mourning. Residents expressed condolences to the bereaved family, describing the death of the young medical student as a profound loss to the community.

Thousands of people on Tuesday attended the Nimaz-e-Janaza of 26-year-old Adnan Altaf Rather, a Sopore-based MBBS student who died in Bangladesh, as he was laid to rest at his native village of Dangerpora amid tears and profound grief.

The mortal remains of Rather reached his native village after arriving in Srinagar from Bangladesh, drawing a large gathering of relatives, friends, locals and people from adjoining areas who assembled to pay their last respects.

Emotional scenes were witnessed as mourners gathered around the mortal remains, while grieving family members struggled to come to terms with the loss of their young son.

Rather was pursuing his MBBS degree in Bangladesh. His untimely demise has plunged his family and the entire locality into mourning.

Residents expressed condolences to the bereaved family, saying the death of the young medical student was a profound loss for the community.

He was laid to rest at his native village following the funeral prayers attended by thousands of mourners. (KNS)

"Avoid Unnecessary

Tuesday issued a weather advisory, urging residents to exercise caution and avoid unnecessary travel to high-altitude areas.

According to the advisory issued by the Office of the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Srinagar, has predicted a spell of inclement weather across the Kashmir Valley during the three-day period.

The administration has advised the general public to follow safety guidelines and avoid unnecessary movement along high-altitude passes and roads during adverse weather conditions to minimise risks and possible disruptions.

In view of the forecast, the district administration has directed several departments, including Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings), Mechanical Engineering, Revenue, Flood Control, PMGSY, Urban Local Bodies, JKPDC, Jal Shakti and Health and Medical Education, to undertake necessary precautionary measures.

The departments have also been asked to activate their respective control rooms to ensure immediate assistance in case of weather-related emergencies.

The advisory further stated that the District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC), Anantnag, would remain operational round the clock to address emergencies, provide assistance and respond to public grievances.

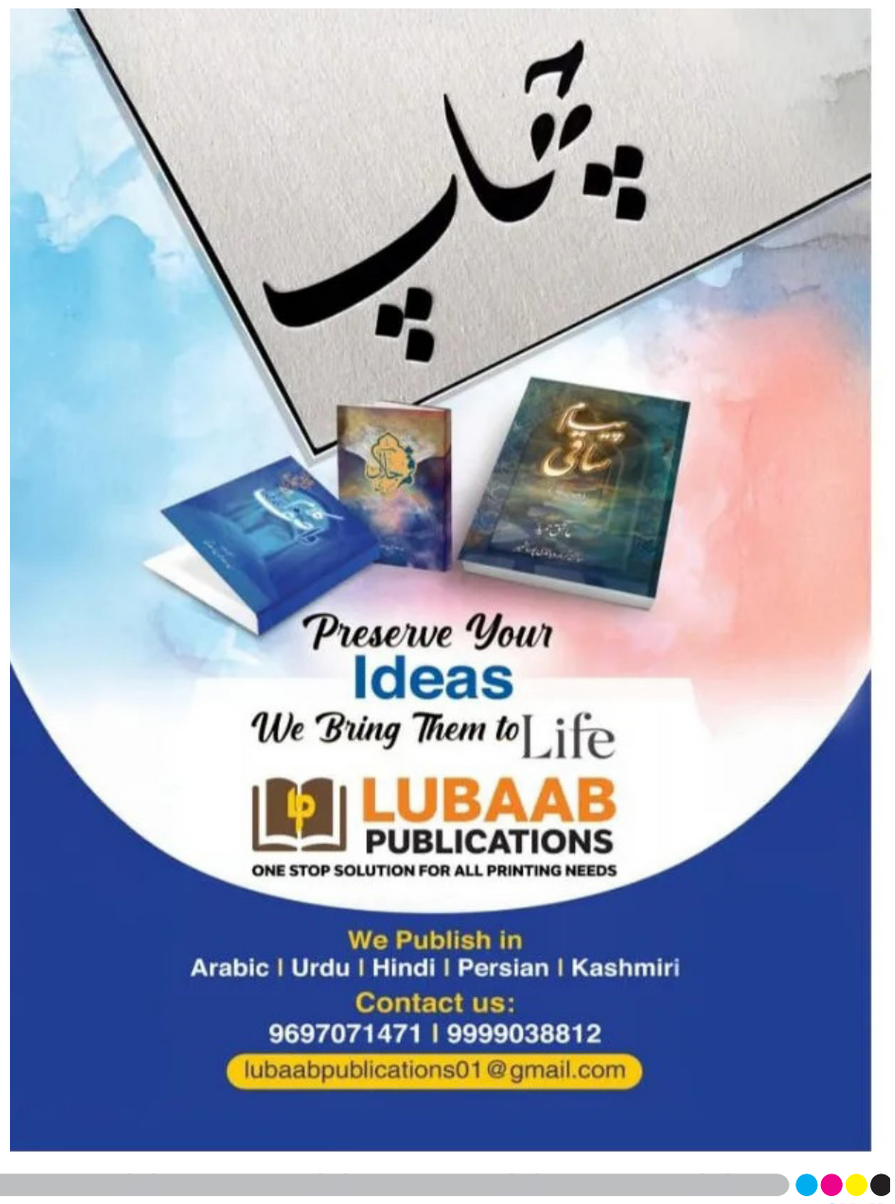
Residents requiring emergency assistance have been advised to contact the DEOC on 01932-227112, 9697982527, 7780885759 or 9419091681.

The administration has also provided WhatsApp contact numbers, including 9697982527, 9906225209, 7889923364, 7006175160 and 9622660057, to facilitate communication during emergencies.

Besides, the public can contact the Police Control Room Anantnag on 01932-225870 or 9419051940.

The advisory, issued by the Additional District Magistrate Anantnag, has also been forwarded to senior district officials, police authorities, engineering departments, medical officers and sub-divisional magistrates for necessary action.

All tehsildars and other concerned officials have been instructed to activate their respective control rooms on a 24-hour basis to ensure preparedness and prompt response to any eventuality arising from the anticipated weather conditions. (KNS)



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Sakina Itoo inaugurates Rs1.88 cr NTPHC at Chukar, inspects PHC Sariwarpora

Visits bereaved family of Sopore medical student, assures government support

■ HT News Network



BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 10: Emphasizing the importance of accessible and quality healthcare facilities at the grassroots level, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare, Sakina Itoo, today inaugurated the New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) at Chukar, Tangmarg constructed at a cost of 1.88 crore.

MLA Gulmarg, Peerzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, was present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister underscored the importance of primary healthcare institutions in strengthening the public healthcare delivery system, particularly in rural and far-flung areas, by ensuring access to essential medical services. She said the newly inaugurated NTPHC would significantly improve the healthcare access for the residents of Chukar and adjoining areas, reducing the need to travel long distances for basic medical treatment and other essential health services.

Sakina Itoo also highlighted the achievements and key initiatives of the Omar Abdullah-led government, reiterating its commitment to public welfare, equitable development and strengthening essential services across Jammu and Kashmir. She said the government is adopting a people-centric approach to address the public concerns, upgrade infrastructure and improve the service delivery across various sectors, with particular emphasis on healthcare.

She stated that strengthening the healthcare sector remains a key priority, with focused efforts towards upgrading the health infrastructure, improving medical facilities and ensuring the availability of quality healthcare services, particularly in underserved areas.

The Minister urged the concerned health authorities and medical staff to ensure effective functioning of the newly inaugurated facility, adequate availability of essential medical services and dedicated patient care. She stressed that healthcare institutions must serve the public with commitment, compassion and professionalism.

MLA Gulmarg also addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of strengthening the healthcare infrastructure in the constituency. He appreciated the ongoing efforts to improve public facilities and emphasized the need for continued development of essential services for the people.

Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Nighat Yasmeen, Chief Medical Officer Baramulla, Dr. A.G. Raina, and Block Medical Officer Pattan, Dr. Rumina Majeed besides other concerned officers, healthcare professionals and local residents were present on the occasion.

The Minister also inspected the Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Sariwarpora, Pattan, and took stock of the healthcare facilities and services available there. She reviewed the functioning of the institution and emphasized the importance of ensuring adequate medical facilities, proper patient care and efficient delivery of healthcare services. She directed the concerned officials to maintain high standards of healthcare delivery and address any shortcomings to ensure better services for the local population.

Later, Sakina Itoo accompanied by the MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar, MLA Pattan Javaid Riyaz and Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah visited the residence of the medical student at Dangerpora, Sopore.

Sakeena Itoo visits bereaved family of deceased MBBS student in Sopore, expresses condolences

■ HT News Network



SOPORE, NOVEMBER 10: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo today visited the residence of 26-year-old Adnan Altaf Rather at Dangerpora, Sopore, who tragically passed away in Bangladesh, and expressed her heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

During the visit, the Minister shared the grief of the family and conveyed her deepest sympathies over the demise of the young medical student. She prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength, courage and patience for the bereaved family to withstand this irreparable loss.

Expressing profound grief over the tragic incident, the Minister said that the loss of a young life, particularly of a student pursuing his dream of becoming a doctor, was deeply saddening.

"Words cannot adequately express the pain of a family that has lost its young son. May Almighty Allah grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and bless the family with strength and patience to bear this immense loss", the Minister said.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmad Shah; MLA Pattan Javid Reyaz and MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar, who also expressed their condolences and conveyed solidarity with the bereaved family.

DC Ganderbal inspects Snow Clearance Control Room at Tulbagh

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, accompanied by the ADC Ganderbal, today visited the Snow Clearance Control Room at Tulbagh, Ganderbal, to take stock of the operational preparedness and arrangements put in place for the ensuing winter season.During the inspection, the AEE, Mechanical & Hospital Sub-Division 2nd, Ganderbal, briefed the DC regarding the availability of snow clearance machinery, the road network identified for mechanised snow clearance and the overall operational preparedness of the Control Room.It was informed that a total of 12 snow clearance machines, including a snow cutter, are presently available. Out of these, three machines have been stationed at the Sub-Control Room, Kangan, to ensure prompt response to snowfall and snow clearance requirements in the area, while the remaining machines are stationed at the Main Control Room, Ganderbal.

The DC was apprised that a total road length of 284.18 kilometers has been identified for mechanised snow clearance across district Ganderbal. It was also apprised that the priority-wise categorisation has been made to facilitate systematic and phased snow clearance operations, with emphasis on ensuring connectivity on priority routes, particularly those essential for public movement and accessibility during the winter months. The DC was apprised that a total road length of 284.18 kilometers has been identified for mechanised snow clearance across district Ganderbal. It was also apprised that the priority-wise categorisation.

DC Shopian chairs District-Level Telecom Committee Meeting

Stresses robust connectivity and improved Telecom Services

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Shopian to review issues pertaining to telecom infrastructure, connectivity and delivery of uninterrupted telecommunication services across the district.

During the meeting, a detailed deliberations were held on various issues concerning the expansion and strengthening of telecom infrastructure, improvement of network connectivity and addressing challenges faced by telecom service providers in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for close coordination among all concerned departments and telecom service providers to ensure seamless connectivity and better telecommunication services, particularly in far-flung and remote areas of the district.

He underscored the importance of timely resolution of issues related to telecom infrastructure and directed the concerned departments to extend necessary cooperation and facilitate telecom service providers in strengthening network connectivity.

The DC further stressed that reliable telecommunication services are essential for public convenience, effective governance, emergency response and overall socio-economic development of the district. He called for coordinated and result-oriented efforts to ensure improved telecom services and uninterrupted connectivity for the people of Shopian.

The meeting was attended by SSP, Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar, district officers, representatives of BSNL, department of Telecommunications and other concerned departments.

DC inspects progress of ongoing works at GMC Baili

Sets timelines for completion of key components

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, today conducted a site visit to the new Government Medical College here at Baili to inspect the ongoing works and review the progress of the project.The DC inspected various components of the project, reviewed the pace of construction and assessed the status of the ongoing works. He directed the concerned agencies to mobilise adequate resources, address bottlenecks and ensure time-bound completion of all remaining components.

The GMC Principal was advised to maintain close coordination with the executing agencies and concerned departments and ensure regular monitoring. Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division apprised the DC that temporary water supply has been provided to the hostel buildings. The DC directed to expedite the remaining works and ensure their completion on priority. Executive Engineer STD Division was directed to ensure early completion of the laying of 33 KV power line from local grid station to GMC and commission the electricity supply on priority.The Executive Engineer PWD was directed to complete all remaining works of the Government Nursing College. He was also instructed to ensure proper maintenance of the internal nallah and the adjoining road within the GMC campus. He was further directed to hand over the Teaching Block at the Associated Hospital to the GMC authorities by the end.

DC Shopian reviews arrangements for Accounts Assistant Examination

Instructs Officers to ensure proper arrangements for Smooth, Fair and Transparent conduct

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Charandeep Singh, today chaired a review meeting to assess the preparedness and finalise arrangements for the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the OMR-based written examination for the post of Accounts Assistant in the Finance Department, scheduled to be held on November 15, 2026.

During the meeting, it was informed that 14 designated examination centres have been established across the district.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The meeting was attended by SSP, Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary, ADC, Dr.Zakir Hussain Faaz, Principal, GDC, Shopian, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Dy. SP Traffic and other

Orientation Programme on FAA Examination held in Bandipora

ADC stresses Fair and Transparent conduct

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 10: District Administration Bandipora organised an orientation programme for officers and officials deployed for the conduct of the upcoming OMR-based examination for the post of Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA) today at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The programme was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, and aimed at sensitising Centre Superintendents, invigilators, magistrates and other concerned officials about their duties, responsibilities and examination-related protocols ahead of the examination scheduled to be conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on November 15, 2026.

Coordinators from JKSSB sensitised the participants about the prescribed examination procedures, guidelines, protocols and responsibilities of the concerned functionaries.

During the orientation, detailed deliberations were held on examination management, coordination among concerned departments and the arrangements required for ensuring the smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the examination.

The ADC interacted with the participating officers and officials, listened to their feedback and suggestions and assured them of all necessary support from the District Administration and JKSSB. He stressed that all concerned must discharge their assigned responsibilities with utmost diligence and ensure that all requisite facilities are made available to candidates.

Javid Dar exhorts officers to intensify field visits, redress farmers' concerns

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 10: Minister for Agriculture Production, Finance, Mining and Cooperative Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, today convened a review meeting with senior officers of the Horticulture Department to assess the progress of ongoing projects and evaluate implementation of development schemes aimed at strengthening the horticulture sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Director Horticulture Jammu, Gul Syed, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Vikas Anand, Managing Director JKHPMC Mohammad Farooq and others concerned officials.

During the meeting, the Minister called for a focused, outcome-oriented and farmer-centric approach to ensure that the benefits of government initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries, particularly small and marginal farmers. He stressed that effective implementation of welfare schemes must remain a key priority of the department, with due emphasis on transparency, accountability and timely delivery of benefits.Underscoring the importance of strengthening the department's field-level outreach, Javid Dar directed the officers and field functionaries to undertake regular visits to horticulture areas to assess the ground realities, interact directly with the farmers and understand the challenges confronting them. He emphasised that field visits should serve as an effective mechanism for identifying the farmers' concerns, addressing the bottlenecks and ensuring prompt resolution of grievances.The Minister also called for intensified awareness and extension activities to educate the farmers about various government schemes, financial assistance, technological interventions and support facilities available under different departmental programmes. He emphasised that no eligible farmer should be deprived of the benefits of government initiatives due to lack of awareness or procedural difficulties.

Stressing the need for a district-specific development strategy, the Minister directed the officers to identify the horticultural potential, production patterns and specific requirements of each district and accordingly formulate and implement need-based, crop-specific interventions.Javid Dar emphasised the need to strengthen the entire horticulture value chain, including production, productivity, post-harvest management, processing and marketing, so that the farmers receive better returns for their produce. He called for coordinated efforts among the Horticulture Department, Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) and other allied agencies to ensure effective implementation of programmes and optimum utilisation of available resources.During the meeting, the concerned officers gave a detailed presentation on the physical and financial progress of various ongoing schemes and projects being implemented by the Horticulture Department, JKHPMC and other allied sectors.

Save Nilnag Front calls on Speaker; seeks focused attention towards conservation, development of Nilnag

Urged for preparation of comprehensive master plan, constitution of dedicated development authority

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 10: The Save Nilnag Front today called on Speaker JKLA Abdul Rahim Rather and expressed appreciation for the developmental initiatives undertaken in the constituency over the years, particularly in strengthening the road connectivity, infrastructure, educational and healthcare facilities, electricity distribution and other essential public amenities.

In a Memorandum submitted to the Speaker, the Front acknowledged the efforts made towards addressing public concerns and improving the socio-economic conditions of the area. It, however, drew attention towards the need for focused intervention for the conservation, restoration and sustainable development of Nilnag, a historically and ecologically significant water body nestled in the Pir Panjal forests.

Highlighting the historical and tourism significance of Nilnag, the Front stated that the picturesque lake finds mention in historical accounts, including Rajtarangini. It has also been documented by the British historian Sir Walter Lawrence in his celebrated work The Valley of Kashmir. The lake has attracted the attention of several prominent personalities over the decades, reflecting its historical, cultural and natural importance.

The representation emphasised that Nilnag possesses immense potential as an eco-tourism destination, provided its development is undertaken in a planned and environmentally sustainable manner while preserving its pristine natural character and ecological balance.

Among its key suggestions, the Front has proposed the constitution of a dedicated Nilnag Development Authority, with a clearly defined mandate for conservation and planned development of the area. It has also called for preparation of a comprehensive five-year master plan based on proper field assessments and expert consultation.

The Front suggested constitution of a high-level committee involving all relevant departments, including Tourism, Forest and Ecology, Flood Control and Irrigation, Revenue, Gardens and Parks, Roads and Buildings, Floriculture, Fisheries, Jal Shakti and Soil Conservation, to ensure coordinated planning and execution of development initiatives.

The Save Nilnag Front urged to accord focused attention to the matter and put in place a time-bound mechanism for conservation, restoration and sustainable development of Nilnag. This will help in preserving this historically significant natural destination for future generations while creating new opportunities for tourism and livelihood generation in the area.

The Speaker heard the representatives of the Save Nilnag Front and appreciated their concerns and constructive proposals for the conservation and development of Nilnag.

Responding to the suggestions, he assured them that the matter would be taken up with the concerned higher authorities for due consideration. He said all possible efforts would be made to explore feasible measures for the preservation, restoration and planned development of this historically and ecologically significant destination.

Udyam Jagriti programme for Ex Servicemen held in Budgam

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER10: An Udyam Jagriti programme under Mission YUVA was organised for Ex- Servicemen, Widows and their families of district Budgam to sensitise them about the scheme and apprise them of the opportunities available for establishing sustainable self-employment ventures.

The programme witnessed the participation of Team Sainik Welfare Srinagar, Lead District Manager (LDM) Budgam, Employment Officer, Career Counselling Officer Budgam and officials from the Employment Department along with huge gathering of Ex Servicemen and their families from district Budgam.

The initiative reflects the commitment of district Administration and Mission YUVA towards promoting entrepreneurship, encouraging self-employment and facilitating inclusive economic development by enabling Ex Servicemen and their wards to explore viable business opportunities and contribute to the local economy.

DC Ganderbal inspects Regional Transformer Repair Workshop

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Dr. Syed Faheem A. Bihaqi, today visited the Regional Transformer Repair Workshop at the Old Power House premises, Ganderbal, to take stock of its functioning.

During the visit, the DC inspected various key sections of the facility, including the assembly unit as well as the winding and rewinding sections. She undertook a detailed review of the workshop's daily repairing capacity of damaged transformers, machinery performance, and technical staff deployment.

The Executive Engineer, KPDCL, Division Ganderbal, briefed the visiting officers on the operational capacity, available manpower, and machinery setup. The DC gave necessary instructions for augmenting the repairing capacity of the workshop.

Addressing the technical staff, the DC issued clear instructions to systematically augment the workshop's daily repair capacity by enhancing machinery efficiency and optimizing manpower.

Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026: Health, ICDS conduct Child Health Screening, Awareness Activities across Bandipora

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 10: As part of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026, the Health and ICDS Departments of Bandipora organised a series of health screening, awareness and community outreach activities across the district, focusing on the health, nutrition and overall well-being of children and tribal communities.

Under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) conducted screening of children at Middle School Bakhshibal Baniyari, Government Middle School Aragam, Boys Middle School Tangath and various schools in Sudi, Kilshay and Tulail areas of Gurez. The teams carried out screening for the four Ds—Defects at Birth, Deficiencies, Diseases and Developmental Delays including Disability, besides general health check-ups.

Awareness sessions were also organised on Anaemia Mukt Bharat, National Deworming Day and other child health initiatives. At Middle School Bakhshibal Baniyari, children were provided deworming medication and Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplements as per their age.

Additionally, a special health camp was organised at Ayushman Arogya Mandir Ketsun, extending healthcare services and health awareness to the local community. ICDS activities also focused on promoting awareness regarding maternal and child health, nutrition, hygiene and various welfare services.

The activities reaffirmed the commitment of the District Administration and the concerned departments towards strengthening healthcare and nutrition services, ensuring early identification of health conditions and improving the overall well-being of children, particularly in tribal areas of the district.

District Admin Bandipora issues Weather Advisory

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 10: In view of the prevailing weather advisory and the possibility of adverse weather conditions, including snowfall and disruption of road connectivity in the far-flung areas of Bandipora and Gurez, the District Administration Bandipora has issued a weather advisory for tourists, travellers, aspirants appearing in the upcoming Finance Accounts Assistant examination and the general public.As per the advisory issued by District Administration Bandipora, candidates belonging to these areas who are scheduled to appear in the OMR-based written examination for the post of Accounts.

NC Strong Despite Internal Differences, Issues Will Be Resolved Through Dialogue: MLA Larvi

■ HT News Network



Srinagar, Nov 10 (KNS): National Conference MLA Abdul Majeed Bhat Larvi on Tuesday asserted that the party remained strong despite reported internal differences, expressing confidence that grievances among party leaders would be resolved through dialogue.

Speaking to news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS), Larvi said differences within a political organisation were natural and should not be viewed as a sign of weakness.

"Even in a family of four sons, one or two may be upset. We will sort it out," he said.

Referring to recent discussions involving Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and party president Farooq Abdullah, Larvi said the leadership had taken up the concerns of party members and expressed confidence that the issues would be resolved.

"We recently met Omar and Farooq Abdullah. We discussed the issues, and I am confident everything will be sorted out," he said.

Reiterating that the National Conference remained strong, the MLA said the party leadership would address grievances through mutual discussions and maintain organisational unity.

His remarks come amid reported discontent within the ruling party over internal and political issues, including differences among some leaders over the party's functioning and political direction.

Earlier, during the inauguration of a small bridge at TB Shah in Anantnag, Larvi expressed displeasure over incomplete construction work, saying the event was an inauguration and not a foundation stone-laying ceremony.

He said the necessary brickwork and other pending components should have been completed before the inauguration, adding that he had taken up the matter with the concerned officers and contractor and was assured that the remaining work would be completed within 10 days.

The MLA also flagged safety concerns over the road leading towards Munnimar, pointing out that inadequate turning space could make it difficult for bigger vehicles to negotiate the stretch safely. He urged the concerned engineers to take corrective measures to prevent possible accidents.

On the implementation of the National Conference's election manifesto, Larvi assured that the party would fulfil its commitments, saying he would continue visiting different localities to understand and address public grievances. (KNS)

JKCSF DELEGATION CALLS ON NEW DC KUPWARA, SUBMITS MEMORANDUM SEEKING SWIFT ACTION ON PUBLIC ISSUES

■ DR.AB QAYOOM



Kupwara,Nov,10: A high-level delegation of the J&K Civil Society Forum (JKCSF), Kupwara, led by District President Malik Ghulam Hassan, met Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Abhishek Sharma and extended a warm welcome and congratulations to him on assuming charge of the office. During the meeting, the delegation submitted a detailed memorandum highlighting various issues and grievances faced by the general public, senior citizens and pensioners across District Kupwara, seeking their prompt and effective redressal.

The memorandum highlighted key public concerns, including safe drinking water, electricity, road connectivity, healthcare facilities and other essential services, particularly in view of the approaching winter season. The delegation urged the Deputy Commissioner to undertake field visits to different areas of the district to assess ground realities and ensure immediate action on public grievances.

The delegation also called for strict implementation of the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) in the district to ensure time-bound delivery of public services. It further urged the DC to direct all Heads of Departments to address public complaints at every level and seek regular Action Taken Reports to ensure accountability and transparency. During the interaction, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured that all issues highlighted in the memorandum would be examined and addressed on priority. He reiterated his commitment to public welfare, stating that he believes in performance rather than mere words. He also appreciated the role of the Civil Society Forum and urged its members to act as a bridge between the administration and the public for effective and timely resolution of people's grievances. The delegation expressed satisfaction over the Deputy Commissioner's approach towards public grievances, particularly his patient interaction with applicants, respectful conduct and efforts to communicate with people in Kashmiri to better understand their problems.

The delegation also briefed the DC about the organisational structure, objectives and functioning of the J&K Civil Society Forum under the leadership of its UT Chairman, Abdul Qayoom Wani, who also heads JKPUF, and apprised him of the forum's activities in District Kupwara. The delegation assured the Deputy Commissioner of full cooperation and support in all initiatives aimed at public welfare and thanked him for sparing valuable time despite his busy schedule. Those who accompanied the delegation included Mohammad Suliman Bhat, Convenor JKCSF UT J&K; Abdul Rashid Malik, Senior Coordinator JKCSF UT J&K; Ghulam Rasool Bhat, Senior Vice President JKPUF Kupwara; Haji Annayitullah Shah Khaki, Joint Secretary; Haji Abdul Ahad Bhat, Financial Secretary; Mohammad Jaffar Khan, Master Manzoor Ahmad Wani and Master Ali Mohammad Mir, Senior Members; and Syed Mairaj Geelani, General Secretary JKCSF Kupwara.

District Kulgam gears up for Three-Day Veshow Festival 2026

DC reviews arrangements, invites public for participation

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 10: District Administration Kulgam is all set to host the three-day Veshow Festival 2026 from November 11 to 13 at Government Degree College (GDC), Kulgam, celebrating the district's rich heritage, art, culture, literature and traditional trade.

In this regard, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, reviewed the arrangements for the conduct of the annual festival and stressed upon the concerned departments to ensure proper coordination and make necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of all scheduled activities.

The festival aims to provide a common platform for artists, writers, poets, artisans, students, traders and cultural enthusiasts to showcase their talent, creativity and traditional knowledge while promoting the rich cultural identity of the region.

The three-day event will feature a series of literary and cultural programmes, including poetry sessions, Kashmiri literature discussions, mushairas, qawwali, ghazal performances, musical presentations and cultural performances by college and school students.

A major attraction of the festival will be the Trade Fair, featuring multiple pavilions showcasing traditional handicrafts, Kashmiri food, local products, art and craft, besides exhibitions highlighting the region's rich artistic and cultural traditions. Workshops, demonstrations by artisans and special activities for children will also form part of the festival.

The literary segment will bring together prominent writers, poets and literary personalities for interactive sessions and discussions, while dedicated programmes on Kashmiri language and literature will provide an opportunity to celebrate and promote the region's literary heritage.

The DC has invited people from all walks of life, particularly youth, students, artists and cultural enthusiasts, to participate in the festival in large numbers and make it a grand success. He said that Veshow Festival is an opportunity for people to reconnect with their roots, appreciate local talent and celebrate the rich cultural and literary traditions of the district.

A dedicated pavilion on Skill and Career Development will also be part of the festival, featuring interactive sessions and expert-led discussions to create awareness about skill development, emerging career opportunities, entrepreneurship and various avenues for professional growth, particularly among youth.

The festival is being organised under the theme 'Celebrating Our Heritage', reflecting the district's commitment to preserving and promoting its rich cultural, literary and traditional legacy.

351st Urs of Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib (RHA) attracts thousands of devotees from across J&K

■ HT News Network



KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 10: The 351st annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib (RHA) was observed with immense devotion here, drawing devotees from across district Kishtwar and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib, one of Kishtwar's most venerated saints, symbolizes the area's shared cultural heritage and interfaith harmony. Every year, thousands of people from diverse backgrounds and regions gather at his shrine to pay homage and seek blessings.

The district administration in collaboration with Auqaf Islamia Kishtwar, have made seamless arrangements to ensure the peaceful observation of the Urs. A significant number of devotees visited the shrine, with necessary provisions in place to facilitate the smooth movement of the Ziareens.

The district administration, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, ensured comprehensive arrangements for the provision of essential facilities to the devotees, including uninterrupted power supply, safe drinking water, essential supplies, security, transport and sanitation, thereby facilitating the smooth and hassle-free conduct of the Urs.

Additionally, a control room was established by the district administration in coordination with the Police Department and District Information Centre Kishtwar to assist pilgrims throughout the Urs. A help desk was also set up by the district administration for the convenience of the pilgrims.

Besides, duty magistrates were deployed at various locations and at the venue to ensure a hassle-free, smooth and safe celebration of the Urs.

GDC Shopian organises Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2027

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 10: Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian, in collaboration with My Bharat Shopian, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, organised the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2027 under the banner of Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027 at the College Auditorium.

The programme was attended by Prof. Tariq Hussain Mir, Principal GDC Shopian, as the Chief Guest, while Divyanshu Jaiswal, District Youth Officer, was the Guest of Honour.

The programme commenced with the rendition of the National Anthem and National Song. In his inaugural address, Prof. Tariq Hussain Mir highlighted the significant role of youth in nation-building and encouraged students to actively participate in democratic processes. Prof. Irfan Jamila, Dr. Khursheed Ahmad, and Divyanshu Jaiswal also addressed the gathering, emphasising the importance of youth leadership, democratic values and active civic engagement in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The Youth Parliament witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who deliberated on various issues of national importance and presented their perspectives, reflecting their awareness, confidence.

EIGHT MONTHS WITHOUT HEADMASTER: POHRUPETH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, STAFF FACE ADMINISTRATIVE UNCERTAINTY

■ DR.AB QAYOOM



Langate, Nov,10: The post of Headmaster at Government High School Pohrupeth has remained vacant for the past eight months, triggering concern among local residents over the smooth functioning of the institution and the academic interests of students. Residents from Pohrupeth, Hangishart, Kultoora and Bungam have appealed to the Education Minister and Director of School Education to intervene and ensure the immediate appointment of a Headmaster. They said the prolonged vacancy has created administrative difficulties for both teaching staff and students, urging the authorities not to allow the issue to affect the academic environment of the school. The residents also highlighted the institution's impressive achievement of recording a 96 per cent pass percentage in board examinations, stating that a school delivering such results deserves adequate administrative support and attention from the Education Department. They urged the concerned authorities to fill the vacant post without further delay and strengthen the institution so that students can continue their studies in a conducive academic environment. The residents expressed hope that the Education Department would take prompt cognisance of the matter in the larger interest of students and the future of the institution.

Prof Wajahat Amin Shah appointed Kashmir University Dean

■ HT News Network



Srinagar, Nov 10 (KNS): University of Kashmir Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan has nominated Prof Syed Wajahat Amin Shah of the Department of Chemistry as the Dean of the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences for a period of three years, according to an official notification.

The nomination follows the completion of the tenure of Prof Manzoor Ahmad Malik, who previously held the position.

As per the notification, Prof Shah will hold the position for three years or until he attains the age of superannuation, whichever is earlier. (KNS)

Pampore's saffron fields draw tourists despite poor bloom Locals seek better facilities to boost saffron tourism

■ HT NEWS NETWORK



Srinagar, Nov 10 (KNO): Despite a relatively poor flowering this season, the saffron fields of Pampore in south Kashmir's Pulwama district are attracting tourists from different parts of the country, with hundreds of visitors arriving daily to witness the seasonal bloom and experience the fragrance of Kashmir's world-famous spice.

Known as the saffron capital of Kashmir, Pampore has witnessed a steady flow of tourists over the past few weeks, with visitors spending time in the fields, capturing photographs and purchasing saffron directly from local growers and young vendors.

Although the flowering has remained below expectations at several places, the flowers that have bloomed have added vibrant shades of purple, maroon and yellow to the fields, creating a picturesque landscape that has become a new attraction for tourists visiting the Valley.

"Tourists can be seen visiting the saffron fields throughout the day. The flowering has been late this year at several locations, and the number of visitors is increasing with each passing day," Ghulam Rasool Mir, a resident, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He said many tourists are particularly interested in witnessing saffron cultivation closely, as they usually hear about the famous Pampore saffron but rarely get an opportunity to see the flowers in their natural surroundings. Nadeem Ahmad, another resident, said saffron fields are gradually emerging as an additional attraction alongside established tourist destinations such as Dal Lake, Gulmarg and Pahalgam.

"Tourists are fascinated by the unique fragrance of saffron flowers. Many of them also purchase the spice directly from local sellers, which provides an opportunity for people associated with saffron cultivation to earn additional income," he said.

During their interaction with KNO, several tourists said they had planned their Kashmir visits around the saffron flowering season to experience something different from conventional tourist destinations.

Krishna, a tourist from Gujarat, said visiting Pampore's saffron fields had been a long-standing wish.

"Visiting Kashmir and spending time in these fields was my dream, and I am happy that it has finally come true. I have visited Gulmarg and Sonamarg and am now heading towards Pahalgam.

Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada celebrated across Bandipora with Health, Awareness and Cultural activities

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 10: As part of the ongoing celebrations of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026, various departments and educational institutions across District Bandipora organised a series of awareness, healthcare, educational and cultural activities to highlight the rich tribal heritage, traditions and contributions of tribal communities to the nation.

The Health Department organised a special healthcare programme at NTPHC Gujran, where ANC check-ups, screening for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and haemoglobin estimation were conducted. Free medicines were also distributed among the beneficiaries as part of the initiative to promote accessible healthcare in tribal areas.

The Horticulture Department conducted awareness activities at Sheikhpora Watrina, Kudara and Garoora, sensitising tribal communities about various departmental initiatives and schemes.

Similarly, the Agriculture Department organised awareness activities in Zone Nadihal to educate farmers and local communities about agricultural interventions and government schemes.

Meanwhile, Zone Bandipora and Zone Quilmuqam of the Youth Services and Sports Department organised a series of educational, cultural and creative activities across educational institutions. Students enthusiastically participated in painting, story writing, poetry, essay writing, photography, traditional art and craft, dance, music, drama, Nukkad Natak, quiz and slogan-writing competitions.

The activities were organised to provide students with a platform to explore their cultural roots, appreciate tribal history and celebrate the invaluable contributions of tribal communities to India's freedom struggle and nation-building. Similarly, the Agriculture Department organised awareness activities in Zone Nadihal to educate farmers and local communities about agricultural interventions and government schemes.

Meanwhile, Zone Bandipora and Zone Quilmuqam of the Youth Services and Sports Department organised a series of educational, cultural and creative activities across educational institutions. Students enthusiastically participated.

J&K Students Association Thanks EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar for Facilitating Repatriation of Mortal Remains of Kashmiri MBBS Student from Bangladesh

■ HT News Network



The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) on Tuesday has expressed its gratitude to Union External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and the Ministry of External Affairs for their timely intervention and humanitarian assistance in facilitating the repatriation of the mortal remains of Kashmiri MBBS student Adnan Altaf Rathar, who tragically passed away in Cumilla, Bangladesh, on November 4, 2026.

Adnan, a student at Eastern Medical College, Cumilla, Bangladesh, hailed from Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. His mortal remains were brought back to India yesterday aboard an Air India flight from Delhi to Srinagar. His body subsequently reached his native village, where he was laid to rest on Tuesday morning in the presence of grieving family members, relatives and community members.

National Convenor of the Association, Nasir Khuehami, said that following the tragic incident, the bereaved family approached the Association seeking assistance in facilitating the earliest possible repatriation of their son's mortal remains. The Association immediately took up the matter with External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar's office, requesting urgent humanitarian intervention and coordination with the Indian High Commission in Dhaka and the concerned Bangladeshi authorities.

Upon taking up the matter, the Association received communication from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Consular Section of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, Bangladesh, assuring that necessary steps were being taken to expedite the repatriation, with the requisite local procedures underway. Khuehami said that the process involved several mandatory formalities, including the post-mortem examination, issuance of the Embassy's No Objection Certificate (NOC), embalming, packing and other necessary clearances. However, certain procedural challenges, including Friday being an official holiday in Bangladesh and difficulties in arranging a government-authorised doctor to undertake the embalming process, resulted in some delay.

"Despite these challenges, the coordination between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian High Commission in Dhaka was remarkable. The Embassy remained in constant touch with the association, concerned Bangladeshi authorities, hospital administration and medical officials to expedite the process. The regular communication, proactive engagement and continuous follow-up by the officials ensured that the necessary formalities were completed and Adnan's mortal remains were brought back to India," Khuehami said.

He added that the timely intervention and compassionate support extended by Dr. Jaishankar's office and the Indian diplomatic mission in Dhaka had brought immense relief and solace to the bereaved family, particularly his mother, who was in Bangladesh following the tragic loss of her son.

Khuehami expressed special appreciation for the officials of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka and the concerned officers of the Ministry of External Affairs for their constant monitoring, seamless coordination and compassionate handling of the matter. "At a time when a grieving mother and an entire family were waiting desperately to bring their son home for one final time, the Ministry of External Affairs and our diplomatic mission in Dhaka stood by them with remarkable sensitivity and commitment. Such interventions reaffirm that no Indian citizen is left alone in a foreign land during moments of distress and tragedy.

"We are deeply grateful to Dr. S. Jaishankar, the entire team at the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian High Commission in Dhaka for their timely intervention, compassionate support and coordinated efforts in ensuring that Adnan's mortal remains were brought home with dignity. Their assistance provided much-needed solace to the grieving family and enabled them to bid their son a final farewell and perform his last rites in his homeland," he added.

HT EDITORIAL

Kashmir's Winter Power Challenge : Consumers Need Electricity, Not Just Assurances

The launch of the Digital Handbook on Winter Preparedness 2026–27 by the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) is a welcome administrative initiative, particularly as Kashmir approaches another demanding winter. However, for ordinary consumers, the effectiveness of such preparedness will ultimately be judged not by the information contained in a handbook, but by the availability of electricity when it is needed most.

With a network serving 13.53 lakh consumers through 353 receiving stations, 135 33 kV feeders, 1,334 11 kV feeders and 49,935 distribution transformers, KPDCL faces a considerable responsibility. Its proposed pre-winter measures, including infrastructure upgrades, clearance of power corridors, replacement of overloaded transformers and the availability of buffer stocks, are necessary steps towards minimising disruptions.

The deployment of Swift Restoration Teams and the provision of multiple grievance redressal channels are equally important. Yet, consumers have often had to contend with prolonged power outages, delayed restoration and uncertainty over complaints, particularly during snowfall and extreme weather. Such difficulties underline the need for a more responsive and accountable distribution system.

Electricity during Kashmir's winter is not a luxury. It is an essential requirement for households, hospitals, educational institutions, businesses and vulnerable sections of society. While consumers are expected to clear their dues and adhere to safety regulations, they are equally entitled to reliable services, timely information and prompt resolution of genuine grievances.

KPDCL must therefore ensure that the equipment reserves are sufficient, restoration teams remain operational and officials at the divisional and sub-divisional levels are accessible.

The helpline numbers and grievance platforms must function effectively, rather than remain provisions on paper. Equally

, transparent communication about scheduled curtailments and unexpected breakdowns would help consumers plan their daily activities.

The corporation deserves credit for placing its preparedness measures in the public domain. However, transparency must be accompanied by accountability and measurable improvements in service delivery. The common consumer should not have to repeatedly approach offices or wait indefinitely for the restoration of an essential service.

Ultimately, the success of KPDCL's winter preparedness will be reflected in fewer outages, quicker restoration and a genuine improvement in consumer experience. For the people of Kashmir, the expectation is simple: a dependable power supply, particularly when winter is at its harshest.

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The First Computer: Reminiscences of Those Wonderful Days



By Syed Majid Gilani



Some memories remain with us for a lifetime. We may get busy with our daily lives, but certain moments never really leave us. Sometimes, a small thought takes us years back, bringing before our eyes places, faces and incidents that once formed a part of our everyday lives.

Yesterday, a memory suddenly took me back to 1997, when I had begun working in an office. Even after all these years, those days remain remarkably fresh in my memory.

I still remember the atmosphere of that office. Big steel almirahs stood against the walls, heavy registers occupied the tables, and files were piled up in different corners. The sound of typewriters was familiar throughout the day. The typists remained busy with papers, carbon sheets and handwritten drafts, while others moved between tables, exchanged files and discussed routine work.

There were busy moments, tea-break conversations and little incidents that made our working days memorable. Little did I know that these ordinary moments would one day become precious memories.

In late 1998, the news reached us that computers were going to be installed in our office.

I remember the curiosity I felt when I first heard about it. The word computer sounded new and rather mysterious. I had heard people talk about these machines, but I was eager to see one with my own eyes and understand how it worked.

The news soon became a favourite topic during our tea breaks.

"Have you ever seen a computer?"

"Is it really so powerful that it can perform all our tasks?"

"Does it work like a typewriter?"

Although we had a few colleagues who were knowledgeable about computers, I cannot recall every conversation word for word. What I remember is the excitement surrounding those discussions. Sometimes, a colleague who knew something about computers would explain things, while the rest of us listened with interest.

A separate room was being prepared for the computers. We were told that the machines were expensive and delicate and needed protection from dust. The room was therefore kept particularly clean.

But what I remember most vividly was something quite unusual.

A few pairs of slippers were placed inside the room. Anyone entering had to leave their regular footwear outside and wear those slippers.

Even today, this little detail brings a smile to my face. Imagine changing your footwear just to enter a room where computers were to be installed! The arrangement gave the place a special importance in our eyes. We began calling it the Computer Room, and I often wondered what it would look like once the machines arrived.

Finally, the day we had been waiting for arrived.

The computers were brought into our office. I can still picture the bulky monitors, the large CPU boxes, the keyboards and the bundles of wires. The technicians unpacked the equipment and carefully placed everything on the desks.

I watched with great interest as the machines were arranged. Several colleagues gathered around the room, eager to see what was happening.

The monitor looked impressive, and the keyboard seemed familiar because of its resemblance to a typewriter. But the big box placed beneath the desk was a mystery to me. I wondered what it contained and how all those wires worked together to make the machine function.

When the computer experts finally switched on a computer, I fixed my eyes on the screen.

And then, something appeared.

I cannot recall every thought that crossed my mind at that moment, but I remember the feeling of wonder. Around me, colleagues were equally curious, sharing the excitement of seeing this new technology come to life before our eyes.

Perhaps we were all wondering the same thing: How could this machine do all this?

In the days that followed, the computers gradually became an important part of our working routine. A few of our colleagues were already familiar with these machines and knew how to operate them. Their knowledge and experience proved valuable as others became acquainted with this new technology. They readily shared what they knew, guided their colleagues and made the learning process easier and more enjoyable.

Colleagues exchanged ideas, asked questions and learned from one another. Those early days were not just about getting familiar with a new machine; they were also about cooperation, sharing knowledge and experiencing something new together.

Looking back, I remember that atmosphere of enthusiasm and mutual support with great fondness.

I sometimes wish I had taken a few photographs of those moments. It would have been wonderful to see those pictures today and recognise the faces of the colleagues who shared that experience with me. When I think of that old office, I can almost picture it as it was in those days: the steel almirahs, the heavy registers, the files piled on the tables and the familiar faces of colleagues moving about. Then my thoughts return to that specially prepared room, the computers and, of course, the pairs of slippers waiting outside.

Syed Majid Gilani writes personal essays and reminiscences drawn from life, personal observations and memories. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.

Houses in Kashmir Should Be Built According to Climatic Conditions

Why We Need to Change the Way We Build Our Houses



Sahil Manzoor

The Kashmir Valley is one of the most beautiful places in the world. Every part of this valley has its own beauty, culture and history. Almighty Allah has blessed Kashmir with beautiful mountains, waterfalls, natural springs, green fields and many other gifts of nature.

A famous poet once described Kashmir in these beautiful words:

"If there is paradise on earth, it is this, it is this, it is this."

During winter, the high mountains are covered with white snow, creating a beautiful view. These mountains remind us of the greatness and power of Almighty Allah.

The Holy Qur'an also tells us that the signs of Allah can be seen throughout the universe. These signs are lessons for people who believe in Allah and the Day of Judgement.

In this article, I want to share my views on an important issue: the way we build our houses in Kashmir. I believe that our houses should be designed according to the weather and climate of our region.

For the last two decades, people have started building modern houses with large glass windows and big glass walls.



These houses may look beautiful, but are they really suitable for Kashmir's weather?

Kashmir experiences four different seasons. Winters are very cold, while summer heat usually lasts for a short period, mainly from mid-June to mid-August. In many remote villages, especially near forest areas, people still use traditional earthen fire pots to keep themselves warm during winter.

Why Do We Follow Trends Without Thinking?

Unfortunately, we often follow modern trends without thinking about our local needs. Kashmir is located in the northern part of India, where winters are very cold and snowfall is common.

Our houses should be designed in a way that keeps us comfortable in every season. Large glass windows and walls may look attractive, but they can also increase heat loss during winter if they are not properly designed and insulated.

The government should introduce proper building rules according to the local climate. There should be a proper department to guide people about house construction and design. People should get the required approval before starting construction. It is also important to consult qualified engineers and architects to ensure the safety of buildings.

Many people do not have enough knowledge about building safety. They often ignore engineering advice, which can create serious problems during heavy snowfall, rain and other harsh weather conditions.

How Do People Usually Build Houses in Kashmir?

In Kashmir, many people follow the same pattern while constructing their houses. They visit someone's house, like its design and decide to build their own house in the same way.

Unfortunately, they often do not consult an engineer or architect. They do not even think about whether the design is suitable for their land and local weather conditions.

Recently, I met a friend who was planning to build a new house. He had many ideas but had not taken any professional advice. I suggested that he should consult an engineer who could guide him about a suitable design.

He replied:

"Oh dear, I have a mason who is more experienced than any engineer. Why should I waste money on an engineer?"

This kind of thinking is not right. A mason may have good practical experience, but the technical knowledge of a qualified engineer is also necessary. Both have different roles in safe house construction.

Rising Carbon Dioxide and the Threat to Wheat Protein



Dr. Vijay Garg

Wheat is one of the most important food crops in the world, providing a major share of the daily calories and nutrients consumed by billions of people. From chapatis in India to bread and pasta in other parts of the world, wheat is central to food security and human nutrition. However, rising atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO_2), a major driver of climate change, is creating a less visible challenge: the potential decline in the protein content and nutritional quality of wheat. This development raises important questions about the future of food security, particularly in countries where wheat is a dietary staple.

Carbon dioxide is essential for plant growth. During photosynthesis, plants absorb CO_2 from the atmosphere and use sunlight and water to produce carbohydrates. Under certain conditions, higher CO_2 concentrations can increase photosynthesis and improve plant growth. This phenomenon, often called the CO_2 fertilisation effect, may increase crop yields, especially when water and other growth requirements are adequate. Yet, more plant growth does not necessarily mean better nutrition.

Scientific research has shown that elevated atmospheric CO_2 can reduce the concentration of protein and certain minerals in several important food crops, including wheat. Although the size of the effect varies with the wheat variety, growing conditions, soil fertility and other environmental factors, the overall concern is significant. A larger harvest may contain less protein per unit of grain, creating a nutritional challenge even when total production increases.



One explanation lies in the changing balance between carbohydrates and other nutrients. When plants absorb additional CO_2, they may accumulate more carbohydrates in their grains. If the accumulation of starch increases faster than the accumulation of nitrogen-containing compounds, the proportion of protein in the grain can decline. This is sometimes described as a dilution effect. It does not mean that carbon dioxide directly destroys protein; rather, changes in plant growth and nutrient allocation can alter the grain's nutritional composition.

Nitrogen plays a crucial role in the formation of plant proteins. Wheat absorbs nitrogen from the soil and uses it to produce amino acids and proteins needed for grain development. Under elevated CO_2, plants may not absorb or use nitrogen in the same proportion as they accumulate carbohydrates. The result can be a reduction in grain protein concentration. However, the response is not identical in every crop or environment, and soil nitrogen availability, temperature, water supply and farming practices can influence the outcome.

The implications extend beyond agricultural statistics. Protein is essential for growth, tissue repair, immune function and the maintenance of muscles. Wheat provides an important portion of dietary protein

in many populations, particularly where families have limited access to diverse foods such as pulses, dairy products, eggs, fish and meat. A modest decline in wheat protein may therefore have a greater impact on people whose diets already lack sufficient protein and other essential nutrients.

Children, pregnant women, older adults and economically disadvantaged households may be particularly vulnerable to nutritional deficiencies. In regions where wheat supplies a large share of daily food energy, declining grain quality could make it more difficult to meet nutritional needs without changing dietary habits or increasing access to other protein sources. The concern is not that wheat will suddenly become unsuitable for consumption, but that gradual changes in its nutritional composition could add to existing public-health challenges. India has a particular reason to take this issue seriously. Wheat is a staple food across large parts of the country, and millions of households depend on wheat-based foods for daily nourishment. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, water stress and other climate-related pressures already complicate agricultural production. If elevated CO_2 also reduces grain protein concentration, the country may face a dual challenge: maintaining adequate yields while protecting the nutritional quality of its food supply.

Nevertheless, it is important to recognise that the effects of rising CO_2 are complex. Higher CO_2 can sometimes improve crop growth or water-use efficiency, but these benefits may be weakened by heat stress, drought, nutrient limitations and extreme weather. Climate change does not affect every wheat-growing region in the same way. Therefore, scientists must evaluate both crop quantity and nutritional quality rather than assuming that higher yields automatically guarantee better food security.

Researchers and agricultural institutions can help address this challenge through the development of wheat varieties that maintain protein levels under elevated CO_2 and changing climatic conditions.

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The Voice from the Chenab: Sunil Sharma and the Remaking of J&K's Opposition



Mohammad Amin Shah

Sunil Sharma's ascent as the first BJP Leader of the Opposition reflects not merely an individual journey from militancy-era Kishtwar, but a structural realignment of power across Jammu and Kashmir's political geography. When the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly convened in Srinagar following the historic October 2024 elections, the visual and political architecture of the House had irrevocably changed. For seven decades, the leadership of the legislative opposition in Jammu and Kashmir had alternated almost exclusively between the dynastic custodians of the Kashmir Valley, the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), or the Congress party. In November 2024, when Sunil Kumar Sharma rose from the front row opposite Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, he embodied a profound geographical and ideological shift.

On November 3, 2024, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislature party unanimously elected the 47-year-old legislator from Padder-Nagseni constituency as its leader, formally making him the first-ever BJP Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Union Territory's Assembly. Crucially, the party chose neither a familiar face from the Hindu-majority plains of Jammu nor an urban tactician, but an assertive grassroots organiser from the rugged, ecologically fragile highlands of the Chenab Valley.

The Crucible of the Chenab

o understand Sunil Sharma's political temperament, one must examine the rugged terrain that shaped him. Born in village Hatta in Kishtwar district to Bansi Lal Sharma, Sharma spent his formative years in a region perched precariously between Jammu's foothills and Kashmir's Pir Panjal range. Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, the Chenab Valley, encompassing Kishtwar, Doda, and Ramban, served as a conduit for cross-border militancy and suffered recurrent bouts of communal friction. Completing his early education at Boys Higher Secondary School Kishtwar, Sharma was drawn into youth activism during an era when nationalist politics in the Chenab highlands carried immense personal peril. Affiliating with the Akhil Bharatiya

Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), he mobilised youth and organised relief during times of conflict. His formal foray into electoral politics occurred around 2007–2008. He contested the 2008 Assembly election from Kishtwar under the BJP banner. Although lost the election in that initial outing, he utilised the subsequent six years to build party cadre across isolated mountain habitations where the BJP had previously maintained negligible presence.

The 2014 Breach and Ministerial Record

The watershed moment in Sharma's trajectory arrived in December 2014. In an election marked by an unprecedented surge for the BJP across the Jammu region, Sharma produced a notable upset by defeating National Conference heavyweight and former minister of state for home Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo in Kishtwar. The victory breached a historic regional bastion and signaled that the Chenab Valley was no longer insulated from broader political realignments. Inducted into the subsequent PDP-BJP coalition government under Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and later Mehbooba Mufti, Sharma served between 2015 and 2018 as Minister of State with Independent Charge for Transport, while simultaneously holding crucial portfolios in Public Works (Roads & Buildings), Revenue, Rural Development, and Agriculture. In April 2018, he was elevated to Cabinet rank as the Minister for the Power Development Department (PDD).

During this administrative phase, his priorities were dictated by the acute developmental deficits of mountain communities:

Infrastructure and Connectivity: Channeling funding through the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the Central Road Fund (CRF), Sharma prioritised fair-weather road links to historically isolated pockets such as Marwah, Warwan, Dachhan, and Padder.

- Pilgrimage Governance: He spearheaded infrastructure development for the arduous Shree Machail Mata Yatra in Padder, overseeing track widening, mobile connectivity, safety stations, and civic amenities to handle



the burgeoning influx of devotees.

- Rural Electrification: In the power department, he focused on bringing grid electricity to remote hamlets while advocating for local employment quotas within the major hydroelectric projects dotting the Chenab river basin.
- Tribal Advocacy: Recognising simmering grievances over tribal status, Sharma led delegations to New Delhi demanding parity for mountain populations, contributing directly to the Parliament granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the Paddri tribe, Gadda Brahmins, and Kolis of Padder.

Grassroots Chemistry and the Anatomy of Leadership

Beyond ideological positioning and administrative portfolios, Sharma's sustained popularity within the party hierarchy and the wider electorate springs from a distinctly grounded, people-centric leadership style. Widely acknowledged across political divides as an accessible and unpretentious figure, he maintains an organic, everyday connection with ordinary citizens and booth-level karyakartas. Unlike leaders secluded behind layers of security and protocol, Sharma is renowned for his encyclopedic familiarity with ground workers, regularly Recognising village cadres by name and remembering family lineages across the Chenab Valley. His constituency offices and residence function virtually as open houses where people from diverse backgrounds bring issues ranging from health emergencies to administrative delays, assured of a patient hearing and direct intervention. This accessibility is matched by distinct leadership qualities: a hands-on crisis instinct that sees him reach disaster-struck mountain hamlets within hours of landslides or cloudbursts, tireless physical stamina for mass public outreach, and a rare capacity for consensus-building that diffuses intra-party frictions. Fiercely protective of the dignity of grassroots workers yet pragmatic in resolving community disputes, Sharma balances the combativeness of a legislative crusader with the approachable warmth of a community guardian.

Reorganization, Delimitation, and the 2024 Mandate

Following the constitutional alterations of August 5, 2019, Sharma became a pivotal organisational bridge for the BJP high command. Operating as a general secretary and regional coordinator, he was entrusted with establishing functional party networks across districts in the Kashmir Valley. His proximity to central decision-makers, particularly Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who campaigned for him with the evocative promise, "Make him an MLA, and we will make him a big man" solidified his standing within the party apparatus. The 2022 delimitation redrew the electoral map of the Chenab region, carving out the newly delineated Padder-Nagseni constituency. Relocating from Kishtwar, Sharma contested a tough campaign

against National Conference candidate Pooja Thakur. In a high-turnout election exceeding 80%, Sharma prevailed by a margin of 1,546 votes, underscoring his cross-community standing among Pahari and tribal voters.

Parliamentary Sparring in an Altered Assembly

As Leader of the Opposition commanding 28 legislators, Sharma has introduced a confrontational style of opposition politics to the Srinagar legislature. Rather than adopting an accommodating stance, he has turned the assembly floor into a primary forum for nationalist ideological contestation. When the treasury benches introduced resolutions addressing Article 370 and special status, Sharma led the pushback, maintaining that Parliament's abrogation is a settled constitutional reality that a Union Territory legislature possesses no legal competence to reopen. Simultaneously, he has pushed the Omar Abdullah administration on administrative delivery, transparent recruitment processes, security vigilance against resurgence in terror incidents, and the equitable allocation of budgetary resources between Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

The Road Ahead

The elevation of Sunil Sharma marks the end of an era where J&K's political narrative was driven solely by the binary between Srinagar's political elite and Jammu's commercial heartland. By elevating a leader steeped in the complex socio-religious realities of the Chenab Valley, the BJP has installed a voice adept at navigating mountain development alongside ideological defense. For the Omar Abdullah government, Sharma represents an energetic and vocal adversary; for Jammu and Kashmir's evolving democracy, his leadership guarantees that parliamentary debates in the House will remain robust, contentious, and thoroughly engaged.

About the Author
Mohammad Amin Shah is a BJP State Executive Member, Jammu and Kashmir, and a former broadcaster at All India Radio (AIR), Srinagar. With experience in broadcasting and public communication, he has an interest in social, political, cultural, and contemporary issues. Through his writings, he seeks to share perspectives, encourage informed discussions, and highlight matters of public interest.

Teacher, educationist, writer, researcher, translator, linguist, cultural historian, heritage explorer, environmentalist and voice for the linguistic and socio-cultural aspirations of the Pahari people.



By: Mohammad Arfat Wani

Some people inherit a landscape. Others spend their lives trying to understand it, document it and protect it. Sadaket Ali Malik belongs to the latter category. Born in Soti, Bhalessa, in the Chenab Valley, he has transformed his relationship with the mountains into a lifelong engagement with education, literature, history, language, heritage, ecology and community development. His story is not simply that of a teacher who became a writer; it is the story of an individual who gradually turned his profession into a wider mission to preserve the memory and identity of a region.

For Malik, education has always been the starting point. As a teacher and educationist, he has worked to extend educational opportunities to communities where distance, difficult terrain, limited infrastructure and years of turmoil have often restricted access to higher education. His association with IGNOU became particularly significant in this regard. His educational efforts have been associated with the academic advancement of around 9,000 graduates from difficult and conflict-affected areas of Doda, including Bhalessa, Thathri, Bonjwah, Kahara and Jakyas. Behind that number lies a larger story of students from remote mountain communities finding pathways towards higher education and professional advancement.

The educator eventually found another medium in literature. Malik's fiction in Urdu and English includes Gobar Ki Tokri, Jail Diary, Kulchey Wala, Illuminati, Khwaboon Ke Rahi, Dhoongi Baba, Khuddari, Sazish Ke Saye, Qalam Ki Taqat Aur Anpad Wazir, Haq Ada Na Huwa, Ansuon Ka Selaab and Ehsaas, among others. His stories draw their strength from ordinary life and examine poverty, injustice, dignity, social pressure, empathy and human relationships. Rather than writing from a distance, he writes about people and circumstances he has observed closely. Some of his works also carry the personal memory of his deceased parents, giving his literary voice an intimate emotional dimension.

His interest in people naturally expanded into an interest in place and history. As a researcher and cultural historian, Malik documented the customs, traditions, folklore, celebrations, beliefs, architecture and social life of Bhalessa in his book Bhalessa Cultural History and Heritage, released through the University of Jammu. The work represents an attempt to record a cultural landscape that has traditionally depended heavily on oral transmission. Elders, local traditions and community memories become sources of history alongside conventional written material.

That research took him into the mountains as a heritage explorer. Malik identified and documented 46 lesser-known places in Bhalessa, ranging from alpine pastures and lakes to hidden valleys, historic routes, shrines, forests and ecologically significant landscapes. His interest in these locations goes beyond their scenic value. He sees them as potential sources of sustainable tourism, local employment and community development, while recognising that careless development could destroy the very heritage and natural environment that make them valuable.

Perhaps nowhere is his long-term commitment more visible than in his work on language. The Chenab Valley is home to a rich mosaic of linguistic traditions, including Bhaderwahi, Bhalesi, Padri, Sarazi, Pogali, Khashali and Rudhari. Malik has worked towards documenting vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, idioms, proverbs, sayings, folk songs, marriage songs and other elements of oral culture. His engagement with elderly speakers is especially important because much of this knowledge has survived through generations without systematic written documentation.

His professional role as an empaneled translator with the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru, gives this linguistic work an additional institutional dimension. Translation places local languages and cultural expressions in conversation with wider academic, literary and institutional audiences. For Malik, the translator's role is therefore not simply linguistic conversion; it is also cultural mediation carrying ideas, expressions and knowledge from one linguistic world into another without losing their context.

His language work has also developed into Pahari cultural and policy advocacy. Malik has argued for systematic study, documentation and institutional space for the languages and speech traditions of the erstwhile Doda region. His proposal for a separate institutional section covering languages including Bhaderwahi, Bhalesi, Padri, Sarazi, Pogali, Khashali and Rudhari, according to the account of his work, received acceptance from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. The significance of such a proposal lies in moving language preservation beyond cultural celebration towards research, documentation, teaching and institutional support.

His wider writings on the socio-economic and cultural advancement of Pahari communities have also brought him into the debate surrounding the Lokur Committee criteria. Rather than treating the issue merely as a question of identity,



Malik has advocated an evidence-based examination of the historical and contemporary characteristics of Pahari communities in relation to established indicators associated with the Lokur framework, including distinctive culture, geographical isolation, social and educational backwardness and economic disadvantage. His approach seeks to place historical evidence, field research and contemporary socio-economic realities at the centre of the discussion. From this perspective, Malik has advanced what may be described as a roadmap for achievable and sustainable advancement of the Pahari people. His vision connects education and employment with language preservation, cultural recognition, infrastructure, economic opportunity, environmental protection and social development. The emphasis is on practical outcomes for people living in remote mountain settlements rather than recognition that exists only in official documents. His argument is essentially that cultural identity and development should reinforce each other: communities should not have to choose between preserving their heritage and securing a better future.

His role as founder and president of the Pahari Core Committee (Erstwhile Doda) has given this advocacy a community platform. Through cultural programmes, seminars, awareness activities and literary gatherings, the committee has worked to encourage greater engagement with Pahari language, literature and heritage. The objective is to create a bridge between generations so that knowledge held by elders can reach students, young writers and researchers.

Through his association with NSWA NGO, Malik has also extended his work into social mobilisation and grassroots development. This dimension of his career reflects the connection he sees between cultural preservation and community welfare. A language cannot remain vibrant if its speakers lack educational opportunities; traditional knowledge cannot easily be passed on when communities are disconnected from their own heritage; and development cannot be sustainable when local people are excluded from decisions affecting their future. His engagement with the natural world has produced another important dimension of his work as an environmentalist and ecological observer. The forests, streams, pastures, meadows, water bodies and biodiversity of the Chenab Valley are inseparable from the lives of its people. Traditional pastoral practices, seasonal movement, village economies and local customs have evolved around these ecosystems. Malik's interest in documenting landscapes therefore naturally extends into environmental conservation and sustainable development. His environmental perspective is particularly relevant to the future of the Chenab Valley. The region's natural beauty can generate eco-tourism and employment, but only if development respects ecological limits. A forest, spring, pasture or mountain trail is not merely a resource; it can also be part of a community's history. Protecting such places means protecting both biodiversity and the cultural memory attached to them.

About the Author
Mohammad Arfat Wani is a writer, social activist and nursing student from Kuchmulla, Tral. His writings focus on social issues, education, culture, heritage, environment and matters of public interest, particularly those affecting communities in Jammu and Kashmir. Through his articles and public commentary, he seeks to document overlooked stories, highlight the concerns of ordinary people and bring greater attention to the region's cultural and social diversity. Email: wania6817@gmail.com

(Children's Internet Rights)

We need a secure digital world, not restrictions.



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

In the twenty-first century, the internet is no longer just a medium of entertainment or communication, but has become a vital source of education, information, expression, and social participation. For children in particular, the digital world opens new doors of knowledge. At such a time, completely depriving children of internet access is tantamount to limiting their opportunities for development. The Supreme Court, in its approach to children's right to internet access, has clarified that blanket and blanket restrictions in the name of security are not an appropriate solution. The importance of digital access is also reflected in the broad interpretation of the right to freedom of expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution and the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21. However, this right does not mean that children should be given free rein to the internet without any safeguards.

The internet plays a crucial role in children's educational development. Today, digital libraries, online classrooms, educational videos, virtual laboratories, and various learning platforms have complemented traditional education. Initiatives like the central government's DIKSHA platform and PM e-Vidya have contributed to the widespread adoption of digital education. For children living in rural areas, the internet can provide access to quality study materials. In schools that lack adequate teachers, libraries, or other resources, digital media can significantly fill the gaps in education.

The Internet doesn't limit children to the curriculum, but also encourages their creativity and independent thinking. They can access information of interest on topics such as science, literature, history, the environment, art, and technology. They can share their poems, stories, drawings, and ideas. This develops their self-confidence and communication skills. The right to information also becomes more effective through the Internet. Children can understand the social, economic, and environmental problems around them and move towards becoming informed citizens.

Digital access is also essential for inclusive education. Screen readers, audiobooks, sign language-based materials, and other assistive technologies make education more accessible for children with disabilities. Children living in remote areas also have the opportunity to connect with educational resources from across the country and the world. The internet develops digital literacy, which has become an essential skill for future employment and entrepreneurship. In today's era of artificial intelligence, online research, digital communication, and technological innovation, keeping children away from the digital world can undermine their future prospects.

However, the benefits of the internet also come with serious challenges. Online child safety poses a significant responsibility for parents, teachers, the government, and digital platforms. Incidents such as online sexual exploitation, luring children into inappropriate activities, cyberbullying, pornography, fake identities, and digital fraud pose serious threats to children's safety. Children often come into contact with strangers and share personal information, photos, or location details. Misuse of this information can have a profound impact on their mental and social lives. Cyberbullying is also a serious problem. Abusive comments, threats, mockery, and misuse of personal photos on social media can impact children's self-confidence and mental health. Furthermore, the excessive collection of children's behavior, preferences, and personal information by digital platforms poses a challenge to their right to privacy. Algorithm-driven content tends to keep children constantly glued to screens, which can adversely affect their studies, sleep, physical activity, and social relationships.

Therefore, the solution lies not in a complete ban on the internet, but in creating a safe and responsible digital environment. The fundamental message of the Supreme Court's rights-based approach is that measures adopted to protect children must be reasonable, proportionate, and relevant to the purpose. It is not appropriate to remove all children's internet access in the name of addressing a specific threat. Instead of restrictions, safety measures should be appropriate based on risk.

DC Poonch reviews progress of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Directs expedited Rooftop Solar Installations

■ HT News Network



POONCH, NOVEMBER 10: District Development Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress and implementation of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana in the district, with a focus on expediting rooftop solar installations and ensuring maximum coverage of the eligible households.

The District Development Commissioner took a detailed review of the progress achieved under the scheme and inquired about the installation of rooftop solar systems, electricity meters, pending applications and other related issues. Executive Engineer Power Development Department (PDD), along with concerned officers and officials attended the meeting.

The DDC reviewed the status of applications, installations, metering arrangements and the overall implementation of the scheme. He sought detailed feedback from the concerned officers regarding the progress made so far and the challenges, if any, affecting its execution.

Emphasising the importance of renewable energy and the benefits of the scheme for domestic consumers, Mr. Sharma directed the concerned departments to accelerate the process of rooftop solar installations and ensure timely completion of all related formalities, including meter installation and other necessary arrangements.

The DDC further called for enhanced public awareness and directed the officers to guide eligible consumers about the registration process, installation procedure and available government subsidies. He reiterated that regular monitoring, efficient service delivery and a result-oriented approach must be adopted to ensure effective implementation of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana across District Poonch.

The meeting concluded with directions to all concerned officers to work in close coordination and expedite the implementation of the scheme for the benefit of the general public.

DDC Poonch reviews Forest Clearance status of PMGSY, PWD Road Projects

■ HT News Network

POONCH, NOVEMBER 10: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the status of pending forest clearance cases related to road projects being executed under the UT Capex Budget by the Public Works (R&B) and PMGSY Departments.

The meeting was attended by officers from the PW(R&B), PMGSY, Forest and Revenue Departments, including the concerned divisional and field-level officers.

The DDC reviewed the progress of work on the road projects and examined issues pertaining to forest clearances, land-related matters and other administrative bottlenecks affecting the timely execution of developmental works. He called for close coordination among the concerned departments, particularly the Forest, Revenue, PW(R&B) and PMGSY Departments to resolve pending issues and expedite the clearance process.The DDC directed the concerned to complete codal formalities regarding 16 roads requiring forest clearance from batch -1 of 2025-26 of PMGSY. The DDC also directed the concerned to complete the joint verification process of 9 roads requiring forest clearance sanctioned under Batch-I of 2026-27.

GRP Katra Returns Lost Bag Worth ₹25,000 to Owner

■ HT News Network

KATRA, NOVEMBER 10: Demonstrating honesty, prompt action and dedication towards public service, the Government Railway Police (GRP) Katra successfully traced the owner of an unattended bag found at Platform No. 05 of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Railway Station.

On November 10, 2026, during routine checking, the police party of the BD Squad, GRP Katra, noticed an unattended bag at Platform No. 05. Upon checking, the bag was found to contain a mobile phone, cash, an Aadhaar card and other personal belongings, with an approximate total value of 25,000.Acting promptly, GRP Katra, under the close supervision of W/SSP GRP Katra, made dedicated efforts to trace the rightful owner. The owner was subsequently identified as Ms. Shobavati, wife of Sh. Amarnath, a resident of Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. After proper verification and completion of all necessary legal formalities, Police Station GRP Katra handed over the bag along with all its belongings to its rightful owner.

The timely action reflects the commitment, honesty and dedication of GRP Katra towards ensuring passenger safety, public assistance and responsible policing.

On November 10, 2026, during routine checking, the police party of the BD Squad, GRP Katra, noticed an unattended bag at Platform No. 05. Upon checking, the bag was found to contain a mobile phone, cash, an Aadhaar card and other personal belongings, with an approximate total value of 25,000.Acting promptly, GRP Katra, under the close supervision of W/SSP GRP Katra, made dedicated efforts to trace the rightful owner. The owner was subsequently identified as Ms. Shobavati, wife of Sh. Amarnath, a resident of Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.

MLA Arvind Gupta allocates Rs 24.90 lakh for Radha Krishna Community Hall in Pouni Chak

"Public service is my duty & welfare of people remains my foremost commitment," says Arvind

■ HT News Network



JAMMU: Hon'ble MLA Jammu West, Shri Arvind Gupta, today allocated 24.90 lakh from his Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for the construction of the Radha Krishna Community Hall of Radha Krishna Sewa Parishad at Pouni Chak, Ward No. 32, Jammu West.

The allocation fulfils a long-pending demand of the local residents, who had been seeking a dedicated space for community activities and social functions. Once completed, the community hall will provide a convenient venue for weddings, social gatherings, religious programmes and other important family occasions, including ceremonies held following the demise of a family member.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Arvind Gupta said, "Public service is my duty, and the welfare of the people remains my foremost commitment. My priority is to ensure that the genuine demands of residents are addressed and that development reaches every locality of Jammu West."

He further reiterated his commitment to the overall development of Jammu West, stating that providing better civic and community infrastructure and fulfilling long-pending public demands would continue to remain among his key priorities.

Shri Gupta said that community infrastructure plays an important role in bringing people together and providing essential facilities at the local level. He assured residents of his continued efforts towards addressing their concerns and undertaking development works across the constituency.

Among those present on the occasion were former Deputy Mayor Dharam Veer Singh Jamwal, Mandal President Anil Angral, Shri Deepak Sharma, Shri Sanjay Sharma and Shri Mridul Ji Maharaj.

Members of the Radha Krishna Community Hall Committee, including Mohan Das, Sohan Das, Shubam Sharma, Sandeep Sharma, Harsh Sharma, Suresh Sharma, Surdarshan Sharma, Deepak Sharma and Sanjay Sharma, along with other local residents, were also present.

Div Com Reviews Progress of Ongoing Works at Mubarak Mandi Complex

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 10: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Vikas Kundal, today chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing projects at the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex.During the meeting, Divisional Commissioner reviewed the status of various heritage conservation projects, including the restoration of Darbar Hall, Raja Ram Singh Palace, Raja Amar Singh Palace, Dogra Art Museum and other historic structures. He took stock of the physical and financial progress of the ongoing works.



The meeting also discussed key developmental projects aimed at improving accessibility and visitor facilities at the heritage complex, including the proposed multi-level parking facility, construction of a connecting flyover from Jullaka Mohalla and development of heritage-related infrastructure. He also reviewed the status of the proposed vertical lift connecting the Cable Car Project with Mubarak Mandi. Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned departments to furnish a comprehensive list of issues and bottlenecks affecting the execution of ongoing projects so that these could be addressed in a coordinated manner. He also called for a survey to assess the daily footfall of visitors at the heritage complex to facilitate better planning and improvement of visitor facilities.

He stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all concerned departments and agencies for timely completion of the ongoing projects.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner, JMC, Executive Director, MMJHS Jammu, SE PWD(R&B) and other concerned officers.

MP, Legislators call on CM Omar Abdullah; discuss fire incidents, assistance for affected traders

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 10: Member of Parliament from Jammu Jugal Kishore Sharma and several Legislators from Jammu district today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat here and discussed the recent fire incidents in Jammu city and the situation of the affected traders.The public representatives apprised the Chief Minister of the damage caused by the fires at Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station, Warehouse near Nehru Market and Pahari Mohalla. They highlighted the difficulties being faced by the affected traders and shopkeepers and sought financial assistance for the affected traders and shopkeepers.

The Chief Minister reiterated that relief is being provided to those affected by the fire incidents. He assured the visiting representatives that all possible assistance would be extended to the affected traders.

It is pertinent to mention that the Chief Minister had taken prompt cognisance of the fire incidents. He had personally visited Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station to assess the damage and interact with the affected shopkeepers. He had also deputed the Deputy Chief Minister and a Cabinet Minister to visit the Warehouse near Nehru Market to take stock of the situation and assess the losses suffered by the traders.

Those who called on the Chief Minister included Member of Parliament from Jammu Jugal Kishore Sharma, MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa, MLA RS Pura-Jammu South Narinder Singh Raina, MLA Jammu West Yudhvir Sethi and MLA Jammu East Arvind Gupta.Meanwhile, MLA Surankote Choudhary Mohd. Akram also called on the Chief Minister and discussed developmental issues and public welfare concerns pertaining to his constituency.

DHJ organises Sector-Wise Hands-on Training, Credential-Resolution Programme for DDOS

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 10: Directorate of Horticulture Jammu (DHJ) today organised a sector-wise Hands-on Training and Credential-Resolution Programme for Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and their supporting staff with the objective of strengthening digital governance and ensuring the smooth and effective implementation of the e-SAM system across the Department.

The programme, held in the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Horticulture, was chaired by Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Syed. The Assistant Accounts Officer (AAO) from the Administrative Department, along with Technical Expert from the Agriculture Production Department, Civil Secretariat imparted the hands-on technical training and provided necessary guidance to the participating officers and officials.

The training session featured detailed practical demonstrations and guidance regarding user credentials, administrative procedures and technical aspects of the e-SAM system and resolution of credential-related issues.

Special emphasis was laid on addressing technical difficulties, facilitating smooth access to the portal and ensuring the efficient functioning of the system at the DDO level.

The interactive and sector-wise sessions provided an opportunity to the DDOS and their supporting staff to raise queries, clarify procedural doubts and seek on-the-spot assistance for resolving pending technical and credential-related issues. The programme aimed at enhancing the technical capacity of departmental personnel and ensuring timely and hassle-free execution of official financial and administrative transactions.

15-Year-Old Razia Malik from Budhali's Kewal Village Completes Her First Book in Six Months, Brings Pride to Budhal

■ HT News Network

Budhal : In a remarkable achievement that has brought pride to Kewal village of Budhal in Rajouri district, 15-year-old Razia Malik, daughter of Nazir Malik, has successfully completed writing her first book, titled One Day, You'll Understand Your Parents, in just six months.

A student of Class 10 at Himalayan Education Mission School, Rajouri, Razia has demonstrated exceptional dedication, creativity and a passion for literature at a young age. Completing a book while continuing her academic studies is a commendable accomplishment that reflects her determination and commitment to expressing meaningful ideas through writing.Razia received her education from Class 1 to Class 8 at Budhal Cooperative Institute of Education, a private educational institution in Budhal, before continuing her further studies in Rajouri. Her educational journey reflects the importance of nurturing talent and encouraging young students to pursue their interests alongside formal education.Her achievement has become a moment of immense pride for her family, educational institutions and the people of Kewal village and the wider Budhal region.The central theme of Razia's debut book revolves around one of the most important relationships in human life — the bond between parents and children.



Through One Day, You'll Understand Your Parents, she seeks to highlight the unconditional love, sacrifices, struggles and hardships that parents endure throughout their lives for the happiness, education and brighter future of their children.Parents frequently put aside their personal dreams, comfort and aspirations to fulfil their children's needs. They face financial difficulties, emotional challenges and countless responsibilities, yet continue to work tirelessly without expecting anything in return.

Razia's book aims to remind children that behind every achievement and every opportunity in life are often years of parental sacrifice, dedication, silent struggles and unconditional support.

Sharing the thought behind her book, Razia emphasised that understanding the importance of parents and recognising their unconditional love should not be limited to Jammu and Kashmir but should reach people across the entire country.She believes that today's younger generation, particularly students and young people, needs to understand the struggles parents face throughout their lives to provide their children.

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

It is hereby notified to the general public that the name and residential address recorded against Bank Account No. 0442040800000916 require correction.
The details are as under:
Incorrect Details:
Name: Beauty Jan
W/o: Hilal Ahmad Hajam
R/o: Sopat, District Kulgam.
Correct Details:
Name: Lovely Jan
W/o: Hilal Ahmad Hajam R/o: Khargund, District Kulgam.
The concerned bank authorities and the general public are hereby informed that the correct name and residential address may kindly be taken on record and the necessary corrections be made in the bank account records accordingly. Any person having an objection in this regard may submit the same to the concerned bank authorities within the stipulated period.
Applicant
Lovely Jan
W/o Hilal Ahmad Hajam
R/o Khargund, District Kulgam.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is certify that name shadab Bano is wrongly mentioned in the bank passbook with account number 0277040150004148 . The correct name mentioned in addhar card is irsada Bano wife of Ab Lateef Rather R/o Aarath Budgam . If anybody has objection in that regard. He / she invoke jammu and kashmir bank narbal within the period of seven days. After completion of said period. No objection will be entertained.

irsada Bano
W/o Ab Lateef Rather
R/o Aarath Budgam D O B ; 01/01/1983

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

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my son's name FAROOQ AHMAD LONE S/O FATHA MOHAMMAD LONE R/O KAWACHECK KREERI Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040003962 wants to be registered on my name MEHTABA BEGUM w/O FATHA MOHAMMAD LONE 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.....MEHTABA BEGUM
S/O.....FATHA MOHAMMAD LONE
R/O ..KAWACHWCK KREERI

Swift Action by Army, Police and Locals Averts Major Fire Tragedy in Maratgam

Fire Contained Before Reaching Nearby Houses; Grain, Apple Stocks, Dry Grass and Alto Car Damaged

■ DR. AB QAYOOM



Langate, Nov ,09: A major fire tragedy was averted in Mir Mohalla, Maratgam, in Langate area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, after timely intervention by Indian Army personnel, Handwara Police, Fire and Emergency Services and local volunteers prevented the flames from spreading to nearby residential houses. According to locals, the fire broke out at around 3:30 pm in a cowshed belonging to Abdul Qayoom Bhat of Maratgam. The structure was suddenly engulfed in flames, triggering panic among residents, who immediately raised an alarm. Acting swiftly, personnel from the Indian Army's Langate Camp, Handwara Police and local volunteers rushed to the spot and joined the firefighting operation. Working in coordination with the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES), they managed to bring the blaze under control before it could spread to nearby houses. Residents said Army personnel and police reached the spot even before the arrival of the fire tender and played a significant role in containing the flames. Their prompt response, along with the efforts of local volunteers and fire service personnel, prevented a potentially major tragedy in the densely populated locality. The fire damaged the cowshed and an adjoining shed containing stocks of grains, apples and dry grass. An Alto car was also damaged in the incident. Fortunately, no loss of life or injuries were reported. Meanwhile, locals appreciated the timely response and coordinated efforts of the Indian Army, Handwara Police, Fire and Emergency Services and local volunteers, whose intervention helped prevent further damage to life and property.The exact cause of the fire was not immediately known, and authorities are ascertaining the circumstances leading to the incident.

BJP to intensify 2nd phase of Yuva Samvad Campaign from November 15: Arun Sharma

■ HT News Network

Bharatiya Janata Party Jammu and Kashmir State Secretary and State Convenor of Yuva Samvad Campaign, Arun Sharma, has said that the party will intensify the second phase of its nationwide Yuva Samvad Campaign from November 15 to reach out to the younger generation and make them aware of the importance, need and benefits of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

He was discussing this forthcoming second phase campaign with party leaders Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, Balbir Ram Rattan, Rajinder Chib, Pooja Grover, Narinder Singh, Rohin Chandan, Ashutosh Gupta, Ramesh Katoch and Dr. Vivek Sharma on Tuesday at party headquarters.

Arun Sharma said that the campaign is being undertaken in J&K as part of the BJP's nationwide programme named "Loktantra Bachao, Arajkata Hatao", aimed at strengthening democratic values, spreading awareness and countering what the party describes as the false and misleading narrative being spread by Congress and other opposition political parties regarding SIR.

He said that under this campaign, BJP leaders and workers will reach out to youth in schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions, besides organising interactive sessions, discussions and awareness programmes at different places.

Arun Sharma said that the main objective of Yuva Samvad is to educate young citizens, particularly first-time voters, about the significance of maintaining accurate, updated and transparent electoral rolls.

He said that SIR is an important exercise intended to ensure that every eligible citizen gets the opportunity to exercise the right to vote, while duplicate, incorrect and outdated entries are identified and addressed according to prescribed procedures.

Arun said that Congress and other opposition parties are creating unnecessary confusion among people by presenting SIR in a negative manner just to divert the attention of the people from their failures. He alleged that such misleading statements are aimed at creating doubts about an exercise intended to strengthen the electoral system.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Information and Public Relations
Joint Directorate of Information, Kashmir
Old Assembly Complex, Kothibagh, Srinagar - 190001

DASTI QUOTATION FOR INVITATION OF RATES FOR LPG CYLINDERS

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, sealed Dasti quotations are invited from authorized Dealers/Suppliers for the supply of filled commercial LPG cylinders (19 Kg) inclusive of all Taxes viz., SGST/CGST and other charges such as freight loading/unloading as applicable under rules on Government Approved Rates.
The Dealer/Supplier will be selected based on the Lowest Cost Method (Highest Discount in percentage on approved company rates per cylinder).
The Interested parties/firms are informed to quote their rates as %age discount to be given per cylinder in the sealed cover on devised format in the office of the Joint Director Information, Kashmir, Kothibagh Srinagar by or before 15.11.2026 till 1 p.m.
The Quotations so received will be opened on 15.11.2026 at 3 p.m. In the office of the undersigned in presence of the interested suppliers on the scheduled date.
The supply is to be made immediately on placement of the supply order within the prescribed time period.
The earnest money of the unsuccessful supplier/dealer will be released soon after the allotment of the contract to the successful dealer within one month after the opening of the quotations, whereas in case of the successful supplier, it will be treated as a part of security deposit and will be released after the full-term supply of LPG for the winter season 2026-27.

DIPK-7552/26
Send Date: Nov 10 2026

Sd/-
Joint Director Information
Kashmir

Government of Union of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Machinery Division Kashmir
Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir
| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | | website: www.medkashmir.org |
Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tender

e -NIT No:	MDSK/TS /2026-27/29
Dated	10.11.2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on percentage (%) basis from Registered/Reputed firms for the below mentioned work:

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs.)	Ceiling Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Position of AA	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6
Rate contract on account of supply of batteries of different capacities and allied works for Snow clearance Machinery of Machinery Division Kashmir for the year 2026-27.	200/-	1,50,000/-	7500/-	Works programme approved by CE vide order No. M&HED/K/Acctt/26 of 2026-27 Dt.30.04.2026.	Sanctioned Vide No MHED/K/TS/22 Dated: 04/11/2026

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website **www.jktenders.gov.in** as per schedule of dates given below:-

01	Publish date	10-11-2026 (18:00hrs)
02	Date of start of downloading of bid document	10 -11-2026 (18:30 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	10 -11-2026 (18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	16 - 11-2026 (18:55 hrs)
05	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	17 - 11-2026 (14:00 hrs)

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
Machinery Division, Srinagar

DIPK-7558/26
Send Dated: - 10 -11-2026.
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KCCI welcomes J&K Bank's RAHAT OTS, seeks broader SBI-Pattern scheme for larger business accounts

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Nov 10 (KNO): The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has welcomed J&K Bank's RAHAT Special One-Time Settlement Scheme (SOTS-2026), while seeking a broader settlement scheme on the lines of the State Bank of India (SBI) to address the accumulated legacy debt of businesses across Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Chamber said that while RAHAT provides relief to eligible borrowers with principal NPA outstanding of up to Rs 5 crore, a substantial section of the business community with liabilities beyond this limit remains outside its ambit.

KCCI said businesses in Jammu and Kashmir had faced prolonged financial distress due



to years of economic disruptions, pushing several otherwise viable establishments into mounting liabilities, non-performing assets (NPAs) and recovery proceedings.

The Chamber urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take up the matter on priority and facilitate a dedicated SBI-pattern Special OTS for business borrowers through J&K Bank.

It said the J&K Government, being the majority shareholder in the Bank, had an important role in taking up the demand with its Board and management and facilitating a broader settlement scheme, subject to regulatory and governance requirements.

KCCI said the proposed scheme should cover eligible stressed business accounts beyond the existing Rs 5 crore ceiling and provide realistic settlement terms to traders, industrialists, MSMEs, hospitality establishments and other entrepreneurs carrying legacy debt.

Clarifying that the demand was not for a blanket loan waiver, the Chamber said it sought a fair, transparent and formula-based settlement mechanism to enable genuinely distressed borrowers to clear their liabilities, close long-pending accounts and make a fresh beginning.

It added that resolving legacy debt would help revive economic activity, protect employment, safeguard livelihoods and restore confidence in Jammu and Kashmir's business environment.

While appreciating J&K Bank's RAHAT initiative, KCCI reiterated that a separate and broader Special OTS was essential to ensure that businesses with larger outstanding liabilities were not left without a viable settlement opportunity.

The Chamber expressed hope that the Lieutenant Governor, Chief Minister and J&K Bank management would respond positively and initiate necessary consultations without further delay—(KNO)

RBI calls for strengthening credit support, formalisation of MSMEs in J&K and Ladakh

■ HT News Network



Jammu, Nov 10 (KNO): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Jammu, has called for strengthening credit support and promoting formalisation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), RBI said that its Jammu office held the 72nd meeting of the Empowered Committee on MSMEs for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for the quarter ended September 30, 2026.

The meeting was chaired by Prabhakar Jha, Regional Director, RBI, Jammu, and attended by representatives of various government departments, banks, financial institutions and industry associations.

In his inaugural address, the Regional Director highlighted the significant contribution of the MSME sector to India's economic growth and its potential for employment generation and entrepreneurship in the two Union Territories.

Stressing the opportunities in sectors such as handicrafts, handloom, food processing, horticulture and tourism, he stressed the need to enhance institutional credit, promote formalisation of enterprises and facilitate market access.

He also urged banks to strengthen efforts towards wider adoption of Udyam Registration, Udyam Assist and TReDS platforms and improve coverage under credit guarantee schemes.

The Committee reviewed the flow of credit to the MSME sector, district-wise credit deployment, achievement of targets under the MSME Annual Credit Plan 2026-27, availability of collateral-free loans, NPAs and coverage under CGTMSE.

Progress under Government-sponsored schemes, including PMEGP, PM-SVANidhi, PM-MUDRA and PM-Vishwakarma, was also reviewed. Other matters discussed included the implementation of the Framework for Revival and Rehabilitation of stressed MSME units, pendency in credit decisions on loan applications up to Rs 25 lakh from MSE borrowers and availability of banking facilities in MSME clusters.

The participating banks and stakeholders assured the Committee of appropriate follow-up action on the issues and suggestions discussed during the meeting, with a view to improving credit flow and strengthening the MSME ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh—The participating banks and stakeholders assured the Committee of appropriate follow-up action on the issues and suggestions discussed during the meeting, with a view to improving credit flow and strengthening the MSME ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh—(KNO)

University of Jammu Organises 'Safarnama 2026: A Student-Alumni Interaction Meet'

■ HT News Network



JAMMU NOV 11: The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM), University of Jammu, organised 'Safarnama 2026 – A Student-Alumni Interaction Meet', bringing together alumni from various batches of MBA Tourism, BBA Hotel Management and Ph.D. programmes to reconnect with their alma mater and interact with current students. The meet provided a vibrant platform for strengthening alumni relations, fostering professional networking and facilitating the exchange of experiences and insights between alumni and students.

Adding a distinctive cultural dimension to the event, Safarnama 2026 offered the alumni an enriching glimpse into the rich Dogra heritage and cultural traditions of Jammu, complemented by authentic Dogri cuisine. The cultural and culinary experience provided a nostalgic connection with the region's roots while celebrating its vibrant heritage. The occasion also enabled alumni to reminisce about their student days and share valuable insights from their professional journeys, inspiring current students to explore emerging opportunities in the hospitality and tourism industry.

The event was graced by Prof. Parikshat Singh Manhas, Director, Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC), University Grants Commission, New Delhi, who appreciated SHTM for organising the alumni meet. He commended the School's efforts in creating meaningful platforms for interaction and engagement and emphasised the importance of alumni networks in promoting institutional excellence and professional growth.

Prof. Suvidha Khanna, Director, SHTM, warmly welcomed the gathering and expressed her pleasure at witnessing alumni reconnect with their alma mater. In her address, she highlighted the significance of alumni engagement in the overall growth and development of the School, describing alumni as valuable ambassadors of the institution who play a pivotal role in guiding students through their academic.

BJP MLAs meet Omar Abdullah, demand ₹15 Lakh relief per shop for fire-hit traders

BJP seeks time-bound rehabilitation of Jammu Markets

■ HT News Network



Jammu, 10 November 2026: A delegation of BJP legislators, led by Lok Sabha MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and strongly took up the plight of traders devastated by recent fire incidents in Jammu, demanding immediate financial assistance, fair compensation and concrete measures to restore their shattered businesses. The delegation submitted a four-point memorandum, seeking urgent government intervention and a time-bound rehabilitation plan for the affected trading community.

The delegation comprised MLAs Sham Lal Sharma, Dr. Narinder Singh, Yudhvir Sethi, Ch. Vikram Randhawa and Arvind Gupta. Highlighting the gravity of the situation, the BJP leaders pointed out that the recent fires had gutted 27 shops at Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station, eight shops and godowns at Warehouse Market, and one shop at Pahadian Mohalla, leaving several families facing severe financial hardship.

The BJP delegation demanded immediate financial assistance of 15 lakh per affected shop or godown from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, stressing that traders who have lost their shops, stocks and essential equipment cannot be left struggling for survival while awaiting lengthy administrative procedures. The leaders urged the government to ensure prompt verification of losses and speedy disbursement of relief so that affected businesses could restart without further delay.

The memorandum also sought a one-time relaxation of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) norms, enabling willing MLAs from Jammu to sanction appropriate amounts from their respective allocations for immediate relief through the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). The delegation demanded a clear administrative mechanism for the sanction, transfer and utilisation of these funds.

Taking up the long-pending concerns of Warehouse Market traders, the BJP leaders further demanded identification and allotment of suitable land for godowns, along with government sanction for their construction within a specified timeframe. They emphasised that the proposed site must have adequate access for goods vehicles and fire tenders, proper loading and unloading facilities and essential fire safety infrastructure.

MLA Mankotia Calls on CM Omar Abdullah; Raises Issues of Public Welfare and Development

■ HT News Network

Jammu: MLA Chenani-Ghordi, Balwant Singh Mankotia, called on Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, at Jammu and held a meeting to discuss various issues concerning public welfare, development and the overall progress of the Chenani-Ghordi constituency.

During the meeting, Mankotia highlighted several public-related issues and developmental requirements of the constituency, urging the Chief Minister to take necessary measures for their early redressal. He also stressed the need for focused attention towards strengthening basic infrastructure, improving public amenities and accelerating ongoing and proposed development works.The MLA emphasized that addressing the genuine concerns of the people and ensuring equitable development should remain a priority.

Stand with Traders, Not Politics: Pawan Sharma Assures Full BJP Support to Fire-Hit Warehouse-Nehru Market Traders

Demands accountability for negligence, relief to affected traders and time-bound resolution of long-pending godown demand

■ HT News Network

Jammu, 10 November 2026:

BJP J&K State Secretary Pawan Sharma has expressed deep anguish over the devastating fire that gutted eight shops in Warehouse-Nehru Market, causing significant financial losses to the trading community.

Extending full support to the affected traders, Sharma said the BJP stands firmly with Jammu's business community and will raise its genuine concerns at every appropriate forum. He appealed to political parties and public representatives not to politicise the tragedy, stressing that the priority must be to support affected traders and ensure concrete action.

Sharma demanded a thorough inquiry into the incident and strict action against officials if negligence or lapses are established. He said accountability must be fixed and fire-safety and emergency response mechanisms strengthened to prevent such incidents in the future.

He also appreciated the timely intervention of the district administration and police. He acknowledged the efforts of Divisional Commissioner Jammu Vikas Kundal, Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa, ADC (Law & Order) Ansuya Jamwal and senior police officials in coordinating the emergency response and preventing further damage.

Sharma expressed solidarity with the Warehouse-Nehru Market Federation and supported its decision to extend the market closure for another 48 hours, till Wednesday, as a mark of protest and to demand accountability.

Highlighting the traders' long-pending demand for suitable land outside



Jammu city for organised godowns, Sharma said the issue has remained unresolved for nearly a decade. The absence of designated storage facilities exposes traders' stocks and businesses to considerable risks.

He urged the government to identify and allot suitable land outside the city on a priority basis for modern godowns equipped with proper infrastructure and fire-safety facilities.

"The BJP stands shoulder to shoulder with Jammu's trading community. Our full support is with the affected traders, and we will continue to pursue their genuine demands. The government must ensure appropriate relief, fix accountability wherever negligence is established and resolve the long-pending godown issue. This tragedy should lead to corrective action and lasting solutions, not political point-scoring," Sharma said.

He reiterated that BJP's support for the trading community remains firm and called upon the administration to address the concerns of affected traders with urgency and sensitivity.He also appreciated the timely intervention of the district administration and police. He acknowledged the efforts of Divisional Commissioner Jammu Vikas Kundal, Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa, ADC (Law & Order) Ansuya Jamwal and senior police officials in coordinating the emergency response and preventing further damage.

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Highlighting the traders' long-pending demand for suitable land outside Jammu city for organised godowns, Sharma said the issue has remained unresolved for nearly a decade. The absence of designated storage facilities exposes traders' stocks and businesses to considerable risks.

Sat Sharma calls for intensified grassroots outreach, mass participation in Pahari Zila

Sat Sharma chairs organizational meeting of BJP Pahari Zila

■ HT News Network

Basohli, 10 November 2026:

J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA) called upon party leaders and workers to intensify grassroots outreach, strengthen the organizational structure and take the party's programmes to every section of society, with special focus on women and youth.

Sat Sharma was addressing an organizational meeting of the BJP's Pahari Zila, held to review ongoing activities and chalk out a roadmap for upcoming party programmes.

J&K BJP General Secretaries Baldev Singh Billawaria and Gopal Mahajan, MLA Darshan Singh, former DDC Chairman Colonel Mahan Singh, District President Gopal Krishan and former DDC member Vikram Singh addressed the meeting.

Sat Sharma held detailed discussions on the party's organizational activities, grassroots functioning and preparations for upcoming programmes. He stressed that the strength of the BJP lies in its dedicated cadre and continuous engagement with the people. He urged party leaders to ensure that every organizational programme reaches the public effectively and translates into meaningful public participation.

Sat Sharma particularly emphasized the importance of the ongoing "Loktantra Bachao, Arajkata Hatao" campaign, stating that the BJP must take the facts to the masses



and counter the misinformation being spread by the Congress and INDI Alliance through their political campaigns. He said that party workers must expose the opposition's misleading narrative and educate people about the importance of democratic institutions and constitutional values.

Sharma also called for enthusiastic participation in the upcoming Birsa Munda Jayanti programmes, emphasizing the need to highlight the contributions of tribal icons and their role in India's freedom struggle and nation-building. He directed the district leadership to organize impactful programmes with broad public participation.

Baldev Singh Billawaria stressed the need for disciplined organizational functioning, effective coordination and regular engagement with party workers to ensure the successful execution of all programmes.

Gopal Mahajan called for taking the party's activities to every mandal and booth, ensuring that organizational initiatives receive active participation from all sections of society.

Darshan Singh emphasized strengthening the party's public connect through consistent grassroots engagement and involving local communities, particularly women and youth, in upcoming programmes.

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THE FAST FOOD CULTURE



Surinderpal Singh

In today's fast-paced world the junk food has become an integral part of everyday life. Burgers, pizzas, chips, fried snacks, sugary beverages and packaged foods are easily available, attractively marketed and often cheaper and more convenient than nutritious alternatives. What originally appears to be a harmless indulgence, however, can become a serious threat to health when consumed regularly.

The major concern is not that a person occasionally enjoys fast food, but that highly processed foods are increasingly replacing balanced meals. Many junk foods contain excessive amounts of calories, saturated and trans fats, salt and added sugars while providing relatively little fibre, vitamins, minerals and other essential nutrients. Regular consumption can contribute to unhealthy weight gain and increase the risk of obesity, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease.

The impact is particularly worrying among children and adolescents. Aggressive advertising, colourful packaging, celebrity endorsements and the growing influence of social media have made junk food highly attractive to young consumers. When unhealthy eating habits develop early in life, they may continue into adulthood. Childhood obesity is not merely a matter of appearance; it can affect





physical well-being, self-confidence, fitness and long-term health.

Junk food can also influence mental and emotional well-being. Diets dominated by highly processed foods may contribute to poor nutritional quality and unhealthy eating patterns. Excessive consumption of sugary foods and caffeinated beverages can also disturb energy levels and sleep patterns in some individuals. A healthy mind depends, in part, on a healthy body, and nutrition plays an important role in both.

Another hidden cost is the gradual erosion of traditional eating habits. Fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, pulses, nuts and home-cooked meals are increasingly being replaced by packaged and ready-to-eat alternatives. In a country such as India, where diverse traditional cuisines can provide nutritious and balanced meals, abandoning healthy food traditions for convenience is an unnecessary loss.

The solution does not lie in completely banning junk food. Rather, it requires awareness, moderation and informed choices. Schools and families should teach children how to understand food labels, recognise excessive sugar, salt and unhealthy fats, and appreciate the value of fresh and minimally processed foods. Governments and public institutions also have a role in promoting responsible food marketing, particularly when children are the target audience.

Ultimately, food is more than a source of pleasure or convenience; it is the foundation of our physical and mental well-being. The choices made at the dining table today can shape the quality of life tomorrow. We must therefore move from a culture of instant gratification towards a culture of informed nutrition. The real measure of a modern society is not how quickly it can produce and consume food, but how wisely it can nourish its people.

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'You didn't even tell your best friend'. The complications from childbirth that never go away

From incontinence to chronic pain, millions of women are still suffering decades later.

Warning: This article contains details of traumatic medical experiences some readers may find upsetting.

It's 2024 and I'm in the hospital, again. I've been in pain that even morphine can't touch for about 36 hours. As the surgeons will find out when they open me up, parts of my bowel have protruded into a gap in my stomach lining. It's caused it to perforate, leaving pus inside my entire abdomen, resulting in a dangerous infection.

As I wait for the operation, I texted my husband all my bank details, just in case I don't make it. The pain is blinding. I am retching periodically though I haven't eaten for two days.

The surgery takes five hours. I wake up at midnight, groggy in the intensive care ward, with a six-inch (15cm) incision from my belly button to my pelvis and a large drainage tube in my abdomen. How did I get here? And what does this have to do with childbirth?

While it's well known that childbirth can be dangerous, what's less talked about are the physical issues that can last beyond those early years and affect women even decades later. While my own specific situation is rare, complications from childbirth that appear later in life are alarmingly common.

It's been estimated that globally, around 40 million women per year are affected by complications that last months or years. These can range from urinary and faecal incontinence to chronic pain, or even scar tissue that can cause life-threatening bowel problems or interfere with future fertility.

Some of these issues, like mine, don't show up until years later and can persist indefinitely. I spoke to several women, as well as experts, to get a full picture of the lasting physical and mental damage childbirth can cause. I heard how women often feel they aren't listened to, or worse, feel they had no way to access treatment.

I didn't intend to revisit my own experiences for this column, because I hate feeling vulnerable. But by talking about complications and creating greater awareness of both the risks of childbirth and how to access support, I hope that other women can feel more empowered to advocate for themselves.

Lifesaving interventions, lifelong effects

t's a tale as old as time. Childbirth is risky and can lead to complications or worse, for mother and child. Luckily maternal deaths have become rarer in many parts of the world. Between 2000 and 2023, the ratio of maternal deaths to live births dropped by 40% globally.

Yet the focus on reducing maternal deaths has meant that the longer-term effects of labour and childbirth often receive too little attention, according to a major 2024 global review by a team of international researchers.

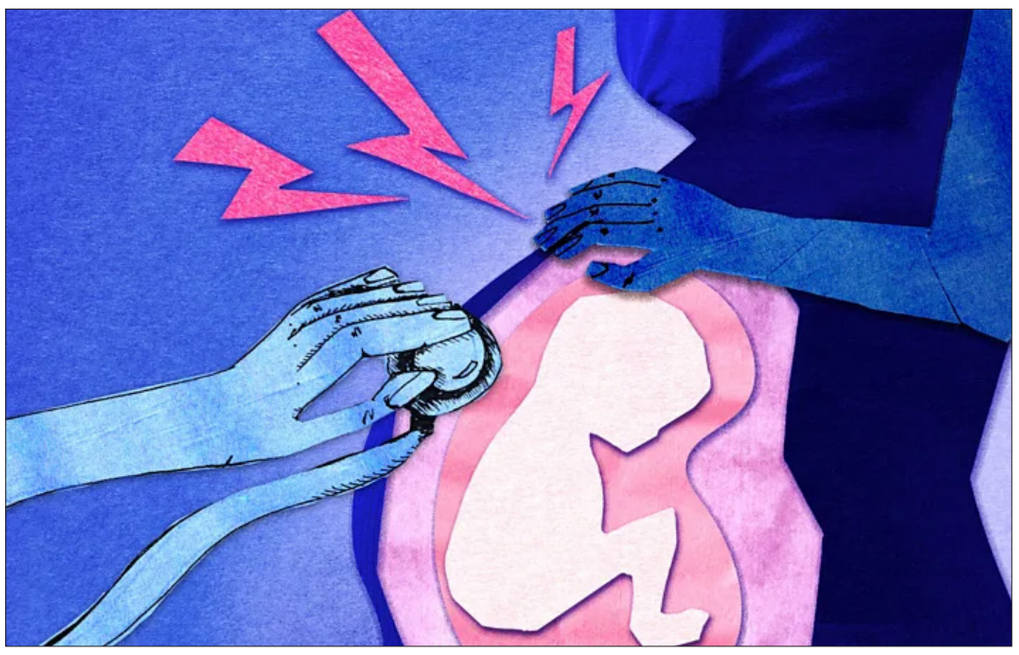
Joshua Vogel, a perinatal epidemiologist at the Burnet Institute in Australia and lead author of the review, said it's worrying how many women are unable to advocate for support for themselves, especially because it can be unclear what is normal, and what should be looked at. "It blew my mind how mind-bogglingly diverse these complications are," he says.

Adhesions

n my case, things began with an emergency caesarean section.

Four days after my daughter was born, I was back in hospital undergoing another emergency surgery. My stitches had come fully undone and I suffered a serious complication with my bowels. It was traumatic and classed as a medical "never event" as it was so rare. But I was delighted my tiny newborn daughter was fine, so I put it behind me and focused on how lucky it was that we were both OK.

Seven years passed, including another pregnancy, and everything seemed back to normal. Then one



Wednesday afternoon I had an onset of sudden abdominal pain that gradually worsened. I was working and remember joining a video call lying down on bed and with my camera off, hoping it would soon pass. By 16:30, I texted my husband "it's really bad, I can see my stomach moving". I still just thought I had a bad stomach bug. Though in hindsight, I realise I was no longer thinking rationally.

That's perhaps why I somehow mustered the energy to collect the children from school, even lifting my child's bike into my car. But the pain just got worse. Eventually, my husband contacted his sister, who is a doctor. She said it could be adhesions – scar tissue – from my caesarean, causing an obstruction within my intestines. When I began vomiting, she instructed me to call an ambulance. There were none available so I took a taxi, even though by this point I could barely stand.

At the hospital, a bowel obstruction was confirmed. The original caesarean, followed by the medical error that led to my second surgery, had left substantial scar tissue inside my abdomen which was now constricting the flow of blood to my bowels.

Sometimes obstructions go away on their own, so I spent an excruciating 36 hours waiting to see if I would need surgery. On the second day, my temperature spiked and my blood test showed that the levels of C-reactive protein, a marker of inflammation, had risen dangerously from 1 to 311 (a normal level is below 5). The decision was made to operate as soon as possible (though "soon", in a busy hospital, took another painful five hours…).

Afterwards, the surgeon told me how well the surgery had gone, though it was more complex than they had realised. They cut out 60cm (23.5in) of the part of my bowel that had been deprived of blood and oxygen, but the surgery had saved my life. Again, with time I healed well and the stoic in me thought, "it could have been worse".

Major abdominal surgery

orldwide, caesarean sections are on the rise and account for about 21% of all births. In some countries this figure rises to 58% (Dominican Republic). In the US it's over 32%. Caesarean sections can be vital to protect the health of mother and child, but they can come with an increased risk of complications, says Soo Downe, professor of midwifery at the University of Lancashire.

When there are complications, they may not materialise immediately. A US study that followed 43,646 mothers for 50 years found that those who had caesarean sections had a 16% higher risk of dying during that time than those who delivered vaginally. They also had a higher risk of dying from cardiovascular disease, diabetes, respiratory disease, infections and kidney disease.

Stefanie Hinkle, a perinatal epidemiologist from the University of Pennsylvania in the US and co-author of the study says it isn't yet clear why. Women who had caesareans were more likely to be older, have a higher BMI, smoke, or have diabetes or other pre-existing conditions, but the link remained after the researchers accounted for these factors.

One possibility is that a caesarean is a marker of poorer overall health. "Another is that the surgery itself affects long-term health, for example through complications such as infection, blood clots or cardiovascular events, or through scar tissue and complications in later pregnancies," says Hinkle.

Clearly, there are numerous long-term risks associated with cesarean sections. They can result in a greater risk of an ectopic pregnancy, which is where a fertilised egg grows outside the uterus. Scarring from caesareans can increase the risk of placenta accreta, where the placenta attaches too deeply into the wall of the uterus.

I, and many women I know, didn't give the risks much thought because caesarean sections have become so normalised, making it easy to forget that it's a major abdominal surgery.

Lack of follow-up

In a cruel irony, the surgical treatment I needed after the first bowel obstruction created yet more scar tissue inside my abdomen. That's why four months later, the same issue occurred and I was back in the operating theatre undergoing another emergency operation. Luckily there was no infection or perforation this time as the team opened me up that same day. I was told it could happen again tomorrow, several decades later or never again, as I now have a lifelong risk of future occurrences.

Anyone who undergoes abdominal surgery can develop scar tissue, as my case shows. One 2017 study of women from Sweden found that 37% of women who had previously had a cesarean had abdominal adhesions, compared to 10% of women who hadn't had one before.

As adhesions can bind internal organs together, they can result in abdominal pain and bowel obstructions, as well as a slight increased risk of maternal and infant mortality in future pregnancies, a risk that's higher when it's an emergency delivery. Adhesions can also make further caesarean sections surgically complicated, increasing the risk of bladder and bowel lacerations. The fact that caesarean sections are increasing means that more women could be at risk of complications, says Downe.

Vaginal births can cause lasting physical damage

Numerous complications can arise with vaginal births too.

Heather Barnes, now in her mid-70s, suffered from a fourth-degree tear when her daughter was born over 40 years ago. This means that the anal sphincter, the muscle which holds in gas and poo, is torn – as well as the lining of the anus or rectum.

Barnes lives with chronic pain and complications to this day. Forceps, which are curved metal instruments like large tweezers, were used to help get her daughter out as she was stuck. This has caused her to have faecal incontinence, perineal pain and pudendal nerve damage. "I'm in pain every single day. I don't get a day off really," she says.

Barnes' experience is far from unique. Both urinary and faecal incontinence are extremely common in the decades after childbirth, particularly in women who give birth vaginally. One study looking at women 20-26 years after childbirth, found that 61% experienced urinary incontinence, 22% faecal incontinence and 17% had symptoms of pelvic organ prolapse.

Suzanne Hagen, a professor of health services research at Glasgow Caledonian University in the UK and lead author of the study, says that what's not visible in these statistics is the devastating effects these problems have on these women's lives, on their relationships and their ability to work.

Barnes, for instance, felt too traumatised to have another child and was not able to return to work. "The stress of always knowing at any time I could have an accident is just so awful," she told me. At the time, no one spoke about incontinence or pain. "You didn't even tell your best friend," she says.

It's estimated that up to 90% of women will have at least some tearing, grazing or an episiotomy – a cut between the vagina and anus, to create a larger opening for the baby's head – during vaginal childbirth. Births requiring instruments such as forceps or ventouse – a device that's attached to the baby's head using suction – are associated with significantly higher rates of tears. Deeper tears come with a higher risk of urinary or faecal incontinence, pain during sex, or a need for reconstructive surgery.

Women of South Asian origin are at higher risk of vaginal tears. A fact that Kajal Da Silva, a mother of one, was not aware of until she suffered a fourth-degree tear.

"It's like your whole life then revolves around your injury still," says Da Silva, now six years on from her birth injury. "I wouldn't be able to make plans without me figuring out what I'm going to eat, what I eat, what I'm doing the next day, planning my journey to make sure there's a toilet en route."

Da Silva still has chronic pelvic pain, can't sit and stand for long and does not plan on having any more children. "There is no way I would allow myself mentally to even think about having another child," she says.

(BBC NEWS)

Kabaddi Championship Kicks Off in Kreeri Under Police-Civic Action Programme

Eight teams from different villages to compete; tournament aims to promote sportsmanship and keep youth away from drug abuse

Ashiq Hussain
HT Correspondent



KREERI, NOVEMBER 10: Baramulla Police on Tuesday inaugurated a Kabaddi Championship at Kreeri under the Civic Action Programme 2026–27, with eight teams representing different villages of Police Sub-Division Kreeri set to participate in the sporting event.

The championship was inaugurated by ASP Baramulla Fahad Tak (JKPS) in the presence of former SSP S.G.M. Andrabi. Addressing the gathering, ASP Fahad Tak underscored the importance of sports in fostering discipline, teamwork and healthy engagement among young people.

He said the initiative was aimed at strengthening police-public relations through community participation while engaging youth in constructive activities. Emphasising the need to protect young people from the growing menace of drug abuse, he said such sporting initiatives provide a positive platform for recreation, physical fitness and personal development.

Among those present were SDPO Kreeri Aehsal Nissar (JKPS), SHO Kreeri Syed Wasem, President Traders Association Kreeri S.N.D. Andrabi, General Secretary Syed Mushtaq, Principal Green Land School Kreeri Abdul Rashid, civil society members, students and sports enthusiasts.

The inaugural match of the championship was played between Al Murad Sports Club Kreeri and Government Higher Secondary School Kreeri, marking the commencement of the tournament.

Team gold for India, but Manu misses out on LA 2028 quota

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 10 :ndia's Manu Bhaker came agonisingly close to securing an individual medal and an Olympic quota place before finishing fourth in the women's 25m pistol final at the ISSF World Championships in Doha on Tuesday.

The double Olympic medallist survived several elimination rounds and shoot-offs but eventually fell short of a podium finish.

The disappointment in the individual event was partly offset by India's success in the team competition, where Manu combined with Esha Singh and Divya Subbaraju to clinch the gold medal.

Manu had entered the eight-shooter final after finishing sixth in qualification with 587 points. She began with 289 in the precision stage but made a strong comeback in the rapid round, shooting 99, 99 and a perfect 100 to secure her place in the final.

Esha also qualified comfortably, finishing third with 590 points. The 21-year-old scored 292 in precision before producing an impressive 298 in the rapid stage.

Both Indians remained in contention during



a tense final that saw frequent changes in the standings. Manu negotiated multiple elimination rounds and shoot-offs, but her challenge eventually ended just outside the medal positions.

The women's 25m pistol event offered three quota places for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, awarded to eligible countries through individual medal finishes. With neither Manu nor Esha making the podium, India missed the opportunity to add another quota in the discipline.

Gayatri-Treesa cruise into Kumamoto Masters pre-quarters with straight-game win

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 10 :Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly made a winning start to their Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 campaign, beating Japanese pair Hinata Suzuki and Nao Yamakita in straight games to enter the pre-quarterfinals on Tuesday.



The Indian duo, who won bronze at the BWF World Championships in New Delhi earlier this year, needed 42 minutes to overcome their opponents 21-17, 21-14 in their opening-round match. They will next face another home combination, Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi, with a quarter-final spot at stake.

India's mixed doubles campaign, however, suffered an early setback as Dhruv Kapila and Radhika Sharma bowed out in the qualifying round. The Indian pair lost 16-21, 15-21 to second seeds Chen Zhi Yi and Francesca Corbett of the United States.

There was better news in men's doubles, where Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun advanced to the next round after their Malaysian opponents, Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik, retired hurt early in their opening match.

The Indians were leading 11-6 in the first game when the sixth-seeded Malaysian pair was forced to pull out just six minutes into the contest. Hariharan and Arjun will now wait for the result of the match between Japan's Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi and Hong Kong China's Kuei Chun Hung and Chun Wai Lui to find out their next opponents. India's men's singles challenge is also set to begin, with Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth preparing for their opening-round matches. Eighth seed Lakshya will face Chinese Taipei's Yu Jen Chi, while Srikanth is scheduled to take on Denmark's Rasmus Gemke. The timings for both matches are yet to be announced.

Rain washes out final two days as India A-New Zealand A series ends 0-0

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 10 : The third and final unofficial Test between New Zealand A and India A ended in a draw on Tuesday after rain washed out the fourth and final day at Bert Sutcliffe Oval in Lincoln, leaving India's Test hopefuls short of valuable match practice ahead of the two-Test series beginning November 19.

Persistent rain had already wiped out the third day's play, and conditions remained unchanged on Tuesday, resulting in the abandonment of the match without a ball being bowled on the final day. The three-match series thus ended 0-0.

India A had taken a firm grip on the game after declaring their first innings at 464/5, built around Yashasvi Jaiswal's 102 and half-centuries from Sai Sudharsan (88), Tilak Varma (81 not out), Dhruv Jurel (71) and Washington Sundar (50 not out). New Zealand A were 36/2 at stumps on the second day, with Prasidh Krishna claiming both wickets. With no further play possible, India's bowlers, including Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja and Prasidh, missed out on the opportunity to get more overs under their belts before the senior team's Test assignment.

PM Modi congratulates Anuj Shrivatri on becoming India's 100th Grandmaster

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed India's growing stature in chess after Anuj Shrivatri became the country's 100th Grandmaster, describing the milestone as an exceptional achievement and urging more youngsters to take up the sport.



Congratulating the Madhya Pradesh player, Modi said the landmark reflected the depth of talent in the country, the hard work and commitment of its chess players, and the sport's increasing popularity among the younger generation.

"India has hit a century in chess! Exceptional isn't it? India is now home to a hundred chess Grandmasters! Congratulations to Anuj Shrivatri on becoming India's 100th Chess Grandmaster! What a wonderful achievement it is," he said in a social media post.

"May this achievement inspire many more youngsters to take up chess and pursue excellence," he said.

Shrivatri secured the milestone after winning the 7th ASEAN Plus Individual Open Chess Championship in Sinacaban, Philippines, on Sunday. His triumph took India's tally of Grandmasters to 100, nearly four decades after Viswanathan Anand became the country's first player to earn the title in 1988.



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