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Voice To The Voiceless



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

FDA conducts 157 inspections, lifts 53 food samples across J&K

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 20 :The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Jammu and Kashmir, has intensified food safety enforcement across the Union Territory, conducting 157 inspections of restaurants, hotels, cafes and other food establishments and lifting 53 samples for laboratory analysis.

During the enforcement drive, five cases were compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, with a total fine of Rs 5,000 imposed.

The department also initiated five cases under Section 56 of the Act for violations related to sanitary and hygienic requirements, which carry a penalty of up to Rs 1 lakh.

Besides, three cases were initiated under Section 58 over the use of non-food-grade utensils, attracting penalties of up to Rs 2 lakh.

The FDA said regular inspections, random sampling and enforcement proceedings are part of its efforts to ensure compliance with food safety standards across Jammu and Kashmir.

>>> MORE ON P 02

"We Must Dismantle Entire Terror Ecosystem, Not Just Neutralise Terrorists": Manoj Sinha

LG Orders intensified winter surveillance, property forfeiture and district-level security measures; directs crackdown on narco-terrorism, illegal mining and smuggling



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday chaired a high-level security and administrative review meeting with Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and senior officers to assess the security situation, winter preparedness and infrastructure development across Jammu Division. Directing security agencies to go beyond neutralising terrorists, the LG called for dismantling the entire terrorist and separatist ecosystem sustaining militancy. He prioritised attachment and forfeiture of properties linked to terrorist and separatist elements, intensified winter surveillance, strict vigilance along the LoC and International Border, and relentless operations against narco-terror networks.

He also directed district-specific targets for property seizures, stronger grievance redressal mechanisms and joint social media cells to counter misinformation. Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today chaired a high-level meeting with Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, and senior officials to review the security scenario, winter readiness, and key infrastructure projects across Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav; DGP Shri Nalin Prabhat; Additional Chief Secretary Home Department Shri Chandraker Bharti; Special DG Coordination PHQ Shri S.J.M. Gillani; Commissioner Secretary GAD Shri M. Raju; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor Shri Govind Jaiswal; IGP Jammu Shri Terjinder

>>> MORE ON P 02

Om Birla Calls for AI, Digital Technology to Strengthen Defence Land Management

Speaker stresses protection of 1.7 million acres of defence land, urges modernisation without compromising civilian interests

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday called for greater use of Artificial Intelligence, digitisation and modern technology to strengthen the management and protection of defence land. Addressing the centenary celebrations of the Defence Estates Organisation, he highlighted the importance of maintaining accurate and secure records of more than 1.7 million acres of defence land. Birla also stressed the need to prevent encroachments, ensure operational readiness of defence establishments and preserve the ecological and architectural heritage of cantonments while safeguarding



>>> MORE ON P 02

Mercury Rises Across Kashmir, Srinagar Moves Above Freezing Point

Pahalgam records minus 2.2°C; dry weather forecast across J&K till November 30

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 20: Night temperatures improved marginally across Jammu and Kashmir, offering slight relief from the prevailing cold wave, with Srinagar recording a minimum of 0.2°C and climbing above the freezing point after several days. Pahalgam remained the coldest among the major tourist destinations at minus 2.2°C, while Gulmarg recorded minus 0.4°C. Kupwara and Qazigund registered minus 1.1°C and minus 0.8°C, respectively. In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded 11.7°C, Katra 11.0°C and Bhaderwah 3.2°C. Despite the marginal rise in temperatures, icicles covering vegetation in Kokernag reflected the persistence of winter chill in south Kashmir. The Meteorological Department has forecast generally dry weather across J&K till November 30, with minimum temperatures likely to dip further in the coming days. Night temperatures improved marginally across most parts of Jammu and Kashmir,



>>> MORE ON P 02

J&K Govt Committed to Regularising Daily Wagers Across Departments : Dy CM

Surinder Choudhary cites financial constraints, says manifesto promise will be fulfilled

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Friday reaffirmed the government's commitment to regularising daily wagers across all departments, saying the promise made in the National Conference manifesto would be fulfilled. He said the government intended to cover workers beyond the Jal Shakti Department but acknowledged severe financial constraints, pointing out that even meeting the salary obligations of regular employees had become difficult. He urged stakeholders to understand the Union Territory's financial position, while maintaining that the government remained committed to its assurances. Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Friday said the government is committed to regularising daily wagers across all departments, while citing financial constraints as a major challenge in fulfilling the promise.



Deputy CM Surinder Choudhary said regularisation of daily wagers is a commitment made by the National Conference in its manifesto and the government would

>>> MORE ON P 02

Sitharaman Holds Labour-Sector Consultations Ahead of Union Budget 2027-28

Eighth round of pre-Budget discussions focuses on employment, workers' welfare, skill development and social security

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday held the eighth round of pre-Budget consultations with stakeholders from the employment and labour sectors ahead of the Union Budget 2027-28. The discussions focused on job creation, workforce participation, labour welfare, skill development and social security, with representatives and senior officials providing sector-specific inputs for consideration during the Budget formulation process.

union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday held the eighth round of pre-Budget consultations with stakeholders from the employment and labour sectors as the government begins gathering inputs for the union Budget 2027-28, with a focus on issues concerning workers, employment and the labour market.

The consultation, held in New Delhi, forms part of the Finance Ministry's ongoing engagement with representatives of various sectors to seek suggestions, policy priorities and recommendations for consideration in the preparation of the next union Budget. The employment and labour sector assumes significance in the Budget-making exercise amid the broader policy



>>> MORE ON P 02

Srinagar Police bids farewell to 16 officers transferred to new assignments

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 20 :Srinagar Police on Friday accorded a farewell to 16 officers transferred to new assignments, recognising their contributions to policing, maintenance of public order and security in the district.

The farewell ceremony was held at District Police Lines (DPL), Srinagar, under the chairmanship of SSP Srinagar Dr G.V. Sundeep Chakravarthy, IPS, and was attended by senior police officers, including Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, JKPS, SO to IGP Kashmir, and Zahoor Ahmad Peer, JKPS, SO to DIG CKR Srinagar.

The outgoing officers included DySP Headquarters Syed Sleet Shah, SDPO M.R. Gunj Junaid Wali, SDPO Panthachowk Zohaib Hassan, SDPO Shaheed Gunj Dheeraj Kumar, SDPO Khanyar Azhar Rashid, SDPO West Majid Mehboob, SDPO Hazratbal Rashad Akbar and SDPO Zakoora Ashiq, besides other officers.

Addressing the gathering, SSP Srinagar appreciated the officers for their dedication, professionalism and commitment to duty, acknowledging their role in maintaining peace and public order and strengthening the district's policing mechanism. He said policing in the capital city involves diverse challenges and

>>> MORE ON P 02

HT BOTTOM NEWS

"One District, One Action Plan": Sakeena Itoo Pushes Result-Oriented Drug Control Strategy

Minister calls for school-level prevention, individual recovery plans and one-year follow-up; seeks intelligence-led crackdown on drug networks

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare Sakeena Itoo has called for a measurable, district-driven strategy to combat drug abuse, stressing that the campaign must move beyond awareness programmes towards prevention, treatment and sustainable rehabilitation. Addressing the National Social Justice Summit in New Delhi, she proposed an integrated framework based on "One District, One Action Plan; One School, One Prevention Programme; One Patient, One Recovery Plan; and One Year of Follow-up". She emphasised coordinated action by health, education and police departments, individualised rehabilitation and sustained post-treatment support, while calling for uncompromising action against drug traffickers and peddlers. Minister for Health & Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, has called for transforming the fight against drug abuse from a largely awareness-driven campaign into a comprehensive, measurable and outcome-oriented national mission, emphasising the need for coordinated action at the district, institutional and individual levels to effectively tackle the growing menace of substance abuse.

The Minister said this while addressing the second day of National Social Justice Summit 'Samaveshi Niti Sankalp' at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan here today.

While putting forth a practical framework for strengthening the national campaign against drug abuse, the Minister advocated an integrated model based on the principles of "One District, One Action Plan; One School, One Prevention Programme; One Patient, One Recovery Plan; and One Year of Follow-up".

She stressed that the proposed framework could be adopted by every district across the country to ensure effective prevention, early identification, timely medical intervention, sustained rehabilitation and long-term recovery of individuals affected by substance abuse. Elaborating on the proposed approach, Sakeena Itoo said that every district must formulate a dedicated action plan after identifying

>>> MORE ON P 02

Crime Branch Files Chargesheet in 6.50 Lakh Land Fraud Case

Property dealer accused of selling five-marla plot without ownership rights

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU: The Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch Jammu has filed a chargesheet against a property dealer accused of cheating a woman of 6.50 lakh in a fraudulent land transaction at Kot Bhalwal. According to the investigation, the accused allegedly sold a five-marla plot despite the land not being registered in his name in revenue records. The Forensic Science Laboratory also verified signatures on the agreement to sell. The chargesheet has been presented before the Court of Electricity Magistrate, Jammu, in connection with FIR No. 45/2023 under Section 420 RPC.



The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Jammu has filed a charge-sheet against a property dealer for allegedly cheating a woman of Rs 6.50 lakh in a land deal.

According to the Crime Branch, the accused allegedly sold a five-marla plot at Kot Bhalwal by falsely claiming ownership. The complainant paid Rs 6.50 lakh in cash and signed an agreement to sell.

>>> MORE ON P 02

Continue from Front Page.....

FDA conducts

Food business operators have been advised to maintain prescribed hygiene and sanitation standards, use food-grade utensils and equipment, and strictly adhere to statutory provisions.

Consumers have also been urged to report the sale or distribution of unsafe or adulterated food through the department's official email: cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in. (KNS)

"We Must

Singh; Divisional Commissioner Jammu Shri Vikas Kundal; Range DIGs, DCs, SSPs, and other senior officers.

During the meeting, the discussion focussed on strengthening security frameworks and implementing actionable roadmaps to ensure lasting peace and accelerate development process in the region.

Lauding the Administration and J&K Police for the peaceful conduct of the 'Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan,' the Lieutenant Governor stressed that the anti-drug drive must continue with the same intensity.

The Lieutenant Governor directed officials to look beyond traditional policing and work towards completely dismantling the terror and separatist ecosystem. He called for intensified winter surveillance, security preparedness and complete operational control.

"Our goal cannot stop at neutralising terrorists. We must tear down the entire terrorist, separatist ecosystem that sustains them," Lieutenant Governor directed the police official.

He instructed Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to appoint dedicated nodal officers and set district-specific targets for the seizure and forfeiture of properties linked to anti-national elements.

"Attaching and forfeiting properties linked to terrorist and separatist elements must be treated as a top priority," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the officers to make sure that grievances of common man are heard.

"Ensuring that citizens' grievances receive a fair hearing is a core duty, requiring a dedicated institutional mechanism for grievance redressal with zero tolerance for negligence at any level," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor further directed for strict vigilance against encroachments along the Line of Control and the International Border (IB). He directed for crackdown against illegal mining, drugs and bovine smuggling and establishing joint social media cells to counter fake news.

"Operations against narco-terrorists must continue relentlessly. We must aim to completely dismantle the narco-terror ecosystem," he said.

The meeting also reviewed the progress achieved under the Vibrant Villages Programme across Jammu Division.

Om Birla

civilian interests.Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has called for greater use of modern technology, digitisation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to strengthen the management and protection of defence land, stressing that safeguarding military assets and ensuring their timely availability for operational requirements must remain priorities.

Addressing the centenary celebrations of the Defence Estates Organisation in New Delhi on Friday, Birla said the organisation manages and protects more than 1.7 million acres of defence land, making accurate, secure and accessible land records essential for effective administration.

He appreciated the digital upgrades undertaken by the organisation and said emerging technologies, including AI, could help address current operational requirements and long-term administrative challenges.

Birla identified encroachment on defence land as a major concern and appreciated the organisation's efforts to protect properties through surveys and accurate measurements. He also called for ensuring that enforcement measures do not lead to unnecessary disputes or hardship for civilians.

Stressing the importance of national security, he said timely access to land and suitable conditions for defence establishments and personnel were essential for the operational preparedness of the Armed Forces.

The Speaker also called for preserving the historical, ecological and architectural character of cantonments, including their green cover and forests, while accommodating modern requirements. He said development should be planned carefully to protect the distinct identity of military cantonments amid rapid urbanisation.

Birla appreciated the civic initiatives undertaken by the organisation for cantonment residents, including schools, healthcare facilities, computer education, skill training, water conservation, recycling and environmental protection. He called for continued engagement with civil society to address changing community needs.

Emphasising the importance of institutional experience, he urged officers and staff to study the laws, rules and administrative frameworks developed over the past century and learn from former officers. Combining this institutional knowledge with the technical skills of younger personnel, he said, would help strengthen the organisation.

As the Defence Estates Organisation enters its second century, Birla called for combining its legacy with a forward-looking approach based on innovation, transparency, technological advancement and public service.

He expressed confidence that the organisation would continue to protect defence land, support the operational preparedness of the Armed Forces and preserve the heritage of cantonments. (PIB)

Sitharaman Holds

focus on job creation, workforce participation, labour welfare, skill development, social security and strengthening the employment ecosystem. Stakeholder consultations provide an avenue for industry representatives, labour-sector participants and other concerned groups to flag challenges and propose measures that could be addressed through fiscal policy and government interventions.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs and senior officials of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, alongside the Finance Minister.

The pre-Budget consultation process is an important part of the government's exercise to incorporate sector-specific perspectives into its annual financial and economic policy framework, with the recommendations emerging from these discussions serving as inputs for the formulation of the union Budget 2027-28.

J&K Govt

work towards fulfilling it.

"It is our responsibility to regulate every daily wager, not just those in the Jal Shakti department, but in every department. We will do it and follow the promises made in the manifesto," he told reporters as per news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS).

The deputy chief minister, however, said the government is facing financial difficulties and is struggling to meet salary obligations even for regular employees.

"We are telling you again and again that we have a funding problem. It has become difficult to pay the salary of a permanent employee. You should also understand this," he said.

Deputy CM Surinder Choudhary urged journalists to assess the financial position of Jammu and Kashmir, saying the government needed to take into account the availability of funds before expanding its workforce or making additional salary commitments.

He said the government remained committed to its promises but would have to work within its financial limitations. (KNS)

Mercury Rises

bringing slight relief from the prevailing cold conditions, with Srinagar recording a minimum temperature of 0.2 degrees Celsius and moving above the freezing point after several days.

A weather department official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Srinagar recorded a low of 0.2 degrees Celsius against minus 0.2 degrees Celsius on the previous night.

Tourist resort Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius, up from minus 2.8 degrees Celsius a day earlier, while Gulmarg recorded minus 0.4 degrees Celsius against minus 1.0 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara in north Kashmir registered a minimum of minus 1.1 degrees Celsius compared to minus 1.3 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Qazigund recorded minus 0.8 degrees Celsius, unchanged from the previous night, while Kokernag registered 0.7 degrees Celsius against 1.0 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 11.7 degrees Celsius against 10.8 degrees Celsius the previous night. Katra recorded 11.0 degrees Celsius, Banihal 9.4 degrees Celsius, Batote 7.2 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 3.2 degrees Celsius.

The marginal rise in temperatures notwithstanding, signs of the prevailing cold conditions remained visible in parts of south Kashmir, where icicles were seen covering vegetation in the Kokernag area of Anantnag district.

A meteorologist said dry weather was expected to prevail across Jammu and Kashmir until November 30, while temperatures could witness a further decline in the coming days.

The slight improvement in minimum temperatures comes amid the onset of winter conditions across the Valley, with several higher-altitude areas continuing to record sub-zero temperatures—(KNO)

Srinagar Police

requires operational preparedness, teamwork and coordinated efforts. He also acknowledged the contribution of each officer to the functioning and achievements of District Police Srinagar.

The SSP wished the outgoing officers success in their new assignments and expressed confidence that they would continue to discharge their duties with the same dedication and integrity.

The officers also shared their experiences and thanked the district leadership and colleagues for their cooperation and support during their tenure.

As a mark of appreciation, the outgoing officers were presented with mementos and Certificates of Appreciation.

The ceremony concluded with officers exchanging greetings and best wishes for their future assignments. (KNS)

Crime Branch

However, an investigation revealed that the land was never registered in the accused's name in revenue records. The Forensic Science Laboratory also verified the signatures on the agreement.

Following the investigation, the charge-sheet was presented before the Court of Electricity Magistrate, Jammu, in FIR No. 45/2023 under Section 420 RPC for judicial proceedings.

Crime Branch has urged people to verify land ownership documents before entering into property deals and report suspected frauds to the EOW.(KINS)

"One District

vulnerable areas and high-risk groups, with close coordination among the Health, Education and Police Departments to ensure timely intervention and effective implementation of preventive measures.

She further emphasised that schools and colleges must emerge as important centres of prevention, with trained nodal teachers entrusted with the responsibility of educating students about the harmful consequences of drug abuse, identifying early warning signs and facilitating confidential counselling and professional support wherever required.

Highlighting the need to place individuals at the centre of the rehabilitation process, the Minister said that every person struggling with addiction must be provided an individualised recovery plan rather than limiting the intervention to admission in a de-addiction facility.

"Sending an individual to a de-addiction centre cannot be considered the end of our responsibility. Recovery is a continuous process which requires medical treatment, psychological counselling, family support, vocational training and opportunities for meaningful employment. We must ensure that every person who seeks help gets a genuine opportunity to rebuild his or her life," she said.

Citing the example of a young person identified with substance abuse in Kulgam, the Minister said the intervention must extend beyond medical treatment to include family involvement, counselling, skill development and livelihood support, enabling the individual to reintegrate into society with dignity and confidence.

She also underscored the importance of a structured one-year post-treatment follow-up mechanism, under which a designated counsellor or health worker would maintain regular contact with the recovered individual to monitor progress, provide emotional support and minimise the chances of relapse.

"Treatment must not end with discharge from a facility. The real test of our efforts lies in ensuring that the individual remains connected to the support system, regains confidence and does not return to substance abuse. A structured follow-up mechanism is essential to make recovery sustainable," she maintained.

Calling for a strong enforcement mechanism alongside preventive and rehabilitative interventions, the Minister said drug trafficking networks must be dismantled through coordinated, intelligence-led action by law enforcement agencies, with strict measures against those involved in drug peddling and distribution.

She emphasised that the approach towards the drug menace must be guided by compassion for victims, sensitivity towards affected families and zero tolerance towards drug traffickers and peddlers.

"Our approach must be compassionate towards the victim, supportive of the family and uncompromising towards the drug peddler. Addiction should be addressed as a serious health and social challenge, while those destroying the future of our youth through drug trafficking must face stringent action under law," she said.

The Minister stressed that the success of the national campaign against drugs should be assessed through tangible outcomes rather than being confined to the number of awareness rallies, seminars and other outreach activities organised.

"We must move beyond counting awareness programmes and start measuring the lives recovered, families restored and young people brought back into productive society. Every successful recovery is a victory for an individual, a family and the entire community," she observed.

Reaffirming Jammu and Kashmir's commitment to the national campaign, Sakeena Itoo said that every district must be made accountable for its action plan, every educational institution should become a centre of prevention and every recovered individual should be supported as a symbol of hope and successful rehabilitation.

She expressed confidence that a coordinated, people-centric and sustained approach, involving government departments, educational institutions, healthcare professionals, families and civil society, would significantly strengthen the collective resolve to eliminate the drug menace.

"Let us make Nasha Mukt Bharat not merely a government campaign but a people's movement and a sustained national mission. Our ultimate objective must be to save lives, protect the future of our youth and restore hope in every family affected by this menace," the Minister said.

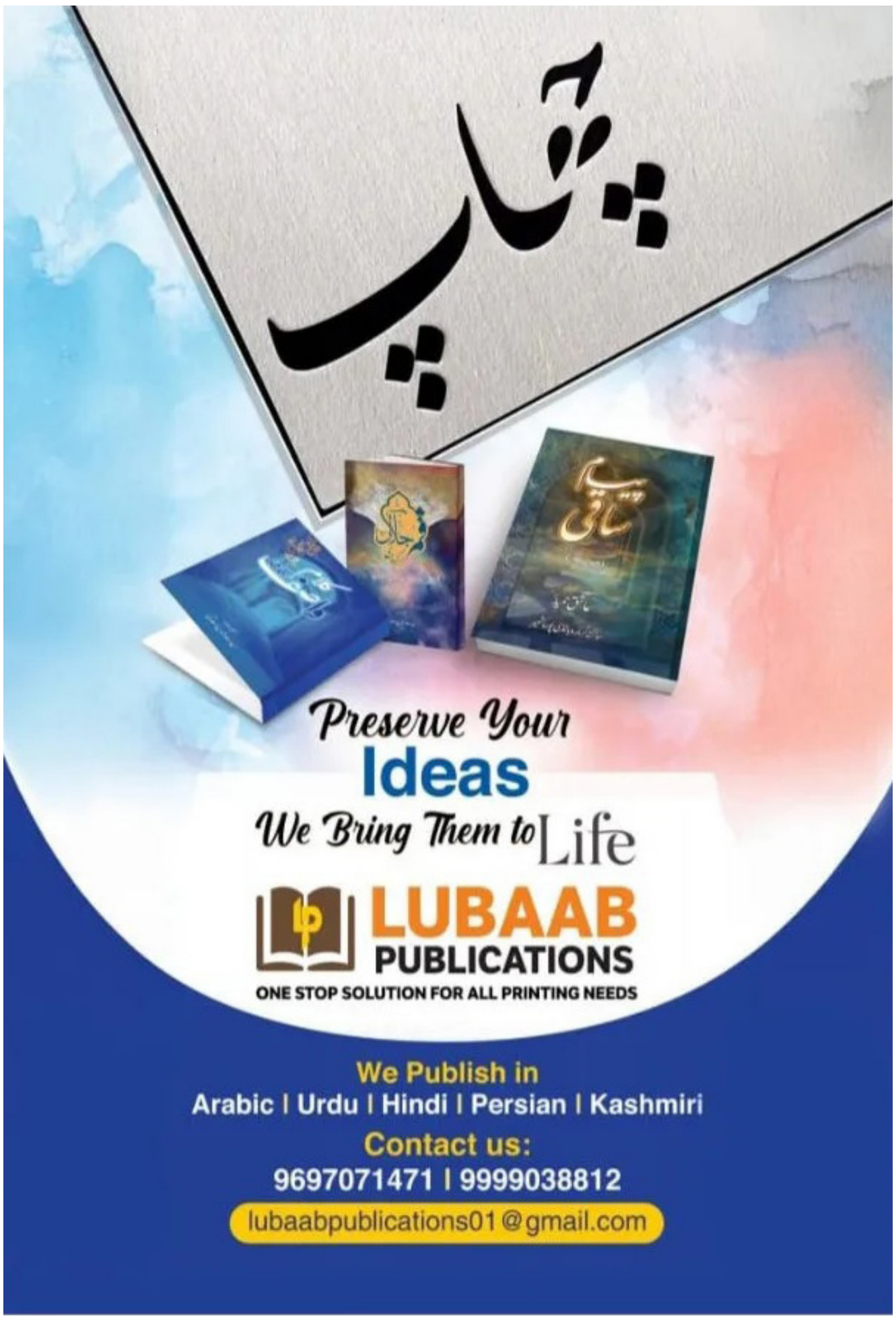
The Minister also spoke on Disability and Scholarship related themes at the Summit.

On the inaugural day of the summit, Minister Sakeena Itoo highlighted the geographical, infrastructural and administrative challenges faced by students residing in remote and far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir

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

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

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



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Chief Justice visits District Court Complex Budgam; emphasizes collective efforts to strengthen Justice System, cautious use of AI

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 20: Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, accompanied by Justice Sindhu Sharma, Administrative Judge for District Budgam today visited District Court Complex, Budgam.

Chief Justice was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour and was warmly welcomed by the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Budgam, O.P. Bhagat.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam Jatin Kishore, Senior Superintendent of Police Budgam Hariprasad KK, along with other Judicial and administrative officers were present on the occasion.

Judges from the Registry, M.K Sharma, Registrar General, Haq Nawaz Zargar, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, members of the District Judiciary, court staff, officials of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) were also present.

Chief Justice, in his address, emphasised the collective responsibility



of the Bar, Bench and administration in strengthening the justice delivery system and upholding public trust. He highlighted the importance of adopting emerging technologies particularly Artificial Intelligence with due caution to enhance transparency, efficiency and speedy delivery of justice.

Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati stressed the need to strengthen the Bar and Bench, promote better facilities and opportunities for women lawyers and uphold the highest standards of professionalism and judicial accountability. Referring to the forthcoming centenary celebrations of the judicial institution on 28th March 2027, he called upon all members of the legal fraternity across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to actively participate in this historic milestone and reaffirm their commitment to justice and public service. He assured that suggestions for institutional improvement would be considered.

The presence of Justice Sindhu Sharma, was particularly significant in view of her administrative association with the district. The occasion provided an opportunity to acknowledge the role of the District Judiciary in ensuring effective judicial administration and the importance of coordinated efforts among all institutions associated with the justice delivery mechanism.

The District Bar Association Budgam, through its President, submitted a memorandum seeking urgent intervention for strengthening judicial infrastructure in the district. The key demands included construction of new Court Complex at Budgam, establishment of a separate NIA Court and additional judicial courts, construction of Court Complexes at Charar-i-Sharief and Beerwah and a Munsiff Court at Khansahib, provision of additional advocates' chambers, upgradation of the Ladies' Bar Room, development of parking facilities, and construction of separate photocopy and canteen facilities for advocates. The Association emphasized that these measures are essential for improving judicial efficiency, addressing infrastructural deficiencies, facilitating the legal fraternity and ensuring better access and convenience for litigants and the general public.

The programme was also attended by advocates from all four Tehsils of District Budgam, represented by their respective Bar Association Presidents.

A significant highlight of the occasion was release of the magazine published by the District Legal Services Authority, Budgam under the supervision and guidance of J&K Legal Services Authority by the Chief Justice, Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati (Parton in Chief J&K Legal Services Authority).

The programme concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks presented by Additional District Judge Budgam, Yahya Firdous.

Food Safety Department issues clarification over Misleading News Report on Hatrick Rajbagh

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 20: The Food Safety Department, Srinagar, clarified that the news report circulated by some media organisations regarding the alleged seizure of rotten meat from the premises of M/s Hatrick, Rajbagh, Srinagar, is factually incorrect and does not reflect the actual circumstances of the enforcement action undertaken by the department.

The department clarified that during a routine inspection, the Food Safety team had sealed only the dry storage area of the food business establishment due to certain infrastructural and operational non-compliances. These included inadequate storage space, absence of proper tiling in the storage area, inadequate ventilation and non-maintenance of the First-In-First-Out (FIFO) inventory management system.

The department further stated that the actual facts regarding the inspection and sealing of the dry storage area had already been brought into the public domain through print and electronic media on November 18, 2026.

The clarification has been issued to dispel misinformation and ensure that the public is apprised of the factual position regarding the enforcement action.

The department has also urged media organisations and social media operators to exercise due diligence and verify facts with the concerned authorities before disseminating information, particularly in matters concerning regulatory enforcement, so as to prevent the circulation of misleading or unverified news.

Haj-2027: First Phase of Orientation Programme for Selected Pilgrims from November 23

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 20: The J&K Haj Committee has announced the schedule for the first phase of the Orientation/ Training Programme for selected Haj pilgrims of Kashmir Division, aimed at familiarising them with the Manasik-e-Haj (rituals and practices of Haj).

All selected pilgrims have been advised to attend the compulsory training programme at their respective designated venues as per the prescribed schedule.

The training programme for the pilgrims of Ganderbal will be held on November 23, 2026, at 10:30 AM at Markazia Hanfia Jamia Masjid, Beehama.Similarly, the training programme for the pilgrims from Rajpora, Shahoora Litter, Pulwama and Kakapora will be held on November 23, 2026, at 10:30 AM at Jamia Masjid Chattpora, Pulwama. Likewise, for the Pilgrims from Pampore, Awantipora, Tral and Aripal will be held on November 25, 2026, at 10:30 AM at Jamia Masjid, Awantipora.The training programme for the pilgrims from Drugmulla, Trehgam, Kralpora, Keran, Machil, Sogam, Lalpora and Karnah will be held on November 25, 2026, at 10:00 AM at Markazi Jamia Masjid, Kupwara. Likewise, for the pilgrims from Handwara, Langate, Kralgund, Qaziabad, Vilgam, Zachaldara, Qalamabad and Ramhall, the training will be held on November 28, 2026, at Jamia Masjid Jadeed, Handwara.The training programme for the pilgrims of Budgam, Khan Sahib, Narbal, Magam, Khag and Beerwah will be held on November 25, 2026, at 10:30 AM at Jamia Masjid, Ompora.Likewise, for the pilgrims from Chadoora, Kanipora, Charari Sharief and BK Pora, the training will be held on November 28, 2026, at Hanfiya Jamia Masjid Raheema, Chadoora.

DC Shopian conducts surprise inspection of various government offices across District

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 20: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, today conducted a surprise inspection of various government offices across the district to assess punctuality, attendance and the overall functioning of government establishments.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner visited the offices of the Block Medical Office Shopian, Tehsil Office Shopian, Roads and Buildings (R&B) Division Shopian and Block Development Office Shopian.

He inspected attendance registers and verified the presence of officers and employees. He also took stock of the day-to-day functioning of the offices and reviewed the status of official work to assess efficiency and ensure timely delivery of public services.



During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner took serious note of instances of unauthorized absence and dereliction of duty and directed the issuance of show-cause notices to the delinquent officers/ officials, seeking their explanation for the lapses observed.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of maintaining punctuality, discipline and accountability in government offices. He directed the concerned officers and officials to ensure regular attendance, timely disposal of official work and prompt delivery of public services.

DC Baramulla presides over Block Diwas at Dangiwacha

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 20: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, S.F. Hamid today presided over a Block Diwas programme at Degree College Dangiwacha, to address public grievances at grassroots-level.

The programme witnessed active participation from public representatives, civil society members, and a large number of local residents from across Block Dangiwacha, who projected various issues and demands pertaining to their areas.

During the interaction, several key issues were raised by the participants including issuance of ration cards to eligible families, macadamisation of the road leading to Hamam Markote, improvement of transport facilities up to Chatoosa, widening of roads connecting Dangiwacha to Yarbugh, Dangiwacha to Laiser, and Cherdaji to Pazalpora.

Other key demands included posting of a Tehsildar in Dangiwacha, adequate water supply to various villages of Dangiwacha block and availability of proper sanitation facilities.

The DC gave a patient hearing to all the grievances raised during the programme, resolving several issues on the spot, and assured



the participants that all other genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned departments for prompt and time-bound redressal.

Responding to the issues raised, S.F. Hamid issued strict directions to the concerned departments that there should be no compromise in the delivery of essential public services, particularly revenue-related services, issuance of ration cards to eligible families, availability of safe drinking water and uninterrupted power supply.

He further directed the officers to prioritise matters falling within their jurisdiction and take immediate necessary measures for resolving issues that can be addressed at their level, while ensuring timely action on other demands through proper coordination with the concerned departments.

DC Srinagar reviews status, disposal of various public welfare-related services

Stresses prompt relief & assistance to beneficiaries

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 20: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Friday chaired a meeting of senior Officers at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, to review the status and progress of various public welfare-related cases to ensure their prompt and effective disposal.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadil Fareed, SDM West, Seerat Baji, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, all Tehsildars, representative of ADGP CID and R&B Department.

The meeting reviewed the status of various cases of public welfare nature including SRO-43, financial assistance under the Red Cross Fund, immediate relief to fire victims, compensation to road accident victims, rent assessment, and other related services.



During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for time-bound processing and efficient disposal of all pending cases, emphasising that unnecessary delays should not cause inconvenience to the public.

He directed the concerned Officers to take necessary measures to expedite the disposal of pending cases and ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive assistance and benefits without undue delay.

The DC particularly emphasised the importance of extending timely relief to fire-affected families, providing compensation to road accident victims and facilitating eligible persons seeking assistance under the Red Cross Fund and SRO-43. He emphasized that all Departments must work in a coordinated and result-oriented manner to ensure transparency, accountability and prompt delivery of public services.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that addressing public grievances and ensuring timely delivery of benefits to deserving beneficiaries must remain a priority of the District Administration and other stakeholder Departments. He directed the concerned Officers to take necessary measures to expedite the disposal of pending cases and ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive assistance and benefits without undue delay.

The DC particularly emphasised the importance of extending timely relief to fire-affected families, providing compensation to road accident victims and facilitating eligible persons seeking assistance under the Red Cross Fund and SRO-43. He emphasized that all Departments must work in a coordinated and result-oriented manner to ensure transparency, accountability and prompt delivery of public services.

DDC Ganderbal takes stock of Developmental Works under RDD

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 20: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today chaired a meeting in the VC Room, Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal, to review the overall functioning of the Rural Development Department (RDD), with a focus on the physical and financial progress of various schemes and developmental works across the district.

The meeting reviewed the progress and implementation status of various schemes and initiatives, including VB-G RAM G, Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) and Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).

The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development



Commissioner, Chief Planning Officer, ACD, District Treasury Officer, representatives of REW Ganderbal, Block Development Officers, and other concerned officers of the district.

During the meeting, the ACD apprised the chair of the progress achieved under various schemes, highlighting block-wise targets, achievements and expenditure status. While reviewing VB-G RAM G for the current financial year, the DDC took stock of the number of registered workers and person days generated and stressed the need for timely wage disbursement.

The DDC also reviewed the progress under SBM-G and took stock of the physical and financial status of various components, including Community Sanitary Complexes, soakage pits, compost pits and waste segregation sheds.

The execution of developmental works under various infrastructure and funding initiatives was also reviewed, including the construction of Panchayat Ghars under RGSA, works under District Capex and Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

DC Shopian reviews Mission YUVA, stresses effective implementation of Key Initiatives

Directs focused efforts to promote youth self-employment and entrepreneurship

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 20: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) to review the progress achieved under Mission YUVA and assess the implementation of various initiatives being undertaken under the programme.

At the outset, Assistant Director Employment, Dr. Nida Yousuf, briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the applications received, approved, sanctioned and disbursed under the scheme. She also apprised the chair regarding the status of applications at various stages of processing and the measures being taken to facilitate aspiring entrepreneurs.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to increase the number of applications, particularly from genuine and deserving applicants having viable business ideas. He directed the concerned officers to intensify outreach activities and organise special awareness and facilitation camps to mobilise eligible youth, expedite application processing and ensure timely delivery of benefits.

Emphasising interdepartmental coordination, the Deputy Commissioner called for regular monitoring of applications and prompt resolution of issues faced by prospective beneficiaries. He observed that Mission YUVA is a transformative initiative aimed at empowering youth to become self-reliant entrepreneurs through financial assistance, skill development, capacity building and sustained mentorship.

He directed all concerned departments, financial institutions and implementing agencies to ensure time-bound sanctioning of cases, hassle-free disbursement of financial assistance and elimination of unnecessary pendency.

The Deputy Commissioner further emphasised the importance of continuous monitoring, skill enhancement, handholding support and improved market linkages to ensure the long-term sustainability of enterprises established under the programme. He also reiterated that special attention must be given to underprivileged and marginalised sections of society to strengthen their socio-economic conditions through sustainable livelihood opportunities.

He directed all concerned officers to work in close coordination, intensify awareness campaigns and ensure effective implementation of all components of Mission YUVA, with particular focus on promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship among the youth.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Shopian (Nodal Officer, Mission YUVA), Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC), Shopian , Surjeel Naik, District Social Welfare Officer, Shopian; Lead District Manager, Shopian; District Nodal Officer, JKEDI; Assistant Director Employment, along with other staff members, besides SBDU and BHD officials of Mission YUVA. He directed all concerned departments, financial institutions and implementing agencies to ensure time-bound sanctioning of cases, hassle-free disbursement of financial assistance and elimination of unnecessary pendency.

The Deputy Commissioner further emphasised the importance of continuous monitoring, skill enhancement, handholding support and improved market linkages to ensure the long-term sustainability of enterprises established under the programme. He also reiterated that special attention must be given to underprivileged and marginalised sections of society to strengthen their socio-economic conditions through sustainable livelihood opportunities.

He directed all concerned officers to work in close coordination, intensify awareness campaigns and ensure effective implementation of all components of Mission YUVA, with particular focus on promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship among the youth.

KVK-Anantnag, SKUAST-K organises Multi-Sectoral Farmers' Outreach Programme at Shangus under Khet Bachao Abhiyan

Covers more than 50 Villages and Panchayats across District

■ HT News Network



ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 20: In a significant initiative towards strengthening agricultural and livestock-based livelihoods, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)-Anantnag, SKUAST-Kashmir, organised a comprehensive farmers' outreach programme under the ongoing Khet Bachao Abhiyan (Rabi-2026).

The programme featured Animal Clinical Camp and distribution of veterinary medicines, distribution of improved Fodder oat seed under HADP Project 28, and FLD programme benefiting around 1000 farmers and livestock owners.

The programme was graced by MLA Anantnag East (Shangus), Adv. Riyaz Ahmad Khan, as the Chief Guest, while Director Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Raihana H. Kanth, attended as the Guest of Honour. Representatives from the Institute of Seed Science, Breeding and Innovations (ISSBI), SKUAST-Kashmir, along with experts from the Veterinary Department, also participated in the programme.

The MLA appreciated the efforts of SKUAST-Kashmir and KVK-Anantnag in reaching the farming community at the grassroots level. He emphasised the importance of strengthening farmer-oriented initiatives, ensuring timely availability of quality agricultural inputs and extending institutional support to farming households for improving their economic well-being.

Director Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir, highlighted the importance of scientific interventions, improved fodder varieties and integrated livestock management in enhancing farm productivity and profitability.

She appreciated the outreach activities of KVK-Anantnag and stressed the need for sustained farmer-scientist interaction to ensure wider dissemination and adoption of university-recommended technologies.

Dr. Ishtiyaq A. Khan, Head, KVK-Anantnag, highlighted the pivotal role being played by the Kendra in transforming the agricultural landscape of district Anantnag through need-based technological interventions, frontline demonstrations, capacity building and effective implementation of farmer-centric programmes.

He emphasised that KVK-Anantnag has emerged as an important institutional link between agricultural research and farming communities, facilitating the adoption of improved technologies across agriculture, horticulture and allied sectors.

He further informed that under the wider framework of Khet Bachao Abhiyan, KVK-Anantnag has extended its outreach to more than 50 villages and Panchayats across the district, addressing critical farming-related issues and promoting sustainable agricultural practices through coordinated interventions.

During the programme, improved Fodder oat seed under HADP Project 28 was distributed among farmers to promote quality fodder production, strengthen the livestock feed base and reduce dependence on external fodder resources.

The Animal Clinical Camp provided veterinary consultation and essential animal healthcare services.

District-Level Essay Writing, Quiz Competitions held in Anantnag

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 20: District-level Essay Writing and Quiz Competitions for members of Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) were organised today at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Ranibagh, Anantnag, with the participation of over 60 students representing all seven Assembly Constituencies of the district.

The competitions aimed to promote electoral awareness, democratic values and responsible citizenship among students. The programme was inaugurated by the Deputy District Election Officer, Anantnag, and the District Education Planning Officer, Anantnag.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Muzamil Maqbool, attended the concluding-cum-felicitation ceremony as the Chief Guest and appreciated the initiative and participation of students.

On the occasion, ten top-performing students were shortlisted to represent District Anantnag in the forthcoming Divisional-Level Competition.

Specially Abled Students explore Kashmir's Heritage

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 20: On Day 2nd of World Heritage Week 2026, the Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Kashmir Division, organized a heritage exposure tour and exhibition visit for specially abled students of Abhinandan School, Solina, Srinagar.

Today's event was organized with the theme "Save Heritage, Save Identity". The participants included 60 students, besides officers and officials of the Directorate and other members of the public. The students visited protected monuments across Srinagar District and the Week-Long Heritage Exhibition at Exhibition Hall and Art Gallery, Shergarhi Complex (Old Secretariat), where they viewed rare manuscripts, archival records and historical documents.

Assistant Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Kashmir, ShaheenaYaseen, briefed the students on the objectives and significance of the Exhibition and the preservation of archival heritage, through their trainer/ translator.

SWD Srinagar celebrates Child Rights Day 2026 at Guzarbal Palpora

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 20: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, through SANKALP–Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), celebrated Child Rights Day, 2026 at Al Haleem Public School, Guzarbal Palpora, with the aim of sensitizing students about their rights, protection, welfare and overall development.

The programme focused on creating awareness among students regarding the fundamental rights of children, including the right to education, protection, participation, health and a safe environment. Students were sensitized about the importance of safeguarding themselves against abuse, exploitation, discrimination and other forms of violence, while encouraging them to speak up and seek help whenever required.

The programme also highlighted the importance of providing children with a supportive and inclusive environment where they can grow, learn and develop their potential without fear. Participants were informed about various child protection mechanisms and the role of institutions, parents, teachers and the community in ensuring the safety, dignity and well-being of children.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and school staff. The programme concluded with a reaffirmation of the Department's commitment towards promoting child rights, strengthening child protection measures and ensuring the welfare and holistic development of children through community-based awareness initiatives.

Department of Social Welfare Srinagar continues to undertake awareness programmes in educational institutions and communities to promote a safe, informed and empowered society for children.

DC Kupwara reviews Farmer ID Generation, directs daily targets, strict monitoring

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 20: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, today reviewed the progress of Farmer ID generation under AgriStack and directed all concerned departments to ensure achievement of assigned targets within the stipulated timeframe.

The DC directed ADCs, SDMs and Tehsildars to ensure daily targets, with any shortfall carried forward to the next day. He stressed strict monitoring of field teams and warned of action against officials failing to meet assigned targets. He also directed the organisation of special enrolment camps, adequate publicity and timely resolution of record-related discrepancies.

The DC appreciated Tehsildars for achieving 100% saturation under AgriStack and SVAMITVA and urged all concerned to ensure complete coverage of eligible farmers under Farmer ID generation.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kupwara, ACR and Chief Agriculture Officer, while ADC Handwara, SDMs and concerned Tehsildars participated virtually.

SWD Budgam organises Awareness-cum-Outreach Programme at Government High School Shamasabad

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 20: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Budgam, through SANKALP–Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), under Mission Shakti, organised an Awareness-cum-Outreach Programme at Government High School, Shamasabad, Khansahib, with the objective of promoting awareness about various government welfare initiatives and strengthening community participation in women empowerment and social welfare.The programme witnessed active participation from members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) associated with the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), along with students and staff members of the school. The participants were sensitised about various government welfare schemes, women-centric initiatives, child protection measures, legal rights and other social welfare programmes aimed at ensuring the safety, dignity and overall development of women and children.

Special emphasis was laid on creating awareness about the importance of women empowerment, financial independence, livelihood opportunities and the role of community-based institutions in facilitating access to government benefits. The participants were also encouraged to actively engage with available support mechanisms and avail themselves of the benefits of various schemes designed for their welfare and socio-economic upliftment.

The programme further highlighted the role of SANKALP–HEW in facilitating handholding support, awareness generation, inter-departmental convergence, scheme linkages, capacity building and grievance redressal for women. The initiative aims to bridge the gap between eligible beneficiaries and government services by ensuring that information and assistance reach women at the grassroots level.

NIT Srinagar to host 11th International Conference on NBL in Sept 2027

Aimed to bring together leading academic institutions, scientists and researchers to explore advances in nanotechnology and its applications

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Nov 20: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar will host the 11th International Conference on Nanotechnology for Better Living (NBL–2027) from September 7 to 11, 2027, bringing together scientists, researchers, academicians and industry experts to deliberate on emerging developments in nanotechnology and its applications across key sectors.

The five-day international conference to be jointly organised by NIT Srinagar and IIT Ropar, in collaboration with Amity University, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, SKUAST-Kashmir and Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), under the aegis of the Materials Research Society of India.

General Chair of NBL–2027 and Dean Alumni and International Affairs, Prof. M.A. Shah will lead the academic initiative. Prof. Shah is associated with the Institute's Laboratory for Multifunctional Nanomaterials and has extensive research experience in nanoscience, nanomaterials and their applications in energy, environment, agriculture and medical sciences.

Speaking about the conference, Prof. Shah said, "NBL–2027 aims to strengthen the interface between scientific research, engineering and industry. Nanotechnology has enormous potential to address contemporary challenges in healthcare, clean energy, environmental protection, agriculture and advanced materials.

"The conference will provide an important platform for researchers to present their findings, discuss practical challenges and explore collaborative opportunities that can translate scientific discoveries into meaningful societal applications," he said.

The conference will provide an interdisciplinary platform for scientists, engineers, academicians, industry professionals and young researchers to present their research findings, exchange ideas and explore emerging technological developments.



The scientific deliberations will cover nanomaterials, advanced material fabrication, healthcare and medical diagnostics, energy storage, environmental remediation, water purification, agricultural applications and emerging technologies.

The event is also expected to encourage collaboration among researchers from physics, chemistry, materials science, biotechnology, medical sciences and engineering, with particular emphasis on translating laboratory research into practical technological solutions.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, said hosting the 11th edition of this international conference reflects the Institute's commitment to advancing scientific research and strengthening academic collaborations."Such platforms provide valuable opportunities for researchers to engage with the global scientific community and contribute to addressing contemporary technological challenges," he said.

The conference is expected to feature plenary lectures, keynote addresses, technical presentations and poster sessions, providing opportunities for students and young researchers to interact with established scientists and research experts.

The organisation of NBL–2027 will further strengthen NIT Srinagar's research outreach and institutional collaborations while bringing the international scientific community to Kashmir.

Experts deliberate on tangible Cultural Heritage of J&K on day-2 of World Heritage Week Celebrations

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 20: As part of the week-long celebrations of World Heritage Week 2026, the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K organised an insightful series of lectures on the theme Tangible Cultural Heritage of Jammu and Kashmir" on the second day of the celebrations at Kala Kendra Bikram Chowk, Jammu.

The programme witnessed the participation of eminent experts, scholars and heritage enthusiasts who shared their valuable insights on the rich and diverse tangible cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting its historical significance, architectural legacy, artistic traditions and the urgent need for its preservation and promotion.

The distinguished speakers included Dr. Shruti Awasthi, Director, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (1GNCA); Arvind Kotwal, JKAS (Retd.), Coordinator, Jammu Tourism, INTACH Jammu Chapter and Prof. Ajay Khjuria, Professor of Practice, MIET Jammu. Through their scholarly presentations and perspectives, the speakers elaborated on various dimensions of the region's cultural heritage and emphasised the importance of documenting, conserving and transmitting this invaluable legacy to future generations.

The lectures provided an enriching platform for intellectual exchange and sensitised the participants towards the importance of heritage conservation, community participation and the role of institutions in safeguarding the cultural identity of Jammu and Kashmir. The speakers also highlighted that tangible heritage, including historic monuments, architectural structures, archaeological remains, traditional art forms and material culture, represents an inseparable link between the past and the present.Speaking on the occasion, the Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K Dr. Pranjal J. Hazarika emphasised that Jammu and Kashmir possesses an exceptionally rich and diverse cultural heritage, which is not merely a reflection of its glorious past but also an important foundation of its cultural identity and collective memory. He observed that the preservation of heritage requires sustained institutional efforts, public awareness and active participation of all stakeholders.

He further stated that the Department is committed to the systematic documentation, conservation, restoration and promotion of the region's tangible and intangible heritage. Such academic engagements and public outreach programmes provide an important opportunity to connect the younger generation with their historical roots and inspire them to take an active role in protecting the invaluable cultural legacy of Jammu and Kashmir.The programme formed an important part of the Department's week-long celebrations of World Heritage Week, being observed from November 19 to 25, 2026, with a series of exhibitions, heritage walks, lectures, awareness activities, site visits and cultural programmes aimed at promoting heritage consciousness among students, scholars and the general public.

2-day Nature Exploration event held at Manasbal concludes

■ HT News Network



MANASBAL(GANDERBAL), NOVEMBER 20: The two-day Nature Exploration event organised by Wullar Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) in collaboration with Government Degree College(GDC), Ganderbal concluded here today.

The event drew enthusiastic response from students of GDC, Ganderbal, Nature lovers, visitors and local stakeholders alike.

As part of the event, today a painting competition was held on the twin themes of Nature conservation and drug abuse during which students put their varied thoughts on paper and canvas to convey their deep commitment for Nature conservation and against drug abuse.

Well known visual artist and calligrapher, Saiqa Rashid was the expert on the occasion to judge the art pieces.

The conclusion of the two-day event was marked by distribution of prizes and commendations among the students and volunteers.

Chief Executive Officer, WMDA, Dr Ahsanul Haq Chishti and head of Central Silk Board, Manasbal, Dr Rajesh Kumar gave away the prizes and commendations among the participant students and volunteers.

In his address the CEO said WMDA would continue to provide a platform to all the creative endeavours and art activities to strengthen our connection with Nature and firm up society's resolve to conserve Nature and fight drug abuse. He thanked the cooperation rendered by Government Degree College, Ganderbal in this regard.

Dr Rajesh Kumar in address on the occasion laid stress on collaborative efforts to conserve Nature and fight substance abuse. He also detailed the initiatives being taken by his organisation in this regard and also promoting the local artistry.

Programme Coordinator of GDC, Ganderbal, Dr Jamsheeda Akhter highlighted the role and activities of NSS unit in spreading awareness on nature conservation and drug abuse. She hoped that many more such events would be conducted in days to come.

Earlier, on the first day, NSS volunteers from GDC Ganderbal, joined by sanitation field staff and officials of WMDA undertook a massive day long cleanliness drive along the banks of Manasbal lake spreading through Kondabal, Jarokabal, Baghwan Mohalla and adjoining areas during which local residents also joined the cleanliness campaign.

Govt accords 9.85 crore approval for Street Food Hubs at Tangmarg, Lakhanpur

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 20: In a significant initiative to strengthen local livelihoods, promote tourism and improve public amenities, the Jammu and Kashmir Government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has accorded administrative approval for the construction of two Street Food Hubs at Tangmarg and Lakhanpur at a combined cost of 9.85 crore.

The projects assume special significance in view of the strategic and tourism importance of the two locations. Lakhanpur, the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir and J&K's first town for visitors entering from Punjab, serves as the first point of entry for a large number of tourists, pilgrims and travellers. Similarly, Tangmarg is the first major tourist destination on the route to the world-famous ski resort of Gulmarg, welcoming visitors heading towards the popular tourist resort.

The projects include construction of a Street Food Hub at Tangmarg at an approved cost of 3.81 crore and a Clean Street Food Hub at Lakhanpur, near the State Tax Office Building and the bus stand, at a cost of 6.04 crore. The funding will be provided under PM SVANidhi and the Capex Budget (MRDA Sector).

The initiative aims to provide organised, hygienic and well-equipped spaces for street vendors, improve public amenities and ensure access to safe and quality food for residents, tourists and other visitors.

The development of these facilities is expected to enhance the overall visitor experience at two important entry and tourism points of Jammu and Kashmir, while providing better livelihood opportunities to street vendors and giving a boost to local economic activity.

The projects reflect Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led Government's focus on creating cleaner, better-organised and more visitor-friendly public spaces, reinforcing the importance of Lakhanpur and Tangmarg in the J&K's tourism and economic landscape.

GDC Katra organises Mission Shakti Awareness Lecture

■ HT News Network



REASI, NOVEMBER 20: Government Degree College Katra organised an awareness lecture under Mission Shakti in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, NSS Unit, National Committee for Drug Demand Reduction (NCORD) and Red Ribbon Club.

The programme aimed to sensitise students to the welfare schemes and initiatives of the Social Welfare Department, highlighting their objectives, eligibility criteria, benefits and application procedures. Special focus was laid on schemes for women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable sections of society.

The speakers also highlighted the objectives of Mission Shakti, emphasising women's safety, security, rights and empowerment. Awareness was also generated about the harmful effects of drug abuse, with NCORD and Red Ribbon Club representatives urging youth to contribute towards building a drug-free society. Students were encouraged to spread awareness about these initiatives within their families and communities to ensure that eligible beneficiaries avail themselves of the benefits.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, including Dr. Usha Sharma, Prof. Shikha Bhasin, Dr. Harmeet Singh, Prof. Younus, Dr. Harmeet Kaur and Prof. Ajay. An interactive session was also held to address students' queries regarding welfare schemes.

Khellani: SSB joins students to promote Nasha Mukt Abhiyan

Awareness rally spreads anti-drug message

■ HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER 20: A massive awareness rally to promote the Nasha Mukt Abhiyan (Drug-Free India Campaign) was today taken out in the highway town Khellani amid the participation of students of local PM SHRI Government Higher Secondary School and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).The rally spread awareness among the general public about the devastating consequences of drug abuse and the importance of adopting a healthy, positive and drug-free lifestyle.The participants conveyed a strong message against substance abuse through awareness slogans, urging people, especially young individuals, to stay away from drugs and make informed choices for a healthier future.

DIET Shopian organises District-Level Red Ribbon Quiz Competition under Youth Fest 2026–27

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 20: The District Institute of Education and Trainings (DIET), Shopian, successfully organised a School-Level and District-Level Red Ribbon Quiz Competition at DIET Complex Shopian, as part of Youth Fest 2026–27.

The Competition, organised in collaboration with the J&K AIDS Control Society (JKACS) and the Health & Medical Education Department, aimed to sensitise students and enhance their awareness and knowledge about critical health-related issues, including HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, nutrition, sanitation, hygiene and the importance of eliminating social taboos, stigma and discrimination associated with health-related concerns.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students through a two-tier selection process. The preliminary school-level competitions were conducted across participating institutions, following which the top ten school teams were shortlisted to compete at the district level, providing students with an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, confidence and understanding of various health-related subjects.

On the occasion, Principal DIET Shopian, Neetu Gandotra, interacted with the participating students and highlighted the objectives and significance of organising such awareness-based educational activities. She emphasised the pivotal role of youth in disseminating accurate health information, promoting healthy practices and challenging social stigmas through awareness and informed community participation.

The programme concluded with appreciation for all participating students and recognition of the efforts of the best-performing teams. The initiative reaffirmed DIET Shopian's commitment to promoting health awareness, social responsibility and holistic development among students.

DLSA Budgam organises Awareness Programme on Child Rights & Protection under "Surakshit Bachpan Abhiyan"

■ HT News Network



BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 20: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, in collaboration with the Education Department, Budgam, today organised an awareness programme on Child Rights and Protection, with special emphasis on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Budgam, under the banner of "Surakshit Bachpan Abhiyan."

The programme was the second programme of the series of programmes being held by DLSA under the campaign.

The programme was organised under the directions of Chairman DLSA O.P Bhagat and under the guidance of Secretary, DLSA Budgam, Tabasum Qadir Parray, with the objective of sensitising students and the teaching fraternity about child rights, child protection mechanisms, and the legal safeguards available to children under the POCSO Act, 2012.During the programme, Advocate Zahoor Ahmad Malik, Panel Lawyer Advocate Feroz Ahmad Khan and Advocate Showkat Ahmad, Resource Persons, deliberated on various aspects of child rights and POCSO Act,2012 . They highlighted the key provisions of the POCSO Act, 2012, recognising and reporting Child Sexual and abuse, importance of preventing child abuse and exploitation, legal remedies available to victims, and the role of educational institutions, teachers and society in ensuring a safe and protective environment for children. The students were also sensitised about the importance of recognising, reporting and responding appropriately to instances of abuse.

The programme witnessed the participation of teachers, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and a large number of students, who actively attended the awareness session.

The initiative reaffirmed the commitment of DLSA Budgam towards promoting legal awareness, safeguarding the rights and dignity of children, and strengthening community participation in creating a safe, secure and child-friendly environment. The initiative reaffirmed the commitment of DLSA Budgam towards promoting legal awareness, safeguarding the rights and dignity of children.

JKSSB reaffirms integrity of Accounts Assistant Examination; Appreciates swift action by J&K Police

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 20: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) clarifies that the Accounts Assistant examination conducted on November 15, 2026, was successfully held across all 20 districts of the Union Territory and that the isolated incident involving an attempt to use unfair means did not compromise the examination process.The Examination was spread over 493 Examination Centres in which 1,61,946 candidates were scheduled to appear for selection against 600 posts.

The Board appreciated J&K Police for their swift, professional and decisive action in identifying and apprehending the elements allegedly involved in the nefarious attempt to undermine the sanctity of the examination. The Board acknowledged the integral role of J&K Police as a key component of the overall examination management and security apparatus, working in close coordination with JKSSB, District Administrations and other stakeholder agencies to ensure the secure and orderly conduct of examinations. The timely intervention of the Police, complemented by the multi-layered security arrangements put in place by the Government, ensured that the suspected elements could not compromise the examination process.

The Board recognized that every recruitment examination represents years of preparation, aspiration and hard work on the part of candidates. The protection of their interests and preservation of a level playing field is an administrative responsibility as well as an institutional obligation. Every candidate must have the assurance that selection is determined solely by merit and prescribed eligibility and selection criteria, without any unfair advantage or extraneous consideration. JKSSB remains firmly committed to safeguarding the interests of genuine candidates and ensuring equal opportunity to all eligible aspirants.

JKSSB has put in place a comprehensive, multi-layered examination-security framework encompassing technological surveillance, identity authentication, access control and administrative supervision. CCTV surveillance and electronic jammers are complemented by biometric authentication of candidates, physical verification at entry points, surprise inspections through flying squads, and strict protocols governing the transportation, handling and custody of examination material. These preventive and monitoring mechanisms are aimed at deterring impersonation, unauthorized communication, use of prohibited electronic devices and other forms of examination malpractice. Strict adherence to prescribed Standard Operating Procedures is ensured through clearly defined responsibilities of all personnel deployed for examination-related duties.

The Board has taken cognisance of the 'Latest Modus Operandi' attempted to be used in the thwarted attempt by the unscrupulous elements. The Board has added additional preventive measures for the upcoming exams to the already existing gamut of preventive measures. These additional measures have been taken in view of the evolving modus operandi of the unscrupulous elements and to ensure that the upcoming examinations continue to be conducted in a fair and transparent manner while thwarting any new designs of the unscrupulous elements to use any kind of unfair means in future examinations. These include updating the existing comprehensive SOPs, stricter access controls and security of examination centres/halls and increasing technical surveillance and barriers against the use of technical gadgets as unfair means.

JKSSB reiterates that the sanctity of the examination process and the interests of genuine candidates shall remain paramount. Every selection shall be governed by merit and notified criteria, and any established attempt to undermine the integrity of the recruitment process shall be dealt with strictly in accordance with law.

HT EDITORIAL

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

With snowfall beginning in higher reaches and temperatures set to plunge, KPDCL faces a crucial test of its preparedness and accountability

Kashmir is approaching another demanding winter, and the first indications of a fresh spell of adverse weather have already begun to emerge. With snowfall reported in the higher reaches and the Meteorological Department forecasting precipitation, the Valley is once again confronting a familiar but pressing question: is the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) genuinely prepared to keep the lights on when winter tightens its grip?

For electricity consumers, the anxiety is rooted in experience rather than speculation. The summer months witnessed persistent complaints of inadequate supply, unscheduled power cuts and prolonged interruptions. If the distribution system struggled to meet public expectations during relatively favourable weather conditions, there is little reason for consumers to feel reassured about its ability to withstand the additional pressures of freezing temperatures, heavy snowfall and weather-related infrastructure damage.

Winter in Kashmir is neither an unexpected phenomenon nor an administrative surprise. Snow accumulation, falling trees, damaged transmission and distribution lines, transformer breakdowns and inaccessible roads are recurring challenges. The authorities have sufficient experience to anticipate these difficulties and prepare accordingly. Yet, every winter, consumers find themselves grappling with the same problems, often without clear information about restoration timelines or the availability of electricity.

In this context, KPDCL's recently released Digital Handbook on Winter Preparedness 2026–27 assumes considerable significance. The document outlines the corporation's preparedness framework, but its credibility will ultimately depend on implementation. A handbook, however comprehensive, cannot substitute for functional infrastructure, adequate manpower, timely maintenance and an efficient emergency response mechanism.

The scale of KPDCL's responsibility is considerable. The corporation serves approximately 13.53 lakh consumers through a vast distribution network comprising 353 receiving stations, 135 33 kV feeders, 1,334 11 kV feeders and 49,935 distribution transformers. Maintaining such an extensive network under harsh winter conditions is undoubtedly a challenging task. However, the magnitude of responsibility also demands a corresponding level of planning, coordination and accountability.

What makes the situation particularly concerning is the disconnect between preparedness claims and the ground-level experience of consumers. Repeated complaints during summer have already exposed shortcomings in reliable electricity distribution. People are therefore justified in questioning whether the existing arrangements can withstand the far greater demands of winter. Public confidence cannot be restored through official statements when the everyday experience of consumers tells a different story.

KPDCL must also demonstrate greater transparency regarding actual power availability. Consumers deserve clear information about the expected supply position, notified curtailment schedules, emergency arrangements and the time likely to be taken to restore damaged infrastructure. Divisional and sub-divisional offices must remain responsive, while grievance redressal mechanisms should function effectively rather than exist merely on paper.

At the same time, consumers must fulfil their responsibilities by clearing electricity dues, discouraging power theft and adhering to safety regulations. But accountability cannot be demanded from consumers alone. Payment of electricity bills must translate into a reasonable and dependable standard of service. Electricity is not a luxury in Kashmir's winter. It is an essential requirement for households, hospitals, educational institutions, businesses and, particularly, vulnerable sections of society.

KPDCL must recognise that public trust is built through performance, not publicity. The corporation needs to demonstrate that its winter preparedness extends beyond the publication of handbooks and the issuance of advisories. It must ensure adequate stocks of essential equipment, prompt deployment of restoration teams, regular maintenance of vulnerable feeders and effective coordination among field formations.

The approaching winter should serve as a test of institutional efficiency rather than another season of public frustration. Kashmir's residents have endured enough uncertainty over electricity supply. They cannot be expected to reorganise their daily lives around prolonged power cuts every time snowfall begins or temperatures fall below freezing.

Free Bus Travel Policy Must Prioritize Students First



Wani Arfat



In Jammu and Kashmir, distance is not just measured in kilometers, but in the opportunities students lose while trying to reach their classrooms. For many young people, the real struggle of education begins not inside the classroom, but on the road that leads to it.

Across the Union Territory, from Kupwara, Bandipora, and Ganderbal to Srinagar, Budgam, and Baramulla, and from Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, and Shopian to Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Reasi, Udhampur, Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Rajouri, and Poonch, the situation is almost the same. Students travel long distances every day under difficult and uncertain conditions just to continue their education.

In many villages, regular bus services are either limited or completely unavailable. Students depend on sumo vehicles and auto-rickshaws to reach schools and colleges. These are often the only available options, but they are expensive. Daily fares keep increasing, and over time, this becomes a serious burden on families. Also, the recent 18% increase in bus fares has made things harder for students and common people. Prices are already high, and people do not earn much. For students who travel every day, this increase is a big problem. It adds extra cost again and again.

The government was expected to aid the students, but this rise has only caused more problems. The poor and the middle classes have been affected the most. Students are already having a hard time, and this makes it even harder for them to study.

If this continues, some students may be forced to leave their education, not because they are weak, but because they cannot afford the cost. This will harm not only them, but also the future of society.

For a child of a labourer or a low-income household, this situation becomes extremely difficult. How can a daily wage worker manage transport costs every day? Along with this, there are college fees, books, uniforms, and other expenses. When all these costs come together, education becomes a financial struggle rather than a basic right.

It is common to see students travelling in overcrowded vehicles, standing for long hours, or returning home completely exhausted. This affects their concentration, attendance, and performance. In some cases, students are forced to leave their studies, not because they lack ability, but because they cannot afford the cost of reaching their institution.

Various initiatives of free public transport have been launched across different cities and regions in India, primarily targeting women commuters. Delhi initiated its initiative for free transport services in 2019. Other states such as Tamil Nadu and Karnataka too followed the same. Although they have been beneficial in several ways, they have been questioned regarding high costs and overcrowding of vehicles. But the case of Jammu & Kashmir stands out to be totally different. The mode of public transportation has not yet developed much and relies completely upon the Jammu & Kashmir Road Transport Corporation and the private sector. There are various problems associated with the public transportation system. In most places, even government buses do not run on schedule. As a case in point, some of the bus routes have been suspended recently, resulting in great discomfort for students and commuters. At the same time, the transport system itself is under pressure. Reports show that a significant number of buses, including electric buses, remain non-operational due to maintenance costs and staff shortages, which further reduces availability of services.

Because of these realities, any free bus travel policy in Jammu and Kashmir must be carefully designed. It cannot simply copy other states. It must consider limited resources, weak infrastructure, and growing demand.

The most important question is simple: who needs this support the most? In my opinion, the answer is clear. Students, both male and female, should be given priority.

Students are non-earning members. They rely on their families which, in many cases, find it difficult to fulfill their basic needs. The additional burden of transport fare makes it hard for them and adversely impacts their studies. Students tend to skip lectures, become demotivated, and some might even abandon their studies.

Giving free bus travel to students can help to directly address this issue. Free transportation can help to reduce family burdens and increase attendance. No student will have to abandon his or her studies due to lack of finances. This can be done by using school/college ID card or travel pass. Even implementation can be done in a phased manner starting with remote areas. On the other hand, granting free bus service to all women regardless of their economic conditions might not be the most appropriate thing to do at the present juncture. Today, many women are working women who earn a living. Most of them can afford to pay for their transport needs. Of course, help should be extended to economically backward women but this can put pressure on public resources. There is also the issue of overcrowding. Public transport is already under strain. Without increasing the number of buses, a large-scale free travel scheme could worsen congestion and reduce service quality for everyone. In conclusion, the government has to strike the right balance. Every student in Jammu and Kashmir should receive free public transportation services, but there should also be assistance provided to the needy students. This is because, in circumstances where the student is faced with an option to pay for his or her transport or continue with education, what we will have witnessed is not only a battle of personal interest, but rather a waste of future potential for Jammu and Kashmir.

(Mohammad Arfat Wani is a writer, social activist, and medical student from Kuchmulla, Tral. He writes on social issues, culture, and public concerns with the aim of raising awareness and inspiring positive change. Email: wania6817@gmail.com)

PART 3

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

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



By Muhammad Elyass



Conclusion: The Mosque Must Remain a Centre of Justice and Guidance

The dignity of an Imam cannot be preserved through titles alone, nor can the proper functioning of a mosque be guaranteed through administrative control alone. Both require sincerity, knowledge, justice, and accountability.

An Imam who compromises his conscience for personal convenience weakens his moral authority. A committee that treats him as a subordinate in every matter undermines the purpose of religious leadership. Likewise, an authority that prioritises administrative uniformity over legitimate religious judgement risks weakening the relationship between religious institutions and the communities they serve.

Those entrusted with mosque management must also recognise that their positions are temporary responsibilities, not permanent entitlements. Wealth, influence, and longstanding connections do not grant anyone an unquestionable right to control a communal religious institution.

A mosque is not a personal kingdom, its management is not a family inheritance, and religious leadership must never become a means of satisfying personal egos.

The solution is neither unrestricted authority for Imams nor unrestricted control for committees. It is a balanced system in which rights are protected, responsibilities are clearly defined, and disagreements are resolved through wisdom, consultation, and fairness.

An Imam must have the courage to speak the truth and the humility to acknowledge his mistakes. A committee must have the integrity to exercise authority fairly and the maturity to transfer responsibility when its tenure ends. Waqf institutions and other authorities must ensure that administration serves the mosque rather than undermining its religious purpose.

Above all, everyone entrusted with responsibility must remember that authority is an Amanah; a trust before Allah, not a licence for domination.

Let us work towards a system in which Imams are respected without being idolised, committees are empowered without becoming authoritarian, and mosque management remains transparent, accountable, and open to capable individuals.

Only then can our mosques truly fulfil their role as centres of worship, knowledge, moral development, social unity, and spiritual guidance.

May Allah grant our Imams sincerity and courage, our committee members knowledge and integrity, our authorities wisdom and fairness, and our communities the understanding to recognise the rights and responsibilities of all.

Ameen.

Ultrasound The Game Changer In Medical Science



Surinderpal Singh

Medical science has made remarkable progress over the past few decades, transforming the way diseases are detected, diagnosed and treated. Among the many scientific developments that have changed modern healthcare, ultrasound technology holds a special place. It has emerged as one of the most useful, safe and widely accepted diagnostic tools. Today, ultrasound is not just a machine used in hospitals rather it is an important part of modern medical practice that helps doctors look inside the human body without surgery, pain or exposure to harmful radiation. Ultrasound technology works on the principle of high-frequency sound waves. These sound waves travel through different tissues of the body and return as echoes. A special device called a transducer sends and receives these waves. A computer then converts the echoes into images that doctors can examine. In simple words, ultrasound allows doctors to see the internal organs of the body while the patient remains comfortable and awake.

One of the greatest contributions of ultrasound technology is in the field of pregnancy care. Earlier, monitoring the development of an unborn baby was difficult without medical intervention. Today, ultrasound examinations help doctors observe the baby's growth, heartbeat, position and development inside the mother's womb. They can also identify certain pregnancy-related complications at an early stage. This technology has made pregnancy monitoring more effective and has provided reassurance to millions of families. However, ultrasound examinations during pregnancy should always be performed for medical reasons under the guidance of qualified professionals. The importance of ultrasound is not limited to pregnancy. It plays a significant role in diagnosing diseases of the liver, kidneys, gallbladder, pancreas, thyroid gland and urinary system. It can help detect kidney stones, gallstones, cysts, abnormal growths and fluid accumulation in different parts of the body. In emergency situations, ultrasound



can help doctors quickly identify internal bleeding or injuries. This makes it a valuable tool in hospitals, emergency departments and intensive care units.

Another important development is Doppler ultrasound, which allows doctors to study blood flow through arteries and veins. It helps in identifying blocked blood vessels, blood clots and circulation-related problems. This technique is particularly useful in examining heart and vascular health. Similarly, echocardiography, a specialised form of ultrasound, helps doctors study the structure and functioning of the heart. It provides important information about heart valves, pumping activity and other cardiac conditions without requiring an invasive procedure. Ultrasound technology has also transformed the way certain medical procedures are performed. Doctors can now use ultrasound guidance while taking tissue samples, draining fluid or inserting needles into specific areas of the body. This improves accuracy and reduces the chances of damaging nearby structures. Such techniques are widely used in modern radiology, surgery, anaesthesia and pain management.

One of the biggest advantages of ultrasound is its safety. Unlike X-rays and CT scans, conventional ultrasound does not use ionising radiation. It is generally considered safe when performed appropriately by trained professionals. It is also comparatively affordable, portable and widely available. Modern portable ultrasound machines can even be used in remote villages, rural health centres and emergency medical camps. As a result, quality diagnostic services are becoming more accessible to people living far away from large hospitals. The journey of ultrasound technology is also a story of continuous scientific innovation. Earlier machines produced simple and less detailed images, but modern systems provide high-resolution images and real-time information. Three-dimensional (3D) and four-dimensional (4D) ultrasound have further improved the ability to observe body structures and movements. Artificial intelligence is also beginning to assist in image analysis, measurements and the identification of abnormalities. These developments are expected to make diagnosis faster, more accurate and more efficient in the coming years.

Despite its many advantages, ultrasound technology has certain limitations. The quality of images may be affected by body structure, the presence of gas in the intestines and the depth of the organs being examined. It cannot replace every other imaging technique. Some diseases require MRI, CT scans, X-rays or laboratory investigations for proper diagnosis. Moreover, the accuracy of ultrasound depends greatly on the skill and experience of the person performing the examination. Therefore, it should always be used as part of a complete medical assessment rather than as the only basis for diagnosis. Another important concern is the misuse of ultrasound technology. In some societies, it has been illegally used for sex determination of an unborn child, contributing to gender discrimination and an imbalance in the sex ratio. In India, prenatal sex determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus for non-medical purposes are strictly prohibited. Technology should always serve humanity, protect life and promote equality. Strict implementation of laws and public awareness are essential to prevent its misuse. The emergence of ultrasound technology clearly demonstrates how scientific discoveries can improve human life. It has reduced the need for many invasive diagnostic procedures, helped doctors make timely decisions and brought advanced medical facilities closer to ordinary people. It has also strengthened preventive healthcare by helping identify health problems before they become serious. In conclusion, ultrasound technology is truly a game changer in medical science. It represents the successful combination of scientific knowledge, technological innovation and human welfare. As research continues, ultrasound machines are likely to become smarter, more portable and more accurate.

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HT SATURDAY- GOSSIP ---

SHORT STORY

The Journey of Hope



Bt Yousuf Mir



Dedication

Dedicated to every young soul striving to move forward in life, achieve dreams, and build a brighter future.

(A story of a young man who finds his way from the darkness of failure to the light of success, discovering the value of hard work, hope, history, and every person's contribution.)

It was the morning of 15 October. An unusual crowd had gathered outside the school. Students, parents and teachers all wore anxious expressions. The examination results were to be announced that day. The marks cards were to be displayed on the school wall, and everyone was eager to know whether they had succeeded or failed.

Strangely, despite the large crowd, a silence hung in the air. Now and then, a child's voice could be heard, or the sound of a parent's footsteps. Suddenly, the crowd pressed closer to the wall. Every student was searching for their name and roll number.

Some faces lit up with joy. Some students congratulated their friends. But on other faces, disappointment was slowly taking hold.

Sajid stood before his marks card. He looked at it once, then again. He could hardly believe his eyes. His marks were very low. He had failed the examination.

He said nothing to anyone. He quietly walked away and headed home. After that day, he did not return to school.

Two days passed, then three, then four. Sahil and Majid began to notice that Sajid was neither attending school nor answering anyone's calls. They tried to contact him several times, but received no reply.

One day, Sahil said to Majid,

"It's not right for Sajid to disappear like this. Where could he be?"

Majid replied,

"I've called him many times too. I haven't even been able to speak to his family. We should go to his house ourselves."

They gathered a few other classmates and went to Sajid's home.

When the door opened, Sajid's mother stood before them. The moment she saw the boys, her eyes filled with tears. She took them inside and said, weeping,

"My children, perhaps only you can make him understand. For the past several days, he has shut himself in his room. He hardly eats and refuses to speak to anyone. He just lies under his quilt. We are terribly worried."

She led them to his room.

Sajid was lying on the bed, covered with a quilt. Even when he heard his friends' voices, he did not move.

Sahil gently approached him and lifted one corner of the quilt.

"Sajid! We've come to see you. At least look at us."

Sajid turned his face away.

Majid stepped forward and pulled the quilt back. Sajid hid his face in his hands, and tears began to roll down his cheeks.

"I can't face anyone. Everyone has passed except me. I failed. I will never go back to school."

Sahil placed a hand on his shoulder.

"Failing one examination doesn't make a person a failure, Sajid! Your journey through life has hardly begun, and you've already given up?"

Majid embraced him and said,

"We are your friends. We stood by you when you succeeded, and we stand by you now that you've failed. Come on, get up and come with us."

After a long effort to comfort him, Sajid finally got out of bed. His friends took him outside and led him straight to an open field.

At one end of the field, Sahil marked two points about five feet apart.

Sajid looked at them in surprise.

"What are you doing?"

"Nothing much," Sahil replied. "I just want you to do something. Try to jump across the distance between these two marks."

Sajid looked from one mark to the other.

"I can't do that."

"Just give it a try."

Sajid took a small step and jumped, but managed to cover barely a foot. He tried again and reached about two feet, but he still could not cross the five-foot distance.

Sahil said,

"Now move a little farther back."

Sajid stepped back five or six feet. He ran forward and jumped. This time he covered more distance than before, but still fell short of the mark.

Sahil said,

"Move farther back."

Sajid went back again. Sahil signalled to him to start running from a greater distance. Sajid began to run, gathered speed and leapt with all his strength. This time, he crossed the five-foot gap.

He was surprised himself.

Majid laughed and said,

"See! You have done what you thought was impossible."

Sajid looked down at his feet and then asked Sahil,

"But what has this got to do with my failure?"

Sahil replied,

"Not everything becomes clear at once. Sometimes, to move forward, a person has to take a few steps back. That doesn't mean defeat. It means preparing oneself for the next move. You, too, should look back at your life, understand your weaknesses, read about the achievements of those who came before us, and then move forward with renewed strength."

Majid said,

"Come on. Let's take you somewhere else today."

The three friends reached the school library. Books on many subjects lined its shelves. Sahil took out a few books on history and biographies, while Majid picked up books about scientists and inventors.

Turning the pages of one book, Sajid remarked,

"These people really achieved remarkable things. Some became scientists, some made their mark in medicine, others opened new paths in engineering, while some influenced the world through literature and learning."

Sahil said,

"That is why we should read about our predecessors. Their lives show us the difficulties they faced, how hard they worked, and how they earned recognition through their achievements."

Sajid asked,

"But all this belongs to the past. How can it help us today?"

Closing the book, Sahil replied,

"History is not limited to events that happened hundreds or thousands of years ago. What happened yesterday is history today, too. A person who achieved something remarkable yesterday can be just as inspiring to a child today as someone who lived a thousand years ago. If an ordinary student from a disadvantaged area, in our own time, works hard and becomes a senior officer, a scientist or a successful person in any field, that person can become an example for generations to come."

Majid added,

"And success does not mean becoming only a doctor or an engineer. Someone can become a good teacher, a farmer, a journalist, a pilot, an architect, a writer or a scientist. Everyone can move forward according to their own abilities and interests."

Sajid listened quietly. The disappointment that had once filled his face was beginning to fade.

Just then, one of Sahil's friends said,

"Come on, let's leave now."

They returned the books to their shelves, left the library and started walking home.

On the way, one of their friends suddenly complained of chest pain. At first, he thought it was something minor, but within a few moments the pain grew worse. The boys became alarmed and rushed him to a nearby hospital.

At the hospital, Saila, one of Sahil's friends, joined them.

They learned that a well-known cardiologist treated patients there. When Sahil mentioned the doctor's name, Sajid immediately said,

"I've read about this doctor on the internet. He is a very famous cardiologist. People praise his skill and experience."

They went to the reception desk and asked to see the doctor.

The woman at the desk told them that the doctor was not seeing patients in his usual room that day.

Sajid asked,

"Why? Is the doctor on leave today?"

The woman explained,

"No, the doctor is in the hospital, but the cleaning staff have staged a symbolic protest against the administration. They have left a few rooms in one particular block uncleaned to draw attention to their problems and to the importance of their work. As a result, the doctor's usual room could not be made ready."

Sajid asked in surprise,

"But how can the cleaning of one or two rooms affect the work of such a renowned doctor?"

Before Sahil could reply, he glanced towards Saila. Saila said,

"That is an important lesson in life, Sajid! The doctor has spent years studying. He has skill, experience and fame. But he, too, needs a clean and safe environment to do his work. Cleaning is not an insignificant job. If the person responsible for cleaning does not do the work properly, even the greatest doctor cannot perform his duties as he should."

Just then, the woman informed them that Room No. 502 was clean and ready. The doctor could examine the patient there.

The friends took their companion towards Room No. 502. A little later, the doctor arrived, examined the patient and gave the necessary instructions.

Sajid watched everything quietly.

On the way back, he said to Sahil,

"Today I've understood that a person's worth is not measured only by their position or fame. Everyone's work is connected, in one way or another, to someone else's work." Sahil smiled and replied,

Talent is there but it still has to be nurtured



By M S Nazki

Where young dreams meet the spirit of service. People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf

-Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons..Douglas MacArthur!

-Lead me, follow me, or get the hell out of my way…George S. Patton Jr.

-Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do and die!...Lord Tennyson Alfred

-One more dance along the razor's edge finished. Almost dead yesterday, maybe dead tomorrow, but alive, gloriously alive, today

The soldier in the Army. No army is better than its soldiers. The Soldier is also a citizen. In fact, the highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one's country.. George S. Patton Jr.

-The day the soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.

-Under Op Sadbhavna, students from Durbuk, Ladakh, visited the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, immersing themselves in its glorious traditions and discovering the ideals of leadership, discipline and dedication that define the Indian Army. An inspiring experience fostering national pride, shared aspirations and stronger bonds with the nation.

-First let us talk about Durbuk:

-Durbuk is a strategic town and tehsil in the Changthang region of Ladakh, India, situated at an elevation of 3,800 meters (12,500 feet).

-Key Details

- Location & Distance: Located about 115–120 km east of Leh (a roughly 3-hour drive) via the Chang La pass, sitting between Chang La and Tangste village on the route to Pangong Tso Lake.

-Strategic Importance: Serves as the origin point of the vital 235–255 km Darbuk-Shyok-DBO Road connecting to Shyok village and the Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) military post near the China border.

-Administration: Acts as a block and subdivision headquarters. In October 2026, the Ladakh Administration entrusted the powers of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Durbuk to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Durbuk to streamline local governance.

-Demographics: According to the 2011 census, the village has a population of around 812–852 people across roughly 160 households with a literacy rate of about 66%.

-A couple of stories to start with:

-Ten-year-old Tashi lived in a small, stone-walled house in the Changthang region of Ladakh. Outside his window, the world was a sprawling canvas of arid mountains, deep blue skies, and the shimmering, distant expanse of Pangong Lake. While the cold desert winds whipped through the valleys, Tashi's mind was always ablaze with a warmth that came from his biggest dream: he wanted to become a scientist and build a giant, solar-powered greenhouse for his village.

-Every morning, Tashi helped his father herd their Changthangi goats, the precious animals that yielded the fine Pashmina wool. He loved the gentle animals, but he often watched his parents worry during



the brutal winter months. When the temperatures plummeted far below freezing, fresh vegetables became a distant memory, and the harsh cold made everyday survival a struggle.

-"One day, Aba," Tashi told his father, pointing toward the brilliant, unclouded sun that beat down the high-altitude desert. "I will catch that sunshine in glass houses. We will grow sweet tomatoes, green spinach, and even juicy apples right here in the snow."

-His father smiled, rough hands gently patting Tashi's woolen cap. "The sun is strong here, Tashi, but the winter frost is stronger. It is a beautiful dream, but a difficult one."

-But Tashi was determined. At his small village school, he devoured every science textbook he could find. He learned how Ladakh was one of the sunniest places in the world, despite the freezing cold, and how solar energy could be trapped to create warmth. Every evening, using a stubby pencil and a worn-out notebook, he drew blueprints of his dream greenhouse. He designed thick mud walls to store the heat by day and release it at night, and angled glass roofs to capture every single ray of sunlight.

-Years flew by like the swift Ladakhi winds. Tashi's dedication earned him a scholarship to an engineering college in the city. Yet, while his classmates dreamed of high-paying jobs in bustling tech hubs like Bengaluru or Delhi, Tashi's heart remained anchored to the high passes of his homeland.

-After graduating, Tashi returned to Changthang, not with empty hands, but with a degree in renewable energy and a heart full of promise. With the help of the local community, who chipped in with labor and stones, Tashi built his very first prototype—a passive solar greenhouse, just like the ones he had sketched as a boy.

-That winter, the frost arrived as brutally as ever, burying the valleys in white. But inside Tashi's greenhouse, the air was warm and smelled of rich, damp earth.

-On a freezing January morning, Tashi led his elderly father inside. There, standing proud amidst the sub-zero temperatures, were rows of vibrant green spinach and bright red tomatoes ripening in the trapped mountain sunshine.

-His father looked at the flourishing plants, then at his son, tears freezing on his weathered cheeks. He realized that his boy hadn't just chased a dream—he had brought a sustainable future to the roof of the world

-The second story:

-Reshi's Ice Rink Dream

-Reshi was a young girl living in a small village nestled between the high, barren mountains of Ladakh. While the wind howled through the cold Himalayan passes, Reshi spent her winter afternoons staring at a frozen pond near her home.

-While other children played in the snow, Reshi had a bigger dream: she wanted to play ice hockey and glide across a real rink under the open sky. She did not have proper skates, so she strapped old leather boots onto wooden blades her grandfather helped her shape. Day after day, she fell, bruised her knees, and pulled herself back up.

-One crisp morning, a traveling sports coach visiting Leh noticed her fierce balance and steady grip on a worn-out stick. He smiled and handed her a pair of real ice hockey skates. Holding them to her chest, Reshi looked out at the towering peaks of Ladakh and realized that even the highest mountains were just stepping stones to where she was meant to go.

-Talent is there but it still has to be nurtured! One can do it provided he or she is determined to just do it! The Indian Army is just doing that!

-The Indian Military Academy (IMA) is the premier officer training institution of the Indian Army, located in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

-Overview & History

• Established: October 1, 1932

• Founder/First Commandant: Brigadier L.P. Collins

• Inauguration: December 10, 1932, by Field Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode

• Motto: "Veerta aur Vivek" (Valour and Wisdom)

• Credo: Based on the famous Chetwode Credo

• Campus Size: Approximately 1,400 acres

• Sanctioned Capacity: 1,650 Gentleman Cadets (GCs)

-Training & Commissioning

• Purpose: Trains male (and newly integrated women) officer cadets for a permanent commission as Lieutenants in the Indian Army.

• Duration: Courses range from 3 to 16 months depending on the entry scheme.

• Entry Routes: Includes the National Defence Academy (NDA), Combined Defence Services Examination (CDSE), Technical Graduate Course (TGC), University Entry Scheme (UES), and Army Cadet College (ACC).

• Key Event: The bi-annual Passing Out Parade (POP) held in June and December at the Chetwode Building Drill Square.

-The Indian Army's glorious traditions are built upon an unyielding ethos of Naam, Namak, Nishan (name/honor, salt/loyalty, and the regimental flag/insignia) and the supreme motto "Seva Parmo Dharma" (Service Before Self).

-Core Philosophy & Ethos

• Naam, Namak, Nishan: The triad that guides every soldier—upholding the reputation of the unit and nation (Naam), remaining utterly loyal to the salt of the country (Namak), and defending the regimental or national flag (Nishan).

• Unity in Diversity: The Indian Army functions as a single family (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam), celebrating all major religious and regional festivals together regardless of caste, creed, or language.

• Post-Independence Evolution: Retaining disciplined British-era ceremonials and regimental bands while shedding colonial burdens, adopting the universal 'Jai Hind' greeting, and shifting to all-India recruitment policies.

-Famous Regimental Motos & Battle Cries:

• Rajputana Rifles: "Veer Bhogya Vasundhara" (The brave shall inherit the earth).

• Jat Regiment: "Sangathan Va Veerta" (Unity and Valour).

• Sikh Regiment: "Nischay Kar Apni Jeet Karo" (With determination, achieve victory) and battle cry "Jo Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akal".

• Gorkha Rifles: "Jai Mahakali, Ayo Gorkhali!" and the iconic legacy of the curved khukri knife.• Kumaon Regiment: "Parakramo Vijayate" (Valour triumphs).• Assam Regiment: "Tagra Raho" (Stay strong/vigorous).

The growing DJ culture at weddings



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

The dignity of the festival is lost in noise, the question of social sensitivity and public health amidst loud sound and noise pollution.

Marriage is a joyous occasion, but the right to celebrate should not become a right to disturb the peace of others. Today, DJs, loud music, loud speakers, and late-night celebrations are becoming symbols of social status. Sometimes, the music is so loud that it becomes difficult for people in neighboring homes to converse, for children to study, for the elderly to rest, and for the sick to sleep. The question is: should the joy of a celebration outweigh the discomfort of others?

Music has a special place in Indian wedding traditions. Folk songs, Mangalgeet, Dholak, Shehnai, and family singing have always added intimacy to the joy of marriage. These musical traditions embodied a sense of community, cultural identity, and spontaneous expression of emotions. With modernity, DJ culture has also become a part of wedding ceremonies. There's nothing wrong with this, but when music moves beyond entertainment and becomes a medium of sonic display and competition, concern is natural. Now, in many events, the focus is more on the intensity of the music than its quality. As if the louder the noise, the bigger the event.

The effects of noise pollution aren't limited to the ears. Excessively loud noise can damage hearing, cause persistent ringing in the ears, and lead to mental stress, irritability, and sleep disturbances. Long-term exposure to loud noise affects the body's stress response and has been linked to increased blood pressure and cardiovascular risk. Such environments can exacerbate problems for people already suffering from high blood pressure, heart disease, or other health problems. Unnecessarily loud noise can also be particularly uncomfortable for children and the elderly.

Messages circulating on social media are calling for limiting speaker power and sound levels during wedding ceremonies. This concern is important, but from a scientific perspective, it's not appropriate to consider watts and decibels as synonymous. Watts indicate the electrical power of a speaker, while decibels measure the actual sound level. Speakers with the same power can produce different sound intensities in different locations. Therefore, rather than focusing solely on speaker power, it's more important to consider the actual sound level, the venue, the distance, the time, and the surrounding conditions. India has regulations in place to control noise pollution. Residential areas have different daytime and nighttime noise standards, and specific restrictions apply to the use of loudspeakers at night. Permission and compliance with established regulations are required for public sound systems. Despite this, regulations are often ignored. The administration's responsibility is not only to take action upon receiving complaints, but also to create awareness and ensure effective enforcement.

DJ operators also need to understand their role. They are not just music players, but responsible professionals who influence the public environment. Maintaining appropriate sound levels, directing speakers, avoiding unnecessary volume surges, and adhering to time limits is their social responsibility. Wedding organizers must also understand that the grandeur of a ceremony is determined not by expensive equipment or loud sound, but by the arrangement, intimacy, and a beautiful experience.

Coexistence in society means not only living together, but also respecting each other's circumstances. For a home with a student preparing for exams, a family with a sick person, an elderly person needing sleep, or a child needing rest, someone else's celebration can be a nuisance. We can't expect everyone to join us in our celebrations, but we can certainly expect that our celebrations don't create unnecessary hardship in someone else's lives.

The need today isn't to ban DJ culture, but to foster a responsible and respectable culture. Music, dance, joy, and a festive atmosphere are inevitable, but sound levels must be controlled. This is possible through awareness and cooperation between organizers, DJ operators, the administration, and citizens. The purpose of technology should be to enhance enjoyment, not to disturb the peace of others. Marriage is a joyous occasion in life. Instead of turning it into a noisy competition, it should be a celebration of values, love, and social harmony. We must develop a culture in which expressing joy requires heightened sensitivity, not raising one's voice.

A celebration is truly beautiful when it honors the joys of others along with our own. A society's civilization is measured not by the height of its noise but by the depth of its sensitivity.

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Div Com felicitates Artists at Creative Art Camp on 'Humanity' at Vridh Ashram

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 20: The two-day Creative Art Camp on the theme 'HUMANITY', organised by the Home for the Aged & Infirm (Vridh Ashram), Ambphalla, Jammu, in collaboration with JAKFAS – J&K Fine Arts Society, Jammu, concluded today with a ceremony graced by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Vikas Kundal, as the Chief Guest.

The camp witnessed the participation of around 30 artists, who beautifully portrayed the values of compassion, empathy, care and dignity through their paintings. The Divisional Commissioner visited the exhibition, interacted with the participating artists and appreciated their creativity and thoughtful interpretation of the theme.

In a heartwarming gesture, all participating artists donated their paintings to the Managing Committee of Vridh Ashram as a token of love, affection and solidarity with the elderly residents.

The Divisional Commissioner felicitated the participating artists and schools that had deputed their Art Teachers, presenting certificates in recognition of their valuable contribution. He congratulated the artists and participating institutions and appreciated their efforts in spreading the message of humanity through art. He also lauded the dedicated efforts of the Managing Committee and appreciated the care and facilities being provided to the residents of the Ashram.

The occasion was further enriched by a captivating musical presentation by Anil Raina on the flute and Rudra on the tabla. Their soulful rendition enthralled the audience and added a special charm to the event.

The programme was attended by Mushtaq Ahmed, Joint Director, Education Department; Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary, Kala Kendra Society, Jammu; Dr. Preeti Sharma, District Social Welfare Officer and Dr. Harish Kaila, President, Nami Dogri Sanstha.

The Managing Committee members present on the occasion included Vijay Gupta, Joint Secretary; Rattandeep Singh Anand; Rajinder Singh; Sat Pal Sharma; Dr. Ritesh Gupta; Vijay Dhawan; Surinder Kumar and Roopali Slathia.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Secretary, who expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, distinguished guests, JAKFAS, participating artists, schools, Art Teachers and all those associated with the successful organisation of the camp. The occasion was further enriched by a captivating musical presentation by Anil Raina on the flute and Rudra on the tabla. Their soulful rendition enthralled the audience and added a special charm to the event.

The programme was attended by Mushtaq Ahmed, Joint Director, Education Department; Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary, Kala Kendra Society, Jammu; Dr. Preeti Sharma, District Social Welfare Officer and Dr. Harish Kaila, President, Nami Dogri Sanstha.

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week observed across Medical Blocks in district Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER 20: World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2026 being observed from November 18 to 24, 2026, under the theme "One Health, Once Action: Prevent AMR Now", is being observed across the medical blocks of District Doda. A series of awareness programmes were organised at CHC Thathri, CHC Gandoh and various other healthcare facilities across the district. Healthcare professionals sensitised patients, attendants and the general public to the growing threat of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). The awareness activities focused on the rational and responsible use of antibiotics, avoiding self-medication, taking antimicrobials only on the prescription of qualified medical practitioners and discouraging the unnecessary use of antibiotics. Emphasis was also laid on infection prevention, hygiene practices and adherence to prescribed treatment. The theme highlights the importance of a coordinated One Health approach, recognising the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health in addressing the growing challenge of antimicrobial resistance. The initiative aims to strengthen public awareness and encourage responsible antimicrobial practices among healthcare providers and the general public to prevent the emergence.

Transport Department conducts enforcement drive in Thathri–Gandoh

32 challans issued, Rs. 1.15 lakh fine imposed

■ HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER 20: In a major road safety enforcement initiative, the Transport Department conducted an intensive vehicle-checking drive in the Thathri–Gandoh area of district Doda, acting on the directions of the Transport Commissioner J&K and under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner Doda.

A team comprising the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Doda and Motor Vehicle Inspectors carried out thorough inspections of vehicles to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. Special focus was laid on overloading, vehicle fitness and other traffic-related violations.

During the drive, the enforcement team issued 32 challans and imposed fines amounting to Rs. 1,15,000. Additionally, four driving licences were recommended for suspension, while two vehicles operating without valid fitness certificates were seized.

The ARTO stated that such enforcement drives are part of the department's sustained efforts to curb traffic violations, strengthen road safety measures and prevent road accidents. He further informed that similar checking drives would continue across the district to ensure strict adherence to traffic regulations.

The general public, particularly transport operators and drivers, have been urged to strictly follow traffic rules, avoid overloading, ensure valid vehicle fitness certificates and cooperate with the authorities in making roads safer for all.

AHD Doda organises awareness-cum-demonstration Camp under ATMA

■ HT News Network



DODA, NOVEMBER 20: The Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) today organized an Awareness-cum-Demonstration Camp here at Village Ponda-Block Dali Udyanpur, under the ATMA Programme for the financial year 2026–27.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) Dr. Irfan Ali Wani interacted with the farmers and apprised them of the government schemes and initiatives being implemented by the department for the welfare of livestock farmers. He explained the benefits and eligibility criteria of schemes, including the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS), Integrated Poultry Development Programme (IPDP), Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Integrated Feed and Fodder Development Scheme (IFFD) and National Livestock Mission (NLM) and encouraged farmers to avail maximum benefits from these initiatives. Dr. Wani also emphasized the importance of value addition in milk production to enhance farmers' income and highlighted preventive measures against major livestock diseases, particularly Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD). He further sensitized the participants about rabies, stressing the importance of timely dog vaccination, precautions against dog bites and seeking immediate medical attention in case of suspected exposure. Clinical Pathologist, District Veterinary Hospital Dr. Akram Malik delivered a technical session on scientific feeding and nutritional management of cattle. He elaborated on the importance of balanced feeding, preparation and proper utilization of silage to meet the nutritional requirements of livestock and highlighted the role of calcium supplementation in maintaining animal health and productivity. He also briefed the farmers on the importance of adhering to the recommended vaccination schedule throughout the year to protect livestock from various infectious diseases.

Veterinary Assistant Surgeon (VAS) Dr. Naveed Anjum also addressed the gathering and sensitized the farmers about scientific cattle management, repeat breeding, antimicrobial resistance and the importance of observing prescribed withdrawal periods after administering veterinary medicines, particularly before milk is consumed by humans.

15th Bn, JKAP IR Celebrates Raising Day with Enthusiasm

ADGP Armed J&K Nitesh Kumar attends as Chief Guest

■ HT News Network



Jammu/November:20 The 15th Bn, JKAP IR celebrated its Raising Day with great enthusiasm at its Headquarters, GG Jammu. ADGP Armed J&K Shri Nitesh Kumar (IPS), attended the function as the Chief Guest. The occasion was also attended by IGP Armed IRP Zone Jammu Abdul Shri Jabbar (IPS) and DIG Armed Range Jammu Shri Zahid Manhas. On their arrival the Chief Guest was warmly welcomed by Commandant of the 15th Bn, JKAP IR SSP Shri Dushyant Sharma and other senior officers. A ceremonial Guard of Honour was also presented. As part of the celebrations a plantation drive was organised in which the ADGP and other senior officers planted saplings. Colourful balloons were also released to mark the occasion. Addressing the gathering, CO 15th Bn JKAP IR Bn, SSP Shri Dushyant Sharm highlighted the professional achievements and notable performance of the Battalion, l while appreciating the dedication, hard work and commitment of its officers and officials.

The celebrations featured colourful cultural performances by the J&K Armed Police Cultural Team. Other attractions included a tug-of-war competition among women police personnel, a blindfolded weapon-handling demonstration by trained personnel and an impressive Kalaripayattu martial arts performance.

ADGP Armed Shri Nitesh Kumar appreciated the discipline, professionalism and dedication of the Battalion's Officials and urged them to continue performing their duties with the same commitment and enthusiasm. A community lunch was also organised to promote camaraderie, mutual interaction and brotherhood among officers and officials. The visit and encouragement by senior officers boosted the morale of all ranks and made the Raising Day celebrations memorable.

Tourism Department holds stakeholders meeting to plan Patnitop Carnival 2026

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 20: The Department of Tourism Jammu & Kashmir today convened a stakeholders meeting in the Conference Hall of the Director Tourism Office Jammu, to deliberate on preparations for the upcoming Patnitop Carnival 2026 and discuss broader tourism development issues concerning Patnitop and its adjoining destinations.

The meeting was chaired by MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia and Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta.

Joint Director Tourism, CEO Patnitop Development Authority (PDA), Deputy Director Tourism, other officers and officials of the Tourism Department, representatives from E&Y, members of the hotel industry, Mr. Sathe, President of the Hotel Association, representatives from Hotel Association Patnitop and other tourism stakeholders attended the meeting.

Detailed deliberations were held on the proposed venue, dates, programme schedule, activities and overall arrangements for Patnitop Carnival 2026. The stakeholders exchanged views on making the carnival an attractive tourism event, with a focus on increasing tourist footfall, promoting local culture, showcasing the region's tourism potential and providing greater participation opportunities to local businesses and tourism operators.

The meeting also discussed several important issues relating to tourism development, including the Master Plan for Patnitop and its effective implementation, destination planning, development of Mantalai as a potential tourism destination, besides various regional and local issues concerning tourism stakeholders.

The participants emphasised the need for coordinated efforts among the Tourism Department, Tourism Development Authorities, industry representatives and local stakeholders to strengthen tourism infrastructure, improve

ICDS Bandipora holds AMC Meetings across District

Launches Sector-Wise WhatsApp Groups for Awareness and Grievance Redressal

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 20: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, ICDS Bandipora today organised Anganwadi Management Committee (AMC) and Panchayat Mahila Samiti meetings at Anganwadi Centres across the district.

The meetings focused on strengthening community participation in combating malnutrition, monitoring service delivery, improving hygiene and ensuring holistic development of children aged 0–6 years.

Discussions covered growth monitoring, supplementary nutrition, early childhood education, VHSND activities, Poshan Tracker updates and identification and referral of malnourished children.

Emphasis was laid on monthly conduct of VHSND and ECCE Day, active participation in Poshan Maah and Poshan Pakhwada, display of SNP menu at AWCs, regular updation of Poshan Tracker, enrolment of children with special needs, and management and referral of malnourished children.

The Committees also resolved to promote community participation through celebration of birthdays and local festivals, mobilization of donations of toys and low-cost TLMs, and establishment of Poshan Vatikas in convergence with Anganwadi Management Committees and Panchayat / Ward Mahila Samitis.

In an initiative to strengthen communication, ICDS Bandipora launched sector-wise WhatsApp groups connecting Anganwadi functionaries with CDPOs and the DPO for awareness generation, information sharing and timely grievance redressal.

Anganwadi Workers also sensitised women about Farmer ID registration and its benefits, including PM-KISAN assistance.

District Programme Officer, ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan, appreciated community participation and directed CDPOs to ensure regular meetings and effective follow-up.

NC Reiterates Commitment to Inclusive Development of Jammu Province; Nasir Aslam Wani

Says; Omar Abdullah-Led Government Has Taken Significant Steps in Two Years.

■ HT News Network



Jammu, November 20: A grand and warm reception was accorded to Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, and Gurwinder Singh Oberoi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), at the Provincial Headquarter of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The reception was hosted by party functionaries and workers headed by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, Jammu Province.

Addressing the gathering Nasir Aslam Wani Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister presented an overview of the two-year performance of the Omar Abdullah-led Government, highlighting important works completed as well as projects and development initiatives taken up during this period. He reiterated the government's commitment to fulfilling its promises and ensuring that the benefits of development reach every region and section of society. He said that the party leadership remains committed to strengthening public welfare, improving infrastructure, providing better healthcare and educational facilities, creating employment opportunities and addressing the genuine grievances of the people. He urged party functionaries to maintain close contact with the public and act as a bridge between the people and the elected government.

Gurwinder Singh Oberoi, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), while addressing the gathering, said that the National Conference has consistently raised the important concerns of Jammu and Kashmir in the Rajya Sabha, particularly the restoration of full Statehood. He said that the political, constitutional and democratic aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve serious consideration by the Union Government. He also informed that the matter concerning the introduction and promotion of Punjabi, Pahari and Gojri languages would be taken forward in the forthcoming Assembly session, reflecting the party's commitment to protecting the linguistic and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier addressing the gathering, Rattan Lal Gupta highlighted the pressing issues confronting Jammu Province and emphasised the need for their early resolution. He appreciated the Omar Abdullah-led Government for taking significant initiatives towards inclusive and balanced development of all regions of Jammu Province during the last two years. He said that the National Conference firmly believes in equitable development, social justice and equal opportunities for every section of society, irrespective of region, religion or community. He stressed that the concerns of border areas, far-flung villages, farmers, traders, unemployed youth, women, weaker sections and daily wagers must receive due attention. He reiterated that the National Conference, under the leadership of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Hon'ble Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, stands committed to secularism, unity, brotherhood and equitable.

Sankalp Hub, Mission Shakti Shopian, organises Awareness Programme at Khatohallan ST Area

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 20: In a significant step towards promoting women's empowerment, awareness and social welfare at the grassroots level, the Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, Shopian, today organised an awareness programme at Khatohallan ST Area of District Shopian.

The programme aimed at creating awareness among the local population, particularly women, about various government welfare schemes and initiatives designed for their social, economic and educational upliftment. During the programme, the participants were sensitised about the objectives, benefits and eligibility criteria of different schemes being implemented by the government for the welfare and empowerment of women and other vulnerable sections of society.

The team also interacted with the local residents, listened to their concerns and grievances, and documented various issues raised by the participants for their necessary examination and timely disposal through the concerned departments.

The initiative provided an important platform for direct interaction between the community and the administration, ensuring that people are well-informed about their entitlements and can avail themselves of the benefits of various government-sponsored schemes.

The programme reaffirmed the commitment of Mission Shakti, Shopian, towards strengthening grassroots-level awareness, ensuring effective outreach of welfare initiatives and facilitating access to government services, particularly for women and marginalised communities.

Through such outreach initiatives, Sankalp Hub continues to work towards building an informed, empowered and inclusive society, ensuring that the benefits of government welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries at the grassroots level.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

Subject: Application of SUMAIRA HASSAN ,SAIMA HASSAN D/O GH HASSAN MOCHI for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujjar and Bakerwal)in favour of self
PUBLIC NOTICE
Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village KALANTARA PAYEEN and belongs to the ST caste and MUCHI community, having annual income is 48000 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows
1..GH HASSAN MOCHI Father 52 years Labour
2.... RAJA BEGUM Mother 48 years H/W
3....SAIMA BANO applicant 24 years student
4....SUMAIRA HASSAN applicant 20 years student
5....MUZAMIL HASSAN Brother 13 years student

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

KVK Gurez takes Kala Zeera Domestication to remote Chakwali in Tulail

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 20: In a significant step towards conservation and livelihood promotion, KVK/MAR&ES Gurez established a Kala Zeera domestication plot at Chakwali, the country's last village, and organised a farmers training programme.

Addressing the farmers, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Malik, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK/MAR&ES Gurez, highlighted the Kendra's pioneering initiatives under the visionary leadership of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, the guidance of the Director Extension Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Research Prof. Syed Zameer Hussain and Director Planning and Monitoring Prof. Rohitashw Kumar .

He acknowledged financial support of NABARD funded project on Kala zeera besides critical input support by Advanced Research Station for Saffron & Temperate Seed Spices (ARSS&TSS), Pampore.

Acknowledging the instrumental support being provided by ATARI (ICAR, GoI) Zone-I Ludhiana, he emphasised the immense potential of Kala zeera for economic upliftment of tribal farmers and highlighted the scientific cultivation of this high value crop over an area of more than half hectare across stations, besides highlighted the success of few progressive farmers who had been brought last year under the ambit of first ever domestication of Kala zeera with significant results success across Gurez valley.

While Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad Mir, BDO Tulail, appreciated the Kendra's efforts in taking scientific interventions to remote farming communities, Dr. Jauhar Rafeeq, Scientist (Agroforestry), emphasised cultivation-oriented conservation and the need to shift from wild collection towards scientific domestication and farmer-led cultivation.

More than 40 farmers participated in the programme, expressed keen interest in adopting Kala Zeera cultivation and appreciated KVK Gurez for extending scientific interventions to the remotest village of the country.

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS, KULGAM

Present: Rabyia Sanober Gulzar
In the Case of:

Mohammad Ashraf Bhat S/o Gull Mohammad Bhat, R/o Khaloora, Tehsil Pahloo, District Kulgam.
Applicant

V/S
B.D.O. Pahloo
Non-Applicant

Whereas, the applicant, namely Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, has sought a direction against the non-applicant for registration of the birth particulars of his daughter, namely Iqra Bint-e-Ashraf, who was born on 05-09-2011. Through the medium of this notice, the general public is hereby informed that if any person has any objection regarding the registration of the birth particulars of the applicant's daughter, as mentioned above, he/she/they shall do so on or before 05-12-2026, when the matter is listed for further proceedings.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court today on 14-11-2026.
Announced.

Sd/
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Kulgam

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

It is informed to general public that I am applying for DEE Class Contractor Card at OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT Commissioner Development Baramulla (ACD if anybody is having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of ACD Baramullla within the period of 7days from the date of publication of this notice . After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name....AASIF RASHID WANI
S/O...ABDUL RASHID WANI
R/O .....KACHWA MUQAM BLOCK WAGOORA
CONTACT NO....6006631611

DC Bandipora reviews functioning of District Hospital, Takes Stock of Healthcare Facilities

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 20: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib today reviewed the functioning of District Hospital Bandipora and took stock of the healthcare facilities, existing manpower, infrastructure and service delivery mechanisms.

During the review meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took feedback from the CMO and Medical Superintendent regarding the existing staff strength and infrastructure of the hospital. The requirement of additional manpower, including a Consultant Surgeon, CT Technician, OT Technician and Anaesthesia Technician, was also highlighted.

Emphasising the need for efficient patient services, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the establishment of a proper grievance redressal mechanism to address public concerns and ensure timely resolution of complaints.

The meeting also discussed ensuring the availability of free medicines within the hospital premises and strengthening the system for maintaining medicine inventory and records through digitalisation.

The Deputy Commissioner further stressed the need to digitise hospital records, including medical staff details, staff records, medical records and drug store inventories, to improve transparency, accountability and administrative efficiency.

Emphasis was also laid on maintaining proper records of patient referrals and ensuring their regular monitoring. The need for better coordination between hospital administration and the district administration was also underscored.

Among others, Programme Officer ICDS, Chief Planning Officer, Chief Medical Officer, District Information Officer, District Informatics Officer, MS DH Bandipora, Drug Inspector Bandipora besides other concerned were also present during the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner further stressed the need to digitise hospital records, including medical staff details, staff records, medical records and drug store inventories, to improve transparency, accountability and administrative efficiency.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

Re-Tender Notice/ Corrigendum 1st.
For Sl. No. 09
***

Subject: **Construction of 125mm Dia Machine Drilled Bore Well along with Submersible Pumping Unit and Allied Installation to be carried out at Chohan Basti Sallar, In District Ananatnag.**

Reference: 1. This office **Extension Notice 1st**, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/***14375-88***, dated: **13-10-2026,** Bearing Tender ID No. **2026_PHE_326133_9.**
2. This office e-NIT No. **65/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27**, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/***11282-95***, dated: **19-09-2026,** Bearing Tender ID No. **2026_PHE_326133_9.**

Two (02) bids have been received for the above subject mentioned work advertised vides e-NIT No. & Tender ID No. under reference which was to be opened on **27-10-2026 upto 02:00 PM**, during the evaluation of Cover-I (Technical Cover) by the Evaluation Committee, **both the bids were disqualified.** Accordingly, the **revised /rescheduled** dates are hereby notified as under:

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Bid Submission Start date & Time	18-11-2026 Up-to 10:00 AM
2.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	28-11-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM
3.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	30-11-2026 11.00 AM

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

DIPK-7866/26
Send Dated: 20-11-2026.

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

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Chief Medical Officer Anantnag
***
Subject: Final seniority list of BHW's of District Anantnag.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, on the basis of the records available in this office, the final seniority list of BHWs of District Cadre Anantnag was notified and circulated vide No: Est-I/CMOA/BHW/9201-08 dated 19.11.2026.

Any official having a genuine objection, if any, to the seniority position reflected in the Final seniority list, shall submit the same to this office, through proper channel, within 05 (five) days from the date of issuance of this notice, along with supporting documentary evidence.

It is further notified that no objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the aforesaid stipulated period, and the seniority list shall thereafter be treated as final.

DIPK-7857/26
Send Date: Nov 20 2026

Sd/-
Chief Medical Officer,
Anantnag

Saurabh Bhagat emphasises effective implementation of EODB Reforms, Legal Metrology Laws

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 20: Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Saurabh Bhagat, today held a comprehensive interactive session with the officers of the Legal Metrology Department at the Legal Metrology Complex, focusing on implementation of Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) measures and de-regulation reforms.

During the interaction, Controller, Legal Metrology, J&K, Shiv Kumar Gupta, briefed the Commissioner Secretary on the Department's ongoing initiatives, enforcement drives, information and awareness activities, and institutional reforms being undertaken across the Union Territory.

The Commissioner Secretary was apprised of the major regulatory changes introduced under the EoDB framework, particularly replacement of the earlier licensing regime with a simplified registration-based system for manufacturers, repairers and dealers of weights and measures. It was informed that



Registration Certificates now carry lifetime validity, eliminating periodic renewals and recurring compliance requirements. The requirement of mandatory pre-registration physical inspection has also been dispensed with in favour of self-declaration.

The introduction of the Improvement Notice Mechanism under the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026, was also highlighted. Under this mechanism, first-time specified contraventions are addressed through corrective Improvement Notices, providing an opportunity to rectify deficiencies before initiating penal action.

Other important reforms discussed included rationalisation of minor offences, extended re-verification cycles for specified weighing and measuring instruments, and simplification of compliance procedures.

The Commissioner Secretary was also apprised of the transition towards end-to-end digital service delivery through the J&K Single Window System, covering registration, verification and re-verification services. The expansion of the Government Approved Test Centre (GATC) mechanism, enabling authorised third-party laboratories to verify specified weighing and measuring instruments, was also discussed. The Department also undertook a number of awareness camps across the Union Territory to sensitise stakeholders about the latest reforms relating to Ease of Doing Business.

Interacting with the officers, Saurabh Bhagat emphasised effective implementation of the reforms, adoption of technology-driven solutions and strengthening of transparency and accountability in departmental functioning. He stressed that the reforms should translate into tangible benefits for businesses while ensuring effective consumer protection.

The session also provided an opportunity for officers to share field-level experiences, discuss operational challenges and offer suggestions for further improving service

ADDC reviews HADP implementation in Poonch

■ HT News Network



POONCH, NOVEMBER 20: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Poonch, S. Amarjeet Singh, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress and implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) across the Agriculture and Allied Sectors in District Poonch.

At the outset, the Chief Horticulture Officer (Nodal Officer) briefed the Chair about the objectives, implementation framework and guidelines of HADP.

The officers from Agriculture and Allied Departments made detailed presentations highlighting the physical and financial progress achieved under various projects, major achievements, beneficiaries covered and employment opportunities generated. The presentations also highlighted the impact of the interventions at the grassroots level and their contribution towards strengthening agricultural infrastructure, promoting modern farming practices and enhancing farmers' income.

The ADDC stressed the importance of improved inter-departmental coordination, regular monitoring to ensure that the benefits of HADP reach farmers and other eligible beneficiaries. He also emphasized the need to identify, conserve and promote the district's indigenous agricultural varieties and local specialties while preserving their germplasm.

In this regard, he specifically highlighted Ranjha Rice, Chandaki Basmati, Giza, Mund Wheat, Mandi-Loran Rajmash and local plum varieties.

The participating Officers were directed to formulate and submit zone-wise, individual targets for field functionaries and adopt an innovative cluster-based approach for effective implementation of HADP interventions and other schemes for its review on a fortnightly basis.

2nd batch of Four-Hour Capsule Training for ASHAs, ASHA Facilitators and ANMs held in Doda

■ HT News Network



DODA, NOVEMBER 20: The second batch of the four-hour Capsule Course on Key New and Revised Programme Components for ASHAs, ASHA Facilitators (AFs) and ANMs was successfully conducted today through virtual mode by the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC).

The training programme was conducted under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma, with active participation from frontline health workers representing all medical blocks of District Doda.

As many as 244 individuals attended the online training session, including 185 ASHA workers, 46 ANMs and 13 ASHA Facilitators, reflecting the active involvement of grassroots healthcare personnel in the capacity-building initiative.

The capsule course was aimed at updating and strengthening the knowledge and skills of frontline health workers regarding newly introduced and revised components of various national health programmes. It also focused on enhancing their understanding of programme implementation and improving the delivery of quality healthcare services at the community level.

The initiative underscores the department's continued commitment towards strengthening the capacity of frontline healthcare workers, who play a vital role in bridging the gap between healthcare institutions and communities.

The enthusiastic participation from all blocks of the district reflects the collective commitment of ASHAs, ASHA Facilitators and ANMs towards improving public healthcare delivery and ensuring effective implementation of various health programmes at the grassroots level.

ICICI Life Pension Plan Targets Retirement Security and Next-Generation Wealth Transfer

■ HT News Network

Srinagar: ICICI Life Insurance has introduced ICICI Life Signature Pension, a retirement planning product designed to help individuals build a market-linked corpus while providing an option to transfer a portion of the accumulated wealth to the next generation.

According to the company, the product offers a vesting age of up to 90 years, allowing individuals to begin investing in their 40s and remain invested over an extended period. It offers exposure to equity markets of up to 100 per cent, along with multiple fund choices and premium payment options.

At the time of vesting, policyholders can withdraw up to 60 per cent of the accumulated corpus as a tax-free amount, subject to applicable tax provisions, while the remaining amount can be used to purchase an annuity product to provide a guaranteed lifelong income during retirement.

Explaining the product's approach, Vikas Gupta, Chief Product Officer at ICICI Life Insurance, said retirement and legacy planning were closely connected but could involve complex financial and tax considerations.

He said the plan was designed to combine long-term, market-linked wealth creation with an option to pass a portion of the accumulated corpus to the next generation, while using the balance to secure a regular retirement income through an annuity.

The plan also allows policyholders to nominate multiple beneficiaries and specify the proportion of the policy benefit to be allocated to each, enabling them to define how the proceeds will be distributed among their nominees.[KNT]

District-Level ELC Essay Writing, Quiz Competitions organised in Ramban

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 20: The District Administration Ramban, through the District Election Office, today organised District-Level Essay Writing and Quiz Competitions under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative here in the Conference Hall, District Administrative Complex, Maitra. Students representing Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) of the educational institutions of Assembly Constituencies AC-54 Ramban and AC-55 Banihal participated enthusiastically in the twin competitions.

90 patients examined at MMU camp held at village Kuthyara

■ HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER 20: A Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) camp was organised today at Village Kuthyara in Medical Block Thathri. As many as 90 patients were examined and screened by the medical team. The healthcare services provided included general health check-ups, screening for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), blood sugar testing, X-ray screening and free medicines.

Besides providing medical services, the team also conducted health awareness activities, with special emphasis on Tuberculosis (TB) awareness. The local population was sensitised to the importance of early detection, timely diagnosis, adherence to prescribed treatment and adoption of preventive healthcare practices.

The initiative aims to ensure accessible and quality healthcare services at the doorsteps of the people, particularly those residing in remote and underserved areas of the district.

Fire safety awareness and emergency response drill held at Channi

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 20: A Fire Safety Awareness and Emergency Response Drill was conducted today at Bagad Mandi, Channi, by District Administration Jammu in collaboration with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Civil Defence and Fire & Emergency Services.

During the exercise, the teams demonstrated measures for overall control and containment of fire, along with various techniques for rescuing trapped individuals and providing emergency medical aid to the injured.

Participants and memers of the public were also sensitised about different types of fires, including those caused by petroleum products, domestic LPG and electrical faults, and were briefed on the appropriate methods of dealing with each.

KVK Ramban orients group of 20 Reasi Farmers on natural farming

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 20: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ramban, of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), organised an exposure visit for 20 farmers from different villages of Dharmari Sub-Division of District Reasi to its Kendra here at Dhalwas, to acquaint them to natural farming practices and techniques.

The programme was organised under the guidance of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, Prof. B. N. Tripathi and Director Extension, SKUAST-Jammu Dr. Amrish Vaid. The visiting farmers were coordinated by SMS Veerinder Mohan Padha and AEA Pankaj Khajuria, Department of Agriculture Reasi.

Chief Scientist and Nodal Officer KVK Dr. Raj Kumar Gupta warmly welcomed the participating farmers and provided practical guidance on the preparation of the formulations used in natural farming. He elaborated on the benefits of natural farming in promoting chemical-free and climate-resilient agriculture, reducing input costs and restoring soil fertility and biodiversity.

Professor and Head Division of Microbiology SKUAST-Jammu Dr. Brajeshwar Singh delivered a detailed lecture on the role of microbes in agriculture and biological methods of controlling insects and pests.



Scientist, Agriculture Extension Dr. Parveen Kumar highlighted the significance of sustainable agricultural practices in improving soil health and enhancing agricultural productivity.

Scientist, PBG Dr. Munish Sharma sensitised the farmers to diversified multi-cropping systems and their role in enhancing biodiversity. He also emphasised the importance of organic inputs, resource conservation and eco-friendly agricultural practices for ensuring long-term agricultural sustainability. The exposure visit provided the farmers an opportunity to gain scientific knowledge and practical insights into natural farming techniques, encouraging the adoption of sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural practices.

KVK Ramban organises Capacity-Building Programme on Biological Pest Control under HADP

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 20: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Ramban today organised a one-day capacity-building programme on "Biological Control of Insects and Pests in Agriculture" under Project No. 16 of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP)-"Alternate Agriculture Systems for Sustainability." As many as 20 officers and officials from the Departments of Agriculture and Horticulture participated in the programme and received valuable insights into biological pest management and sustainable agricultural practices. The programme was organised under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, Prof. B. N. Tripathi, and the guidance of Director Research, Dr. S. K. Gupta, and Director Extension, Dr. Amrish Vaid. Welcoming the participants, Chief Scientist and KVK Head Dr. Raj Kumar Gupta, highlighted the importance of bio-formulations in effective pest management and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Australian tech mission explores AI, cybersecurity and deep-tech partnerships in Hyderabad

■ HT News Network/UNI

Hyderabad, Nov 20 (UNI) An Australian delegation comprising 36 technology companies has explored business collaborations and commercial partnerships with Hyderabad's IT industry, healthcare sector and startup ecosystem, focusing on artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, digital health and deep technologies.

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), in partnership with the Tech Council of Australia, led the Australian DigiTech Mission to Bengaluru and Hyderabad from November 16 to 20 to strengthen technology and business ties between the two countries.

During its November 19 and 20 engagements in Hyderabad, the delegation participated in a networking session organised in collaboration with NASSCOM and HYSEA, bringing together Australian companies and representatives of the local IT and healthcare sectors.

The discussions focused on digital innovation, emerging technologies, investment opportunities and knowledge exchange, with an emphasis on developing commercial partnerships.

The delegation also visited T-Hub to gain insights into Hyderabad's startup and innovation ecosystem and explore opportunities for collaboration.

T-Hub has a network of more than 3,300 startups and partnerships with over 250 investors and funds worldwide.

The mission showcased Australian capabilities in artificial intelligence and machine learning, cybersecurity and digital trust, digital health and medical technology,



enterprise software, cloud and telecommunications, deep tech, smart infrastructure and technology-enabled services.

Speaking on the occasion, Mary Overington, Trade and Investment Commissioner, Austrade South Asia, said Hyderabad's technology industry, healthcare sector and startup ecosystem offered significant opportunities for Australian companies to build partnerships in AI, cybersecurity, digital health and deep tech.

Combining Australia's specialised expertise and research strengths with Hyderabad's engineering talent and industry connections could help develop solutions for both countries and international markets, she said.

The mission was supported by the Accessing New Markets Initiative (ANMI), a A$55 million programme jointly designed and delivered by Austrade and industry to help Australian businesses diversify and expand their exports.

The delegation also participated in the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026 to showcase Australia's technology capabilities and establish connections with India's innovation ecosystem. Austrade said it remained committed to strengthening commercial linkages between Australian technology companies and India's innovation ecosystem, facilitating greater market access and long-term growth opportunities for businesses in both countries. The mission was supported by the Accessing New Markets Initiative (ANMI), a A$55 million programme jointly designed and delivered by Austrade and industry to help Australian businesses diversify and expand their exports.

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Healthy People, Healthy Nation



Sahil Maznoor



Health is one of the greatest blessings in our lives. We often spend a lot of time earning money, building houses and achieving success, but sometimes we forget to take care of our own health. The truth is that without good health, we cannot enjoy the achievements of life.

Today, our lifestyle has changed considerably. People spend most of their time sitting, using mobile phones, watching television and working indoors. Due to a lack of physical activity and unhealthy eating habits, many people are facing health problems such as obesity, high cholesterol, fatty liver and heart-related diseases. These problems can affect people of different age groups.

The best way to protect ourselves is to develop healthy habits. A balanced diet, regular exercise, proper sleep and routine medical check-ups can help us maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Why Is Exercise Important?

Exercise is not only about building muscles or improving physical appearance. It is about keeping our bodies active and our minds fresh. Regular physical activity improves fitness, supports heart health, strengthens muscles and helps us feel energetic.

It also teaches us discipline, patience and self-confidence. A person who follows a regular exercise routine gradually develops a positive attitude towards life.

Unfortunately, many people complain that they do not have enough time to visit a gym. Work responsibilities, family commitments and long distances often become obstacles. For such people, a home gym can be a useful solution.

What Is a Home Gym?

A home gym is a small fitness space arranged inside our homes. It does not require a large room or expensive machines. Even a small corner can be used for basic exercises.

People can start with simple equipment such as a yoga mat, skipping rope, resistance bands, dumbbells and other basic fitness items. Equipment can be added gradually according to one's needs and financial condition.

The biggest advantage of a home gym is convenience. We can exercise according to our available time without travelling to another place. Family members can also participate and encourage one another.

My Personal Experience with Exercise

My interest in physical fitness started when I was studying in Class 8. In Kashmir, gym exercise is popularly known as the iron game. During this journey, I met many kind and supportive people, including teachers, businessmen, sports personalities and government employees.

Their encouragement motivated me to continue my interest in fitness. I gradually understood that exercise is not just a physical activity; it is also a way of developing discipline and confidence.

Regular exercise made me feel more active and energetic. It also helped me develop a positive approach towards life. Based on my experience, I believe that every young person should develop an interest in sports or some form of physical activity.

Home Gyms Can Change the Lives of Young People

In many villages, young people have energy, talent and the ability to achieve great things. However, they do not always have proper facilities to use their free time productively.

Some youngsters are becoming attracted to smoking, drugs and other harmful habits. This is a matter of concern for parents, teachers and society.

We should provide young people with better opportunities, including sports grounds, gym facilities, libraries and other recreational activities. A small gym in a village can become a positive step towards encouraging fitness and a healthy lifestyle.

Physical activity can also help young people manage everyday stress and improve their general well-being. Instead of spending hours on mobile phones, they can devote some time to sports and exercise.

Schools and Colleges Should Promote Fitness

Educational institutions have an important role in building a healthy generation. Education should not be limited to textbooks, examinations and classroom activities. Students also need opportunities to develop their physical abilities.

Schools can introduce small fitness centres with basic equipment and organise regular sports activities. Students should be encouraged to participate in games, yoga and age-appropriate exercises under proper supervision.

Similarly, colleges should make their existing sports and gym facilities accessible to interested students. Keeping fitness equipment locked for long periods defeats the purpose of establishing such facilities.

Teachers, parents and educational administrators should work together to create awareness about the importance of physical fitness.

A Healthy Society Is a Strong Society

We often talk about the development of our villages, towns and cities. However, real development also means having healthy and active citizens.

Government departments, local representatives and social organisations should encourage the establishment of affordable fitness centres, sports clubs and playgrounds, particularly in rural areas.

People should also understand that fitness does not always require expensive equipment or membership fees. Walking, cycling, running, stretching and playing outdoor games are simple ways to remain active.

Before starting a new exercise routine, beginners should seek guidance from a qualified trainer, especially when using gym equipment. Exercise should always be suitable for a person's age and physical condition.

Conclusion

A home gym may look like a small investment, but it can bring a positive change to our daily lives. We do not need to wait for special occasions or perfect circumstances to start taking care of our health.

Let us make exercise a part of our daily routine and encourage our children, friends and family members to participate in healthy activities.

We should remember that a healthy person can contribute more effectively to family, society and the nation. Our aim should not be limited to earning wealth and achieving fame; we must also learn to protect the greatest blessing of life good health.

Healthy People, Healthy Families and a Healthy Nation should be our common mission.

Editorial suggestion: This version is more suitable for a local newspaper. It keeps your personal experience but gives greater importance to home gyms, rural youth, schools, colleges and community development. It also avoids unnecessary scientific information that was distracting from the main topic.



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Assam needs 10 golf courses, Rs 1,000-cr investment to unlock Northeast's golfing potential: Amandeep Johl

United News Of India

DIGBOI (ASSAM), NOV 20 :Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) CEO Amandeep Johl has called for a major investment in golf infrastructure in Assam, proposing the development of at least 10 golf courses at an estimated cost of Rs 1,000 crore to unlock the Northeast's sporting and tourism potential and position the region as a major golfing destination.



Arguing that Assam has the natural advantages, geographical potential and an existing golfing culture to support the expansion of the sport, Johl said the state government needed to formulate a concrete plan to develop golf infrastructure, attract investment and create opportunities for local talent.

"We are trying to tell the Chief Minister (Himanta Biswa Sarma) that they need to build eight to 10 golf courses in Assam. It is such an amazing state. It has the golfing culture, tea gardens and all of that. I think it can be done, but the state government needs to come up with a plan," Johl told UNI after completion the 26th IndianOil SERVO Masters here.

Making an economic case for the proposed infrastructure expansion, he said building 10 golf courses would require an investment of around Rs 1,000 crore, while the potential economic activity generated through golf tourism and associated investments could be substantially higher.

"If you build 10 golf courses, it would cost around Rs 1,000 crore, and the investment potential is about Rs 1 lakh crore. Every golf course brings about Rs 10,000 crore into the economy. The potential is huge," he said.

Johl stressed that golf should not be viewed merely as an elite sporting activity but as an avenue for attracting tourism, investment and economic activity.

He said the perception that golf was an elitist game should not discourage governments from developing facilities.

"People say it is an elitist game. If that is the concern, then why build five-star hotels? Those are also elitist. Golf has enormous potential, and the government should seriously think about it," he said.

He said Assam had the potential to accommodate at least 10 golf courses and that the proposed infrastructure could help create a wider ecosystem around the sport, including tourism, professional tournaments and talent development.

Highlighting the infrastructure challenges in the region, Johl said Digboi Golf Links, one of India's oldest golf courses, needed improvements in its playing conditions and greater accessibility to encourage more people to take up the sport.

He pointed out that the course, located within the IndianOil complex, appeared to have limited access for outside players and suggested that IndianOil consider establishing a golf academy there.The PGTI would be willing to extend technical assistance and expertise to establish such an academy and improve the facility, but the funding would have to be provided by IndianOil or the concerned authorities, he said."We can easily help them establish an academy. We can assist, but we cannot fund it. They will have to fund it," Johl clarified.He also stressed that the development of professional golf in the Northeast would require sustained grassroots initiatives rather than depending on isolated tournaments."The only way to grow the game is at the local level. More events need to be organised. We are willing to help in every possible way, but the initiative has to come from the local authorities," he said.

Raunil Kukar overcomes back-nine wobble to clinch maiden PGTI title

United News Of India

DIGBOI (ASSAM), NOV 20 :Bengaluru's Raunil Kukar overcame a tense back-nine fightback by his rivals to script a maiden title triumph, winning the 26th IndianOil SERVO Masters Golf by two shots here on Friday.

The 28-year-old produced a five-under 67 in the final round to finish at 16-under 272, sealing his breakthrough victory at the season-opening event of the 2026-27 DP World Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI).

Kukar, who began the final round in a three-way tie for the lead with Yuvraj Singh of Kapurthala and Mhow's Om Prakash Chouhan, collected the winner's cheque of Rs 15 lakh from the tournament's total prize purse of Rs 1 crore.

His victory was anything but straightforward. After opening up a commanding four-shot advantage with four successive birdies from the sixth to the ninth, Kukar appeared firmly in control. But a missed short par putt on the 10th triggered a difficult phase, with three bogeys in four holes allowing the chasing pack to threaten his lead.

With the title suddenly up for grabs, Kukar showed the composure required of a champion, responding with crucial birdies on the 14th, 15th and 17th holes to shut the door on his challengers. The biggest challenge came from 22-year-old Anshul Kabthiyal, who produced the lowest round of the tournament, an eight-under 64, to finish runner-up at 14-under 274.



Phillips expects spinners to come into play as Basin Reserve pitch slows

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 20 :New Zealand all-rounder Glenn Phillips expects spinners to have a greater say in the ongoing first Test against India, with the Basin Reserve pitch showing signs of slowing down after two days of play.



Phillips, who struck his maiden Test century with a 118 to help New Zealand post 368 in their first innings, feels his own role as an off-spinner, along with those of Rachin Ravindra and India's Washington Sundar, to grow in the coming days.

"Probably (the Test is) evenly poised. India made great use of the new ball but we will take 368. Great partnership by Indian openers. Pitch is getting slow and low," Phillips said in Wellington on Friday during the post-day press meet.

New Zealand have traditionally relied on seamers at the Basin Reserve, a venue known for its pace and bounce. However, Phillips feels the changing nature of the surface could bring the spinners into the contest.

"As the Test goes on, myself, Rachin and Washy will have a bigger role to play. Basin has a bad reputation of being seamer-friendly but I have picked up five-for in the Plunket Shield."

He believes getting more revolutions on the ball could help generate bounce, even if the conditions are not traditionally associated with spin.

"We have seen if you put revs on the ball you can get bounce. Not saying it is going to happen but we can hope it happens," he said.

The conditions at the Basin Reserve also bring the wind into the equation, often making life difficult for bowlers running into it. Phillips expects to take on that responsibility if required, allowing New Zealand's faster bowlers to make the most of the wind at their backs.

"My role will be to hold on one end against the wind and let the fast guys bowl with the wind," he said.Phillips also identified Jasprit Bumrah as the biggest threat, acknowledging the difficulty of facing a bowler who can generate movement both in the air and off the surface.

Jayawardene appointed DC director of cricket

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 20 :Former Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene has been appointed Director of Cricket of the Delhi Capitals women's team ahead of the 2027 Women's Premier League (WPL) season.

The franchise confirmed the appointment, with Jayawardene set to take charge of all cricket-related operations. His responsibilities will include team planning, identifying new talent and overseeing the development of players and coaching staff.

The appointment marks Jayawardene's return to the Delhi franchise after more than 13 years. He represented the team, then known as Delhi Daredevils, in the 2012 and 2013 IPL seasons and also led the side as captain in 2013.

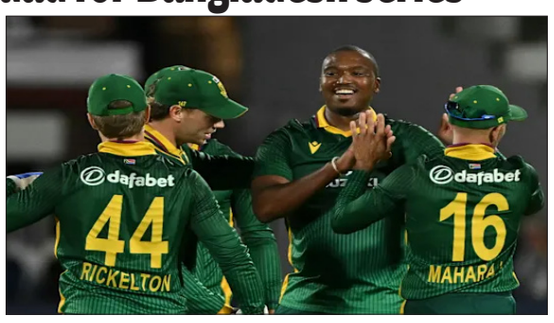
Jayawardene most recently served as head coach of Mumbai Indians in the IPL, guiding them to three titles in 2017, 2019 and 2020 before parting ways with the franchise.

"Delhi Capitals has a strong identity and an exciting vision for the future of women's cricket. I am delighted to take on the role of Director of Cricket for the WPL team," Jayawardene said.

Lungi Ngidi returns in South Africa's squad for Bangladesh series

United News Of India

CAPE TOWN, NOV 20: South Africa have announced their squads for their three-match ODI and three-match T20I series against Bangladesh next month, with fast bowler Lungi Ngidi returning following his recovery from injury.



Ngidi is joined by fellow fast bowler Anrich Nortje in the ODI squad. Nortje returns to the format for the first time since featuring against Australia in September 2023.

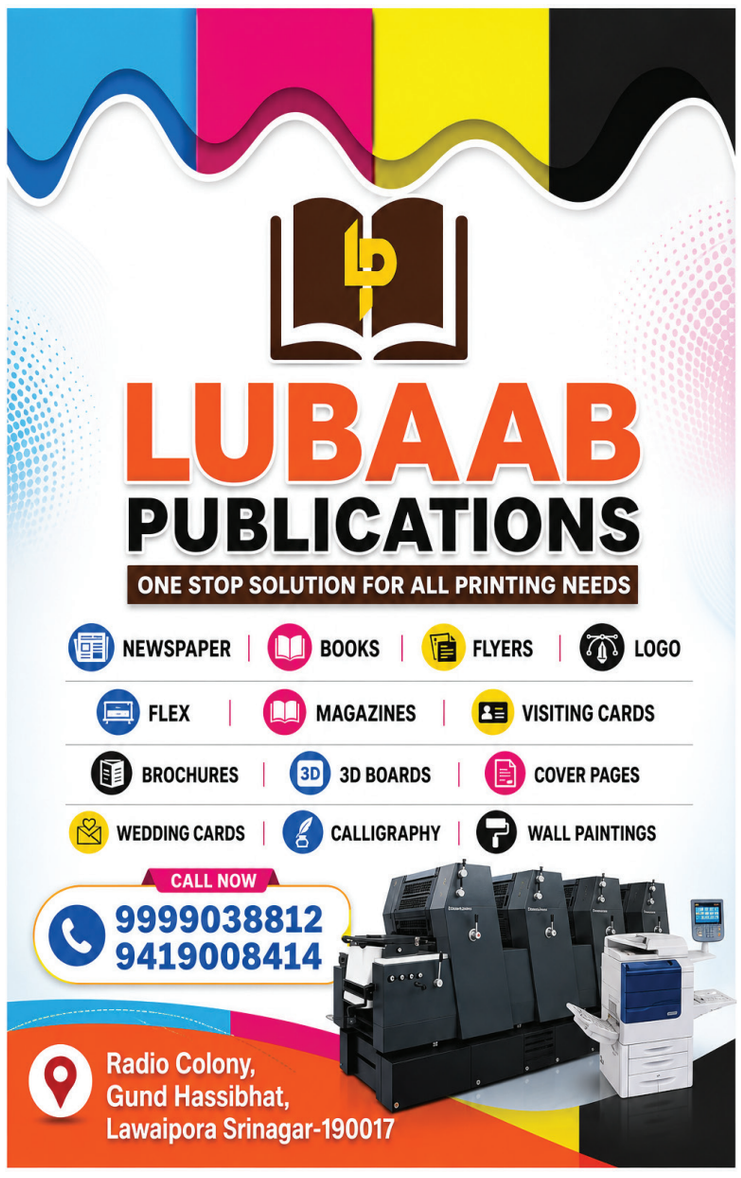
Wicketkeeper-batter Sinethemba Qeshile has earned a place in the T20I squad after an impressive run in the domestic circuit.

Keshav Maharaj will lead the ODI team in the series, which runs from December 1 to 7, while Bjorn Fortuin has been named captain of the T20I side for the matches scheduled from December 10 to 13. South Africa squads to face Bangladesh

Proteas Men's head coach Shukri Conrad explained that the two series would provide an opportunity to manage the workload of multi-format players following a busy period of Test cricket against Australia and Bangladesh, while also assessing combinations ahead of next year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

"We have opted to rest a number of our multi-format players off the back of what's been a busy period of Test cricket against Australia and Bangladesh, as we manage their workload ahead of the England tour.







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