

Sakeena inaugurates additional accommodation at GHSS Boniyar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BARAMULLA: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Monday inaugurated newly constructed Additional Accommodation at Government Higher Secondary School Boniyar, Uri.

The Minister also laid the foundation for additional classrooms at HSS Boniyar, being constructed under SAMGRA, further strengthening the educational infrastructure in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister highlighted that the government is working tirelessly to ensure that students in every corner of the Union Territory have access to modern, well-equipped educational facilities. "Education is the cornerstone of progress. Our goal is to bridge the infrastructure gap and create inclusive learning spaces that nurture the potential of every student," the Minister said.

The Minister also interacted with students and faculty members, encouraging them to make the best use of the improved facilities and to continue striving for academic



Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo inaugurating newly constructed Additional Accommodation at GHSS Boniyar.

excellence. He emphasized the importance of community participation in maintaining educational assets and supporting local schools.

Later, the Minister visited Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Baramulla and participated in Annual Day celebrations of the institution.

MLA Baramulla Javid Hassan Baigh; MLA, Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar; MLA Pattan Riyaz Bedar; MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah; MLA Uri Dr. Sajad Shafi; Director General of School Education Kashmir, Dr. GN Itoo; district officers of various departments, faculty members and large number of students were also present

on the occasion.

During the program, Minister Sakeena, along with MLAs, inspected stalls installed by the students, showcasing innovative projects developed in Atal Tinkering Labs.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sakeena emphasized on the importance of education, innovation, and holistic student development. She encouraged students to excel in academics, sports, and co-curricular activities and highlighted the government's commitment to providing modern facilities and resources to support student learning and growth.

Minister Sakeena further said that the projects of stu-

dents in exhibition reflected the creativity and technical skills of the students, adding that it showcases the government's efforts of promoting innovation at school level.

The Minister, during the celebrations, also felicitated meritorious students and those who participated in various cultural and other competitions at UT and national levels. Students who performed exceptionally in academic, cultural, and sports activities were also recognized for their achievements, inspiring all attendees to pursue excellence.

As part of the Annual Day celebrations, students presented vibrant and energetic cultural performances, adding colour and enthusiasm to the celebrations. The performances included traditional dances, music, and dramatizations that enthralled the audience and demonstrated the all-round development of the students.

On the sidelines of the event, Minister Sakeena e-inaugurated several educational infrastructure projects as well as laid e-foundation of projects, amounting to nearly Rs. 2067.18 Lakhs in different

Assembly Constituencies of North Kashmir. The projects e-inaugurated include additional accommodation of three storey building and renovation of old 12 roomed 3 storey building for Girls HSS Sopore, 10 roomed double storey building at HSS Mirgund Pattan, additional accommodation of 3 roomed double storey building at BHSS Uri, additional accommodation at Girls Middle School Kralpora Nehalpora Gulmarg, Additional Accommodation at PM Shri MS Raram Gulmarg, 3 roomed double storied building at HS Trigam Sonawari, 03 roomed double storied building at GHS Sumbal Sonawari, Additional Accommodation 6 roomed double storey at HS Rakhe Shilvat Sonawari, 3 roomed double storied building at HSS Madvan Sonawari and Additional Accommodation 06 roomed double storey building for Govt. HSS Budagam Gurez, besides e-foundation stone for construction of Teacher Quarters at Government Higher Secondary School Chandiloora Gulmarg was also laid by the Minister.

Javid Dar inaugurates Autumn Flower Festival at SKUAST-K



Minister for Agriculture Production, Javid Ahmad Dar inaugurating Autumn Flower Festival at SKUAST-K.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, on Monday inaugurated Autumn Flower Festival (Chrysanthemum Show) at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology - Kashmir (SKUAST-K) here.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Dar congratulated the university authorities, particularly the Faculty of Floriculture, for organizing the colourful event that celebrates Kashmir's floral diversity and artistic tradi-

tions. He said that the festival aims to showcase the natural beauty of Kashmir's flora while attracting tourists, students, and entrepreneurs to explore the vast potential of floriculture in the region.

Highlighting the significance of the event, Javid Dar said that the Autumn Flower Festival, featuring 15 indigenous varieties and over 80 colours of chrysanthemums, marks the first major attempt to promote autumn tourism in the Valley, complementing the region's traditional spring, summer and winter attractions. Minister Dar emphasized that the initiative

aligns with the government's broader vision of diversifying tourism and creating livelihood opportunities through agriculture and allied sectors. He said that the Agriculture Production Department is encouraging farmers to adopt floriculture as a viable business venture alongside their routine farming, given its growing market demand and export potential.

MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone; Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganie; Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, and other senior officers and scientists were present on the occasion.

All India Sangram Sena celebrates Diwali with orphans, differently-abled children



AISS J&K celebrating Diwali with orphans, differently-abled children by distributing sweet and fruit.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: On the joyous occasion of Diwali, the All India Sangram Sena Jammu & Kashmir celebrated the festival with orphans and differently-abled children at the Orphanage House, Ambphalla (Vaid Mandir), Jammu, on Monday.

Army spreads Diwali cheer at Palash Orphanage

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NOWSHERA: This Diwali, the Indian Army brought the true spirit of the festival to the children of Palash Orphanage in Naushera.

Amidst the glow of diyas and the warmth of togetherness, the Army shared joy by gifting tracksuits and sweets to 28 children, creating a memorable evening filled with smiles, laughter, and love.

The event, designed to uplift the spirits of the children, emphasized the importance of compassion during the festive season. Each smile that lit up the evening was a reminder that festivals shine brightest when shared with those who need it the most.

The Indian Army, through this thoughtful gesture, demonstrated that Diwali's essence lies not only in the lights but in fostering connections and spreading kindness.

The children, grateful for the attention and care, enjoyed the gifts, making this Diwali a truly special occasion for them. The Indian Army continues to strengthen its bond with local communities, spreading happiness and goodwill beyond borders.

This heartwarming event marks the 25th consecutive year of the organization's noble tradition of spreading light and happiness among the underprivileged sections of society.

The event aimed to uplift the spirits of the children and promote a sense of social inclusion. A series of cultural and entertainment programmes were organized to bring smiles to the faces of the young attendees. Adding to the festive cheer, 21 different stalls offering sweets,

fruits, clothes, books, and essential items were set up.

These were distributed among orphans, visually impaired individuals, and senior citizens, reflecting the organization's continued commitment to social welfare.

The celebration saw the presence of several dignitaries and members of the Sangram Sena including R.R. Raina (President), Capt. R.S. Langhe (General Secretary), Rajesh Banathia (Chief Organizer & Advisor), Dr. Deepak Kapoor (HOD), Bupinder Singh (Chief Advisor), and Keshav Kumar Sharma (Youth President, Graphix K7). Other notable attendees included Sudhir Padha, Brij Mehra, Th. Ravi Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Yuvraj Singh, Shiv Kapoor, Ashok Kumar, and Rajesh Raina.

The event beautifully reflected the spirit of Diwali-compassion, unity, and shared joy.

Vivek Tankha sanctions Rs 10 lakh for KP Cultural & Heritage Centre



Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha with KP leaders.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant gesture towards preserving the cultural legacy of the Kashmiri Pandit community, Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha, the only parliamentarian of Kashmiri origin, has sanctioned Rs 10 lakh from his MPLAD fund for the establishment of a Kashmiri Pandit Cultural and Heritage Centre in New Delhi.

The announcement was made during a Diwali Milan function held at Samavar, Pamposh Enclave, where Vivek Tankha formally presented the sanction letter to

Padma Shri Rameshwar Bamzai, head of the Kashmiri Education, Culture and Science Society (KECSS), in the presence of several distinguished members of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

The sanctioned amount will be utilized by KECSS for setting up a museum and library dedicated to showcasing the heritage, traditions, and contributions of the Kashmiri Pandit community. The proposed centre, located in Pamposh Enclave, aims to serve as a repository of the community's art, literature, and his-

tory while promoting cultural exchange and preservation for future generations.

The initiative came after All India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS) president Ravinder Pandita raised the demand with Vivek Tankha, who readily agreed to extend his support. Ravinder Pandita expressed his gratitude to the MP for his generous contribution and termed it a meaningful step towards safeguarding the cultural identity of displaced Kashmiri Pandits.

Dr. Ashfaq Lone, who was present at the event, appreciated the move and said that such initiatives strengthen the bond between the Kashmiri diaspora and their homeland by keeping their cultural roots alive.

He added that the upcoming centre will serve as an important platform for cultural events, exhibitions, and academic research related to Kashmiri heritage.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a touching gesture celebrating culture, compassion, and togetherness, a soulful musical evening titled "Dogri Sangeet Sandhya - Ek Shaam Buzurgon Ke Naam" was organized at the Home for the Aged & Infirrm (Vridh Ashram), Ambphalla, Jammu on the eve of Diwali. The event, jointly hosted by the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) and Nami Dogri Sanshthia (NDS), was dedicated to honouring the elderly residents and bringing festive joy to their lives.

The event was graced by Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, IFS, Principal Secretary, Culture Department, J&K Government, as the Chief Guest. Among the dignitaries present were Harvinder Kaur, JKAS, Secretary; Ms. Sonali Arun Gupta, JKAS, Additional Secretary JKAA-



Participants at Dogri Sangeet Sandhya - Ek Shaam Buzurgon Ke Naam.

CL; Shagun, Incharge Mission Shakti; Yati Satya Priya, Ex. Mayor, Sunder Nagar (H.P.); Sh. O.P. Sharma Vidyarthi; Capt. L.K. Sharma; Anupma Sharma; Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila, President NDS; Vijay Gupta, Joint Secretary; R.C. Vaid and Sat Pal Sharma, Members; S. Rajinder Singh and Dr. R. Thappa.

At the outset, Er. Pankaj Gupta, MCM of the Home, extended a warm welcome to the guests, artists, and partici-

pants. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to JKAACL and Nami Dogri Sanshthia for organizing the event at the Vridh Ashram, especially during the festival of Diwali - a time symbolizing light, compassion, and care for others.

The evening featured captivating Dogri musical performances by renowned local artists who presented melodious songs that celebrated the rich heritage of Duggar. The soulful renditions struck an emotional

chord with the elderly audience, who listened with joy and nostalgia. The event brought smiles, laughter, and heartfelt emotions, turning the Ashram into a space of warmth and togetherness.

In his address, Brij Mohan Sharma praised the organizers for hosting an event that blended cultural celebration with social responsibility. He emphasized that such initiatives strengthen the bond between generations and pro-

mote the preservation of regional art forms while caring for senior citizens. He also assured continued support for organizing similar programs in the Home for the Aged & Infirrm and other institutions such as SOS Homes and Children Homes.

Harvinder Kaur and Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila also lauded the collaborative effort of the Home and the participating organizations, highlighting the event as a noble example of uniting cultural heritage with humanitarian values.

The evening concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Secretary of the Home, followed by interaction with the elderly residents and exchange of Diwali greetings. The entire atmosphere radiated happiness, warmth, and love - perfectly embodying the true spirit of Diwali: spreading light, care, and harmony.

DSS holds Shok Sabha/Shardhanjali meet for Th. Gulchain Singh Charak



DSS members paying tributes to Th. Gulchain Singh Charak at condolence meeting.

Dogra Education trust, President Laxmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust & President of the Dogra Sadar Sabha.

He put untiring efforts to promote the revival of Dogra Heritage sites, cause of grassroots leadership, Panchayatraj, Numberdar/Chowkidars and to help the suffering population of Ramban and border areas. His sudden demise after a brief ailment has left a great vacuum in the society that will be difficult to fill. Rich tributes charged by emotions were paid by various dignitaries, his fans and lovers.

His cheerful affectionate nature and ever ready response to help everybody as a leader readily without discrimination made him dear to all who came in touch with him from any walk of life.

Prominent persons from all walks of life participated in the Shok Sabha/Shardhanjali. Among those who spoke during the Shok Sabha were Col Karan Singh, Adv. HC Jalmaria, G A Khwaja, Arvinder Singh Ann, Col. Virendra K Sahi,VrC, Prem sagar Gupta,H A Siddiqui, Abdul Majid ,Dr S P Verma,Lt Gen. Rakesh Sharma , Brig

Vijay Sagar Dhiman, Jagmohan Sharma, Madan Rangleela , J S Babli and others.

Others who participated in the Shok Sabha were Maj Gen Sunita Kapoor; Jagdeep Singh, Chhankar Singh, Lalita Tapasvi, Rajinder Gupta, Dr Kamal Sharma, Katoch, Dr. G S Charak, Elhtsham ul Haq, Sandesh Vir, Mohd Shabir, Krishan Kumar Farid Khan, Rashid Ahmed, Arun Bakshi, Shankar Singh,Raman Kant Singh, Pawan Sharma, Kuldeep Wahi, Harbans Sharma, Narinder Singh, Ravi Singh Slathia and others.

KCCI holds 91st AGM; Javid Ahmad Tenga re-elected President

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCC&I) today held its adjourned 91st Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Hotel The Kabo, Srinagar, marking a significant milestone in the Chamber's long-standing service to the business fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Mushtaq Ahmad Wani, Chairman of the Election Commission for the KCC&I Executive Committee (2025-27). He declared the official results of the Executive Committee Elections held on October 6, 2025, at the Kashmir Government Arts Emporium. Out of 30 contest-

ing candidates, 21 members-representing a balanced blend of experience and youthful leadership-were elected to form the new Executive Committee for the 2025-27 term.

Following the results, the collegium of elected members selected the new office bearers. The newly elected leadership comprises Javid Ahmad Tenga as President, Dr. Umer Nazir Tibetbaqal as Senior Vice President, Mr. Farooq Amin as Junior Vice President, Raiz Ahmad Bakshi as Secretary General, Akib Chaya as Joint Secretary General, and Amir Manzoor Guna as Treasurer. The office bearers will serve a two-year term, commencing from today. Notably, both Javid Ahmad Tenga and Raiz



KCCI members at 91st Annual General Meeting.

Bakshi have been elected as President and Secretary General, respectively, for the third time.

The AGM witnessed an impressive turnout, including past presidents, senior members, and prominent business figures, underscoring the Chamber's inclusive and participatory spirit. An official from the District Administration was also pres-

ent as an observer to ensure transparency.

In his presidential address, Tenga expressed heartfelt gratitude to the members, past presidents, and the wider business community for their faith and continued support. "We are beginning a new chapter with renewed energy and collective responsibility," he said. "Our top priority remains the revival and strengthening of

the local economy, which continues to face multiple challenges." He highlighted the struggles faced by key sectors such as tourism, horticulture, handicrafts, and general trade.

Speaking on tourism, Tenga noted that fluctuating visitor inflows and infrastructural bottlenecks have affected the sector's growth since April 2025. He assured that the Chamber would engage with

the government and stakeholders to ensure sustained policy support. Referring to the horticulture sector; he emphasized the need for a special freight train service during the harvest season and winter months to ensure the timely transport of produce.

On handicrafts, he said the decline in exports has severely impacted thousands of artisans, urging coordinated efforts to restore Kashmir's global handicraft presence. "Our focus will also remain on promoting a conducive business environment, improved logistics, and policies that encourage entrepreneurship and job creation," he added.

Tenga also extended warm appreciation to the outgoing office bearers, including Ashiq

Hussain Shangloo (Ex-Senior Vice President), Fayaz Ahmad Punjabi (Ex-Junior Vice President), and Zubair Ahmad Mahajan (Ex-Treasurer), acknowledging their invaluable contributions. Although they stepped down due to business commitments, they continue as executive committee members. The President reaffirmed unity among all members, saying, "Elections are behind us now, and every member of KCC&I remains committed to working with greater zeal for the promotion and growth of our businesses."

A special vote of thanks was extended to Mushtaq Ahmad Wani and the Election Commission team for conducting free, fair, and transparent elections with the cooperation

of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar's office.

The event also featured addresses by Past Presidents A.M. Mattoo and G.M. Dug, along with other senior members, who congratulated the new team and urged them to uphold transparency, accountability, and dedication in their work. They highlighted the importance of institutional credibility and constructive engagement with policymakers for economic progress.

The AGM concluded with a collective pledge of unity and collaboration, reaffirming KCC&I's commitment to safeguarding and advancing the interests of the business community across all sectors of Jammu and Kashmir's economy.