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16TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION
# HEADLINES TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



P:12 Bumrah, Bavuma edge towards top spot on latest Test rankings

## "Peerzada Mohammad Syed Was a Leader of High Integrity": Speaker Rather

Recalls veteran Congress leader's decades-long political journey, ministerial tenure and contribution to J&K

**HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES**

**JAMMU, NOV 27**: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather has expressed profound grief over the demise of veteran Congress leader and sitting Anantnag MLA Peerzada Mohammad Syed, describing him as a seasoned political leader whose contributions to public life and the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir would be remembered. Recalling his political journey, the Speaker said Syed represented the Kokernag Assembly Constituency in 1987, 2002 and 2008 before being elected from Anantnag in 2024. He also served as president of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee and held several important portfolios, including Education, Sports, Haj and Auqaf and Public Enterprises. A law graduate from the University of Kashmir,

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## "Universities Must Focus on Skills, Jobs and Financial Self-Reliance": LG Sinha

Directs BGSBU to align academic reforms with NEP-2020, strengthen industry linkages and ensure timely convocation



**HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES**

**JAMMU, NOV 27**: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday called for transforming Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Rajouri, into a skill-oriented and employment-focused institution, stressing the need for academic reforms, stronger industry-academia partnerships and financial self-reliance. Chairing the university's 10th Executive Council meeting at Lok Bhavan, the Lieutenant Governor directed the institution to align its academic framework with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, strengthen faculty development and promote quality research. He also called for holding Executive Council meetings twice a year, ensuring timely convocation and maintaining discipline and a conducive academic environment on campus. The meeting deliberated on faculty recruitment, career advancement, admissions, introduction of new academic programmes, research publications and infrastructure development, besides reviewing the Action Taken Report of the previous meeting held in January 2026. Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today chaired the 10th meeting of the Executive Council of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) Rajouri, at Lok Bhavan.The meeting was attended by Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor, BGSBU; Prof. Umesh

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## "No State Will Lose Its Share of Parliamentary Representation": Centre's Revised Delimitation Formula

Cabinet proposes 50% expansion of Lok Sabha, retains existing inter-state seat proportions until 2051; women's quota targeted for 2029

**HT NEWS DESK / UNI**

**NEW DELHI, NOV 27**: The Union Cabinet on Friday approved a revised constitutional amendment framework proposing a 50 per cent increase in Lok Sabha seats across all states while retaining their existing relative share of parliamentary representation until 2051. Under the proposed formula, the strength of the Lower House would increase from the present 543 elected seats to approximately 816, within an overall ceiling of 850. The arrangement seeks to address concerns, particularly among southern states, that population-based delimitation could reduce their relative parliamentary representation despite successful population stabilisation efforts. While the inter-state distribution of seats would remain protected on the basis of existing proportions



linked to the 1971 Census, individual constituencies would be redrawn using the 2011 Census. The revised framework is also intended to facilitate the implementation of 33 per cent reservation

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## "J&K Needs a Dedicated Central Package to Overcome Power Sector Challenges": Sagar

Minister flags winter supply deficit of up to 1,300 MW, seeks additional power allocation and infrastructure modernisation

**HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES**

**NEW DELHI, NOV 27**: Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Minister Ali Mohammad Sagar on Friday sought a dedicated financial package from the Centre for modernising the Union Territory's power sector, highlighting its infrastructure deficiencies, rising winter demand and vulnerability to extreme weather conditions. Interacting with the Group of Ministers at the State Ministers' Conference on Power in New Delhi, chaired by Union Power Minister Manohar Lal, Sagar submitted a detailed memorandum seeking financial assistance to strengthen distribution and transmission networks, reduce power losses and accelerate hydropower development. He said J&K's anticipated restricted power demand for winter 2026-27 stood at around 3,450 MW, against which the estimated supply deficit could range between 600 MW and 1,300 MW. He sought additional unallocated Central power, predictable allocations and continuation or enhancement of the additional 329 MW allocation for December 2026 to February 2027. Highlighting improvements in revenue realisation



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## "His Contributions to Public Life Will Always Be Remembered": Omar Abdullah on Peerzada Mohammad Syed

Chief Minister pays tribute to veteran Congress leader, recalls his long political career and public service

**HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES**

**JAMMU, NOV 27**: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed profound grief over the demise of veteran Congress leader and sitting Anantnag MLA Peerzada Mohammad Syed, who passed away on Thursday evening following a brief illness at the age of 73. Paying tributes to the former minister, the Chief Minister recalled his long and distinguished career in public service and his contributions to the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, friends and supporters, praying for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the family to bear the irreparable loss.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed profound grief over the demise of Peerzada Mohammad Syed, MLA Anantnag and former Minister.



Paying rich tributes to the veteran Congress leader, the Chief Minister recalled his long and distinguished career in public service and his invaluable contributions towards the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Peerzada Mohammad Syed, 73, passed away on Thursday evening following a brief illness.

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## "Families Must Not Be Left Alone in Tragedies Abroad": Sakeena Seeks Mandatory Probe into Student Deaths

Urges Centre to establish time-bound repatriation mechanism, review safety standards at foreign universities

**HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES**

**SRINAGAR, NOV 27**: Jammu and Kashmir Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Itoo has urged the Centre to establish a formal mechanism for transparent investigations into incidents involving the death or critical injury of Indian students abroad, alongside a time-bound protocol for repatriating mortal remains. In a communication to the Union Health Minister, Itoo sought coordinated intervention by the Ministries of Health and External Affairs to strengthen institutional safeguards for Indian students pursuing medical education overseas. The demand follows the death of a Jammu and Kashmir student studying in Bangladesh. Acknowledging the Centre's assistance in facilitating the repatriation of the student's mortal remains, she stressed that such tragedies required a coordinated institutional response, including inquiries in consultation with host governments, improved emergency assistance and timely communication with affected families. She also called for a comprehensive review of safety standards,



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## Dry weather in J&K till Dec 3, rain, snow likely Dec 4–7: MeT

**HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES**

**SRINAGAR, NOV 27** :Jammu & Kashmir is likely to experience largely dry weather till December 3, with a fresh spell of light rain and snowfall expected between December 4 and 7, according to the weather forecast.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said weather conditions are expected to remain generally dry across the region during the coming days, with clear to partly cloudy skies and little possibility of precipitation.

A change in weather conditions is likely from December 4 onwards under the influence of a fresh Western Disturbance, which may bring light rainfall to the plains and light snowfall over higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir.

The weather system is expected to persist till December 7, with temperatures likely to witness a further decline. Daytime temperatures in Kashmir are likely to settle around 6 to 8 degrees Celsius, while night temperatures may hover between 2 and 3 degrees Celsius.

During the dry spell from November 27 to December 3, maximum temperatures in the Kashmir region are expected to remain around 11

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HT BOTTOM NEWS

## "We Will Take Our Message to the People": Rajnath Singh to Lead BJP Padyatra in Jammu

'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao' march to culminate in public rally at Parade Ground today

**HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES**

**JAMMU, NOV 27**: Defence Minister and senior BJP leader Rajnath Singh is scheduled to lead the party's 'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao' padyatra in Jammu on Saturday, followed by a public rally at Parade Ground. The march will commence at 10 am from the Radio Station near Panjtirthi Chowk and culminate at Parade Ground, where Singh will address a public gathering. J&K BJP president and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma will preside over the programme. Party leaders, legislators, elected representatives and workers from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir are expected to participate. The padyatra forms part of the BJP's nationwide campaign launched on October 22 to highlight its position on democratic institutions and constitutional values and counter what it describes as misinformation by opposition parties. Singh is scheduled to leave for Pune after the Jammu programme.



Defence Minister and senior BJP leader Rajnath Singh is scheduled to lead the party's "Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao" padyatra in Jammu on Saturday, followed by a public rally at Parade Ground.

The march is scheduled to begin at 10 am from the Radio Station near Panjtirthi Chowk and culminate at Parade Ground near Brahman Sabha, where a public meeting will be held.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma will preside over the gathering, while Singh is expected to attend as the chief guest and address the participants.

Party leaders, legislators, elected representatives and workers from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir, including the Kashmir Valley, are expected to take part

The BJP's nationwide campaign, launched on October 22, is intended to promote the party's position on democratic institutions and constitutional values. The party has said it seeks to counter what it describes as misinformation by opposition parties, including the Congress and its INDIA alliance partners.

Singh is scheduled to leave for Pune after the Jammu programme. The padyatra and rally are planned for November 28. [KNT]

## "Examination Integrity Is Non-Negotiable": JKSSB Introduces Tougher Security Measures

Randomised centre allocation, stricter frisking, additional jammers and enhanced CCTV surveillance among new safeguards after FAA exam irregularities

**HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES**

**SRINAGAR, NOV 27**: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) has announced a series of additional security measures for forthcoming examinations following attempts by unscrupulous elements to use unfair means in the recently conducted Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA) examination. Under the revised arrangements, invigilation staff will be deployed through randomisation by Deputy Commissioners, while examination centres will also be allotted to candidates through a randomised process. The admit-card download window has been reduced from seven days to three days before the examination. The Board has also strengthened frisking procedures, CCTV surveillance and monitoring of examination centres, besides announcing additional mobile signal jammers to prevent the use of sophisticated electronic devices. Magistrates, flying squads and centre observers will oversee examination arrangements, while mobile phones and other gadgets of examination-duty personnel will have to be deposited in designated control rooms. Restrictions will also be imposed around




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## "Peerzada Mohammad

Syed was widely respected for his political experience, calm demeanour and grassroots connect. Rather conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the family members to withstand the loss.

: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of senior Congress leader and sitting MLA from Anantnag, Peerzada Mohammad Syed.

In his condolence message, the Speaker described Peerzada Mohammad Syed as a veteran political leader of high integrity, who made significant contributions to public life and the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Recalling his long political career, the Speaker said that Peerzada Mohammad Syed represented the Kokernag Assembly Constituency 1987, 2002 and 2008 and Anantnag Assembly Constituency since 2024 till date besides serving the people as a legislator in his subsequent political innings. He also headed the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee for a considerable period.

The Speaker recalled that Peerzada Mohammad Syed held several important portfolios during his tenure in the State Government, including Education, Sports, Haj and Auqaf, and Public Enterprises. He first served as Minister of State for Education in 1987 and subsequently held the portfolios of Education and Public Enterprises. In 2009, he was again inducted into the State Cabinet.

A law graduate from the University of Kashmir (LL.B., 1980), Peerzada Mohammad Syed was widely respected for his calm demeanour, political experience and strong connect with grassroots workers.

Expressing solidarity with the bereaved family, the Speaker prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength and fortitude to the family members to bear this irreparable loss.

## "Universities Must

Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Shri Govind Jaiswal, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department; Shri Ravi Kumar Sihag, Registrar, BGSBU; Prof. O P Mishra, former Dean (Research) IMS BHU; Prof. Shahid Akhter, Department of Management Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi; Dr. Titi Xavier, Dean, Academic Affairs, BGSBU, and other members of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council accorded in-principle approval to various agenda points and proposals presented during the meeting.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the University to transition toward a skill-centric, employment-oriented curriculum and devise a long-term framework for self-sustained funding.

He underscored the importance of harmonising academic reforms with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, advancing faculty capacity building, and fostering robust industry-academia partnerships.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the Executive Council to convene its meetings on a biannual basis and ensure the timely conduct of the convocation. He stressed the need for maintaining institutional discipline and fostering a conducive academic environment, calling for stringent action against any elements attempting to disrupt campus harmony.

He further issued directives to strengthen institutional accountability and organise national-level programmes along with student outreach initiatives such as Yuva Connect.

The meeting also deliberated on vital academic and administrative matters including faculty recruitment, career advancement, admissions, new academic programmes, the promotion of research publications, and infrastructure upgrades to enhance the university's overall functioning.

Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor, BGSBU presented various Agenda items before the Executive Council for approval and ratification.

The Executive Council also reviewed the Action Taken Report pertaining to the previous meeting held in January 2026.

## "No State

for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, with the government targeting the 2029 general elections. The proposal assumes significance ahead of Parliament's special sitting beginning November 30, following the failure of the earlier constitutional amendment in April to secure the required special majority. The revised legislation will require a special majority in both Houses, making wider political consensus essential for its passage.

The union Cabinet on Friday approved a revised constitutional amendment framework for delimitation and the implementation of women's reservation, proposing a uniform 50 per cent increase in the strength of the Lok Sabha across all states while retaining their existing relative share of parliamentary representation until 2051.

The significant revision in the government's approach is aimed at addressing concerns raised by southern states and regional parties over the potential impact of delimitation on the federal balance, as the government prepares for Parliament's special sitting beginning November 30. Under the revised formula, the strength of the Lok Sabha, which currently has 543 elected members, is proposed to increase to approximately 816, within an overall ceiling of 850 seats. Every state would receive an identical 50 per cent increase in its existing allocation of parliamentary seats, ensuring that no state loses its relative share of representation to another because of differences in population growth. For instance, Tamil Nadu, which currently has 39 Lok Sabha seats, would see its representation increase to 59. Other states would receive additional seats in the same proportion to their existing strength. The arrangement is intended to ensure that states, particularly in southern India, which have successfully implemented population stabilisation programmes, are not penalised through a relative decline in their parliamentary representation. One of the most significant features of the revised proposal is the extension of the freeze on the inter-state distribution of Lok Sabha seats until 2051, retaining the existing proportions based on the 1971 Census. This addresses one of the principal objections raised by the Opposition during the government's earlier attempt to push through the delimitation legislation in April. The revised framework, however, provides for the redrawing of individual parliamentary constituencies within each state on the basis of the 2011 Census. This would enable the delimitation exercise to take account of changes in population distribution and correct disparities in constituency sizes without disturbing the relative share of parliamentary representation between states. The Cabinet's decision also seeks to facilitate the implementation of the constitutional provision for 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislatures. The government intends to link the implementation of the women's quota with the revised delimitation exercise, with the stated objective of making the reservation operational in time for the 2029 general elections. The revised formula represents an attempt by the government to overcome the fundamental objections that had prevented its earlier constitutional amendment from securing the requisite parliamentary support. Opposition parties, particularly those from southern states, had argued that linking delimitation to population figures from a subsequent Census could significantly shift the balance of political representation in favour of states with higher population growth. The DMK in Tamil Nadu and several other regional parties had been particularly vocal in opposing any arrangement that could penalise states for their success in controlling population growth. The YSR Congress Party and the Sharad Pawar-led faction of the NCP had also expressed concerns about the implications of the proposed exercise for the federal structure. By proposing an equal percentage increase in seats while retaining the existing inter-state distribution ratio, the government appears to have accommodated an important demand of these parties. The revised arrangement also addresses the criticism that the earlier legislative framework did not provide an explicit guarantee that no state would suffer a reduction in its relative share of parliamentary representation. The development assumes particular significance against the backdrop of the government's defeat in the Lok Sabha on April 17, when the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, failed to secure the constitutionally mandated special majority. The legislation, which sought to facilitate the expansion of the Lok Sabha and advance women's reservation through delimitation, secured 298 votes in favour and 230 against, falling short of the required threshold. The defeat was a major setback for the government, as two related legislative proposals concerning delimitation and changes in the laws governing union Territories could not proceed following the failure of the constitutional amendment. The government had maintained that delimitation was necessary to facilitate the implementation of women's reservation and that an expanded Lok Sabha would ensure adequate representation for all states. The Opposition, however, questioned the methodology, arguing that the proposed exercise could upset the existing balance between states and undermine the federal character of the parliamentary system. The revised formula seeks to separate two contentious aspects of delimitation: the allocation of seats between states and the redrawing of constituencies within individual states. While the former would continue to be governed by the existing 1971 Census-based proportions until 2051, the latter would take into account the 2011 Census. The political and constitutional implications of Friday's Cabinet decision will become clearer once the revised legislation is formally introduced and its detailed provisions are placed before Parliament. The proposed constitutional amendment will require a special majority in both Houses, involving a majority of the total membership of each House and at least two-thirds of members present and voting. The government will, therefore, need support beyond its own parliamentary strength to get the legislation passed. Parliament is scheduled to hold a special sitting beginning November 30, with the Lok Sabha meeting first and the Rajya Sabha scheduled to convene on December 2. The proceedings are expected to conclude on December 3, subject to the legislative business taken up by the two Houses. The government is hoping that the revised formula will help build a broader political consensus before the special sitting. The uniform increase in seats and the extension of the inter-state freeze could provide a basis for renewed negotiations with regional parties that had opposed the earlier framework. Whether these concessions will prove sufficient to secure the necessary support, however, remains a crucial political question. For the Congress-led INDIA bloc, the revised proposal presents a fresh political and constitutional challenge. Although several Opposition parties had rejected the earlier delimitation framework on grounds of federal equity, they will now have to assess whether the changes adequately address their concerns while deciding their position on the government's continued attempt to link delimitation with the implementation of women's reservation. The DMK, which has consistently argued that southern states should not be disadvantaged for achieving population stabilisation, is likely to play a particularly important role in shaping the response of regional Opposition parties. The Congress and other constituents of the INDIA bloc will also have to reconcile their respective positions on the revised legislation and decide whether to adopt a common parliamentary strategy. The government, meanwhile, is expected to argue that the revised arrangement safeguards the parliamentary interests of every state while paving the way for the long-pending implementation of women's reservation. The 2023 Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam provided for 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, but its implementation was linked to a delimitation exercise following a Census. The revised proposal seeks to accelerate the process by modifying the framework governing delimitation and the distribution of parliamentary seats. Its eventual implications will depend on the precise legislative provisions, the mechanism for carrying out delimitation and the manner in which women's reservation is incorporated into the expanded legislatures. With the Cabinet having cleared the revised framework, the November 30 special sitting is set to become a crucial test of the government's ability to overcome its April setback and secure the constitutionally required majority. At the same time, it will test the unity and political cohesion of the INDIA bloc, which will have to find common ground on an issue that brings together women's political representation, population policy and the sensitive question of the distribution of parliamentary power among India's states.

## "Families Must

emergency redressal mechanisms and student support services at foreign medical universities, emphasising that families should not be left to navigate complex diplomatic and administrative procedures without institutional support. Jammu and Kashmir Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Itoo has urged the Centre to establish a mechanism for initiating formal and transparent inquiries into incidents involving the death or critical injury of Indian students abroad, besides introducing a time-bound protocol for the repatriation of mortal remains.

In a communication addressed to the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Itoo sought his personal intervention in taking up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to establish a comprehensive institutional framework for the safety, security and welfare of Indian students pursuing medical education overseas.

The communication comes following the death of a student from Jammu and Kashmir who was pursuing medical education in Bangladesh.

Itoo acknowledged the efforts of the Union Health Ministry, in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, in facilitating the repatriation of the student's mortal remains.

The minister, as per news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS), observed that incidents involving the death or critical injury of Indian students overseas cause immense distress to affected families and warrant a coordinated institutional response.

She pointed out that while the Union Health Ministry and the National Medical Commission (NMC) regulate foreign medical qualifications, the safety, security and overall welfare of Indian students studying abroad also require institutional attention.

Among the key measures proposed by Itoo is the initiation of formal and transparent inquiries, in coordination with host governments, whenever the death or critical injury of an Indian student is reported overseas.

She also sought a standardised and time-bound protocol within the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian diplomatic missions to assist bereaved families in completing the requisite formalities and ensuring expeditious repatriation of mortal remains.

In another significant recommendation, the minister called for a comprehensive review of safety standards, emergency redressal mechanisms and student support services at foreign medical universities.

Itoo emphasised that families facing such tragedies should receive timely institutional assistance and clear communication rather than being left to navigate complex administrative and diplomatic procedures on their own.

## "His Contributions to

The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, friends and supporters. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and the highest place in Jannah, and for strength and fortitude to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

## "J&K Needs

and reduction in AT&C losses, the minister also called for investment in battery energy storage, disaster-resilient infrastructure, smart-grid technology and hydropower projects. He proposed a dedicated Jammu and Kashmir Power Sector Development and Modernisation Package and a joint working group to ensure time-bound implementation of the proposed interventions.

Minister for Power Development Department (PDD), Revenue, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar, today interacted with the Group of Ministers during the State Ministers' Conference on Power, held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Power, Manohar Lal.

During the interaction, the Minister highlighted the distinctive challenges confronting Jammu and Kashmir's power sector and sought special financial assistance from the Government of India for its comprehensive modernisation, strengthening and long-term sustainability.

The Minister also submitted a detailed memorandum to the Union Minister for Power, outlining the sector's key requirements and seeking a dedicated financial package to address infrastructure gaps, reduce distribution losses, strengthen transmission networks, enhance hydropower generation and improve power availability, particularly during the winter months.

Emphasising the geographical and climatic challenges of Jammu and Kashmir, Sagar pointed out that the mountainous terrain, scattered habitations, remote locations and extreme weather conditions make power infrastructure development and maintenance particularly demanding. He said that heavy snowfall, avalanches, landslides, cloudbursts and flash floods frequently disrupt electricity infrastructure, while winter demand rises sharply at a time when hydropower generation declines.

Highlighting the progress made in improving the financial and operational performance of power distribution companies, the Minister informed that revenue realisation by Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) had increased from approximately 3,060 crore in 2021–22 to 5,290 crore in 2025–26, registering a growth of nearly 73 per cent.

He also highlighted the reduction in AT&C losses, which had declined from 49.82 per cent to 27.13 per cent in JPDCL and from 65.61 per cent to 33 per cent in KPDCL. The gap between average cost of supply and average revenue realised had also witnessed substantial improvement.

Under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), 14.07 lakh smart meters have been sanctioned, of which nearly 12.25 lakh had been installed as of November 19, 2026. Distribution strengthening and loss-reduction works worth 4,708.52 crore have also been sanctioned, with substantial physical progress achieved in both power distribution companies.

The Minister sought continued Central support for strengthening the distribution network, including replacement of ageing and overloaded transformers, augmentation of 33/11 kV infrastructure, installation of additional substations,

strengthening of low-tension networks and development of alternate feeding arrangements. He also stressed the need for underground and insulated cabling in vulnerable areas and dedicated enforcement wings to curb power theft and unauthorised consumption.

Referring to the winter power scenario, Sagar said that Jammu and Kashmir's peak demand during the previous winter had touched approximately 3,362 MW, comprising 1,456 MW in Jammu and 1,906 MW in Kashmir. The anticipated restricted demand for winter 2026–27 is around 3,450 MW, with an estimated supply gap ranging between 600 MW and 1,300 MW.

He urged the Union Government to provide additional unallocated Central power, ensure predictable allocations and continue or enhance the additional 329 MW allocation for December 2026 to February 2027. He also sought support for affordable long-term power procurement and banking arrangements with neighbouring states, including Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

On hydropower development, the Minister underlined that Jammu and Kashmir possesses an estimated potential of 14,635 MW, of which only around 3,540 MW has been harnessed so far. He highlighted the ongoing projects of Pakal Dul, Kiru, Kwar and Ratle, with an aggregate capacity of approximately 3,563.5 MW, and said that the Government aims to increase installed hydropower capacity to around 10,975.65 MW by 2035.

He sought Central assistance through grants, concessional financing and viability gap funding for accelerating hydropower projects, undertaking geological investigations and preparing detailed project reports. He also highlighted the proposed Jammu and Kashmir Hydro Power Policy 2026 and the need to encourage private investment in the sector.

The Minister further emphasised the importance of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) for managing peak demand and integrating renewable energy. He outlined the proposal for developing 250 MW/1,000 MWh of storage capacity over three years and scaling it up to 1,000 MW/4,000 MWh over five years, up to 2031.

Regarding transmission infrastructure, Sagar highlighted the ongoing transformation of the Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Limited (JKPTCL), which has a transformation capacity of approximately 12,875 MVA, with another 3,766 MVA in the pipeline. He sought support for new transmission lines, grid substations, transformer augmentation, modern digital substations and strengthening of transmission corridors to meet future demand.

The Minister also stressed the need to make power infrastructure more resilient to natural disasters. He proposed a dedicated Himalayan Power Infrastructure Resilience Programme, including the procurement of Emergency Restoration System (ERS) units. While seven ERS units have already been procured for Jammu, he highlighted the requirement for 15 additional units for Jammu and 10 for Kashmir.

Calling for greater investment in digitalisation and capacity building, Sagar emphasised the importance of smart-grid technologies, cybersecurity, modern operational systems and specialised training for power-sector personnel. He proposed establishing two dedicated Power Training Colleges, one each in the Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

He said that reliable and affordable electricity was essential for supporting industrial growth, tourism, horticulture, cold-chain infrastructure, healthcare facilities and the emerging electric mobility ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister urged the Union Government to consider a dedicated Jammu and Kashmir Power Sector Development and Modernisation Package, combining grants, concessional loans, viability gap funding and project-based assistance. He also proposed the constitution of a joint working group comprising representatives of the Government of India and Jammu and Kashmir to examine the proposals and facilitate their time-bound implementation.

Sagar expressed confidence that sustained support from the Centre would help Jammu and Kashmir overcome its structural power-sector challenges, strengthen energy security and build a modern, resilient and financially sustainable electricity system.

## Dry weather in

to 14 degrees Celsius, while minimum temperatures are likely to range between 4 and 6 degrees Celsius.

The dry weather is expected to provide a favourable window for farmers to continue agricultural activities and complete pending fieldwork before the anticipated wet spell.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.0 degrees Celsius on Thursday, while Qazigund settled at minus 2.4 degrees Celsius and Pahalgam at minus 2.8 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara recorded a low of minus 1.5 degrees Celsius, Kukernag minus 0.3 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg 1.0 degree Celsius. Konibal recorded minus 3.0 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 24.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 10.9 degrees Celsius. Banihal recorded 18.3 degrees Celsius as the maximum and 4.8 degrees Celsius as the minimum, while Batote recorded 17.1 and 6.6 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Katra recorded a maximum of 21.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 10 degrees Celsius, Bhaderwah 18.2 and 2.4 degrees Celsius, while Kathua recorded 24.9 and 10.8 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Among other automatic weather stations, Srinagar recorded a maximum of 13.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of minus 3.0 degrees Celsius. Awantipora recorded 15.0 and minus 3.0 degrees Celsius, Jammu 23.9 and 12.1 degrees Celsius, Udhampur 24.0 and 7.6 degrees Celsius and Ramban 23.7 and 6.9 degrees Celsius.

Samba recorded 23.3 degrees Celsius as the maximum and 7.8 degrees Celsius as the minimum, Badgam 14.6 and minus 2.7 degrees Celsius, Rajouri 23.2 and 3.2 degrees Celsius, Poonch 22.5 and 6.6 degrees Celsius, and Anantnag 18.2 and minus 2.7 degrees Celsius.

Baramulla recorded a minimum of minus 0.5 degrees Celsius, Bandipora minus 1.3 degrees Celsius, Pulwama minus 3.4 degrees Celsius, Shopian minus 4.2

degrees Celsius, Kulgam 0.5 degrees Celsius, Ganderbal minus 0.2 degrees Celsius, Sonamarg 0.8 degrees Celsius, Kishtwar 7.2 degrees Celsius and Reasi 8.2 degrees Celsius.

The weather bulletin also recorded no rainfall or snowfall across the reporting stations during the preceding 24 hours, with snow depth remaining nil—(KNO)

## "Examination Integrity

examination centres, with vehicles and unauthorised persons barred from entering designated areas. JKSSB has advised candidates to rely exclusively on its official website for examination-related information and avoid unverified reports and rumours.

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) has announced additional safeguards for upcoming examinations following attempts by unscrupulous elements to use unfair means in a recently held Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA) examination.

Under the revised measures, invigilation staff will be selected and deployed through randomisation by the concerned Deputy Commissioners from an identified pool. Examination centres will also be allotted to candidates through randomisation, while the admit-card download window has been shortened from seven days to three days before the examination.

The Board said examination security protocols had been reviewed in consultation with the Police Department. Magistrates will supervise candidate frisking and ensure that only authorised examination-duty staff enter the premises and that no one leaves before the examination concludes.

Centre observers will monitor the movement of invigilation staff and examination material. Unused or unissued question booklets and OMR sheets for absent candidates must be counted, packed and sealed inside examination halls under CCTV surveillance. The Board will also increase the number of jammers at centres in view of recent attempts involving sophisticated electronic gadgets

All deployed staff, including service providers, will be required to deposit mobile phones and other gadgets in designated control rooms, where the items will remain locked until the examination ends. CCTV coverage and live monitoring from JKSSB control rooms in Jammu and Srinagar will continue.

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# Planning is backbone of rural development: Altaf Wani

## Calls for convergence, participatory planning at VGPP Workshop in Jammu

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: Minister for Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Altaf Ahmad Wani, today described planning as the backbone of development and called for effective convergence with line departments to make rural areas developed, self-reliant and sustainable.

Addressing a day-long workshop on the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP), organised by the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj in Jammu, the Minister said the initiative is aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047, coinciding with the centenary of independence. He said the workshop marked an important step towards achieving this vision at the grassroots level.

Emphasising the importance of planning in shaping rural development, Altaf Wani said the Government of India has laid special emphasis on structured and participatory planning under the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. He urged officers and field functionaries to take ownership of the initiative and translate its objectives into tangible outcomes, asserting that with commitment, dedication and determination, even the most challenging goals can be achieved.

The Minister said field functionaries are the face of the Department and play a vital role in strengthening rural governance and development. He observed that the Department has the potential to achieve remarkable progress if its personnel demonstrate the will, commitment and dedication required to deliver on their responsibilities.

Altaf Wani underscored the need for greater public participation in Gram Sabha meetings and stressed consultations with elected representatives while preparing development plans. He said that, as part of a democratic system, planning must reflect the aspirations and needs of every section of society. He further emphasised that elected MLAs, irrespective of party affiliation, should be taken on board during the planning process to ensure inclusive and comprehensive development.

Highlighting the importance of convergence, the Minister called upon the Department to work in close coordination with other line departments to ensure integrated development and strengthen rural livelihoods.

Altaf Wani observed that if other departments contribute towards the material component of development works, the Department of Rural Development can complement these efforts through the labour component under the VB-G RAM G scheme, thereby ensuring need-based, comprehensive and effective development of rural areas. He said convergence mechanisms would be further strengthened and the matter would also be taken up with the concerned departmental Ministers to ensure better inter-departmental coordination and collaboration.

The Minister directed officers to expedite works under UT CAPEX, PRI grants and other development programmes, emphasising that the working season in snow-bound areas of Jammu and Kashmir is limited and requires timely execution of projects. He stressed the need to accelerate progress and ensure optimal utilisation of available funds to facilitate the release of additional resources. He also called for expediting projects initiated under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Calling for a citizen-centric approach, Wani urged officers to remain responsive to public needs and discharge their duties with sincerity and accountability. He cautioned that negligence in the discharge of official responsibilities would invite appropriate disciplinary action. He also stressed the proper protection, preservation and maintenance of assets being created by the Department.

Speaking at the workshop, Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Ramesh Kumar, highlighted the objectives and framework of the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan, stating that the initiative aims to facilitate participatory and comprehensive planning through Gram Sabhas based on the identified needs and priorities of local communities. He said the plan incorporates technology-driven planning mechanisms, including the use of Yuktdhara, and brings together the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj and other line departments to ensure coordinated interventions at the Panchayat level.

The Secretary highlighted the four key thematic areas of the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan—water security, rural infrastructure, rural livelihoods and disaster mitigation—and emphasised that convergence is a central component of the initiative to avoid duplication of works and ensure tangible, holistic and sustainable development.

## CAT declines to defer J&K Police SI exam; to be held on Nov 29 as scheduled

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JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: The Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) has informed the concerned candidates and the general public that the OMR-based written examination for the post of Sub-Inspector (Home Department), Jammu & Kashmir Police, will be conducted strictly as per schedule on Sunday, November 29, 2026.

In an Original Application bearing O.A. No. 1326/2026 titled Bilal Ahmad Khoja and Others verses Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir & Others, some contesting applicants approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Srinagar Bench, seeking interim directions to defer the upcoming J&K Police Sub-Inspector examination scheduled to be held on November 29, 2026, and to stay further recruitment procedure of the Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA) examination which was held on November 15, 2026, expressing apprehension over the fairness, transparency and sanctity of the examination process.

JKSSB, in order to ensure the highest standards of fairness, transparency and sanctity for the upcoming Sub-Inspector examination, placed on record existing Government Protocols, Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) alongside additional preventive measures recently notified by the Controller of Examinations, JKSSB.Taking note of the Board's proactive safeguards, CAT declined to grant any interim relief for staying the selection process of the posts of Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA), Finance Department and also decided against deferment of the examination of Sub-Inspector (SI), Jammu & Kashmir Police, Home Department, scheduled to be held on 29.11.2026.JKSSB reiterates its unwavering commitment to conduct of free, fair and transparent examinations. It advised all the aspiring candidates to focus on their preparation for the forthcoming examinations, rely exclusively on the information published on the official website of JKSSB and refrain from paying heed to false, misleading or fabricated rumours.

## DDC Ganderbal reviews Block-Wise RDD Progress; directs Result-Oriented Execution

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 27: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today chaired a comprehensive follow-up meeting in the VC Room, Mini Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal, to review the block-wise physical and financial progress of developmental works under the Rural Development Department (RDD).

During the meeting, the DDC took a detailed, block-by-block appraisal from the concerned Block Development Officers and officials of the Rural Engineering Wing (REW) regarding the physical and financial progress of works under key flagship schemes and funding heads, including (PMAY 2.0), CAPEX, CDF, VB-G RAM G, Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP), Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme (APDP), and Spill-over works.In addition to ongoing projects, the chair thoroughly reviewed the status of newly approved works under Untied Grants and Tribal UT Capex, assessing the tendering, allotment, and on-ground execution across all blocks of the district.

Taking serious note of the pace of progress achieved since the previous review meeting, the DDC strictly impressed upon the RDD workforce and engineering wing officials to adopt a proactive, result-oriented approach. She directed the officers to maintain close synergy between administrative and technical wings to accelerate on-ground delivery and ensure tangible outcomes within the stipulated timelines.

The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner, Ganderbal, Chief Planning Officer, Ganderbal, all Block Development Officers and other concerned officials. The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner, Ganderbal, Chief Planning Officer, Ganderbal, all Block Development Officers and other concerned officials.

## ADC Sopore reviews arrangements for JKSSB JKPSI Examination scheduled on November 29

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 26:BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 27: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, S.A. Raina, chaired a meeting at Dak Bungalow Sopore to review and finalise arrangements for the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) examination for the posts of Jammu and Kashmir Police Sub-Inspector (JKPSI), scheduled to be held on November 29, 2026, across eight examination centres in the district.

The meeting was attended by Superintendents, Magistrates and other concerned officers from the Police and Civil Administration.

During the meeting, the ADC reviewed various arrangements pertaining to the smooth, transparent and hassle-free conduct of the examination. Detailed discussions were held on security arrangements, frisking procedures, adequate lighting, deployment of staff, sanitation, availability of drinking water and other essential facilities at all designated examination centres.

The ADC directed the concerned officers to ensure foolproof security arrangements, proper coordination between the Police and Civil Administration and strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines. He further instructed that electronic devices and gadgets must not be allowed inside the examination premises and directed the authorities to ensure thorough frisking and effective checking at all entry points to prevent any malpractice.

Emphasising the importance of timely preparedness, the ADC directed all concerned officers to ensure adequate sanitation, clean drinking water, proper lighting and other necessary facilities at every examination centre so that candidates face no inconvenience.

He stressed that all arrangements must be put in place well in advance to ensure the fair, smooth and transparent conduct of the examination.

## District Admin Pulwama organises Training Programme for JKSSB Sub-Inspector Examination

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 27: District Administration Pulwama today organised a training programme for Centre Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, Invigilators and Clerical Staff in connection with the OMR-based written examination for the posts of Sub-Inspector (Home Department), scheduled to be conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on November 29, 2026.

The training programme was held at the Auditorium of Government Boys Degree College, Pulwama, in two sessions, under the supervision of Additional District Development Commissioner Pulwama, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat and District Coordinator JKSSB.

The programme aimed at familiarising the designated examination staff with their respective responsibilities and ensuring coordinated arrangements for the smooth and orderly conduct of the examination.

### DM, SSP Bandipora review Anti-Drug Measures at NCORD Meeting

# Direct intensified Awareness and Enforcement

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 27: District Magistrate (DM) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Tahir Saleem Khan, today chaired a District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) and NDPS Cases Review Meeting at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora, to review the progress of NDPS cases and enforcement, preventive, awareness and rehabilitation measures being undertaken to combat drug abuse and narcotic trafficking in the district.

The meeting reviewed police station-wise details of NDPS cases registered, arrests made, contraband seized, properties attached and action taken against habitual offenders under PIT-NDPS. Progress on CCTV installation in medical shops and identified drug hotspots, financial investigations and prosecution of NDPS cases was also reviewed.

The meeting also reviewed the status of Drug-Free Campus initiatives in schools and colleges. The functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF), District Hospital Bandipora, and measures being undertaken for treatment and counselling of persons affected by substance abuse were also discussed.

The Excise Department presented details of enforcement and preventive activities, including the destruction of wild cannabis and illicit poppy cultivation. The Drug Control Department was directed to guide pharmacists on proper collection and management of biomedical waste and ensure strict action, including issuance of challans, against violations by pharmacists.The meeting also reviewed implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, including challans issued and fines collected, besides IEC and awareness activities conducted under the Nasha Mukt Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) to intensify sports activities to engage youth in constructive pursuits. The Excise Department was also directed to ensure maximum participation in awareness programmes in coordination with the Youth Services and Sports and Education Departments.She further directed that the Drug-Free Campus status of schools and colleges be submitted quarterly to ensure continued compliance and stressed sustained inter-departmental coordination, effective enforcement and intensified awareness efforts, particularly among youth and students.Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Deputy Director Prosecution; Chief Medical Officer; District Information Officer; Assistant Drugs Controller; Medical Officer, Addiction Treatment Facility; and other concerned officers.

## MY Bharat Baramulla announces 100th Edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle

■ HT News Network




BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 26: District Administration Baramulla today celebrated Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) with enthusiasm, reaffirming its commitment to the constitutional values and democratic principles enshrined in the Constitution of India.On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, along with other officers and officials joined the UT-level Constitution Day function virtually from the DC Office Complex Baramulla. The UT-level function was organised at the Convention Centre, Jammu, and presided over by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha.

At the District level, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. S.F. Hamid, led the observance by administering the Preamble oath to officers, officials and other participants at the premises of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, BaramullaAs part of the celebrations, the Information Department Baramulla established exhibition boards within the DC Office premises, showcasing informative displays on the Constitution of India. Students present at the venue apprised visitors about the Constitution, its significance, fundamental principles and various constitutional provisions, thereby spreading awareness among the participants and visitors.A dedicated selfie point was also set up by the Information Department, which attracted students, officers and other visitors, who enthusiastically captured photographs to mark the occasion.

The programme aimed at promoting constitutional awareness, particularly among the younger generation, and familiarising people with the ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity enshrined in the Constitution. A dedicated selfie point was also set up by the Information Department, which attracted students, officers and other visitors, who enthusiastically captured photographs to mark the occasion.

The programme aimed at promoting constitutional awareness, particularly among the younger generation, and familiarising people with the ideals of justice, liberty.

# MY Bharat Pulwama organises 'Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvad – Samvidhan Diwas Edition' to Commemorate Constitution Day

■ HT News Network




PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 27: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Pulwama, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, in collaboration with the Shivalik Event Organization, successfully organised the Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvad Programme (Samvidhan Diwas Edition) on Thursday.

Held under the national theme "Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat," the event aimed to connect young citizens with the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, deepen awareness of constitutional values, and mobilise youth as ambassadors for a drug-free society.

The programme was attended by Mohammad Yousuf wagay, Principal, BBHS, Kakapora as the Chief Guest, Divyanshu Jaiswal, District Youth Officer (DYO), alongside Youth Icon Meazan Rafiq Rather, and popular Media Influencer Shahid Reyaz.

Addressing the gathering, Mohammad Yousuf wagay underscored the enduring relevance of the Indian Constitution, urging the youth of Pulwama to uphold the core ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity while actively contributing to democratic governance and community welfare.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Youth Officer, MY Bharat Pulwama, highlighted the Ministry's nationwide outreach across 786 districts to commemorate Constitution Day. He encouraged young participants aged 15–29 to register on the MY Bharat Portal and actively engage in volunteerism, civic leadership, and nation-building initiatives.

Youth Icon Meazan Rafiq Rather delivered an engaging presentation on the roadmap to Viksit Bharat@2047, highlighting India's developmental strides and explaining how substance abuse acts as a major barrier to individual potential, social harmony, and national progress. Media Influencer Shahid Reyaz interacted with the young participants, emphasising the power of peer influence, digital storytelling, and social media in spreading positive awareness and countering the menace of drug abuse across Kashmir.

During the programme, participants and dignitaries joined together in a solemn reading of the Preamble to the Constitution of India, reaffirming their commitment to constitutional duties and national unity.

A curated awareness video highlighting the adverse physical, psychological, and socio-economic impacts of substance abuse was screened to sensitise the youth.

Besides, young attendees engaged in an open dialogue with the dignitaries and speakers on youth empowerment, civic responsibility, and building a Nasha Mukt (drug-free) Pulwama.

A dedicated facilitation desk assisted students and youth club members with digital registration on the MY Bharat platform.

# DHEW–Mission Shakti Kupwara organises Awareness Programme to mark International Day for Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 27: The Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti, Department of Social Welfare, Kupwara, in collaboration with NITI Aayog, organised an awareness programme at Middle School Rawathpora, Zone Kralpora, to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage.

The programme aimed to sensitise students, teachers and local residents about the harmful consequences of child, early and forced marriage and to promote awareness about the importance of education, child protection and the rights of children.

During the programme, Majid Mir from NITI Aayog delivered an insightful address, highlighting the adverse social, educational and health consequences of early and forced marriage. The Gender Specialist from the DHEW, along with the school teacher, also shared their views and emphasised the importance of collective efforts to prevent child marriage.

Various sports activities were also organised for the students to encourage their participation and promote a positive learning environment. Free stationery kits were distributed among deserving students as a gesture of encouragement and support for their education.

The programme concluded with the administration of a pledge, wherein participants reaffirmed their commitment to raising awareness and working towards the elimination of child, early and forced marriage.

# DC Poonch reviews anti-drug initiatives

## Directs departments to intensify coordinated enforcement

■ HT News Network




POONCH, NOVEMBER 27: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a District-Level NCORD (Narco-Coordination) meeting to review the measures being undertaken by various departments and agencies to prevent drug abuse and curb the menace of narcotics in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik; Additional Superintendent of Police, Hamid Ali; SDM Mendhar; college professors; Medical Superintendent, District Hospital; Chief Agriculture Officer; District Social Welfare Officer; representatives of the Motor Vehicles Department; SI CID-SB; representatives of IC/IB; Drug Control Officer; besides other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress of ongoing anti-drug initiatives, inter-departmental coordination and measures being implemented to strengthen efforts towards making Poonch a drug-free district. The officers briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the initiatives being undertaken at the grassroots level. It was informed that regular inspections of schools, colleges, their surrounding areas and medical shops are being conducted to identify and prevent possible drug-related activities. Special teams comprising Naib Tehsildars and other field-level officials have also been constituted to ensure regular monitoring and inspections in their respective jurisdictions.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to effectively utilise Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) to sensitise parents and students about the harmful effects of drug abuse. He also emphasised periodic monitoring of students' behaviour to identify any unusual changes at an early stage and ensure timely counselling, guidance and support. The concerned Tehsildars also shared details of enforcement measures undertaken in their respective jurisdictions, including inspections of medical shops, action under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products.

# DC Bandipora presides over Cyber Awareness Programme

■ HT News Network




BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, presided over a Cyber Awareness Programme organised for officers and officials to sensitise them about cyber threats, online safety and secure digital practices.

During the programme, District Informatics Officer, Bandipora, delivered a detailed presentation covering common cyber threats, including phishing, smishing, financial frauds, lottery scams, investment frauds and digital arrest scams.

The presentation also highlighted cyber hygiene practices, including the use of strong passwords, multi-factor authentication, protection of personal information, safe use of public Wi-Fi and secure online transactions. Participants were also sensitised about UPI and WhatsApp security and precautions to prevent digital frauds.

The participants were briefed about the mechanisms for reporting cybercrimes, including the national cybercrime helpline number 1930 and the online portal www.cybercrime.gov.in.

The programme aimed to strengthen cyber awareness among officers and officials and promote safe and responsible use of digital platforms in official and personal activities.

# Animal Husbandry Department organises Mega Awareness Camp in Nowgam

■ HT News Network




BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 27: Acting on the directions of District Development Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Bandipora, today organised a Mega Awareness Camp in Nowgam area. The camp primarily focused on sensitising livestock farmers and the general public about various schemes being implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry, with particular emphasis on eligibility criteria, mandatory documentation, application procedures, prevailing scheme guidelines and benefits available to eligible beneficiaries.

A large number of local residents and livestock farmers participated in the programme and actively interacted with the departmental officers to seek clarification and guidance regarding different schemes and their implementation.

The participating members of the public highly appreciated the initiative and expressed their gratitude to the department for organising the awareness camp and providing necessary information, guidance and facilitation at their doorstep.

The programme marked a significant step towards strengthening public outreach, ensuring transparency in the implementation of departmental schemes and facilitating greater participation of eligible beneficiaries in various government initiatives.

The programme was attended by Livestock Development Officer, Sumbal; Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Nowgam; and other officials of the department.

# Mission Vatsalya Bandipora observes Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat Campaign

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 27: Mission Vatsalya Bandipora observed the National-Level Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat (Child Marriage Free Bharat) Campaign, reaffirming its commitment to eliminating child marriage and protecting child Rights.

The programme focused on sensitising the community about the harmful consequences of child marriage and the provisions of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

District Child Protection Officer Bandipora emphasised that eliminating child marriage is a collective responsibility. He urged parents, community leaders and other stakeholders to work together to protect children from early marriage and ensure their right to education, dignity and a secure future. He reiterated Mission Vatsalya Bandipora's commitment towards strengthening child protection mechanisms and appealed to the public to actively support.

# DLIC approves 269 cases under Mission YUVA at Poonch

■ HT News Network

POONCH, NOVEMBER 27: A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under the Mission YUVA was convened today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma to review the overall progress, implementation and achievements of the scheme in District Poonch.

During the meeting, the Committee undertook a detailed examination and scrutiny of the cases submitted under various categories of self-employment and entrepreneurial activities. After thorough deliberations, **the DLIC approved 269 cases**, marking another significant step towards strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the youth of the district.

While reviewing the progress of the scheme, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed assessment of the status of bank sanctions and disbursements and reviewed the pendency of cases with various financial institutions. He directed the concerned bank officials to expedite the processing of all eligible pending cases and ensure their timely sanction and disbursement within the stipulated timelines. He stressed that unnecessary delays should be avoided so that aspiring entrepreneurs can avail themselves of the intended financial assistance and establish their proposed business ventures at the earliest.

The Deputy Commissioner further emphasized the need to give special attention to agriculture and allied sectors under Mission YUVA, highlighting their immense potential for generating self-employment opportunities.

# DC Ramban reviews progress under Mission YUVA; Directs Banks to expedite disbursement of sanctioned loans

## Calls for close field-level monitoring, assured hand-holding to applicants

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 27: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of Mission YUVA in the district and directed all stakeholders to accelerate implementation with a special focus on timely disbursement of sanctioned loan cases.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Varunjeet Singh Charak; Assistant Director Employment, Piyusha Khajuria; bank officers and other concerned officers. SBDU staff, BHD staff and Motivators participated virtually.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments and stakeholders to work in close coordination and adopt a mission-oriented approach towards achieving the targets under Mission YUVA, ensuring the effective implementation of various interventions aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the youth.

He directed the Assistant Director Employment to closely monitor the performance of field functionaries, ensure effective implementation of the scheme and organise capacity-building sessions to enhance their efficiency.

The DC further instructed the immediate onboarding of all eligible shops and establishments onto the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform to expand their market access. Bank officers were directed to prominently display the checklist of documents required for Mission YUVA loan cases in their branches and provide regular guidance to applicants for smooth processing of their applications.




The DC also directed SBDU staff, BHD staff and Motivators to regularly visit their allotted blocks and bank branches, guide applicants, provide hand holding in establishing business units and managing loan repayments, and monitor the progress of established enterprises. They were further asked to facilitate daily onboarding of eligible shops onto the ONDC platform.

While reviewing the credit component, the Deputy Commissioner expressed concern over pending cases at various bank branches and directed all banks to expedite the processing, sanctioning and disbursement of eligible loan applications within the prescribed timelines. He stressed that timely financial assistance is crucial for the establishment of youth-led enterprises.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, who is also the District Nodal Officer for Mission YUVA, directed the concerned officers to reprocess all applicant-level pending cases without delay. He instructed BHD staff to conduct regular visits to bank branches and awareness camps to strengthen field-level facilitation and outreach, and submit detailed visit reports for effective monitoring of the scheme. The DC also directed SBDU staff, BHD staff and Motivators to regularly visit their allotted blocks and bank branches, guide applicants, provide hand holding in establishing business units and managing loan repayments, and monitor the progress of established enterprises.

# Kashmir born journalist Danish Manzoor Bhat Takes on Newsweek Leadership Across three continents

## Kashmir valley, Srinagar city born journalist to assume expanded senior editorial mandate at Newsweek from January 2027

■ HT News Network

Srinagar: Kashmir born journalist and media entrepreneur Danish Manzoor Bhat is set to take on an expanded leadership role at American legacy news magazine Newsweek as Executive Vice President and Editorial Director, Asia, Middle East & Africa, marking a significant milestone for a journalist from the Valley in global media leadership. The new role, effective January 1, 2027, expands Bhat's existing responsibility for Asia to include the Middle East and Africa, placing him among the most senior India-based Indian journalists holding an editorial leadership position at a major international legacy news publication.

Bhat, who hails from Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, joined Newsweek in 2022 as Editorial Director, Asia and has since led coverage of some of the region's biggest stories across geopolitics, foreign policy, conflict, business and technology.

His work has included interviews and conversations with heads of state and government across Asia and Africa. In 2024, Bhat became the first journalist of Kashmiri origin to extensively interview Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has also interviewed the Prime Minister of Bhutan, the President of Sri Lanka and the President of Zanzibar, among other senior global leaders.

For Kashmir, the appointment carries a particular significance. Bhat began his journey through Indian journalism before moving into senior editorial leadership at an international publication, while continuing to remain based in India. He has also retained a strong connection to his roots in the Valley. Bhat studied journalism at the GDC Baramulla, University of Kashmir, before going on to study Journalism further at Osmania University and later becoming an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM Ahmedabad). He is currently part of the 2027 cohort of



the Advanced Management Programme in Public Policy at the Indian School of Business (ISB). A recurring theme in Bhat's journalism has been the need for greater context and nuance in the way developing nations are covered internationally.

Speaking recently on a podcast, he argued that developing countries should not seek favourable media coverage, but should expect fair reporting that does not allow isolated incidents to define an entire country or society. That subject is also forming part of a book he is working on examining global media narratives, language, context and the way developing societies are represented in international journalism. With his expanded Newsweek mandate, Bhat will now hold editorial responsibility across Asia, the Middle East and Africa while continuing to operate from India and continue his work related travels across the regions and U.S.

The appointment takes effect from January 1, 2027.

# YYC in Collaboration with IPHS Soura Organises 3-Day Theatre Workshop in Srinagar

■ HT News Network

Srinagar/November:27 Yamberzal Youth Club (YYC) Brain Nishat in collaboration with Iqbal Public High School(IPHS) 90 Feet Road Soura Srinagar organised a 3-day theatre workshop aimed at promoting theatrical activities and performing arts among students and young people. The workshop is being conducted under the Guru-Shishya Parampara Repertory Grant Scheme, approved and supported by the Ministry of Culture Govt, of India, New Delhi. The primary objective of the workshop is to promote theatre and acting skills among youths and students nurture their creative abilities and familiarise them with various aspects of theatrical art and performance. Through this initiative, efforts are being made to provide practical theatre training to the younger generation, particularly students, while creating a platform for them to explore and showcase their artistic talents. Such cultural initiatives play an important role in encouraging young people to take an active interest in performing arts. They also contribute towards the preservation, promotion and strengthening of J&K's rich cultural, traditional and theatrical heritage.




# GDC Qazigund Organises 'Swasth Yuva, Swasth Bharat' Programme; 60 Students Undergo Health Screening

■ Farooq Rather




QAZIGUND, NOVEMBER 27: Government Degree College (GDC) Qazigund, in collaboration with the Block Medical Office Qazigund and MY Bharat Anantnag, organised a one-day health and wellness awareness programme titled "Swasth Yuva, Swasth Bharat" on Friday. The programme was organised by the college's Red Ribbon Club, NSS and NCC units with the objective of promoting preventive healthcare, encouraging early diagnosis, creating awareness about HIV/AIDS and drug abuse, and motivating young people towards voluntary blood donation. The programme was inaugurated by Principal Prof. (Dr.) Sudhir Singh in the presence of Block Medical Officer Qazigund, Dr. Shagufta Salam. Addressing the gathering, the Principal stressed the importance of health awareness and preventive healthcare, observing that educational institutions have an important role in promoting the overall well-being and responsible citizenship among students. During the awareness sessions, experts highlighted various health-related issues. Mohd. Aslam, former Deputy Superintendent of Traffic Police Qazigund, spoke about drug abuse, provisions of the NDPS Act and road safety, while Dr. Shagufta Salam and Waseem from MY Bharat delivered an informative session on HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention and the role of the Red Ribbon Club

Dr. Owais Ahmad Wani spoke on holistic health and youth well-being, highlighting the importance of physical, mental and emotional health. Student speakers Sheikh Sibbat Zahoor and Uzma Mushtaq Sofi also shared their views on healthy living, drug-free society, mental health and self-care. A medical team from the Block Medical Office Qazigund conducted health examinations and screening of students.

# Tarigami Mourns Demise of Veteran Congress Leader Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed, Calls It a Great Loss to J&K

■ Farooq Rather

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 27: CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, has expressed deep shock and grief over the untimely demise of veteran Congress leader and legislator Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed, who passed away on Thursday night in Jammu

Describing his demise as a great loss to Jammu and Kashmir, Tarigami said that Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed was a seasoned politician, an able legislator and a colleague with whom he shared a long association spanning several decades.

He recalled that they had worked together in the Legislative Assembly and across different public responsibilities, providing him an opportunity to closely observe Sayeed's commitment to public life and his concern for people's issues. Tarigami said that Peerzada Sayeed remained accessible to ordinary people and consistently raised their day-to-day concerns, irrespective of the position or responsibility he held. He firmly believed in dialogue, democratic values and the constitutional rights and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting his contribution to public life, Tarigami said that Sayeed's political conduct reflected a deep understanding of public concerns and the importance of democratic institutions in addressing people's issues. "At a time when our democratic institutions need experienced and committed voices the most, his absence will be deeply felt. His passing is not merely a loss to the Congress party but also to the people of Anantnag.

# Young Dramatists Society Performs at SKICC on Ministerial Staff Day

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, November 26: The Young Dramatists Society (YDS), Srinagar, presented a theatrical performance at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) today as part of the Ministerial Staff Day celebrations, organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Clerical Staff Association. The programme aimed to recognise the dedication and vital role of ministerial employees in ensuring the smooth functioning of government administration. The performance by YDS added an artistic dimension to the event, underscoring the importance of theatre as an effective medium for expression, social engagement, and cultural enrichment. Representatives of the Young Dramatists Society thanked the organisers for the invitation and for providing a platform to showcase Kashmir's rich tradition of theatre and performing arts. The event saw wide participation from government employees, senior officials, and members of the local cultural fraternity.

# Government Middle School Gandwani Celebrates Constitution Day with Enthusiasm

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 26: Government Middle School Wani Mohalla Gandwani, Education Zone D.H. Pora, District Kulgam, celebrated National Constitution Day with great enthusiasm, highlighting the importance of constitutional values, fundamental rights and responsible citizenship.

On the occasion, Headmaster Mohammad Ayoub Malik, along with teaching staff and students, participated in the celebrations and collectively took the Constitution Day pledge, reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity enshrined in the Constitution of India. As part of the celebrations, various activities, including a Run for Rights, quiz competitions and sports events, were organised to familiarise students with the significance of the Constitution and its fundamental principles. Students participated enthusiastically in the activities and showcased their awareness of constitutional values, democratic responsibilities and national unity. The programme aimed at fostering constitutional awareness among young minds and encouraging students to become responsible citizens who uphold democratic principles and respect the values enshrined in the Constitution of India.

# SKUAST-K Holds Practical Apple tree Pruning Training for Over 40 Farmers in Kupwara

## Farmers welcome long-pending demand fulfilled; apple pruning material distributed free of cost

■ DR. AB QAYOOM




Kupwara, Nov 27: On the directions of Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-K Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai and Director Extension Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kupwara, organised an important practical training programme on scientific apple tree pruning under the leadership of its Head, Prof. G.M. Bhat. The programme was attended by more than 40 farmers from different areas of the border district Kupwara, which aimed to improve their knowledge of scientific orchard management and enhance apple productivity. A specialised trainer from South Kashmir was invited to conduct the session. During the programme, the expert carried out practical pruning of apple trees in the KVK orchard and demonstrated to farmers how to properly prune their apple trees. The farmers were explained which shoots should be retained and which unwanted branches should be removed to maintain the proper structure of apple trees and ensure better orchard management. A special feature of the programme was that farmers had been repeatedly demanding such practical training in Kupwara so that they could learn scientific pruning techniques in their own district. The participants expressed happiness that their long-pending demand had finally been fulfilled. The farmers appreciated the efforts of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Director Extension Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Head KVK Kupwara Prof. G.M. Bhat and the entire scientific and non-scientific staff of the centre for organising farmer-oriented programmes from time to time. The scientific team present during the programme included Dr. Firdous Ahmad Raina, Dr. Shahid Hakim, Dr Fasil and other experts from KVK Kupwara, who interacted with farmers and shared their technical knowledge. At the conclusion of the programme, apple pruning material and different rootstocks were distributed free of cost among the participating farmers. The farmers enthusiastically received the material and expressed satisfaction with the practical training. The participants urged SKUAST-K to organise similar programmes in traditional orchards across the border district Kupwara in the future, saying that such initiatives would help farmers adopt modern techniques, improve orchard productivity and increase their farming income. They expressed hope that continued guidance from the university and KVK would strengthen the farming community and contribute towards improving the economic condition of orchardists in the district.

# NIT Srinagar flags off tobacco-free youth campaign 4.0

## Organises awareness rally to promote tobacco-free campus

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Nov 27: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Friday flagged off the Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 4.0 (TFYC 4.0), with active participation from faculty members, administrative officers, staff and students of the Institute.

The programme was graced by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, along with Dean Student Welfare, Prof. Mohammad Abid Bazaz, and Dean Research and Consultancy, Prof. Roohie Naz Mir.

On the occasion, Director Prof. Anurag Misra emphasised the need to protect young people from tobacco consumption and create greater awareness about its harmful effects. He said educational institutions have an important role in promoting healthy lifestyles and discouraging tobacco use among students.

Prof. Misra called upon the Institute fraternity to actively contribute towards making the campus tobacco-free.

The campaign was conducted with the active support of NSS Coordinator Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav, EBSB Coordinator Dr. Ashok Kumar, Dr. Jitendra Gurjar and other Institute officials and staff members. Security personnel and sanitation staff also extended their support to the initiative.




As part of the programme, participants assembled at the Main Faculty Block, where they took the Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign pledge. This was followed by a tobacco-free campus rally in which faculty members, staff and students participated, spreading awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and encouraging people to refrain from using tobacco products.

Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav, NSS Coordinator and coordinator of the event, said that the campaign aimed to sensitise young people about the health risks associated with tobacco use and encourage them to adopt a tobacco-free lifestyle. He emphasised the importance of collective participation in discouraging tobacco consumption and promoting a healthier campus environment.

The rally focused on raising awareness among students and members of the campus community about the adverse consequences of tobacco consumption and the need to prevent its use among the younger generation. The campaign was conducted with the active support of NSS Coordinator Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav, EBSB Coordinator Dr. Ashok Kumar, Dr. Jitendra Gurjar and other Institute officials and staff members. Security personnel and sanitation staff also extended their support to the initiative.

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## HT EDITORIAL

# Secure Exams, Not Intimidated Aspirants

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board's decision to tighten security arrangements for forthcoming examinations following alleged attempts at malpractice in the recent Finance Accounts Assistant (FAA) examination is a necessary corrective step. However, safeguarding examination integrity must not come at the cost of candidates' dignity, convenience or fundamental right to a fair opportunity. While stringent checks are essential to prevent organised cheating and the misuse of sophisticated electronic devices, genuine aspirants must not be treated as suspects in a system they approach with the hope of securing a merit-based future.

The additional measures announced by JKSSB, including randomisation of invigilation staff, enhanced frisking, magistrate supervision, increased deployment of electronic jammers, CCTV surveillance and flying squads, reflect the seriousness of the challenge facing the recruitment system. Restrictions on mobile phones, electronic gadgets, unauthorised entry and suspicious movement around examination centres are intended to plug loopholes that could otherwise be exploited by unscrupulous elements.

Yet, the need for such extensive safeguards raises a larger question about the vulnerabilities that have allowed attempts to compromise recruitment examinations in the first place. Thousands of young people invest years of preparation, financial resources and personal sacrifice in competitive examinations. Any manipulation of the process is not merely a violation of examination rules; it is an assault on the aspirations of deserving candidates and public confidence in the recruitment system.

The FAA examination controversy has once again underscored the need for institutional accountability. While allegations must be investigated impartially and conclusions drawn only on the basis of evidence, those found guilty of malpractice must face strict legal consequences. Equally, the rights and interests of innocent candidates must be protected. A few unscrupulous individuals cannot be allowed to jeopardise the future of thousands.

The Board's decision to introduce randomisation in the deployment of invigilation staff, strengthen supervision of examination material and restrict the engagement of temporary personnel is welcome. The accountability assigned to Centre Superintendents, Centre Observers and district administrations must translate into effective implementation rather than remain confined to official instructions. Secure handling of question booklets and OMR sheets, particularly those meant for absentee candidates, also requires meticulous oversight.

However, security cannot become synonymous with inconvenience or intimidation. Frisking must be conducted professionally, respectfully and without discrimination. Restrictions on clothing, watches, water bottles and other personal belongings should be clearly communicated beforehand and implemented with reasonable flexibility wherever circumstances warrant. Candidates should not face humiliation, arbitrary objections or unnecessary delays because of poorly communicated instructions. Special consideration must also be extended to candidates with genuine medical or accessibility requirements.

The distinction is simple: those attempting to cheat must face stringent checks, while those appearing honestly must be treated with dignity. A secure examination environment should reassure candidates, not add to their anxiety.

More importantly, security arrangements alone cannot guarantee credibility. The Board must strengthen the entire recruitment chain, from question-paper preparation and transportation to examination supervision, evaluation and declaration of results. Complaints of irregularities must receive timely and transparent attention, while accountability for administrative lapses must be fixed without selective treatment.

Public confidence in JKSSB will not be restored merely by installing more jammers, deploying additional personnel or imposing restrictions around examination centres. It will come from demonstrable fairness, institutional transparency and the assurance that influence, impersonation, technology-assisted cheating or any other unfair means cannot override merit.

The Board must therefore ensure that its latest measures serve their intended purpose without placing an undue burden on genuine aspirants. Recruitment examinations are not simply administrative exercises; they represent hope and opportunity for thousands of young people.

The real test for JKSSB is not merely to conduct secure examinations, but to ensure that every deserving candidate gets a fair chance without fear, favour or humiliation.

# Planting Trees Can Beautify the Heart of Srinagar



***Sahil Manzoor***



Development is necessary for every country. A developed country needs good roads, better transport, trade, industries, employment opportunities, and proper management of cities. Development plays an important role in the economy of a country.

Today, we have many useful communication tools. We can easily exchange business ideas and information from one part of the world to another through emails, WhatsApp, video calls, and other digital platforms. Many business deals are now completed through these virtual methods.

However, development does not mean only building large tunnels, huge buildings, long railway tracks, wide roads, dams, and other big projects. Real development needs proper planning, good management, and coordination among different government departments. Environmental protection should also be kept in mind while carrying out development work.

The government has created different departments and agencies to deal with environmental issues. These departments issue guidelines from time to time to protect our environment. Development should always be carried out in a way that does not cause unnecessary damage to nature.

In this article, I want to highlight the importance of planting trees in cities and important business areas, especially in places where there is heavy traffic. Our needs are increasing day by day, and the increasing number of vehicles is causing air pollution. Factories and industries also release pollutants into the air, water, and soil.

We cannot stop all these activities in one day. Therefore, we should take steps to reduce their harmful effects. Planting more trees is one of the simple and effective ways to help protect our environment. The government administration is also taking important steps to address environmental problems.

What Is the Environment?

The environment is everything around us. It includes plants, trees, water, animals, birds, air, soil, and other natural resources. The environment has a very important role in our lives.

First, we must understand the importance of the environment and protect it. However, some development activities can damage nature. The construction of roads, bridges, buildings, railway tracks, airports, factories, industries, and dams may affect the environment.

For example, cutting trees during road widening and railway construction can cause soil erosion, which means the removal of the upper layer of soil. Soil erosion can reduce soil fertility and may also increase the risk of floods and other environmental problems.

How Can We Reduce Temperature in Cities?

Cities are busy centres of business and economic activity. They also add to the beauty and development of a country, state, union territory, or district.

However, temperatures in cities can become higher because of pollution and the large number of vehicles. Vehicles release gases that contribute to air pollution and climate change. Therefore, proper management of cities is very important.

While developing cities, we should focus on clean air, clean water, proper drainage, and good waste management. Sewage should be properly managed, and solid waste from hospitals, business establishments, and houses should be disposed of safely.

Planting more and more trees can help reduce the temperature in cities and improve air quality. Trees provide shade, absorb carbon dioxide, and make cities greener and healthier.

We should also promote environmentally friendly means of transport. E-rickshaws should be encouraged and increased because they can help reduce pollution caused by conventional vehicles. According to Daily Sheherbeen, there are only 314 e-rickshaws in the city.

Srinagar is the heart of Kashmir, and its beauty can be greatly improved by planting more trees and protecting the existing green spaces. Development and environmental protection should go hand in hand.

A clean and green Srinagar will not only look beautiful but will also provide a healthier environment for its people and future generations.

**Sahil Manzoor Bhatti can be reached at : sahilmanzoor0401@gmail.com**

# Dr. Irfan Ali: A Physician Who Earned Our Trust



***By Syed Majid Gilani***

I first took my mother to Dr. Irfan Ali, MD (Internal Medicine), in the winter of 2011. Her blood sugar was not coming under control despite treatment from several doctors. We had visited different hospitals and private clinics, hoping for relief, but her condition continued to worry us. As a son, it was painful to see my mother struggle with her health. I wanted to find a doctor who could help her.

On the advice of a cousin, we decided to consult Dr. Irfan Ali, a physician in Srinagar. I still remember that first visit. He listened to my mother patiently and allowed her to explain her problems without rushing her. He spoke gently, answered our questions, and explained things in simple language. We left his chamber feeling reassured.

In the months that followed, my mother's blood sugar came under control and has remained stable under his care. From that day onwards, he became our family's trusted physician.

Over the years, I have come to appreciate not only his medical knowledge but also the way he treats his patients. He gives them time, listens to their concerns, and does not make them feel that their problems are unimportant. Anyone who has accompanied a sick family member to a doctor's chamber knows how much this matters. At such moments, a few reassuring words can make a real difference.

I experienced this myself in 2017, when I consulted him for a health problem of my own. I was worried when I entered his chamber, but his calm manner and patient hearing put me at ease. He listened carefully and explained things without causing unnecessary anxiety. That experience further strengthened the confidence I had developed in him during my mother's treatment.

I also value his honesty. When a patient needs a specialist's opinion or a surgeon's attention, he guides them accordingly. In my view, recognising when another doctor's expertise is needed is an important quality in a physician. Patients and their families depend on such guidance when making decisions about treatment.

Even small details reflect his consideration for patients. His prescriptions are neat and readable, and his instructions are easy to follow. These things may seem ordinary, but they are helpful to people who are already worried about their health.

In Kashmir, people often seek advice from relatives, friends, and neighbours before choosing a doctor. Personal experience carries considerable weight. When a family finds a doctor who listens, speaks kindly, and offers honest guidance, that experience is naturally shared with others. Our confidence in Dr. Irfan Ali has grown in the same way, through years of personal experience.



Whenever a health concern arises in our family, he remains our first choice, unless the problem requires another specialist. This confidence has developed gradually, through the care and attention we have received over the years.

Looking back, I often remember that winter in 2011. We were worried about my mother's health and were searching for a way forward. A simple recommendation from a cousin brought us to a doctor who has since remained an important part of our family's healthcare journey. I remain grateful to that cousin for guiding us to him.

Medical knowledge and experience are essential for any doctor. But I believe that kindness, patience, and the ability to listen are equally important. A person who is unwell is often frightened and uncertain. A doctor who takes the time to understand that person's concerns can make a difficult experience easier to bear.

My appreciation for Dr. Irfan Ali comes from what I have personally experienced. He cared for my mother during a worrying period in our lives and treated me with the same patience when I needed his advice. For this, I remain sincerely grateful.

Some doctors are remembered for the medicines they prescribe; others are remembered for the way they treat people. Dr. Irfan Ali holds a special place in our family's memories for both his medical care and his considerate manner. Our experience has taught me that a good doctor does not simply treat an illness; he also listens to the person who is suffering.

**Syed Majid Gilani is a storyteller, opinion writer, and government officer. He writes on family, faith, human relationships, and moral values, drawing inspiration from life and personal memories. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.**

# Beyond the Rockstar

## The Journey, Identity and Legacy of Qazi Touqeer



***Wani Arfat***

There are some journeys which are not just remembered for their successes but also for the hopes they inspire among people. One such personality is that of Qazi Touqeer, a singer and performer from Srinagar. Starting his journey from the streets of Kashmir and reaching national television, this talented artist began his journey over two decades ago when he made a mark for himself by participating in the singing reality show Fame Gurukul. In 2026, his participation in Bigg Boss 20 has once again taken him to national television. But the story of this artist is not only about a television show; it is a journey of ambition, struggle, friendship, family support and connection with Kashmir.

Although many people in the Valley know him by name, there is a younger generation that has come to know him through the Bigg Boss 20 television show. Those who saw him perform in 2005 as a contestant and later watched him become one of the most discussed personalities on the show have a different story to tell about him.

Childhood Dreams in Srinagar

Brought up in Srinagar, Qazi had a passion for singing, dancing and acting right from his childhood days. The advent of cable TV in Kashmir when he was around twelve years old introduced him to the world of entertainment and made his dream of becoming an artist stronger. His family members were instrumental in supporting his dreams, especially his uncle, Qazi Rafi, who helped in preparing his portfolio, registering him for Fame Gurukul and taking him to Delhi.

Qazi used to practise his dancing movements in front of the mirror and needed a harmonium to cultivate his love for music. He studied at a convent school in Rajbagh and then at Amar Singh College. He was also a great admirer of Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan and was inspired by his dancing movements to take up acting. His classmates used to call him Hrithik because of his imitations. People who knew him said that he was a very energetic, humorous and friendly person.



Fame Gurukul: The Turning Point

The crucial point came in 2005 when Qazi participated in the singing reality show Fame Gurukul on Sony Entertainment Television. Facing continuous criticism from the judges, Qazi apparently made it to the danger zone almost ten times. Yet, the audience kept supporting him, and he received about 2.5 crore votes in the show, where the voting process involved paid SMS services.

On October 20, 2005, Qazi and Ruprekha Banerjee won the Fame Jodi title and received Rs 50 lakh each, along with a Sony music contract and a Maruti Alto car. This win was more than just a personal victory for many Kashmiris. It was a period when the Valley used to be spoken of in terms of politics and security, but a young man from Srinagar had made Kashmir known to the world through his musical talent. It gave hope to many families and aspiring artists that geographical location is not an obstacle to achieving something great. In addition, it gave him a lifelong friendship with another contestant, Arijit Singh, who would soon become one of the best playback singers in India.

The Reality Behind Fame

Being successful on television does not mean automatic success in life. The world of entertainment needs patience, opportunities, discipline and resilience. Qazi kept trying in the fields of music and acting even after Fame Gurukul, working on many projects along with Ruprekha, such as the album Yeh Pal. His dream of becoming an actor was also delayed as some films did not get completed.

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PART 2

# The Cross-community relationships in the hills



By M S Nazki

Would you like to focus on historical royal tales, local folklore and legends, or modern/viral stories from Tripura?

-The most famous classic love story from Manipur is Khamba and Thoibi, a timeless 11th- or 12th-century romantic epic from the Moirang Shayon in Meitei mythology.

-Khamba and Thoibi

•The Setting: Set in the ancient kingdom of Keke Moirang (modern-day Moirang in Manipur).

• The Main Characters: Khamba, a poor, brave orphan from the Khuman clan, and Thoibi, a beautiful princess of Moirang.

•The Story: Their love faces intense social and political opposition. To win Thoibi's hand, Khamba must endure severe trials—most famously capturing a wild, ferocious bull. Their legendary romance is preserved in the epic 39,000-line poem Khamba Thoibi Sheireng by Hijam Anganghal and celebrated through traditional Moirang Sai ballad performances.

-Other Notable Manipuri Love Stories

•Tonu Laijing Lembi and Kadeng Thangja Hanba: A tragic 12th-century romance from Moirang where Tonu is abducted and unwillingly married to the king during an expedition, becoming a symbol of enduring separation and longing.

• Princess Sanatombi and the British Political Agent: Depicted in the renowned Manipuri novel Bor Saheb Ongbi Sanatombi (by M.K. Binodini Devi), this historical-cultural romance explores the complex bond between a Manipuri princess and a British officer against the backdrop of a changing political landscape.

• Meiriang and Lubuannei: A poignant Zeliangrong Naga folk tale from Tamenglong, Manipur, about childhood sweethearts separated by an arranged marriage and a lingering farewell necklace.

-I fail to understand why men think violence will intimidate women. Women, who bleed all over themselves every month, who rub blood clots between their fingers and burst them like insects, and sometimes can't because they're not blood clots, they're tongue-coloured strings of meat from the womb. Women who burst open in childbirth, vagina splitting and anus sagging, tiny, hardening fingernails clawing inside of them, placentas like thick filet mignon. (All

these are compilations collected as the years have rolled by)!

-Freedom is to live with dignity……. ARWWA!

-ARWWA stands for the Assam Rifles Wives Welfare Association, the official family welfare organization of the Assam Rifles, India's oldest paramilitary force. Headquartered at Laitkor Garrison in Shillong, Meghalaya, the association supports the spouses, children, widows, and Veer Naris (war widows) of Assam Rifles personnel across remote postings in Northeast India and Jammu & Kashmir.

-Origins & Evolution

•Roots in Force Tradition: While the Assam Rifles itself dates back to 1835, informal family support networks developed organically within its garrisons over the 20th century to help families cope with isolated, high-risk deployments in Northeast India.

Formalization Alongside Military Welfare: As structured military family welfare bodies took shape in India—most notably following the creation of the Indian Army's Army Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) in August 1966—ARWWA formalized into a dedicated organizational structure led by the spouse of the Director General of Assam Rifles (DGAR).

• Unique Operational Context: Unlike regular Indian Army units that rotate between peace and field stations, Assam Rifles units remain continuously deployed in challenging operational environments. ARWWA evolved



specifically to bridge this gap by bringing healthcare, schooling, and vocational support directly to remote sector and battalion locations.

Key Milestones & Recent Developments

• 2010s – Grassroots & Educational Expansion: ARWWA expanded its outreach across Northeast India, pairing internal family welfare with community campaigns such as Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, orphanage visits, and ex-servicemen rallies.

• 2020–2021 – Pandemic Response & Long-Term Empowerment: During the COVID-19 pandemic, ARWWA shifted focus toward digital connectivity, health awareness, and sustainable livelihood training for dependent families.

•March 2025 – Digital & Cultural Launch: During the ARWWA Conference at Headquarters DGAR in Shillong, ARWWA President Mrs. Vibha Lakhera inaugurated the official ARWWA website and unveiled the official ARWWA anthem (Asha, Vishwas, Maitri).

•June 2025 – Official Logo Inauguration: ARWWA unveiled its formal organizational logo via video conference across all Assam Rifles formations, symbolizing Asha (Hope), Vishwas (Trust), and Maitri (Bond).

•November 2026 – Emotional Well-being Research: At the November 2026 conference in Shillong, ARWWA partnered with Project Empathy to launch the RUBARU Research Project study ("Does Loneliness Evoke Empathy?"), marking a formal push to address the psychological and social challenges faced by soldiers' wives.

-Core Focus Areas Today

•Rehabilitation & Financial Aid: Provides immediate financial relief, pension assistance, and skill-based employment opportunities to Veer Naris and widows.

•Vocational Training & Entrepreneurship: Run tailoring, handicraft, and skill development centers that serve both Assam Rifles families and underserved local communities in the Northeast.

•Education & Healthcare: Oversees Assam Rifles Public Schools, child development centers, and regular medical and mental health awareness camps across sector headquarters.

-So we are heading towards the end of the story!-One of the most famous and enduring romantic legends from Nagaland is the tragic folktale of Jina and Etiben from the Ao Naga tribe.-The Legend of Jina and Etiben

• The Setting: Originating from Mopungchuket village (with deep ties to Longkhum village), this 12th-century tale tells the story of two young lovers from the Ao Naga community.

•The Characters: Jina was a poor, unrefined yet passionate young warrior and musician who played the cup violin; Etiben was a remarkably beautiful and affluent young woman, celebrated for her grace and skilled weaving.

•The Conflict: Despite their deep affection for one another, Etiben's family strongly opposed the union due to Jina's lack of wealth and his inability to pay the exorbitant dowry (cattle) demanded by her parents. Instead, Etiben was forced into a marriage with a wealthy landowner named Tenyür.

•The Tragic End: Bound by an unyielding bond, Etiben continued to meet Jina in secret. When her husband discovered their continued devotion, his abuse and anger pushed the situation to a heartbreaking climax. Etiben died, and Jina passed away shortly after from overwhelming grief.

•Legacy: According to the tradition, their spirits ascended together in rising smoke. Today, the village of Mopungchuket commemorates their love with commemorative towers and wood carvings, while Longkhum honors them through local forest trails and scenic viewpoints.

Another deeply moving real-life story of enduring devotion in Nagaland is the story of Mosenyii Yakhro:

•Mosen Viewpoint: In Kigwema village, a 90-year-old man named Mosenyii Yakhro spent over a decade transforming the hillside burial site of his late wife, Vivolheri, into a vibrant, blossoming garden.

•Enduring Devotion: Every morning, he tends to the colorful cosmos flowers and plants surrounding the spot she chose herself before passing away at age 80. What started as a quiet, personal tribute to his wife of many years has grown into a peaceful local landmark known as Mosen Viewpoint.

-One of the most famous legendary love stories from ancient Assam (modern-day Tezpur) is the romance of Usha and Aniruddha.

-The Legend of Usha and Aniruddha

•The Characters: Usha was the beautiful princess and daughter of Banasura, a powerful demon king who ruled over Sonitpur (present-day Tezpur, Assam) and was a devout follower of Lord Shiva. Aniruddha was the valiant grandson of Lord Krishna.

• The Dream and Romance: Usha saw Aniruddha in a vivid dream and fell deeply in love with him. With the help of her close friend Chitralekha—a gifted artist who could paint portraits of anyone in the world—Aniruddha was secretly brought to the palace of Sonitpur.

•The Conflict: Usha and Aniruddha were married in a traditional Gandharva Vivaha (marriage by mutual consent). When King Banasura discovered the secret union, he grew furious and imprisoned Aniruddha in the royal dungeon.

• The Great Battle: This led to a massive war between Lord Krishna (who marched to Sonitpur to rescue his grandson) and King Banasura, who was backed by Lord Shiva himself. Recognizing the purity of Usha and Aniruddha's love—and after a fierce divine intervention—Banasura eventually relented.

•The Legacy: The city of Tezpur (historically Sonitpur, meaning the "City of Blood" from the battle) remains tied to this epic mythological romance, symbolizing devotion that transcended kingdoms and divine wars.

# From Watchdog to Cheerleader: How Chaploosi (Sycophancy) Syndrome Is Eating Away at the Fourth Estate



Jameela Akhter

There is something deeply unsettling about the state of journalism today. An institution once regarded as the conscience of society, a watchdog against the abuse of power and a voice for the voiceless is increasingly confronted with a dangerous internal malady, Chaploosi, the culture of sycophancy, flattery and unquestioning submission to those who wield power.

Institutions rarely collapse overnight. Their decline often begins quietly, through the gradual abandonment of principles, the normalisation of compromises and the replacement of courage with convenience. Journalism is no exception. The erosion of its credibility does not always begin with censorship imposed from outside; sometimes, it begins within the newsroom, in the corridors of influence and in the hearts of those who gradually forget why they entered the profession in the first place.

When a journalist begins to value proximity to power more than proximity to the people, the transformation is profound. The pen may remain in hand, the microphone may continue to record, and the press card may still command recognition. Yet the soul of journalism begins to disappear.

And what makes this deterioration particularly alarming is that Chaploosi, is no longer merely an individual weakness. In certain professional circles, it risks becoming a culture, one that rewards access over accountability, praise over scrutiny, and personal advancement over public interest.

Journalism occupies a distinctive place in a democratic society. Although the media is commonly described as the Fourth Estate, its legitimacy does not arise from any official designation or institutional privilege. It comes from public trust, professional independence and the willingness to question those who exercise authority.

The primary responsibility of a journalist is not to please the government, flatter an administrator, glorify a political leader, appease a business magnate or secure a place in the good books of influential individuals. It is to inform citizens, scrutinise power, expose wrongdoing, question decisions and ensure that the concerns of ordinary people are not lost beneath the noise of official narratives.

Power, by its very nature, requires scrutiny. Governments, political parties, public institutions, corporations, religious establishments and even influential social organisations must remain answerable for their actions. No authority should be beyond legitimate questioning, and no individual should be considered too powerful to face uncomfortable questions.

A journalist, therefore, must be prepared to disagree with power whenever public interest demands it. This does not mean being hostile to every government or opposing every official decision. Journalism is not the art of perpetual confrontation, nor is criticism an end in itself. It means maintaining sufficient independence to support what is right, challenge what is wrong and acknowledge the truth regardless of whose interests it serves.

The journalist's loyalty must be to facts, constitutional values, democratic accountability and the people not to the personality occupying a position of authority. When this relationship is reversed, journalism ceases to function as a watchdog and begins to resemble a public relations department for the powerful.

Corruption in journalism is not always transactional. It does not necessarily involve envelopes of cash, paid news, financial inducements or an explicit exchange of favours. Sometimes, it assumes a more respectable appearance.




It appears in exaggerated praise of public officials, in photographs designed to glorify personalities rather than document public events, in stories that celebrate routine administrative work as extraordinary achievement, and in the selective silence that surrounds uncomfortable questions.

It manifests itself when journalists compete to stand closest to the powerful, when access to official residences becomes a measure of professional success, and when invitations, personal recognition, ceremonial honours and privileged interactions begin to influence editorial judgement.

The most dangerous form of this corruption is the one that becomes invisible to the person practising it. A journalist may sincerely believe that he is building relationships, maintaining professional contacts or facilitating communication. There is nothing inherently wrong with such relationships. Indeed, sources and access are essential to reporting. The problem begins when access becomes dependence, dependence becomes deference, and deference eventually dictates what can and cannot be reported.

The journalist then starts asking a different set of questions. Not, "Is this true?" but, "Will this offend someone influential?" Not, "Does the public deserve to know?" but, "Will this affect my relationship with the administration?" Not, "What are the facts?" but, "What will those in power think of me?" At that point, the corruption of principles has already begun.

The damage may be difficult to quantify, but its consequences are unmistakable: public grievances go unheard, institutional failures escape scrutiny, inconvenient facts are pushed aside, and the credibility of the entire profession suffers.

Another challenge confronting journalism is the entry of individuals who may possess little understanding of its history, constitutional significance, professional standards or ethical responsibilities.

The profession does not necessarily require every journalist to hold a particular academic qualification. Some of the finest journalists have emerged from difficult circumstances, learned through experience and developed exceptional reporting skills without formal degrees in journalism. Educational qualifications alone do not guarantee integrity, just as the absence of a specialised degree does not automatically imply incompetence. However, the absence of formal education must never become an excuse for the absence of learning.

Journalism demands intellectual curiosity, the ability to distinguish fact from opinion, an understanding of public affairs, verification skills, sensitivity towards vulnerable people, respect for privacy, fairness in reporting and a willingness to correct errors. These are not ornamental qualities. They are essential professional responsibilities.

The problem arises when individuals enter the field without adequate knowledge, training or ethical grounding and then mistake visibility for credibility, access for achievement and the possession of a press card for professional authority.

The situation becomes even more troubling when professional spaces are occupied by individuals who have little interest in learning but a great appetite for recognition. Instead of investing in reporting skills, they invest in cultivating influential contacts. Instead of developing the courage to ask difficult questions, they develop the habit of offering convenient compliments.

Yet the responsibility cannot be placed entirely on newcomers. Established journalists, editors, media organisations and professional associations must also examine their own failures. If the profession does not mentor its entrants, enforce ethical standards and encourage critical thinking, it cannot reasonably expect professionalism to emerge by accident. A press card may establish an association with a media organisation; it cannot certify wisdom, integrity or courage.

Perhaps the most damaging aspect of this decline is not the ignorance of those who have never properly understood journalism. It is the conscious compromise of those who know precisely what journalism stands for.

They have read about press freedom. They understand the importance of independence, accountability and the public's right to information. They know that the journalist is expected to question authority rather than surrender intellectual independence to it.

And yet, despite this understanding, some choose the comfort of proximity over the discomfort of principle. This is a more serious betrayal because it cannot easily be attributed to ignorance. It is a deliberate departure from professional responsibility.

An inexperienced journalist may fail because he does not know better. An informed journalist who knowingly suppresses inconvenient facts, indulges in uncritical praise or sacrifices scrutiny for personal advantage fails despite knowing better.

The latter does not merely weaken his own credibility. He helps normalise a culture in which ethical compromise becomes acceptable and professional courage becomes an inconvenience. The greatest tragedy is that such conduct can acquire the appearance of success. The individual may enjoy recognition, invitations, access and influence. Photographs with prominent personalities may circulate widely, and public praise may create an impression of professional accomplishment.

But there is a fundamental difference between being recognised by the powerful and being respected by the public. The former can be cultivated through relationships. The latter must be earned through years of credible work.

In contemporary media, access can be valuable. A journalist who maintains professional relationships with officials, elected representatives and institutional authorities may obtain information that would otherwise remain unavailable. Responsible journalism does not demand isolation from power. However, access must remain a means of gathering information, not a substitute for independent judgement.

When a journalist becomes too invested in preserving a relationship, the questions that matter most may never be asked. An official's explanation may be accepted without verification. A public grievance may be ignored because investigating it could displease a source. An institutional failure may be softened into a minor inconvenience to avoid disturbing an otherwise cordial relationship. This creates the illusion of influence while diminishing the substance of journalism.

A journalist may sit in rooms where important decisions are discussed and still fail to represent the people affected by those decisions. He may be familiar with powerful individuals yet remain disconnected from the everyday struggles of ordinary citizens.

True influence is not measured by how frequently a journalist is invited into the company of the powerful. It is measured by whether his work makes institutions more transparent, decisions more accountable and public life more responsive to citizens. The journalist who enjoys access but never uses it to obtain meaningful answers may possess proximity without purpose. And the journalist who fears losing that proximity may eventually lose something far more valuable value independence.

**The author is a media analyst and an MA Sociology research scholar can be reached at jameelaakhter301@gmail.com**

# The courts will also have to understand their Lakshman Rekha.



Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

The judiciary is the most important pillar of democracy, but the strength of any constitutional institution lies not in the extent of its powers, but in their dignified and impartial use. Disobeying court orders is certainly a serious matter. If government officials themselves disregard court directives, what meaning will the rule of law hold? But the other side of this is equally important. Does a judge have the right to immediately hold an official guilty of contempt upon a disobedience of his or her order? Can judicial displeasure itself constitute evidence of a legal offense? Recent observations by the Supreme Court have questioned this dangerous trend and reminded us of the limits of judicial authority.

Under Articles 129 and 215 of the Indian Constitution, the Supreme Court and High Courts have the power to punish for contempt. Its purpose is to protect the reputation of the judiciary, ensure respect for judicial orders, and curb those who obstruct the administration of justice. However, the law on contempt of court is not a tool to protect a judge's personal honor. It is a constitutional means to protect the dignity of the judicial institution and the judicial process. It is crucial to understand the difference between the two.

There are two main types of contempt of court. Civil contempt involves the deliberate disregard of a court's order, direction, decision, or assurance. The 2022 contempt case sentenced against Vijay Mallya is an example. Criminal contempt involves expression that scandalizes the court, influences the judicial process, obstructs the administration of justice, or disrupts judicial proceedings. The 2020 case of Prashant Bhushan was a hot topic in this category. However, this does not mean that criticizing the judiciary is a crime. In a democracy, citizens have the right to question the decisions of judges, discuss shortcomings in the judicial system, and demand institutional accountability. The line between criticism and contempt should not be so blurred that dissent itself becomes a crime.

The recent controversy involved Rohtas district in Bihar, where an Additional Sessions Judge directed the Superintendent of Police to file an FIR. Upon non-compliance, the judicial officer summoned the Superintendent of Police and imposed a symbolic fine of one rupee, holding him guilty of contempt under Section 384 of the Indian Penal Code. When the matter reached the Supreme Court, the legal basis for this action was questioned.

The Supreme Court bench clarified that disobeying a court order and committing contempt of court are two different things.

Failure to comply with a prior judicial order by an officer does not, in itself, constitute a criminal offense before the court. The bench advised the judicial officer to understand the limits of his powers and advised him not to behave like a strongman.

This comment not only questions the conduct of a judicial officer, but also sends an important message to the entire judicial system. Being a judge is not a free license to exercise authority. A court order is binding, but action for disobeying it must be in accordance with established law. If the distinction between judicial jurisdiction and personal resentment begins to blur, the impartiality of justice is bound to be affected.

Section 384 of the Indian Penal Code empowers the court to initiate summary proceedings for certain offenses. These include refusing to answer questions before the court, refusing to take an oath, disobeying a direction to produce documents, and intentionally insulting or obstructing judicial proceedings. This procedure carries a maximum fine of one thousand rupees. However, this limited power cannot be used to punish disobedience of any previous court order. While the law has granted power, it also sets limits. A person holding a judicial position must respect these limits.

The biggest question is: when judges themselves begin to circumvent the legal process, who will ordinary citizens seek justice from? Action is necessary for an official's misconduct, but does a judicial officer also have the right to convert his or her displeasure into immediate punishment? Insults committed while in court and delays in complying with a previous order cannot be weighed on the same scale. If lower courts begin to initiate summary contempt proceedings for every violation of an order, serious inconsistencies could arise in the judicial process.

This does not mean that the Superintendent of Police or other administrative officers should ignore court orders. Official positions and uniforms do not make anyone above the law. Officials who deliberately violate court orders should be held accountable. However, this requires appropriate legal recourse. Depending on the circumstances, such cases can be taken up for contempt proceedings before the High Court. High Courts have the necessary powers under the Constitution and the Contempt of Court Act. Discipline in the judicial system means not only disciplining officials but also discipline in the exercise of judicial powers.

The irony is that even after receiving a court order, ordinary citizens in India spend years running around government offices to get it implemented. Officials sit on files, departments interpret orders as they see fit, and citizens often have to approach the court again to enforce judicial orders. This administrative arbitrariness cannot be tolerated. But the unchecked use of judicial power is not the solution. Courts should hold officials accountable, but the entire process must remain within the bounds of law and fairness.

It is also essential that judicial officers receive regular training regarding constitutional jurisdiction and procedural laws. Serious powers like contempt of court must be exercised with extreme caution.

# DC Kishtwar reviews anti-drug measures at District-Level NCORD Committee Meeting

■ HT News Network



KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 27: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee here in the Meeting Hall of the New DC Office Complex to review the progress of ongoing anti-drug initiatives and further strengthen preventive, enforcement, awareness and rehabilitation measures to combat drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking in the district.

At the outset, District Social Welfare Officer and Nodal Officer, NCORD Tariq Parveaz Qazi presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the directions and decisions issued during the previous NCORD meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner undertook a comprehensive review of the ATR and assessed the progress made by various departments in implementing the decisions.

Reviewing the healthcare and rehabilitation component, the Deputy Commissioner directed the CMO to assess the functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital and ensure that necessary support services are available to individuals affected by substance abuse. He further called for identification of recovered drug-dependent individuals and their linkage with rehabilitation and follow-up support. He also emphasised strengthening counselling facilities and expanding access to de-addiction and psychosocial support services.

The Youth Services and Sports Department was directed to organise dedicated youth awareness programmes under the ongoing anti-drug campaign to engage young people constructively and sensitise them about the harmful consequences of substance abuse.

The ASP was directed to ensure regular surveillance and monitoring of identified drug hotspots in strict accordance with the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

The DC directed the School Education Department to ensure that all pending Government schools are declared Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (TOFEI) in accordance with prescribed guidelines.

The Higher Education Department and other technical educational institutions were also directed to ensure that all pending private colleges, Polytechnics and ITIs are declared Drug-Free Campuses after proper verification and compliance with the relevant guidelines.

Emphasising community participation in the fight against drugs, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) and Tehsildars to expedite the declaration of pending Panchayats as Nasha Mukt after due verification, in accordance with prescribed SOPs and with the active involvement of local communities.

The DC further directed the District Social Welfare Officer to communicate with NGOs that have applied for establishing a rehabilitation centre in the district and advise them to submit suitable land/site details in conformity with the prescribed guidelines and SOPs, so that the process for establishing a proper rehabilitation facility can be taken forward.

## DHSJ, Director FW review patient care services at NT-PHC Sartingal- Bhaderwah

■ HT News Network

BHADERWAH, NOVEMBER 27: On the second day of her visit to District Doda, the Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Poonam Sethi, along with Director Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization J&K, Dr. Afsana Banoo visited New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) here at village Sartingal this morning.The Directors conducted a detailed inspection of different sections of the healthcare facility, including the OPD, laboratory and other essential service areas. They reviewed the functioning of the institution, assessed the healthcare services being provided to the public and interacted with the staff on duty.

The Directors instructed the staff to work with dedication, sincerity and a patient friendly approach, ensuring the timely delivery of quality healthcare services and maintaining high standards of patient care and institutional functioning.The Directors also inspected the Cold Chain Point and reviewed the arrangements for the proper storage and maintenance of vaccines. They emphasized the importance of maintaining the prescribed temperature standards, ensuring proper vaccine storage and adhering to cold chain protocols to preserve vaccine potency and ensure the safe delivery of immunization services.

## J&K BOSE issues schedule for submission of examination forms in summer zone

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27. The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (J&K BOSE), has notified schedule for online submission of permission cum examination forms for Classes 10, 11 & 12 along with Renewal Registration Returns (RR) for Class 11 and 12, for the Annual/Regular, 2027 (Feb–March session) for the Summer Zone in the Jammu Division.

As per the notification of J&K BOSE, eligible on-roll candidates from JKBOSE- affiliated institutions can fill up the online forms on payment of prescribed fees from November 27 to December 11 and the details thereof have been elaborately laid down in the notification available on the J&K BOSE website jkbose.jk.gov.in.

The schools which fail to fill the forms during the timeline shall be liable to late fee.

The HOIs have been advised to generate an online checklist and submit it to the concerned board office within five days after completion of the form submission process. The checklists must be duly signed and stamped by the school principal/ headmasters.

The notification states that only the institutions affiliated with JKBOSE will be eligible to fill the examination cum permission forms.

The students with a disability of 40% or more, have been exempted from payment of examination and renewal registration fee dues.

The Board has directed all concerned institutions to ensure timely submission of forms, emphasising upon meticulous verification of particulars during punching of information on the designated portal.

## MLA Jammu East chairs RKS meeting at Govt Ayurvedic Hospital

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: Member Legislative Assembly Jammu East Constituency Yudhvir Sethi today chaired the governing body meeting of Rogi Kalyan Samiti (RKS) Government Ayurvedic Hospital Indira Chowk to discuss and review measures in place to strengthen Ayurveda-based healthcare services and patient care facilities.

Medical Superintendent Dr. Aruna Bhat briefed the meeting on ongoing programmes, schemes, hospital operations and the patient care services and infrastructure-related development issues.

The meeting was attended by Members of Rogi Kalyan Samiti including representatives from Civil Society, Executive Engineer from PWD, PHE & PDD, besides administrative and Medical team of Govt. Ayurvedic Hospital Jammu. Medical Superintendent move a proposal seeking provision of essential Ayurveda herbs, consumables, therapeutic equipment, repair of hospital infrastructure & improvement of patient amenities including parking, canteen, patient facilities at OPD and IPD level.

The MLA stressed on continual improvement in quality of care and patient experience attending Government Ayurvedic Hospital Jammu. In order to improve the patient amenities in the hospital, proposal for canteen and parking at subsidized charges for patients was approved by the MLA.

The MLA and quorum reiterated their commitment to strengthening the Government Ayurvedic Hospital Jammu and assured full support for its overall development and Upgradation.

The members appreciated the efforts of the Hospital administration and Medical & Para Medical staff in providing health care services. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair. Yudhvir Sethi assured full support for developmental initiatives aimed at upgrading hospital infrastructure and public healthcare delivery, noting the outreach efforts of AYUSH J&K under Director AYUSH Dr. Ajay Tikoo. The MLA urged doctors, paramedical staff and hospital teams to work with dedication to expand access to preventive and holistic Ayurvedic care.

## DC reviews implementation of Clean Himalayan and Hill City Initiative in Patnitop

### Directs officers to intensify IEC campaigns and ensure effective ground-level implementation

■ HT News Network




UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 27: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress and implementation of the action plan for approved activities under the Clean Himalayan and Hill City Initiative in Patnitop.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh; Chief Executive Officer Patnitop Development Authority, Rakesh Dubey and other concerned officers.

A detailed discussion was held on various aspects of the initiative, with emphasis on the timely execution of approved activities and their effective implementation on the ground.

The stakeholder departments were asked to take prompt and necessary measures to ensure the timely implementation of the components envisaged under the CHHCI Action Plan.

The DC stressed the need for proper planning, inter-departmental coordination and effective execution of assigned responsibilities in accordance with the prescribed rules and guidelines. He directed the CEO, PDA, to formulate a comprehensive plan and organise IEC campaigns and advocacy-building programmes in Patnitop to generate public awareness and encourage community participation.

The District Information Officer was directed to ensure the installation of hoardings at prominent locations in Patnitop to disseminate information about the initiative and promote awareness among residents, visitors and tourists.

## JKSSB conducts mega training session for Invigilators, supporting Staff of Jammu district ahead of Sub-Inspector examination

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: In preparation for the smooth, transparent and fair conduct of the OMR-based written examination for the post of Sub-Inspector in the Home Department, scheduled to be held on November 29, 2026 (Sunday), from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) organised a comprehensive training session for invigilators and supporting staff of Jammu district at the Convention Centre here today.

The training programme witnessed the participation of more than 3,000 invigilators and supporting personnel, reflecting the extensive preparations being undertaken by the Board for the forthcoming examination.

The session was presided over by Rakesh Kumar Badyal and Sudhir Bali, Members of JKSSB and Coordinators for Jammu District, who addressed the participants and emphasised the importance of meticulous planning, coordination and strict adherence to the prescribed examination guidelines.

During the training session, participants were sensitised about their respective duties and responsibilities, standard operating procedures and various aspects of examination management. Detailed instructions were imparted regarding the reporting and deployment of staff, verification of candidates' identity and admit cards, frisking procedures, maintenance of discipline, prevention of unfair means and ensuring a secure and conducive examination environment.

Special emphasis was laid on maintaining the confidentiality and sanctity of examination material, proper handling of question paper-related documents, adherence to prescribed timelines, effective coordination among Centre Superintendents, invigilators and supporting staff, and prompt reporting of any untoward incident or procedural irregularity.

The participants were also briefed about the importance of vigilance inside examination halls, proper seating arrangements, accurate

## Rattan Lal Gupta Welcomes Omar Abdullah-led Government's Initiative to Review Development Works across Jammu Province.

■ HT News Network



JAMMU November 27th: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President, Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta, has warmly welcomed the proactive initiative of the Omar Abdullah-led elected Government to undertake comprehensive reviews of developmental works across different districts of Jammu Province.Interacting with Students various Colleges JKNCSU under the leadership of Harshvardhan Singh President JKNCSU at party headquarter Gandhi Nagar, Jammu in the presence of Bimla Luthra former MLA, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, S. Gurnam Singh District Secretary Jammu Urban. Rattan Lal Gupta Gupta said that the Government's decision to assess the status of projects already completed, works presently under execution, projects initiated but awaiting completion, and major projects in the pipeline reflects its commitment towards transparent, accountable and result-oriented governance.

He particularly appreciated the Chief Minister for taking the concerned MLAs into confidence during the review process and providing them an opportunity to highlight the developmental requirements, public grievances and priorities of their respective constituencies.He said that the participation of elected representatives in these review meetings is a healthy democratic practice, as MLAs are directly connected with the people and are well aware of the ground realities and developmental aspirations of their constituencies.The Provincial President observed that the district-wise reviews cover crucial sectors such as road connectivity, bridges, drinking water supply, irrigation, electricity, healthcare, education, tourism, rural development, urban infrastructure, employment generation and social welfare.

He emphasised that the major ongoing and proposed projects must receive special attention so that financial constraints.

# DC Reasi reviews progress under PMEGP

■ HT News Network




REASI, NOVEMBER 27: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a review meeting to assess the pendency of loan cases under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) in the district, with a focus on expediting the processing of pending margin money claims and resolving issues affecting beneficiaries.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of pending and referred-back cases and stressed the need for coordinated efforts by banks and implementing agencies to ensure timely disposal of eligible claims.

Taking stock of the overall progress, he called for further acceleration in the processing of pending margin money cases to ensure that all eligible claims are cleared within the stipulated timeline. He directed the Lead District Managers (LDMs) to maintain close coordination with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Jammu and Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) and District Industries Centre to resolve pending cases, particularly those involving technical issues with the PMEGP portal.

The meeting also discussed technical glitches on the PMEGP portal, including frequent session expiries, login failures, upload errors and difficulties in updating beneficiaries' mobile numbers. The concerned officials were directed to coordinate with KVIC for timely resolution of these issues. Banks were also advised to submit lists of affected cases through their respective LDMs for necessary intervention.

Emphasising the importance of Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) training, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned institutions and banks to facilitate beneficiaries in completing the mandatory online training and resolving issues related to registration, OTP verification and downloading of certificates.

The meeting further reviewed cases involving closed or non-performing accounts, missing beneficiaries, deficiencies in rural and caste certificates, illegible documents and rejected unit photographs. Banks were instructed to follow the prescribed procedure, maintain proper documentation and ensure that all referred-back cases are thoroughly scrutinised and resubmitted after making the required corrections.

With regard to physical verification, banks were advised to upload clear photographs showing the beneficiary, unit signboard, machinery, stock and actual business activity from different angles to establish the operational status and nature of the enterprise.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that bank branches must proactively verify doubtful cases at the ground level, maintain regular contact with beneficiaries and ensure that genuine and eligible claims are processed without unnecessary delay.

# MLA Chenani inaugurates HADP supported Millet Restaurant at Kud

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 27: In a significant initiative towards promoting traditional cereals, millets and agricultural entrepreneurship, a millet restaurant was inaugurated today by the MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia, here at Kud.The Millet restaurant is owned by Savita Devi, a resident of Lower Kud, Village Dogra, who has taken this commendable step towards promoting millet-based food products and creating a sustainable source of livelihood. The venture has been established with the support of the Agriculture Department under HADP, wherein a 50% subsidy has been provided under the initiative for the Promotion of Cereals and Millets in Chenani Zone.After inaugurating the restaurant, the MLA Chenani appreciated the efforts of the Agriculture Department and the beneficiary. He highlighted the importance of promoting traditional food habits, increasing awareness about the nutritional value of millets and encouraging rural entrepreneurship, particularly among women.Chief Agriculture Officer Vikas Padha highlighted the department's commitment towards agricultural diversification, value addition and livelihood generation through HADP. He emphasized that such initiatives provide an excellent platform for rural entrepreneurs to transform agricultural opportunities into sustainable business ventures.

Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Darshan Sharma highlighted the importance of effective implementation of HADP initiatives at the grassroots level and appreciated the beneficiary for coming forward with this innovative venture.

AEO Rakesh Sharma also contributed to the programme, while all field officers.

# FDA directs FBOs to ensure transparency in Sale, Preparation of non-vegetarian food products

■ Farooq Rather

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 27: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA) has issued statutory compliance notices to more than 100 Food Business Operators (FBOs) across Anantnag and Srinagar districts, directing them to ensure transparency in the sale and preparation of non-vegetarian food products.

The establishments have been instructed to clearly mention the type of meat or fish being offered, including Mutton, Beef, Chicken and Fish, along with a clear indication of whether the product is fresh or frozen.

The department has also directed the FBOs to properly declare all ingredients used in food preparations in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Regulations. The ingredients must be listed in descending order of their composition by weight or volume, as applicable.

To ensure consumer awareness and informed choices, the concerned establishments have been asked to prominently display the requisite information through display boards at their premises and incorporate the same in their menu cards.

The initiative aims to prevent misleading representations, eliminate ambiguity regarding meat and fish products and strengthen consumer protection and food safety standards.

The department has directed all concerned FBOs to comply with the instructions, warning that any violation or non-compliance shall invite appropriate regulatory action.

# NCORD Meeting: Anti-drug measures reviewed in Bhaderwah

■ HT News Network



BHADERWAH, NOVEMBER 27: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today chaired a Sub-Divisional Level NCORD Committee meeting in his office chamber to review and strengthen measures aimed at curbing drug abuse and illegal narcotics activities in the region.

The meeting held detailed discussions on the identification and destruction of contraband crops and wild cannabis growth. Emphasis was also laid on the re-verification of "Nasha Mukt Panchayats" and the adoption of strict deterrent measures against drug peddlers.

The ADC directed the enforcement departments to ensure close check on misuse of prescription drugs and mandatory CCTV compliance in sensitive areas and institutions. The display of anti-drug awareness pamphlets in government offices and other public places was also emphasised.

The heads of educational institutions and ZEOs were asked to organise sports activity camps to engage students and spread awareness about the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

The meeting was attended by officers from civil and police administration, heads of Educational institutions, officials from Municipal Committee and others.

# Sopore Court Orders One-Year RC Cancellation After Minor Caught Driving; Guardian Faces Liability Under Motor Vehicles Act

## Court Grants Probation, Directs Furnishing of 2 Lakh Bond for Two Years; Seized Vehicle Ordered to Be Released to Guardian

■ HT News Network




Sopore, Nov 26: The District Mobile Magistrate (Traffic), Sopore, has ordered the cancellation of the registration certificate (RC) of a vehicle for one year after finding that a minor was driving the vehicle in violation of traffic laws, invoking the provisions of Section 199A of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. The order was passed by District Mobile Magistrate (Traffic) Arshad Aziz Qureshi on November 25, 2026, in a case involving vehicle bearing registration number JK09B-3130. The application seeking release of the vehicle was filed by minor Mohd Uzair Bhat through his father and guardian, Munawar Hassan Bhat, resident of Hib-Dangerpora. While examining the challan, the court observed that the violator was a minor at the time of the offence. Referring to Section 199A of the Motor Vehicles Act, the court noted that where an offence is committed by a juvenile, the guardian or owner of the vehicle can be held liable, unless the conditions specified under the law are established. The court further observed that the minor had pleaded guilty to the offence, making the guardian liable to proceedings under the relevant provisions of the Act, which prescribe imprisonment of up to three years and a fine of 25,000. However, considering the submissions seeking leniency, the clean antecedents and the nature of the offence, the court extended the benefit of probation under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958. The accused was directed to furnish a bond of 2 lakh for maintaining good behaviour for a period of two years, failing which the sentence imposed would be enforced in accordance with law. In another significant direction, the court ordered the cancellation of the registration certificate of the offending vehicle for a period of one year under Section 199A of the Motor Vehicles Act. The court, meanwhile, ordered that the seized vehicle be released in favour of the minor's guardian upon furnishing the required bond. A copy of the order was also directed to be forwarded to the concerned Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) for information and necessary compliance. The order highlights the legal consequences for guardians and vehicle owners when minors are found driving vehicles in violation of the Motor Vehicles Act.

# Joint Team conducts Field Visit to Leopard-Attack-Affected Villages in Kupwara

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 27: A joint team comprising officers and officials from the Wildlife Department, Forest Department, Forest Protection Force and District Administration Kupwara, led by the Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir, today visited Zonireshi, Marsary and Mazpather villages of Chowkibal area to assess the situation and put in place necessary mitigation measures following the death of a woman in a leopard attack on November 24, 2026.

During the visit, joint patrolling teams were constituted on the spot for night surveillance. Two separate teams, each equipped with a tranquillising gun, have also been deployed for night ambush operations to chemically immobilise the leopard identified as the problem animal.

Additionally, four trap cages have been installed at strategic locations, which will be baited and regularly monitored to capture the animal.

The joint team also held awareness meetings at Zonireshi and Chowkibal, attended by village heads and community representatives. The locals were assured that all concerned departments have mobilised their staff and formulated a coordinated strategy to address the situation at the earliest.

The demands raised by the local residents regarding the establishment of a control room at Chowkibal and deployment of additional staff in the area were addressed on the spot. The Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir, issued clear directions for establishing a joint control room, which will initially function from rented accommodation until a suitable permanent arrangement is made.

The village heads expressed satisfaction over the measures initiated and assured the officials of their full cooperation and support.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely ABdul Rahim Sheikh S/o Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh R/o Kawoosa Khalisa NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of birth certificate of his own son and daughters namely Sheikh Aadil Rahim , Minhat Rahim , Kulsuma Rahim , son and daughters of Abdul Rahim Sheikh
The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his son as per school record is ; 28_02_2002 and Daughter namely ; minhat Rahim , 05_03/1998 Daughter namely; Kulsuma Rahim, 05_03_1993
If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .

24/11/2026

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shabir Ahmad Bhat, S/o Abdul Rashid Bhat, presently serving as an SG Constable in the J&K Police Department, posted at Kashmir Security, Srinagar, bearing SG Constable No. 352/Sec. Kashmir and PID No. 022442 (formerly Constable No. 1357/B), hereby notify the general public and all concerned that my father's name has been incorrectly recorded as Ab Rashid Bhat in certain records.
I have accordingly corrected and adopted my father's full and correct name as Abdul Rashid Bhat in place of the previously recorded name Ab Rashid Bhat.
Henceforth, I shall be known and identified as Shabir Ahmad Bhat, S/o Abdul Rashid Bhat, for all official, service-related, legal and other purposes. All concerned authorities, departments, institutions and individuals are hereby requested to take note of this correction and make the necessary amendments in their respective records wherever required.

This declaration is made through a duly executed deed dated 20 November 2026.

Sd/-
Shabir Ahmad Bhat
S/o Abdul Rashid Bhat

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Syeeda Bano D/o Mohammed Ramzan Sheikh R /o Jawharpora NARBAL Tehsil Narbal District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of Death certificate of her father namely Mohammed Ramzan Sheikh
The applicant intends to register the Death of her father as on record is ; 21 _ 10_ 2007 .
If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .

28 /11/2026

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that Syed Anwara W/o Syed Nassir _ ud_ Din Shah R/o Syed Mohallah Narbal Tehsil Narbal District Budgam has applied for the transfer of power agreement under ID No ; 02060500000636 which was functional in the name of Syed Nassir _ ud _ Din Shah S/o Late Syed Rasool Shah R/o Narbal
The applicant intends to register the power agreement in the name of her own
If anybody has any objection in that regard. He/She may contact concerned PDD authorities Narbal within the period of seven days. After completion of said period. No objection will be entertained

24/11/2026

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is certify that incorrect name mentioned in addhar card is FURKAN AHMAD BHAT S/O IMTIYAZ AHMAD BHAT actually the correct name is FURKAN IMTIYAZ S/o. Imtiyaz ahmad bhat R/O. PETHPORA NARBAL distt. Budgam. under addhar no. 5463 6295 1440 if anybody has objection in that regard. He/She convince concerned authority, After publication of said notification, No objection will be entertained.

Furkan imtiyaz
S/o. Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat
R/o. Peth pora Narbal addhar no. 5463 6295 1440

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

**e- NIT NO: - 17 OF 2026-27 DATED: 25 - 11 - 2026**

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

| S. NO | NAME OF WORK | ADV. COST (Rs. In lacs) | EARNEST MONEY (In Rupees) | CLASS OF CONTRACTOR | Cost of Tender Document. (Rs) | TIME OF COMPLETION | Receiving/OpeningCommittee. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Repair/Renovation of Range Office Gulmarg | **1.50** | **3000/-** | **"D"** | 200/- | One working Season | Tender Opening Committee |
| 2 | Repair/Renovation of Range Office SPSP Range Beerwah | **1.29** | **2580/-** | **"D"** | 200/- | One working Season | Tender Opening Committee |
| 3 | Repair/Renovation of Checkpost Aripanthan | **2.50** | **5000/-** | **"D"** | 200/- | One working Season | Tender Opening Committee |
| 4 | Repair/Renovation of Checkpost Sonpah | **1.72** | **3440/-** | **"D"** | 200/- | One working Season | Tender Opening Committee |

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

**Name of Scheme: CAMPA**
**Position of AA/TS: Accorded**
**Position of Funds: Budgeted**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Publishing Date: -** | 26-11-2026 |
| **Download Start Date:** | 27-11-2026 from 09:00 AM |
| **Bid submission Start Date:** | 27-11-2026 from 09:00 AM |
| **Bid submission End Date:** | **11-12-2026 Upto 06:00 PM** |
| **Date of Opening of Technical BidOnline.** | 12-12-2026 at 11:30 AM in the office of the Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle at Shiek Bagh Srinagar. |
| **Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:** | To be opened (on Line) after completion of Technical Evaluation and the date will be notified separately. |

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

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

**DIPK-8000/26**
**Send Dated: 27-11-2026**

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

# DDC Doda reviews Banking Sector Performance

## Directs Banks to improve Credit Flow, Achieve Annual Credit Plan Targets

■ HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER 27: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a meeting of the District Level Review Committee (DLRC)/District Consultative Committee (DCC) to review the performance of banks and the coverage under financial inclusion and credit-linked schemes for the quarter ending September 2026. The meeting was held in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Manesh Kumar Manhas; District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Zubair Ahmed; Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Harbans Singh; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) Dr. Irfan Ali Wani; District Education Planning Officer (DEPO) Mohd Anis Ahmed; Lead District Manager (LDM) Neeraj Kumar, besides officers of various government departments, NABARD, RBI, SBI and representatives of other banking institutions.




At the outset, the Lead District Manager (LDM) Neeraj Kumar presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the bank-wise and sector-wise performance of financial institutions in the district. The committee undertook a comprehensive review of achievements under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) 2026-27, covering both priority and non-priority sectors, including targets and achievements in terms of physical and financial progress.

The DDC reviewed the overall credit disbursement, deposits, advances and Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio of banks and stressed the need for a concrete roadmap to improve the CD ratio of the district. He directed banks to strengthen credit delivery, particularly in priority sectors and weaker sections of society, and ensure that the gap between targets and achievements under the Annual Credit Plan is effectively addressed.

A detailed review was also conducted of agricultural and allied sector lending, including Agriculture Term Loans (ATL), dairy, poultry, fisheries, horticulture and other allied activities. The progress under various categories of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC), including agriculture, animal husbandry, sheep husbandry and fisheries, was examined. The DDC directed banks to coordinate closely with the concerned departments and ensure wider awareness among farmers regarding credit facilities and improved coverage under KCC.

The committee also reviewed the performance of banks in the MSME sector, education loans, housing loans, renewable energy under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, social infrastructure and other priority-sector lending categories. Progress under credit facilities to Self Help Groups (SHGs) and distressed persons was also assessed.

## Agriculture Department team inspects fertilizer outlets in Reasi, Issues notices for violations

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: A team led by Assistant Director Law Enforcement (ADLE) Jammu Kuldeep Singh on Friday conducted an extensive field inspection of fertilizer outlets in District Reasi to monitor the sale and distribution of subsidised fertilizers and check adherence to the prescribed regulations.

The inspection team, comprising Shilpy Arora, JAEO and Girdhari Gupta, JAEO Pouni, covered Reasi, Pouni, Bharkh, Khair Larh and adjoining areas. The team checked maintenance of mandatory stock registers, display of approved rate lists and verification of stock through Point of Sale (POS) machines and physical inspection. The dealers were warned against overpricing of subsidised fertilizers, including Urea and DAP, unauthorised tagging of Nano Urea with subsidised fertilizers.

Several irregularities were detected, including non-maintenance of prescribed stock registers, non-display of approved rate lists and discrepancies between the stock reflected in POS machines and the actual physical stock available with dealers. Taking serious note of these violations, four notices were issued to the defaulting fertilizer dealers.

The dealers were directed to strictly comply with the provisions of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 and ensure the sale of fertilizers at government-approved rates. They were also cautioned against overpricing, unauthorised tagging of Nano Urea with subsidised fertilizers and any form of forced sale.

The inspection drive was aimed at ensuring transparency and accountability in the fertilizer distribution system, curbing malpractices and safeguarding the interests of farmers. The Agriculture Department reiterated its commitment to ensuring a fair, transparent and regulated supply of subsidised fertilizers to farmers across the district.

## IGNOU exam: Restrictions imposed around exam centre at GDC Ramban

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 27: District Magistrate Ramban in exercise of the powers conferred upon him under Section 163 BNSS 2023, has imposed restrictions on the entry of all the persons, except those on duty and the candidates writing the examination, within 100M radius of the examination centre at Degree College Ramban established for the Term-End Examination being conducted by IGNOU.

## District admin Samba conducts Mock Exercise to strengthen disaster response preparedness

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 27: Reinforcing its commitment to a robust disaster management framework, the District Administration Samba conducted a mock exercise simulating a natural disaster scenario, to assess the readiness of response agencies and strengthen inter-departmental coordination.



The exercise was held under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Samba Dr. Rupesh Kumar with active participation from the Civil Administration, Police, Army, NDRF, SDRF, Civil Defence, Fire and Emergency Services, Health Department and other concerned departments.

Participating teams demonstrated key disaster response measures, including search and rescue operations, evacuation of victims, casualty management and the deployment of specialised equipment for handling emergencies arising out of natural calamities. The Health Department played a pivotal role in the exercise, with its medical teams and ambulances deployed promptly at the site. They demonstrated first aid, rescue assistance, triage, stabilisation of the injured and emergency care, followed by the swift transportation of casualties to the nearest health facility for further treatment. The drill enabled the administration to evaluate response mechanisms, identify gaps and sharpen inter-agency coordination for a swift and effective response during actual disasters.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner Jagdish Singh underscored the importance of regular mock exercises in building disaster preparedness and familiarising response teams and the public with standard emergency protocols. He stressed the need to minimise response time, ensure seamless coordination among all departments, strengthen emergency medical services and spread awareness among citizens about safety measures and basic first aid during natural calamities. Emphasising that effective disaster management demands a coordinated approach by all stakeholders, he called for preparedness, timely response and clear communication to minimise loss of life and property and urged departments to remain vigilant and keep all arrangements.

## 2-day 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' training concludes at Doda

### 38 officials from all seven Poshan Projects participate

■ HT News Network



DODA, NOVEMBER 27: A two-day State Level Master Trainers (SLMT) Training under 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' (PBPB) Round-II concluded successfully. As many as 38 officials from all seven Poshan Projects of Doda district were trained to strengthen Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) at Anganwadi Centres.

The training was organised by the Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development (SPNIWCD), Regional Centre, Mohali, in collaboration with Mission Directorate POSHAN, Jammu and Kashmir. Participants included Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), Supervisors and Champion Anganwadi Workers from all seven Projects of District Doda.

The training was imparted by Deputy Technical Adviser, SPNIWCD, Regional Centre Surendra Singh, along with an ECCE Consultant from Rocket Learning.

The sessions focused on strengthening the capacity of frontline functionaries in early childhood development, age-appropriate learning methodologies, inclusive education and effective implementation of the 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' initiative.

Key topics covered during the training included early childhood stimulation for children aged 0–3 years, play-based learning for children aged 3–6 years, Aadharshila Weekly Calendar, Navchetana Monthly Stimulation Calendar, Home Visit Scheduler on Poshan Tracker, growth monitoring, inclusive learning, Anganwadi Protocol for Divyang Children, PANKHUDI Portal, disaster management and child safety at Anganwadi Centres.

The training also featured practical sessions, group activities and preparation of Teaching-Learning Materials (TLMs) using locally available and low-cost materials to encourage innovative, activity-based and child-friendly learning practices at Anganwadi Centres.

A Resource Person from the Health Department (RBSK Team) also delivered a session on screening, referral and follow-up, highlighting the importance of timely identification and appropriate intervention for children requiring additional care and support.

## Medical and eye check-up camp held for drivers at Ratle HEPP

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 27: A Medical-cum-Eye Check-Up Camp for transport operators was held today at the Ratle Hydro Electric Power Project Site- Drabshalla on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma and under the supervision of the Transport Commissioner, J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan.

ARTO Tasleem Wani coordinated the event with active support of Police Post Drabshalla, the Health and AYUSH Departments and Ratle Power Project Management. During the camp, drivers and transporters were provided with medical consultations and eye examinations to assess their health and visual fitness. Free medicines were also distributed among the drivers, while rapid drug tests were conducted as part of the initiative to promote drug-free and responsible driving. The initiative aimed at ensuring the physical and visual fitness of drivers.

# Financial Discipline & Administrative Accountability: 2-day Capacity-Building Programme for school heads culminates

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27: The two-day Capacity-Building Programme for Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs), organised by the Directorate of School Education Jammu, in collaboration with the Northern Zonal Accountancy Training Institute (NZATI) Jammu, culminated today with a series of intensive technical sessions aimed at strengthening financial management, administrative efficiency and institutional accountability among school heads.

The programme was held under the guidance of Director General, School Education Jammu Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary

The orientation module, involving an initial batch of around 100 Principals and Headmasters functioning as DDOs under the Directorate, was designed to enhance their understanding of financial rules, statutory obligations, treasury procedures and various administrative processes integral to the effective functioning of educational institutions.

The second day commenced with a revision session, followed by a series of specialised technical deliberations. Arshad Choudhary, FA/CAO, Directorate of School Education Jammu conducted a session on Leave Salary, Cash in Lieu and Time-Barred Claims, elaborating upon the relevant procedures and regulatory provisions. Imran Kichloo, CAO, DGAT, sensitised the participants about GeM procedures, General Financial Rules (GFR) and procurement regulations, emphasising transparency and compliance with prescribed norms. Further sessions were conducted by K.K. Raina, AO/Instructor, on Pay Fixation, Increments and Arrears, while Smt. Promella Pandita, I/C AO/Instructor, deliberated upon Pension Cases and Retirement Benefits. Vandana Mangotra, I/C AO/Instructor, NZATI Jammu, conducted a session on Audit Compliance and Settlement of Audit Observations, highlighting the importance of proper documentation, financial propriety and timely compliance with audit requirements.



The technical deliberations provided participants with practical insights into matters frequently encountered in the discharge of their financial and administrative responsibilities, equipping them with greater procedural clarity and confidence in handling institutional affairs.

The proceedings culminated in a valedictory session and Certificate Distribution by Rajesh Talwar, Director General/Principal, NZATI, Jammu, followed by a troubleshooting interaction, providing participating officers an opportunity to seek clarifications on practical issues concerning their financial and administrative responsibilities.

The initiative underscores the Directorate's recognition that effective educational administration rests not merely upon academic leadership but equally upon sound financial management, procedural competence and institutional accountability.

# Dir Agri reviews seed village programme, performance of Potato Seed Development Farms

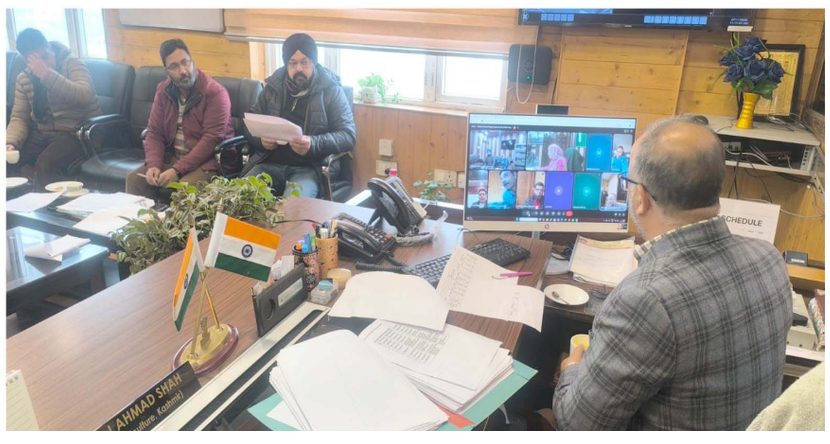
■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 27: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today chaired a virtual meeting with all Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) and other concerned officers to deliberate on the fixation of district-wise targets under the Seed Village Programme for Kharief 2027. Joint Director Agriculture Inputs Kashmir also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Director held detailed discussions on the proposed targets, emphasising the need for proper planning, effective coordination and timely implementation of the programme to ensure adequate availability of quality seeds to farmers across Kashmir Division.

The meeting also reviewed the procurement achievements under the Seed Village Programme for Kharief 2026. The Director took stock of the progress made by various districts and stressed the importance of strengthening seed production and procurement activities to achieve the desired objectives of the programme.

He called upon the Chief Agriculture Officers and other concerned officers to ensure realistic target fixation, close monitoring of field-level activities and coordinated efforts for the successful implementation of the Seed Village Programme.



The Director underscored that timely availability of quality seeds is crucial for enhancing agricultural productivity and strengthening the overall seed production system in the region as per the existing seed policy.

While reviewing the performance of all Potato Seed Multiplication Farms across Kashmir division, the Director laid emphasis on the importance of adopting scientific cultivation practices, maintaining quality standards and ensuring timely execution of field operations to ensure the availability of quality potato.

Shah took a detailed review of the ongoing farm operations and production status of potato and instructed the concerned officers to transform the existing farms into model farms so that the objective of self-reliance in seed production can be achieved. During the meeting, the Director held detailed discussions on the proposed targets, emphasising the need for proper planning, effective coordination and timely implementation of the programme to ensure adequate availability of quality seeds to farmers across Kashmir Division.

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# The Parasites Mystery



Surinderpal Singh



The human body is home to trillions of microorganisms, many of which live harmlessly or even provide benefits. Yet among the organisms that can enter and survive inside the human body, parasites occupy a particularly important place. Parasites are living organisms that depend on another organism, known as the host, for food, shelter or survival. Some parasites cause little or no noticeable harm, while others can produce serious diseases and, in severe cases, threaten life.Parasites can influence human health in several ways. They may consume nutrients from the host, damage tissues, cause inflammation or interfere with normal organ function. Intestinal worms, for example, may compete with the body for nutrients and can contribute to abdominal pain, weakness, anaemia and poor nutritional status. Some parasites can also cause diarrhoea and other gastrointestinal problems.

The effects can be particularly serious in children. Repeated or heavy parasitic infections may contribute to poor nutrition, impaired physical development and difficulties with concentration and learning. The impact is therefore not limited to the individual—it can also affect education, productivity and the wider community.

One of the most fascinating aspects of parasitic infections is their interaction with the immune system. The human immune system attempts to identify and eliminate invading parasites, while parasites have evolved sophisticated strategies to survive inside their hosts. Some can alter their surface structures, hide within tissues or influence immune responses.

Interestingly, scientists are studying these interactions for another reason. Certain parasitic organisms appear to influence immune activity in ways that may provide clues about inflammatory and autoimmune diseases. This has led to research into the so-called "hygiene hypothesis" and related theories suggesting that exposure to a wide range of microorganisms during development may influence immune-system regulation. However, this does not mean that deliberate parasitic infection is safe or recommended. Controlled research is still needed to understand these complex relationships.

Parasitic diseases remain an important public-health concern, particularly in tropical and subtropical regions. Poor sanitation, unsafe drinking water, inadequate waste disposal, contaminated food and certain environmental conditions can increase the risk of transmission.

Malaria is one of the best-known examples. It is caused by Plasmodium parasites and transmitted through the bites of infected mosquitoes. Other parasitic diseases are transmitted through contaminated food or water, undercooked meat, insect vectors or contact with contaminated soil.

The burden is often greatest among communities where access to clean water, sanitation, healthcare and preventive measures is limited. Climate and environmental changes may also alter the geographical distribution of some parasite-carrying vectors, creating new public-health challenges.

Many parasitic infections can be prevented through relatively simple measures. Washing hands regularly, drinking safe water, properly cooking food, washing fruits and vegetables, maintaining clean surroundings and using appropriate protection against insect bites can reduce the risk of infection.

Good sanitation is particularly important because some intestinal parasites spread when human waste contaminates soil or water. Community-level improvements in sanitation and hygiene can therefore be as important as individual treatment.

Treatment depends on the specific parasite and disease. Antiparasitic medicines should be used according to medical advice, because different parasites require different drugs and treatment schedules. Self-medication may be ineffective and can sometimes delay proper diagnosis.

Parasites are often viewed simply as enemies of human health, but modern biology presents a more complicated picture. They are highly adapted organisms that have co-evolved with their hosts over enormous periods of time. Studying them can reveal important information about immunity, evolution, disease transmission and the relationship between organisms.

Researchers are investigating parasite molecules and their effects on the immune system in the search for new approaches to treating inflammatory and immune-related diseases. Such research remains experimental in many areas, but it demonstrates how understanding a disease-causing organism can sometimes lead to unexpected medical discoveries.

The fight against parasitic diseases requires more than medicines. Education, sanitation, clean water, environmental management, vector control, early diagnosis and accessible healthcare all play important roles. People living in or travelling to areas where particular parasites are common should understand local risks and follow appropriate preventive measures.

Parasites remind us that human health is deeply connected with the environment. The water we drink, the food we eat, the insects around us and the cleanliness of our surroundings can all influence our exposure to infectious organisms.

Parasites represent a hidden but significant challenge to human health. From microscopic protozoa to large parasitic worms, these organisms can affect nutrition, immunity, organ function and overall well-being. At the same time, their complex relationship with the human body provides scientists with valuable insights into biology and disease.

The goal should not simply be to fear parasites, but to understand them. Knowledge, sanitation, prevention, timely diagnosis and appropriate treatment remain our strongest tools against parasitic diseases. By studying the hidden interactions between parasites and their hosts, modern medicine may not only become better at preventing infection but may also discover new ways of understanding and treating disease.



**SURINDERPAL SINGH**
**FACULTY IN SCIENCE**
**DEPARTMENT**
**SRI AMRITSAR SAHIB**
**PUNJAB.**

# Abhishek, Tilak, Shahbaz power India A to 317/8 against Sri Lanka A

**United News Of India**



**DOHA, NOV 27** :India A posted a challenging 317 for eight in 50 overs against Sri Lanka A in the first semifinal of the ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026 at the West End Park International Cricket Stadium here on Thursday, riding on half-centuries from Abhishek Sharma, captain Tilak Varma and Shahbaz Ahmed, while Sri Lanka A's sloppy fielding and missed opportunities helped the Indian side build a formidable total.

Abhishek top-scored with 78 off 63 balls, including 11 fours and a six, while Tilak contributed 53 off 66 deliveries. Shahbaz provided the late fireworks with an unbeaten 54 off 48 balls, including four sixes, to lift India A past the 300-run mark.

India A, who won the toss and elected to bat, got off to an explosive start as Abhishek and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi added 80 runs for the opening wicket in just 48 balls.

Sooryavanshi smashed 40 off 27 deliveries, hitting four boundaries and three sixes, before Janith Liyanage dismissed him in the eighth over, with Lasith Croospulle taking the catch.

Abhishek continued the attack, reaching his half-century in the 14th over, while Tilak provided support as the pair added 79 runs for the second wicket.Abhishek was given an early reprieve when Sri Lankan captain Pavan Rathnayake dropped a straightforward catch at cover off Garuka Sanketh in the 20th over. The missed opportunity proved costly as Abhishek went on to make 78 before being caught by Liyanage off Lahiru Samarakoon in the 22nd over.

Sri Lanka A also missed a runout opportunity involving Tilak in the 18th over. Following a mistimed drive towards mid-off, Tilak set off for a quick single but was caught ball-watching and had to turn back after Abhishek's urgent call. A fumble in the field and an inaccurate throw allowed him to regain his crease.Tilak reached his half-century in the 31st over but fell for 53, trapped leg-before by Ravindu Fernando. Kumar Kushagra (21) and Rinku Singh (12) also departed as Sri Lanka A managed to break through the middle order.

Kushagra was caught by Rathnayake off Nipun Dhananjaya, while Rinku was adjudged leg-before to Fernando. Suryansh Shedge made 10 before being caught by Fernando off Dhananjaya, leaving India A needing a strong finish.

Sri Lanka A continued to struggle in the field, with Nipun Dhananjaya dropping another relatively straightforward chance at short cover off Tanush Kotian in the 43rd over. The missed opportunity further underlined the fielding lapses that marked the Sri Lankan side's effort.

Shahbaz and Kotian then revived the innings with an important 73-run seventh-wicket partnership. Kotian scored 28 off 30 balls, including two fours, while Shahbaz accelerated with a series of powerful strikes, taking on the Sri Lankan bowlers with four sixes. Shahbaz brought up his half-century in the 49th over with a six off Garuka Sanketh, as India A crossed 300. Kotian was caught by Fernando off Liyanage in the final over, while Harshit Rana was bowled by Sanketh with a yorker.

## Jayawardena, Croospulle tons power Sri Lanka A into final

**United News Of India**

**DOHA, NOV 27** :Sineth Jayawardena made India A pay dearly for an early fielding lapse, smashing a blistering 105 off just 70 balls to spearhead Sri Lanka A's eight-wicket demolition of India A in the first semifinal of the ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026 here on Thursday.

Jayawardena, who was dropped by Tanush Kotian in the second over, turned the reprieve into a match-winning century, combining with Lasith Croospulle to script a commanding chase of 318 at the West End Park International Cricket Stadium.

The Sri Lanka opener hammered 10 fours and six sixes at a strike rate of 150, sharing a magnificent 174-run opening partnership with Croospulle, who struck 116 off 107 deliveries, as Sri Lanka A overhauled India's formidable total of 317 for eight in just 41.3 overs.

Sri Lanka A have stormed into the final, while India A's campaign has come to an end.

India A had an opportunity to dismiss Jayawardena early when Arshad Khan induced an outside edge in the second over. Kotian moved to his right at backward point and got both hands to the reverse-cup chance, but the ball burst through his grasp.



Croospulle had also survived a close call off the very first delivery when Harshit Rana found his leading edge. Captain Tilak Varma ran forward from mid-off and dived to complete the catch but could not hold on.

## Rising Stars Asia Cup: Tilak backs youngsters despite India A's semifinal exit

**United News Of India**

**NEW DELHI, NOV 27** Tilak Varma believes India A have plenty of positives to take from their ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars campaign despite the disappointment of missing out on a place in the final. The captain, however, admitted that his side's bowling failed to deliver in the semi-final against Sri Lanka A, who chased down a target of 318 with eight wickets and plenty of overs to spare at the West End Park International Cricket Stadium.



India A put up 317/8 after being asked to bat, with Abhishek Sharma leading the way with 78, while Varma scored 53 and Shahbaz Ahmed remained unbeaten on 54. But Sri Lanka A made light work of the chase, with openers Lasith Croospulle and Sineth Jayawardena putting together a commanding 174-run stand that left the Indian attack searching for answers.

Varma credited the two batters for their performance but felt it was simply an off day for his bowlers, despite trying different options to break the partnership.

"Yeah, credit goes to them. Both the openers played really well. But at the same point again,

I was trying all the bowlers, but one bad day for us. I couldn't get any help. But it's fine. One odd bad day, but credit goes to Sri Lankan batsmen," Varma said after the match.

Varma said that his side had identified the first 15 overs of the chase as a crucial period and wanted to keep Sri Lanka A's scoring rate in check before the pitch began to slow down. However, the openers ensured that the Islanders stayed ahead of the required rate and never allowed India to build pressure.

"Yeah, I was telling my boys that initially first 15 overs will be very crucial. If we restrict them anything six per over, it will be very good for us. Later on, the wicket gets slightly slower side. That's what we planned, but unfortunately we haven't executed," he said.

The captain also felt India A had done enough with the bat to put up a challenging total. They were comfortably placed at 197/2 before losing four wickets for 38 runs, but a 73-run stand between Shahbaz and Tanush Kotian for the seventh wicket helped them recover.

Varma reckoned a total of around 320-330 would have been competitive, given the change in the nature of the surface as the innings progressed.

## Ponnam Prabhakar calls for identifying and nurturing sports talen t in BC Gurukul Schools

**United News Of India**

**HYDERABAD, NOV 27** :Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Friday said the state government was committed to identifying and nurturing sporting talent among students of BC residential schools and encouraging them to achieve success at state, national and international levels.

He was speaking after inaugurating the state-level sports competitions at the Turkapally campus of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Telangana BC Welfare Residential Schools and Junior Colleges (Nampally and Jubilee Hills). He lit the Olympic torch and handed it over to national-level athletes before inaugurating the volleyball tournament. He also played volleyball along with MLA Chamakura Malla Reddy to encourage the students.

The Minister announced that Khelo India sports festivals would be organised in every village across Telangana from December 11. He said the government aimed to develop Telangana into a major sports hub and was establishing a Young India Sports University in line with Chief Minister A.

## FIDE World Chess : Tense 3rd game between Gukesh, Sindarov ends in 60 move draw



**United News Of India**

**CHENNAI, NOV 27** :The third game between India's D.Gukesh and his Challenger Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan in the Salesforce FIDE World Championship match ended in a draw after a tense 60 move battle at Geneva late on Thursday (IST).

The match is tied at 1.5-1.5 after three rounds, heading into the first rest day on Friday (today).

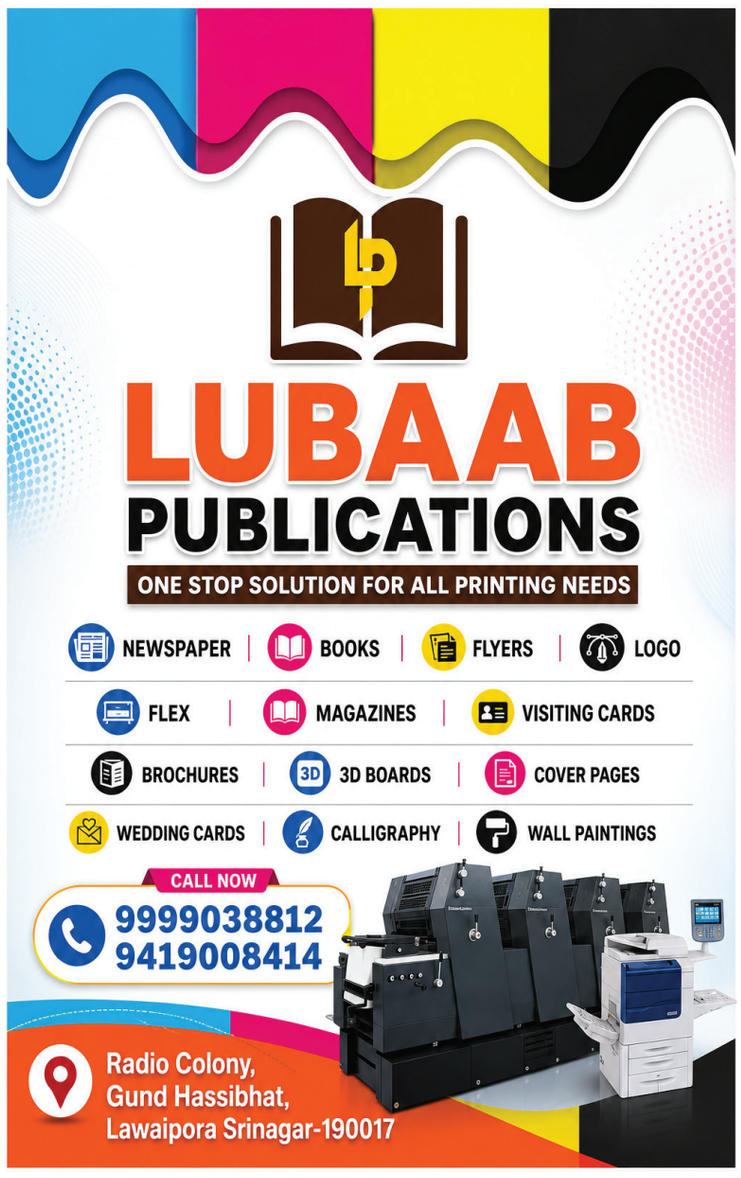
With black pieces, Gukesh sprang the first surprise of the day, deviating from the course of the first game with

the slightly unusual 5...Be7, known as the Rio de Janeiro Variation of the Berlin Defence in the Ruy Lopez. This move was frequently played towards the end of the 19th century and was later ventured from time to time in top-level encounters. One may notably recall the second game of the 1981 World Championship match, when Korchnoi tried to catch Karpov off guard with it, albeit without success.

Sindarov needed some time to recover from this surprise and try to recall his preparation. Presumably, he had not looked at this particular line during his morning preparation and therefore had to rely on work he might have done several months earlier.In any case, the Uzbek challenger followed a promising line, including the interesting 12.Nc3, which had only been played in three earlier games. Gukesh continued to follow his preparation until 16.b3, after which he took a long time before

deciding to exchange queens.The sequence that followed might have given the impression that Black had seized the initiative, but 22.Nc5 led to an endgame with opposite-coloured bishops.







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