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HEADLINES TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



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

Four Killed, Minor Girl Injured as Tata Sumo Meets With Accident in Uri

Married couple among deceased; three others identified as accident victims succumb to injuries at SDH Uri.

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 28: Four persons, including a married couple, were killed and an 11-year-old girl injured after a Tata Sumo met with an accident at Halqa Gohallan in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday. According to reports, the vehicle bearing registration number JK01P-2583 was involved in the accident, leaving five occupants injured. All the injured were immediately shifted to Sub-District Hospital Uri, where four of them succumbed to their injuries despite medical intervention. The deceased were identified as Syed Shafeeq Shah (26), his wife Rashida Bano (25), his sister Dilnaz Fatima (17), and Shahida Fatima (27), daughter of Abid Hussain Shah. The injured minor, identified as Manaz Fatima, daughter of Syed Madad Hussain Shah, was referred to Government Medical College for

>>> MORE ON P 02

"No Obstruction Can Deny Women Their Rightful Representation": PM Modi

PM Renews commitment to 33% reservation in Parliament and Assemblies; special session from November 30 expected to bring women's quota and delimitation into sharp focus.



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday reaffirmed his government's resolve to implement 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, declaring that no political opposition or obstruction would be allowed to defeat women's right to equal political representation. In a video message posted on X, Modi said his government remained committed to fulfilling its promise to Nari Shakti, asserting that its determination was unshaken despite decades of delay in achieving women's political empowerment. Recalling the numerous letters and appeals he had received from women across the country, the Prime Minister said their aspirations had strengthened his resolve. "Our resolve to empower Nari Shakti remains unshaken," he said, assuring women that every hurdle in the way of their representation would be overcome. His remarks come ahead of the three-day special session of Parliament beginning November 30, during which the government is expected to introduce fresh legislative proposals concerning delimitation and implementation of the women's quota. The proposed measures are likely to trigger a political confrontation, with the Congress and other Opposition parties demanding

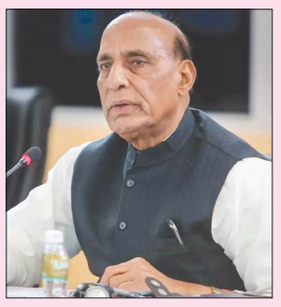
>>> MORE ON P 02

"No Power Can Stop J&K From Becoming a Developed State": Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister credits Article 370 abrogation with accelerating development and weakening separatism; invokes Kashmiri proverb, urges people to look beyond the past.

HASNAIN JAHANGIR
HT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday asserted that no power in the world could prevent Jammu and Kashmir from emerging as a developed state following the abrogation of Article 370, claiming that terrorism had been substantially curbed and separatist forces were gradually losing ground. Addressing the 'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao Sabha' in Jammu, Singh described Jammu and Kashmir as the crown of India and said its complete integration with the country had remained a longstanding commitment of the BJP. "After the abrogation of Article 370, no power in the world can stop Jammu and Kashmir from becoming a developed state of India," he said. Recalling the party's political struggle over Article 370, he said the government had fulfilled its promise and maintained that the constitutional changes of August 2019 had expanded people's



rights while accelerating development. The Defence Minister claimed that the Centre had succeeded to a large extent in eliminating terrorism and weakening separatism in the region.

>>> MORE ON P 02

Chief Secretary undertakes whirlwind tour of Samba, Reviews key projects and developmental priorities

Inspects AIIMS Vijaypur, SIDCO Industrial Complex, and participates in block diwas at Raika Labana

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 28: Chief Secretary, Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav, today undertook a whirlwind tour of Samba district to assess the overall development scenario, review the functioning of key institutions, participating in a Block Diwas programme at Vibrant Village Raika Labana in Ramgarh.

Calls for three-year vision documents for holistic district development plan

During the district review meeting held at the Conference Hall



of the DC Office Complex, Samba, and attended by the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, and other senior district and departmental officers, the Chief Secretary emphasised the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach towards the district's development.

inspect major infrastructure projects and take stock of public service delivery there.

During the tour, he visited AIIMS Vijaypur, SIDCO Industrial Complex at Rakh Amb Tali, Border Outpost (BOP) Regal and the under-construction AYUSH Hospital at Nonath, besides chairing a district-level review meeting and

>>> MORE ON P 02

"Timely Completion and Quality Must Guide Every Project": Speaker Reviews Development Works in Charar-i-Sharief

Abdul Rahim Rather reviews physical and financial progress of constituency projects; calls for stronger inter-departmental coordination and ground-level monitoring.

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 28: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Saturday directed officials to accelerate developmental works in Charar-i-Sharief constituency, emphasising that timely execution, quality standards and accountability must remain central to every project. Chairing a review meeting, Rather assessed the physical and financial progress of ongoing and proposed works being undertaken during the current financial year under various schemes. The review covered projects relating to the Yousmarg Development Authority, Haijan, Nilnag, Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA) Ziyarat at Dregam and Sammad Mir (RA) Ziyarat Sharief at Nambalhar, besides other departmental initiatives. Taking stock of the availability of funds,



expenditure incurred and the status of ongoing projects, the Speaker directed the concerned officers to expedite execution and ensure that all approved works were completed within the stipulated timelines without compromising quality. He stressed the need for regular ground-level monitoring, optimal

>>> MORE ON P 02

"Every Life Lost Is a Deep Loss": Omar Abdullah Announces Relief for Uri Accident Victims

Four members of two families killed in Gohallan road accident; ₹ 2 lakh announced for each deceased victim's family and ₹1 lakh for injured minor.

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday expressed profound grief over the death of four persons in a tragic road accident at Gohallan in the Uri area of Baramulla district and announced financial assistance for the affected families. Conveying his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, the Chief Minister directed the concerned authorities to extend all necessary assistance and support to those affected by the tragedy. As immediate relief, Omar Abdullah announced an ex-gratia payment of 2 lakh each to the next of kin of the four deceased persons and 1 lakh to the injured minor girl from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The accident



involved a Tata Sumo and resulted in four fatalities, while an 11-year-old girl sustained injuries and was referred for further treatment. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed deep grief over the loss of four

>>> MORE ON P 02

Srinagar Police holds debate on drug abuse at Rawalpora

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 28: Srinagar Police organised a debate competition on the theme 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan' at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Rawalpora, on November 26, seeking to sensitise students about the harmful consequences of substance abuse and encourage their participation in building a drug-free society. The programme was organised under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2026–27 and inaugurated by SP City South Srinagar Mashkoor Ahmad Zargar in the presence of SDPO Sadder, SHO Police Station Sadder, Incharge Police Post Rangreth, the school principal and teaching staff. Ten students from Government Boys Higher Secondary School Rawalpora and Government High School Hyderpora participated in the debate, highlighting the social and psychological consequences of drug addiction and emphasising the need for collective action to prevent substance abuse. A pledge against drug abuse was also administered to encourage participants to remain away from drugs and spread awareness within their families and communities. Addressing the gathering, the school principal and SHO Sadder urged students to adopt healthy lifestyles

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HT BOTTOM NEWS

"Make India Drug-Free by 2029": Kishan Reddy Leads 40-km Anti-Drug Padyatra in Hyderabad

Three-day 'Hyderabad Walks for Nasha Mukt Bharat' campaign draws students, celebrities, sportspersons and public representatives; Chiranjeevi urges youth to shun substance abuse.

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 28: Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Saturday led a three-day, 40-kilometre padyatra in Hyderabad to raise awareness against drug abuse, bringing together students, public representatives, film personalities, sportspersons, spiritual leaders and citizens in a collective campaign for a drug-free society. Titled 'Hyderabad Walks for Nasha Mukt Bharat', the march began at Amberpet on November 25 and concluded at Jubilee Hills on November 27. Organised under the 100-week Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August, and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, the initiative traversed



several prominent locations, including Osmania University Arts College, Tank Bund, Balkampet Yellamma Temple and Maitrivanam at Ameerpet. Participants also paid floral tributes to Dr B.R. Ambedkar. Describing the march as a people's movement beyond political affiliations, Reddy reiterated the government's commitment to making India drug-free by 2029 and called upon young people, parents, educational institutions and citizens to sustain efforts against substance abuse. He also urged people to extend support to individuals seeking de-addiction services and their families, highlighting the National Toll-Free Drug De-addiction Helpline 14446, which provides round-the-clock counselling and referral assistance. The concluding ceremony was attended by Padma Vibhushan awardees Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, actor K. Chiranjeevi and gastroenterologist D. Nageshwar Reddy. Addressing the gathering, Chiranjeevi urged young people to stay away from drugs and intoxicants, cautioning that addiction could derail their ambitions and future. Participants also took the Nasha Mukt Bharat pledge. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, former governors Bandaru Dattatreya and C.H. Vidyasagar Rao, MPs Eatala Rajender and Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, and several other public representatives participated in the march. Film personalities Nagarjuna Akkineni, Venkatesh, Prabhas, Nikhil Siddhartha, Sai Kumar and Payal Rajput, along with badminton player Pullela Gopichand

>>> MORE ON P 02

Kashmir remains in grip of cold wave; Srinagar records -2.4 degrees

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, NOV 28 :Cold conditions persisted across Kashmir on Saturday, with several places recording sub-zero minimum temperatures, while morning haze continued to affect parts of the Valley.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of -2.4°C, while Pahalgam settled at -3.2°C and Qazigund at -2.0°C. Kupwara recorded -1.4°C, while Kokernag registered -0.3°C.

Among other stations, Shopian was the coldest at -4.1°C, followed by Pulwama (-3.8°C), Anantnag (-2.6°C), Budgam (-2.6°C) and Bandipora (-1.3°C).

The MeT Department, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), has forecast mainly dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir till December 3, with cloudy conditions possible at a few places on December 3.

A fresh western disturbance is expected to affect the region from December 4, bringing light rain in the plains and light to moderate snowfall over higher reaches between December 4 and 6. Similar weather is likely to continue on December 7 and 8, with thunderstorms and gusty winds possible at some places. The department has advised



travellers and transporters to remain cautious, warning that snowfall over higher reaches and major mountain passes could disrupt traffic movement during the forecast period—(KNO)

Continue from Front Page.....

Four Killed

specialised treatment. Further details were awaited.

Four people, including a married couple, were killed and an 11-year-old girl injured in a road accident involving a Tata Sumo at Halqa Gohallan in Baramulla district.

The vehicle, bearing registration number JK01P-2583, was involved in the accident in which five people sustained injuries. All were shifted to Sub-District Hospital Uri for treatment, where four of them succumbed to their injuries.

The deceased have been identified as Syed Shafeeq Shah, 26, his wife Rashida Bano, 25, his sister Dilnaz Fatima, 17, and Shahida Fatima, 27, daughter of Abid Hussain Shah.

An 11-year-old girl, Manaz Fatima, daughter of Syed Madad Hussain Shah, was referred to Government Medical College for further treatment.

Further details are awaited. [KNT]

"No Obstruction

immediate implementation of the 106th Constitutional Amendment without linking it to a fresh census or delimitation exercise. The Opposition has also expressed apprehensions that delimitation could alter the existing distribution of parliamentary seats and disturb the federal balance. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, enacted in 2023, provides for one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha, state assemblies and the Delhi Assembly, but makes its implementation contingent upon a post-census delimitation exercise. With the 2029 Lok Sabha elections approaching, the forthcoming session is expected to put women's representation and the future composition of Parliament at the centre of national political debate.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday renewed his government's commitment to implementing 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and state legislative assemblies, asserting that no opposition or obstruction would succeed in denying women their rightful political representation.

In a video message posted on the social media platform X, Modi said the government remained determined to fulfil its promise to the country's women. "We had made a promise to our Nari Shakti and we remain committed to fulfilling it," he said, adding that the struggle for equal political participation and representation for women had continued for decades.

The Prime Minister said his efforts towards achieving this objective had been underway for years and that countless women had repeatedly raised the issue with him through letters, sharing their experiences, aspirations and expectations. Referring to the widespread support for women's political empowerment, he said, "I know we have the blessings of 100 per cent of Nari Shakti." Assuring women that his government would overcome every hurdle in the way of their political empowerment, Modi declared, "I assure each and every Nari of the nation that we will drive out every obstruction in the way of Nari Shakti. Our resolve to empower Nari Shakti remains unshaken."

In an apparent message to Opposition parties resisting the government's proposed legislative measures linked to the implementation of women's reservation, Modi said no political opposition would be able to prevent women from securing their due representation in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

"No Power

Invoking former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's vision of 'Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat and Kashmiriyat', Singh urged people to move beyond the troubled past and focus on the future. Quoting a Kashmiri proverb, "Patim mushrao, bronh kun nazar thav", he called for a forward-looking approach. Citing improvements in healthcare infrastructure and tourism, he said the establishment of AIIMS facilities had reduced the need for patients to travel outside Jammu and Kashmir for advanced treatment. He also claimed that tourist arrivals had increased from 4.76 crore during an earlier three-year period to 7.85 crore between 2023 and 2025. Turning to national politics, Singh launched a sharp attack on the Congress and its allies, accusing them of undermining democratic institutions and attempting to destabilise an elected government through allegations of electoral malpractice. Rejecting the Opposition's claims of vote theft, he challenged Congress leaders to substantiate their allegations with evidence and said democratic governments could be changed only through the people's mandate. "If anyone has made Narendra Modi the Prime Minister, it is the people of India. If anyone can take that responsibility away from him, it is only the people of India and nobody else," he said. The Defence Minister also criticised Rahul Gandhi over his statements on national security, the armed forces and constitutional institutions, asserting that political opposition should not compromise national interests. Recalling his imprisonment during the Emergency in 1975, Singh rejected comparisons between that period and the present political situation, citing restrictions on civil liberties and freedom of expression during the Emergency. Earlier, he paid tributes to Pandit Prem Nath Dogra, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee and others who sacrificed their lives for the country's unity and integrity. Senior BJP leaders, including J&K BJP president Sat Sharma, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and former Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh, were present.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said no power in the world could stop Jammu and Kashmir from becoming a developed state following the abrogation of Article 370, asserting that the Centre had succeeded to a large extent in curbing terrorism and that separatist forces were gradually losing ground in the region.

Addressing the 'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao Sabha' in Jammu, Singh launched a sharp attack on the Congress and its allies, accusing them of attempting to destabilise a democratically elected government, questioning constitutional institutions and making allegations of electoral malpractice without substantiating them.

Calling Jammu and Kashmir the crown of India, the Defence Minister said its complete integration with the country had never been merely a territorial issue for the BJP but a commitment to safeguarding India's unity and integrity.

"After the abrogation of Article 370, no power in the world can stop Jammu and Kashmir from becoming a developed state of India," Singh said.

He said the BJP had remained committed to the removal of Article 370 since the days of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit Prem Nath Dogra and fulfilled its promise after securing a clear parliamentary majority.

"We did what we said. There is no difference between our words and actions," he said, describing Article 370 as one of the decisions taken by successive Congress governments that, according to him, adversely affected Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh said the constitutional changes of August 2019 had enabled people of Jammu and Kashmir to secure rights previously denied to them while accelerating development and weakening terrorism and separatism.

"We had resolved to end terrorism, and I can say that to a large extent, we have succeeded in getting rid of terrorism from the soil of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Recalling former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's doctrine of 'Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat and Kashmiriyat', Singh said Jammu and Kashmir must now look beyond its troubled past and concentrate on its future.

Quoting a Kashmiri proverb, "Patim masrao, bron kun nazar thao," the Defence Minister urged people to forget the past and look ahead.

He said Jammu and Kashmir was witnessing rapid development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and cited improvements in healthcare infrastructure and tourism as indicators of the changing situation.

Referring to the establishment of AIIMS, Singh said residents of Jammu and Kashmir no longer necessarily needed to travel to Delhi for treatment of serious ailments.

He said tourist arrivals had increased from 4.76 crore during an earlier three-year period to 7.85 crore between 2023 and 2025, benefiting local traders, businesses and people associated with the tourism sector.

"Earlier, questions were raised about the possibilities of development in Jammu and Kashmir. Today, new records are being created," he said.

Singh also referred to an account by a former Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police and former CRPF chief in the book 'Kashmir Under 370', claiming that even the President of India had once been treated as a non-state subject in a matter concerning land registration.

He said the incident reflected the constitutional anomalies that existed in Jammu and Kashmir before the abrogation of Article 370.

Turning to national politics, the Defence Minister accused the Congress and its allies of seeking regime change outside the democratic process and attempting to create instability in the country.

He said the purpose of his visit to Jammu was not merely to address a public gathering but to seek a collective commitment towards protecting the Constitution, democracy and the unity and integrity of India.

Singh rejected the Congress' allegations of 'vote theft', saying the BJP would never compromise democratic principles for the sake of retaining power.

"The BJP cannot steal votes, whether the government stays or goes. We do politics to build the nation, not merely to come to power," he said.

Referring to a Congress-organised summit in Hyderabad attended by Rahul Gandhi, Singh criticised remarks made by an Italian leader at the event, alleging that calls for removing the elected government were unacceptable in a democracy.

He said the Congress had lost three successive parliamentary elections over the past 12 years but, instead of examining the reasons behind its electoral setbacks, continued to blame electronic voting machines, election authorities and political opponents.

Singh pointed out that the Election Commission overseeing the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, which brought Narendra Modi to power, had been constituted before the BJP formed the government at the Centre.

Questioning Rahul Gandhi's allegations of electoral irregularities, the Defence Minister challenged the Congress leadership to produce evidence supporting its claims.

"A country is governed by its Constitution, not by somebody's feelings," Singh said, accusing Gandhi of making allegations based on personal perceptions rather than evidence.

He also took a dig at dynastic politics, saying Narendra Modi had not inherited political power but had been entrusted with the responsibility of governing the country by its people.

"If anyone has made Narendra Modi the Prime Minister, it is the people of India. If anyone can take that responsibility away from him, it is only the people of India and nobody else," he said.

"Modi is not going anywhere. It is time for the Congress to pack up," Singh added.

The Defence Minister also accused Rahul Gandhi of making misleading statements on matters concerning national security and undermining the morale of the armed forces.

Referring to Gandhi's earlier remarks concerning Indian and Chinese soldiers, Singh cited observations made by the Supreme Court and questioned the Congress leader's statements on the armed forces.

He said political differences should not come at the cost of national interests and that criticism of a government must be distinguished from actions or statements that, in his view, undermine the country.

"Opposing the government and opposing India are two different things," Singh said.

He also criticised Gandhi's remarks concerning Hindus and the Ram Temple ceremony in Ayodhya, maintaining that people belonging to all religious communities were equal and should live together.

"What is wrong if someone identifies himself as a Hindu, Muslim or Sikh? Everyone is equal, and everyone should live together," he said.

Questioning Rahul Gandhi's parliamentary participation, Singh said Parliament was the country's highest democratic forum and that elected representatives should use it to debate government policies and raise public issues.

He claimed Gandhi's attendance in Parliament during previous terms had remained below the national average for MPs and accused him of focusing more on opposing Prime Minister Modi than participating in parliamentary debates.

Singh said there was nothing wrong with aspiring to become Prime Minister but taking political office as a birthright was contrary to democratic principles.

The Defence Minister also accused the Congress of having a history of undermining constitutional and democratic institutions, referring to the dismissal of elected state governments during Indira Gandhi's tenure and the reversal of the Supreme Court's judgment in the Shah Bano case.

He said the Congress government had overturned a judicial decision concerning the rights of Muslim women to appease certain sections.

Rejecting allegations of an undeclared Emergency under the present government, Singh recalled his own imprisonment during the Emergency imposed in 1975.

"I was barely 24 or 25 years old. I spent 18 months in jail and was also kept in solitary confinement for some time. My mother passed away while I was in jail, but the Congress government did not grant me parole," he said.

He recalled that the government during the Emergency had argued before a court in 1976 that even the family of a person unlawfully killed by a police officer could not approach the judiciary for justice.

Singh also cited the restrictions imposed on the broadcasting of legendary singer Kishore Kumar's songs after he reportedly refused to participate in a government programme during the Emergency.

He said such instances reflected the suppression of civil liberties and freedom of expression during that period, rejecting comparisons between the Emergency and legal action taken by the present government.

Earlier, Singh paid tributes to Pandit Prem Nath Dogra, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee and those who sacrificed their lives for the unity and integrity of the country.

Describing Jammu as a land of courage, sacrifice and self-respect, he said the region occupied a special place in the BJP's political journey.

J&K BJP president and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma, Lok Sabha MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana, former Deputy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Singh, former J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina and other senior party leaders were present on the occasion. (KNS)

"Every Life

lives in a tragic road accident in the Uri area of Baramulla district.

The Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and directed the concerned authorities to extend all necessary assistance and support to them.

As a mark of support to the affected families, the Chief Minister announced ex-gratia relief of 2 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and 1 lakh to the injured minor girl from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

"Timely Completion

utilisation of resources and strict adherence to prescribed standards. Calling for better coordination among the Tourism, Forest and Public Works Departments, Rather said administrative and execution-related bottlenecks must be addressed through a coordinated approach. He underscored the importance of planned development of tourism infrastructure and facilities at important heritage and religious sites in the constituency. Senior officers, including the Chief Conservator of Forests Kashmir, Director Tourism Kashmir, CEO Yousmarg Development Authority, SDM Chadoora and concerned divisional and executive engineers, attended the meeting.

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today chaired a review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress of various developmental works being executed and proposed to be taken up during the current financial year under different schemes in Charar-i-Sharief Constituency.

The meeting reviewed the progress of developmental initiatives pertaining to Yousmarg Development Authority, Haijan, Nilnag, Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA) Ziyarat at Dregam, Sammad Mir (RA) Ziyarat Sharief at Nambalhar besides other works being undertaken by various departments in the constituency.

The meeting was attended by Chief Conservator of Forests Kashmir, Director Tourism Kashmir, Chief Executive Officer, Yousmarg Development Authority, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Chadoora, Divisional Forest Officer Budgam, Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B), Chadoora, Charar-i-Sharief and Budgam Divisions and other senior officers.

During the meeting, the Speaker took stock of the status of ongoing works, availability of funds, expenditure incurred and the proposed developmental interventions. He emphasised the need for expediting the pace of execution to ensure that all approved works are completed within the stipulated timelines without compromising on quality.

Stressing upon strict adherence to prescribed quality standards, the Speaker directed the concerned officers to maintain close monitoring of works at the ground level and ensure optimal utilisation of available resources. He underscored that timely completion, transparency and accountability must remain the guiding principles in the execution of all developmental projects.

The Speaker emphasised the need for effective inter-departmental coordination, particularly among the Tourism, Forest and Public Works Departments, to address the administrative and execution-related bottlenecks and ensure smooth implementation of projects. He called for a coordinated approach so that developmental initiatives, particularly those aimed at strengthening the tourism infrastructure and improving facilities at important tourism and heritage sites, are implemented in a planned and time-bound manner.

Chief Secretary

He directed all departments to prepare three-year vision documents outlining their respective developmental priorities, sectoral requirements and implementation strategies, with clearly defined targets and timelines. He stressed that these plans should be aligned with the district's overall developmental vision and take into consideration the potential, available resources and specific requirements of every sector.

Calling for a holistic and forward-looking development strategy, he emphasised that the district's long-term planning must encompass all sectors, ensuring balanced growth, optimal utilisation of resources and sustainable socio-economic development.

Reviews institutional roadmap and community outreach at AIIMS

Earlier, the Chief Secretary visited AIIMS Vijaypur, where he reviewed the operational status, clinical services and future developmental roadmap of the premier healthcare institution.

He called for formulation of a structured three-year action plan with clearly defined annual and monthly targets to guide the institution's further development and operational expansion. He also stressed the importance of strengthening community outreach programmes, promoting academic exchange and collaboration with other institutions, and exploring the establishment of incubation centres in collaboration with local entrepreneurs to encourage innovation and healthcare-related entrepreneurship.

During the visit, he also inspected the Sarain area in the vicinity of the institute and took stock of the surrounding developmental requirements, emphasising coordinated planning among the concerned agencies.

Inspects SIDCO Industrial Complex

The Chief Secretary subsequently visited the Industrial Development Complex (SIDCO), Phase-III, Rakh Amb Tali, where he inspected the industrial infrastructure and reviewed the progress of works being executed by ACTL.

Taking stock of the existing infrastructure and logistics arrangements, he called for improvement of road connectivity within the industrial area and directed the concerned authorities to examine appropriate maintenance arrangements, besides exploring necessary freight-related interventions to facilitate industrial operations.

He also directed verification of vacant and unallotted industrial plots to ensure their optimal utilisation and called for upgradation of effluent treatment facilities in accordance with the latest prescribed guidelines and standards.

He observed that strengthening industrial infrastructure, improving logistics and ensuring environmental compliance are essential for creating a conducive ecosystem for industrial growth and investment.

Reviews flood protection works at Regal

The Chief Secretary thereafter proceeded to Border Outpost Regal, where he interacted with the concerned officials and reviewed developmental interventions being undertaken in the Vibrant Village of Regal.

During the visit, he took stock of flood protection works along the Basantar river and directed the concerned authorities to ensure completion of the Bund Tip work by the end of December 2026.

He also directed immediate repair of the Samba-Sumb road and reviewed issues concerning border connectivity and cultivation of agricultural land situated beyond the border fence. He stressed the importance of addressing the specific infrastructure and livelihood-related requirements of border residents through coordinated and timely interventions.

Directs rectification of defects in AYUSH Hospital within 15 days

Continuing his field inspections, the Chief Secretary visited the ongoing construction site of AYUSH Hospital at Nonath and reviewed the physical progress and quality of the works.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the quality of workmanship, he directed the executing agency to rectify the identified defects within 15 days and ensure adherence to prescribed construction standards.

He also directed the Health and Medical Education Department to expedite the procurement of requisite medical equipment and furniture and ensure availability of necessary manpower so that the facility is operationalised on an immediate basis upon completion of the requisite arrangements.

Listens to public grievances at Block Diwas

As part of the tour, the Chief Secretary participated in the Block Diwas programme at Vibrant Village Raika Labana in Tehsil Ramgarh, which was also attended by the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, and other senior officers.

Srinagar Police

and emerge as ambassadors of awareness against substance abuse. The three best performers were awarded trophies, while other participants received certificates of participation. Srinagar Police said such initiatives were aimed at strengthening engagement with educational institutions, promoting awareness among young people and encouraging greater community participation in the fight against drug abuse.

Srinagar Police organised a debate competition on the theme 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan' at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Rawalpora on November 26 under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2026–27.

The programme aimed to raise awareness among students about the harmful consequences of drug abuse and encourage their participation in efforts towards building a drug-free society.

The event was inaugurated by SP City South Srinagar Mashkoor Ahmad Zargar in the presence of SDPO Sadder, SHO Police Station Sadder, Incharge Police Post Rangreth, the principal of the host institution and teaching staff.

Ten students from Government Boys Higher Secondary School Rawalpora and Government High School Hyderpora participated in the debate, highlighting the social and psychological consequences of drug addiction and the need for collective efforts to prevent substance abuse.

"Make India

, also extended support to the campaign. The initiative highlighted the importance of community participation, particularly among students and young people, in preventing substance abuse.

: Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy led a three-day, 40-km padyatra in Hyderabad to raise awareness against drug abuse, with participation from students, public representatives, film personalities, sportspersons, spiritual leaders and citizens.

Titled Hyderabad Walks for Nasha Mukt Bharat, the march began at Amberpet on November 25 and concluded at Jubilee Hills on November 27. It was organised as part of the 100-week Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August, and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.The march passed through several prominent locations, including Osmania University Arts College, the Ambedkar Statue at Tank Bund, Balkampet Yellamma Temple and Maitrivanam at Ameerpet. Participants also paid floral tributes to B.R. Ambedkar.

Reddy described the padyatra as a people's movement that transcended political affiliations and reiterated the government's commitment to making India drug-free by 2029. He called on young people, parents, educational institutions and citizens to sustain efforts against substance abuse.

He urged people to support individuals seeking de-addiction services and their families. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's 24-hour National Toll-Free Drug De-addiction Helpline, 14446, provides counselling and referral services, he said.

The concluding ceremony was attended by three Padma Vibhushan awardees — spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, actor and former Union Minister K. Chiranjeevi, and gastroenterologist and AIG Hospitals Chairman D. Nageshwar Reddy.

Addressing the gathering, Chiranjeevi urged young people to stay away from drugs and intoxicants, warning that substance abuse could derail their aspirations and future. Participants at the event took the Nasha Mukt Bharat pledge.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar also joined the march. Former governors Bandaru Dattatreya and C.H. Vidyasagar Rao, MPs Eatala Rajender and Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, and several other elected representatives participated at different stages.

The campaign also drew support from film personalities, including Nagarjuna Akkineni, Daggubati Venkatesh, Prabhas, Nikhil Siddhartha, Sai Kumar and Payal Rajput. Badminton player and national coach Pullela Gopichand, along with several Padma awardees, artists and representatives from educational institutions, also joined the initiative.

The campaign brought together universities, students, NSS volunteers, civil society organisations and professionals, highlighting the role of community participation in preventing substance abuse.

The Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, seeks to raise awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse and mobilise communities, particularly young people and vulnerable groups, towards a drug-free society. (PIB)

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DC Shopian chairs Road Safety Meeting

Stresses strict Enforcement, Awareness and Road upkeep to curb Accidents

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh today chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee at Mini-Secretariat Shopian to review road safety measures and assess the measures being undertaken by various departments to ensure safer roads and prevent road accidents across the district.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed various road safety related issues, including identification of accident- prone spots, road infrastructure, traffic management, black spots to road signage, enforcement of traffic regulations, availablity of emergency response mechanism and other measures aimed at minimising road accidents and ensuring the safety of commuters.

The DC directed the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) to carry out proper vehicle check-ups, inspections and verification of driving licences, ensuring vehicles on the road are in good condition.

Concerned departments were instructed to put in place speed breakers and dividers wherever necessary, alongside proper signage to maintain good road conditions and safeguard pedestrian space.

Emphasizing public participation, the DC directed officials to raise awareness among people about traffic rules and organize awareness camps in this regard. Stating that enforcement is of utmost importance, the DC stressed that strict adherence to norms is key to reducing mishaps.

He also stressed the need for strengthening emergency response and coordination among departments to ensure timely assistance to accident victims, while directing all concerned to take concrete and time-bound measures for making roads safer in the district.

Emphasising the importance of strict enforcement of traffic rules, the DC directed the traffic police and Motor Vehicle Department to intensify enforcement against traffic violations and ensure greater awareness among people regarding responsible road behaviour

The DC emphasized all concerned departments to work in close coordination and adopt a proactive approach towards addressing road safety concerns. He directed the concerned officers to take necessary measures for improvement of road infrastructure, installation of proper signboards, safety barriers and other essential road safety measures, particularly at vulnerable and accident-prone locations.

The DC stated that road safety is a collective responsibility and called for coordinated efforts by all stakeholders to safeguard precious human lives.

Earlier, SE, R&B, Aashiq Ahmed briefed the chair through a presentation covering key road safety aspects in the district. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ASP, Maajid Ahmed, SE, R&B, Circle, Shopian/Pulwama, Aashiq Ahmed, Xens, CMO, ARTO, EO, MC, DSP Traffic Police, officers from NHAI, Health, Education and other concerned were present. Emphasising the importance of strict enforcement of traffic rules, the DC directed the traffic police and Motor Vehicle Department to intensify enforcement against traffic violations and ensure greater awareness among people regarding responsible road behaviour

The DC emphasized all concerned departments to work in close coordination and adopt a proactive approach towards addressing road safety concerns. He directed the concerned officers to take necessary measures for improvement of road infrastructure, installation of proper signboards, safety barriers and other essential road safety measures, particularly at vulnerable and accident-prone locations.

The DC stated that road safety is a collective responsibility and called for coordinated efforts by all stakeholders to safeguard precious human lives.

Earlier, SE, R&B, Aashiq Ahmed briefed the chair through a presentation covering key road safety aspects in the district. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ASP, Maajid Ahmed.

SWD Srinagar organizes Awareness Programme on "Dignity and Personal Well-being" at GHSS Gund Hassi Bhat

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 28: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative, organized an awareness programme on "Dignity and Personal Well-being" at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Gund Hassi Bhat, with the support of a resource person from the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), Srinagar.

During the programme, the resource person from IMHANS Srinagar sensitized the girl students about the importance of personal dignity, self-respect, mental and emotional well-being, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Special emphasis was laid on promoting positive mental health, managing stress, building self-confidence, and developing healthy coping mechanisms to deal with everyday challenges.

The students were also encouraged to openly discuss their concerns, seek timely guidance and support, and prioritize their overall physical and psychological well-being.

The programme aimed at empowering adolescent girls with essential knowledge and awareness to lead healthy, confident, and dignified lives.

The initiative reflects the Department's continued commitment towards the holistic development and empowerment of girls under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.

Power Shutdown by KPDCL

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 28: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL has informed that the Shutdown of 33 KV Wanganpora-Kawdara-Mughal Masjid line will be observed due to which power supply to Zadibal, Mughal Masjid, Kawdara, Rajouri Kadal, Jamia Masjid, Firdous Colony, Bachi Darwaza and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 01 December 2026.Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV GIS Khanyar-BAMK line will be observed due to which power supply to Industries, Raja Colony, Gilikadal, BSNL Exchange, Hariparbat and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 06 December 2026. Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Beerwah Line, 33 kV Kremshore Line and 33 kV Ichgam Line will be observed due to which power supply to Sail, Godipora, Old Beerwah, Arwah, Najan, Chewdara, Beerwah Town, Sonpah, Hospital Zanigam, Arizal, Raiyar, Doodhpathri, Khag, Poshker, Sursh Sugen, Old Kremshore, Arigam, Nuner, Samsabad, Dreygam, Parnewa, Branwar, Sursyar, Raithan, Khansahab, Sinipora, Yarikah, Barwah, Icham, Ichkoot, Choon, Budhbagh, Razwan, Kanir, Hushroo, Zohama, Hanjoora, Dadompora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 03 & 07 December 2026.Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Kanipora–Pinjoora line will be observed due to which power supply to Pinjoora, Killora, Imamsahib, Wachi, Nowgam, Rehnagri, Pahnoo, Mohanpora, Trenz, Chowdrigund, Bemnipora, Palpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 am to 03 pm on 01, 05 & 09 December 2026.

Furthermore, shutdown of 33 kV Wanpoh–Qazigund Line will be observed due to which power supply to Qazigund, Kund, Lammer, Bonigam, Waltengoo, Razloo, YK Pora, Nussu, Manzmoh and adjoining areas will be affected from 10 am to 03 pm on 30 November and 03 December 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Kulgam–Devsar Line will be observed due to which power supply to Ashmuji, Kilam, Chambgund, Devsar and adjoining areas will be affected from 10 am to 03 pm on 30 November 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Achabal–Shangus–Nowgam Tap Line will be observed due to which power supply to Shangus, Nowgam, Kotheir, Andoo, Uttersoo, Chittergul, Cherapora, Sonach and adjoining areas will be affected from 10 am to 03 pm on 30 November, 03 & 07 December 2026.

DC Bandipora reviews Road Safety Measures, Directs timely action on Key Decisions

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib on Saturday chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) to review the progress of road safety measures and follow-up action on decisions taken in the previous meeting.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the implementation of the PM-RAHAT Scheme and stressed the need to address gaps affecting its effective implementation. She directed the Police and Health Departments to work together to improve coordination, and simplify procedures so that accident victims can avail the benefits without unnecessary delays.

The establishment of a Vehicle Scrapping Facility was also discussed, with the ARTO Bandipora directed to publish a public notice within two days and coordinate with the concerned agencies to take the process forward.The meeting further discussed the proposed installation of the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) in the district. The concerned agencies were asked to verify black/Hot spots through the dedicated portal and take necessary steps for their identification and removal. The DC also reviewed critical accident-prone locations, and stressed the need for proper assessment and timely intervention to prevent road accidents.Emphasising the importance of collective responsibility, the DC directed all departments to work in close coordination, ensure timely implementation of decisions and submit Action Taken Reports (ATRs) within the stipulated timelines.Among others, the meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer R&B, Circle Bandipora; Chief Planning Officer Bandipora; CMO Bandipora; Executive Engineer R&B; ARTO Bandipora; CEO, MC Bandipora.

DC Baramulla presides over Block Diwas at Border Area Boniyar

■ HT News Network



BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr. S.F. Hamid, today presided over a Block Diwas programme at Boniyar, providing an opportunity to residents of the border area to highlight their grievances, concerns and developmental demands before the district administration.

The programme was attended by SDM Uri, district and sectoral officers from various departments, besides a large gathering of local residents.

During the interaction, locals raised several issues concerning public infrastructure and essential services, including the need for protection bunds along Hafatkhie Nallah, adequate availability of firewood, uninterrupted power supply and replacement of damaged electric poles and wires.

Residents also highlighted the need for repair and maintenance of important main roads, establishment of a proper Sumo Stand at Boniyar and extension of internet connectivity to uncovered areas, particularly in remote border habitations.

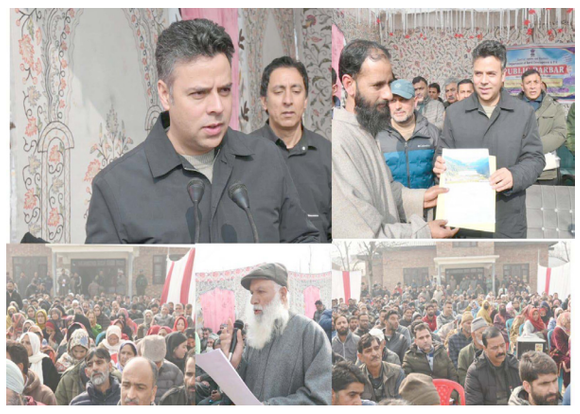
Issues regarding water scarcity in certain areas were also discussed. It was informed that water tankers have been deployed to ensure drinking water supply to the affected areas.

The locals also demanded upgradation of the Primary Health Centre at Darakunjan Boniyar to strengthen healthcare facilities in the border area. They further sought improvement and upgradation of infrastructure at Primary School Darakunjan, Boniyar, for providing better educational facilities to students.

DC Anantnag presides over Mega Public Darbar at Vessu; Witnesses overwhelming Public Response

Says time-bound redressal of Public Grievances a top Priority, resolves several issues on the Spot

■ HT News Network



ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 28: Continuing the endeavours towards responsive, accessible and citizen-centric governance, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today presided over a Mega Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Vessu.

The Public Darbar was organised to provide an opportunity to the general public, particularly residents of far-flung areas, to project their issues, demands and developmental concerns directly before the District Administration.

A large number of people from different areas participated in the Public Darbar and projected a wide range of demands and grievances pertaining to various departments, including Revenue, Education, Road Connectivity, Irrigation, Healthcare, Civic Amenities and other essential services.

The major issues and demands raised during the Public Darbar included resolution of revenue jurisdiction-related matters; shifting of the Higher Secondary School and Middle School; upgradation of High School; provision of irrigation water supply to Panzath Vessu; widening of Sandran-Damjan Road and Sandran-Larkipora Road; provision of Fire and Emergency Services in the area; installation of streetlights; development of a playground at Sangdan; improvement of drainage facilities in Qazigund town; renovation of the PHC building at Qazigund and various other developmental requirements were projected by the people.

Other demands included construction of a Tehsil Office and Patwari Khana; establishment of a passenger shelter at Qazigund; improvement of the Sangdan-Lokbawan-Larkipora Road; installation of digital display board at Qazigund; upgradation of the Kachpora-Nipora Road; establishment of an extension counter of J&K Bank at Y.K. Pora; construction of a building for the Health Centre at Malpora; construction of the Nessu-Gurkhah Road; development of a playground at Nessu; construction of a school building at Gundi Jafar; construction of the Nipora Railway Station Road; and construction of a footbridge connecting Reshi Mohalla with Khanday Mohalla, besides several other public demands.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the participants and took detailed feedback on the issues raised.

He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for taking necessary action towards the early redressal of genuine grievances.

He also stressed the need for close coordination among the concerned departments to ensure prompt resolution of public issues and due consideration of developmental demands.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner added that the Administration is committed to addressing public grievances and ensuring the availability of essential basic amenities to the people.

He emphasised that such public outreach programmes are aimed at taking governance to the doorsteps of the people, strengthening public participation and ensuring transparent, accountable and effective delivery of public services.

Javed Rana honours young artists at EMRS Kala Utsav closing ceremony

Stresses nurturing creativity, preserving cultural heritage

■ HT News Network



RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 28: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Transport, Javed Ahmed Rana, today attended the closing ceremony of the 3rd EMRS State-Level Kala Utsav and Samriddhi 2026-27 as chief guest at Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), Gurdhan Bala, Rajouri.

The event provided the students from Eklavya Model Residential Schools across Jammu and Kashmir a vibrant platform to showcase their artistic and creative abilities through dance, music and other cultural performances reflecting the region's rich heritage and diversity.

The participating institutions included EMRS Salia, Anantnag; EMRS Gurez, Bandipora; EMRS Tangmarg, Kulgam; EMRS Poonch (Mendhar); EMRS Koteranka, Rajouri and EMRS Rajouri (Gurdanbala).

Kala Utsav and Samriddhi are twin initiatives by the Ministry for Education (MoE) and NCERT that celebrate artistic talent in secondary schools (Classes IX–XII) and innovative art-integrated teaching across India.

Addressing the ceremony, Rana highlighted the significance of Kala Utsav and Samriddhi in bringing together the cultural diversity of Jammu and Kashmir by nurturing the creative and artistic potential of students. He said such initiatives provide young tribal talent an opportunity to express themselves, gain confidence and appreciate the diverse cultural traditions of the region.

He emphasised the need to encourage arts, crafts, music and other creative pursuits alongside formal education, saying that such activities contribute significantly to the holistic development of children. He said every child possesses unique talents that need to be identified, nurtured.

DC Pulwama reviews progress of Works under Capex Budget 2026-27

■ HT News Network



PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Meeting Hall of the Administrative Complex, Pulwama, to assess the physical and financial progress of developmental works being executed under the Capex Budget 2026-27 and other developmental schemes across the district.

At the outset, a detailed presentation was made, apprising the chair of the physical and financial progress of works under District Capex Budget, including DDC, BDC and PRI Grants, Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP), Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme (APDP), CDF, UT Capex and MPLAD among others.

A comprehensive sector-wise review of works under Roads and Buildings, Minor Irrigation, Jal Shakti, Health, Education, Youth Services and Sports, Urban Development and Rural Development sectors was undertaken. The chair assessed the status of administrative approvals, tendering, allotment, execution, expenditure and completion of works.

Taking stock of the pendencies at various stages of execution, the DC sought reasons for the gaps between administrative approvals and tendering, as well as between tendering and allotment of works. He directed the concerned officers to identify the bottlenecks, clear all pending cases on priority and furnish a comprehensive action plan for addressing the pendencies and accelerating the pace of execution of developmental works.

The DC also reviewed the constituency-wise and executing agency-wise progress of works under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) across all four Assembly Constituencies of the district, with particular emphasis on preparation of pending estimates, tendering and execution of works. Progress under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was also reviewed.

Under UT Capex, a detailed review of works being executed under the scheme for Revival, Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of Architecture and Heritage was undertaken. The chair assessed the progress of ongoing and new works pertaining to the restoration and preservation of heritage sites, religious places and monuments across the district. He directed the concerned authorities to speed up and complete the pending electrical component of various works on priority.The chair also reviewed the progress of works being undertaken for the development of infrastructure in tribal areas under UT Capex, Tribal Sub-Plan and DAJGUA, besides taking stock of the construction and upgradation of revenue infrastructure across the district.

During the meeting, the DC laid emphasis on accelerating the pace of execution of developmental works, ensuring optimal utilisation of available funds and maintaining close monitoring of physical and financial progress. He stressed the need for addressing issues hindering the execution of works and ensuring their completion within the stipulated timelines.

Reviewing the progress under Financial Inclusion and Social Security Schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), the DC directed the banking authorities to prepare a schedule of enrolment camps across the district to maximise coverage of eligible beneficiaries. The DC fixed a daily target of 20 registrations per scheme per bank branch and directed the banking authorities to submit daily progress reports to ensure regular monitoring of achievements against the assigned targets.

MLA Sopore review Winter Preparedness; Officers directed to ensure adequate Arrangements

■ HT News Network



BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 28: Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar, and Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Dr. S.A.Raina, today jointly chaired a meeting with officers of various line departments to review and assess the preparedness of the administration for the winter season.

During the meeting, a detailed assessment was undertaken of the arrangements put in place by different departments to ensure uninterrupted delivery of essential services and minimise public inconvenience during the winter months.

The meeting focused on key aspects of winter preparedness, including availability of essential commodities, uninterrupted supply of electricity and drinking water, maintenance of road connectivity, healthcare facilities, availability of medicines, sanitation and snow clearance arrangements.

The MLA emphasised the need for close coordination among all departments to ensure that people do not face any inconvenience during the winter season.

Irshad Rasool Kar further stressed that adequate advance measures must be taken, particularly in areas vulnerable to heavy snowfall and harsh weather conditions, to ensure timely response to public needs.

Meanwhile, ADC Sopore, Dr. Shabir Ahmad Raina directed the concerned departments to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance.

He also underscored the importance of maintaining adequate stocks of essential supplies and ensuring that critical public services remain functional, especially in far-flung and vulnerable areas.

The health department was asked to maintain adequate stocks of medicines and ensure emergency healthcare services, while the power and water supply departments were directed to put in place effective mechanisms for addressing disruptions.

Mission Vatsalya Bandipora organises Awareness Programme at Quil Muqam

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 28: Mission Vatsalya Bandipora organised an awareness programme at Quil Muqam, Bandipora, with the objective of sensitising the community about child rights, child protection laws, and various government initiatives aimed at ensuring the safety, welfare and overall development of children.

During the programme, Mission Vatsalya team made the participants aware of several important child protection legislations, including the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act), the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

Special emphasis was laid on the importance of preventing child labour, child marriage, child abuse, exploitation and other forms of violence against children. The participants were also sensitised about the provisions of the POCSO Act and the importance of creating a safe and protective environment for every child.

Furthermore, awareness was disseminated regarding Child Helpline 1098, highlighting its role as an important emergency support service for children in distress, in need of care and protection, or facing abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The programme also highlighted various schemes and services available under Mission Vatsalya, aimed at promoting child welfare, rehabilitation, family-based care, protection and holistic development of vulnerable children.The programme concluded with an appeal to the community to remain vigilant, report cases of child abuse and exploitation, discourage harmful practices and collectively work towards safeguarding the rights, dignity and future of every child.

Indian Army Organises Defence Career Outreach Programme for Students in New Delhi.

■ Farooq Rather



NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28: An Indian Army Defence Outreach Programme was organised by the Information and Recruitment Office (IRO), Delhi Cantonment, under the leadership of Col. M.S. Navalgatti, for students of Kamal Model Senior Secondary School, New Delhi, during the institution's Career Fair 2026 on November 27. The programme aimed to familiarise students with various career opportunities in the Indian Armed Forces and provide them with detailed information about the eligibility criteria, selection procedures and entry schemes for becoming officers in the Army.As part of the initiative, the IRO team established an interactive information stall where students were briefed about various officer entry schemes, including the National Defence Academy (NDA), Technical Entry Scheme (TES), Combined Defence Services (CDS), Short Service Commission (SSC) and NCC Special Entry.A dedicated session was also organised for female students, providing detailed information about eligibility requirements and career opportunities under the Military Nursing Service (MNS) Officer Entry Scheme.More than 450 students attended the auditorium briefing sessions, while hundreds of others visited the information stall to collect brochures and seek individual guidance. Students were also assisted in checking their eligibility through the official Join Indian Army portal. The interactive sessions witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who actively engaged with the Army representatives. A question-and-answer session was also conducted to address their queries and provide clarity on different entry schemes and career prospects.

DC Shopian visits remote Chanchmarg, Kapal Mochan Nagabal, Interacts with Local Residents

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, today undertook an extensive field visit to the remote and hilly areas of Chanchmarg, Shadab Karewa, Manloo-Zawoora and Kapal Mochan Nagabal to take firsthand stock of the developmental needs of the local population, interact with residents and review the availability of essential public amenities.The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Shopian, Dr.Zakir Hussain Faaz; Tehsildar Shopian, Anjum Bashir; and other concerned officers.During the visit, the DC interacted with local residents, predominantly belonging to Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Pahadi communities, and listened to their grievances, concerns and long-pending demands. The residents highlighted various issues pertaining to basic amenities, public services and developmental requirements in their respective areas.The Deputy Commissioner took detailed feedback regarding the availability and timely distribution of ration and food supplies, potable water and other essential services. He directed the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted delivery of essential commodities and take prompt measures to address any shortcomings in the provision of basic amenities.

Emphasizing the importance of inclusive and equitable development, the DC assured the residents that their genuine concerns would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate and time-bound redressal. He stressed that coordinated efforts must be made to ensure that people residing in remote and underserved habitations receive the benefits of government schemes and public services.Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited Kapal Mochan Nagabal, Shopian, where he inspected ongoing developmental and renovation works being executed by the concerned .

Police Intensifies Crackdown on Illegal Mining In Pulwama & Sopore; 9 Vehicles Seized

■ HT News Network

Pulwama November 28: Continuing its sustained crackdown against illegal mining and unauthorized transportation of minor minerals, Police seized nine vehicles, involved in illegal mining activities in Pulwama and Sopore.Acting on specific inputs, police teams of PS Kakapora conducted swift operations and intercepted two (02) tippers laden with sand and three (03) dumpers carrying clay. The drivers/ operators failed to produce valid royalty documents or any legal permission from the competent authority for the extraction and transportation of the minerals. Accordingly, two separate FIRs have been registered at Police Station Kakapora. Further investigation in both cases has been initiated to ascertain the source of illegal extraction and identify other persons involved in the illegal mining network.In Sopore, Police seized four vehicles involved in illegal extraction.

Kulgam Police Organises Debate Competition at GDC Kulgam Under Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan.

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 28: Kulgam Police organised a debate competition at Government Degree College (GDC), Kulgam, under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan as part of the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2026-27, with the aim of spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promoting a drug-free society.

Students enthusiastically participated in the competition and shared their views on drug addiction, its adverse impact on individuals and society, and the importance of collective efforts to combat substance abuse.

The programme provided students an opportunity to express their ideas and understand their role in creating a healthy, drug-free society. Kulgam Police urged the youth to act as ambassadors of awareness by spreading the message against drug abuse among their peers and within their communities. Kulgam Police reiterated its commitment to organising more youth-oriented and community-based activities under CAP 2026-27 to strengthen police-public relations and encourage positive youth engagement.

DC Budgam inspects progress of 125-Bedded New District Hospital, 100-Bedded Critical Care Hospital at Reshipora

Directs expediting of remaining Works, Mobilisation of Manpower, Completion of Essential Infrastructure; Stresses timely Operationalisation of Healthcare Facilities

■ HT News Network



BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, today conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing construction works of the 125-bedded New District Hospital and the 100-bedded Critical Care Hospital at Reshipora to assess the progress, pace and quality of execution of the projects.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner was apprised that substantial progress had been achieved on both hospital projects.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed various pending components, including electrical works, mechanical installations, fire-fighting systems, lift testing, handrails, essential power supply, installation of doors and windows, and other essential infrastructure required to make the hospitals fully functional.

He directed the executing agencies to expedite all pending mechanical and electrical works, mobilise adequate manpower and ensure proper deployment of labour to maintain the pace of construction.

He also stressed the need to complete the remaining works, prepare a comprehensive assessment of pending components and ensure their completion within the stipulated timelines.

The Deputy Commissioner further reviewed the availability and development of essential hospital facilities, including beds, dietary and laundry facilities, underground water tanks, service areas and other supporting infrastructure.

He emphasised that all essential hospital services and facilities must be completed in a coordinated manner to ensure the smooth functioning of the hospitals upon their completion.

He directed the concerned officers to resolve pending issues affecting the execution of works and maintain close coordination with the executing agencies to avoid any further delays.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that both projects are of immense importance in strengthening the healthcare infrastructure of the district and improving access to specialised and quality medical services for the people.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the Joint Director Planning, Superintending Engineer, R&B Circle Budgam; Chief Medical Officer (CMO); Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Budgam; Executive Engineers of R&B and KPDCL; Deputy Manager, HSCC; Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs); and other concerned officers, who briefed him on the current status of the works and future milestones. The Deputy Commissioner further reviewed the availability and development of essential hospital facilities, including beds, dietary and laundry facilities, underground water tanks, service areas and other supporting infrastructure.

He emphasised that all essential hospital services and facilities must be completed in a coordinated manner to ensure the smooth functioning of the hospitals upon their completion.

He directed the concerned officers to resolve pending issues affecting the execution of works and maintain close coordination with the executing agencies to avoid any further delays.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that both projects are of immense importance in strengthening the healthcare infrastructure of the district and improving access to specialised and quality medical services for the people.The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied.

J&K Tourism makes Strong Impression at IITM Pune-2026, Attracts Interest from National Travel Trade

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 28: The Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Pavilion at the India International Travel Mart (IITM) Pune-2026 received an encouraging response from tourism stakeholders, travel professionals and industry representatives during the three-day event held from November 26 to 28 at Deccan College Ground, Pune.

The pavilion served as an important platform to showcase the diverse tourism potential of Jammu & Kashmir, highlighting its breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage, historical attractions, adventure tourism opportunities, pilgrimage destinations, wellness offerings, handicrafts and distinctive local experiences.



The participation generated considerable interest among members of the travel trade, with tourism stakeholders expressing enthusiasm for exploring promotional opportunities and strengthening business linkages with the Union Territory. The event also facilitated meaningful interactions with tour operators, travel agencies and industry representatives from Maharashtra and other parts of the country.

The visiting delegation representing Jammu & Kashmir Tourism comprised Kaiser Ahmad Bhawani, Chief Executive Officer, Kishtwar Development Authority; Peer Zahid Ahmad, Deputy Director Tourism, Kashmir; and Sanam Mansoor, Deputy Director Tourism, Kashmir.

During the event, the officers actively engaged with tourism stakeholders, tour operators and industry representatives. Through informative presentations and stakeholder interactions, the delegation highlighted the diverse tourism products, emerging destinations and year-round travel experiences offered by Jammu & Kashmir, further strengthening the Union Territory's visibility in the national tourism market.

The encouraging response at IITM Pune reflects the growing interest within the travel trade in Jammu & Kashmir as a preferred year-round tourism destination. The Union Territory's recognition as the Best Tourism Destination of the Year further reinforces its position as a prominent destination on India's tourism map.

Through its participation in IITM Pune-2026, Jammu & Kashmir Tourism aims to consolidate its presence in Maharashtra and other key domestic travel markets, expand promotional outreach, foster stronger industry partnerships and encourage greater tourist footfall by showcasing the diverse experiences that the Union Territory has to offer throughout the year.

SR Theatre Organises One-Day Theatre Seminar at GMS Chattergul Bonpora in Kangan

■ HT News Network

Ganderbal/November:28



SR Theatre Ganderbal organised a one-day theatre seminar at Govt, Middle School Chattergul Bonpora kangan under the supervision of Sahil Shafi. The seminar was conducted under the Guru-Shishya Parampara Repertory Grant Scheme, approved by the Ministry of Culture, Govt, of India, New Delhi with Govt, Middle School Chattergul Bonpora extending its collaboration for the seminars. The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers and a large number of local residents who showed keen interest in theatre and various aspects of performing arts. The primary objective of the one-day seminar was to promote theatre and acting skills among the younger generation, particularly students, nurture their creative abilities and familiarise them with different aspects of the performing arts. The seminars also highlighted theatre as an effective medium of education, training, social awareness and personality development rather than merely a source of entertainment. During the seminar, various aspects of theatre were discussed including the importance of theatre, basic principles of acting, dialogue delivery, body movements, facial expressions and the importance of confidence while performing on stage.

ADC Bhaderwah reviews progress of Cultural Heritage Works

■ HT News Network



BHADERWAH, NOVEMBER 28: Additional Deputy Commissioner Sunil K. Bhutyal chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing works being undertaken under the Cultural Heritage initiative in Bhaderwah.

During the meeting, the ADC took stock of the ongoing development and renovation works related to temples and directed the concerned department, particularly the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department, to expedite the pace of work and ensure timely completion of all pending works.

He stressed the importance of preserving and maintaining the cultural and religious heritage of the region and instructed the concerned officers to ensure that all ongoing works are completed at the earliest without compromising on quality.

The meeting was attended by the Executive Engineer, R&B, Assistant Executive Engineer and President Sanatan Dharam Sabha, along with other concerned officials.

The ADC emphasized close coordination among all stakeholders to ensure the timely execution of works aimed at preserving the rich cultural and religious heritage of Bhaderwah.

JNVST 2027 conducted at Kulgam for Class VI Admission

1,056 candidates appear in entrance examination



■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 28: The Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Selection Test (JNVST) 2027 for admission to Class VI was conducted today at the designated examination centres in Kulgam district.

A total of 1,056 candidates appeared in the entrance examinations, out of 1,696 registered candidates, recording an overall attendance of 62.26%.

Of the total candidates, 472 out of 801 registered girls appeared in the examination, recording an attendance of 58.93%. Similarly, 584 out of 895 registered boys appeared, with an attendance of 65.25%.

The examination was held to facilitate admission of eligible candidates to Class VI at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kulgam.

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.

SCERT Kashmir organises Three-Day Capacity Building Programme on Transaction of Newly Developed NCERT Mathematics Textbooks

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 28: Under the leadership of Director SCERT J&K, Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhury, and the guidance of Joint Director SCERT Kashmir, Syed Shabir Ahmad, the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), J&K, Divisional Office Kashmir, successfully conducted a three-day Capacity Building Programme on "Effective Transaction of Newly Developed NCERT Mathematics Textbooks in the Light of NEP 2020 and NCF" from 26 to 28 November 2026 at SCERT Complex, Bemina, Srinagar.

The programme was organized by the Department of Education in Science and Mathematics (ESM), SCERT Kashmir Division, with the objective of familiarizing teachers and academic resource persons with the pedagogical vision, curricular changes and innovative approaches incorporated in the newly developed NCERT Mathematics textbooks. It aimed at strengthening the capacity of participants to move beyond conventional textbook-based teaching towards competency-based, experiential and activity-oriented mathematics education in consonance with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF).

The inaugural session was attended by faculty members of SCERT Kashmir Division, including the Academic Unit Heads of Units I, II and III, along with the participating resource persons and trainees. Javid Ahmad Dar from the Department of Education in Science and Mathematics, highlighted the significance of the programme in the context of ongoing curricular and pedagogical reforms.

The first academic session was conducted by Gulzar Ahmad Dar, Senior Academic Officer, SCERT Kashmir Division and Coordinator of the Programme. His deliberations focused on the vision of NEP 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework with particular reference to mathematics education.

Jamia Zia Ul Uloom Felicitates NEET, JKAS and Hifz-e-Quran Achievers in Poonch.

■ Farooq Rather



POONCH, NOVEMBER 28: Jamia Zia Ul Uloom Group of Institutions organised a felicitation ceremony in Poonch to honour more than 20 achievers for their outstanding accomplishments in academic, competitive, religious and professional fields. The awardees included 10 NEET qualifiers, six Huffaz-e-Quran, three JKAS achievers and an Assistant Scientific Officer, whose accomplishments were recognised as a reflection of dedication, perseverance, hard work and commitment to excellence. The ceremony highlighted the institution's distinctive educational vision of integrating modern education with Islamic teachings, moral values and spiritual development, aiming to nurture academically accomplished, ethically grounded and socially responsible individuals. Principal Waheed A. Banday delivered the welcome address, extending greetings to the dignitaries and congratulating the achievers. He highlighted the institution's commitment to providing quality modern education alongside Islamic learning, character-building and holistic development. Chief Patron Maulana Ghulam Qadir appreciated the management, Principal and teaching staff for their collective dedication and hard work in advancing the institution's educational mission. He emphasised the importance of creating an environment where students can excel in modern education while remaining connected to Islamic teachings and moral values. Maulana Sayeed A. Habib congratulated the achievers, their parents, teachers and the management, acknowledging their significant contributions to the students' success. He stressed the importance of education, discipline, perseverance, faith and good character, encouraging students to pursue excellence while fulfilling their responsibilities towards society. Several distinguished personalities also addressed the gathering and appreciated the institution's efforts to harmoniously combine academic excellence with Islamic education and character formation. Among the prominent guests present were Retired Director Matloob Khan, Retired ADDC Shaikh Hameed, Prof. M. H. Shah, former Principal GDC Poonch, Arif Kazmi, Asad Noomani, Assistant Labour Commissioner Zameer Ahmed (KAS), Dr. Khaleeq Anjum, AD FCS&CA Khalil A. Banday, Sarfaraz Mir and Nusrat Shah, besides other distinguished guests and members of the community. The speakers observed that achievements in competitive examinations such as NEET and JKAS, alongside Hifz-e-Quran and professional accomplishments, reflected the significance of dedicated efforts, proper guidance,

DG ICAR hails SKUAST-K growth trajectory

Inaugurates national workshop on Natural Farming, Chinar Hostel on his maiden visit to varsity

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 28: Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Dr ML Jat, on Saturday expressed confidence that Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir) is on course to achieve the number one rank among India's agricultural universities, as he inaugurated a three-day national workshop on natural farming at the varsity's Shalimar campus.

Addressing scientists, policymakers, and progressive farmers at the opening of the workshop titled 'Promoting Ecological Resources and Process for Natural Farming Production System Through Science and Innovation' Dr Jat commended SKUAST-K's rapid strides in agricultural research and innovation. Calling for outcome-oriented deliberations anchored in the vision of 'One Nation, One Agriculture, and One Team', the ICAR chief urged stakeholders to translate scientific discussions into actionable policy and field recommendations for sustainable farming.

The three-day conclave, jointly organised by the ICAR–Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research (ICAR-IIFSR), Modipuram, and SKUAST-Kashmir, also marked the commencement of the Annual Group Meeting of the All India Network Programme on Natural Farming (AINP-NF) and the Review Meeting of NMNF-CRG.

During his maiden visit to SKUAST-K, Dr Jat also inaugurated the newly constructed Chinar Hostel and toured several flagship university facilities, including the Fertigation System, Prototype Production Unit, Directorate of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Research



Centre for Residue and Quality Analysis (RCRQ), Artificial Intelligence (AI) Lab, Fabrication Lab, and the Health and Wellness Centre. He also inspected exhibition stalls displaying SKUAST-K's patented technologies and agri-startup innovations.

Speaking on the occasion, SKUAST-Kashmir, Vice-Chancellor, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai outlined the university's recent advances in research, entrepreneurship, and farmer-centric extension. Underscoring the need to harness Jammu and Kashmir's niche crops alongside strict Good Agricultural Practices and farm-gate pesticide residue monitoring, Prof Ganai stressed that scientific validation and robust extension mechanisms are essential to mainstream natural and regenerative farming. Highlighting the national footprint of natural farming, Dr N Ravisankar, National Principal Investigator of AINP-NF, presented the programme's progress report, noting that natural farming currently spans only 3.6 percent of India's agricultural area, a figure that underscores both the gap and the immediate scope for scaling up through region-specific technologies.

ICAR Deputy Director General (Natural Resource Management) Dr AK Nayak called for deeper institutional synergy and hard scientific evidence to guide national research and policy frameworks.

Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Natural Farming Science University, Dr CK Timbadia echoed the call for systematic scientific validation, while ICAR-IIFSR, Director, Dr Sunil Kumar highlighted the workshop's role in strengthening institutional backing for wider farmer adoption.

SKUAST-K, Director Research, Dr Syed Zameer Hussain underscored the role of integrated natural farming systems in safeguarding food security against climate change, advocating a transition toward an 'Evergreen Revolution'.

ADG, ICAR, Dr A Vellumuragan emphasised mainstreaming regenerative agriculture through collective learning and knowledge exchange.

HT EDITORIAL

Kashmir's Drug Crisis Needs More Than Police Action

Breaking The Drug Supply Chain is Essential, But Saving a Generation Requires Stronger Families, Responsible Institutions and Effective Rehabilitation

Kashmir is facing a serious social challenge that can no longer be treated as merely a law-and-order problem. The growing menace of drug abuse, particularly among young people, threatens not only individual lives but also the social fabric of families and communities. Behind every case of addiction lies a story of shattered aspirations, emotional distress, family suffering and a future placed at risk. The scale of this challenge demands a response that goes far beyond arrests, seizures and periodic awareness campaigns.

There is no denying that law enforcement agencies have a critical role in combating the drug menace. Those involved in trafficking, supplying and distributing narcotic substances must face stringent legal action. The networks that exploit vulnerable youth for profit need to be identified and dismantled. However, policing, however effective, cannot by itself address the deeper social and psychological dimensions of addiction. Cutting off the supply is only one part of the battle; preventing demand and helping those already trapped in substance abuse are equally important.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the challenge requires particular urgency. The vulnerability of young people to drugs, coupled with the social stigma surrounding addiction, makes early intervention essential. Families often recognise the problem only when it has reached an alarming stage. In many cases, fear of social embarrassment prevents them from seeking professional assistance in time. Such silence only allows the problem to deepen. Addiction must be confronted with firmness against drug networks, but with understanding and compassion towards those who need treatment and rehabilitation.

The education system must become a stronger line of defence. Schools, colleges and universities should move beyond occasional awareness programmes and incorporate sustained drug-prevention initiatives into their institutional activities. Students need credible information about the physical, psychological and social consequences of substance abuse. Equally important is providing access to counselling, encouraging participation in sports and cultural activities, and creating an environment where young people can discuss emotional and personal difficulties without fear of judgement.

Parents cannot afford to remain detached from the changing realities of their children's lives. Open communication, emotional support and timely attention to behavioural changes can help identify warning signs before they develop into serious problems. Communities, religious and social organisations, local representatives and civil society groups must also assume greater responsibility. The fight against drugs cannot succeed when society treats addiction as somebody else's problem.

The government, meanwhile, must strengthen the institutional response through accessible de-addiction facilities, qualified counsellors, sustained rehabilitation programmes and effective aftercare. Rehabilitation cannot end with the completion of treatment. Recovering individuals need family support, opportunities for education and employment, and protection from social discrimination. Without these safeguards, the possibility of relapse remains a serious concern.

Another equally important aspect is accountability. Anti-drug campaigns must be evaluated on measurable outcomes rather than the number of meetings conducted or pledges administered. The public deserves transparency about enforcement action, rehabilitation capacity, prevention programmes and the progress achieved in addressing the problem. Coordination between the Police, Health and Education Departments must become a continuous institutional mechanism rather than an occasional exercise.

Kashmir cannot afford to lose another generation to addiction. The challenge is too serious to be reduced to slogans, ceremonial pledges or isolated enforcement drives. It requires a sustained public movement in which every institution understands its responsibility and every citizen recognises the consequences of indifference.

The real measure of success in the fight against drugs will not be the number of awareness campaigns organised or arrests made, but the number of young lives protected, individuals rehabilitated and families saved from the devastating consequences of addiction. Kashmir needs a society that refuses to surrender its youth to drugs.

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HT SUNDAY GOSSIP

SHORT STORY

Ignorance of the Present Age



By YOUSUF MIR

(This story explores the idea that ignorance is not merely a lack of education. Sometimes, even educated people fail to understand the truth because of their stubbornness, ego and prejudice.)

Fayyaz was a prosperous and experienced farmer. He had spent many years in agriculture and understood the changing weather, the condition of the soil and the right time for harvesting crops. His two sons, Yasin and Tasin, were highly educated and took considerable pride in their academic achievements.

The paddy crop was nearing maturity. One day, Yasin suddenly decided that it was time to harvest it. Without consulting his father, he hired labourers and began cutting the crop.

Fayyaz tried to stop him.

"Son, the grains are not fully ripe yet. Wait for a few more days. The weather is also likely to change, and there is a possibility of rain."

Yasin heard his father but ignored his advice.

"Father, you still rely on old experiences. Times have changed. We know when the crop should be harvested."



Fayyaz remained silent.

The following day, Tasin also decided to harvest the crop, following his brother's example. Fayyaz tried to explain the situation to him as well, but Tasin too dismissed his father's advice and insisted that his decision was correct. By evening, a large portion of the field had been cleared. Both brothers returned home satisfied with their work, convinced that they had made the right decision at the right time.

Fayyaz sat quietly in his room. He neither said anything nor argued with them.

Suddenly, thunder rumbled in the sky. Dark clouds gathered, and heavy rain began to fall.

Everyone in the house became worried. The harvested paddy was lying in the open, and the grains had not yet fully ripened. The rain placed the two brothers in a difficult situation they had never anticipated.

Both brothers could only regret their decision.

The next day, Fayyaz's elderly mother visited the house. Seeing the harvested paddy and her two grandsons sitting anxiously, she said with concern,

"Education has its own importance, but life's decisions cannot be made through books alone. They also require wisdom and experience."

Fayyaz remained silent for a while. Then he looked at his sons and said,

"About ten years ago, I met a friend of mine, Dr Ahmer, at Bangla Bagh. He was a scholar, well known for his pleasant manner of speaking. During our conversation, he told me that he was posted at a primary school in a border area. I expressed my disappointment and said that a scholar like him deserved to be at a university."

Fayyaz paused for a moment and continued,

"I asked him what subject he was working on these days. He smiled and replied, 'Ignorance of the Present Age.' I was surprised and asked him what he meant by that. He explained that ignorance was not merely a lack of education. If an educated person refuses to listen to what is right because of stubbornness, ego or prejudice, considers someone with greater experience inferior, and refuses to admit his own mistakes, that too is ignorance. If education does not teach a person to understand and listen to others, then such ignorance still exists in our society."

Silence filled the room.

Yasin glanced at the harvested paddy and then looked at his father. Tasin, too, sat with his head lowered.

Fayyaz said,

"What has happened cannot be undone. Now, save whatever can still be saved."

Both brothers immediately got up. They called the labourers and began working to protect the harvested paddy from the rain. This time, they listened carefully to the advice of an experienced labourer and moved the harvested crop to a safer place accordingly.

A few days later, when it was time to resume work in the fields, Yasin looked at his father instead of making a decision on his own.

"Father, what do you think we should do now?"

Tasin also turned towards him.

Fayyaz smiled. This time, there was quiet satisfaction on his face.

Yasin and Tasin walked towards the fields alongside their father.

Yousuf Mir hails from Bandipora and can be reached at :Email yousufmir555@gmail.com

Chrysanthemum: An Autumn Flower



Sahil Manzoor



The Kashmir Valley is blessed with extraordinary natural beauty, and every season brings a new charm to its landscapes. From the colourful tulips of spring to the lush green meadows of summer, the golden leaves of autumn, and the snow-covered mountains of winter, Kashmir offers a beautiful display of nature throughout the year. Among the many flowers that enhance the beauty of the valley, the chrysanthemum holds a special place. Known for its attractive colours, different shapes, and seasonal charm, this flower adds freshness and elegance to gardens, parks, and household surroundings during autumn.

Although chrysanthemums are widely admired for their beauty, their importance extends beyond decoration. They encourage people to develop an interest in gardening, promote environmental awareness, and offer opportunities for employment through floriculture. By nurturing a love for flowers, we can make our surroundings more beautiful while contributing to environmental protection and economic development.

Chrysanthemum: A Symbol of Autumn Beauty

Chrysanthemums are among the most popular ornamental flowers cultivated during the autumn season. They are available in a wide range of colours, including white, yellow, pink, red, purple, and orange. Their attractive petals and different flower forms make them suitable for pots, flower beds, parks, and decorative arrangements.

In Kashmir, the arrival of autumn provides an excellent opportunity to appreciate the beauty of these flowers. As the weather becomes cooler and the landscape begins to change, chrysanthemums bring colour and freshness to gardens. Their presence reminds us that nature continues to offer beauty even as the seasons change.

Every household should try to maintain a small garden with chrysanthemums and other seasonal flowers. Even a limited space can be transformed into a beautiful corner of nature with a few pots, suitable soil, and regular care. Such a practice can encourage families, particularly children, to develop an appreciation for plants and understand the importance of protecting the environment.

Home Gardens: A Natural Source of Freshness

A home garden is more than a collection of plants; it is a source of peace, freshness, and happiness. In today's busy lifestyle, people often spend much of their time indoors or in front of electronic devices. A garden provides an opportunity to reconnect with nature and enjoy a refreshing environment.

Plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen through photosynthesis, helping maintain the balance of gases in the atmosphere. Trees and shrubs also provide shade, support biodiversity, and improve the appearance of our surroundings. Flowers add colour and fragrance, making gardens pleasant places for relaxation.

Kashmir is naturally rich in vegetation, including herbs, shrubs, trees, and grasses. Its mountains, meadows, plateaus, and riverbanks reflect the extraordinary diversity of the natural world. By developing home gardens, we can bring a small part of this natural beauty into our daily lives.

People should plant flowers according to the available space, soil conditions, and local climate. Those with larger spaces can establish flower beds, while people living in smaller houses can use pots and containers. The main objective should be to develop a habit of caring for plants and appreciating nature.

Floriculture: Beauty with Economic Value

Floriculture refers to the cultivation, management, and commercial production of flowers and ornamental plants. It is an important branch of horticulture that offers considerable economic opportunities.

The demand for flowers increases during weddings, festivals, religious occasions, official functions, and other celebrations. Flowers are also used in landscaping, decoration, hotels, public parks, and commercial establishments. Consequently, floriculture can provide employment for growers, nursery owners, gardeners, flower sellers, designers, and transport workers.

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PART 2

Beyond the Rockstar

The Journey, Identity and Legacy of Qazi Touqeer



Wani Arfat

However, he kept performing in India as well as abroad, including in Australia, the United States and Singapore. He performed in the music video of Afghan Jalebi, which was part of the Bollywood movie Phantom, composed by Asrar in 2015. Qazi's musical career includes Kashmiri, Hindi and Urdu songs.

A Friendship Spanning Over Twenty Years

One of the most amazing things about Qazi's story is his friendship with Arijit Singh. The two met while participating in Fame Gurukul, and neither of them had any idea how their lives would turn out to be. It is said that the two lived in the same room and went through the uncertainties of working towards building their careers in music.

Some years down the line, Qazi was seen participating in Bigg Boss 20, and Arijit openly came out in support of his friend Rockstar, saying that he would watch the show for the first time because Qazi was participating in it. Qazi also went to Arijit's hometown, Jiaganj, in West Bengal, and their cricket matches and scooter rides became viral on the internet.

While inside the Bigg Boss house, Qazi talked about how dedicated Arijit is, his creativity and how hard he works on his music. He even sang Tum Hi Ho as a tribute to his friend. There have been talks about a collaboration between the two in the musical world, but the project is yet to materialise. However, some groundwork has already been done.

Bigg Boss 20: A New Episode

With Salman Khan as the host, Bigg Boss 20 was launched on September 6, 2026. Qazi's return to national television, after being away from reality television for many years, was noticed soon enough for his wit, charisma, songs and famous line, "I am a Rockstar, baby." Salman Khan praised his voice, and his singing of "O Mere Dil Ke Chain" and dancing to "Ek Pal Ka Jeena" reminded people of his admiration for Hrithik Roshan.

His fitness was another highlight when he did 100 push-ups at once. In a brand campaign, he was awarded the title of Flipkart Fashion Icon, along with a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, which he gave to his wife. Actress Wamiqa Gabbi also applauded him for his optimism and entertainment value.



But there have been some disputes related to him as well. One such dispute occurred between Qazi and Manish Goel when Qazi felt that his personal space had been violated during a role-play activity. This was an allegation that Manish Goel denied. Fairness is the key here, and every allegation should not necessarily be considered a fact. It is not necessary for one to support an artist by agreeing with everything he says or does.

Family, Language and Cultural Identity

Behind Qazi's public journey is his supportive family. His wife, Hifsa, a dentist, has been encouraging him to chase his dreams and be part of the show. He answered the questions regarding his marital status raised inside the house and said that he was married. He also spoke about his wife's support. Her emotional message and his decision to gift the Rs 5 lakh prize money to her were a reflection of the role played by the family in an artist's life.

One of the most memorable moments came during the episode of Weekend Ka Vaar, which was telecast on October 25. Srinagar-born Farrhana Bhatt came on the show and sang her song named Shahiba. Their conversation in the Kashmiri language turned out to be much more than just a usual conversation. He greeted her by saying, "Wari chukh theek chukh?" and she answered, "Shukar, shukar, Hazrat, tuhi chiv theek." They also talked about the

The views and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not reflect the editorial policy of Headlines Today at all and in any manner.
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Strengthening India-Lebanon partnership through community development!



By M S Nazki

India strengthens its partnership with Lebanon through grassroots Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), humanitarian relief, peacekeeping community support, and institutional capacity building…

-Key Pillars of Community & Development Cooperation

• Quick Impact Projects (QIPs): India has supported local development initiatives across the Shouf Biosphere Reserve, Jezzine Municipality, Ketermeya Municipality, South Lebanon municipalities, and Lebanese ministries (including Foreign Affairs & Emigrants, Public Health, and Youth & Sports), alongside water and agriculture support for local residents.

• UNIFIL Peacekeeping Outreach: The Indian Army Battalion (INDBATT), serving with UNIFIL since 1998, delivers medical, engineering, and community assistance to local populations in southern Lebanon.

• Humanitarian & Healthcare Aid: India has provided relief supplies after the Beirut port explosion, Jaipur Foot artificial limb camps, and medical shipments—including 33 tonnes of medicines in October 2024.

• Capacity Building & Bilateral Priorities: Cooperation pairs physical and technical support with training and institutional exchanges, while recent diplomatic engagements (including the first India–Lebanon Foreign Office Consultations in November 2026) highlight trade, pharmaceuticals, and digital public infrastructure..

-India–Lebanon love stories often bridge distinct cultural and religious traditions, combining Indian festivities like sangeets and Diwali with Lebanese customs such as zaffe entrances and Mediterranean hospitality.

-Real-Life Couples and Weddings

• Diksha and Mazen: Their cross-cultural journey from India to Lebanon was featured in celebrations held in Lebanon, including the Arz region and the Ottoman Saray.

• Shikha Ramjutan and Moe Dekmak: After meeting as clinical pharmacists at Imperial College London in 2018, the couple hosted multi-day festivities in Mauritius in 2025 that blended an Indian sangeet and a Tarun Tahiliani lehenga with a Lebanese zaffe.

• Nada Alameddine and Utsav Akhoury: Their Indo-Lebanese wedding took place in Jaipur, pairing Bollywood touches with souk-themed mehndi elements.

• Historical & Public Accounts: Reports also highlight Fifi Abdou's past romance with an Indian man she met in Lebanon, where plans to marry in India were halted after her father passed away.

-Common Themes and Experiences

• Blending Traditions: Many couples celebrate both Indian holidays (such as Diwali, Holi, and Karwa Chauth) and Lebanese Christian or cultural traditions (such as Christmas and Easter) without giving up their roots.

• Family and Cultural Dynamics: While many families embrace cross-cultural integration, some couples face initial hurdles. In a single user's comment on Reddit, an Indian Punjabi Sikh poster shared that his parents initially disapproved of his plans to marry a Lebanese Catholic woman due to cultural expectations...

-This was a bit of a lighter stuff and thus it is time to get serious:

-Lt Gen Naveen Sachdeva, AVSM, SM, DG SD (Indian Army) inaugurated an Indian Battalion Quick Impact Project (QIP) at Rachaya



Al Foukhar in South Lebanon—a water pump funded by the Embassy of India in Lebanon.

-The project will improve access to water for local residents and support agricultural activities in the village and surrounding areas, contributing to the well-being and livelihoods of the community.

-The inauguration was attended by representatives of Dr Kassem Hachem and Mr Firas Hamdan, Chief of the Arkoub Union, Brig Gen Nabil of the 7th Brigade, Lebanese Armed Forces, regional mayors and Col Prasoon Singh, SM, CONTICO INDBATT.

-The General Officer interacted with local and military leadership, highlighting the Indian Battalion's contributions to the UNIFIL mandate through operational commitments, humanitarian assistance and community development initiatives.

-He also appreciated the continued cooperation of the people of Lebanon and reaffirmed India's

commitment to peace and stability in South Lebanon.

-During a separate visit to the Ameel Association Clinic at Kafar Hammam, the General Officer reviewed the medical facilities, interacted with the clinic staff and was briefed on the healthcare support extended by INDBATT. He also donated medicines to strengthen the clinic's capacity to provide essential medical services to the local population.

-These engagements reflect India's continued commitment to supporting local communities through meaningful development initiatives, healthcare assistance and strong partnerships with the people of South Lebanon.

-India and Lebanon do not have a major bilateral arms-trade or joint-exercise alliance, and their military relationship centers on United Nations peacekeeping in southern Lebanon.

-India–Lebanon Military Ties

• UNIFIL Deployment: The Indian Army battalion (INDBATT) has served in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) since November 1998. Around 600 Indian personnel operate in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon.

• Coordination with Lebanese Forces: Indian peacekeepers patrol their assigned sector along the Blue Line and coordinate with the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and UNIFIL command to monitor stability.

• Civil-Military Outreach: INDBATT provides medical, veterinary, and community support to local residents in southern Lebanon.

-CONTICO INDBATT refers to the Contingent Commander of the Indian Battalion (INDBATT) deployed with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Key Facts

• Role: Commands the Indian Army peacekeeping battalion (around 600 personnel) operating in South Lebanon since November 1998.

• Current Commander (INDBATT XXVII): Col. Prasoon Singh, SM (5 RAJPUT), who assumed charge on July 14, 2026.

• Responsibilities: Oversees UNIFIL peacekeeping duties, civil-military coordination, and local community outreach initiatives in southern Lebanon

-The mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UN Peacekeeping) is to monitor the cessation of hostilities, support the Lebanese Armed Forces, and help Lebanon and Israel implement UN Security Council Resolution 1701 in southern Lebanon. Under Resolution 2790 (adopted in August 2025), UNIFIL's final mandate extension ends on December 31, 2026, with drawdown and withdrawal scheduled through 2027.

-Core Duties Under Resolutions 425 & 426 (1978)

-UNIFIL was originally created on March 19, 1978, to:

• Confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

• Restore international peace and security.

• Assist the Government of Lebanon in restoring its effective authority in the area.

-Expanded Duties Under Resolution 1701 (2006)

-Following the 2006 conflict, Resolution 1701 expanded UNIFIL's role to assist the Lebanese Armed Forces, monitor the cessation of hostilities, support a weapons-free zone between the Blue Line and the Litani River, and facilitate humanitarian access and the safe return of displaced persons.

-Mandate End and Transition

• End Date: December 31, 2026, as outlined in Resolution 2790.

• Withdrawal: A phased drawdown and hand-over of positions to the Lebanese army will take place throughout 2027.

-Historical links between India and Lebanon span ancient trade networks, shared cultural exchanges, and modern diplomatic ties established in 1954.

-Ancient & Trade Connections

• Maritime and Land Routes: Ancient India traded with West Asia and the Mediterranean through overland caravan paths and Indian Ocean sea routes. Indian goods like spices, textiles, and gemstones moved west alongside Mediterranean and West Asian items.

• Cultural and Culinary Exchange: Stories and culinary traditions traveled across West Asia and the Indian subcontinent over centuries. Sweets related to jalebi existed in West Asia (such as zalabia or zelibia) before evolving in India.• Myth vs. Archaeology: Claims on social media that ancient Indians sculptors or elephants built Lebanon's Baalbek temples around 4,000 years ago lack credible archaeological evidence. Scholars attribute the massive stones and temple architecture to local quarrying and later Greco-Roman construction.

-Modern Diplomatic History

• Formal Ties (1954): India and Lebanon established diplomatic relations in 1954, opening embassies in Beirut and New Delhi.

• Civil War Resilience (1975–1990): India kept its embassy in Beirut functioning throughout most of the Lebanese Civil War, unlike many foreign missions that withdrew.

• Peacekeeping & Cooperation: Since 1998, an Indian Army battalion (INDBATT) has served in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), alongside ongoing trade, cultural ties, and diplomatic consultations.

PART 2

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



Jameela Akhter

When Chaploosi enters journalism, its first casualty is often the ordinary citizen. Consider the resident who has repeatedly complained about inadequate public services, the parent seeking answers about the functioning of an educational institution, the patient struggling to access healthcare, the employee awaiting justice, or the community questioning the implementation of a public project.

These people do not possess privileged access to decision-makers. They may not have the means to attract attention through personal networks or public relations campaigns. Their principal avenue of visibility is often an independent media willing to listen, investigate and ask questions on their behalf.

When journalism becomes preoccupied with praising authority, these concerns are pushed to the margins. Routine official announcements receive prominent attention, while unresolved public grievances receive little. Ceremonial appearances are documented in detail, while the outcomes of public programmes remain unexamined. The powerful are given repeated opportunities to explain themselves, while citizens struggling with the consequences of their decisions are rarely heard. This imbalance distorts the very purpose of the media.

A democratic society does not need journalism merely to reproduce what authorities say. Official statements have their own channels of dissemination. The distinctive contribution of journalism lies in independently verifying those statements, examining their implications and comparing official claims with realities on the ground.

If the media simply echoes the establishment, citizens are deprived of the independent scrutiny that gives journalism its democratic value. The question, therefore, is not whether a journalist has praised a good initiative. Fair reporting should recognise genuine achievements. The question is whether the same journalist is equally prepared to investigate failures, challenge exaggerated claims and report inconvenient truths . Credibility is built through consistency, not selective courage.

It is important to distinguish professional courtesy from Chaploosi. Journalists need not be rude, hostile or discourteous to officials. Professional relationships can be respectful, constructive and civil. A journalist can acknowledge an administrator's genuine contribution, appreciate an effective public initiative and maintain cordial relations with political representatives without compromising independence.

The distinction lies in whether respect is reciprocal and professional, or whether it becomes a mechanism of submission. Respect allows a journalist to ask difficult questions without personal hostility. Sycophancy discourages those questions for fear of displeasing the person being addressed.

Respect recognises merit wherever it exists. Sycophancy manufactures merit to please someone. Respect preserves the journalist's right to disagree. Sycophancy treats disagreement as disloyalty. Respect is compatible with scrutiny. Sycophancy seeks to replace scrutiny with praise.

A journalist must be capable of shaking hands with an official in the morning and asking that same official an uncomfortable but necessary question in the afternoon. There is no contradiction in such conduct. It is the essence of professional independence. Indeed, if cordial relations prevent difficult questions,



those relations have ceased to serve journalism and have begun to control it.

One of the misconceptions that fuels this culture is the belief that professional success depends upon cultivating influential people. This belief transforms journalism from a public service into a personal investment. Contacts become assets, invitations become rewards, visibility becomes currency, and praise becomes a strategy for securing future advantages.

Under such conditions, the journalist's professional identity becomes increasingly dependent on external validation. The measure of success shifts from the quality of reporting to the number of influential people one knows. Recognition becomes more important than research, and personal proximity begins to overshadow professional contribution.

But journalism was never meant to be a ladder for personal elevation at the cost of public responsibility. The profession can certainly provide recognition, career advancement and opportunities for meaningful engagement. There is nothing wrong with professional ambition. The problem begins when ambition is pursued by abandoning the principles that make the profession worthy of respect.

A journalist who gains personal prominence while weakening public trust has not necessarily advanced journalism. He may simply have advanced himself. The distinction matters because journalism derives its moral authority not from the status of its practitioners but from the reliability and independence of their work.

Not every compromise is visible in a published article. Some are evident in stories that never appear, questions that are never asked and investigations that are quietly abandoned. Silence can be a legitimate editorial decision. Not every allegation is verified, not every issue merits publication, and responsible journalism must respect evidence, privacy and fairness. But silence becomes ethically troubling when it is motivated by fear, personal loyalty, anticipated favours or a desire to preserve privileged relationships.

When the same journalist who questions one authority repeatedly avoids scrutinising another because of personal proximity, the issue is no longer editorial judgement. It is selective accountability. The danger is especially acute when such selectivity becomes routine. The public begins to notice that some individuals are scrutinised relentlessly while others are protected from even reasonable questions.

This inconsistency undermines the credibility of the media as a whole. It encourages cynicism and creates the perception that journalistic scrutiny can be influenced by personal relationships rather than public interest. A journalist need not oppose every powerful individual. But every powerful individual must remain subject to the same standards of legitimate scrutiny. The test of independence is not how boldly a journalist criticises those he dislikes. It is whether he can question those he admires, respects or depends upon. The authority of journalism is fundamentally different from the authority of government or law. Journalists generally cannot compel citizens to accept their conclusions. Their influence depends upon the trust they earn through accuracy, fairness and credibility. Once that trust erodes, the consequences extend far beyond individual reputations. People begin to doubt news reports. Genuine investigations are dismissed as motivated attacks. Honest journalists are viewed with suspicion because the profession's collective credibility has been weakened by those who misuse its privileges.

The result is a dangerous paradox: at a time when society needs credible information more than ever, the institutions responsible for providing it risk losing the confidence of the people they serve. The damage is not limited to one newspaper, one television channel, one digital platform or one journalist. It affects the public's ability to distinguish verified information from propaganda, accountability journalism from public relations, and independent scrutiny from manufactured praise.

The profession must therefore recognise that Chaploosi is not a harmless personal habit. When it influences editorial choices and professional conduct, it becomes a form of institutional decay. It corrodes the distinction between journalism and publicity, between reporting and promotion, and between serving the public and serving power.

The way forward does not lie in condemning every journalist who maintains cordial relations with officials, nor in romanticising confrontation as the only proof of courage. It lies in rebuilding a professional culture where independence is practised, ethical standards are respected and public interest remains the central consideration.

Media organisations must invest in training, mentorship and editorial accountability. New entrants should be encouraged to understand verification, fairness, media law, constitutional values, conflicts of interest and the responsibilities associated with press freedom.

Editors must protect reporters who pursue legitimate investigations, even when those investigations create discomfort for influential people. Professional associations should promote ethical conduct, address credible complaints and resist the misuse of journalistic identity for personal advantage.

Journalists themselves must undertake a more difficult exercise: honest self-examination. Before publishing a story, they should ask whether the information has been verified, whether relevant perspectives have been represented and whether the public interest justifies publication.

Before praising an official, they should ask whether the praise is supported by demonstrable facts. Before remaining silent, they should examine whether the decision arises from legitimate editorial considerations or from a desire to preserve personal access. Before accepting a benefit, favour or privilege, they should consider whether it creates an actual or perceived conflict of interest. And before celebrating their proximity to power, they should ask whether they remain equally accessible to the people whose concerns they are expected to represent.

Above all, journalists must recover the courage to say no, no to manufactured narratives, no to uncritical glorification, no to personal favours that compromise independence, and no to the idea that professional advancement requires unquestioning loyalty to those in authority.

Independence is not sustained by declarations alone. It is demonstrated through everyday decisions, particularly when ethical conduct carries a personal cost. Ultimately, the crisis of journalism cannot be resolved by pointing fingers at governments, administrators, political leaders or powerful institutions alone. External pressure is real in many settings, and threats to press freedom deserve serious attention. Yet the profession must also confront the compromises it makes voluntarily.

A journalist who surrenders independent judgement for personal convenience cannot place the entire responsibility for that surrender on the powerful person who benefits from it. Power may encourage flattery, but the journalist remains responsible for choosing whether to offer it. Influence may reward silence, but the journalist remains responsible for deciding whether to remain silent.

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(The Future of Journalism Lies Beyond AI)



Dr. Vijay Garg

Journalism is one of the most important pillars of a democratic society. It informs citizens, questions authority, exposes wrongdoing, highlights social concerns and gives a voice to those who are often unheard. Its true strength lies not merely in delivering information but in discovering the truth, understanding human experiences and holding power accountable. In the rapidly evolving digital age, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the media industry. However, journalism must remember that technology can assist in reporting, but it cannot replace the human insight, ethical responsibility and social sensitivity that give journalism its real purpose.

AI has entered almost every aspect of modern media. News organisations are using AI-powered tools to collect information, analyse large datasets, prepare summaries, translate articles, generate headlines, transcribe interviews and even produce news reports. These technologies save time, reduce repetitive work and help journalists process enormous amounts of information. AI can also identify emerging trends, detect patterns in public data and assist in investigative journalism.

There is no doubt that AI has made news production faster and more convenient. A task that once required several hours can sometimes be completed within minutes. Newsrooms with limited resources can use AI tools to improve productivity and reach audiences in multiple languages. Small media organisations and independent journalists can also benefit from these technological developments.

Yet, speed is not the same as accuracy, and the quantity of information is not a measure of journalistic quality. The growing dependence on AI raises an important question: if machines can generate news reports, what makes a journalist indispensable?

The answer lies in human understanding.

Journalism Is More Than Producing Content

Journalism is not simply the process of collecting facts and arranging them into paragraphs. It requires curiosity, critical thinking, observation, courage, compassion and the ability to understand the wider implications of an event.

A journalist reporting on a farmer's suicide must look beyond statistics and investigate the social, economic and psychological circumstances behind the tragedy. A report about unemployment must explore the struggles of young people, the shortcomings of the education system and the realities of the job market. Similarly, reporting on poverty requires more than presenting numerical data; it demands an understanding of human suffering and the circumstances that perpetuate inequality.

AI can summarise information about these issues, but it cannot independently experience human pain, understand the emotional complexity of a family or assume moral responsibility for the consequences of its reporting.

Human journalists bring empathy and context to their work. They can listen to people, recognise unspoken concerns, ask sensitive questions and understand the emotions behind their words. These qualities make journalism meaningful and socially relevant.

The Challenge of Fake News and Misinformation

One of the greatest challenges of the AI era is the rapid spread of misinformation. Artificial intelligence can generate realistic images, videos, audio recordings and written content that may appear genuine but are completely fabricated. Deepfakes can manipulate public opinion, damage reputations and create confusion during elections, social conflicts and national emergencies.

The danger is particularly serious when false information spreads faster than verified news. Social media platforms reward attention, and sensational or emotionally charged content often attracts more engagement than carefully researched reporting.

In such circumstances, journalists must become more responsible and vigilant. Verification of sources, cross-checking facts, examining original documents and confirming visual evidence are essential responsibilities. AI-generated information should never be published merely because it appears convincing.

The credibility of journalism depends on its commitment to truth. A journalist must be willing to correct mistakes, acknowledge uncertainty and distinguish facts from opinions. Technology can support fact-checking, but the final responsibility for publication must remain with human editors and journalists.

The Risk of Algorithm-Driven Journalism

Another concern is the growing influence of algorithms on news selection and distribution. Digital platforms often recommend content based on user preferences, browsing history and engagement patterns. As a result, readers may increasingly encounter information that confirms their existing beliefs while missing alternative perspectives.

This can create information bubbles, deepen social divisions and weaken informed public debate.

Journalism should not become a race for clicks, views and advertising revenue. Its purpose is not merely to entertain audiences or satisfy algorithms. It must also present uncomfortable truths, investigate neglected issues and bring important public concerns into the national conversation.

A responsible newspaper or news channel should give attention to education, healthcare,

agriculture, environment, scientific research, employment, gender equality and social justice, even when these subjects do not generate immediate online popularity.

AI as an Assistant, Not a Replacement

The future of journalism should not be viewed as a conflict between humans and machines. Instead, it should be based on cooperation. AI can become a valuable assistant if used responsibly and intelligently.

DC Kathua chairs DLCGD committee meeting to review progress of gas grid connectivity

Meeting reviews progress of city gas distribution network, key infrastructure development in Kathua

■ HT News Network



KATHUA, NOVEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, today chaired a meeting of the District-Level City Gas Distribution (CGD) Committee to review the progress of gas grid connectivity and associated infrastructure development in the district.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed the progress of the Gurdaspur–Jammu gas pipeline in Kathua, being undertaken as part of the broader Jammu and Kashmir Gas Grid connectivity initiative, aimed at expanding access to clean and efficient fuel across the region.

The meeting also discussed the rollout of City Gas Distribution (CGD) infrastructure under the national initiative for expanding gas connectivity. The Committee further reviewed key infrastructure works being undertaken by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), including the establishment of three District Regulating Station (DRS) sites in Kathua, which are crucial for facilitating gas distribution and ensuring smooth network operations.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among all concerned departments and executing agencies for smooth implementation of the project. He called for timely resolution of issues and expediting the requisite processes to ensure that gas infrastructure development progresses as per the planned timelines. He also underscored the significance of the initiative in promoting cleaner energy and enhancing public convenience.

The meeting underscored the importance of strengthening gas infrastructure to promote cleaner energy, improve access to piped natural gas and contribute towards sustainable development in the region. The meeting was attended ADDC Surender Mohan Sharma, GM DIC Mushtaq Chaudhary, ACD Gulshan Kumar, CEO Municipal Council, AD FCS&CA and officers and representatives of the concerned departments.

MVD Doda conducts audit of school buses in Bhaderwah

■ HT News Network

DODA, NOVEMBER 28: The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), Doda, led by ARTO Kuldeep Kumar, conducted a comprehensive audit and inspection of school buses operating in Bhaderwah to ensure the safety of schoolchildren and compliance with prescribed transport regulations. During the inspection, officials verified essential documents, including Registration Certificates (RCs), Fitness Certificates, insurance documents, Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates, permits and driving licences of school bus drivers. Safety features such as emergency exits, first-aid boxes, fire extinguishers, speed governors and other mandatory safety equipment were also thoroughly inspected. School bus operators and drivers were directed to strictly adhere to the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act and follow all prescribed safety norms. They were cautioned against overloading, overspeeding and using mobile phones while driving. They were also instructed to ensure that all school buses remain roadworthy, properly maintained and equipped with the requisite safety measures. The inspection drive was conducted with the objective of enhancing the safety of schoolchildren and promoting responsible school transportation. The Motor Vehicles Department appealed to all educational institutions and transport operators.

SLMT Training under 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' concludes at Samba

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 28: The two-day State Level Master Trainers (SLMT) Tier-I Training under Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PPBP) – Round-II concluded today at the Conference Hall, District Administrative Complex, Samba.

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

As many as 36 participants, including CDPOs, Supervisors, one Champion Anganwadi Worker (AWW) from each Poshan Project and Additional Resource Persons from District Samba, Jammu and Kathua participated in the training programme.

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

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

DC reviews arrangements for JKSSB Sub-Inspector examination in Udhampur

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Ananth Dwivedi, today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the smooth and fair conduct of the OMR-based written examination for the post of Sub-Inspector in the Home Department, scheduled to be conducted by the JKSSB on November 29, 2026.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police and other concerned officers.

At the outset, the ADC briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the examination. He informed that 19 examination centres have been established across the district, where 6,674 candidates are scheduled to appear in the examination.

During the meeting, the DC took a detailed review of the preparedness and arrangements at all examination centres. He directed the concerned officers to strictly adhere to the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures and ensure close coordination among all departments for the seamless conduct of the examination.

The deployment of videographers was also finalised to ensure proper documentation of the examination process.

The DC directed all personnel deployed on examination duty to remain vigilant and discharge their assigned responsibilities with utmost care, diligence and impartiality. He emphasised that all requisite arrangements, including logistical, administrative and security measures put in place well in advance to ensure that the examination conducted in a smooth, fair and transparent manner. The deployment of videographers was also finalised to ensure proper documentation of the examination process.

The DC directed all personnel deployed on examination duty to remain vigilant and discharge their assigned responsibilities with utmost care, diligence and impartiality. He emphasised that all requisite arrangements, including logistical, administrative and security measures put in place well in advance to ensure.

DC Udhampur conducts extensive tour of Panchari, Moungri, Inspects ongoing PMGSY road projects

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 28: To review the progress of ongoing developmental works, the Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Ananth Dwivedi, today conducted an extensive tour of Panchari and Moungri areas of the district and inspected various road projects being executed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

During the tour, the DC took stock of the progress of various ongoing road works and reviewed their physical status. He directed the Executive Engineer, PMGSY, to expedite the pace of work and ensure completion of all projects within the stipulated timelines while strictly adhering to the prescribed quality standards.

He further stressed that no compromise should be made on the quality of work and directed the officers to ensure that all projects are completed as per the approved timelines.

Later, the DC also visited GMC Udhampur and inspected the ongoing construction work on the 200-bedded Hospital at the premises of the Associated Hospital, GMC Udhampur.

During the visit, he reviewed the progress of the project and directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of construction and ensure its timely completion as per the prescribed schedule, maintaining the required quality standards.

During his visit to Panchari, the Deputy Commissioner met the families of the victims injured in yesterday's wild bear attack and listened to their concerns.

He assured them of necessary support and informed them that teams of the Wildlife Department had been deputed to trace and track the wild bear. He directed the concerned officers to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of locals and prevent any further incident.

ADDC Kulgam Chairs Meeting on Source Sustainability under JJM 2.0

Focus on strengthening measures for sustainable management of water resources

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, NOVEMBER 28: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan, today chaired a meeting of concerned district officers to discuss the draft Action Plan for implementation of the Source Sustainability Committee under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0.

During the meeting, the ADDC emphasized the importance of ensuring long-term sustainability of water sources to strengthen the water supply infrastructure and ensure reliable drinking water availability across the district.

He directed all concerned departments to prepare and submit their respective departmental inputs, outlining proposed interventions for protection, conservation, rejuvenation and sustainable management of water sources.

The ADDC stressed the need for effective inter-departmental coordination and a focused approach towards source sustainability, with active involvement of all stakeholder departments. He further directed that the inputs be submitted within the stipulated timeframe to facilitate consolidation of the draft Action Plan for its final approval by the UT-level Committee.

The meeting also discussed the role of various departments in identifying suitable interventions and strengthening measures for preservation and replenishment of water sources.

The meeting was attended by ACD, DFO, CAO, DSCO, PO IWMP, Executive Engineers of PHE and I&FC, representatives of Ground Water and Water Quality departments, and DMO Kulgam.

Legal Literacy Club inaugurated at Jammu Sanskriti School; Legal Literacy Clinic opened at CMH College of Legal Studies

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28: Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, today inaugurated the Legal Literacy Club at Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu and the Legal Literacy Clinic at CMH College of Legal Studies, Sainik Colony Jammu.

The programmes were attended by Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority; Maleeka Sharma, Civil Judge (Senior Division)/Secretary, DLSA Jammu and Arushi Shukla, Additional Mobile Magistrate (Traffic), Jammu.

The Legal Literacy Club and the Legal Literacy Clinic has been established with the aim of promoting legal awareness, familiarising students with their rights and duties and spreading awareness about the availability of free legal aid. While the Club will encourage school students to understand and share basic legal knowledge, the Clinic will provide law students with practical exposure and help people from nearby areas access basic legal guidance.

During the inauguration of the Club, the Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority appreciated the skit presented by the students on Cyber Law and the Right to Information (RTI). Highlighting the importance of legal literacy in everyday life, he observed that there is hardly any sphere of life where law does not intervene. Explaining the distinction between the Constitution and constitutionalism, Justice Sanjeev Kumar remarked that while the Constitution provides the framework of governance, constitutionalism is a way of life. He also spoke about fundamental rights, particularly the right to freedom of speech and emphasised that duties are as important as rights and encouraged students to become members of the Legal Literacy Club and actively.

AHD organises Stray Dog Adoption Programme at District Veterinary Hospital Doda
DC inspects veterinary facilities; ADC adopts stray puppy for second time

■ HT News Network



DODA, NOVEMBER 28: The Animal Husbandry Department Doda, organised a Stray Dog Adoption Programme today at District Veterinary Hospital (DVH), Doda, in presence of Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal and Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur, Nodal Officer for STEMS.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. Irfan Ali Wani, Superintendent DVH Dr. Tariq Hussain and PDO Dr. Shehnawaz Ahmed along with other Veterinary Officers and staff members were also present on the occasion.

During the programme, Dr. Irfan Ali Wani handed over a puppy to ADC as part of the initiative to promote compassion and responsible adoption of stray animals. Notably, the ADC adopted a stray dog for the second time, setting an example and encouraging others to come forward to provide stray animals with safe, caring and loving homes.

The remaining puppies will be distributed among willing adopters in Gandoh Block, who have voluntarily come forward to provide them with proper care and shelter. All the puppies were made available for adoption after proper deworming and vaccination to ensure their health and well-being.

The programme was organised in compliance with the directions and guidelines of the Supreme Court of India in the Suo Motu Writ Petition concerning the welfare and management of stray dogs.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected various facilities at the District Veterinary Hospital and interacted with veterinary doctors and staff members. CAHO briefed him about the diagnostic tests, treatment procedures, surgeries and other veterinary services being provided at the hospital for livestock and pet animals.

The DC stressed the need for prompt, efficient and quality veterinary services, emphasising compassionate treatment of animals and underscoring the message, "Every Life Deserves Love."

Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Government Poultry Hatchery, where he reviewed the functioning of incubators and hatchers, chick-rearing facilities and related operational activities. He also inspected the Liquid Nitrogen Plant and took stock of its functioning.

The DC emphasised the importance of strengthening veterinary infrastructure, maintaining professional standards and ensuring effective utilisation of departmental facilities for the benefit of livestock owners, poultry farmers and pet owners.

The department is also conducting regular awareness activities and camps to sensitise the general public about stray dog adoption, animal welfare, responsible pet ownership,

Four-Day ECCE Training for Master Trainers concludes in Sumbal

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 28: A four-day Capacity Building Training Programme for Master Trainers on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) concluded on Saturday at the Meeting Hall of the CDPO Office, Sumbal.

The programme, held from November 25 to 28, was organised by Child Rights and You (CRY) in association with the Jammu and Kashmir Association of Social Workers, in collaboration with the State Mission Poshan and the District Programme Officer (DPO), Bandipora.

The training aimed at strengthening the knowledge, skills and capacities of Master Trainers in early childhood development. Participants were trained in child-centred learning approaches and effective practices for ensuring quality care, stimulation and holistic development of young children.

During the four days, the participants took part in interactive sessions, group activities and practical learning exercises. The sessions focused on the importance of early childhood development and on preparing the trainers to further disseminate their learning among frontline functionaries working at the grassroots level.

The programme was an important step towards strengthening the ECCE framework and improving the quality of early childhood care and education services in the district.

The programme concluded with a shared commitment to translate the knowledge and skills gained during the training into effective practices for nurturing, protecting and supporting the holistic development of every child.

SDM Ramnagar convenes public darbar at Town Hall
Listens to public grievances

■ HT News Network

RAMNAGAR, NOVEMBER 28: Sub Divisional Magistrate Ramnagar, Dr. Najma A. Salam, today convened a Public Darbar at Town Hall, to provide a platform for direct interaction with the public and address their grievances and concerns.

During the Darbar, the SDM gave a patient hearing to the issues raised by the people and directed the concerned departments to take prompt and necessary action to ensure their early redressal. Special attention was accorded to issues concerning road safety and prevention of road accidents in the Sub-Division. The issue of monkey menace was also taken up, with directions to the concerned departments to initiate preventive and remedial measures to address the problem and safeguard the public.

The SDM emphasized inter-departmental coordination and accountability, directing all concerned officers to remain responsive to public issues and ensure time-bound redressal of grievances.

Tehsildar, Executive Engineers, BMO, CDPO, BDOs, EO MC, ZEO, SDAO, HDO, AEE, along with other concerned officers and officials were present on the occasion.

SMVD Sports Complex Women's Basketball Team Clinches J&K Senior UT Basketball Championship
Athletes Secure Top Two Positions in Lidderwat Trail Run

■ HT News Network



Katra, November 28: The women's basketball team of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sports Complex, Katra emerged champions in the 2026 J&K Senior UT Basketball Championship, defeating Jammu district by 38–18 in the final held at M.A. Stadium, Jammu. Adding to the sporting achievements, athletes trained at SMVDSC secured first and second positions in the 15-km Lidderwat Trail Run 2026 held at Pahalgam.

The SMVD Sports Complex team stormed into the championship final after registering an impressive victory over Srinagar district in the semi-final. The team maintained its dominance in the final, registering a convincing victory over Jammu district to lift the championship trophy.

In the Lidderwat Trail Run 2026, Pankaj Sharma clinched first position in the Open Boys' category, completing the 15-km course in 45 minutes and 15 seconds, while Kritika secured second position in the Open Girls' category with timing of 1 hour and 8 minutes. The two athletes were awarded cash prizes of 20,000 and 15,000 respectively. Four other athletes from SMVD Sports Complex also secured places among the top ten finishers and received cash prizes of 2,000 each.

Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board congratulated the winning basketball team and all six athletes upon their return to Katra on their remarkable achievements. He reaffirmed the Shrine Board's commitment, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha towards nurturing sporting talent and promoting a culture of excellence. He further highlighted the role of the SMVD Sports Complex, Katra, in providing aspiring athletes from Katra and adjoining areas, as well as other parts of the country, with quality coaching, modern sports infrastructure and requisite training facilities to hone their skills and excel at national and other competitive platforms.

Shri Alok Kumar Maurya, Addl. Chief Executive Officer; Shri K. N. Rai, Technical Advisor to SMVDSB; Shri Vipan Bhagat and Shri Dhruv Gupta, Asstt. CEOs and Tehsildar, SMVDSB, besides sportspersons and other Shrine Board officials, were also present on the occasion.

Adv Devraj Sharma participates in BJP's Mahapadyatra led by Rajnath Singh in Jammu
Calls for safeguarding democratic institutions and strengthening public faith in democracy

■ HT News Network



Jammu: Senior BJP leader and former Sarpanch Adv Devraj Sharma participated in the grand foot march, 'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao' (Save Democracy, End Anarchy), led by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Jammu on Saturday. The Mahapadyatra, organised by the Jammu and Kashmir BJP, witnessed the participation of hundreds of party leaders, elected representatives, senior functionaries and enthusiastic party workers from different parts of the Union Territory.

The march commenced from Panjtirthi Chowk near Lok Bhawan and proceeded towards Brahmana Sabha at Parade Chowk, where Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was scheduled to address a gathering. Holding the national Tricolour, Singh led the procession alongside J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma, MPs, MLAs and other senior party leaders.

Adv Devraj Sharma joined fellow party leaders and workers in the procession, expressing solidarity with the BJP's campaign to safeguard democratic institutions, uphold constitutional values and strengthen democratic accountability in the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Sharma said that democracy is the foundation of India's constitutional framework and every political party and public representative has a responsibility to respect democratic institutions, parliamentary traditions and the mandate of the people.

He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has strengthened its democratic foundations while ensuring that development, transparency, good governance and public welfare remain central to the national agenda.

Sharma observed that the participation of a large number of people in the Mahapadyatra reflected the commitment of BJP cadres towards the party's ideological principles and its resolve to take issues of national importance directly to the public.

He further said that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed significant developmental and administrative changes in recent years, adding that democratic participation, political stability and public confidence are essential for the continued progress of the Union Territory.

The BJP leader said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir aspire for peace, prosperity, equal opportunities and transparent governance. He emphasised that political differences should be addressed through democratic dialogue and constitutional means rather than through confrontation and disruption.

The Mahapadyatra witnessed enthusiastic participation, with party workers carrying national and party flags and raising slogans in support of the campaign. Elaborate security arrangements were made along the route in view of the presence of the Defence Minister and the large gathering.

Sharma described the participation of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh as a significant encouragement for the party cadre in Jammu and Kashmir and said that the BJP would continue its efforts to strengthen its organisational base and connect with people at the grassroots level.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the registration number plate of my three wheeler Bajaj auto bearing registration number JK04G 6480. Now I want to apply for its duplicate anybody having any objection may contact ARTO Budgam within a period of seven days.

Owner name- Mohd. Ibrahim Rather
S/O- Mohd. Ishaq Rather
R/O- Sharier Abad

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 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
ENIT NO. 102 of R&B /CHADOORA/ 6082-91 of 2026-27 DATED: 27/11/2026

*For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, 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 works:-*

Project Authority: DDC BUDGAM

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees}	Earnest Money (In Rupees}	Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contactor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of walling or fencing at SDH Nagam (Balance portion).	2.33	200.00	4660	10	Health 2025-26	C/D

Position of Funds: Budgeted/Committed.
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Sanctioned

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	**27/11/2026**
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	**27/11/2026**
3	Bid submission **Start Date**	**27 /11/2026**
4	Bid Submission **End Date**	**03/12/2026 upto 5.00 PM.**
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	**04/12/2026 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora**

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

3. Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

3.1 The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (Tender receiving authority) within 15 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work, The CDR/ FDR/Bank Guarantee should be valid till DLP period. The Date of Performance Security should be after the date of issuance of Letter of acceptance. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non- responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year shall be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

4. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. In case of failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

5. Unbalanced Bid: -
As per the Circular instructions of Finance Deptt. Issued Vide No.FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:08.08.2025 & endorsed by Chief Engineer (R&B) Central Kashmir vide endorsement No. CE/R&B/CK/ WS/6375-96 dated 12/08/2025, which is reproduced as:-.

i) Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the Project Cost put to bid, the additional Performance Guarantee/Security Percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

ii) Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

DIPK-8035/26

Executive Engineer

Send DATED: 28/11/2026

R&B Division Chadoora

DC Poonch reviews implementation of HADP, other Agriculture & allied sector schemes

■ HT News Network

POONCH, NOVEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the implementation and progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other agriculture and allied sector schemes in the district.

The meeting aimed at strengthening inter-departmental coordination and ensuring timely and effective execution of various government initiatives aimed at improving the livelihood of farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural development.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Sheep Husbandry besides other concerned departments.



During the meeting, a detailed review was conducted of Kisan Sathi output tracking under HADP, project-wise status on the DAKSH Portal, application details on the JKCIP Portal, budget expenditure, progress of Kisan Sathi activities, physical and financial achievements of HADP projects and component-wise progress reflected on the HADP portal.

The officers apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the progress achieved under various projects and schemes, expenditure incurred.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the overall performance of the departments and assessed the existing gaps in implementation. He directed the concerned officers to intensify their efforts to address the shortcomings, ensure timely execution of projects and maximise coverage of eligible farmers under various government-sponsored schemes.

Emphasising the need to generate awareness among farmers and the general public, the DC directed the departments to encourage farmers to avail themselves of the benefits of government schemes, establish agriculture and allied sector units and adopt income-generating activities for sustainable livelihood opportunities.

He further stressed the importance of effective inter-departmental coordination, regular field-level monitoring and direct engagement with farmers to ensure that the benefits of government initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries.

The Deputy Commissioner called upon all departments to work in close coordination and ensure result-oriented implementation of HADP and other agriculture and allied sector schemes across the district.

DC Poonch reviews preparations for World Disability Day

■ HT News Network



POONCH, NOVEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of district officers to review the preparations for the observance of World Disability Day on December 3, 2026 in the district.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Additional SP and other concerned district officers and officials.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the preparations and activities planned for the occasion and emphasised the importance of ensuring meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in the observance.

The Deputy Commissioner issued directions to the concerned officers to maintain close coordination and ensure timely completion of all necessary arrangements. He underscored the importance of sensitisation, awareness and the promotion of the rights, welfare and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

The officers were directed to extend their full cooperation and ensure that the observance reflects the spirit of inclusion, accessibility, dignity and equal opportunities for all. The meeting concluded with a commitment from all concerned departments to work collectively towards making World Disability Day observance meaningful and successful.

DM Kathua inspects examination centres ahead of JKSSB Sub Inspector Exam

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, NOVEMBER 28: District Magistrate Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, today inspected various examination centres across the district to review the arrangements for the smooth and transparent conduct of the JKSSB Sub Inspector (Home Department) Examination scheduled for November 29, 2026.

During the inspection, the DM took stock of arrangements, including seating facilities, installation and functioning of CCTV cameras, frisking, security measures and availability of basic amenities at the examination centres. He directed the concerned officials to ensure strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines and examination protocols for the convenience and safety of candidates.

Meanwhile, the examination of Sub Inspector (Home Department) is scheduled in 15 examination centres across the district Kathua from 1 pm to 3 pm on November 29, 2026.

SSP Mohita Sharma, ADC Sachin Jamwal and other concerned officers were also present during the inspection.

Sheep Husbandry Department Handwara organises Exposure Tour for 50 Sheep Breeders under ATMA Scheme

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 28: With the aim of promoting scientific sheep-rearing practices and strengthening the livestock sector, the Sheep Husbandry Department, through the Sheep and Wool Development Office Handwara, organised a Farmers' Exposure Tour under the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) scheme today.



The tour, comprising 50 sheep breeders from Handwara, was flagged off by Sheep Development Officer (SDO) Handwara, Dr. Irfan Magray, in the presence of departmental officials.

As part of the programme, the participating sheep breeders are scheduled to visit the Multifacilitation Centre and Small Ruminant Hospital at Chijhama, Baramulla. The visit is aimed at providing them with practical exposure to modern sheep-rearing techniques, scientific livestock management, improved breeding practices and advanced animal healthcare facilities.

The initiative is expected to enhance the technical knowledge and skills of local sheep breeders, enabling them to adopt modern and scientific methods for improving sheep productivity, maintaining animal health and strengthening their livelihoods. The department's initiative under the ATMA scheme reflects its commitment to farmer-oriented capacity building, technology transfer and the promotion of sustainable sheep husbandry practices. Such exposure tours provide an important platform for farmers to learn from specialised institutions, gain practical knowledge and implement improved practices at the grassroots level.

DAJ reviews fertilizer availability, Distribution, quality control measures for Rabi Season

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28: Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu Anil Gupta, who is also the Controller of Fertilizers, J&K, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the availability, sales, stocking and distribution of fertilizers across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir during the ongoing Rabi Season 2026-27.

The meeting was attended by Director Law Enforcement, J&K Balbir Singh; Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Suresh Kumar Khajuria; Agriculture Chemist Roshan Lal Bhagat; Assistant Director Law Enforcement Kuldeep Singh; SMS-II (Fertilizer/Legal Section), Santosh Bhat; Enforcement Inspector Nazir Altaf; other officers from the Agriculture Department and Law Enforcement wing and representatives of various fertilizer marketing companies. Officers based in Kashmir participated in the meeting through Video Conferencing.

The meeting focused on ensuring the timely availability of subsidized fertilizers to farmers, reviewing the practice of forced tagging of ancillary products with subsidized fertilizers and strengthening the monitoring mechanism for fertilizer sales and distribution across all districts of J&K.

During the deliberations, the Director reviewed the rollout of the Framework for Fertilizer Sale (FFS) across all districts of the Union Territory and stressed the need for its effective implementation and regular monitoring to ensure transparency and accountability in the fertilizer distribution system.

Emphasizing the importance of quality control, the Director asked the concerned officers to ensure that only quality fertilizers, including organic, inorganic, biofertilizers and biostimulants, enter the Union Territory. He also stressed the need for regular sampling and testing of fertilizer products and directed that the sale of fertilizers be permitted only after receipt of valid analysis reports.

The meeting also discussed strategic planning for the ongoing Rabi season, monitoring of fertilizer stocks and availability and measures to ensure that farmers receive subsidized fertilizers without any inconvenience or compulsion to purchase ancillary products.

Horticulture Department cautions growers against fake AI-generated poster on Area Expansion Scheme under Jansugam

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 28: The Department of Horticulture, Kashmir, has cautioned farmers and orchardists against an unauthorized and misleading promotional poster titled "Area Expansion Scheme under Jansugam" being circulated on various social media platforms and messaging groups.The poster falsely claims an 80 percent subsidy on plants, indicating a price of 250 per plant, with a subsidy of 200 and a farmer's contribution of only 50 per plant.In this regard, the Department has clarified that it has neither issued nor authorized the circulation of any such poster and does not endorse the figures, claims or information contained therein.

Awareness Programme on Legal Rights, Livelihood Opportunities held at ITI Budgam

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 28: The Department of Social Welfare, Budgam, through SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti, organised an awareness programme at Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Budgam, to sensitise students about maintenance rights, inheritance rights, other legal rights of women and various livelihood opportunities available through government initiatives.

The officials highlighted the significance of organising such awareness programmes at vocational training institutions to bridge the information gap and connect trainees with available support mechanisms.

Principal, ITI Budgam, appreciated the initiative and acknowledged the importance of such collaborative awareness activities in promoting legal literacy, women's empowerment and livelihood generation among trainees.

Advocate Saleem delivered an informative session on various legal aspects concerning women's rights, with particular emphasis on maintenance rights, inheritance rights and other legal safeguards available under the law. He highlighted the importance of legal awareness in enabling women to assert their rights and seek appropriate legal remedies.

Afroza Ahad, while speaking on Mission Shakti, elaborated on its objectives and the role of SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) in facilitating women's empowerment through awareness, counselling, guidance, institutional linkages and convergence with various government departments. She briefed the participants about the services provided by the Hub and encouraged them to approach the office for information, guidance and assistance regarding women-centric welfare schemes and livelihood opportunities.



She also highlighted the importance of skill development and economic empowerment, particularly for young women undergoing vocational training at ITI, and encouraged them to explore opportunities for self-employment, entrepreneurship, bank credit and other government-supported livelihood initiatives. She assured that SANKALP-HEW would facilitate necessary linkages with concerned departments and institutions to help interested trainees pursue suitable livelihood opportunities.

The programme reaffirmed the commitment of SANKALP-HEW, Mission Shakti, Budgam, towards strengthening awareness, facilitating institutional linkages and promoting the social, legal and economic empowerment of women. Afroza Ahad, while speaking on Mission Shakti, elaborated on its objectives and the role of SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) in facilitating women's empowerment through awareness, counselling, guidance, institutional linkages and convergence with various government departments. She briefed the participants about the services provided by the Hub and encouraged them to approach the office for information, guidance and assistance regarding women-centric welfare schemes and livelihood opportunities.

She also highlighted the importance of skill development and economic empowerment, particularly for young women undergoing vocational training at ITI, and encouraged them to explore opportunities.

Wildlife Department constitutes Village Wildlife Volunteer Force to strengthen community participation in Man-Animal conflict mitigation

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 28: In a significant initiative to strengthen community participation and enhance preparedness for mitigating man-animal conflict, the Department of Wildlife Protection has initiated the formation of a Village Wildlife Volunteer Force in vulnerable and conflict-prone areas.

In this connection, Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu Province Sandeep Kumar accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial) and officers and officials of the Wildlife Protection Department and Forest Protection Force today visited the area where five persons sustained injuries in a bear attack on November 27, 2026.

During the visit, the officers interacted with locals and addressed a gathering, sensitising them about various precautionary and preventive measures to minimise the risk of man-animal encounters. The public was advised to remain vigilant, avoid venturing into vulnerable areas, particularly during early morning and evening hours, refrain from approaching or provoking the wild animal and immediately report any sighting to the concerned authorities.

The Regional Wildlife Warden assured the locals that the Department is making concerted efforts to track, tranquilise and capture the bear, keeping in view the safety of human lives and the need for appropriate wildlife rescue intervention. He informed the gathering that camera traps have been installed at strategically identified locations to monitor the movement and ascertain the whereabouts of the animal.



As part of the intensified surveillance mechanism, different dedicated teams comprising departmental personnel have been constituted and deployed for round-the-clock monitoring of the affected areas. These teams are maintaining continuous vigil to trace the movement of the animal and facilitate timely intervention. Specialised wildlife rescue and tranquilisation teams are also stationed at the site and are prepared to respond promptly to any eventuality and undertake necessary rescue and capture operations to prevent further untoward incidents.

The newly initiated Village Wildlife Volunteer Force will comprise local residents who will act as a vital link between the community and the Wildlife Protection Department. The volunteers will facilitate early reporting of wildlife sightings, dissemination of precautionary advisories, alerting residents about potential threats and assisting departmental teams in emergency response and awareness activities. The initiative aims to establish an effective grassroots-level information and response network, particularly in vulnerable villages through active involvement of local communities.

The officers emphasised that public cooperation is crucial for effective management of man-animal conflict and appealed to residents to strictly adhere to the advisories issued by the Department, avoid unnecessary movement in affected areas and refrain from gathering near locations where the bear is sighted.

Carbon Dating Unlocking The Mysteries Of The Past



SURINDERPAL SINGH

The past is full of mysteries and the ancient human settlements, buried cities, fossils, wooden tools, pieces of cloth and archaeological remains has lots of hidden fascinating stories about people who lived thousands of years ago. But how do scientists know the actual age of these objects? How can they determine whether a piece of wood is 500 years old or 5,000 years old? The answer lies in a remarkable scientific technique known as Carbon Dating. Carbon dating, also called radiocarbon dating, is a scientific method used to estimate the age of objects that once belonged to living organisms. It was developed by American scientist Willard Libby in the late 1940s. His discovery transformed archaeology, history and several other branches of science. For this outstanding contribution, he received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1960.

Carbon is a natural element found in all living things, including plants, animals and human beings. There are different forms of carbon, known as isotopes. One of these is Carbon-14, which is radioactive and unstable. Carbon-14 is continuously formed in the upper atmosphere when cosmic rays interact with nitrogen. It enters the environment and becomes part of carbon dioxide. Plants absorb this carbon dioxide during photosynthesis. Animals and human beings then obtain carbon through food.

As long as an organism is alive, it continues to exchange carbon with its surroundings. However, after its death, this exchange stops. The Carbon-14 already present in its body begins to decrease gradually through radioactive decay. Scientists measure the remaining amount of Carbon-14 to estimate how long ago the organism died.The working principle of carbon dating is based on the regular decay of Carbon-14. It has a half-life of approximately 5,730 years. This means that after every 5,730 years, half of the original Carbon-14 in a sample disappears. For example, if a piece of ancient wood originally contained 100 units of Carbon-14, approximately 50 units would remain after 5,730 years. After another 5,730 years, only 25 units would remain.

By measuring the amount of Carbon-14 left in a sample and comparing it with the expected amount in living organisms, scientists can estimate its age. Modern laboratories often use a highly advanced technique called Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS), which can measure very small quantities of Carbon-14. Carbon dating has become one of the most valuable tools for understanding human civilisation. Archaeologists use it to determine the age of ancient bones, wooden objects, seeds, charcoal, textiles and other materials of biological origin.

It helps researchers establish the approximate dates of ancient settlements, farming communities and historical events. It also provides valuable information about the development of agriculture, human migration and the growth of early civilisations. Many archaeological discoveries that once remained mysterious have become easier to understand with the help of radiocarbon dating. It allows scientists to connect ancient objects with particular periods of human history and develop a more reliable picture of the past.

The importance of carbon dating is not limited to history and archaeology. It also plays a significant role in environmental and climate research. Scientists use it to study ancient plant remains, changes in vegetation, forest development and environmental conditions. It helps researchers understand how climate has changed over thousands of years. In forensic science, radiocarbon analysis can sometimes help estimate when biological materials were formed, providing useful evidence in certain investigations. It is also used in the study of oceans, groundwater and carbon cycles.Thus, carbon dating has become an important scientific tool that connects chemistry, physics, biology, archaeology and environmental science.

Although carbon dating is a powerful scientific technique, it has certain limitations. It is mainly useful for materials that were once alive, such as wood, bones, seeds and other organic remains. It cannot directly determine the age of rocks, metals or ordinary fossils that contain no suitable original organic material.Another important limitation is its effective age range. Radiocarbon dating is generally most useful for samples up to about 50,000 years old, although the exact limit depends on the sample and laboratory methods.

Contamination from modern carbon or other sources can also affect the results. Moreover, the amount of Carbon-14 in the atmosphere has changed over time. Therefore, scientists use calibration methods and reference records, such as tree rings, to improve the accuracy of their calculations.It is also important to understand that carbon dating does not usually provide an exact calendar year. Instead, it gives an estimated age or date range, often with a stated level of uncertainty.

With the development of modern technology, carbon dating is becoming more accurate and reliable. Advanced laboratory instruments can now examine extremely small samples, reducing the need to damage valuable archaeological objects.Scientists are also combining radiocarbon dating with DNA analysis, computer technology and other scientific methods to gain deeper insights into ancient populations, human evolution and environmental changes.These developments are opening new doors for researchers and helping them answer questions that were once beyond the reach of science.

Carbon dating is more than a laboratory technique; it is a scientific window into the history of life on Earth. It helps us understand when ancient people lived, how early civilisations developed and how our natural environment changed over time.Every ancient bone, piece of charcoal or wooden object may contain valuable information about the past. Through carbon dating, scientists can uncover these hidden stories and connect the present with the distant past.In a world where understanding history is essential for building a better future, carbon dating reminds us that science is not only about discovering new things but also about understanding where we came from. It proves that even the smallest traces of ancient life can reveal some of the greatest secrets of human civilisation.

Surinderpal Singh
Faculty In Science Department
Sri Amritsar Sahib
Punjab.

These breathing techniques could reduce your stress in minutes

Rooted in ancient practices, the modern science of breathwork is revealing how a few minutes spent focusing on your breathing can not only bring an instant dose of stress relief, but also benefit your health in the long term.

Breathing is the first and the last thing we do in life. It's a largely subconscious activity which our body carries out many times per minute in order to keep us alive and thriving. Yet an emerging realm of science is demonstrating that sometimes our bodies benefit from a little help to do it optimally.

This is the field of breathwork, an ancient art that has been practiced by different cultures for millennia. It ranges from techniques such as Indian pranayama, which looks to connect the mind and body by methods such as breathing through one nostril at a time, to Chinese qigong.

The overriding theme is that a more mindful approach to breath control, even if carried out for just a few minutes per day, can help calm and relax the body, with both immediate and long-term benefits.

"I like to describe breathwork as an ancient practice that is resurging in the modern day as the new mindfulness hack," says Abbie Little, a researcher in theoretical psychology and medicine at Griffith University in Australia.Pregnant women or people with respiratory illnesses such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, should use caution before trying breathwork and consult with a medical professional. Both these groups have been excluded from previous breathwork or breathing exercise trials. However, there are thought to be many people who can potentially benefit.A few small changes can help lower stress hormones in healthy people, while for those living with chronic health conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease, breathwork can improve symptoms and lower inflammation. For most of us, small tweaks to the rate, rhythm and regularity of breathing can make



an immediate difference.

So how can you begin to reap the benefits? The BBC takes a closer look at the fast-developing science of breathwork – and breaks down five different breathwork techniques you can try yourself.

The science of de-stressing

There is a growing body of evidence that breathwork can offer a new way of managing stress. Chronic stress is a pivotal driver of many age-related disorders, along with mental health conditions like anxiety and depression. For people who are already battling illnesses such as breast cancer as well as other cancers, levels of stress hormones such as cortisol can worsen prognosis and accelerate disease progression, while research shows that it can also accelerate the ageing process.

"We've studied cortisol levels in women with advanced breast cancer, and found that abnormal patterns of diurnal cortisol [the daily cycle of cortisol production], can predict how much longer people are going to live," says David Spiegel, professor and associate chair of psychiatry and behavioural sciences at Stanford University in the US.

ut while breathwork has a long and storied past, our modern understanding of the underlying science is only just beginning. One recent paper summarising the available evidence, noted that more than half of all studies on the subject have been published in the last six years, and Little says that researchers are still trying to pin down the precise methods and aspects which are most effective.owever, scientists have already been able to draw a number of conclusions.

Slowing down

To begin with, there is an emerging school of thought that many of us are breathing too quickly. "We all tend to hyperventilate, breathing too fast and not very effectively," says Spiegel, with hyperventilation typically defined as taking more than 15 breaths per minute. Secondly, some people also predominantly breathe through their mouths, a habit which can begin in children before progressing into adulthood.

Trident Open returns for second edition in Chandigarh from December 1

United News Of India

CHANDIGARH, NOV 28 :Trident Group and the DP World Professional Golf Tour of India (DP World PGTI) have jointly announced the second edition of the Trident Open, carrying a prize purse of Rs one crore, to be held at the Chandigarh Golf Club from December 1 to 4.

The tournament will feature a star-studded field of 120 professionals, including leading Indian golfers Shubhankar Sharma, Yuvraj Sandhu, Veer Ahlawat, Om Prakash Chouhan, Khalin Joshi, Rashid Khan, Ajeetesh Sandhu, Rahil Gangjee and defending champion Manu Gandas.

The championship will be preceded by a Pro-Am event on November 29.

The 72-hole stroke-play tournament will see the players compete over four rounds, with the halfway cut being applied after 36 holes. The top 50 players and ties will qualify for the final two rounds.

Several prominent international golfers will also be part of the field, including Sri Lankans N Thangaraja



and B G Lalith Kumara, Bangladeshis Jamal Hossain, Badal Hossain and Md Akbar Hossain, Czech Republic's Stepan Danek, Nepal's Subash Tamang and Uganda's Joshua Seale.

Chandigarh will have a strong local representation with Angad Cheema, Akshay Sharma,

Jairaj Singh Sandhu, Brashwarpal Singh, Vasu Sehgal and Manjot Singh among those competing.

Announcing the tournament, Trident Group Chairman and Rajya Sabha MP Rajinder Gupta said the second edition reaffirmed the partnership with DP World PGTI and reflected their shared commitment to nurturing sporting talent and promoting excellence in professional golf.

He said Chandigarh Golf Club, known as the 'Nursery of Indian Golf', had a rich legacy of

producing champion golfers and provided an ideal venue for the championship.

DP World PGTI President Kapil Dev said the continued association with Trident Group would create greater opportunities for professional golfers across the country.

He thanked Gupta for his support and said the Chandigarh Golf Club's contribution to Indian golf made it an ideal setting for the tournament.

Chandigarh Golf Club President Maj. R S Virk said hosting the event was a matter of pride for the

club and would give golf enthusiasts in the Tricity an opportunity to witness some of the country's finest golfing talent.

The championship will be played on the club's 18-hole, Par-72 course measuring 7,202 yards. Known for its narrow fairways, thick tree cover and challenging roughs, the course also features India's one of the longest Par-5 holes, the seventh, measuring 613 yards.

DP World PGTI is the official governing and sanctioning body for men's professional golf in India and is led by former India cricket captain Kapil Dev as its president.

India stumble to 116/6 as New Zealand seize control of 2nd Test

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 28 :New Zealand took firm control of the second Test in Christchurch after reducing India to 116/6 at stumps on the second day, leaving the visitors trailing by 240 runs.

Akash Deep's five-wicket haul had earlier given India a foothold after Tom Blundell's 89 powered the hosts to 356. However, Kyle Jamieson and Jacob Duffy struck twice each to leave India's top order in disarray.

India's innings unravelled almost immediately when Yashasvi Jaiswal was bowled by Matt Henry for a duck in the opening over. Devdutt Padikkal briefly counter-attacked, pulling Jamieson for six and striking Henry for a boundary with a square drive. But his promising start ended on 21 when he edged a drive off Jamieson to the wicketkeeper.

KL Rahul and Shubman Gill attempted to steady the innings, with Gill surviving a New Zealand review for lbw against Henry. The hosts, however, found another breakthrough just before Tea when Jamieson produced a delivery that took the outside edge of Gill's bat. India went into the interval at 59/3.



Rahul and Rishabh Pant adopted a cautious approach after the break, looking to prevent further damage. Rahul went through a prolonged spell without scoring, while Pant, after initially showing intent, took time to settle. The left-hander eventually tried to shift the momentum, stepping down the track to Duffy and sending him over long-on for six before finding the gap for a boundary off Nathan Smith.

Heavy diet of white-ball cricket affected my action, admits Duffy

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 28 :Dismissing Rishabh Pant and KL Rahul in the second Test has offered Jacob Duffy some relief after a difficult outing in Wellington, but the New Zealand pacer believes he still has work to do to get his bowling back to where he wants it to be.

He traced his struggles in the opening Test, where he conceded 201 runs as India piled up 720, to technical issues brought on by an overdose of white-ball cricket.

Duffy said the demands of limited-overs cricket had affected his rhythm and bowling action, forcing him to spend time working on his basics before the ongoing Test in Christchurch.

"Last week, obviously, didn't go as planned. I was battling a little bit with my rhythm and technique. A heavy diet of white-ball cricket probably hasn't been the best thing for my bowling action," Duffy said on Saturday after the end of the second day's play in the second Test.

"I spent a lot of time working on a few technical things in between and trying to get on top of that," he added.

The right-arm pacer explained that his bowling action was particularly vulnerable to the demands of switching between formats.

The focus on yorkers and slower deliveries in white-ball cricket, he said, sometimes affected the mechanics he relies on in the longer format.

"I'm a very action-dependent bowler. I feel my action needs to be pretty pure for the outcome to be good, so it's always a big focus for me.

"With a heavy diet of white-ball cricket, my action tends to fall away a little bit. I'm not quite getting my wrist behind the ball as much as I'd like. I think it's getting a little better, but I have to be diligent about going back to my foundations and



basics, even during big white-ball periods when you're working on yorkers and slower balls," he added.

Duffy also pointed to the difficulty of finding time for technical adjustments in a packed international schedule. Unlike batters, who can spend extended periods in the nets, fast bowlers need to be constantly mindful of their action and workload.

"It's a bit of a juggling act. We came home from the West Indies and did a block where we actually did a lot of red-ball work, almost like a pre-season. We went to Adelaide for a week and then did more red-ball work back at our associations.

SAI to celebrate 100th Fit India Sundays on Cycle in Hyderabad on Sunday

United News Of India

HYDERABAD, NOV 28 :The Sports Authority of India (SAI), Training Centre, Hyderabad, will celebrate the 100th edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle initiative at Smart Bike, Narsingi, here on Sunday, with around 200 athletes and fitness enthusiasts expected to participate. Arjuna Awardee and former Olympian J.J. Shobha and Asian Games medallist Nandini Agasara will grace the event and inspire young athletes and participants to embrace fitness and sporting excellence.

The programme will commence at 9.30 am and the celebrations will feature a mass cycling rally and various fitness activities. The nationwide celebration will be organised simultaneously at 100 iconic locations across the country. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya will lead the national-level event at Pimpri-Chinchwad in Pune, the SAI said in a release. The nationwide initiative is being organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Fit India Movement, SAI, MY Bharat and the Indian Olympic Association, with the participation of celebrities, sporting icons, fitness enthusiasts and more than 1.5 lakh MY Bharat volunteers.

Want to dominate Test cricket like Steyn: Brar



United News Of India

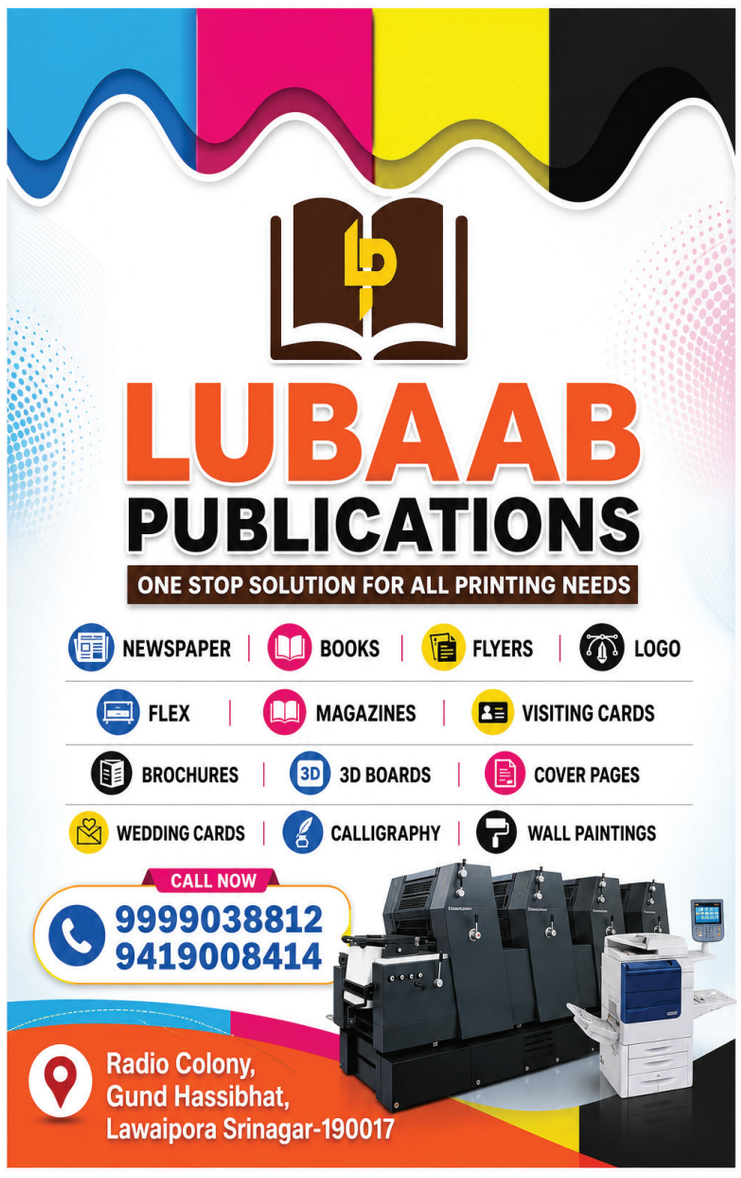
NEW DELHI, NOV 28 :India pacer Gurnoor Brar has set his sights on making a mark in Test cricket like his childhood idol Dale Steyn after picking up his maiden international red-ball wicket on debut against New Zealand in Christchurch.

The right-arm fast bowler, who earned his Test cap following an impressive showing in the ODI series, dismissed Devon Conway on the opening day of the second Test at Hagley Oval. Speaking to the host broadcasters before the start of play on Day 3, Brar reflected on the experience of representing India in the longest format and his hopes of making the most of the opportunity.

Especially representing India in a Test match, it's a great feeling, and I'm lucky to be part of Team India," he said.

rar revealed that former South Africa pacer Steyn was his biggest inspiration while growing up. He admired the way the fast bowler dominated Test cricket and hopes to follow a similar path in his own career."Dale Steyn. I really enjoyed watching Dale Steyn bowl, the way he dominated in Test cricket. I also want to do the same," Brar said.The debutant also spoke about his experience of playing under Shubman Gill, who is leading India in the ongoing Test. Brar, who shares a close bond with the Indian captain, said Gill's support gives the bowlers the freedom to execute their plans."He's a very supportive and good captain. He always supports the bowlers, and we can do what we want. It's good for us, so it's good," he stated.Brar's first Test wicket came when he trapped Conway lbw on the opening day, giving him a memorable .







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