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Voice To The Voiceless



P:12 New Zealand star Rachin Ravindra provides update on fitness for India Tests

J&K moving towards normalcy, but challenges remain: SDG CRPF

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 17: Special Director General (SDG), CRPF, J&K Zone, Sandeep Khirwar, on Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir has made progress towards normalcy, but a few challenges still remain.

Interacting with the officers at Srinagar Sector headquarters SDG Khirwar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), stressed on the importance of leadership, coordination, discipline and collective efforts in ensuring peace, security and stability in the Valley.

During SDG Khirwar's visit to the headquarters, Inspector General, Srinagar Sector, Pawan Kumar Sharma, gave a detailed presentation on the organisational structure, roles, responsibilities and operational mandate, besides its strategic objectives and operational priorities in the Kashmir Valley.

>>> MORE ON P 02

"India and Singapore Will Work Together for a Stronger Indo-Pacific": Modi

Modi, Wong review Comprehensive Strategic Partnership; discuss trade, technology, security and Indo-Pacific cooperation



HT NEWS DESK / UNI

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong in Manila on Tuesday on the sidelines of the 21st East Asia Summit, reviewing the progress of the India-Singapore Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and exploring avenues for expanding cooperation in trade, investment, defence, digital technologies, semiconductors and green energy. The Ministry of External Affairs described the meeting as warm and productive, adding that both leaders exchanged views on regional and international developments and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties. Modi also conveyed India's full support to Singapore ahead of its forthcoming ASEAN chairship, expressing confidence that the two countries would work together to advance regional cooperation, economic integration and a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held bilateral talks with Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong in Manila, the Philippines, on the sidelines of the 21st East Asia Summit, with the two leaders reviewing the progress of the India-Singapore Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and exploring avenues for expanding cooperation

>>> MORE ON P 02

Migratory birds start landing in Kashmir, Census soon

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 17 : Marking the beginning of the winter migration season in Kashmir, birds from different countries have started arriving in the Valley.



An official of the Wildlife Department told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) migratory birds have started reaching at several wetlands, including Hokersar, Wular, Shallabugh, Hygam and Mirgund. "Their numbers are expected to swell in the coming weeks," he said, adding, ""The department will conduct a census soon to assess the arrival and population of migratory birds in different wetlands of Kashmir. The exercise will help determine the number of species visiting the Valley and monitor their distribution across various habitats."

It's in place to mention here that the annual arrival of migratory birds marks the beginning of the winter migration season in the Valley, as thousands

>>> MORE ON P 02

"Every District Deserves Equal Attention": CM Omar Unveils 30.72 Crore Development Push in Jammu, Samba, Kathua

Announces land clearance for international-standard cricket stadium in Kathua; says new industrial policy will make local hiring a condition for incentives



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU/SAMBA/KATHUA, Nov 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said development in Jammu and Kashmir would not be limited to big cities and major towns. He inaugurated and laid foundation stones for eight development projects worth 30.72 crore across Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts.

"Development shall not be restricted to main cities and major towns only. Every district and every rural area deserves equal attention," he said during a day-long tour of the three districts. The projects cover animal husbandry, irrigation, drinking water supply

>>> MORE ON P 02

"Justice Must Reach Every Eligible Beneficiary": ACB Charge Sheets 15 in Rajouri Ration Scam

Two former Food and Supplies officials, 13 ration dealers accused of misappropriating subsidised food grains worth over Rs 50 lakh

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR NOV 17: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau has filed a charge sheet against 15 persons, including two former officials of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department and 13 government ration dealers and salesmen, in connection with the alleged misappropriation of subsidised government ration worth more than Rs 50 lakh in Rajouri district. The charge sheet has been presented before the Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Rajouri, following an investigation into FIR No. 32/2018, registered after a surprise inspection of the department's Main Food Store in November 2017. According to the ACB, the investigation prima facie established that the accused had allegedly acted in connivance to divert ration meant for APL, BPL and AAY beneficiaries and fraudulently withdraw transportation commissions as well as loading and unloading charges against the misappropriated food grains. The alleged irregularities caused a loss exceeding Rs 50 lakh to the state exchequer and deprived eligible beneficiaries of subsidised food supplies. The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB)



>>> MORE ON P 02

"Technology Can Transform Healthcare, Ensure Early Cancer Detection": Sakina Itoo

Health Minister highlights digital interventions for timely medical assistance in remote areas, improved governance and efficient public service delivery

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR 17 NOV : Health Minister Sakina Masood Itoo on Tuesday said emerging technologies could significantly transform healthcare delivery in Jammu and Kashmir by facilitating early disease detection, improving access to medical facilities and ensuring timely assistance, particularly in remote areas. Speaking on the sidelines of a two-day national conference on Emerging Technologies for Governance and Development Planning at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, she said digital interventions could help identify patients requiring urgent medical attention and ensure services such as ambulance assistance reach them without delay. Expressing hope that technological advancements would strengthen early cancer detection and treatment, the minister also highlighted the role of digital systems in improving administrative accountability and enabling citizens to track the movement of official files. She emphasised that technology could improve efficiency across healthcare, education and other sectors while bridging gaps in public service delivery. Jammu and Kashmir Health



>>> MORE ON P 02

Rs 601 Cr Ayushman Bharat claims pending in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 17 : Claims worth Rs 601.38 crore under the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT scheme are pending for settlement in Jammu & Kashmir, official data submitted to the Estimates Committee of the J&K Assembly has revealed.

According to details accessed by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), public hospitals account for the major share of pending claims at Rs 376.67 crore, while claims worth Rs 224.71 crore submitted by private hospitals are also awaiting settlement.

The data shows that the pending amount includes Rs 217.01 crore for the original current policy period from April 17, 2025 to April 16, 2026, and Rs 384.37 crore for the

>>> MORE ON P 02

Srinagar Records Season's First Sub-Zero Night, Mercury Dips to -0.1°C

Pahalgam coldest at -3.8°C, Shopian and Gulmarg also reel under freezing conditions as winter chill intensifies across Kashmir

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR 17 NOV: Kashmir witnessed a further intensification of winter conditions on Tuesday, with Srinagar recording its first sub-zero night temperature of the season at minus 0.1 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam emerged as the coldest place in the Valley at minus 3.8 degrees Celsius. According to temperature data, Shopian recorded minus 3.6 degrees, Gulmarg minus 3.4 degrees and Larnoo minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, while several other stations also registered freezing temperatures. The sharp fall in the mercury has intensified the winter chill during night and early morning hours, signalling the gradual onset of harsher conditions ahead of Chillai Kalan, the 40-day harshest winter period in Kashmir, which begins on December 21 and continues until January 30. The Valley's winter is traditionally divided into three phases—Chillai Kalan, Chillai Khurd and Chillai Bachha—with prolonged freezing conditions and snowfall characterising the harshest phase.



Cold conditions intensified across Kashmir as Srinagar recorded the season's first sub-zero night temperature at minus 0.1 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam emerged as the coldest place in the Valley at minus 3.8 degrees Celsius, officials said on Tuesday.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar marked the lowest night temperature recorded in the summer capital so far this season, indicating a further strengthening of winter conditions across the Valley. According to temperature data accessed news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) Shopian recorded a

>>> MORE ON P 02

HT BOTTOM NEWS

"Hunt for LeT Commander Continues": Officials After Kulgam Encounter

Umar Nisar Dar allegedly provided shelter and logistical support to commander Lateef Bhat; security forces launch hunt for absconding militant

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



SRINAGAR 17 NOV: A suspected terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, while a search operation was launched to track down an absconding Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander, officials said on Tuesday. The slain individual was identified as Umar Nisar Dar, who allegedly provided shelter and logistical support to LeT commander Lateef Bhat for five to six months and assisted him in conducting reconnaissance at several locations, including Mir Bazar, Akhran, Hablish and Kilam, ahead of an alleged attack on security forces. Officials said the duo had allegedly attacked a CRPF checkpoint at Akhran on November 11 before fleeing, while CCTV footage and subsequent investigations helped establish their movements. Security forces intercepted the two at Laroo in Kulgam on Monday, triggering an encounter in which Dar was killed, while Bhat managed to escape. A search operation is underway to apprehend the absconding commander. A suspected terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, while a search operation is underway to track down a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander, officials said on Tuesday. The slain suspect was identified as Umar Nisar Dar, who was allegedly

>>> MORE ON P 02

4 drug peddlers arrested in Anantnag, Kupwara

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 17: Continuing its sustained crackdown against drug trafficking, Police arrested four drug peddlers in separate operations in Anantnag & Kupwara and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

According to a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a police party from Police Post Janglatmandi, during naka checking, apprehended one individual identified as Owais Ibrahim Sofi son of Mohd Ibrahim Sofi resident of Achabal. During his search, 646 grams of charas were recovered from his possession. In another operation, Police Station Dooru apprehended one individual identified as Sabzar Ahmad Sheikh son of Sonaullah Sheikh resident

>>> MORE ON P 02

Continue from Front Page.....

J&K moving

The Special Director General CRPF interacted with officers and discussed the Sector's functioning and operational preparedness.

The interaction, as per KNO, was followed by discussions on various aspects of the Sector's functioning and preparedness.

A day earlier, Khirwar had said that Jammu and Kashmir had made significant progress towards normalcy, but security challenges remained and would have to be addressed through coordinated efforts of security agencies, the administration and the people.

Pertinently, on Monday on the sidelines of a CRPF cricket tournament, Khirwar had told KNO, that security agencies have gathered vital leads in connection with the November 11 attack on CRPF personnel in Kulgam and that those responsible would be brought to justice—(KNO)

"India and Singapore

amid evolving regional and global developments.

The Ministry of External Affairs described the meeting as "warm and productive", saying the discussions provided an opportunity to take stock of the implementation of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and identify ways to further strengthen bilateral engagement.

The two leaders exchanged views on regional and international developments and reaffirmed their commitment to deepening the longstanding partnership between the two countries, the ministry said.

During the meeting, Modi conveyed his best wishes to Singapore for its forthcoming chairship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and assured Wong of India's full support.

Singapore's upcoming ASEAN chairship is expected to provide fresh opportunities for the two countries to work together on strengthening regional cooperation, economic integration and engagement on shared strategic priorities.

India and Singapore have significantly broadened their partnership in recent years, with cooperation spanning trade and investment, defence and security, digital technologies, semiconductors, green energy, skills development and connectivity. The relationship was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in September 2024 during Modi's visit to Singapore, reflecting the growing strategic and economic importance of bilateral ties.

Singapore is among India's most important economic and strategic partners in Southeast Asia and plays a significant role in advancing New Delhi's Act East Policy and its wider engagement with the Indo-Pacific region.

Modi's interaction with Wong was part of his diplomatic engagements in Manila during the ASEAN-India Summit and the East Asia Summit, highlighting India's continued efforts to strengthen partnerships with Southeast Asian countries and promote a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

The meeting also underscored the importance both countries attach to sustained high-level engagement and closer coordination at a time of shifting geopolitical dynamics and growing economic and security challenges in the region. UNI SKA AAB

Migratory birds

of birds travel from colder regions, including Siberia, Central Asia, China and parts of Europe, to spend the winter in Kashmir's relatively milder climatic conditions.

Another official said the wetlands of Kashmir provide important winter habitats for several species of migratory birds, which travel thousands of kilometres during their seasonal migration. "Among the species commonly recorded in the Valley during winter are mallards, pintails, teals, coots, greylag geese, pochards, gadwalls, wigeons, shovellers and tufted ducks," he added.

The wetlands of Hokersar, Wular, Shallabugh, Hygam and Mirgund serve as important feeding and resting grounds for these birds during their stay in Kashmir.

Officials said the migratory birds also use different water bodies across the Valley for feeding, with many of them moving between wetlands during the day and night.

The department has undertaken management measures in several wetland reserves to maintain suitable habitats for the visiting species. These include maintaining water levels, improving water channels and creating pools to facilitate feeding and movement.

However, officials said poaching remained a concern, particularly in water bodies and habitats that fall outside adequately protected wetland areas.

The Wildlife Department deploys field staff and watchers to monitor vulnerable areas and prevent illegal hunting of migratory birds, they said.

The annual migration of birds to Kashmir is also considered an important indicator of the ecological significance of the Valley's wetlands, which provide breeding, feeding and resting habitats for several resident and migratory species.

Officials said the upcoming census would provide a clearer picture of the seasonal arrival of birds and help the department assess the condition of their habitats—(KNO)

"Technology Can

Minister Sakina Masood Itoo on Tuesday said emerging technologies could significantly transform healthcare delivery, facilitate early detection of diseases and ensure timely medical assistance, particularly in remote areas.

Speaking to news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) on the sidelines of a two-day national conference on Emerging Technologies for Governance and Development Planning in Jammu and Kashmir at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, minister Itoo said technology could help bridge gaps in healthcare access and improve the efficiency of government services.

She said technological interventions could help identify patients requiring immediate medical attention in remote areas and ensure timely access to facilities such as ambulance services.

"If a pregnant woman needs an ambulance immediately, technology can help ensure that it reaches her. People can benefit from these advancements in the health sector, education and other departments," she said.

The minister said technology could also reduce dependence on manpower for several administrative functions while improving service delivery.

Referring to advancements in medical science, Itoo expressed hope that improved technological interventions would enable cancer detection at an early stage and facilitate timely treatment.

She also underlined the importance of accountability in governance, saying digital systems had made it easier for people to track the movement and status of official files.

"Today, you can check a file and know where it is. This is the wonder of technology," she said.

On a separate issue, Itoo expressed concern over a recent incident but criticised BJP MLA Shagun Parihar for her alleged remarks against Muslims and demanded an apology from her.

"We are all saddened and concerned about this incident, irrespective of who is involved. Such incidents should not happen. However, the way BJP MLA Shagun Parihar used language against Muslims, she should apologise," the minister said.

She said Jammu and Kashmir had witnessed prolonged conflict and urged political representatives to exercise restraint while making public statements.

"The BJP should also keep its MLAs under control and hold them accountable for what they say. The MLA should apologise, particularly to the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir," she added. (KNS).

"Justice Must

Jammu and Kashmir has filed a charge sheet against two former officials of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department and 13 government ration dealers/salesmen in a case involving the misappropriation of subsidised government ration worth more than Rs 50 lakh in Rajouri district.

The charge sheet has been filed in FIR No. 32/2018 under Sections 5(1)(c) and 5(1)(d) read with Section 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, Svt. 2006, and Sections 409 and 120-B of the RPC before the Court of Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Rajouri.

The case was registered on September 28, 2018, following a Joint Surprise Check (JSC) conducted by the Vigilance Organisation, now ACB, into allegations of misappropriation of government ration meant for distribution among APL, BPL and AAY beneficiaries in the district.

During the surprise check conducted in November 2017 at the Main Food Store of FCS&CA, Rajouri, it was found that subsidised ration had allegedly been misappropriated in connivance with government salesmen and private ration dealers. The investigation also revealed alleged irregularities in the withdrawal of government funds meant for transportation and loading and unloading of food grains.

According to the ACB, the investigation, supported by scrutiny of official records and expert opinions, prima facie established that the accused had allegedly acted in connivance and misappropriated government ration. They had also fraudulently withdrawn transportation commission and loading and unloading charges against the misappropriated ration.

The alleged acts resulted in a loss of more than Rs 50 lakh to the state exchequer and deprived eligible beneficiaries of subsidised food grains, the ACB said.

After obtaining the requisite prosecution sanction from the competent authority, the ACB presented the charge sheet before the Special Judge, Anti-Corruption Court, Rajouri, for further judicial proceedings.(KINS)

"Every District

, bridges, roads and civic infrastructure. Together they reflect the government's focus on equitable growth, stronger rural infrastructure and better public amenities across the Union Territory.

Boost to dairy sector at Hakkal

The Chief Minister began the tour in Jammu by laying the foundation stone for the strengthening of the Central Artificial Breeding Station at Hakkal. The project will cost 11.83 crore and is funded under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

It is the largest single project of the day. It aims to make high-quality germplasm available to livestock farmers so that the genetic potential of local cattle improves and milk productivity rises. Officials said the upgraded station would strengthen the dairy sector and raise the incomes of dairy farmers in the region.

Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA R.S. Pura-Jammu South Dr Narinder Singh Raina, the Director of Animal Husbandry and other officers were present.

Assured irrigation for Samba farmers

From Jammu, the Chief Minister went to Patyari Cluster in Block Ghagwal, Samba. There he laid the foundation stone for a Pressurised Piped Irrigation Network (PPIN) costing 9.82 crore.

Speaking to farmers, he said the network would give them a reliable supply of irrigation water. This would let them plan sowing with greater certainty and depend less on unpredictable rainfall.

"Farmers work hard, and they deserve better returns for that hard work," he said. He added that the government would take up more such irrigation projects across Jammu and Kashmir to raise agricultural productivity and farmers' incomes.

Minister Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Samba Surjeet Singh Slathia, the Director of Command Area Development and senior officers of the Agriculture Department were present.

Six projects for Kathua town

The final and busiest stop was Kathua. There the Chief Minister inaugurated and laid foundation stones for six projects worth an estimated 9.07 crore, all aimed at improving connectivity and civic amenities in the town.

He inaugurated the augmentation of the *Lakhanpur Water Supply Scheme*, completed under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme at a cost of 4.03 crore. The scheme is expected to improve drinking water supply in the border belt.

He laid foundation stones for *three bridges over the Ravi Canal*, meant to ease movement within the town:

- At Kukey Chack, opposite Shree Gurudwara Sahib, connecting the Housing Colony: * 69.46 lakh*

- Connecting Shree Gurudwara Har Govind Sahib Ji at Lower Shiva Nagar with Station Road: * 73.87 lakh*

- From Employment Office Chowk to Saver Resort: * 70.31 lakh*

He also laid foundation stones for a *15-metre-span culvert over the Kathua Canal* at RD 7106 metres, Ward No. 21, at an estimated cost of* 43.52 lakh, and for the **improvement and widening of the Chagran-Nagri Road (Phase-I)* under NABARD at a cost of * 2.47 crore*.

"This government belongs to every citizen"

Addressing a large public gathering in Kathua, Omar Abdullah said his government would take development to every corner of Jammu and Kashmir, whatever the political affiliation or geography of an area.

"From the very first day, my answer was clear: this government does not belong only to those who voted for us. It belongs to every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of political affiliation," he said.

He said people's expectations of an elected government were simple: their problems should be solved, their demands met and their areas developed. That, he said, had been his government's guiding principle since it took office.

"No excuses" over UT status

On the limits of governing a Union Territory, the Chief Minister said his government would not use those circumstances to justify inaction.

"We knew that Jammu and Kashmir was a Union Territory and that the road ahead would be difficult. Despite that, we sought the people's mandate and assumed responsibility. To say that nothing can be done because we are a Union Territory would be misleading ourselves and the people," he said. He added that the government would keep working and delivering despite the challenges.

He said development had to reach beyond Srinagar and Jammu to every district, including remote and hilly areas. Roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, colleges and universities in all regions deserved equal attention, he said.

Industrial policy to put local youth first

Turning to unemployment, Omar Abdullah said the government was drafting a new industrial policy so that the benefits of industrialisation reach the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the government had expected new industries and factories to create large numbers of jobs for local youth. That had not happened to the extent hoped for, because many units continued to bring in staff from outside the region.

Under the proposed policy, industries that receive land in industrial estates, subsidised electricity or other government incentives would be expected to hire local youth.

"If an industry needs skilled manpower, we are prepared to give it six months or even a year to train our young people. We have ITIs, polytechnics, colleges and universities. The Government is ready to facilitate skill development and provide the necessary support. But we will not accept the excuse that our young people lack the ability or qualifications required," he said.

He said young people from Jammu and Kashmir had repeatedly proved themselves in the Armed Forces, in sports and in other fields. He cited the region's historic Ranji Trophy win last year as an example of what they can achieve when given the chance.

"Our youth do not lack talent; they lack opportunities. Give them an opportunity, and they can compete with young people from anywhere in the country," he said.

Kathua, the 'gateway' to J&K

The Chief Minister called Kathua the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir. He said the district was strategically important for trade, transport and tourism, since a large share of the goods entering and leaving the Union Territory passes through it.

He said Kathua was also the main entry point for tourists and pilgrims travelling to the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Mata Vaishno Devi and Shiv Khori.

"For many visitors, Kathua is the first impression of Jammu and Kashmir. It is, therefore, important that this first impression reflects the progress, warmth and hospitality for which our people are known," he said.

He said several projects had been taken up with this in mind to improve infrastructure and civic amenities in Kathua town and across the district. He praised local MLA Dr Bharat Bhushan for consistently identifying the constituency's needs and following up on projects.

Cricket stadium gets the go-ahead

The main announcement of the day was about cricket. The Chief Minister thanked Union Minister of State and local MP Dr Jitendra Singh for his contribution to Kathua's development, especially his vision of an international-standard cricket stadium in the district.

"I am happy to inform you today that the requirement of land has been addressed. We can now move forward with the establishment of an international-standard cricket stadium in Kathua district," he announced, to applause from the crowd.

He said the stadium would give local cricketers world-class facilities, open up opportunities for young talent and bring more recognition to the district. He added that it could eventually help Kathua host major events, including IPL matches.

The Chief Minister promised continued government support to the people of Kathua. He said he and his colleagues would keep visiting the area, meeting residents and reviewing the progress of development works.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Minister Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Kathua Dr Bharat Bhushan, Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma and other officers were present. MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq and MLA Channapora Mushtaq Guru accompanied the Chief Minister on the tour.

Rs 601 Cr Ayushman

extended policy period from April 17, 2026 to November 08, 2026.

Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT provides free cashless health insurance cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per family annually to all residents of Jammu & Kashmir at empanelled government and private hospitals across the country.

The figures placed before the Assembly panel reveal that empanelled hospitals have submitted 6.20 lakh claims amounting to Rs 1158.12 crore under the scheme from April 17, 2025 to November 08, 2026 .

Of these, claims worth Rs 755.69 crore were submitted by public hospitals and Rs 402.43 crore by private hospitals.

The data further shows that claims amounting to Rs 406.30 crore have been paid so far, including Rs 242.07 crore to public hospitals and Rs 164.23

The data also lays bare that claims worth Rs 106.11 crore have been rejected, including Rs 98.51 crore submitted by public hospitals and Rs 7.60 crore by private hospitals.

The records also show that deductions amounting to Rs 44.33 crore were made during claim processing, including Rs 38.44 crore for public hospitals and Rs 5.89 crore for private hospitals.

In its submission to the committee, the Health & Medical Education Department said the State Health Agency (SHA) has established a dedicated State Anti-Fraud Unit (SAFU) to detect and investigate cases of fraud, illegal out-of-pocket expenditure and denial of cashless treatment to eligible beneficiaries by empanelled hospitals.

"Claims submitted by hospitals are examined by medical officers. The Claims Review Committee conducts audit of hospital claims to identify suspicious cases, overbilling and other irregularities," the Department stated—(KNO)

"Hunt for LeT

providing shelter and logistical support to LeT commander Lateef Bhat for the past five to six months, they said.

According to officials, Dar and Bhat conducted reconnaissance at several locations, including Mir Bazar, Akhran, Hablish and Kilam, on November 10 to identify potential targets and plan attacks on security forces.

The duo allegedly attacked a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) checkpoint at Akhran on November 11 before fleeing the area, officials said.

Investigators examined CCTV footage recorded on November 10 and 11, which reportedly helped establish the movements of the two men at different locations, including their alleged escape following the attack.

Dar's family had lodged a missing report at Police Station Kulgam after he went missing, officials said.

Subsequent investigations revealed that Dar had allegedly been providing shelter and logistical assistance to Bhat and joined the TRF following the Akhran incident, they added.

Security forces intercepted the duo at Laroo in Kulgam district on Monday, leading to an encounter in which Dar was killed. Bhat, however, managed to escape, officials said.

A search operation is underway to track down the absconding LeT commander, they added. (KNS)

4 drug peddlers

of Nowgam. During his search, approximately 10 grams of charas were recovered from his possession.

In Kupwara, a police party of PS Karnah apprehended two persons identified as Showkat Ahmad Sheikh son of Munir Ahmad Sheikh resident of Bakhaya and Saddam Khan resident of Mohd. Idrees Khan resident of Tangdhar Naad Karnah during a dynamic naka checking. During their search, approximately 80 grams of heroin-like substance was recovered from their possession.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations. Further investigation is underway to ascertain the source and possible links of the recovered contraband.

Police reiterates its commitment to intensifying the fight against drug trafficking and urges the public to cooperate and share information about drug-related activities—(KNO)

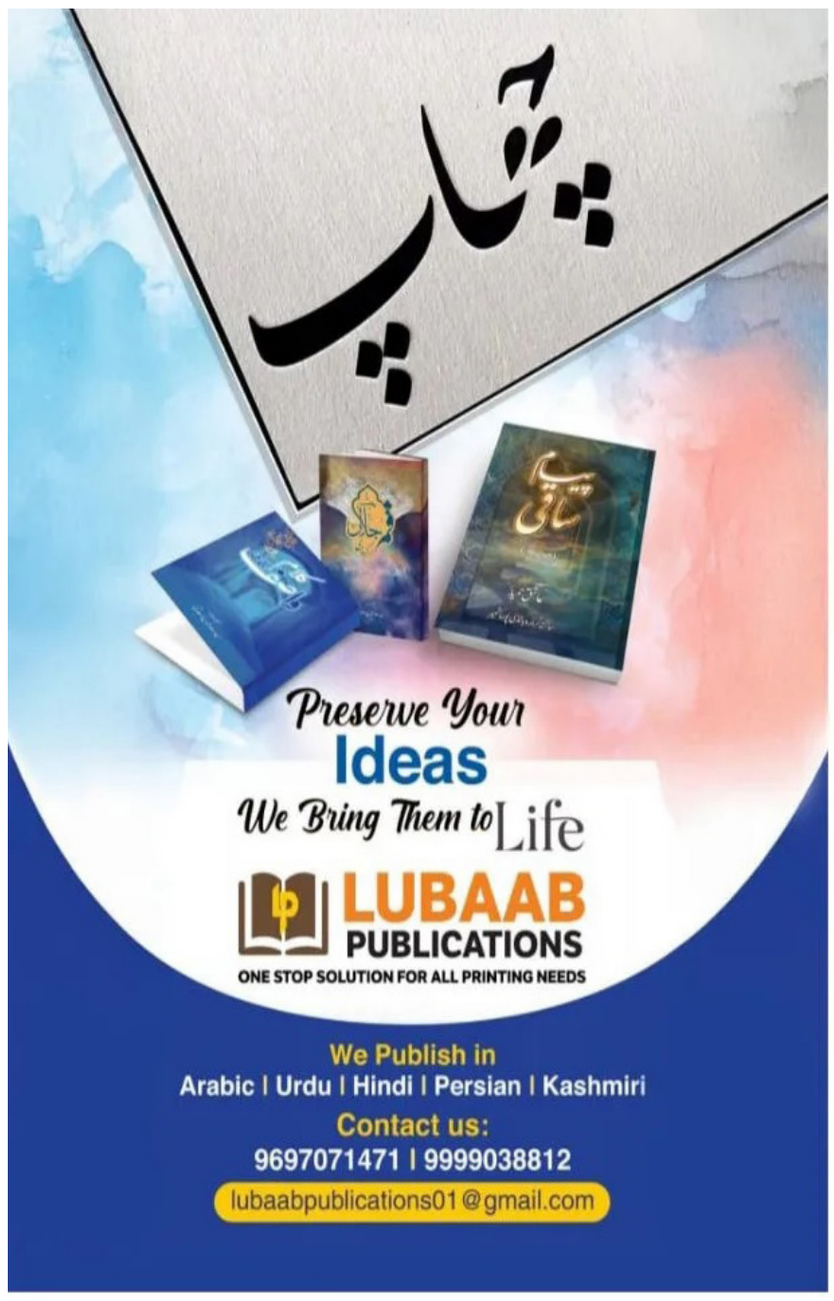
Srinagar Records

minimum of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, while the ski resort of Gulmarg registered minus 3.4 degrees Celsius.

Other places also witnessed freezing conditions, with Pulwama recording minus 2.3 degrees Celsius, Sonamarg minus 1.9 degrees, Budgam and Khudwani minus 1.3 degrees each, and Qazigund and Beerwah minus 1.0 degrees each.

Kupwara and Anantnag recorded minimum temperatures of minus 0.9 degrees Celsius each, while Zethan Rafiabad registered minus 1.6 degrees, Larnoo minus 2.8 degrees and Khag minus 0.5 degrees Celsius.

Ganderbal, Bandipora and Baramulla recorded minimum temperatures of 0.1, 0.3 and 0.6 degrees Celsius, respectively. Kokernag was the relatively warmest among the listed stations at 1.1 degrees Celsius.



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Kathua Set for Rs22-Crore Development Push, Key Projects Launched in Presence of CM

Dr Bharat Bhushan Welcomes CM ; Drinking Water, Road Connectivity and Bridge Infrastructure Among Major Works to be Undertaken

■ HT News Network

Kathua: Kathua is set to witness a significant development push with the launch and foundation-laying of major infrastructure projects worth approximately 22 crore during Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's visit to the district. MLA Kathua Dr Bharat Bhushan warmly welcomed the Chief Minister and expressed gratitude to the UT Government for according priority to the developmental requirements of the constituency. The projects, aimed at strengthening basic infrastructure and improving public amenities, include the Lakhanpur Drinking Water Scheme under AMRUT-2, estimated to cost 4.5 crore; the Changran-Nagri Road (Phase-I) under NABARD, costing 4.5 crore; construction of a vented causeway connecting Maroli with Tarda at an estimated cost of 5 crore; and construction of four bridges on the Kathua Canal involving an expenditure of 8 crore.



Dr Bharat Bhushan said the projects would address several long-pending public requirements and significantly improve drinking water availability, road connectivity and transportation facilities across the constituency. He said the construction of bridges and the causeway would particularly facilitate smoother movement of people and vehicles while strengthening connectivity between different areas.

Expressing gratitude to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his special attention to Kathua's developmental needs, the MLA said the projects reflected the government's commitment to strengthening infrastructure and ensuring improved public services. He expressed hope that continued support from the UT Government would further accelerate developmental activities and bring tangible benefits to the people. Reiterating his commitment to public welfare, Dr Bharat Bhushan said he would continue to work towards ensuring balanced, inclusive and comprehensive development across Kathua constituency.

DC Shopian reviews Grievance Redressal Mechanism, interacts with Grievance Complainants telephonically

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Charandeep Singh, today telephonically interacted with people who had submitted their grievances through various public grievance redressal mechanisms and sought direct feedback on the promptness and effectiveness of grievance resolution.

During the telephonic interactions, the Deputy Commissioner enquired about the status of the grievances, the response received from the concerned departments and the time taken for their resolution. He also sought feedback from the complainants regarding the overall grievance redressal mechanism and the accessibility of the concerned offices.

The DC stressed the importance of maintaining a responsive and citizen-centric grievance redressal system, ensuring that public concerns are addressed promptly and effectively.

He directed the concerned officers to closely monitor grievances received through various platforms and ensure their timely disposal, while keeping the complainants informed about the action taken.

The initiative is aimed at further strengthening the feedback mechanism and ensuring greater accountability, responsiveness and transparency in public service delivery.

DC Ganderbal Chairs District Rent Assessment Committee Meeting

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today chaired a meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) at the VC Room, Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal, to review and finalize rent assessment cases concerning various government offices operating from privately owned buildings across the district.

During the meeting, the Committee examined several pending cases related to the fixation and reassessment of rent for private accommodations housing government establishments. After detailed deliberations and thorough scrutiny of relevant records, verification reports and technical inputs received from the concerned departments, eligible cases were approved, while others were deferred pending further verification and completion of requisite documentation.

Emphasizing transparency and accountability in the process, the DC stressed the need to ensure strict adherence to prescribed government norms and procedures while assessing the rental value of private buildings. She directed the concerned officers to ensure that all established procedures and codal formalities are meticulously followed while hiring private accommodations for official purposes.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Ganderbal, Chief Planning Officer, Ganderbal, Executive Engineer, R&B Division Ganderbal, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer and other district officers and officials.

The concerned building owners were also present at the meeting and presented their views and clarifications regarding their respective cases before the Committee.

Belagavi Mayor-Led Delegation visits Srinagar to study Smart City Projects

Appreciates Urban Development Initiatives

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER: A 48-member delegation comprising Councillors and senior officials of the City Corporation, Belagavi, Karnataka, led by Mayor, Preeti Kamakar and Deputy Mayor, Hanumant Kongali, visited Srinagar on a study tour to gain first-hand insights into the urban development initiatives undertaken by Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) under the Government of India's Smart Cities Mission.

The visit aimed to promote inter-city knowledge exchange, particularly in the areas of modern urban planning, sustainable infrastructure development, technology-driven governance, civic amenities and urban mobility.

The programme commenced with a briefing by Additional Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited, Suhail Ul Islam, who familiarised the delegation with Srinagar's urban governance initiatives and the role of various agencies in strengthening civic infrastructure and improving public service delivery.

The delegation visited the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at HMT, where officials briefed its members on its functioning and role in real-time city monitoring, traffic management, coordination of civic services and technology-enabled administration. The members were also apprised of how the facility integrates various urban operations to strengthen monitoring and improve the efficiency of civic service delivery.

The team also visited the Jhelum Riverfront at Raj Bagh, where members were briefed on the transformation of the riverbanks into accessible public spaces featuring pedestrian promenades, landscaped areas, illumination and recreational facilities.

JDI Kashmir employees expresses condolences over demise of Father of Field Publicity Assistant

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 17: Joint Director Information, Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, along with officers and officials of the Joint Directorate of Information (JDI), Kashmir, today expressed profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of the father of Sajad Mohammad Bhat, Field Publicity Assistant, JDI Kashmir.

In this regard, Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, along with Deputy Director Information Headquarters Kashmir, Deputy Director Public Relations Kashmir and other officers and officials of the Department, visited the bereaved family to offer their heartfelt condolences and express solidarity with them in this hour of grief.

The officers conveyed their deepest sympathies to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul. They also prayed for strength and courage to the family members to bear this irreparable loss. In this regard, Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, along with Deputy Director Information Headquarters Kashmir, Deputy Director Public Relations Kashmir and other officers and officials of the Department, visited the bereaved family to offer their heartfelt condolences and express solidarity with them in this hour of grief.

JK Migrant Deputation, Several other delegations call on Sagar

Minister assures redressal of public grievances

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 17: Reiterating the government's commitment to addressing public concerns through direct engagement and responsive governance, Minister for Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation, Power Development Department, Department of law, justice and parliamentary affairs, Election department, Ali Mohammad Sagar, today met a deputation of JK migrants and several other delegations representing different areas and sections of society across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the interaction, the delegations apprised the Minister of various issues concerning public welfare, developmental requirements and other matters requiring government intervention. The JK migrant delegation specifically highlighted issues related to the welfare, rehabilitation and socio-economic concerns of migrant families.

Several other delegations from different areas also called on the Minister and projected issues pertaining to their respective localities, seeking his intervention for their early resolution.

Giving a patient hearing to the representatives, Sagar took note of the issues raised and assured them that their genuine concerns would be taken up with the concerned departments and authorities for appropriate and timely action.

The Minister emphasised the importance of maintaining accessible platforms for citizens to voice their concerns, stating that effective grievance redressal remains a key priority of the government.

He observed that regular interaction with people enables the government to better understand ground realities and address public issues in a focused and time-bound manner.

Sagar reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring transparent, responsive and people-oriented governance, with particular emphasis on resolving genuine public grievances and improving the delivery of essential services.

Civil Society Delegation calls on DC Shopian, appreciates proactive efforts of District Administration

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 17: A delegation of Civil Society Shopian today called on Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Charandeep Singh, and held an interaction with him on various matters concerning the development and welfare of the district.

During the interaction, members of the civil society appreciated the dedication, commitment and proactive efforts of the Deputy Commissioner and the district administration towards the overall development of Shopian.

They acknowledged the initiatives undertaken by the administration for strengthening public service delivery, improving basic infrastructure, addressing public grievances and promoting developmental activities across the district.

The delegation also appreciated the administration's continued efforts towards ensuring responsive governance and addressing issues of public importance.The Deputy Commissioner thanked the members of the civil society for their appreciation and constructive engagement. He reiterated that the district administration remains committed to the holistic development of Shopian and urged all stakeholders to extend their cooperation in achieving the district's developmental goals.

He also emphasized the importance of collective participation, public cooperation and coordination between the administration and civil society for effective governance and inclusive development.

DC Pulwama chairs Monthly NCORD Meeting; Reviews Anti-Drug Measures, Enforcement, Rehabilitation initiatives

Calls for Establishment of Nasha Mukt Clubs in Schools and Colleges

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, K.K. Sidha, today chaired the monthly meeting of the Narcotics Coordination Centre (NCORD) at Circuit House, Pulwama, to review anti-drug initiatives, enforcement measures and inter-departmental coordination under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA).

The meeting was attended by SSP Pulwama, Sahil Sarangal, SSP Awantipora, Irshad Hussain Rather, ADC Pulwama, Dr. S.M. Ashraf, ADC Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, CMO Pulwama, CEO Pulwama and officers from various concerned departments.

At the outset, the chair was informed that the minutes, agendas and Action Taken Reports (ATRs) of all previous NCORD meetings had been uploaded on the designated portal. A review of the previous meeting's ATR was also undertaken to assess progress and ensure implementation of decisions.

The meeting discussed ongoing activities under NMBA, departmental responsibilities, IEC campaigns and the availability of addiction treatment facilities, including category-wise details of patients undergoing treatment. SSP Pulwama stressed the need for maintaining proper records of patients visiting hospitals and de-addiction centres, particularly regarding the types of substances consumed, to facilitate better monitoring, targeted interventions and counselling. He also emphasised counselling of parents and family members of affected individuals.

The meeting was briefed about the functioning of the Drug De-Addiction Centre in sub division Tral. The DC directed the Health and Drug Control Departments to jointly develop a mechanism for tracing the supply chain of narcotic and psychotropic substances, while calling for a comprehensive hotspot mapping of drug-affected areas to strengthen surveillance and enforcement.

Reviewing the activities of the Drugs Control Department during October, the meeting took stock of inspections, surveillance and action against medicinal sale establishments, including suspension of licences. The Deputy Commissioner stressed strict regulatory compliance, installation of CCTV surveillance systems and computerised billing facilities in all eligible establishments.

The meeting was also informed about the department-wise strength of trainers engaged in the anti-drug campaign. The Deputy Commissioner directed departments to expand the trainer network by involving more personnel to strengthen awareness and outreach at the grassroots level.

As part of the future roadmap under NMBA, the Deputy Commissioner laid special emphasis on establishing and strengthening Anti-Drug Clubs in schools and colleges, with active participation of students. He said that student members should act as the eyes and ears of the system by spreading awareness, identifying vulnerable situations and promoting a drug-free environment among their peers. He also called for regular awareness programmes in educational institutions, villages and urban areas.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Naib Tehsildars and Police Department to submit weekly reports on anti-drug activities. He also called for enhanced surveillance of courier services and other possible channels being misused for drug transportation. Emphasising grassroots vigilance, he directed that Patwaris and Gram Sevaks be actively involved as reporting agencies to identify and report suspicious activities in their respective areas.

The meeting reviewed enforcement against illicit cultivation, including destruction of cannabis and poppy crops. The constitution of Anti-Drug Committees was also reviewed, with directions to strengthen their functioning and involvement in awareness and reporting activities.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the status of NDPS cases in the district, including cases under investigation, prosecution, and trial before the Special NDPS Court, Pulwama.

No region should face discrimination, every area must get its rightful share: Altaf Wani

Reviews RDD schemes, stresses accountability, transparency, field-level monitoring

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 17: Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment, and Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj, Altaf Ahmad Wani (Kaloo), today emphasised the need for equitable development across Jammu and Kashmir, stating that, in accordance with the directions of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, no area or region should face any form of discrimination and every region must receive its rightful share of development.

He directed the officers of the Rural Development Department to ensure that these directions are implemented in letter and spirit.

The Minister was chairing an exclusive review meeting of the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, to assess the implementation and progress of various departmental schemes and programmes.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) & Panchayati Raj, Ramesh Kumar; Secretary in RDD, Rachna Sharma; Managing Director, JKRLM, Shubra Sharma; Chief Operating Officer, Himayat, Rifat Kohli; Director, Rural Development, Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Wani; Director, Rural Development, Jammu, Shehnaz Akhtar; CEO, IWMP, Rajnish Sharma; Director, Panchayati Raj, Pankaj Raj Katoch; Director Finance, Umar Khan; Joint Director Planning, Munish Datta; Additional Secretary, Wasim Raja; Superintending Engineers of Jammu and Kashmir; Deputy Directors, SBM-G; Deputy Secretary; Under Secretaries and other senior officers.

Secretary, RDD, briefed the Minister on the overall functioning of the Department, implementation status of centrally sponsored and UT-sector schemes, financial and physical progress and key interventions being undertaken to strengthen rural infrastructure, employment generation, sanitation, livelihoods and Panchayati Raj institutions.

Reviewing the implementation of VB-G-RAM-G, the Minister stressed the need to rationalise the agricultural pause period in view of the distinct climatic and geographical conditions of Jammu and Kashmir. He observed that prolonged winters and heavy snowfall make execution of works difficult in Kashmir and the higher reaches of Jammu, particularly the Pir Panjal and Chenab regions.

He directed the department to review the pause-period arrangements and ensure that the working season is utilised optimally, with maximum public participation and employment generation. He emphasised that unnecessary interruptions during the feasible working season should be avoided, as these affect both livelihood opportunities for rural households and the overall performance of the Department.

The Minister directed that the list of permissible works under the scheme be prominently displayed in every Gram Panchayat to create awareness among the people and facilitate informed participation.

Emphasising the institutional importance of elected representatives, the Minister directed that all development plans and proposed works be prepared in consultation with the concerned MLAs. He said that elected representatives are well aware of the local needs and aspirations of the people and their involvement would prevent avoidable issues at the field level.

He called for addressing issues relating to job cards, face authentication, payment of the material component, person-days generation and delays in the processing of bills at treasuries. He directed that clear targets be assigned to Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs) while both Directors of Rural Development undertake daily reviews of progress. He stressed that the focus must remain on completion of works.

Reviewing the progress under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G), the Minister directed that any grievance or allegation of injustice faced by a beneficiary be addressed through the appropriate appellate mechanism at the district level, headed by the concerned Deputy Commissioner. He called for wider public awareness regarding the grievance redressal provisions of the scheme.

He directed the Department to conduct a survey to ascertain whether beneficiaries receiving houses under PMAY-G are also being provided with essential convergence benefits, including LPG connections, drinking water and electricity.

Mission Vatsalya Bandipora conducts Special Drive against Child Begging

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 17: Mission Vatsalya (Child Protection Services), Bandipora, conducted a special drive against child begging in the main town and identified hotspots of Bandipora.

During the drive, two minor children engaged in begging were identified and rescued by the team. The children were provided with all essential basic needs, and subsequently, their family was traced.

The parents were counselled regarding the adverse effects of child begging and made aware that engaging children in begging is a violation of the law and their rights. They were advised not to involve their children in such activities and to ensure their proper care, protection, and education.

After completing all necessary formalities under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, both children were safely handed over to their parents.

Mission Vatsalya Bandipora remains committed to safeguarding the rights, safety and well-being of children and preventing child exploitation in the district.

DC Ganderbal Chairs District-Level E-Auction Committee Meeting

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, who also serves as Chairman of the District-Level E-Auction Committee, today chaired a meeting of the committee at the VC Room, Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal, to discuss the submission of e-auction proceedings and recommendations for the issuance of a Letter of Intent (LoI) for the mineral block "Upstream Malpora to Bardulla."

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the e-auction proceedings and various aspects related to the issuance of the LoI. The committee reviewed the requisite procedural formalities and examined the recommendations to ensure transparency, fairness and strict adherence to the prescribed norms in the allotment process.

PAYAAM – Craft & Design Bazaar concludes Three-Day Showcase at Jhelum Waterfront

NIFT Srinagar brings artisans, designers, students and creative community together

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 17: The Jhelum Waterfront came alive with three days of creativity, craftsmanship and dialogue as PAYAAM – The Craft & Design Bazaar, organised by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar, concluded its three-day showcase today.

Bringing together artisans, designers, students and the wider creative community, Payaam emerged as a vibrant platform for celebrating Kashmir's rich craft heritage while exploring new possibilities through design, innovation and collaboration.

The three-day event featured curated design showcases, craft exhibitions, live demonstrations, interactive sessions, roundtable discussions and meaningful exchanges between students and master artisans. It witnessed the participation of several schools and colleges and attracted distinguished members of civil society, artists, academicians, journalists, entrepreneurs, cultural organisations and other stakeholders from across the region.

Through Payaam, NIFT Srinagar reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening Kashmir's craft and design ecosystem. The event sought to create meaningful connections between traditional knowledge and contemporary design practices, positioning artisans not merely as custodians of heritage but as active participants in the evolving creative economy.

Addressing the occasion, the Director, NIFT Srinagar, expressed the hope that NIFT's expertise and institutional resources would contribute positively to the region's craft and design landscape. She emphasised that NIFT, through its multidisciplinary approach to world-class design education, research and innovation across Fashion Communication, Textile Design, Lifestyle Accessories and Fashion Design, has the potential to contribute to diverse sectors and emerging opportunities.

A distinctive feature of Payaam was its thoughtfully conceptualised event environment, curated and executed by Arshad Mushtaq, CIC, NIFT Srinagar, and his team. Designed around the theme of Earth and Soil, the exhibition space reflected a conscious design philosophy rooted in sustainability, nature and cultural identity. Guests were felicitated with plant saplings, turning a simple gesture of hospitality into a statement of environmental responsibility. The overall spatial design and presentation reflected NIFT's commitment to quality, thoughtful aesthetics and professional event design.

With the participation of numerous organisations and their representatives, Payaam became a melting pot of ideas, perspectives and possibilities. Its emphasis on meaningful engagement and a quality audience helped create an atmosphere of creative energy, professional networking and cross-disciplinary exchange.

The Valedictory Ceremony, marking the successful conclusion of the three-day showcase, was attended by Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, Joint Director, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Kashmir. On the occasion.

DC Ganderbal reviews progress on creation of Farmer IDs under AgriStack

■ Farooq Rather



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today chaired a meeting at the VC Room, Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal, to review the progress of Farmer ID creation under the AgriStack initiative.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal; Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Ganderbal; Tehsildars; Naib Tehsildars, Patwaris; and other concerned officials.

During the meeting, the village-wise progress of Farmer ID creation across all Tehsils of the district was reviewed in detail.

The DC directed the concerned officers to formulate and assign daily targets for each village to ensure accelerated registration of farmers under the initiative. She also instructed the revenue functionaries to organize dedicated village-level camps to facilitate farmers in the registration process and achieve the prescribed targets within the shortest possible time frame.

Yasha Mudgal reviews PACS computerisation, CAPEX expenditure; stresses timely execution

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 17: Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Civil Secretariat to assess the functioning of the Cooperative Department, progress under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, implementation of infrastructure projects and financial performance across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Registrar Cooperative Societies (RCS), J&K; Additional Registrars, Joint Registrars (Audit, Special, and Banking & Finance); all Deputy Registrars; Managing Directors/ Chief Executive Officers of Cooperative Banks and other senior officers of the Administrative Department.

The Registrar Cooperative Societies, made a detailed presentation on the physical and financial progress of major departmental initiatives. These included computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), business diversification, National Cooperative Database, e-governance initiatives, grain storage infrastructure and CAPEX expenditure. Reviewing PACS computerization, the meeting was informed that 537 PACS have been computerized under Phase-I and are operational on the e-PACS platform while 171 additional PACS have been identified under Phase-II. The Detailed Project Report for the second phase has been prepared and the requisite fund requisition submitted.

The Commissioner Secretary directed the RCS to ensure that all Phase-I PACS undertake end-to-end digital transactions through the e-PACS platform with regular monitoring of their functionality and timely resolution of technical issues. She directed the concerned officers to expedite hardware procurement and complete Phase-II computerization within the stipulated timeframe.

Reviewing the business diversification, Yasha Mudgal was informed that 535 PACS are functioning as Common Service Centres (CSCs), 174 have been upgraded as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samriddhi Kendras (PMKSKs), with 307 PACS holding fertilizer licences while 45 PACS are operational as Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMJAKs) against the UT-level target of 100. Emphasizing the need to transform PACS into financially sustainable Multipurpose PACS (M-PACS), the Commissioner Secretary stressed that these institutions must move beyond traditional



credit activities and emerge as vibrant rural service delivery centres. She directed all Deputy Registrars to prepare district-wise action plans and achieve the pending targets for establishment of PMKSKs and PMJAKs within two months. She also stressed that existing CSCs, PMKSKs and PMJAKs must expand their services and commercial activities to generate sustainable revenue and improve their financial viability. The progress of projects under the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan was also reviewed. The meeting was informed that two godowns, each having a capacity of 2,500 MT, are under execution at Turkpora, Handwara, Kupwara, at a cost of 500 lakh with 70% physical progress and at Mirhama, Kulgam, at a cost of 563 lakh with 65% progress, under SASCI. The 1,000 MT pilot grain storage project at Rajbagh, Kathua, being executed through NBCC, has achieved 80% physical progress. Newly recommended sites identified by FCI in Rajouri and Reasi districts were also discussed. Highlighting the importance of grain storage infrastructure in strengthening rural supply chains and reducing post-harvest losses, Yasha Mudgal directed the concerned officers and executing agencies to accelerate construction, undertake regular inspections and resolve implementation-related bottlenecks. She categorically directed that all ongoing projects must be completed by the end of March 2027 while ensuring adherence to prescribed quality standards and timely utilization of funds. The Commissioner Secretary also reviewed the National Cooperative Database (NCD), wherein 95% of cooperative societies, comprising 8,455 societies, have been re-verified for their functional status while 821 societies have been geo-tagged. She directed the concerned officers to complete the remaining verification and geo-tagging exercise on priority and ensure accuracy and regular updating of the database for effective planning and monitoring.

Regarding computerization of the Registrar Cooperative Societies Office, the meeting was informed that the hardware component has been completed and the implementing agency, finalized through NICSI, has commenced development of the e-RCS Portal. The Commissioner Secretary directed the RCS and the implementing agency to expedite its development, establish clear implementation milestones and ensure its timely operationalization to improve transparency, efficiency and departmental service delivery. Yasha Mudgal also reviewed the CAPEX Budget 2026–27, assessing the physical and financial progress of departmental works. She directed all concerned officers to expedite the pending administrative approvals, tendering and other procedural formalities, identify works witnessing slow progress and take immediate corrective measures to achieve the prescribed targets within the current financial year.

Massive Enrolment Drive in Education Zone Handwara; Over 150 Students Enrolled in Government Schools

■ HT News Network



HANDWARA, NOVEMBER 17: Education Zone Handwara organised a massive enrolment drive across two clusters, witnessing an encouraging public response, with more than 150 students enrolled in government schools.

The programme was graced by Joint Director, (JD), North, Hakeem Tanveer, as the Chief Guest, while Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javeed Naseem Masoodi, attended as the Guest of Honour. Zonal Education Officer (ZEO), Handwara, was also present on the occasion.

The enrolment drive aimed to encourage parents to enrol their children in government educational institutions and familiarise them with the facilities, opportunities and educational support available in government schools. The initiative also focused on highlighting the importance of education and ensuring that every child has access to quality education.

The enrolment of more than 150 students across the two clusters marks a significant achievement for Education Zone Handwara. The enthusiastic response reflects growing public participation in efforts to strengthen government education and expand educational opportunities for children.

The presence of senior officials from the Education Department and the Sub-Divisional Administration underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in promoting school enrolment, improving the quality of education and strengthening public confidence in government educational institutions.

The initiative reaffirms the Education Department's commitment to promoting inclusive education, improving enrolment and ensuring that every child gets the opportunity to learn and grow in a supportive educational environment.

Education Zone Handwara reiterated its commitment to further strengthening the public education system and continuing efforts to motivate parents to choose government schools for their children's education.

CUKashmir's Deptt of Law holds seminar on 'How to Crack the IAS and Other Competitive Exams'

■ HT News Network



Ganderbal, Nov 16: Department of Law, School of Legal Studies (SLS), Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir), in collaboration with Roots IAS Academy, organised an open seminar on "How to Crack the IAS and Other Competitive Examinations" here on Monday.

Addressing the gathering, Dean and Head, SLS, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir emphasized the importance of hard work, dedication and consistency in achieving success in civil services and other competitive examinations. He encouraged students to start preparing for their career goals from an early stage and remain committed to their aspirations. He cited examples of various individuals who had successfully qualified competitive examinations, highlighting that determination, perseverance and sustained efforts are essential ingredients of success. He motivated students to recognize their capabilities, utilize available opportunities and develop a positive approach towards their academic and professional goals

Invited guest, Dr. Urfan, from the JKPS 2020 batch, shared valuable insights and practical guidance on how to crack IAS and other competitive examinations. Drawing upon his experience, he provided students with useful tips regarding examination preparation. He highlighted the importance of understanding the prescribed syllabus, identifying important areas of study and adopting a systematic preparation strategy. He emphasized that aspirants should prepare in accordance with the requirements of the examination rather than engaging in unstructured and directionless study. Another guest speaker, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, from the JKPS 2024 batch, advised students to start their preparation from the very beginning of their academic journey rather than waiting until the completion of their degrees. He elaborated on the dos and don'ts of competitive examination preparation and explained the importance of making informed decisions during the preparation process. He particularly stressed the selection of the right optional subject, taking into consideration its scoring potential, the aspirant's interest and understanding of the subject. He encouraged students to avoid unnecessary distractions, follow a disciplined routine and make strategic academic choices to improve their prospects of success.

Syed Dawood Bini Salam, from the JKPS 2026 batch, emphasised the importance of smart work alongside hard work. He advised students to maintain consistency throughout their preparation journey and develop an effective strategy for achieving their goals. He highlighted that success in competitive examinations requires not merely long hours of study but also intelligent planning, proper utilisation of resources and sustained commitment.Ms. Nitisha Dhar, Managing Director of Roots IAS Academy, along with Mr. Asif Iqbal, faculty member, encouraged students to work hard and remain dedicated to their career aspirations. They highlighted the importance of professional guidance, academic support and structured coaching in preparing for civil services and other competitive examinations.

In his speech, Dr. Jehirul Islam, Associate Prof. and Dean of Students' Welfare (DSW), encouraged students to work hard, remain focused and pursue their ambitions.

ADCC Organises One-Day Youth Cultural Fest 'Udaan' at Ganderbal

■ GULFAM BARJI



Ganderbal/Nov:17 Azad Dramatic Cultural Club "ADCC" in collaboration with Syed Baba Shakoor-ud-Din (RA) Hanafia School Kujer Ganderbal organised a one-day Youth Cultural Fest titled 'Udaan' to provide a platform for young talent and encourage creative and artistic expression.The festival was organised under the Ministry of Culture, Govt, of India's approved scheme " Guru-Shishya Parampara Repertory Grant' with the theme "Dream, Perform and Soar High"During the festival school students presented traditional Rouf, Qawwali, skits and discussions on theatre. Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar presented Ladishah while artists associated with Azad Dramatic Cultural Club "ADCC' staged a play titled 'Udaan' which received appreciation from the audience.The play featured Nisar Ahmad Bhat, Mehraj-ud-Din Bhat, Mushtaq Ahmad Dar, Masoom Ramzan and Master Abdul Samad Mir whose performances were appreciated by the audience.Speaking on the occasion Master Abdul Samad Mir encouraged students to actively participate in theatre and cultural activities alongside their academic pursuits.The festival was organised by Masoom Ramzan and Ghulam Rasool Lone.

HOLY HOME SCHOOL ORGANISES ULTIMATE FITNESS BATTLE 2026

■ HT News Network



Holy Home School successfully organised the Holy Home Ultimate Fitness Battle 2026 on 17th November 2026, witnessing great enthusiasm, energy and sportsmanship among students

The event was organised with the aim of promoting physical fitness, discipline, confidence and a healthy competitive spirit among young learners. Students participated enthusiastically and showcased their strength, stamina, determination and sporting abilities. The programme provided an exciting platform for young champions to challenge themselves, demonstrate their talents and learn the importance of teamwork, dedication and perseverance.

The event was marked by an atmosphere of excitement, encouragement and sportsmanship. The school management appreciated the efforts of all participants, teachers and guests who contributed to making the programme a memorable success. Holy Home School continues to encourage students to stay active, build confidence and embrace a healthy lifestyle.

J&K to implement 25% reservation for EWS, disadvantaged children in Private Schools soon: Education Minister

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 17: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir is set to implement the provision of Section 12(1)(c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, providing for 25 per cent reservation of entry-level seats in private schools for children belonging to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and disadvantaged groups.

The landmark initiative is aimed at promoting inclusive education, ensuring equitable access to quality schooling and extending greater educational opportunities to children from underprivileged backgrounds.

This was announced by Minister for Education and Jal Shakti, Shamim Firdous, during a detailed review meeting held with senior officers of the School Education Department, representatives of private school associations, parents' associations and members of civil society.

The Minister informed the meeting that the rules governing the implementation of Section 12(1)(c) are in the final stage of notification and will be issued shortly. Under this provision, 25 per cent of the prescribed entry-level seats in private schools will be reserved for eligible children belonging to EWS and disadvantaged groups. The Government will reimburse schools for admissible expenditure incurred on their free and compulsory education in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures.

The initiative is expected to strengthen social inclusion in education and enable children from economically weaker and disadvantaged backgrounds to access educational opportunities in private schools alongside the existing public education system.The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, School Education, R. N. Sharma; Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), Sheikh Ghulam Hassan; Director, State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), and Director, School Education Jammu, Naseem Javaid Chowdhary; Director, Samagra Shiksha, Bhawani Rakhwal; and Director, School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani, besides other officers and stakeholder representatives.

2-day national conference on emerging technologies for governance, development planning in J&K begins at IUST

■ HT News Network



Awantipora, Nov 17: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) commenced its two-day National Conference on 'Emerging Technologies for Governance and Development Planning in Jammu and Kashmir: Policy and Implementation' on Tuesday. The conference is being organised by the Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis (CGG&PA), IUST, in collaboration with the Centre for Good Governance (CGG), Hyderabad, and the Information Technology Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister for Health, Medical Education and Social Welfare, J&K, Ms. Sakina Masood Itoo, who graced the occasion as chief guest, said, technology can make government services more transparent and accessible, especially in the health sector, where difficult terrain and seasonal cut-offs hinder timely care. Digital systems, she said, can map remote habitations, track ambulances, flag high-risk pregnancies, enable tele-consultation and ensure early detection of outbreaks. She said, while e-UNNAT with 1500+ services denotes a significant progress, digital governance must ensure accountability beyond online availability. She added that Artificial Intelligence can assist doctors in diagnosis in underserved areas, but must not replace human supervision with strict protection of patient data. "Universities must go beyond classrooms to become centres of research and innovation, collaborating with departments and hospitals to develop practical solutions for J&K," said Ms. Itoo, who also inaugurated the Faculty Residential Quarters at IUST Main Campus.Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST, highlighted that the Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis, established just a year ago, has emerged as one of the University's most vibrant and proactive centres, fostering meaningful engagement between academia and policymaking.

Expressing confidence that the two-day conference would generate valuable insights, institutional partnerships and practical policy recommendations, Prof. Romshoo emphasised, "The conference must culminate in a focused and actionable Policy and Implementation Roadmap for Technology-Enabled Governance in J&K, identifying high-impact interventions that can be piloted, evaluated and scaled across departments and districts."

He further underscored, "Our vision must be a Jammu and Kashmir where every village, institution and citizen benefits from intelligent, inclusive and sustainable governance, with technology serving as an instrument of transparency, accountability and equitable development."

NIT Srinagar's faculty member invited to deliver Advanced Course at Prestigious French Research Laboratory

Dr Rameez Raja to conduct 15-day programme on coding theory, and its interactions with algebraic and geometric structures at Universite Paris 8.

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Nov 17: In a significant international academic recognition for the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Dr. Rameez Raja, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics, has been invited to deliver a 15-day Short-Term Advanced Course at the prestigious Laboratoire d'Analyse et de Mathématiques Appliquées (LAGA), Université Paris 8, Paris, France.

The advanced course, titled "The Interplay of Coding Theory with Algebraic and Geometric Structures," will focus on specialised areas of mathematical research, bringing together key concepts of coding theory, algebraic structures and geometry. The programme is supported by Université Paris 8 and the Government of France.

LAGA is an internationally recognised research laboratory associated with the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). Dr. Rameez Raja's invitation provides an opportunity to represent NIT Srinagar at an established international research institution and contribute to its academic programme through advanced lectures and research interactions.

The 15-day academic engagement is expected to facilitate scholarly exchange, discussions on emerging mathematical research and opportunities for strengthening international collaboration in coding theory, combinatorics and representation theory.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, congratulated Dr. Rameez and said this invitation is a significant recognition of the academic and research capabilities of our faculty. Representing NIT Srinagar at a prestigious French research laboratory is a proud moment for the Institute.



"We remain committed to creating an academic environment that enables our faculty to contribute to global research and establish meaningful international collaborations," he said.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, said that such international academic engagements reflect the growing research visibility of NIT Srinagar.

"Dr. Rameez's invitation demonstrates the importance of sustained academic contributions and provides an excellent platform for strengthening institutional linkages with leading international research centres," he said.

Head of the Department of Mathematics, Prof. Zamrooda Jabeen, said it is a matter of great pride for the Department that Dr. Rameez Raja has been invited to deliver an advanced course at Université Paris 8. The 15-day academic engagement is expected to facilitate scholarly exchange, discussions on emerging mathematical research and opportunities for strengthening international collaboration in coding theory, combinatorics and representation theory.

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HT EDITORIAL

Rotten Meat Returns to Haunt Kashmir: Time for the Government to Act Decisively

Kashmir's hotel and restaurant sector has seen this movie before, and it is not one anyone wants to watch again. Traders in the Valley have now warned of a shutdown unless the government acts against rotten meat traders, after police and food safety officers seized 2,000 kilograms of spoiled meat on the outskirts of Srinagar last week. The consignments had travelled by rail without the mandatory temperature controls. Coming barely a year after a similar crisis battered the hospitality industry and drove away footfall, the message from the trade is clear: the authorities cannot afford complacency.

The concern is not merely commercial. Meat that is transported without refrigeration poses a direct threat to public health, and the discovery of one large consignment raises an unsettling question. If this much spoiled produce was caught during a routine inspection, how much more passed through unchecked? Traders and the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry have rightly demanded a comprehensive investigation into the scale of the problem, including whether any of this meat has already reached consumers. Those are questions the government must answer publicly, not quietly.

The traders' ultimatum of seven days is a sign of frustration, and it deserves a serious response. Enforcement must go beyond seizures at the point of discovery. It requires tighter monitoring of transport routes, consistent cold-chain checks at railheads and entry points, meaningful penalties for those who put profit ahead of safety, and regular public reporting on inspections. A seizure makes headlines; a sustained system protects people.

Religious leaders have also added their voice. The Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulama has called for Friday sermons across mosques focused on food adulteration, stressing public awareness, collective responsibility, and government accountability. When faith leaders, business bodies, and hoteliers all sound the same alarm, the issue has moved well beyond a single enforcement drive. It has become a matter of public trust.

Honest businesses in Kashmir depend on consumer confidence, and consumers depend on the assurance that what reaches their plates is safe. Restoring that confidence will take more than statements. It will take a visible, sustained crackdown on those who trade in rotten meat, and a food safety system robust enough to stop it at the gate. The government has the opportunity to show it is listening. It should take it.

Sooner the better sense prevails to put the mess in order. We need to act collectively before it is actually too late...

A Better Future Through Education



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Kashmir should spend more on education, not on expensive Kashmiri Wazwan or other costly customs.

What if we become more alert, intelligent, educated, responsible, and kind to one another? What if we start thinking beyond our own interests and work for the good of society? These qualities can bring positive change to our communities and help us build a better future.

We know that we are still behind many developed countries in many areas. But we have great talent, young people, and chances to start businesses and industries. However, many people do not get enough exposure to the outside world, proper guidance, or enough private-sector jobs. Because of this, many talented people cannot achieve their dreams.

Today, the whole world is like one global village. Technology and the internet connect people from different countries and cultures. We can learn new skills, find business opportunities, gain knowledge, and learn from successful people while sitting at home. So, we cannot always say that we do not have awareness or opportunities. The world is changing fast. We must also change our thinking and our way of working.

Some people believe they can do great things, but they cannot move forward because of money problems, lack of basic facilities, or limited opportunities. My advice to them is simple: if you believe you can do something great, do not let difficulties stop you forever. Open your mind, think big, learn from others, and keep trying. Sometimes, the biggest problem is not outside us. It is inside our own thinking.

What Is Encouragement?

Encouragement is one of the strongest sources of motivation in life. It gives us confidence to move forward, even when conditions are difficult.

I am a person with physical limitations, but I try to share my thoughts through my articles. I am thankful to every newspaper that



gives space to my ideas and encourages me to write. For me, encouragement is not only a few words of praise. It is a strong force that helps a person believe in their abilities and do something useful for society.

We should encourage one another, especially young people. A student who wants to become a scientist, a young person who wants to start a business, or someone who wants to become a writer should get proper guidance and motivation. We should never discourage people because of their financial condition or present situation.

But encouragement should always be for good goals. Our efforts should help society, support humanity, and help future generations. True encouragement helps people become responsible citizens.

Responsible Use of Social Media

Social media is now an important part of our daily life. Many social-media anchors and content creators talk about problems in our society. They can bring attention to issues that people may otherwise ignore.

However, before posting about any issue, we must think about its results. We should ask ourselves: Will this post or video create awareness, or will it only get views and followers? Will it help someone, or will it create hatred and misunderstanding in society?

We should highlight every issue responsibly. Topics like crime, domestic violence, and other serious social problems should be handled carefully and according to the law. We should not use social media to support violence, spread rumours, or harm someone's reputation without proper information.

Social media can be a powerful tool for positive change if we use it wisely. We can talk about educational needs, environmental problems, public issues, development work, and the achievements of talented people. Our goal should be to educate society, not mislead it.

Kashmiri Wazwan and Our Responsibility

While thinking about these issues, I also thought about Kashmiri weddings and our traditional Wazwan.

Wazwan is an important part of Kashmiri culture. It shows our hospitality, traditional cooking skills, and the warmth with which we welcome guests. It is a matter of cultural pride, and we should protect our traditions. But we must also think about the money problems caused by unnecessary spending at weddings.

For many years, we have followed certain customs without thinking about their economic and social effects. Even families with limited money sometimes feel pressure to arrange expensive weddings. They fear criticism from relatives, neighbours, or society.

Wazwan itself is not the problem. The problem starts when we turn a beautiful tradition into a competition of wealth and status. Some families spend more than they can afford to arrange grand weddings. After the celebrations, they spend years repaying loans and clearing debts.

We must understand that a wedding is a happy occasion, not a money competition. Its real purpose is to bring two families together and start a new chapter of life. There is no need to spend beyond our means to impress others.

We should follow a balanced approach to our customs. Let us protect our traditions, but avoid unnecessary expenses. A simple wedding can also be beautiful, memorable, and full of happiness.

Imagine if we used the money spent on unnecessary arrangements for the education of our children. How many talented students could get better opportunities? How many young people could complete higher education? How many families could support their children in reaching their professional goals?

This is something we must seriously think about.

Invest in Education

Education is one of the best investments we can make for our future. Every parent wants to give their children a better life. But this dream can come true only when we give education the importance it deserves.

We should use our money wisely and give priority to our children's education. A talented student should never have to give up a dream because of financial problems.

We should also stop depending on the government for every improvement in our lives. The government has an important duty to provide basic facilities, good education, healthcare, and jobs. But citizens also have duties towards society.

The government has built schools, colleges, and universities. It also spends a lot of public money on education. We should use these facilities properly and encourage our children to value education. At the same time, we should raise real concerns where improvements are needed.

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The Exams Are Approaching

Now Is the Time to Work Hard



Dr. Vijay Garg

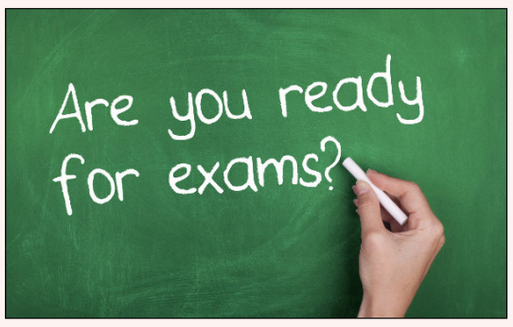
The examination season is gradually approaching. Schools are busy completing the syllabus, conducting revision sessions and preparing students for their examinations. This is a very important period for students, as their year-long learning, practice and hard work will soon be assessed through examinations. It is not merely a time to secure good marks but also an opportunity to recognise one's abilities, overcome weaknesses and develop self-confidence.

The approaching examinations remind students that it is time to become serious about their studies. They should avoid postponing their learning throughout the year, spending unnecessary time on mobile phones and social media, and depending entirely on last-minute preparation. Success requires regular effort, discipline and hard work in the right direction.

Time Management: The First Step Towards Success

Time management plays a significant role in examination preparation. Students should prepare a practical timetable covering all subjects. Difficult subjects should receive additional attention, while easier subjects should also be revised regularly.

A good timetable should provide sufficient time not only for studies but also for rest, sports, meals and proper sleep. Instead of studying continuously for several hours, shorter



and focused study sessions can be more effective. Setting small daily targets makes learning organised and increases confidence.

Focus on Understanding Rather Than Rote Learning

Simply memorising facts and answers is not enough to achieve good results. Students should try to understand the basic concepts of every subject. In Mathematics, regular practice of formulas and problem-solving is essential. In Science, students should understand principles, experiments, scientific reasoning, diagrams and their applications in everyday life.

Similarly, in Social Science, students should understand the causes and consequences of historical events rather than merely memorising dates and facts. In languages, developing grammar, writing skills, vocabulary and comprehension is equally important.

Modern examinations increasingly emphasise conceptual understanding, logical reasoning and the practical application of knowledge rather than simple memorisation. Therefore, students should develop the habit of understanding the concepts behind every question.

Practise Sample Papers and Previous Years' Question Papers

Practising previous years' question papers and the latest sample papers is extremely useful for effective examination preparation. It familiarises students with different question formats, examination patterns, difficulty levels and time management.

Board examination students should pay special attention to the latest syllabus, official sample papers and marking schemes. Practice books published by private publishers can be used for additional preparation, but prescribed textbooks, particularly NCERT textbooks for CBSE students, should remain the primary learning resource.

While solving sample papers, students should create an examination-like environment. They should complete the entire paper within the prescribed time and evaluate their answers afterwards. Identifying mistakes and correcting them is essential. Simply solving papers is not enough; learning from mistakes is even more important.

Identify and Overcome Your Weaknesses

Every student has a different learning ability and pace. Some students find Mathematics difficult, others need more time to understand scientific concepts, while some struggle with writing skills in languages. Instead of hiding their weaknesses, students should identify them before the examinations. Chapters that are difficult should be studied again. They should not hesitate to seek guidance from teachers, classmates and parents. Repeated practice of challenging questions gradually develops confidence.

When Screens Replace Parents

Understanding Mobile Addiction Among Children in Kashmir



Dr. Uzma Naqash

The impact on children's mental health, emotional development, behaviour, and the growing responsibility of parents

Childhood is meant to be a time of exploration, imagination, learning and meaningful human connections. However, in today's digital age, an increasing number of children are spending valuable hours in front of mobile screens. In Kashmir, smartphones have become a familiar part of family life, influencing how children play, learn, communicate and spend their leisure time.

What may begin as a source of entertainment can gradually become an unhealthy pattern of dependence. Children who once enjoyed outdoor games, storytelling, family conversations and friendships may increasingly turn to mobile games, short videos and online content. This changing pattern raises an important question: are screens beginning to take the place of meaningful parental interaction?

The Hidden Impact on Childhood

Excessive screen use can affect several aspects of a child's development. It may contribute to sleep difficulties, reduced physical activity, challenges with attention and concentration, and problems with emotional regulation. Younger children especially need real-life interaction, play, communication and parental affection to support healthy cognitive, social and emotional development.



Another concern arises when children increasingly rely on phones to manage boredom, frustration or uncomfortable emotions. If a screen becomes the immediate answer to every difficult moment, children may have fewer opportunities to practise patience, creativity, problem-solving and independent coping skills.

Where Is the Role of Parents?

Parents do not need to keep children completely away from technology. Their responsibility is to teach children how to use it safely, purposefully and in moderation. Children learn habits by observing adults; when parents themselves spend excessive time on their phones, it becomes harder to establish healthy digital boundaries at home.

Parents can set age-appropriate screen limits, keep mealtimes and bedrooms screen-free, encourage outdoor activities, and make time for reading, storytelling, hobbies and family conversations. A predictable daily routine—with time for study, play, rest and family interaction—can make these limits easier for children to follow. Most importantly, children need attentive relationships and consistent guidance—not simply another device to occupy their time.

A Wake-Up Call for Kashmiri Families

Families, schools and communities in Kashmir all have a role in promoting healthy digital habits. Schools can strengthen digital-awareness education, while parents can learn about the possible effects of excessive screen use and seek professional guidance if a child's phone use is persistently disrupting sleep, learning, relationships or everyday functioning.

Instead of blaming children, adults should examine the environment and routines they create. Technology is not the enemy: smartphones can support learning and communication when used appropriately. The concern is uncontrolled use and the loss of balance between online activity and the real-world experiences children need. If screen use repeatedly affects a child's sleep, schoolwork, mood or relationships, parents should respond calmly, set consistent boundaries and seek professional advice when needed.

Conclusion: Give Children Their Childhood Back

A smartphone can provide information, entertainment and convenience, but it cannot replace a parent's embrace, a meaningful conversation, a playground friendship or the emotional security of family life. Protecting childhood begins at home. Let conversations be stronger than notifications, family time more valuable than screen time, and human connection more important than constant scrolling.

A KEY MESSAGE FOR PARENTS

"Your child may forget the game you downloaded, but will remember the time you spent with them. Put the phone down, look into your child's eyes, listen, play and connect. No screen should ever become a substitute for a parent's love, attention and guidance."

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Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees.



By M S Nazki

Arunachal has many stories to tell and this is one of them!

-Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The hills are a great healer, for in them you will find solace and strength. To climb steep hills requires a slow pace at first. now suddenly there was nothing but a world of cloud, and we three were there alone in the middle of a great white plain with snowy hills and mountains staring at us; and it was very still; but there were whispers. It's all still there in heart and soul. The walk, the hills, the sky, the solitary pain and pleasure-they will grow larger, sweeter, lovelier in the days and years to come

-The inspiring story of the Spear Corps' daughter is about Milli Yabi, a 12-year-old girl from the remote village of Sarli in Arunachal Pradesh who made history by becoming the first child from her village to secure admission to the prestigious Sainik School Siang.

-The Background:

-An Isolated Village: Sarli is a remote area located roughly 350 kilometers from Itanagar with limited educational infrastructure.

-A Dream Ignited: Despite the isolation, local children were deeply motivated to join the Armed Forces, inspired by the dedication and presence of the Indian Army personnel stationed in the region.

The Indian Army's Spear Corps Intervention:

-Mentorship Initiative: Recognizing this local aspiration, the Indian Army's Spear Corps launched a special mentorship program in May 2024.

-Soldiers as Teachers: Army personnel stationed in the border area stepped in to tutor and prepare the children specifically for the NTA-conducted Sainik School entrance exams.

Mili Yabi's Achievement:

Breaking Barriers: Through quiet determination and structured guidance from the Spear Corps, young Milli Yabi cracked the entrance examination.

Making History: She became the first-ever student from Sarli village to enter Sainik School Siang, turning what once felt like an impossible dream into reality with the backing of her community

These are results for areas of operations under Spear Corps Indian Army

-The Spear Corps of the Indian Army has its headquarters at Rangapahar Military Station in Dimapur, Nagaland. It operates under the Eastern Command.

-Geographic Coverage: Responsible for counter-insurgency operations in the Northeast and high-altitude border defense along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

-Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram: Focuses heavily on counter-insurgency, anti-militancy, and joint operations with the Assam Rifles, state police, and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

-Arunachal Pradesh: Responsible for the central and eastern sectors along the LAC.

-Order of Battle: Includes formations such as the 2 Mountain Division, 56 Infantry Division, 57 Mountain Division, and support units.

-The Spear Corps (of the Indian Army is a vital mountain-holding and counter-insurgency formation headquartered at Rangapahar Military Station in Dimapur, Nagaland.

• Designation: (Spear Corps)

• Headquarters: Rangapahar Military Station, Dimapur, Nagaland

• Command: Eastern Command, Indian Army

• Current Commander: Lt Gen Girish Kalia (since May 1, 2026)

• Area of Responsibility: Security across Northeast India—including Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh—as well as international borders with China (Line of Actual Control), Myanmar, and Bangladesh.

-History & Evolution

• World War I (Tigris Corps): The lineage of the corps traces back to 1915–1919 in Mesopotamia during World War I, where it was originally designated as the Tigris Corps.



• World War II: It was re-activated in 1941–1942 during World War II, seeing action in the Malaya and Singapore campaigns before the surrender at Singapore.

• Re-raising in Modern India: The modern HQ Spear Corps was formally raised on February 4, 1985, to tackle growing security challenges, insurgency, and border defense in the northeastern frontier.

Core Role & Operations

• Counter-Insurgency: Operates extensively in the Northeast to maintain internal security, coordinate joint operations with forces like the Assam Rifles, and curb militant and drug-trafficking networks.

• High-Altitude & Border Defense: Manages mountain and holding roles along parts of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China and vulnerable international borders.

• Civic & Community Engagement: Regularly conducts youth empowerment programs (such as Sainik School mentorship and skill drives), national integration tours, and infrastructure support projects in remote villages.

More details on active formations and current updates can be followed via official government portals like the Press Information Bureau or reference overviews on Wikipedia.

-The Spear of the Indian Army plays a vital role in counter-insurgency, security coordination, and stability operations across Northeast India, particularly in states like Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh.

-Role and Operations of the Spear Corps

• Counter-Insurgency & Joint Operations: Operating closely with the Assam Rifles, state police forces, and intelligence agencies, Spear Corps

conducts targeted intelligence-based operations to apprehend active insurgent cadres, disrupt cross-border exfiltration networks, and recover illegal arms and explosives.

• Border Security & Exfiltration Control: The corps monitors porous international borders (such as near Myanmar and Mizoram) to curb illegal movement, weapons smuggling, and insurgent sanctuaries. Recent actions include apprehending cross-border operatives and neutralizing improvised explosive devices (IEDs) along sensitive routes in areas like Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

• Regional Security Coordination: Spear Corps regularly organizes multi-agency operational reviews—such as Quarterly Operational Group Meetings involving the Army, Assam Rifles, state police, and intelligence services—to harmonize security grids, especially ahead of national events like Independence Day.

• Civic Action & Civil-Military Integration: Beyond kinetic operations, the corps engages in community development, humanitarian assistance, and infrastructure support (such as water supply projects, solar street lighting, youth training via NCC, and disaster relief like fire control) to build local trust and foster stability.

-Context of Insurgency in the Northeast

• Nature of Conflict: Insurgency in Northeast India involves various armed groups seeking ethnic autonomy, separate statehood, or sovereignty, driven by historical, ethnic, and economic factors.

• Evolving Landscape: While the region has seen major peace accords (such as in Mizoram and Tripura) and an overall decline in large-scale violence, localized challenges—particularly ethnic tensions and residual militant presence in states like Manipur and Nagaland—persist.

• Strategy: The government and security forces like the Spear Corps combine active counter-insurgency with de-weaponization initiatives, intelligence integration, and civic outreach to transition the region toward enduring peace.

-The Spear Corps of the Indian Army, headquartered in Dimapur, Nagaland, operates primarily as a mountain and counter-insurgency corps responsible for safeguarding India's eastern borders (including the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh) and conducting anti-militancy and security operations across the Northeast.

-Key Roles and Responsibilities

• Counter-Insurgency & Security: Combating militant groups and maintaining law and order in northeastern states like Manipur, Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Tripura.

• Border Defense: Guarding the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and high-altitude frontiers.

The Elections And Voting



By M S Nazki

Democracy is not simply a system of government but it is a shared responsibility between the people and their elected representatives. Its real strength lies in the freedom of citizens to choose their leaders and decide the direction in which their country should move. Elections and voting are therefore not merely political activities but essential instruments of public participation, equality and national development. The quality of a democracy depends not only on the leaders who govern but also on the awareness and responsibility of the people who elect them.

India, the world's largest democracy, provides every eligible citizen aged 18 years or above with the right to vote, subject to the legal requirements. This right reflects the principle of universal adult franchise, under which every vote carries equal value, irrespective of a person's wealth, caste, religion, gender, education or social position. A poor citizen and a wealthy citizen stand equal when they enter the polling booth. This equality is one of the greatest achievements of democratic governance.

Elections provide people with an opportunity to select representatives who can understand their problems, protect their interests and work for the development of society. They also ensure that political power does not remain permanently in the hands of a particular individual or group. A government that fails to fulfil its responsibilities can be peacefully replaced through the electoral process. In this way, elections make political leaders accountable to the people and strengthen the foundation of democratic institutions.

However, the importance of voting goes far beyond selecting a government. It gives citizens a voice in matters that directly affect their everyday lives, including education, healthcare, employment, agriculture, environmental protection, infrastructure and public safety. The policies made by elected representatives influence almost every aspect of society. Therefore, choosing the right representatives is one of the most important decisions a citizen can make.

Despite its importance, voting is often treated casually by a section of society. Some people avoid voting because they believe that one vote cannot make a difference. Others consider election day merely an additional holiday. Such attitudes are harmful to democracy. Every vote contributes to the collective decision of the nation. When responsible citizens refuse to participate, they indirectly weaken the democratic process and allow others to make decisions on their behalf. A single vote may appear small, but millions of individual votes together determine the future of a country.

Another serious concern is the growing influence of money power, caste-based politics, religious divisions and false promises during elections. In some situations, voters are influenced by gifts, financial benefits, emotional speeches or temporary political attractions rather than the actual abilities and performance of candidates. This weakens the spirit of democracy. Elections should be contests of ideas, policies, honesty and public service, not competitions based on wealth, hatred or personal influence.



The misuse of social media has created another challenge for modern democracy. Fake news, misleading advertisements, manipulated videos and unverified political messages can influence public opinion. Many people share information without checking its authenticity, which creates confusion and sometimes encourages social divisions. In such circumstances, an informed voter must develop the habit of questioning, verifying and understanding information before forming an opinion. Political awareness is as important as the right to vote.

The Election Commission of India plays a significant role in protecting the democratic process by organising elections and ensuring that they

are conducted according to constitutional and legal provisions. The use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) has become an important part of India's electoral arrangements. Nevertheless, technology alone cannot guarantee a healthy democracy. Transparency, accountability, public awareness and respect for electoral rules are equally necessary.

The role of young voters deserves special attention. Young people represent the hopes, energy and future of the nation. Their participation can encourage political leaders to focus on quality education, employment opportunities, scientific progress, environmental sustainability, women's safety and social justice. However, young voters must not allow themselves to be carried away by popularity, political slogans or online campaigns. They should evaluate candidates on the basis of character, competence, public service and their commitment to national development.

It is equally important to understand that voting is both a democratic right and a moral responsibility. An ideal voter should make an independent decision without fear, greed, pressure or prejudice. The choice of a candidate should be guided by honesty, ability and concern for public welfare rather than caste, religion, language or personal gain. Citizens must also respect the choices of others because disagreement is a natural and healthy feature of democracy.

Strengthening democracy requires collective efforts. Schools and colleges should organise voter-awareness programmes to educate students about democratic values and responsible citizenship.

Political parties should encourage capable and honest candidates. Strict action should be taken against electoral malpractice, bribery and intimidation. Citizens should also demand accountability from their elected representatives even after elections are over. Democracy should not become active only during election campaigns; it must remain a continuous process of participation and public responsibility.

Ultimately, the strength of a nation cannot be measured only by its economic growth, military power or technological achievements. It must also be judged by the quality of its democratic institutions and the awareness of its citizens. A strong democracy needs honest leaders, independent institutions and responsible voters. Elections provide the opportunity to choose a better future, but it is the wisdom of the voters that determines whether this opportunity is used effectively.

We must remember that voting is not merely the act of pressing a button or marking a ballot. It is an expression of hope, trust and responsibility towards future generations. We should never exchange this valuable right for money, gifts or temporary benefits. Instead, we must use it thoughtfully to build a society based on justice, equality, development and mutual respect. A vote may take only a few seconds to cast, but its impact can shape a nation's future for years. Democracy becomes stronger when citizens do not merely demand change but actively participate in creating it.

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What Teach Us falling Leaves Of Chinar



BY-MOOL RAJ

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When the Chinar sheds its leaves, Kashmir witnesses not merely the arrival of autumn but also a beautiful reminder that nothing in this world is permanent. The Chinar may shed its leaves every autumn, but it does not surrender its existence—it patiently waits for another spring, when fresh green leaves will once again emerge from its branches. This is perhaps another beautiful lesson: endings are not always final; they may simply prepare the way for new beginnings. Let us therefore protect our Chinars, plant more of them and preserve their legacy—and the next time we see a Chinar leaf falling gently in the breeze, let us not merely watch it fall; let us pause, appreciate its beauty and remember the priceless lessons it teaches us about life, time, change and the inevitability of departure.

Today, while performing my routine official duties, I suddenly found myself lost in the extraordinary beauty of nature. A gentle breeze was passing through the branches of a magnificent Chinar tree, and its leaves were slowly falling to the ground. Some were floating in the air, dancing gracefully with the breeze, while others were quietly settling on the earth. It was a mesmerising sight, one that compelled me to pause for a moment and appreciate the beauty that we often overlook in our busy daily lives. For a while, I forgot everything around me. The falling leaves seemed to be telling a story of their own. Their slow descent, their changing colours and their final separation from the tree brought a strange sense of peace, mixed with a deep philosophical thought about human life. It reminded me of a universal truth: nothing in this world is permanent. Everything that comes into existence has to pass through the stages of change, and ultimately, every living being has to perish.

Perhaps autumn is nature's most beautiful way of teaching us the meaning of life, separation and acceptance.

Watching this transformation makes one reflect on the temporary nature of existence. The leaves that once formed an inseparable part of the tree eventually have to depart. The tree, despite its enormous strength and grandeur, cannot hold on to them forever. It has to let them go as part of nature's eternal cycle. Human life is not very different. We arrive in this world, grow, experience happiness and sorrow, establish relationships, accumulate memories and develop attachments. Yet, time keeps moving, seasons keep changing, and nothing remains the same forever. People whom we love, moments that we cherish and places that hold special meaning eventually become memories. The falling Chinar leaves silently remind us that change is inevitable and that accepting it is an essential part of life. Think of a tree that has witnessed the lives of countless generations! People who once rested beneath its branches are no longer alive, but the tree continues to stand, offering shade to those who come after them. It has witnessed childhoods, friendships, family gatherings, celebrations and countless untold stories. Our ancestors enjoyed the shade of these trees, and today we continue to experience the same comfort. Perhaps our future generations will also find shelter beneath them, provided we preserve this precious natural heritage.

The Chinar has a unique ability to add grandeur and character to the Kashmiri landscape. Whether standing in a school compound, a public garden, a village courtyard, a roadside avenue or beside a water body, it enhances the beauty of its surroundings. Its presence gives Kashmir an identity that cannot easily be replicated.

There is something extraordinary about sitting beneath a Chinar. The natural shade, the gentle movement of its leaves and the cool atmosphere create an environment that refreshes both the body and mind. It becomes a place for informal conversations, moments of relaxation and a temporary escape from the pressures of daily responsibilities.

Unlike artificial cooling systems, the Chinar offers its comfort without consuming electricity or producing harmful emissions. It is nature's own air-conditioning system, freely available to everyone.

Such trees also contribute to environmental balance by absorbing carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen, supporting biodiversity, providing habitats for birds and helping regulate local temperatures. Their importance extends far beyond their visual appeal.

Unfortunately, in an age when people are increasingly concerned about modern infrastructure and artificial comforts, we often fail to recognise the extraordinary value of the natural resources that already surround us.

Therefore, protecting existing mature Chinar trees should be our first priority. Cutting down an old Chinar means destroying a living monument that has taken generations to grow.

At the same time, we must encourage the planting of new Chinar saplings in schools, government offices, public parks, village commons, roadsides and other suitable locations. Educational institutions, in particular, can play a significant role by involving students in plantation and tree-protection programmes.

Every school should consider adopting a tree-protection initiative. Students should be taught that trees are not merely objects of decoration but living assets that sustain our environment and connect us with our heritage.

Government departments, local bodies, civil society organisations and ordinary citizens must work together to ensure that the Chinar continues to flourish in Kashmir.

The Chinar may shed its leaves every autumn, but it does not surrender its existence. It patiently waits for another spring, when fresh green leaves will once again emerge from its branches. This is perhaps another beautiful lesson: endings are not always final; they may simply prepare the way for new beginnings.

World Heritage Week:Archives, Archaeology & Museums Department rolls out activity plan

Special exhibitions, heritage walks, lectures, workshops & cultural activities being organised across J&K from Nov 19

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 17: The Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums Jammu and Kashmir is going to organize a series of activities in Kashmir and Jammu divisions to mark World Heritage Week being observed from November 19 to Nov 25, 2026, with the objective of generating public awareness about the rich historical, cultural and architectural heritage of the Union Territory and highlighting the importance of its preservation and conservation.

The celebrations would feature a diverse range of activities, including special exhibitions, heritage walks, lectures, seminars, workshops, awareness programmes and cultural events. The programmes will be organised daily from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM, with free entry for scholars, students and the general public.

In the Jammu Division, the celebrations will commence on November 19 with exhibitions at the Archives Repository and Dogra Art Museum, alongside a curatorial workshop on archival records. On November 20, lectures on the theme 'Save Heritage' will be organised, followed by a Heritage Walk on November 21 and exhibitions on November 22.

A cleanliness drive will be conducted at Bahu Fort on November 23, while November 24 will feature a visit to the Dogra Art Museum and an awareness programme on the Royal Dogra Palace and Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex. The week-long celebrations will culminate on November 25 with a cultural event being organised in collaboration with the Department of Floriculture.

In the Kashmir Division, the programme will begin on November 19 with special exhibitions and a heritage walk aimed at sensitising students and the general public about the historical and cultural significance of heritage sites. The walk will be flagged off from the Old SPS Museum building, Lal Mandi, Srinagar and proceed towards the Old Assembly building at Old Secretariat.

On November 20, a special visit for 30-40 specially-abled persons to the State-protected Monument of Madin Sahib at Hawal, Srinagar, will be organised. This will be followed by a visit of 30-40 ex-servicemen and elderly citizens to the same heritage monument on November 21.

A one-day workshop-cum-training programme on archival conservation and preservation will be organised at Old Secretariat, Srinagar, on November 22, highlighting the significance of safeguarding archival records and historical documents.

On November 23, a seminar and lecture will be organised at the Conference Hall of the Directorate Office, Lal Mandi, Srinagar. Historians Zareef Ahmad Zareef, Mohammad Saleem Beg, Dr Hakeem Sameer Hamdani has been invited to deliver a lecture on the traditions of ancient Kashmir and the preservation of the rich heritage and culture of Jammu and Kashmir.

The celebrations would conclude in the Kashmir Division with a two-day exhibition at the Old Assembly Complex on November 24 and 25, which will remain open for the general public.

Through these activities, the Department aims to promote greater public awareness, particularly among the younger generation, about the historical legacy, cultural traditions, archival wealth and architectural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, while encouraging collective participation in their protection and preservation.

Scholars, students, heritage enthusiasts and members of the general public have been invited to participate in the programmes and make the most of the exhibitions and other activities being organised during the week.

DC Udhampur reviews preparedness for Phase-II of Census-2027

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 17: Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi today chaired a meeting to review the preparedness for Population Enumeration - the Phase-II of Census 2027.

The Additional District Census Officer (DSEO) Darshan Kumar delivered a PowerPoint presentation, outlining the key preparations required for the successful conduct of Phase-II (Population Enumeration) Census 2027.The Principal Census Officer issued necessary directions to all concerned officers and officials, stressing strict adherence to the prescribed timelines, guidelines and procedures for the conduct of Census 2027. He directed them to ensure that all preparatory activities and related exercises are completed well in advance and in accordance with the established guidelines and timelines.The Deputy Commissioner further emphasized the need for regular monitoring and timely execution of assigned responsibilities to ensure the smooth, systematic and successful conduct of Phase-II of Census 2027 in the non-snowbound areas of the district. The meeting was attended by District Census Officer (ADC) Prem Singh; Sub-Divisional Census Officers, Nodal Officer from DCO J&K, Charge Census Officers and other officials associated with census operations.

CEO inspects educational institutions in Kastigarh area of Doda

■ HT News Network



DODA, NOVEMBER 17: Chief Education Officer Doda Bhushan Kumar Pathak conducted surprise inspection of several educational institutions in the Topneel and Kastigarh areas here to review their academic and administrative functioning, infrastructure, examination arrangements and overall quality of education.

The CEO visited Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) and Government Middle School (GMS) in Topneel, Upper Primary School (UPS) in Bhatsi and Government Higher Secondary School (HSS) in Kastigarh.

The CEO also inspected the examination centre at GHSS Topneel to assess the arrangements for the smooth and fair conduct of examinations.

He interacted with the heads of institutions and staff members and took stock of the academic activities, institutional facilities and teaching-learning processes. He also took stock of the ongoing construction works at GMS Topneel and GHSS Topneel.

2-Day SLMT Training under 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' concludes at Kishtwar

■ HT News Network



KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 17: Two-day State Level Master Trainers (SLMT) Tier-1 Training under Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PBPB) – Round-II concluded today in the Conference Hall of New DC Office Complex Kishtwar.

The training was conducted by the Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development (SPNIWCD), Regional Centre, Mohali, in collaboration with the Mission Directorate Poshan, J&K, for left-out and untrained field functionaries, with the objective of achieving 100 per cent training coverage.

Around 40 participants including CDPO Kishtwar Rahida Lone, CDPO Marwah/Warwan Ishrat Hussain, Supervisors, one Champion Anganwadi Worker (AWW) from each Poshan Project and Additional Resource Persons from the District participated in the training programme.

Deputy Technical Adviser (DTA), SPNIWCD, Regional Centre, Mohali Surendra Singh as Course Director, along with an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Consultant from Rocket Learning imparted the training.

The first day training focused on Padhai–early childhood stimulation for children from birth to 3 years, developmental milestones, early stimulation through home visits, Navchetana Monthly Stimulation Calendar, Home Visit Scheduler on Poshan Tracker, foundational learning for children aged three to six years through play-based pedagogy, Aadharshila Weekly Calendar, parental engagement, community mobilisation through CBEs and ECCE Day, domains of development, DIY Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs), inclusive learning, low-cost/no-cost age-specific materials, joint activities with Primary Schools and Anganwadi Centres, ECCE material on Poshan Tracker and Vidyarambh ECCE Certificates.

On Day-2, the training centred on Poshan – Anganwadi Protocol for Divyang Children, growth monitoring through the correct use of Growth Monitoring Devices, new features on Poshan Tracker, PANKHUDI Portal and tips for disaster management and safety of children at Anganwadi Centres.

The participants actively engaged in hands-on activities, group exercises and preparation of DIY TLMs using locally available, low-cost materials.

2-Day BOOT Camp inaugurated at GDC Katra

■ HT News Network



KATRA, NOVEMBER 17: A two-day BOOT Camp was inaugurated today at Government Degree College Katra. The orientation camp has been organised by SKUAST-Jammu in collaboration with the NSS Unit and Career Counselling Cell of the College.

The camp has been designed to provide students with practical exposure, expert guidance and insights into entrepreneurship and career development, thereby bridging the gap between academic learning and practical application.

Students from Semester V participated enthusiastically in the programme and gained valuable exposure to various avenues of entrepreneurship, innovation and self-employment.

The inaugural session was attended by the College Principal Dr. Rajni Bhagat. She appreciated the initiative and encouraged students to actively participate in such programmes to enhance their knowledge, develop entrepreneurial skills and explore diverse career opportunities.

The programme featured distinguished resource persons, including Agricultural Officer Rakesh Sharma; Rakesh Kundal from a Reasi based FPO and Incubation Officer Sahil Gupta. They shared their insights and expertise in the areas of agriculture, Farmer Producer Organisations, entrepreneurship and incubation opportunities.

The event was attended by faculty members Dr. Sajjad, Dr. Usha Sharma, Prof. Shikha Bhasin, Prof. Younus, Dr. Harmeet Kaur, Prof. Ajay, who extended their support and encouragement towards the successful organisation of the programme.

The inaugural day concluded on an encouraging note, with students expressing enthusiasm for the upcoming sessions of the two-day programme. The initiative reflects the college's continued commitment towards promoting skill development, innovation, entrepreneurship and holistic student development. The event was attended by faculty members Dr. Sajjad, Dr. Usha Sharma, Prof. Shikha Bhasin, Prof. Younus, Dr. Harmeet Kaur, Prof. Ajay, who extended their support and encouragement towards the successful organisation of the programme.

DDC Reasi reviews road safety measures

Directs removal of encroachments, strengthening of enforcement

■ HT News Network



REASI, NOVEMBER 17: District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee to review the implementation of road safety measures and assess the progress made by various departments towards ensuring safer roads across the district.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of District Road Safety Action Plan - 2026-27 including identification and rectification of accident-prone black spots, installation of crash barriers, parapets, road signages and speed breakers, removal of encroachments from roads and footpaths and enforcement of the Ribbon Development Act.

The measures taken to address identified black spots and vulnerable locations were thoroughly reviewed by the DDC. He inquired about the status of corrective works, including installation of crash barriers, road signages, parapets, retaining walls and other essential safety infrastructure, particularly along vulnerable stretches in hilly areas.

The Border Roads Organisation officer briefed the meeting that crash barriers have already been installed at identified locations, while the remaining works would be completed shortly.

The DDC directed the enforcement departments to identify and remove encroachments along roads and footpaths, observing that clearing the Right of Way (RoW) would help reduce accident risks and ensure smoother traffic movement. He also directed the concerned departments to submit a detailed report on the encroachments removed.

10 -day Ati Maha Vishnu Yagya at Pouni starts on Dec 3

DC finalises arrangements, directs departments to ensure adequate facilities

■ HT News Network



REASI, NOVEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek chaired a meeting here today to review and finalise arrangements for the Ati Maha Vishnu Yagya at Pawan Puri Pouni scheduled to be held from December 3 to 12, 2026.

The meeting held detailed discussions on the arrangements, including security, uninterrupted power and water supply, traffic management, sanitation, healthcare facilities, installation of CCTV cameras and deployment of departmental staff to ensure the smooth conduct of the event.

The Additional Superintendent of Police briefed the meeting on the security arrangements and deployment of police personnel.

The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure comprehensive CCTV surveillance covering the entire venue and surrounding areas. He directed the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited to make provision of uninterrupted power supply and back up with generators to meet additional requirements. The arrangements made for water supply by the Jal Shakti Department were reviewed. Medical staff and ambulances would be deployed by the Health Department at the venue to deal with emergencies, the meeting was informed. The Fire and Emergency Services Department informed the meeting about deployment of a fire tender and the fire safety measures to be taken at the Venue.Emphasising cleanliness and sanitation, the DC inquired about the sanitation measures planned in and around the venue. He directed for installing mobile toilets and timely lifting and disposal of garbage from the market area. The Assistant Regional Transport Officer informed the meeting about the traffic management plan formulated for smooth vehicular movement and easing congestion.

JKNC OBC Cell Chairman Abdul Gani Telli Receives Warm Welcome at Gandhi Nagar Party Office; large number of workers participated

■ HT News Network

Jammu November 17: Abdul Gani Telli, Chairman, OBC Cell, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), received a warm and enthusiastic welcome at his party office in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, party workers and supporters from different districts assembled to celebrate the occasion.

The gathering witnessed great enthusiasm and happiness among party leaders and workers, who congratulated Abdul Gani Telli and expressed their commitment to strengthening the National Conference at the grassroots level across Jammu Province.

On the occasion, all District Presidents, workers and supporters extended their heartfelt gratitude to the Party President, Dr. Farooq Abdullah Sahib, for providing office space for OBC Cell at the party office in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

They said that this important initiative would further strengthen organisational activities, improve coordination among party workers and provide a common platform for public outreach and addressing people's genuine issues.

They also reaffirmed their commitment to work with full dedication under the leadership of Dr. Farooq Abdullah Sahib and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Sahib to strengthen the party at every level and carry forward the vision and policies of the National Conference.



Ajay Kumar Sadhotra former minister and Addl General Secretary,Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu ,Ch.Akram MLA Surankote, Bimla Luthra former MLA, Qazi Jalal-ud -Din Former MLA , Ayub Malik, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretaries Jammu, Th Yashu vardhan Singh (Addl Spokesman) , Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Laxmi Datta Senior leader, Ashwani Charak Block President Jammu East, Nissar Ahmed Provincial secretary OBC Cell, Anitullah, Thakur Dass, Asha Mehra, D.D Mehra, Deepak Kumar, Prem Kumar, Mohd Mushtaq, Mohd Maqbool and others party functionaries OBC Cell were also present. They also reaffirmed their commitment to work with full dedication under the leadership of Dr. Farooq Abdullah Sahib and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Sahib to strengthen the party at every level and carry forward the vision and policies of the National Conference.

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra former minister and Addl General Secretary,Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu ,Ch.Akram MLA Surankote, Bimla Luthra former MLA, Qazi Jalal-ud -Din Former MLA , Ayub Malik, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretaries Jammu,

KVK Ramban hosts 5-Day natural farming training for Krishi Sakhis

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 17: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Ramban, SKUAST-Jammu today organised a five-day training programme on Natural Farming for Krishi Sakhis here at Dhalwas under the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF). The centrally sponsored NMNF aims to promote chemical-free and climate-resilient agriculture, reduce cultivation costs and restore soil fertility and biodiversity.

Krishi Sakhis from different Natural Farming clusters of the district are participating in the programme.

The inaugural session commenced with a welcome address by Chief Scientist and Incharge-KVK Dr. Raj Kumar Gupta. He briefed the participants about the training schedule and highlighted its significance for strengthening sustainable agriculture in the district. He emphasised that the trained Krishi Sakhis would play a vital role in disseminating the principles and practices of natural farming among farmers, particularly in designated clusters.

Scientist (Agriculture Extension) Dr. Parveen Kumar highlighted the importance of sustainable agricultural practices and encouraged participants to promote improved technologies at the grassroots level. Scientist (PBG) Dr. Munish Sharma stressed the significance of diversified and multi-cropping systems, biodiversity conservation, organic inputs and eco-friendly farming practices.

The programme also featured hands-on training sessions to equip Krishi Sakhis with practical skills for adopting and demonstrating natural farming techniques at farmers' fields.

The initiative is expected to strengthen grassroots awareness and accelerate the adoption of sustainable and eco-friendly farming practices across Ramban district.

Principal Accountant General Office J&K organises Capacity Building Program to mark Audit Diwas-2026

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 17: The Office of the Principal Accountant General (A&E/Audit) J&K, Jammu today organized a Capacity building programme at its Jammu office to mark the Audit Diwas, 2026.

Audit Diwas is observed annually on November 16 to commemorate the historic origins of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA&AD).

Deputy Accountant General (Audit) Jagbir Singh inaugurated the programme on Capacity building in Audit/A&E office through structured training, process optimization and cross functional learning, in the presence of Senior Officers and officials.

In his inaugural address, the Deputy Accountant General emphasized the critical importance of audit as a pillar of democratic governance and financial integrity. He highlighted the increasing need for advanced audit methodologies, data driven insights and continuous capacity building to meet the evolving challenges of public financial management. He also underscored the vital role of the Accounts and Entitlement wing in ensuring seamless public financial administration. He highlighted its key responsibilities in the timely authorization of pension to the UT employees of Jammu and Kashmir and also compiling the Finance and Appropriation Accounts of the Union Territory.

J&K Bank Opens 26th Branch in Shopian at Mini Secretariat

New branch to improve banking access for government employees, businesses and public; DC calls for greater financial inclusion

■ HT News Network



Shopian, Nov 17 (KNS): Jammu and Kashmir Bank has opened its 26th branch in Shopian district at the Mini Secretariat, expanding its banking network to improve financial services for government departments, employees, entrepreneurs and the general public.

District Development Commissioner Shopian, S. Charandeep Singh, inaugurated the branch in the presence of senior district administration officials and representatives of J&K Bank.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh said the expansion of banking facilities would help improve financial inclusion, support local businesses and contribute to the district's economic development.

He assured that the district administration would extend full cooperation to initiatives aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and strengthening economic activity in Shopian.

The Deputy Commissioner said the new branch would also improve coordination between the bank and government departments, ensuring easier access to financial services.

Following the inauguration, Singh chaired an interaction with departmental heads and bank officials to discuss measures for improving banking services for government employees, entrepreneurs and other customers.

The meeting focused on strengthening institutional coordination, addressing banking requirements and supporting the district's development priorities.

J&K Bank Zonal Head Pulwama, Masood Ahmad Lankar, highlighted the recent Memorandum of Understanding signed between the bank and the Jammu and Kashmir Government.

He also briefed the participants about various banking schemes and services available to different categories of customers.

Lankar said the branch's location within the Mini Secretariat would provide convenient banking access to government departments, employees and people visiting the administrative complex.

He said the bank would focus on efficient customer service, digital banking facilities and closer coordination with the district administration to meet local banking needs.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr Nasir Ahmad Lone, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Zakir Hussain Fayaz, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shakoor Ahmad Dar, Chief Planning Officer Mudasir Ahmad and Assistant Labour Commissioner Nida Yousuf were among those present.

The inauguration was also attended by the bank's Cluster Head, Lead District Manager, senior officials and customers.

With the opening of the new branch, J&K Bank's network in Shopian district has increased to 26 branches, further strengthening its banking outreach in the area. (KNS)

EJAC urges Govt to resolve employees' pending issues, release D.A

■ Farooq Rather

Srinagar: Nov. 17, The Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC), Jammu and Kashmir, has strongly urged the Government to take immediate and meaningful measures to address the long-standing issues confronting employees and daily wagers stating that their genuine demands deserve priority attention and cannot be kept pending indefinitely. In a statement, Senior Trade Union Leader and EJAC President Fayaz Ahmad Shabnam said that the Government must announce the release of the pending 3% Dearness Allowance (DA) instalment in favour of employees at the earliest. He observed that employees are entitled to financial benefits in accordance with the prevailing provisions and that withholding or delaying such dues adds to their financial difficulties, particularly amid rising living costs. Expressing serious concern over the condition of daily wagers, Mr. Shabnam urged the Government to ensure that they are at least paid minimum wages in accordance with applicable norms until a comprehensive decision is taken regarding their regularisation. He said that these workers have been rendering valuable services to various Government departments for years, yet many continue to face financial uncertainty and hardship. Providing them minimum wages is a basic necessity and an important step towards ensuring dignity and economic security. Fayaz Ahmad Shabnam also reiterated the demand for the regularisation of all categories of daily wagers, stating that the issue has remained unresolved for years despite repeated assurances and commitments made by successive Governments. He stressed that these workers who have devoted a substantial part of their lives to public service should not be left in uncertainty any longer. He urged the Government to formulate a clear, time-bound policy for the regularisation of eligible daily wagers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

it is notified that the applicant namely Ghulam Hassan Khan S/o Ghulam Rasool Khan R/o kawoosa Khalisa Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of Death certificate of his father namely as Ghulam Rasool Khan S/o Abdul Razaq Khan
The applicant intends to register the Death of his father as per records is ; 11 / 01/ 1994
If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .

17/11/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Itis notified that the applicant namely Ghulam Hassan Khan S/o Late Ghulam Rasool Khan R/o Kawoosa Khalisa Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of Death certificate of his father namely as Ghulam Rasool Khan S/o Abdul Razaq Khan
The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his father as per record is ; 10 _11 _ 2004
If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .

18/11/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Nasir Ahmad Wani S/o Late Mohammed Maqbool Wani R/o Narbal Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of Death certificate of his father namely as Mohammed maqbool Wani S/o Mohd joo Wani
The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his father as per record is ; 22 _09 _2002
If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .

18/11/2026

In the Court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Qazigund

Hafiza Bano W/O Ghulam Rasool Shah, D/O Ai Mohammad Shah, R/O Panzath Wanpora, Tehsil Qazigund, District Anantnag.
Versus
* Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir through Block Development Officer, Block Qazigund.
* Station House Officer, Police Station Qazigund.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the applicant, namely Hafiza Bano, has sought a direction for registration of her birth particulars, stating that she was born on 15-10-1968.
Through this notice, the general public is hereby informed that anyone having any objection regarding the registration of the applicant's birth particulars may submit the same on or before 18-11-2026, the date fixed for further proceedings in the matter.
Issued under the hand and seal of the Court on 11-11-2026.
Sd/
Judicial Magistrate Ist Class Qazigund

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my father's name is wrongly mentioned as "Mohammad Ali" in the class 2nd school records at Munshi Habibullah Mission Higher Secondary School, Kargil the correct name is "Mohamad Ali" R/O- Pashkum. Now I want its correction to be done. Anybody having any objection may contact concerned authorities within the period of 7 days.

Shahnawaz Hussain
S/O- Mohamad Ali
R/O - Pashkum

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla
e-mail, id, xenmhd.bla@jk.gov.in

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender

NIT No:	**M&HDB/TS/2026-27/107/3410-16**
Date:	**17-11-2026**

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, **Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla**, invites online **e-bids in Two Cover system** on percentage wise basis from Authorized Service Providers of OEMs /Registered / Listed Contractors for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion
01.	Modification to the Central Vacuum System and SITC of Nitrous Oxide Manifold at Associated Hospital GMC Baramulla	1.634	200.00	3268/-	10 days

Note: -
- **Project Authority**: - Principal Govt. Medical College, Baramulla.
- **AAA**: -Administrative Approval accorded by Principal GMC Baramulla vide No. 567-GMCB of 2026 Dated: - 09-11-2026
- **Technical Sanction**: - Technical Sanction Accorded by Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla vide No. M&HDB/TS/64 of 11/2026; Dated: - 16-11-2026.
- **Executing Agency**: - Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	**17-11-2026**
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	**From 17-11-2026 to 28-11-2026**
3	Bid Submission Start Date	**From 17-112026 (18:00 HRS)**
4.	Bid Submission End Date	**28-11-2026 (18:55 HRS)**
5.	Date of Opening of Cover 1st	**30-11-2026 (13:00 HRS)**

The bidders are required to submit their offers in ***two (02)*** covers.

Cover-I shall contain: **Scanned copies of following documents:**

01.	**Tender Fee**	Tender Fee equivalent to **Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred Only)** has to be deposited in the Departmental Common Pool Account maintained in Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Branch Residency Road Srinagar, under Account No: 0005010200000355 (IFSC Code: JAKA0CHINAR). Proof of the said Electronic / Digital Transfer has to be uploaded in Cover-I documents.
02.	**EMD**	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) equivalent to 02% of value of the advertised cost has to be deposited in the Departmental Common Pool Account maintained in Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Branch Residency Road Srinagar, under Account No: 0005010200000355 (IFSC Code: JAKA0CHINAR). Proof of the said Electronic / Digital Transfer has to be uploaded in Cover-I documents.
03.	**Terms & Conditions**	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	**Tax Clearance**	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
05.	**GST**	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
06.	**Undertaking**	**Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.**
07.	**Contractor Registration**	**Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.**
08.	**Eligibility / Work Experience Certificate**	The Bidder Shall submit documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in last 07 years in any Govt. / Semi Govt./Autonomous institutions alongwith satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer.

Note: -
- **Bidders / Firms shall refrain from uploading irrelevant documents.**
- **Contractor/ Firm shall upload the contact / communication details separately on single page.**

A. Cover-II shall contain: -
01. Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. In no case, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

Instruction to Bidders: -
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.
- The complete bidding process will be online.
- The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.
- Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
- Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The department reserves the right to debar / blacklist such firm(s).
- Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.
- **Unbalanced Bid**: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to deposit additional performance security as per the Circular directives of the J&K U.T Finance Department issued vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-22-158; Dated: - 08.08.2025.

02. The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla.

DIPK-7761/26
Send Date: Nov 17 2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Baramulla

DC Anantnag chairs meeting on Title & Cadastral Verification of Major Limestone Mining Blocks

Directs Constitution of Special Teams for demarcation of Forest and Revenue Boundaries

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a comprehensive meeting to review and discuss issues pertaining to land title verification and cadastral verification of identified major mineral limestone mining blocks in the district.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on various issues concerning land ownership records, cadastral details and demarcation of boundaries of the identified mining blocks, with particular emphasis on resolving pending issues to facilitate the timely completion of the verification process.



The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to constitute special teams comprising relevant departmental officers and technical experts for undertaking the demarcation and verification of forest and revenue boundaries.

He stressed the need for close interdepartmental coordination to ensure accuracy in land records, resolve jurisdictional issues and expedite the verification process for the remaining mining blocks.

It was informed during the meeting that a total of 13 major mineral limestone blocks had been taken up for discussion, out of which six blocks have already been approved, while the remaining seven blocks are yet to be cleared following completion of the requisite verification and other formalities.

The DC emphasised that all concerned departments must work in a coordinated manner and accord priority to the pending cases so that the process is completed within the stipulated timeline. He further stressed that proper verification of land titles and clear demarcation of forest and revenue boundaries are essential to ensure transparency and avoid any future disputes.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Muzamil Ahmad Beigh, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), District Mineral Officer (DMO), Tehsildars of Mattan, Kokernag and Larnoo, Naib Tehsildar Doru and other concerned officers. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Muzamil Ahmad Beigh.

Director Sericulture reviews Physical, Financial progress under various departmental schemes

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 17: Director Sericulture J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Directorate of Sericulture Development Department, J&K, Tulsi Bagh, Srinagar, to assess the physical and financial progress of various departmental schemes and programmes and review the overall performance of the department.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the physical and financial achievements made during the financial year 2026–27 under CAPEX and HADP, besides examining proposals for the financial year 2027–28.

The meeting also reviewed the utilisation certificates (UCs), beneficiary lists and details of funds released and utilised under Silk Samagra-I and Silk Samagra-II for the financial years 2021–22, 2023–24, 2024–25 and 2025–26. The Director took stock of the status of silkworm rearing and cocoon production achievements during 2026–27, along with the progress of silkworm seed production and the proposed plan for 2027–28.

The Director stressed the importance of timely submission of updated progress reports, utilisation certificates and requisite documentation by the concerned officers to ensure effective monitoring, proper utilisation of funds and timely implementation of departmental programmes.

DC Shopian presides over PM Vishwakarma Awareness Programme held in district

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 17: An Awareness-cum-Capacity Building Programme under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, presided over by Depuy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, was organised today in collaboration with the MSME Development & Facilitation Office and the District Administration, Shopian, with the District Industries Centre, Shopian coordinating the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC exhorted upon strengthening the capabilities of traditional artisans and crafts people and facilitating their access to modern tools, digital platforms and institutional support.

The DC directed for adopting digital technologies, improving product packaging and branding and using e-commerce platforms to enhance the market reach and



competitiveness of traditional products.During the programme, speakers sensitised the participants about the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications for artisans, product packaging, QR Code generation, Udyam Registration, e-commerce onboarding and credit facilitation through Loan Melas.

They said that it is an opportunity to understand the various support mechanisms available under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme and interact with the concerned officials regarding registration, credit facilitation and other components of the scheme.

The PM Vishwakarma Scheme, launched by the Government of India, aims to provide comprehensive support to traditional artisans and crafts people through skill development, toolkit support, credit facilitation, digital enablement, branding and market linkage.

Dir Agri Kashmir reviews performance of sector heads, divisional officers

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 17: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today chaired a review meeting at Directorate of Agriculture Lalmandi to assess the physical and financial progress achieved by all the Sectoral heads and divisional officers under HADP, CSS, CAPEX, NABARD and Revex.The meeting was attended by Joint Director Agriculture Inputs Kashmir, Joint Director Agriculture Extension, Joint Director Engineering, Floriculture development officer, Soil survey officer, Seed production Officer, Plant Pathologist, Seed Analyst, Agriculture chemist, Deputy Director Trainings and other officers of the department.

The director undertook a detailed assessment of sector wise expenditure achievements, financial progress and the implementation status of various schemes. He also reviewed the pace of execution of approved activities under each component of various schemes, and the progress achieved against the targets set for the current financial year.Director Agriculture called for simplifying the procedure for procurement of different seeds from registered seed village growers and instructed the concerned officers to ensure timely processing of bills, to facilitate the seed village growers.

The Director called for minimising intervention of chemicals in agriculture fields and promoting natural farming and Agriculture Chemist Kashmir was instructed to take necessary measures in this regard. Shah directed Deputy Director Trainings FTEC Ganderbal to prepare a comprehensive Detailed Project report for establishment of training college for farmers, with all the modern technological facilities and infrastructure.

SWD Srinagar organizes Community Awareness Programmes on Social Security Schemes, Women Empowerment Initiatives

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 17: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, through SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organized a Community Awareness Programme at Saida Kadal to sensitize the local community about various Social Security Schemes and welfare initiatives of the Government.

During the programme, participants were apprised of various financial assistance schemes, including Marriage Assistance Scheme, Prosthetic Aid and other welfare measures aimed at supporting eligible and deserving beneficiaries. Detailed information regarding eligibility criteria, application procedures and the benefits available under these schemes was shared to facilitate greater awareness and accessibility.

In another programme organized in collaboration with Mission POSHAN at Ashai Bagh, awareness was imparted regarding various educational and empowerment initiatives, including Scholarships, Sponsorship Schemes, Skill Development Courses and other opportunities available for children, adolescent girls and women.

Mission Shakti Jammu promotes digital empowerment through 10-Day Computer Upskilling Course

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 17: In a significant step towards promoting digital literacy and enhancing skill-based opportunities, Mission Shakti Jammu-Department of Social Welfare, facilitated the successful completion of the 10-day Computer Upskilling Course conducted by GSL Foundation with the support of Infosys Foundation.

The initiative aimed at equipping participants with essential computer skills, strengthening their digital competencies and enhancing their preparedness for emerging employment opportunities in an increasingly technology-driven world.On the successful completion of the course, a certificate distribution ceremony was organised today. District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Dr. Preeti Sharma gave away certificates to the successful candidates.

JMC Commissioner inspects civic amenities in 3 wards across Gandhi Nagar, adjoining areas Reviews progress of development works, interacts with residents

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 17: Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Ayushi Sudan today undertook an extensive field visit to 3 municipal wards (20, 21 and 22) across Gandhi Nagar and adjoining areas, to review ongoing development works, assess the status of civic amenities and take direct feedback from the public regarding issues concerning municipal services.

The Commissioner reviewed sanitation and cleanliness arrangements, maintenance of public toilets, construction and upkeep of lanes and drains, construction and desilting of nallahs, removal of encroachments, detection of illegal constructions and maintenance of parks and green spaces, besides other essential civic facilities. She interacted with local residents and took feedback on issues requiring the attention of the Corporation, directing the concerned officers to ensure prompt and effective redressal.



Continuing the field inspection, the Commissioner also visited the Gole Market Durga Mandir area in Gandhinagar, Shastri Nagar, Valmiki Colony, Gandhinagar Rehri Zone (Vending Zone) and adjoining localities to assess ongoing development activities and review the availability and upkeep of civic infrastructure. During these visits, she interacted with Swacchta champions of the ward, residents and stakeholders, listened to their concerns and sought feedback on the quality of municipal services and developmental works.

The Commissioner also met representatives from the Apsara Road Market Association and discussed the civic and developmental issues affecting the trading community. She patiently heard their concerns and assured them that the genuine issues raised would be taken up with the concerned departments for early and appropriate resolution.The Commissioner directed the officers to maintain close coordination, undertake regular field inspections and ensure that all identified deficiencies are addressed in a time-bound manner. She emphasised the need for accountability, effective monitoring and a responsive approach towards public grievances to ensure improved civic amenities and better municipal services.

The Commissioner was accompanied by Joint Commissioner (Health and Sanitation) Abdul Star, Deputy Commissioner (South, JMC) Amir, Health Officer Dr. Shahid Hussain, Assistant Floriculture Officer Dr. Rabia Khan, Assistant Veterinary Officer Dr. Divya Sharma, Executive Engineer Janak Singh, Executive Engineer (UEED) Ashwani Sharma, Chief Transport Officer South, Balkar Angurana and other concerned officials.

Rabi 2026: Agriculture Department Bandipora intensifies Khet Bachao Abhiyan

Farmers sensitised on soil health, balanced fertiliser use and sustainable agricultural practices

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 17: The Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, District Bandipora, is intensifying its awareness and extension activities under the nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyan - Rabi 2026, being implemented across the district from October 22 to November 30, 2026.

The campaign is aimed to protect agricultural land, restore soil health, promote balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilisers and encourage farmers to adopt scientific, sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices.

As part of the ongoing campaign, awareness programmes, farmer interactions and field-level demonstrations are being conducted across various zones of the district to sensitise farmers about the importance of soil conservation and sustainable agricultural production.

Special emphasis is being laid on regular soil testing, integrated nutrient management, use of organic manure, biofertilisers and green manuring to improve soil fertility and reduce excessive dependence on chemical fertilisers.

The campaign also focuses on crop diversification, particularly the promotion of pulses and oilseeds, effective utilisation of paddy-fallow land, crop residue management, water conservation, natural farming and integrated farming systems.

Field functionaries, including Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officers, Zonal Heads, Subject Matter Specialists and Agricultural Extension Officers, are actively mobilising farmers



through village-level awareness programmes and demonstrations.

The campaign also incorporates awareness regarding Farmer ID registration, crop insurance under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and expansion of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) coverage to facilitate farmers' access to institutional benefits.

The Chief Agriculture Officer, Bandipora, has emphasised the need for active participation of all field functionaries and maximum mobilisation of farmers to ensure effective implementation of the campaign. The campaign also focuses on crop diversification, particularly the promotion of pulses and oilseeds, effective utilisation of paddy-fallow land, crop residue management, water conservation, natural farming and integrated farming systems.

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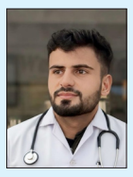
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A Doctor Beyond the Clinic

The Journey of Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo



Wani Arfat

Some professionals are known mainly for the work they do inside their institutions. Others slowly build a wider public identity through education, writing, health awareness and service to society. Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo belongs to the latter group. Born in Poshkreri village of Anantnag district in South Kashmir, he has built a professional journey that brings together clinical medicine, diabetes care, public health, medical education, science, health communication and writing.

His journey began in a simple setting. Poshkreri village in Anantnag became the starting point of a career that later connected him with medical and professional institutions in India and abroad. A profile published by The Kashmir Horizon in 2018 described him as a native of Poshkreri and recorded his early education. He studied at Iqra English Medium High School, Srigufwara, and Public Senior Secondary School, Bijbehara. He later completed his B.Sc. in Biology from the University of Kashmir and pursued MBBS from the University of Jammu.

Becoming a doctor was his childhood ambition. The 2018 profile also noted that he became the first student from his village to clear the Jammu and Kashmir Common Entrance Test for MBBS. From this beginning, his academic journey continued well beyond the MBBS degree.

Dr. Itoo continued his education in family medicine, diabetes, endocrinology, public health and medical education. His professional profile lists a Post Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine from Christian Medical College, Vellore, along with postgraduate training in diabetology and clinical endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism. He has also undertaken specialised training through the International Diabetes Federation School of Diabetes and programmes connected with the European Society of Endocrinology.

His profile also records advanced certifications and learning connected with institutions including Stanford University School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Tokyo and the University of Manchester. His professional development reflects a continuing interest in learning rather than stopping after one qualification.

Diabetes and other non-communicable diseases have become important parts of his clinical work. His professional profile describes more than eight years of clinical experience in chronic disease management, particularly diabetes. His work focuses on patient-centred, preventive and evidence-based care.

In 2024, reports noted his completion of specialised diabetes-management courses accredited for European continuing medical education through the International Diabetes Federation School of Diabetes. He also received Academic Life Membership of the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India after completing a Certificate Program for Clinicians in Diabetes Management.

In 2025, he was awarded the Fellowship of the International Diabetes Federation. Reports described the recognition in connection with his work in diabetes care, education and advocacy. His professional affiliations also include the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pain Medicine and the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India.

Public health is another important part of his professional identity. His work includes preventive healthcare, health literacy, patient guidance and community health awareness. In 2026, he received the Fellowship of the Royal Society for Public Health in the United Kingdom. His public-health approach focuses not only on treating illness but also on prevention, screening, correct health information and healthier lifestyles.

Medical education has developed alongside his clinical career. His earlier professional journey included work as an educator with Unacademy. His profile records a Top Educator Award in 2017 and a Best Educator Award in 2018. In December 2025, he received Membership of the Academy of Medical Educators in the United Kingdom. In 2026, he was appointed as an Assessor by the Academy, taking part in the assessment of applications for professional membership and fellowship.

His connection with biological sciences has also grown. His professional profile lists membership of the Royal Society of Biology, along with the professional distinctions of Chartered Scientist and Chartered Biologist. These achievements add another area to a career that already includes medicine, public health and education.

But medicine is only one part of Dr. Itoo's public work. Writing has been another major part of his journey. For years, he has contributed articles to newspapers and digital publications. His 2018 profile mentioned publications including Greater Kashmir, Rising Kashmir, Daily Excelsior, Kashmir Monitor, Kashmir Images, Kashmir Horizon and Kashmir Pen. At that time, it recorded around 100 published articles.



His health writing covers a wide range of subjects. He has written about diabetes, hypertension, obesity, metabolic syndrome, stroke, heart disease, dengue, gastric cancer, hypothyroidism, viral infections, HIV/AIDS, mental health and preventive healthcare. Titles such as Winter Viruses and Viral Infections, Floods and the Threat of Infections, Managing Obesity in the 21st Century, Hypothyroidism: The Silent Slowdown of Body, Preventing Heart Diseases, Stroke, Breakthrough Treatment for Gastric Cancer, Understanding Obesity, World Stroke Day: Know About Stroke!, About Metabolic Syndrome, Know It Here!, Treatment of Diabetes: Semaglutide Tablet vs Injection, World Heart Day: Understanding Heart Diseases, Dengue Fever: A Health Concern and Epidemic of Hypertension show the range of his medical writing.

His article Youth and Mental Health Awareness, published in 2026, focused on emotional wellbeing, stigma, peer support and the importance of professional mental-health care. His other health writings include subjects such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, hypertension and doctor-patient communication.

His writing, however, does not stop with medicine. He has also written about social issues, education, spirituality and human values. Articles such as Challenges of Poor and Our Responsibility, The Mother and Her Ailing Daughter, The Cobbler and His Moral Worthiness and Healing Power of Mother Tongue use everyday experiences to discuss compassion, dignity and social responsibility.

Education is another recurring theme in his work. His writings include Technological Advancement in Online Education, Opportunities & Challenges: When I Was a B.Sc 1st Year Student and other pieces dealing with motivation, learning and personal development.

Spirituality also has a place in his writing. Articles such as Seeking Guidance From Surah Al Asr of Holy Qur'an, Finding the Purpose of Life Through Spiritual Motivation, Seeking Success; Making Hereafter as Your Goal and Seeking the Pleasure of Almighty Allah connect personal development with faith, values and moral responsibility.

His newspaper work has also included commentary on political and governance questions in Jammu and Kashmir. Titles such as Reshaping the Political Landscape in J&K, Of Politics and Political Leadership and Need of an Inclusive Govt in J&K deal with subjects including governance, political leadership, participation, youth and public institutions.

His interests have also reached travel writing. The Kashmir Monitor published his personal article A Memorable Journey Through Mughal Road, based on his journey from Jammu towards Kashmir through the historic Mughal Road.

During the COVID-19 period, his role as a health communicator became especially visible. Kashmir Life published his article Coronavirus: What We Must Do to Stay Safe? in March 2020, when people were seeking information about the rapidly developing pandemic. His health communication has continued to focus on awareness and prevention.

His public communication has also included interviews and professional lectures. In 2018, Kashmir Images reported that he interviewed Hollywood actor Chris Levine about steroid abuse and described the interview as receiving international recognition connected with the film Anabolic Life. In 2019, he delivered a Continuing Medical Education presentation at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super Speciality Hospital on the role of balanced crystalloids in critical illness and surgery.

More recently, his professional lectures have included discussion of advances in diabetes treatment, including GLP-1 receptor agonists, SGLT2 inhibitors, glucose monitoring and patient-centred treatment.

His work also includes direct public-health and educational initiatives. His professional profile mentions a free online consultation initiative to improve healthcare accessibility, a diabetes education programme addressing the growing diabetes burden, and patient guidance activities related to screening, prevention and treatment support. It also describes a Writers' Guidance Programme aimed at helping young writers and researchers with ethical and purpose-driven medical and scientific writing.

Recognition has come to him from different areas of his work. His listed recognitions include the Top Educator Award in 2017, Best Educator Award in 2018, Best Columnist Award in 2021, Best Social Writer Award in 2022, Global Recognition Award in 2024 and Indian Achievers Award in 2025.

Daily Excelsior reported his Best Columnist recognition among writers honoured by the J&K Innovative Foundation for Transforming Society. It also reported his Indian Achievers Award in 2025 for contributions connected with healthcare, medical education and public health awareness.

In January 2026, Daily Excelsior reported that the World Book of Records, London, had recognised him with a Certificate of Excellence for his work in healthcare delivery, health education and community empowerment. Kashmir Images also reported the recognition.

In April 2026, reports recorded his Fellowship of the Royal Society of Public Health and Fellowship of the Royal Society of Biology. In May 2026, reports also discussed his nomination for the professional distinctions of Chartered Scientist and Chartered Biologist through the Science Council and Royal Society of Biology.

Another recent milestone came in August 2026, when Kashmir Life reported that Dr. Itoo had been awarded the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of London. The report placed the recognition in the context of his work in clinical medicine, medical education, research and public health and noted that the fellowship scroll would be formally received at a convocation ceremony in London.

His professional profile now lists him as MBBS, FRCP (London, UK), FRSPH (London, UK), MAcadMed (Cardiff, UK), CSci (UK), CBiol (UK) and MRSB (UK). It also lists him as an IDF Fellow and records his professional associations with international medical and scientific organisations.

His research and academic interests include chronic disease management, diabetes and endocrinology, medical education and assessment, health communication and medical journalism, community health, public health policy, clinical research and evidence-based medicine.

Today, Dr. Itoo describes himself as a Physician Consultant. His professional message, "Better Health | Healthier Communities | A Brighter Tomorrow," reflects the areas around which much of his work has developed. Another message associated with his professional profile is, "Knowledge for Healthier People and Stronger Communities."

What makes his journey notable is the combination of different roles. He is a doctor, but his work also extends into education, public health, science, writing and community awareness. His medical articles try to make difficult subjects easier for ordinary readers. His educational work focuses on learning and professional development. His social and spiritual writings look at human values and everyday life.

His journey also has a clear geographical story. It begins with his birth in Poshkreri village in Anantnag district and later reaches medical institutions in Jammu, professional organisations in India and international bodies in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

The story of Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo is therefore not only a story of degrees, fellowships and awards. It is a story of continuous learning and the use of knowledge in different ways. From clinical medicine to public health, from medical education to writing, his professional journey has developed across several connected fields.

A doctor can help a patient in a clinic, but health knowledge can travel much further. Through newspapers, lectures, education, online initiatives and public awareness, information can reach people before they become patients. This wider communication has remained an important part of Dr. Itoo's professional journey.

From Poshkreri to a wider professional world, Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo's journey reflects the power of education, continuous learning and service. His work shows how knowledge gained in a clinic can reach far beyond it through teaching, writing, public health and community awareness. As his career continues to grow, medicine, education and public service remain closely connected to the path he has chosen.

(Mohammad Arfat Wani is a writer, social activist and nursing student from Kuchmulla, Tral, Kashmir. He writes on social issues, culture and public concerns with the aim of raising awareness and inspiring change.)

New Zealand star Rachin Ravindra provides update on fitness for India Tests

United News Of India



WELLINGTON, NOV 17 :New Zealand all-rounder Rachin Ravindra has declared himself fit and ready to make his long-awaited return to action during the first ICC World Test Championship contest against India in Wellington.

Ravindra hasn't played at international level since he featured for the Black Caps during their Test series in England in June, with the talented 26-year-old suffering a freak shoulder injury at a promotional shoot in September that saw him sit on the sidelines for the recent white-ball fixtures against India.

But Ravindra has trained well in the lead-up to the two-match series on home soil that commences

n Wellington on Thursday and said he is fit to make his comeback to the New Zealand side.

"I think watching the guys play on TV (during the white-ball series), you get a little bit of FOMO (fear of missing out)," Ravindra said on Tuesday.

"You want to be out there. I'm looking forward to, especially in Wellington, back at your home ground. So I'm really looking forward to it."

Ravindra admitted it had been a frustrating period for him of late as he battled his shoulder problem, but being ruled out of the white-ball fixtures against India allowed him to focus on returning in time for the crucial India Tests, according to ICC."It's been a lot of rehab," Ravindra said.

"I think from dislocation, it's been eight weeks. I had a great support group of doctors, physios, etc. S&C [strength and conditioning] trainers, and obviously being able to do a lot of batting in the last sort of three or four weeks.

"I think when you're thinking about training, instruction, training, it's nice to just lock in on red-ball stuff. We obviously know, to be fair, although the one-day work, it's sort of looked like Test match batting at times. So there's probably a little bit of that. But yeah, it's been nice to just get the red ball and white pads and not worry about too much sort of putting pressure back on bowlers, but doing it in my own way.

"So it's been nice to have a red-ball block. Typically we don't have that. It's usually to tournament to tournament or it's series to series."

New Zealand enter the series with India sitting on the top of the World Test Championship standings and a pair of positive results on home soil will put them in the box seat to qualify for a second final after they tasted success in the inaugural cycle back in 2021.Their task will be somewhat more difficult with the absence of experienced all-rounder Mitchell Santner who was ruled out of the series earlier on Tuesday due to a hand injury, with fellow spinner Dean Foxcroft called-up to the 14-player squad in his absence.

Whether Foxcroft wins a spot in New Zealand's XI remains to be seen, though Ravindra did suggest the conditions at Basin Reserve would likely provide plenty of assistance for different types of bowlers."A lot of people say about Test cricket in New Zealand, (it) always plays a bit better than it looks," Ravindra noted."I think the grass coverage and the green tinge sort of makes us a bit, 'oh, like, what's it going to do? Is it going to nip a bounce seam?'

Berenguer eyes new Athletic Bilbao deal, praises Terzic impact

United News Of India

MADRID, NOV 16 :Athletic Bilbao winger Alex Berenguer is in his seventh season with the club since joining from Torino, and with the 31-year-old's current contract due to expire at the end of the season, he is already looking to the future.

"This is my seventh season - let's see if there are more,"

he said in an interview with TeleBilbao, adding that he would be delighted to continue playing at the San Mames Stadium.

"I'm very comfortable here. I'm still only 31 years old and I have four or five years of football left

in me," said Berenguer, adding that he would soon begin talks over a new contract.

Athletic Bilbao went into the current international break in seventh place in La Liga as the team adapts

to the aggressive style of new coach Edin Terzic. Berenguer believes the change has been positive after four seasons with Ernesto Valverde at the helm, according to Xinhua.

"The team has a different energy and a different spark. With the coaching change,



everyone wants to earn their place. The momentum is good and we have to keep improving," commented Berenguer.

"He really likes intensity - pressing, as he calls it. It's similar to what we did with Ernesto, where winning the ball back was the most important thing.

Badminton: Satwik-Chirag end losing run by winning Hong Kong Open thriller

United News Of India

KOWLOON (HONG KONG), NOV 17: India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty ended their run of three successive first-round exits with a hard-fought victory at the Hong Kong Open 2026 badminton tournament on Tuesday.



The world No. 6 Indian badminton pair defeated 15th-ranked Lee Jhe-huei and Yang Po-hsuan of Chinese Taipei 15-21, 21-17, 28-26 in an opening-round match that lasted one hour and eight minutes, according to olympics.com.

The victory extended Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's unbeaten head-to-head record against the Chinese Taipei duo to 8-0.

Fifth seeds Satwiksairaj and Chirag began positively, taking a 6-3 lead in the opening game. However, the Chinese Taipei pair gradually fought back to restore parity at 11-all.

With the scores locked at 14-all, the contest was evenly poised before Lee and Yang seized control. Leading 16-15, they won five consecutive points to take the opening game.

The second game was also closely contested, with both pairs level at 11-all.

However, the Indians won five consecutive points to establish a 16-11 advantage and eventually took the match into a decider.

Satwiksairaj and Chirag then found themselves trailing 7-3 early in the deciding game but fought back to level the scores.

The contest remained tight thereafter, with both pairs exchanging leads before the Indians moved two points clear at 20-18.However, Lee and Yang, who won bronze at the BWF World Championships earlier this year, reeled off three consecutive points to earn a match point at 21-20, which the Indians saved.Satwiksairaj and Chirag then earned a match point of their own at 22-21, but their opponents responded to keep the contest alive.Both pairs continued to exchange blows, with the Indian badminton players saving four match points. The contest remained evenly poised until 26-all before Satwiksairaj and Chirag eventually prevailed, sealing the victory following a return error by their opponents.

Telangana aims to become a national sports hub: Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari

United News Of India

HYDERABAD, NOV 17 :Telangana is gearing up to host the Khelo India Youth Games 2026 from December 11 to 22, with the aim of transforming the State into a national and international sports hub, Minister for Sports Vakiti Srihari said on Tuesday.

Addressing a consultative meeting with prominent sportspersons at the Secretariat, the Minister said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had allocated Rs 203.36 crore for the games, which would also be utilised to develop permanent sports infrastructure. Around 7,000 to 8,000 athletes and delegates from 28 States are expected to participate.

He said the government was upgrading Gachibowli Stadium, LB Stadium and other sports facilities to international standards. The State also plans to attract private investments into sports infrastructure, modern training centres, sports science and equipment under the Invest Telangana initiative.

IPL 2027: Shami, Harshal join Rajasthan, Gujarat; Curran moves to LSG

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 17 :In a series of significant player trades ahead of the 2027 Indian Premier League (IPL), experienced India pacers Mohammed Shami and Harshal Patel have found new homes, with Shami moving to Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Harshal joining Gujarat Titans (GT), while England allrounder Sam Curran has been traded to Lucknow Super Giants (LSG).

Rajasthan Royals have acquired Shami and left-arm spinner M Siddharth from Lucknow Super Giants, while Curran has moved from Rajasthan to Lucknow, according to IPL media advisories issued on Tuesday.

Shami, who was acquired by LSG for Rs 10 crore, will join Rajasthan Royals for a revised fee of Rs 8 crore. The right-arm pacer has taken 145 wickets in 132 IPL matches and is expected to strengthen Rajasthan's bowling attack with his experience and ability to strike.

Siddharth will also move to Rajasthan at his existing fee of Rs 75 lakh. The left-arm spinner is known for his accuracy and control.

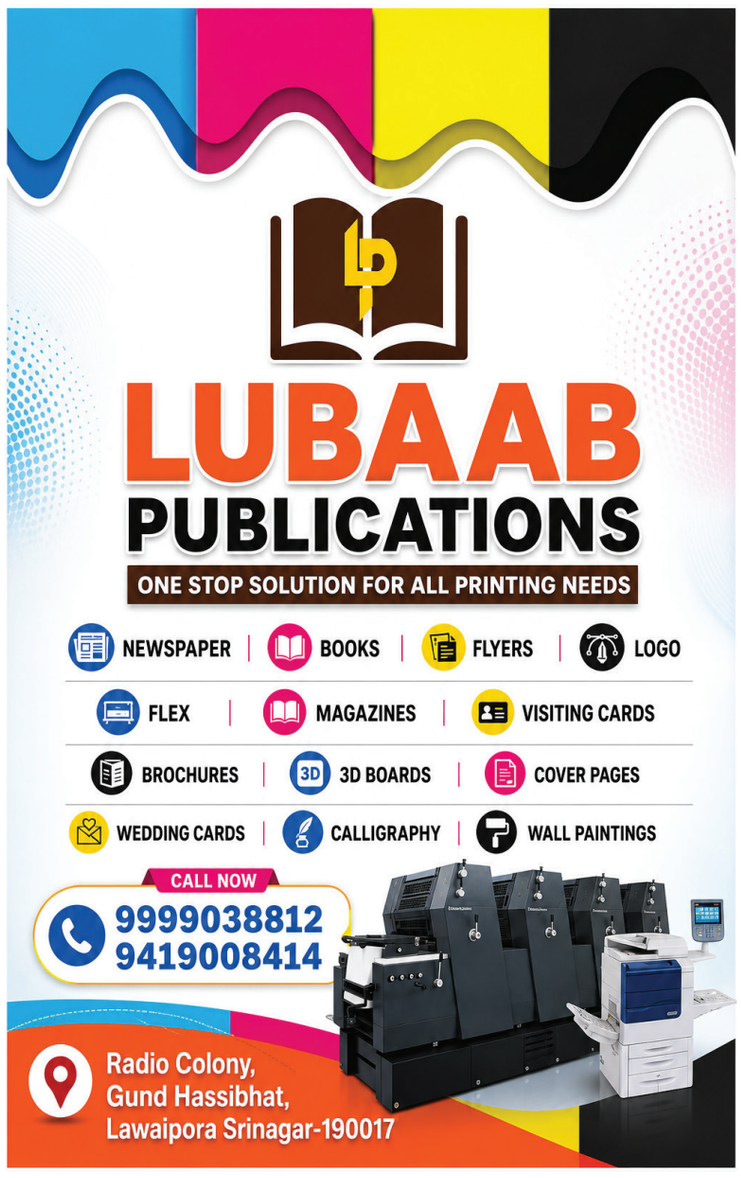
Curran, meanwhile, will join LSG from Rajasthan Royals for his existing fee of Rs 2.4 crore. The England allrounder has scored 997



runs and claimed 59 wickets in his IPL career, bringing versatility and depth to Lucknow's squad.

In another significant trade, two-time Purple Cap winner Harshal Patel has moved from Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) to Gujarat Titans for Rs 4 crore.Patel, who was acquired by SRH for Rs 8 crore at the 2025 IPL auction, will join Gujarat at half that amount. The right-arm pacer has claimed 151 wickets in 124 IPL matches since making his debut in 2012.







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