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Health crisis deepens in Rajouri as four more including three siblings, fall ill

- ❑ Fatalities show brain, nervous system damage: Principal GMC Rajouri
- ❑ Badhaal village declared containment zone; inter-ministerial team investigates for third day

HT NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR, JAN 22

The situation in the Badhaal area of Rajouri district has taken a worrisome turn, with four more persons, including three siblings, falling ill in the past 24 hours. This comes amidst an ongoing investigation into mysterious deaths that have claimed 17 lives over the last 50 days.

An official told the news agency that the latest case involving a 25-year-old youth, Aijaz, who was



attending patients at GMC Jammu, has intensified concerns. Aijaz was air-

lifted to PGI Chandigarh during the night, where his condition is reported

to be stable. Three siblings from the family of Bagga Khan also

fell ill and were shifted to GMC Rajouri before being airlifted to PGI Chandigarh for further treatment.

MLA Budhal, Javed Iqbal Choudhary said the situation is of serious concern and that the government is making all-out efforts to manage the crisis. "The seriousness of the government is evident, as Aijaz was airlifted to Chandigarh, and arrangements are underway to shift other patients as well," he said. Principal, GMC Rajouri, Dr

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Chilla-i-Kalan set to end on dry note

J&K records 81% deficit rainfall in first 3 weeks of Jan 2025

HT NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR, JAN 22

Chilla-i-Kalan—the 40-day period of harsh winter—in Kashmir is all set to culminate on the dry note as there is no forecast of any major weather activity till January end while the Jammu and Kashmir during the first three weeks of 2025 has recorded a deficit rainfall of 81 per cent.

According to the news agency, the Director Meteorological department (MeT) has predicted mostly dry and cloudy weather conditions till January 31.

However, he stated that there is a possibility



of light rain and snow at isolated places on January 23 and in between January 29 and 30.

As per the details available with KNO, J&K has recorded a deficit rainfall of 81 per cent till today (January 22) as against the

normal precipitation of 60.5 mm, the Union Territory has recorded just 11.4mm rainfall with highest deficiency in Kathua at 98 percent from January 01 to 22nd. Srinagar, the summer capital of

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Only God knows when statehood will be restored to J&K: Farooq

HT NEWS NETWORK
JAMMU, JAN 22

Former Chief Minister and National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said that only God knows when statehood will be restored to Jammu and Kashmir.

"Only God knows when statehood will be restored to Jammu and Kashmir and we will regain the status of state," Abdullah told reporters on the sidelines of a party function organised by the SC Cell of the National Conference.

On Congress raising



knows what to do and it will work as it should be without any pressure from any quarters," the NC President stated.

However, on allegations leveled against the government by the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Abdullah said, "why they partnered with BJP, go and ask them."

many questions on its alliance partner National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir government, he said, "this can be asked to the Congress party what they want. What do they want from us?"

"The government

"When the talks between PDP-BJP were on to form a coalition government, I had told Mufti Mohammad Sayeed not to alliance with BJP," he said, adding that the PDP must have first looked

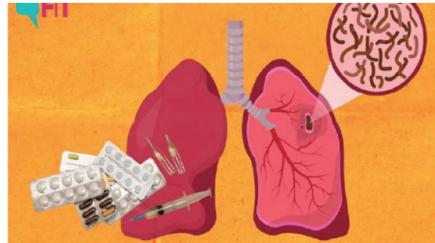
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Under 100-day TB elimination campaign, health department screens over 70,000, detects six cases

HT NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR, JAN 22 (KNO)

The Health Department in Kashmir has intensified its 100-day Tuberculosis (TB) elimination campaign to screen 2.5 lakh vulnerable persons in Srinagar and Baramulla districts, officials said on Wednesday.

Officials informed the news agency that the campaign, launched on December 7, 2024, under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) by the Health and Medical Education Department of J&K, aims to eradicate TB from these districts. Srinagar, classified



in the Gold Category, has seen a 60-80% decline in TB cases, while Baramulla, in the Bronze Category, has observed over a 20% reduction.

So far, 70,000 people have been screened, with 60,000 undergoing X-rays and 10,000 tested

using NAAT (Nucleic Acid Amplification Test). "Six TB cases have been detected and notified, with all patients receiving free treatment, including monthly nutritional support of Rs 1,000 under the PMTBMBBA scheme. Nutritional kits are being

provided to ensure early recovery," they said.

To facilitate testing and spread awareness, Nikshay Vahan vehicles have been deployed, and IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) materials distributed. Local leaders, including elected representatives, religious figures and self-help groups under the NRLM, have been actively involved in sensitizing the public about TB symptoms, prevention and treatment.

A senior health official told KNO that TB cases in Kashmir have consistently decreased over the years.

Since 2018, 21,462 TB cases have been reported, with annual figures showing a steady decline: 2018: 4,774 cases, 2019: 4,080 cases, 2020: 2,840 cases (amid reduced screening during the COVID-19 pandemic), 2022: 3,376 cases, 2023: 2,956 cases.

Currently, five districts in Kashmir, including four from south Kashmir and Budgam, have been declared TB-free. Efforts are ongoing to replicate this success in all panchayats in Baramulla, following Srinagar's earlier milestone of achieving TB-free status, the official said.

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Cong debacle in Assembly polls

Fact-finding committee report set to open 'Pandora's Box'

HT NEWS NETWORK
JAMMU, JAN 22

Report of the fact-finding committee on the Congress Party's poor show in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections held last year is all set to open a "Pandora's Box."

The panel, according to a senior Congress leader, was formed to ascertain the reasons behind the Congress's poor performance soon after the



results of the assembly polls were declared in October 2024.

The grand old party only won six out of ninety assembly seats in J&K

of which it bagged five in Kashmir and one in Jammu region, considered to be the party's citadel just a few years ago.

A top Congress leader while speaking to news agency said, "The committee worked meticulously over a period of 45 days to compile a detailed report. The committee's findings have highlighted concerns in the Jammu division, despite Congress traditionally having a strong

foothold in the region."

He said the report remains confidential. "It was first submitted to the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee Chief and subsequently handed over to the central leadership. The report is an in-depth analysis of the party's setbacks and suggest measures for recovery," he added. The senior leader said that while

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Tourist footfall rises in Sonamarg, provides livelihood opportunities to youth

HT NEWS NETWORK
SONAMARG, JAN 22

The breath-taking valley of Sonamarg has experienced a remarkable rise in tourism at the start of the year, leading to the resurgence in local businesses and offering much-needed employment opportunities, particularly

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Kashmir's 'Rice Bowl' thrives in plant nursery business

Qaimoh tehsil turns into epicentre as Kulgam generates Rs 100 cr annually

HT NEWS NETWORK
KULGAM, JAN 22

Once known as the 'Rice Bowl of Kashmir' for its extensive rice cultivation, Kulgam district in South Kashmir has shifted from traditional farming to nursery cultivation, with a large tracts of agricultural land now dedicated to this thriving industry,

generating an estimated revenue of Rs 100 crore annually.

Thousands of educated yet unemployed youth in the district have embraced nursery farming as a viable source of livelihood. Hundreds of modern nursery units have been established, offering a diverse range of hybrid plants and root-

stocks, including imported varieties from countries like Italy and the USA (notably Washington and California).

At the heart of this flourishing industry lies Qaimoh tehsil, which has emerged as its epicenter. Nearly 90% of Qaimoh's population is actively engaged in nursery farming, solidifying its status



as a hub of innovation and economic growth.

Hilal Ahmad Zargar, an entrepreneur, told KNO that almost all families in the Qaimoh area are associated with the plant nursery business. "In this era of unemployment, even educated individuals, including PhD scholars, are opting for this business. We are trying

to cultivate rootstocks that we currently import from foreign countries like Europe and America. This will help generate more income," he said.

He said that new varieties of plants are being cloned in Qaimoh as importing them from other countries is expensive. "Besides benefiting our farmers, we are also

cultivating varieties of apples, plums, peaches, apricots, and persimmons here," he said.

Hilal said that people associated with the plant nursery business are earning good revenue. "Employment is the key outcome of this business. Not only businessmen but also laborers and

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JKRTC set to revolutionize vehicle fitness testing

HT NEWS NETWORK
SRINAGAR, JAN 22

The Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) is set to revolutionize vehicle fitness testing in the region by introducing machine-operated Automatic Testing Stations (ATS).

According to the details accessed by the news agency, these stations have been designed to eliminate human intervention and will ensure accurate fitness assessments for private and passenger vehicles.

"To begin with one station will be established in Jammu at JKRTC's workshop at Bikram Chowk and the other at Pampore in Srinagar. Each centre will cost an estimated Rs 7-8 crore and will be developed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model," said an official.

He said the ATS would rely on advanced automated systems to conduct vehicle fitness tests,

significantly reducing the possibility of errors and irregularities.

"The process will also include video recording of the tests to enhance transparency. In addition to fitness evaluations, the stations will monitor pollution levels, testing a range of vehicles including trucks, buses, autos, taxis, and travellers. The automation of this process is expected to eliminate delays and prevent unfit vehicles from receiving fitness certificates," the official said, adding, "This initiative is expected to improve road safety by reducing accidents caused by mechanically unfit vehicles."

It's in place to mention here that at present, fitness tests in Jammu and Kashmir are conducted by Motor Vehicle Inspectors (MVIs), but the process has been plagued by concerns about irregularities.

"By adopting automated systems, JKRTC seeks

to address these issues and ensure a more reliable testing mechanism," the official told KNO, adding, "Under the PPP model, a private company will establish and operate the ATS for a specified period before transferring ownership to JKRTC. The corporation will also receive a share of the revenue generated during this time. The tendering process for the project has already begun, signalling the start of this significant development in the region's vehicle inspection infrastructure."

"The introduction of ATS will not only ensure safer roads but also contribute to environmental sustainability by addressing vehicle-related pollution. With similar centers already operational in other states, Jammu and Kashmir is now moving toward modernizing its vehicle fitness testing process, aligning itself with national standards and practices," he added. KNO

Road Safety Month

Wrong-lane, rash, negligent driving main causes of accidents: SSP Singh

HT NEWS NETWORK
PATTAN (BARAMULLA), JAN 22

Termining wrong-lane, rash, negligent driving and narrow-lane cuts as the main causes of road accidents, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic Rural, Ravinder Pal Singh, on Wednesday urged drivers to follow the rules to make Kashmir accident free. As per the news agency, speaking on the sidelines of an awareness rally organized in connection with the ongoing Road Safety Month here in North Kashmir, SSP Singh stressed on the importance of adhering

to traffic rules and stated that law enforcement is their duty. "My sincere request to all the drivers is not to operate vehicles without essential documents, including a valid driving license, insurance papers, and High-Security Registration Plates (HSRP)," he added.

"We don't harass anyone, we just perform our duty. However, if anyone feels they are being unfairly targeted by traffic personnel without violating any rules, they should report such incidents without any hesitation," the SSP Traffic said. He said that the

Traffic policemen are working very hard to create awareness among the public about traffic rules and to ensure strict adherence. "We are committed to zero tolerance towards over-speeding, overloading and other violations to reduce accidents and fatalities," he said. The SSP said that there is a positive shift in public behaviour, observing that more drivers are now wearing seat belts and two-wheeler riders are increasingly using helmets. "This shows a growing awareness and it is a step in the right direction". KNO

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq-led delegation to meet Waqf Bill panel chief on Jan 24

SRINAGAR, JAN 22

A delegation of the Mutha-hida Majlis Ulema (MMU), led by its chairman, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, is set to meet the chairman joint parliamentary committee (JPC) on Waqf Amendment Bill in New Delhi on January 24.

Speaking with news agency secretary to Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Syed Reham said that the delegation will meet Jagdambika Pal, chairman JPC on Waqf Bill, at his residence in New Delhi on Friday.

The MMU had sought time to meet the JPC chief to convey its concerns about the proposed amendments to the Waqf Bill.

Reham said that the delegation, will comprise of representatives from the Kashmir, Jammu, Leh, and Kargil. "It aims to highlight reservations regarding certain provisions

of the bill that will have far-reaching implications for the management and autonomy of Waqf properties and the welfare of Muslim community, especially the underprivileged," he said.

The contentious Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, was referred to the joint Parliamentary committee led by BJP MP Jagdambika Pal in August last year after criticism and concerns raised by various stakeholders, including the Opposition.

The panel is conducting extensive consultations with government officials, legal experts, Waqf Board members, and community representatives from various states and Union Territories to ensure a comprehensive overhaul of the legislation. The panel is likely to submit its final report to the Parliament in the upcoming Budget Session. KNO

Bandipora youth inches closer to his dream, braces for Bollywood debut

HT NEWS NETWORK
BANDIPORA, JAN 22

Faisal Ahmad Sheikh, a 20-year-old from Bandipora, has been selected by Mumbai-based production house Taha Film International, marking a significant step in his dream to become a Bollywood actor.

Known for his social media content recreating Bollywood scenes, Faisal earned recognition through his hard work and persistence.

However, the lack of platforms initially made the path difficult. Over time, social media

emerged as an outlet, enabling him to showcase his talent.

Faisal began uploading videos to social media, focusing primarily on villain roles, which he says are his preferred characters. Despite limited support in his first three years, he remained persistent and confident that his hard work would eventually pay off.

Faisal expressed gratitude to Taha Film International for recognizing his efforts and to the public for supporting him throughout his journey.

He credits his success to persistence and dedi-

cation and said that challenges should not deter anyone from pursuing their dreams. "If you work hard with sincerity, success will come. It might take time, but your efforts will always pay off," he told the news agency.

He advised youth to avoid harmful actions and focus on positive contributions that gain widespread support. "Whatever you are going to do, do it with an open heart. Don't do anything wrong or hurt our religion, our youth, or our nation. Work hard and contribute positively to society," he stated.

Several deputations call on CM Omar to highlight public issues

HT NEWS NETWORK
JAMMU, JAN 22

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday met several deputations at Civil Secretariat Jammu, and listened to their issues, demands and grievances for immediate redressal.

A deputation led by District Development Council Chairman Kishtwar, Pooja Thakur, brought development and employment issues to the notice of the Chief Minister.

Representing far-flung areas of Paddar, Dachhan, Atholi, Nagseni and other areas of Kishtwar district, the delegation submitted a memorandum of demands to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, highlighting key issues faced by these remote areas of Kishtwar district.

The delegation emphasized the need for employment opportunities for locals in ongoing and upcoming power projects, along with the upgradation of schools and health



institutions to address critical shortages of teachers, doctors and paramedics.

They also brought attention to the need for improved public infrastructure, including better roads, reliable drinking water facilities and the establishment of banking services in remote areas.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the deputation and assured that all genuine demands would be addressed on priority emphasizing the government's commitment to ensuring equitable development in remote areas for upliftment of marginalized communities.

In a separate meeting,

a deputation comprising former legislators of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State Assembly met the Chief Minister to discuss their concerns.

They requested for an enhancement of pension benefits, noting that the last revision occurred over a decade ago.

Besides they requested for an increase in medical allowance.

They also sought intervention of the Chief Minister in giving directions for smooth and hassle free entry of ex-legislators to the Legislative Assembly and Secretariat premises and to devise a simple mechanism to facilitate their easy access.

SDA evacuates street vendors from Sonamarg

HT NEWS NETWORK
SONAMARG, JAN 22

In a coordinated effort to ensure the orderly development and safety of the Sonamarg area, over one hundred street vendors were evacuated from the region on Wednesday.

The operation, carried out with the support of the Sonamarg Police and the Revenue Department, aimed to enforce regulations and maintain a conducive environment for tourism and development activities, an official told the news agency.

The vendors had been occupying unauthorized spaces, on Srinagar Leh National Highway and meadow area, he said.

The Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) has emphasized the importance of adhering to zoning laws to promote organized growth and to enhance the overall experience for visitors and locals alike.

A representative from the Sonamarg Development Authority stated, "This action is part of our ongoing efforts to manage Sonamarg's growth sustainably, ensuring that all activities are conducted in a regulated and safe environment." KNO

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Health crisis deepens...

Amarjeet Singh Bhatia said all fatalities exhibited brain involvement and nervous system damage. "Among nine admitted patients, five have recovered, but recovery becomes challenging once the brain is affected," Dr Singh said, adding that preventive measures and public awareness campaigns are being prioritised to curb further risks.

The inter-ministerial team, constituted by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and led by a director-level officer from the Ministry of Home Affairs, continued its investigation for the third consecutive day. Experts from the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Chemicals, and Water Resources, as well as forensic departments from Chandigarh and Lucknow, are actively involved.

The District Magistrate of Rajouri has declared Badhaal as a containment zone. He has issued orders to prohibit all public and private gatherings.

The affected families have been categorised into three containment zones to ensure continuous monitoring and prevent further spread:

Containment Zone 1: Homes of families where deaths have occurred will be sealed, with no entry allowed unless authorised.

Containment Zone 2: Close contacts of affected persons will be shifted to GMC Rajouri for health monitoring.

Containment Zone 3: All households in Badhaal village, with staff deployed to monitor food consumption. Designated officials have been tasked with overseeing food distribution to families in containment zones. Log-books will document every instance of food consumption, with police personnel monitoring compliance.

An epidemiologist at GMC Jammu told KNO that no indications of a virus or infection have been found so far. "However, traces of toxins have been detected and are being analysed at a broader level. The source and nature of the toxins are still under investigation," he said.

He said authorities are conducting preventive CT scans, educating the public on hygiene practices and advising them to consume only government-provided food. "Locals have been urged to cooperate with the measures to ensure safety and help in identifying the root cause of the deaths," he said. KNO

J&K records 81% deficit...

Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a deficit rainfall of 71 per cent while Shopian has recorded the second highest deficiency with 94 per cent.

Reasi, Kishtwar, Kulgam, Jammu and Doda have recorded a deficient rainfall of 90 per cent or above during the period while Udhampur, Samba and Ramban have recorded a deficit precipitation of above 80 per cent in 22 days.

Anantnag and Pulwama districts in South Kashmir have seen a deficiency of 77 per cent and 75 per cent respectively, the data revealed and added that Budgam, Bandipora and Rajouri have recorded a deficient rainfall of 69 per cent, 63 per cent and 64 per cent respectively. KNO

Only God knows...

within itself.

The former Chief Minister also launched a scathing attack on the BJP government over the return of Kashmiri Pandits stating, "On January 19, it has been 33 years since Kashmiri Pandits left their homes."

"They (BJP) were in power for 10 years, what did they do? This government has been in power for only a short time, they were in power for 10 years. Ask them what they did, how many people did they settle in Kashmir," said the National Conference Chief.

On the issue of unemployment, he said, "we still have 5 years in hand. Go and ask those who talk about generating 50,000 jobs and find out how many people they have employed."

Meanwhile, responding to a query on a train connecting the Kashmir valley very soon, Abdullah claimed, "as per my information, the train to Kashmir will be delayed by two months because some spots are yet not ready."

"I was also waiting and ready to go to Srinagar by train on January 25 but the train I think will start only when the tourist season begins in April," he said.

Under 100-day TB...

He said despite progress, challenges such as stigma, delayed diagnosis and treatment dropouts remain. The 100-day campaign aims to address these issues through intensive screening, public awareness, and stakeholder involvement, he added.

"While many people delay seeking treatment in the early stages of TB, the disease is fully treatable with timely intervention and proper medication," the official

said, adding that the ultimate goal remains the elimination of TB in Kashmir by 2025 to ensure accessible, free and high-quality TB care for all. KNO

Fact-finding committee...

Congress fared well in Kashmir, securing five out of nine seats, its performance in Jammu was poor.

"Swapping of seats during the election period may have contributed to the challenges faced in Jammu," the leader said.

"The results in Kashmir reflect our strong support base in the Valley. However, the Jammu debacle compelled us to introspect deeply and take corrective measures," the Senior Congress leader said.

Notably, the grand old party hit a new low as far as the results of the Jammu region were concerned.

In Jammu, only one seat came Congress's way after party candidate Iftikhar Ahmed defeated his nearest rival, Vibodh Gupta of the BJP, by a margin of 1,404 votes in Rajouri.

Many of its prominent leaders, including two working presidents, lost the polls. Most of these Congress leaders lost to their BJP rivals.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand in Chhamb, Raman Bhalla in RS Pura, Vikar Rasool Wani in Banihal, Choudhary Lal Singh in Basohli, Manohar Lal Sharma in Billawar, Yogesh Sawhney in Jammu East, Mula Ram in Marh, and Mohammed Shabir Khan in Thanamandi lost the elections.

The Congress leader said that the party was now focusing on addressing these regional concerns and strengthening its presence across Jammu and Kashmir.

He reiterated that the Congress remains committed to its principal demand for the restoration of statehood, stressing that it was critical to the region's political and electoral stability. KNO

Tourist footfall rises...

for educated youth.

Young residents, many with advanced degrees like MA, B.Ed., and M.Ed. are finding new avenues in the tourism sector as they turn to industries like snow biking, sledging, horse riding, and other small-scale ventures for sustainable livelihoods.

The region's appeal has grown with the addition of winter sports, including skiing, ice skating, and snowshoe trekking, which have attracted visitors even during

the colder months.

These activities not only appeal to adventure enthusiasts but also provide a steady income stream for the local community.

Local entrepreneurs point out the critical role of the Sonamarg tunnel, which has facilitated year-round connectivity. "In the past, snowfall and avalanches, especially near the Hung area, would isolate Sonamarg in winter. With the tunnel now operational year-round, tourism and business have flourished," a local business owner told the news agency.

The uninterrupted access has significantly bolstered the area's profile as a top winter destination.

With the enhanced accessibility, Sonamarg is poised for continued growth in the tourism sector, creating more employment opportunities and giving the local economy a much-needed boost.

As the destination welcomes more visitors, there is a sense of optimism that the ongoing tourism boom will help improve livelihoods and create a brighter future for the local population. KNO

Kashmir's 'Rice Bowl'...

transporters are able to sustain their families through this thriving industry," he added.

Javid Ahmad Bhat, a nursery businessman, said he has been associated with the business for the last 15 years as it provides a good source of income. "From PhD scholars to graduates, many youths are part of this business. It runs throughout the year," he said. He added that almost 15 nearby villages are dependent on it for employment.

District Horticulture Officer (DHO) Kulgam, Nisar Ahmed, said that a large area of Kulgam district is under cultivation for plant nurseries, and Qaimoh is the main hub for this business, with more than 100 nurseries.

In Kulgam and nearby areas, there are a total of 400 to 500 nurseries currently operational, he said.

He said that the nursery business in Kulgam is worth around Rs 100 crore, offering a wide range of plants, from apples to cherries to walnuts. "Quality plants are being produced here, and inspections and registrations are conducted regularly. The nurseries have been officially registered. People wishing to buy plants can apply through our portal and avail themselves of a subsidy of up to 80%," he added. KNO



Ensure foolproof arrangements on Shab-e-Meraj (SAW) & Friday Following: Div Com Kashmir directs officers

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 22: To ensure availability of essential services at shrines and prominent Mosques across the valley on the auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Meraj (SAW) & Friday Following, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri convened a meeting on Wednesday and instructed officers to make adequate arrangements to facilitate devotees.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, SSP Srinagar, SSP Traffic Srinagar, SSP Traffic Rural, and officers from the Waqf Board, Legal Metrology, Information, Roads and Buildings, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Food Safety, FCS&CA, Fire and Emergency Services, Health, SRTC, SSCL, KPDC, PHE, ULB, and other concerned departments. The meeting deliberated over various facilities including uninterrupted power and water supply, illumination, medical facility camps, availability of essential items, transportation and parking, traffic management, security deployment, sanitation, fire safety, stray dog control and mobile toilet vans.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com issued instructions to Deputy Commissioners



to make foolproof arrangements to facilitate devotees in their respective districts, particularly at Assar-e-Sharief Hazratbal, Aasari-e-Sharief Kalashpora, Jenab Sahib

Soura, Ziyarat Sharief Kabamarg, Ziyarat Sharief Khirram (Anantnag), Ziyarat Sharief Makhama (Budgam), and Ziyarat Aham-e-Sharief (Bandipora).

On this occasion, the Div Com instructed KPDC to ensure uninterrupted power supply across the valley on the eve of Shab-e-Meraj and the Friday Following. SRTC and SSCL were directed to arrange transportation services on designated routes to transport devotees to Hazratbal Shrine.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation was asked to conduct a sanitation drive at important Shrines & Mosques in the City and ensure stray dog-free surroundings at the Hazratbal shrine.

Div Com directed officers of Waqf Board to install waterproof tents within the premises of Hazratbal Shrine.

Jal Shakti Department was asked to ensure uninterrupted supply of drinking water at all the religious places besides to keep water tankers available at Hazratbal Shrine.

Similarly, all concerned departments were instructed to provide uninterrupted services pertaining to their respective areas to assist both devotees and the general public.

He also directed Deputy Commissioners to assess the arrangements for the observance of Shab-i-Meraj in their districts to ensure advance arrangements at religious places.

DLSA Srinagar convenes 1st UTRC meeting for fair & expedited trials for under-trial prisoners

HT News Network



SRINAGAR, JANUARY 22: To address the significant issue of ensuring fair and expedited trials for under trial prisoners, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, under the aegis of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, convened its first quarterly UTRC meeting for the year 2025 on Wednesday at District Court, Srinagar.

The meeting was held in compliance with the directions of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority (J&KLSA), and as per the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting schedule issued by NALSA for the year 2025.

Jaffer Hussain Beg, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, DLSA) Srinagar chaired the meeting, attended by key stakeholders from the judiciary, police, administration, and medical fraternity.

This collaborative forum underscores the importance of a collective approach in safeguarding the rights of individuals awaiting trial. During the meeting, the committee meticulously reviewed eight cases involving under trial prisoners. Each case was examined thoroughly through detailed discussions and deliberations, with the objective of understanding the specific circumstances of the individuals concerned. The committee subsequently formulated the recommendations aimed at expediting the judicial process, thereby upholding the principles of equity and justice. Chairman, DLSA, emphasizing the significance of UTRC meetings, highlighted their critical role in strengthening the criminal justice system and safeguarding the fundamental rights of under trial prisoners. He reiterated the necessity of regular initiatives such as these to ensure a fair and efficient legal process, reflecting the commitment to justice and transparency. The meeting was attended by several distinguished dignitaries, including Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar; Imtiyaz Hussain, SSP Srinagar; Sheikh Zulfikar Azad, SSP, Central Jail Srinagar; Meena Gowhar, Public Prosecuting Officer, Srinagar.

National Girl Child Week-2025 10 Yrs of BBBP: Social Welfare Deptt - SHEW Mission Shakti Srinagar celebrates spot Birth of Girl Child

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 22: In commemoration of the momentous milestone of 10 years of Beti-BachaoBetiPadhao (BBBP) initiative, Department of Social Welfare SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW) Mission Shakti Srinagar today organized on spot celebrations of birth of new born girl child to mark the 'National Girl Child Week-2025'.

Marking a decade of relentless efforts to protect, educate and empower the girl child in India this milestone aligns with India's vision of a Viksit Bharat 2047 and the global shift from Women's Development to Women-Led Development. The movement has focused on overcoming gender barriers and biases, paving the way to ensure that the girl child has access to education and opportunities to achieve her dreams.

Taking this initiative, the event was started by cutting a cake by the new born girl child's mothers and later Baby Kits were distributed among the new born Baby Girl Children.

This event was organized to raise awareness among families and locals regarding laying a strong foundation for valuing and protecting every girl child and preventing gender-biased sex-selective elimination and promote the survival, protection and education of the girl child.

DC Srinagar reviews progress on establishment of District Export Hub

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a comprehensive meeting at DC Office here to review the progress on 'District Export Hub' under the ODOP-DEH initiative being established at Kashmir Haat.

The District Export Hub is coming up with an aim to boost the export of goods from Srinagar District with adequate market linkage to the industry, provide guidance regarding exports, consultancy, etc under one roof.

At the outset, DC held an extensive discussion with all the stakeholders present in the meeting in order to ensure that the District Export Hub is operationalized with the vision to enable holistic socio-economic growth of the local Artisans and Exporters, besides institutionalizing the Export Ecosystem in the District. The DC said the objectives of the initiative is to give a fillip to the export volume and to boost the local economy, particularly focusing on promoting specific products or industries



within the District that have good export potential, thereby likely enhance production, improve quality, and facilitate marketing and export of these products with adequate market linkage. During the meeting, DC instructed the concerned Officers to take up necessary measures for setting up of Art Gallery & Display Stalls, development of Website, Staff for gallery and other requisite provision for making District Export Hub functional in effective manner.

The DC also called for engaging all stakeholders and artisans in the process to enhance exports and the market linkage.

General Manager, DIC, Chief Planning Officer, Deputy Director Handicrafts, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Lead District Manager and other concerned were present in the meeting, while other stakeholders associated with different trades also attended the meeting.

MD KPDC kick-starts safety trainings in electricity construction, O&M

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 22: Managing Director (MD) Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), Mahmood Ahmad Shah, today kick-started a series of Trainings on Safety related to Electricity Construction, Operation and Maintenance.

In the first instance, the two-day Electrical Safety Workshop was organised at the KPDC Data Centre, Bemina. The workshop was aimed at enhancing the safety knowledge of field staff and linemen working within the jurisdiction of O&M Circles 1st and 11nd, Srinagar.

The opening session was held in the presence of Chief Engineer (Distribution), Superintending Engineers from Circle 1st & 11nd, and CEO of IT&C KPDC. The audio visual sessions were held through specifically designed modules aimed to promote workplace safety and best practices among KPDC field employees. A batch of 60 field officials attended the program.

During the opening session, MD KPDC underscored the critical importance of adhering to safety



protocols on work sites, urging the field staff to prioritize safety above all else.

The trainers provided valuable insights into the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be followed during construction works, routine maintenance works, breakdown maintenance and rectification of faults emphasizing the need and role of field staff in ensuring safe operations. Live demonstration regarding the use of safety gear was also held.

The trainers were drawn from various wings of JKPCD and Electrical Inspectorate.

A guest lecture was delivered by Er. Bashir Ahmed Dar, former Secretary Technical JKPCD and MD of KPDC, who shared his experience and expertise on precautionary measures during construction works and the critical role of SOPs in safeguarding both personnel and public safety.

The workshop reflects KPDC's unwavering commitment to ensure the safety and well-being of its field staff, fostering a culture of safety excellence within the organization.

A series of safety programs is scheduled to be held at Circle level across all electrical districts of KPDC.

DC Srinagar visits Children Hospital Bemina, inspects facilities; takes stock of development works under PMJVK Inspects SDM Office Shalteng, Nayabat Office Zainakote

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 22:- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Wednesday undertook a visit to Paediatrics (Children) Hospital, Bemina to take stock of its functioning and the healthcare facilities being provided to the new born babies at the Hospital.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the development works being executed under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) for infrastructure upgradation of the only Paediatrics (Children) Hospital for the convenience of the patients and their attendants.

The DC also took appraisal about operationalization of 2nd Hotline services at the Hospital to cater emergencies etc.

On the occasion, the DC was informed that a proposal of Rs. 4.15 crore project for construction of Attendant Sarai at the hospital under PMJVK has been submitted to the Government to facilitate the attendants accompanying the patients



from far flung areas.

The DC also took stock of the measures being taken for rehabilitation of vendors/hawkers and establishment of a Police Post outside the Hospital. Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the Sub Divisional Magistrate Office (West) at Bemina and Nayabat Office at Zainakote.

During the visit, the DC inspected the Offices and took stock of the revenue related services being provided to the public.

At Nayabat Office Zainakote, the DC directed the Officers to prepare an estimate for development of the land adjacent to the Office besides for its fencing.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Executive Engineer, Arouj Alaqband, Tehsildar Shalteng, Rayees Abdullah, MS Children Hospital, Dr. Abdul Rasheed Para, CMO, Dr Tariq Ahmad Bhat and other concerned.

EDITORIAL

Make SMC a vibrant, bubbling civic body

Srinagar city has been designated as one of the smart cities in India and many initiatives have been taken by the government to improve the infrastructure in the summer capital of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. However it has been observed that development has taken place in the city centre of the Srinagar district or the adjacent ones. Not much development is visible in the other areas of Srinagar city.

People living in these areas could be seen harping on even the basic amenities of life and at times they could be seen running from pillar to post in this regard. Some years the government decided to shift the functioning of the various government departments operating in the Srinagar municipal limits to Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC). Vital departments like Power Development Department, Public Health Engineering (now Jal Shakti) were shifted to SMC but as on date the step has turned out to be half-hearted and at the end of the day the people are suffering.

The electric department of the SMC is not a full-fledged department and the officials of this wing of the corporation have to depend on the power department even for small things. There are many colonies in the Srinagar district which are pitch dark in the evening since the street lights installed do not function. The prime reason for the same is that the shifting of the street lights from the old power system to the new insulated cable system has not taken place.

Since the street lights have been installed by SMC it was the duty of the officials of the electric department of the corporation to do the shifting process. However they are not able to do so and the reason put forth by them is that they don't have the wires that connect the street lights with the insulated cable system. In other words it can be said that SMC can only install or set right the street lights and can't do anything with respect to shifting of the street lights.

It is high time that the union territory government looks into this issue and takes corrective measures. The SMC needs to be transformed into a full-fledged civic body and not a half-hearted one. Once the transformation is complete then only people can heave a sigh of relief and consider themselves as the citizens of an ideal smart city of the country.

Hidden Gems of Mendhar- Exploring the Untouched Natural Beauty



MS NAZKI

Mendhar is also known as 'The green valley of Poonch'. Presently, Mendhar is a tehsil of Poonch district located at the southern side of the district. The Tehsil is bounded by Shahstar range of mountains in the northern side; Bhimber Gali top in the east; Khandhar range of mountains in the southern side, while Poonch river divides the tehsil from the western side.

Before independence, Mendhar was the 4th tehsil of erstwhile Poonch principality with its headquarter at Dharmasal. This tehsil had an of 470 square miles besides 90 square miles area of Thakiala Prava. After partition the whole of Thakiala area came under Pakistan. In 1972 Mendhar tehsil was divided into two tehsils on administrative grounds namely tehsil Mendhar and tehsil Surankote. Presently, tehsil Mendhar is located exactly on the border. 14 villages of the tehsil are touching the LOC. The LOC is spread over 43 kilometers from Tarkundi in the east to Mandla in the south.

Tehsil Mendhar comprises of 57 inhabited villages and 64 panchayats. As per census 2001, the total population of Mendhar was 1.13 lacs, while the projected population of 2010 is 1.77 lacs. Out of the total population about 4500 belongs to Hindu and Sikh communities residing in Mendhar town, Bhera, Harni, Mankote, Sagra, Ari, Dharana, Gohlad etc. On the other hand, the villages located on the slopes of mountains and upper reaches are dominated by Gujjar and Bakerwal community. The population of Mendhar tehsil is considered more prosperous than the other areas of district Poonch. Mendhar is also known for the ancient Ramkund Temple of 8th century AD constructed

by Raja Lalita Ditya of Kashmir, Ziarat Hazrat Pir Chhotey Shah Sakhi Maidan, Takiya Sharief of Hazrat Ghulam Shah Badshah, Kalaban and Ziarat Sharief Chhajla. Mendhar is also known for an Old Bowali of Harni where around 1680 AD, Lachamdass alias Banda Beragi of Rajouri had killed a female deer. Later on, he became the disciple of Tenth Guru Gobind Singh and fought a number of battles in Punjab.

The history of Mendhar travels with the Indian civilization. As per a legend, Pandvas had visited Mendhar during their exile period. They had also constructed a very high tower at Mendhar near Sakhi Maidan. It is said that Kunti, the mother of Pandvas desired that she wanted to see her ancestral city Inderprast. Immediately, Bhima constructed so high a tower at Sakhi Maidan Mendhar, that Kunti could see her native town. There are a number of bowalies, ruins of Pandavas time in the tehsil. The legend goes that these monuments were constructed by the Pandavas.

As per the "History of India" by R.K Mukherji and "2500 years of Buddhism" by P.V Bhatpat one Greek Governor Manindra (161 BC-130 BC) was ruling Punjab. In those days Mendhar area was a part of his kingdom. Manindra had revolted against Greeks and declared himself as an independent ruler. Since the whole population of his kingdom was the believer of Buddhism at that time, therefore, Manindra was also interested in Buddhist philosophy. He had approached many priests and interacted with them about Buddhism. But no monk was in a position to convince him in discussion. It was by chance he met a Buddhist monk namely Naga Sinha who replied all the questions raised by Manindra about Buddhism. At the end of this discussion

Manindara was filled with spiritual joy and became a disciple of Naga Sinha.

P.V Bapat writes that Manindra had build a monastery in memory of his discussion with Naga Sinha and named it as Manindra Vihara. Mr. A Koul in his book 'Budhism in Kashmir' writes that the discussion between Naga Sinha and Manindra was held in the southern side of Kashmir valley about 20 yojans from the valley. The famous book on Budhism "Malinda Panaha" written by King Manindra refers to his intimate knowledge of Kashmir and its surrounding areas. Jyotisher Pathic, a renowned writer of Jammu writes in one of his articles published in "Sheraza" Urdu that the place where the discussion between Naga Sinha and Manindra was held is present Mendhar valley of Poonch. There is an old structure in Mendhar at Sakhi Maidan. The architecture of this structure is Indo Greek in style. It clearly indicates that in the ancient time this was a monastery. Presently, this whole valley is known as Mendhar. The local legend goes that the name of Mendhar is after the name of a King. These facts reveal that this King was Manindra, who had constructed a Manindra Vihara at present Sakhi Maidan where the discussions between Manindra and Naga Sinha had taken place. It appears that this place was initially named as Maninder Vihara. Later on with the passage of time it became Manindra which changed to Mendhar.

In 850 AD, when Poonch principality was established by Nara, Mendhar was a part of this principality. This principality remained intact upto 1452 AD when Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin captured the outer hills of Pir Panchal region and established a new outer hill state Poonch-

Nowshera under the name of Bhaya Desa Vinah. Mendhar also became a part of this new principality. In 1596 AD a newly converted Muslim Sarajud-Din Rathore became the Raja of Poonch principality on the order of Emperor Akbar. Mendhar area came under his control. From 1596 to 1819 AD Poonch remained the principality of Rathore Rajas and Sangu Gujjar Rajas and Mendhar was the part of this principality. In 1852 AD Maharaja Gulab Singh of J&K nominated his nephew Mian Moti Singh, the Raja of Poonch. Moti Singh came to Poonch and established a new principality. Mendhar valley became a part of this principality along with Thakiala Prava area of Kotli. C.E Bats writes in his book "The Gazetteer of Kashmir" that in 1872 AD, Mendhar was a township and known as Dharmasal with hundred houses on the right bank of Mendhari stream having mixed population. In 1905 AD Captain R.E.A Hamilton completed the first settlement of Poonch. On administrative grounds, he divided the principality into four tehsils and Mendhar became the largest tehsil in area of the principality. This tehsil also remained a large grain producer of Poonch upto 1947.

During the happening of 30th July 1931 AD in Kashmir, the uprising also started in Poonch area especially in Mendhar tehsil. On 2nd January 1932, the people of Thakiala Prava of Mendhar revolted against the state government and marched towards Poonch. The Raja Jagat Dev Singh of Poonch with the help of Muslim Suddans of tehsil Plandri succeeded in subsiding the revolt but the movement of Kashmir had given birth to a strong political leadership in Mendhar headed by Sardar Fateh Mohd Khan Kareelvi. In 1932 AD on the recommenda-

tions of Glancy Commission 75 members Legislative Assembly had come into existence under the name of Praja Sabha. Three seats were allotted to Poonch principality. Sardar Fateh Mohd Khan Kareelvi of Mendhar was elected MLA from Haveli-Mendhar constituency. He was again elected to Praja Sabha in 1937. During the turmoil of 1947 Mendhar tehsil was captured by the rebel forces and Pakistani Army under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Rehmatulla, a deserter of state forces. About two thousand Hindu and Sikh had become hostage to rebel forces. In this crucial time, Sardar Fateh Mohd Khan Kareelvi played a vital role and protected hundreds of Hindu families and helped them to migrate to Indian side. In 1948 AD, operation link up was started by India forces from Rajouri towards Poonch under the command of Brigadier Yadav Nath Singh. The Indian forces after capturing an important hill top Pir Bardeshwar on 14th October and Pir Kaleva on 26th October in Rajouri area moved towards Mendhar via Manjakote. Bhimber Gali was taken over on 8th November 1948. At that time Mendhar town was the centre of rebel forces and Pakistan army. But Indian forces continued their advance via Mendhar towards Poonch. On 20th November Pir Topa an important feature in Mendhar was captured. On 23rd November Indian forces moved via Jhakha Gali, stormed Mendhar town and captured it. In the next few days all the important hill tops of Khandar range from Balakote upto to Daruchian were taken and Mendhar tehsil was liberated. Presently, the green valley, Mendhar of district Poonch is leading the other areas in over all developmental scenario and political setup.

Subhas Chandra Bose: A Legacy that Inspires Generations

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH
SHEKHAWAT,
UNION MINISTER OF CULTURE

On the occasion of Parakram Diwas, marking the 128th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, we honour his immense contributions to India's freedom struggle and his indomitable spirit that continues to inspire the youth of today. Instituted to celebrate the life and ideals of this visionary leader, Parakram Diwas serves as a moment to reflect on how we can integrate his principles into our personal and national aspirations. This day serves not only as a reminder of his sacrifices but as a call to action, urging us to channel his principles of courage, integrity, and leadership to build a prosperous, self-reliant nation.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Netaji's contributions have

been celebrated and institutionalized like never before. In 2021, the government designated January 23 as Parakram Diwas, ensuring annual nationwide celebrations to honour Netaji's legacy. The unveiling of the Netaji statue at India Gate under the Kartavya Path redevelopment project was a landmark tribute to his vision. PM Modi declared this gesture as a symbol of "resurgence of Indian pride and culture," aligning with Bose's ideals of nationalism.

Further, the declassification of 304 Netaji files was a historic move, ending decades of speculation and giving the public access to vital records on his life and work. Additionally, the revival of the INA Memorial in Moirang, Manipur, where the Indian National Army first hoisted the tricolor, reflects the government's commitment to preserving Netaji's legacy. Hon'ble PM Modi also high-

lighted Bose's global impact, stating, "Netaji's life was dedicated to the cause of freedom, and he envisioned an India that would be self-reliant and confident."

Born into a respected family in Cuttack, Subhas Bose was a brilliant student. He excelled in his academics across stints at Ravenshaw Collegiate School in Cuttack, Presidency College in Calcutta and the Indian Civil Services (ICS) exam. Yet, driven by a deep sense of patriotism and a desire to serve his country, he chose to resign from the ICS, turning down the comforts of a promising career. Later, he launched a newspaper titled 'Swaraj' in 1921 to evoke patriotism and spread the word on freedom among Bhartiya population



Netaji's vision for a free India was not merely a dream but a call to action. When he escaped from house arrest in 1941 and sought international support, it wasn't just a strategic move—it was a bold asser-

tion of determination, resilience, and the will to take unconventional paths when required.

He famously declared, "Give me blood and I promise you freedom," embodying his belief that true freedom required not just words but deeds. Whether it was through the creation of the Indian National Army (INA) or his speeches on Azad Hind Radio, Bose demonstrated that achieving independence demanded collective effort, sacrifice and the willingness to contribute to the larger vision of progress. Former British PM Clementlee in a statement cited several reasons for the British leaving India, "the principal among them being the erosion of loyalty to the British crown among the Indian Army and Navy personnel as a result of

Netaji's military activities."

Though his ideological differences with Mahatma Gandhi were well known, Bose's respect for Gandhi's principles remained steadfast, and their contrasting paths highlighted his own distinct approach. Netaji resigned from Congress in 1939 but his commitment to the cause of India's independence never wavered. For today's youth, this teaches us the importance of staying true to our ideals, even when the road ahead seems fraught with challenges.

Netaji recognised the importance of "Nari Shakti" by forming "Rani of Jhansi Regiment" within the INA, an all-women regiment that reinforced his belief in women's empowerment. These ideals are well reflected in Hon'ble PM's vision of a Bharat, where women play an integral role in shaping the country's future. Celebrating Parakram Diwas

has become an annual reminder of Netaji's undying legacy. Previous editions of the celebrations, marked by cultural events and exhibitions, have honoured his contributions, with Kolkata and Delhi as key venues, where his spirit of unity and patriotism reverberated through the streets. This year, in Cuttack, the event has special significance as it honours his roots.

In a world that demands resilience and innovation, his life story serves as a powerful inspiration for the youth to act and contribute to the realization of a Viksit Bharat – a self-sufficient, developed India. As Atal Bihari Vajpayee once said, "Subhas Chandra Bose's name evokes patriotism and inspires the nation to act with courage and selflessness."

Let us carry forward his legacy by working together for a brighter, stronger future.

Say No to pollution



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Environment is a broad term; it needs a number of books to describe every single component of it. Briefly, the environment can be defined as our surroundings, like plants, trees, herbs, shrubs, birds, water bodies, soil, hills, mountains, and small water bodies like ponds and canals, etc. It means everything surrounding us is included in the environment. Our environment must be neat, clean, and free from all types of pollutants. Nature is kind; be kind to it. Nature bestows us unlimited blessings in different forms; it includes living as well as non-living things.

There are two main components of the environment: biotic and abiotic components.

Biotic components include all living things like plants, trees, animals, microorganisms, fish, grass, etc.

Abiotic components: it includes non-living things like water, soil, and air, which are abiotic components of the environment.

One thing that is quite awesome is that abiotic and biotic components are interrelated. Every micro- to macro-object in this universe is beneficial, and none is unwanted or harmful until any human interference takes place and disturbs nature.

Today, the whole world is concerned about the environment. Every year on the 5th of June, World Environment Day is observed. I think instead of celebration, we should observe, as there is nothing special that humanity has given to this environment. Humans are the main culprits who pollute the environment in different ways. I will mention this in this article at the end. World Environment Day can be brief, as "the United Assembly established World Environment Day in 1972, which was the first day of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. World Environment Day is observed every year with a specific theme and slogan that reflect the environmental issues of that time. The theme of 2024 is land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience.

How can our environment cause pollution?

Environmental pollution is caused by human interference and can occur naturally.

How the environment gets polluted naturally, due to intensive earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruption etc.

How humans can pollute the environment: Human play an immense role in polluting the environment, like the

construction of giant buildings, roads, bridges, railway networks, etc. Where there is the presence of humans, there is pollution. Humans are not adopting and implementing scientific techniques to tackle environmental-related issues.

In my district, Budgam brick kilns are the main source of air pollution and cause desertification-like scenes. Villages like Panzan and Gutlibagh in the district of Budgam are looking deserted due to sterile land and dust. Brick kilns should be minimized, and alternatives should be found for the construction of buildings, houses, etc.

Types of pollution, like

Air pollution: the composition of the air consists of different gases like 78% nitrogen (N), 21% oxygen (O), 0.003% carbon dioxide, and CO2. The remaining gases are present in trace amounts in the air, like krypton, xenon, argon, etc. Air can be polluted due to harmful gases released from factories and vehicles. As we know today, transport is increasing rapidly. As we can consider the situation in Delhi during the winter, the air pollution makes the lives of people dreadful. The air should be pollution-free. Plantation drives are very important in cities along the roads. The government should provide fresh plants to residents annually during the peak season, or it should be mandatory for households to plant trees if they have available spaces in their lawns. Plants and trees play a great role in minimizing the CO2 concentration in the atmosphere and providing us with fresh and healthy oxygen to survive.

Soil pollution: Every day we are experiencing new products on the market: packets with harmful polythene, plastic boxes, and chip wrappers. Solid waste is destroying the soil as it gets sterile, and harmful microorganisms are generated from unwanted solid waste in cities, towns, etc. Soil pollution can be minimized by keeping available garbage sheds in the village, and proper management should be taken into consideration.

Water pollution: water bodies are getting polluted due to household sewage, garbage, etc. and need the attention of vigilant individuals everywhere.

We have a number of pollutant-causing agents, and every pollution-causing agent should be taken into consideration and should be redressed on a priority basis.

Polythene is one of the major causes of soil pollution, and it stops the growth of plants as its presence under the soil stops the roots from getting important nutrients from beneath the soil. Polythene takes 700 years to decompose.

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MOOL RAJ

The name "Bhaderwah" is believed to have originated from the Sanskrit words "Bhada" meaning brother and "Daha" meaning land, symbolizing the brotherhood and unity among its inhabitants. Throughout its history, Bhaderwah has been influenced by various dynasties, cultures, and civilizations, contributing to its unique identity and heritage. It is also known as "NAGU KI BHOOMI" Land of snakes.

Tucked away in the verdant valleys of the Himalayas lies Bhaderwah, a picturesque town that seems to have been plucked straight out of a fairytale. While Kashmir often steals the spotlight in discussions about scenic beauty in Jammu and Kashmir, Bhaderwah quietly boasts its own unique allure, waiting to be discovered by travelers seeking serenity and natural splendor.

Natural Splendor

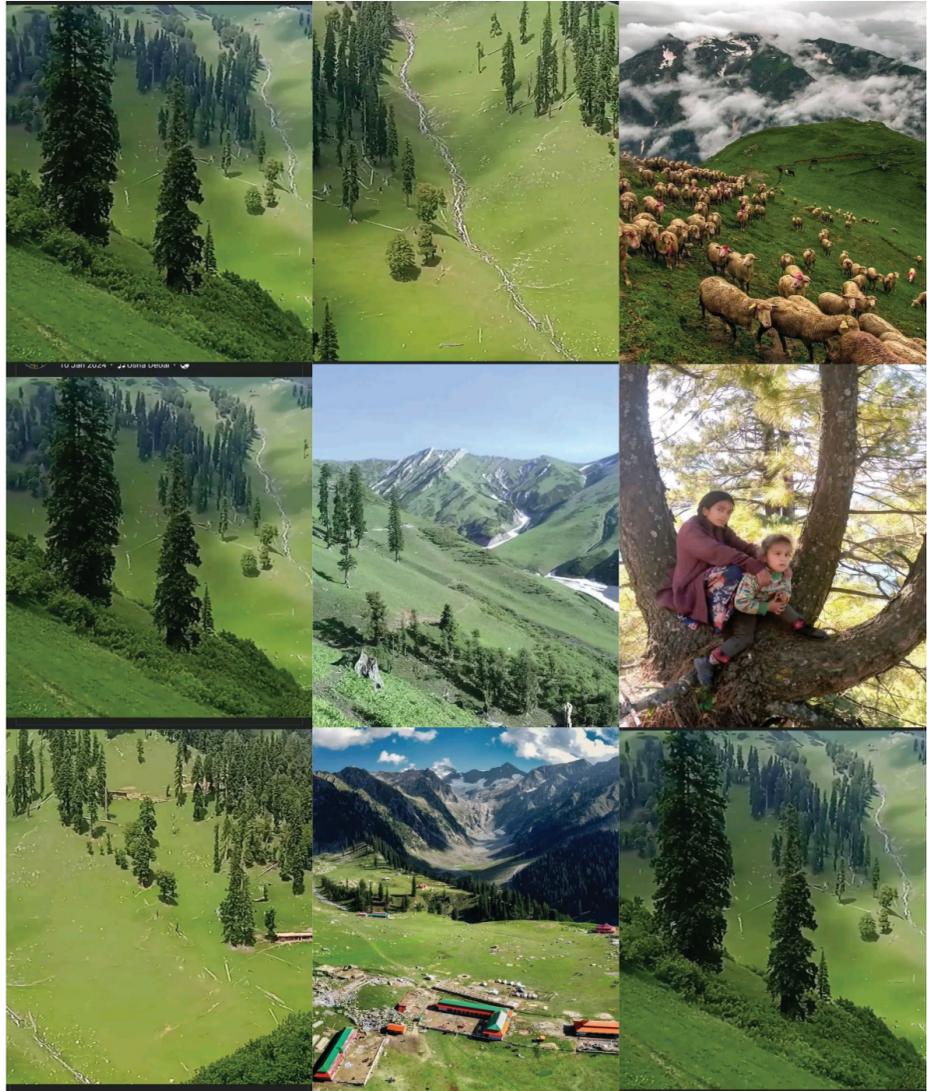
Bhaderwah is blessed with breathtaking landscapes that rival the most famous destinations in the region. From lush green meadows to towering pine forests, and from glistening streams to majestic mountains, every corner of Bhaderwah exudes tranquility and charm. The town is also home to the pristine Bhaderwah Lake, whose crystal-clear waters reflect the surrounding peaks, creating a scene straight out of a postcard.

Cultural Riches

Beyond its natural beauty, Bhaderwah is steeped in rich culture and heritage. The town is dotted with ancient temples, mosques, and shrines, each bearing testimony to its diverse religious fabric. Visitors can explore the historic Gup Ganga Temple, dedicated to Goddess Bhadrakali, Chandi mata temple, Vasuki nag temple and Kailash kund or marvel at the architectural grandeur of the old Masjid-e-Mohammadi, reflecting the town's syncretic ethos.

Adventure Awaits

For the adventurous souls, Bhaderwah offers a plethora of outdoor activities. Trekking enthusiasts can embark on trails that



lead to hidden valleys and panoramic viewpoints, while adrenaline junkies can indulge in thrilling experiences like paragliding and river rafting in the Chenab River. Camping under the starlit sky amidst the wilderness is an experience that promises memories to last a lifetime.

Preserving the Pristine As Bhaderwah gains recognition on the tourist map, it is imperative to ensure that its natural beauty and cultural heritage are preserved for generations to come. Sustainable tourism practices, coupled with community involvement, can help strike a balance between development and conservation. Efforts to maintain cleanliness, promote responsible travel, and support local initiatives will be crucial in safeguarding Bhaderwah's pristine environment.

Preservation and Sustainability

As Bhaderwah opens its doors to the world, it becomes imperative to

balance tourism with the preservation of its natural and cultural heritage. Sustainable tourism practices, coupled with community engagement and conservation efforts, are essential to safeguarding Bhaderwah's pristine environment and unique identity. By promoting eco-friendly initiatives, responsible tourism, and supporting local livelihoods, we can ensure that Bhaderwah remains a haven for generations to come.

The Road Ahead

As travelers increasingly seek offbeat destinations away from the tourist crowds, Bhaderwah stands poised to emerge as a coveted getaway in the Himalayan landscape. With its untamed beauty, cultural richness, and adventure offerings, Bhaderwah has the potential to captivate the hearts of all who venture into its embrace. It is time for the world to unlock the charms of Bhaderwah and embrace its magic as a hidden gem of Jammu and

Kashmir. Geographically recognized as the crown of India in the Northern part of Himalayas, Bhaderwah is bestowed with treasures of nature. It is a cup-type valley surrounded by evergreen vegetations, snow-capped mountains, tumultuous transparent rivers which blend into marvellous landscapes. The valley is embedded with Heritage villages, cottages and hamlets revealing civilizational aspects of the region. The beauty of this region has been described in Vasuki Puran like this "Bhaderwah like place can not be found anywhere even in Patal or Brahmlok. It is a unique place on the earth". The famous traveler V.I. Hinge in 1892 AD named Bhaderwah as 'prettiest and happiest region on earth' situated between 320.590 altitude and 750.450 at an elevation of 5425 ft. above sea level.

Perched among the mountains at an aggregate height of about 5000 ft above sea level, the Valley

of Bhaderwah looks very beautiful.

Bhaderwah is situated north east of Jammu at a distance of about 200 km. It is bounded by Chamba State of Himachal Pradesh in South east. The Valley of Bhaderwah derived its name from the Goddess Bhadarkali or Bhaderkashi which with passage of time devalued to Bhadarwah. The place has great tourism potential due to its picturesque mountains, lush green meadows, colourful hills with snow bound glaciers. Life sustaining crystal gushing water of rivers, pure water springs and cascading appearances which nature has gifted to Bhadarwah have added to its beauty.

As the region is dotted with various shrines of Hindus and Muslims, the region has great scope for pilgrimage tourism. The two sacred places of Kailash Kund and Son Bein (Golden Tank) are at a height of 1000 ft and 8000 ft above the sea level at a distance of 13 kms and 8

km to the south and south east respectively. Both the places are religiously connected with the ancient history. Besides, the town has a majestic view of Jama Masjid, Darga Sharief, Chandimata, Gupta Ganga, Vasuki Mandirs, Nozuki Mandirs.

Bhaderwah also offers some space for adventure sports lovers. The adventures lovers can go for snow-skiing, rock climbing, horse riding, para gliding and river rafting.

The tourist here can feel at home here in guest houses operated by local people. One can relish not only the food but also the local hospitality. As people here welcome with warmth, tourist influx is increasing day by day. The guest house owners have been acquainted with experiences of hospitality, presentation, service catering and management. This concept of hospitality has taken off very well here. The tourist mingle with local people freely and get a chance to know local customs and cuisines from a close look.

The tourists can enjoy local delicacies like Dal-Rajmash, Trout fish and other exotic preparations. The Guest houses also offer people tour package at affordable prices.

Festivals too are organized here to aware tourists of local traditions and life style. Various dance forms Dakhu folk, Paddri, Bhaleshi, Himachalli, Dogri and Kashmiri are organized to amuse tourists.

This enchanting place has many other tourist spots which have remained unexplored so far due to lack of roads and other required infrastructure. Bhaderwah - Seoj road connectivity via Mathola will give further impetus to tourism sector. The 12 km road stretch along which are scenic spots like Gulli, Hundal Gori, Jangral, Bhangra and Satarnoo need to be black topped so that the area comes on tourist map of the world. The Bhaderwah - Bani - Basohli road also needs attention of the authorities.

If the tourism potential of the area is fully exploited, Bhaderwah will emerge as a favourite tourist destination in the State. This sector can provide jobs to thousands of unemployed youths here and can boost the economy of the region.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

ISRO's space docking: A new era for India's space exploration

BIJU DHARMAPALAN

The Indian space research landscape has consistently been characterised by a combination of resilience, ingenuity, and ambition. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which has consistently advanced the frontiers of science and technology, recently accomplished another significant milestone with the successful completion of its docking experiment. This accomplishment represents a pivotal moment in India's space exploration endeavours, emphasising the nation's expanding capabilities in sophisticated space technologies.

The process of docking, which is an essential and difficult manoeuvre in space operations, entails two spacecraft coming

together in orbit and securing their attachment to one other. This technology serves as the basis for several advanced space missions, such as the construction of space stations, the exploration of space with crews, and interplanetary missions. ISRO's successful docking experiment demonstrates its capability to manage precise manoeuvring and synchronisation of spacecraft in space—a complex technological feat. India has joined the select group of spacefaring nations that possess docking skills because of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) successful demonstration of this capacity.

To establish permanent human settlements beyond Earth, space colo-



nisation necessitates the development of sophisticated capabilities, including the ability to construct space habitats, transfer resources between spacecraft or from Earth, and manage maintenance and logistics in space. Docking technology is essential for these activities as it facilitates the construction of large modular structures, such as space stations or habitats. This capability guarantees that multiple components can be launched independently

and assembled in orbit, thereby reducing the complexity and cost of the mission. Additionally, docking enables the exchange of resources and the transfer of crew members, which are both critical for maintaining long-term missions and developing self-sufficient systems in space. ISRO is establishing the foundation for India's involvement in humanity's endeavours to become a multi-planetary species by mastering docking technology. ISRO's success in docking technology positions India as a significant player in global space exploration and enhances its strategic importance in the space sector.

By demonstrating its capability to execute complex space manoeuvres, India strengthens its ability to develop Indigenous space infrastructure, including modular space habitats and stations. The Gaganyaan mission, India's inaugural human spaceflight program, is one of the immediate beneficiaries of this accomplishment. Critical functionalities, including the assembly of modular space habitats and the execution of in-orbit refuelling, will be facilitated by docking technology.

These capabilities will guarantee mission flexibility and efficiency, which are essential for the long-term preservation of human existence in space. Furthermore, the success of docking technology will expedite the fulfilment of

India's vision of having its space station, "Bharatiya Antriksh Station," by 2035. Docking proficiency augments ISRO's potential for intensified engagement with international space agencies. As the International Space Station (ISS) approaches the end of its operational lifespan, there is a worldwide initiative for next-generation orbital platforms.

India's proven docking capabilities position it as a significant partner for collaborative missions, potentially enhancing its influence in global space governance and diplomacy. This scientific achievement enhances India's standing in the burgeoning space economy.

(The writer is the Dean Academic Affairs, at Garden City University, Bangalore. views are personal)

Our prime objective should be to promote the idea of unity of all mankind: LG Sinha

Addresses Shrimad Bhagwat Samagam at Mahakumbh

HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 22: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed Shrimad Bhagwat Samagam at Mahakumbh, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The occasion was graced by Acharya Mahamandleshwar Swami Kailashanand Giri ji Maharaj.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the spiritual leaders, thinkers and social leadership to work for unity of mind and heart and contribute in nation building. "Our prime objective should be to promote the idea of unity of all mankind," he said.

"Mahakumbh is the confluence of spirituality, education, experience and enlightenment. It is the symbol of India's spiritual heritage, culture and traditions," the Lieutenant Governor observed.

He said the presence of revered saints at Mahakumbh illuminates our path and guides us for virtuous living.

"Samagam is the door to enter the highest level of consciousness. This is also a confluence of great personalities who provide leadership to various sectors of society," the Lie-



utenant Governor said.

He asked the religious heads, saints, teachers, scientists, philosophers to make dedicated efforts to carry forward our rich spiritual legacy to young generation and connect more youth to nation-building and realise the resolve of Viksit Bharat.

"Our ancient saints, philosophers and teachers' life and vision of selfless service, brotherhood, equality and universal values is an inspiration for all humanity. They inspired people to follow the righteous path, awaken the society to fulfil duties for a developed society," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that a mass campaign should

be started in mission mode to preserve and nurture the ancient Indian civilizational heritage.

Our mystic saints have created a divine aura through meditation and yoga and laid the foundation for the all-round development and welfare of humanity since time immemorial.

Modern communication tools, reach of social media and other communication mediums have eliminated geographical boundaries. We must use these mediums to spread research work, books, magazines, monographs on meditation and yoga to every corner of the world, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the basic foundation of cultural-spiritual institutions should be based on 3 Es - Education, Experience and Enlightenment.

By empowering the society through a system based on education, experience and enlightenment, we can uplift every section, without any discrimination. This system will lay emphasis on character building which will build a strong society with the vision of equality and social justice and create a sense of self-respect and self-pride in the citizens, the Lieutenant Governor further added.

JKRERA, Revenue Department to conduct joint inspections to curb growth of illegal colonies

HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 22: To curb the growth of illegal colonies in Jammu district, the Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA) will conduct joint inspections with the Revenue department.

The decision was taken today during a meeting of Deputy Commissioner, Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaisya with Chairperson, JKRERA, Satish Chandra.

During the meeting, the issue of development of illegal colonies in the district was discussed in detail.

The Deputy Commissioner apprised the Chairperson of the actions being taken by the district administration against unauthorised constructions.

"Notices will be issued to the defaulters and strict action will be taken against those who fail to comply with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 and the rules and regulations made thereunder," said the Chairperson JKRERA.

He added that this move is aimed at ensuring planned development, protecting homebuyer's interests and preventing unauthorised constructions in Jammu district. The Deputy Commissioner apprised the Chairperson of the actions being taken by the district administration against unauthorised constructions.

"Notices will be issued to the defaulters and strict action will be taken against those who fail to comply with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 and the rules and regulations made thereunder," said the Chairperson JKRERA.

Police arrests 03 drug peddlers; Contraband substances recovered

HT News Network

Baramulla, January 22: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested 03 drug peddlers in Baramulla. Budgam & Handwara and recovered contraband substance from their possession.

In Baramulla, a police party headed by SHO Police Station Boniyar at a checkpoint established at Chak Limber, Boniyar intercepted a suspicious person. He has been identified as Gh Nabi Dar son of Late Mohd Subhan resident of Babagali Limber. During search, 50 grams of contraband charas like substances was recovered from his possession.

In Budgam, a police party of Police Station Chadoora at a checkpoint established at Durbugh near Higher Secondary School Chadoora, intercepted a suspicious vehicle (Maruti 800) bearing registration No. JK01H-8720 driven by Sajad Ahmad Bhat son of Ghulam Ahmad Bhat resident of Gopalsai Dedmaribagh Chadoora. During search of vehicle, one polythene bag containing grinded charas like narcotic substance weighing 01 kg and 700 grams was recovered. Vehicle used in commission of crime was also seized.

In Handwara, a police party of Police station Handwara at a checkpoint established at Chotipora intercepted a person identified as Khalid Bashir Lone son of Bashir Ahmed Lone resident of Kahipora Kralgund.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)**
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN NAJAR & MARYAM KHURSHED S/O KHURSHED AHMAD NAJAR R/O KACHWA MUQAM Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 05/01/2023 & 15/05/2019 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class kreeri

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)**
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar, has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of SAIRA JAN, SUZAIN JAN S/O SHABIR AHMAD MALIK R/O BANGDARA RESHIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 24/08/2021 & 01/02/2023 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class kreeri

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)**
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MANZOOR AHMAD DAIDER S/O MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH DAIDER R/O BANDI BALA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 10/03/1987 and event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class kreeri

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)**
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MANZOOR AHMAD DAIDER S/O MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH DAIDER R/O BANDI BALA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 10/03/1987 and event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class kreeri

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)**
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of SAYAAR MUDASIR, ZAINAB MUDASIR & AREEBA MUDASIR S/O MUDASIR AHMAD LONE R/O THINDIMA KREERI Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 01/06/2015, 01/08/2017 & 20/06/2020 and event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class kreeri

PUBLIC NOTICE

My son's name and residence has been wrongly written as RAKEEB NISAR WANI S/O NISAR AHMAD WANI R/O HAMRAT TAPPER in date of birth certificate (DOB) while his correct name and residence is Zaid Nisar Wani S/O NISAR AHMAD WANI R/O HAMRAY which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his / her objection in the office of SDH KREERI / BMO office kreeri with seven days from the date of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....NISAR AHMAD WANI
F/OZaid NISAR WANI
R/O HAMRAY Cell No:-7006937740

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)**
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOMIN BILAL MIR S/O BILAL AHMAD MIR R/O DALIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 04/04/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class kreeri

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR WAGOORA
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)**
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of SHAHID ALI KHAN S/O ALI MOHAMMAD KHAN R/O JAHANGIRPORA Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 02/02/2001 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class WAGOORA

اطلاع عام

بشیر احمد ولد محمد رمضان بٹ ساکنہ موضع بانڈی پائین تحصیل واگورہ ضلع سے 11/09/2016ء تا 11/10/2016ء تک بطور نااہل بنیٹ کا تاریخ پیدائش اس سے اسے فرزند کی تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے اس سلسلے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے آئیں واگورہ میں پیش کر کے معاذ کرنے کے لئے BDO اندر اندر داخل ہونے اور واگورہ کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

ازدفتاریات واگورہ

عنوان درخواست مخائب محمد رمضان ولد محمد وانی ساکنہ ولسن نسبت اجرائی لیگل بیور (وارث جائز) سرٹیفکیٹ
اشتہار بمراد آگاہی
ماملہ مندرجہ الصدمہ میں بٹواری حلقہ سے پورٹ طلب کی گئی۔ مطابق پورٹ بٹواری وڈ پتھر سرٹیفکیٹ سال کا باپ محمد رمضان ولد محمد وانی ساکنہ ولسن مورخہ 17/10/2024 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے متوفی اپنے پتھر مندرجہ رشید مبراہ متوفی

1. علی محمد ولد محمد رمضان 48 سال کھریلوکام
2. فیاض احمد 43 سال
3. محمد اشرف 45 سال / مردوری
4. دریا ش احمد 41 سال
5. ظہور احمد 32 سال مردوری

اس طور کنڈیکل (5) افراد پتھر مندرجہ وارثان جائز کے علاوہ اور کوئی وارثان یا زینب سے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر پیش کر کے معاذ کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on name ALI MOHD MIR S/O .GH MOHD MIR R/O KREERI .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 021204000268 wants to be registered on my name MOHD ASHRAF MIR S/O ALI MOHD MIR R/O KREERI .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....MOHD ASHRAF MIR
S/O ... ALI MOHD MIR
R/O KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that I, Umer Ahad Bhat, intend to apply for a Fertilizer Licence for "Bhat Fertilizers" situated at Kalantra Payeen, Kreeri. The application will be submitted to the Office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Baramulla.

Any person having any objection in this regard he/she may file their objections in writing to the Office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Baramulla, within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. Objections received after this period will not be entertained.

Name....UMER AHD BHAT
Son of AB AHAD BHAT
Residen Of Kalantra Payeen, Kreeri, Baramulla.

CONDOLENCE

My son's date of birth DOB has been wrongly written as 16/02/1985 in Aadhar card while his correct date of birth DOB is 25/04/1980 which needs to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard he /she may file his / her objection in the office of TEHSILDAR WAGOORA/BDO office WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....MUSHTAQ AHMAD GANIE
S/O MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL GANIE
R/O JAHANGIRPORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that my residence has been wrongly written in (Electric bill) power connection as MUKDAM COLONY GULSHAN NAGAR Nowgam. while as my correct residence is Al-Noor COLONY SHANKERPORA NOWGAM HOUSE NO 26 bearing ID No 0206020028779 which needs to be corrected. If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office Chadoora Budgam within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name... FAROOQ AHMAD SHAH
S/O ... GHULAM MOHAMMAD SHAH
R/O Al-Noor COLONY SHANKERPORA NOWGAM
HOUSE NO 26

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in Driving Licence as JAVED AHMAD GUROO S/O MOHAMMAD ISMAIL GUROO while my correct name is JAVID AHMAD GUROO S/O MOHAMMAD ISMAIL GUROO R/O KHAWAJA BAGH as per my Aadhar card which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact with ARTO SRINAGAR/ BARAMULLA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....JAVID AHMAD GUROO
S/O MOHAMMAD ISMAIL GUROO
R/O KHAWAJA BAGH MALOORA SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Father's name on date of birth certificates of my Daughter Zainab Jan is wrongly mentioned as Mohd Ramzan, the actual name is Mohd Ramzan Bhat. DoB of Zainab Jan is 29-10-2024. Now it needs to be corrected. In this context, if anybody have any objection, may file in written within seven days in the office of the Municipal committee Sumbal, after the given time no objection will be entertained.

Name.... Mohd Ramzan Bhat
F/o: Zainab Jan
R/o: Bun pora, Chewa, Sonawari
Bandipora, Jammu and Kashmir .

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on name GH MOHD MALIK S/O .AB SAMAD MALIK R/O SURAIHPORA .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040011422 wants to be registered on my name GULZAR AHMAD MALIK S/O AB SAMAD MALIK R/O SURAIHPORA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....GULZAR AHMAD MALIK
S/O ... AB SAMAD MALIK
R/O SURAIHPORA

CONDOLENCE

This is for information of general public that my name has been wrongly written in (Electric bill) power connection as MOHAMMAD AMIN LONE S/O MOHAMMAD AKBER LONE R/O NOWPORA JAJIR while my correct name is MOHAMMAD AMIN BABA S/O MOHAMMAD AKBAR BABA R/O NOWPORA JAJIR bearing ID No 0212040009653 which needs to be corrected. If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....MOHAMMAD AMIN BABA
S/O ... MOHAMMAD AKBAR BABA
R/O NOWPORA JAJIR

CONDOLENCE

My name has been wrongly written as GHULAM.MOHAMMAD GANAIE S/O KHAZIR MOHAMMAD R/O DURHAMA in Aadhar card while my correct name is MOHD GANAI S/O KHAZIR GANAI R/O DURHAMA which needs to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard he /she may file his / her objection in the office of TEHSILDAR WAGOORA/BDO office WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....MOHD GANAI
S/O KHAZIR GANAI
R/O DURHAMA

DC Kulgam reviews functioning of KKGs Directs fast paced establishment for optimum results

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, JANUARY 22: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a meeting of Agriculture and allied departments of Horticulture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry to take review of establishment and functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) and the status of farmer registrations. The DC advocated for fast paced the registrations of all farmers on designated portals within the shortest possible time. He also emphasized the need to publicise the services of KKGs for the benefit of farmers.

It is worth mentioning here that Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) serves as a one-stop solution for agriculture and allied sectors, providing a comprehensive range of services to farmers at the Panchayat level. Addressing the meeting, the DC impressed upon the Krishi Udyamis (KUs) running these KKGs to make specialized service as their golden motive so as to facilitate the farmer community of the district in availing benefits under various government sponsored schemes. Athar urged the Executive Engineers of PWD to speed up the procurement of IT & Non IT items for making the KKGs functional at the earliest.



District Agricultural Officer Kulgam through a power point presentation informed the chair that during the last one and half year program of HADP the department has organised as many as 527 agricultural camps, reaching to around 32000 farming registrations. He apprised the chair that 81 Krishi Udyamis have been identified by the department to help out the farming community in these KKGs in the district. 10 KKGs are already strategically placed across Kulgam to serve farmers at the grassroots level and are equipped with advanced hardware and software facilities to deliver a range of agricultural services effectively in a user-friendly manner in phase 1. While 71 more KKGs are coming up in the second phase, the meeting was informed. It is pertinent to mention that KKG initiative aligns with broader government efforts to strengthen rural agricultural infrastructure, aiming to boost productivity and support the livelihood of the district's farming community by adopting modern agricultural practices and services for sustainable development. Among others, CPO, CHO, CAHO, AD Fishers, Agriculture Officer, DSHO, Sericulture Officer, LDM, Xen R&B besides, Krishi Udyamis attended the meeting.

DDC Ganderbal reviews physical & financial progress under District Capex 2024-25

■ **HT News Network**

GANDERBAL, JANUARY 22: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today convened a meeting to take stock of the physical and financial achievements made under District Capex 2024-25 here in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal. During the meeting, it was informed that out of 1635 works, 1475 have been tendered, out of which 1331 are also allotted. DDC took a detailed review of progress achieved in each department



including RDD, Health, Education, R&B, PDD, Jal Shakti & Agriculture allied departments. While reviewing sector-wise position of allotment and completion of works, the DDC directed the concerned executing agencies to ensure that the implementation of all the works on ground is expedited so that they are completed at the earliest. He stressed to utilize the remaining months of the financial year properly to complete projects well in time by spending all the released money. Officers were stressed to put in best efforts for maximum and optimum utilization

of funds under different schemes so that no released expenditure would be surrendered. Reviewing the sector-wise and work-wise progress, the DC emphasized the need for accelerating the pace of ongoing works to ensure their timely completion. He further directed all concerned executing agencies to meet both physical and financial targets for all approved projects within the stipulated timelines. The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, ACP, Executive Engineers from R&B, REW, Jal Shakti and I&FC, BDOs and other District and Sectoral Officers.

DC Kulgam inaugurates RSETI Stall at Mini-Secretariat

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, JANUARY 22: To boost rural employment generation, J K Bank Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Kulgam today organized a Bazar at DC Office Kulgam. The exhibition cum stall was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan. The DC briefed the media regarding the mission of RSETI and the professional training it has given to the budding entrepreneurs. He took a detailed inspection of items placed in the exhibition by RSETI. Athar expressed satisfaction over training & placements done by

RSETI Kulgam during the current financial year. It was given out that RSETI Kulgam has trained and made self-reliant as many as 900 entrepreneurs in different trades including cutting & tailoring, knitting, pickle making, embroidery, handicrafts, electrician and many more. DC instructed the Principal RSETI to install a mega exhibition cum stall on 26th January at Ganta Ghar Kulgam. It is worth mentioning that such programs are to be held every quarter in the financial year as a part of RSETI functioning so as to showcase the products made and services offered by the settled trained candidates from the RSETI.

Police organizes 05-days workshop on new criminal laws at DPL Awantipora

■ **HT News Network**

AWANTIPORA, JANUARY 22: Police in Awantipora organised 05-days workshop on 'New Criminal Laws' at the District Training Centre of DPL Awantipora for officers/officials of Police District Awantipora. The program was attended by Investigation Officers of the Police District Awantipora. The workshop, initiated with an aim to equip officers/officials with the essential understanding of the new criminal laws. The workshop was structured in such a way that the essence of the new laws is imparted on the IOs and they get a practical understanding on the application of these laws. The lectures were given by various experts. The participants were involved in interactive discussions enhancing the practical knowledge of these new laws.

Police organises awareness programme on new criminal laws in Handwara

■ **HT News Network**

HANDWARA, JANUARY 22: In a significant move to educate the youth and general public about recently amended criminal laws, Police in Handwara organized an awareness programme at Green Peace Secondary School Bicherwara Kralgund. The initiative is aimed to familiarize students with new legal provisions enabling them to remain well informed and knowledgeable to deal the situation effectively with evolving legal framework. During the session, police officers highlighted the key aspects of new criminal laws and threw light on its benefits on society by implementing and adhering these legal norms for maintaining law and order. Students actively participated in the interactive session and had threadbare discussions on new laws. While voicing their queries before the penal of experts, they sought clarifications on various legal provisions and were made satisfied by law knowing experts during the course of discussions. Police reaffirmed its commitment to acquaint general public about newly introduced laws for safety and community welfare through educational programmes and awareness campaigns aiming to foster a law-abiding society. The initiative is aimed to familiarize students with new legal provisions enabling them to remain well informed and knowledgeable to deal the situation effectively with evolving legal framework. During the session, police officers highlighted the key aspects of new criminal laws and threw light on its benefits on society by implementing and adhering these legal norms

Police facilitates Police community partnership group (PCPG) meeting in Kulgam

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, JANUARY 22: In its ongoing process to address the grievances of general public and to identify issues and collaboratively develop solutions that improve police community relation, improve public safety by strengthening trust, Police in Kulgam facilitated a Police community partnership group (PCPG) meeting at village Banimullah Devsar, Kulgam. The meeting was chaired by SSP Kulgam Shri Sahil Sarangal-IPS, accompanied by ASP NHW Qazigund Kulgam, SDPO Qazigund and SHO Police Station Devsar and was attended by Prominent respectables of Banimullah, Chanderghee, Gujjar Basti Banimullah, Malwan, Khaloor, Shogund and other adjacent areas. While speaking on the occasion, SSP Kulgam

assures community members that all possible steps are being taken by police to deter crime and improve safety of general public. He urged people to work with police so that potential crime hotspots will be identified and prevented at an earliest. He further said that police will hold regular meetings with the community to establish feedback mechanisms to ensure that concerns of general public are heard and addressed and asked people for additional support and services. SSP Kulgam listened the concerns of community members to logically reason out roots of problems. The participants in the meeting assured their full cooperation to police in tackling social evils and also appreciated the efforts of Police in facilitating community interaction meets where participants

DC Baramulla conducts spot visit to DPL, reviews final arrangements for Republic Day celebration

■ **HT News Network**

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today conducted an on-spot visit to the District Police Lines (DPL) Baramulla, the venue for the main function of the 26th January Republic Day celebrations. The DC reviewed the final preparations and expressed satisfaction, noting that almost all arrangements are in place for the grand event. During the visit, the DC inspected the venue and interacted with officers from various departments. He reviewed critical aspects such as security



arrangements, stage setup, seating plans, sound systems and other logistical requirements. He passed several directions to the concerned officers to fine-tune the preparations and address minor gaps, ensuring a seamless event. Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted a new initiative for this year's celebrations, stating, "For the first time, we are ensuring the dissemination of information regarding all government welfare schemes among the locals during the Republic Day celebrations. This effort aims to raise awareness and encourage people to take advantage of various developmental and welfare programs." He further said that the Republic Day celebrations symbolize our national pride and unity.

"It is heartening to see that almost all arrangements are in place. I urge all officers to remain vigilant and coordinated to ensure the event's successful execution," he added. The DC also instructed officers to ensure cleanliness, uninterrupted power supply, proper traffic management, and medical facilities at the venue. He emphasized the need for flawless execution of the cultural programs and parades, which are key highlights of the event. The Republic Day function at DPL will feature cultural performances, parades, and the ceremonial hoisting of the national flag. The administration.

HDFC Bank Reports Robust Financial Performance for Q3 and Nine-Month Period Ending December 31, 2024

■ **HT News Network**

Srinagar Jan 22, KNT: HDFC Bank Limited announced its financial results for the quarter and nine months ending December 31, 2024, following approval by its Board of Directors. The results, prepared under Indian GAAP and subjected to a limited review by statutory auditors, reflect strong growth across key metrics. The Bank reported consolidated net revenue of 652.8 billion for the third quarter, with a profit after tax (PAT) of 176.6 billion. This represents a year-on-year growth of 13.1% after adjustments for trading gains, prior year provisions, and tax credits. For the nine-month period, the consolidated PAT stood at 519.6 billion. Earnings per share for the quarter reached 23.1, and the book value per share as of December 31, 2024, was 656.6. On a standalone basis, HDFC Bank's net revenue for the quarter grew to 421.1 billion, a 6.3% increase from the previous year. Net interest income rose by 7.7% to 306.5 billion, supported by a core net interest margin of 3.43%. Other income, which includes fees, commissions, and foreign exchange revenue, amounted to 114.5 billion. The Bank main-



tained a cost-to-income ratio of 40.6%, with operating expenses increasing to 171.1 billion. Provisions for the quarter were lower at 31.5 billion, contributing to a PAT of 167.4 billion, reflecting a 13.6% adjusted growth year-on-year. HDFC Bank's balance sheet remained strong, with total assets rising to 37,590 billion. Deposits grew by 15.8% year-on-year to 25,638 billion, with CASA deposits contributing 34.0%. Advances under management reached 26,276 billion, with retail loans showing a 10.0% growth, while corporate loans witnessed a decline. Gross non-performing assets were at 1.42% of gross advances, slightly up from 1.36% in the previous quarter. The Bank's subsidiaries also delivered solid performances. HDFC Life

Insurance posted a PAT of 4.1 billion for the quarter, marking a 13.7% growth. HDFC Asset Management Company recorded a 31.0% rise in PAT to 6.4 billion, while HDFC Securities achieved a PAT of 2.7 billion, a 16.0% increase year-on-year. HDB Financial Services reported a PAT of 4.7 billion, with its loan book standing at 1,021 billion. HDFC Bank continued to expand its operational network, increasing the number of branches to 9,143 and ATMs to 21,049 across 4,101 cities and towns. Semi-urban and rural areas now house 51% of its branches. The Bank's workforce also grew slightly to 210,219 employees as of December 31, 2024. The Bank's total Capital Adequacy Ratio under Basel III guidelines stood at 20.0%, significantly higher than the regulatory requirement of 11.7%. This reflects a strong capital position to support future growth. The results for the period include the impact of HDFC Ltd.'s merger with HDFC Bank, effective July 1, 2023, marking a transformative year for the organization. Despite global and domestic challenges, HDFC Bank has maintained its position as a leading financial institution with a focus on consistent growth and operational excellence. (KNT)

DC Kupwara provides uniforms to sanitation workers of MC Handwara



■ **HT News Network**

KUPWARA, JANUARY 22: In a gesture to acknowledge and support the dedicated sanitation workers, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara Ayushi Sudan today distributed uniforms to 45 field staff workers including sweepers and drivers of the Municipal Committee Handwara. The initiative aims to enhance the morale and working conditions of the sanitation staff that play a crucial role in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in the area. The distribution ceremony was held in the meeting hall of D.C. Office Complex Kupwara, in the presence of E.O MC Handwara, Arshid Qadir Bhat. The uniforms, provided by

the District Administration, are designed to ensure the safety and comfort of the workers while they carry out their essential duties. Speaking on the occasion, the DC commended the tireless efforts of the sweepers and emphasized the importance of sanitation workers in the development of a clean and healthy environment. She interacted with the municipality staff and assured that the district administration would continue to prioritize the welfare of the staff engaged in sanitation and other essential services. The initiative aims to enhance the morale and working conditions of the sanitation staff that play a crucial role in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in the area.

Deputy Chief Minister conducts public darbar at Sana, lays foundation stone for Galli to Kateri road project

HT News Network

RAMBAN, JANUARY 22: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today held a public darbar and laid foundation stone for improvement and upgradation of Galli to Kateri road project.

Spanning over a length of 2.60 kilometers, this vital project is being executed by the Public Works Department (PWD), R&B Division Ramban, at an estimated cost of Rs 872.84 lakh. The project aims to strengthen road connectivity from Nashri to Sanasar, a renowned tourist destination in Ramban district. This improved connectivity is expected to significantly boost tourism and local economic activities, benefiting the region's



population. The foundation stone laying ceremony was attended by Chairperson District Development Council (DDC), Dr. Shamshad Shan; MLA Ramban, Arjun Singh Raju; Chief Engineer PWD Batote, Ashok Kumar; ADC Ramban, Varunjeet Singh Charak; DDC members; senior officers and prominent citizens.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Chief Minister reaffirmed the govern-

ment's commitment, under the leadership of Chief Minister, to deliver governance at the people's doorstep. He stated, "the government is making every effort to resolve public issues and fulfil its commitments for betterment of Jammu and Kashmir."

Surinder Choudhary directed the officers to conduct frequent visits to rural areas to ensure effective implementation of government schemes. Stressing the tourism potential of the

region, he assured that significant steps will be taken to enhance tourism infrastructure, including upgradation of Nashri-Sanasar road. During the public darbar, the Deputy Chief Minister addressed issues raised by locals, led by the DDC Chairperson and MLA Ramban. He issued strict instructions to the officers to resolve the concerns promptly and implement all directives in letter and spirit for welfare of the public. Taking stock of implementation of various public welfare schemes and projects in sectors such as Education, Health, Labour, Jal Shakti, Animal Husbandry, PWD and PMGSY, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasized that any misappropriation of funds or lack of seriousness in duty will not be tolerated.

Special Block Diwas program held at Wagoora, bringing governance to doorsteps

Aashiq Hussain

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 22: A special Block Diwas program was today held at Wagoora Kreeri under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, to address public grievances and promote inclusive governance at the grassroots level.

The program witnessed active participation from local residents of Wagoora Kreeri and adjacent areas, along with officers from various line departments.

On the occasion, residents raised several pressing issues, including the upgradation of healthcare facilities, improvement in drinking water supply, macadamization of roads, upgradation of irrigation facilities and other local concerns. Several issues were resolved on the spot by the DC, while others were referred to the concerned departments for timely redressal.

Addressing the gathering, DC



emphasized that the primary objective of the Block Diwas initiative is to bring governance closer to the people. He explained that these programs are designed to ensure transparency, responsiveness and accountability in administration.

The Block Diwas program is a direct channel for citizens to communicate their concerns, seek solutions, and understand the government's

schemes and programs, said the DC, adding that it is an opportunity for the Administration to engage with the community and address their needs in real-time.

The DC further added that these programs are part of the District Administration's continuous efforts to ensure that every citizen has access to government services and welfare schemes. Whether it's healthcare, infrastructure, or livelihood, the government is committed to improving the living standards of people.

He also highlighted the importance of schemes like the Holistic Agricultural Development Program (HADP), PM Sauri Ghar, Mission Yuva, and Vishwakarma Scheme in fostering development and empowering local communities.

The special Block Diwas program continues to serve as a vital platform for resolving grievances, promoting welfare schemes, and ensuring effective service delivery, strengthening the bond between the administration and the public.

Weekly Block Diwas: DC Ganderbal convenes grievance redressal camp at Mini Secretariat

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JANUARY 22: In a bid to address the concerns and aspirations of the locals, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir, today presided over a public grievance redressal camp as part of weekly Block Diwas program for block Ganderbal here in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat.

The camp focused on addressing public grievances, fostering inclusive development and ensuring time-bound redressal of issues.

During the event, residents of Block Ganderbal apprised the DC of several issues like staff dearth in PHC Shuhama, unavailability of Government school books, upgradation of roads, maintenance of



street lights, leveling of Khalmullah play field, ration store at Baba Deryadin, permanent Tehsildar at Tulmulla, dredging of Tulmulla Nallah, completion of tehsil building Tulmulla and tehsil library Tullamulla.

Meanwhile, DDC members of block Ganderbal demanded ground for Gutlibagh, Baba wayil to Gutlibagh road upgradation, Panchayat Ghar at Gutlibagh, roads connectivity to Badargund area and addressing bottlenecks of alternate road from Duderhama to Umar Hair.

The DC directed the health department to send the requirements of ambulances including the current status of ambulances in the district so that the matter could be discussed with higher ups.

Regarding availability of government books, the ZEO Ganderbal said that the requisition has been already sent and books will be available very soon.

Similarly, the R & B department was asked to take assessment of the roads for widening that were discussed in the program.

Sakeena Itoo reviews progress on implementation of ICDS (POSHAN), Mission Shakti, Mission Vastalya, PMMVY across J&K

HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 22: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a meeting to review progress on implementation of various schemes of Social Welfare department like ICDS (POSHAN), Mission Shakti, Mission Vastalya, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna (PMMVY) and other schemes.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare department (SWD), Sanjeev Verma; Mission Director ICDS; District Programme Officers; representatives of Mission Shakti, Mission Vastalya and other concerned officers of SWD were present on the occasion.

During the meeting, the Minister reviewed the status of fund utilisation under CAPEX, recruitment of Anganwadi workers and helpers, physical and financial



position of Anganwadi Centres and other issues of the ICDS project.

Addressing the officers, Sakeena Itoo emphasised the critical role of POSHAN Abhiyan in addressing malnutrition and promoting holistic health among children, pregnant as well as lactating women. She highlighted that these schemes align with the Omar Abdullah led government's broader vision of ensuring sustainable development and health equity across Jammu and Kashmir.

While reviewing the functioning of Anganwadi Centres, the Minister stressed upon the DPOs for maintaining cleanliness and proper hygiene within the centres. She delved upon the officers for maintaining regular supervision of these centres within their respective districts to maintain quality of nutrition provision for the beneficiaries.

"Conduct surprise visits on regular basis to ascertain the quality of nutrition as well maintaining

accountability of these centres", she asked the officers.

The Minister, while reviewing other aspects of these schemes, asked the Mission Director POSHAN for use of digital tools for real-time monitoring of beneficiaries. She advised them to develop a mobile application for monitoring of beneficiaries as well as officials on ground.

Highlighting that the SWD has major contribution in upliftment of society, the Minister called upon all DPOs for amplifying the awareness regarding these schemes in their respective districts. "Use traditional media like Radio and TV for creating awareness among people, especially in far off areas regarding these beneficiary oriented schemes. Other means should also be used to generate awareness among people regarding different schemes of the department", Sakeena Itoo said.

DIC Ang condoles demise of father of Gh. Hassan Tantray

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, JANUARY 22: A heartfelt condolence meeting was convened today at the District Information Centre (DIC), Anantnag, to mourn the demise of the father of Mr. Gh Hassan Tantray, a Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) employee of the department.

The meeting was presided over by the District Information Officer (DIO) Anantnag, Burhan Husain, and was attended by the entire staff of DIC Anantnag. The DIO, along with the staff, expressed profound grief over the demise and extended deepest sympathies to Mr. Tantray and his family during this moment of irreparable loss. Special prayers were offered for his eternal peace.

Speaking on the occasion, DIO reflected on the deep emotional bond shared between a parent and their child. He said the loss of a parent is one of the most painful experiences in life, leaving a void that cannot be filled. "We stand in complete solidarity with Mr. Tantray and his family during this period of mourning. May the Almighty bless the departed soul with eternal peace and grant the family the strength to bear this irreplaceable loss," he added.

The staff members of DIC Anantnag also extended their condolences to Mr. Tantray. "We stand in complete solidarity with Mr. Tantray and his family during this period of mourning. May the Almighty bless the departed soul with eternal peace and grant the family the strength to bear this irreplaceable loss," he added.

DC Shopian chairs Block Diwas at Hermain

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, JANUARY 22: With an aim to strengthen Government's public outreach, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today presided over a Block Diwas programme at Block Hermain to assess the issues of the public.

On the occasion, several public issues including road connectivity to uncovered areas, better drinking water supply to the people, scheduled power supply, cleanliness of irrigation Khuls especially Tongri Nallah, augmentation of health infrastructure,



augmentation of sports infrastructure, etc were projected by the people for redressal. DDC member, M Maqbool also flagged off viral issues of public importance.

The DC gave patient hearing to the demands raised by the people and assured the public that the issues shall be prioritised within norms.

He apprised the people about the recent government programs launched by the government for public

welfare including Mission Yuva, PMAY, PM Surya Ghar, etc.

He focused on cleanliness, water conservation, drug addiction among other social evils and sought public action and cooperation in addressing these issues.

While interacting with the public, the DC said that the Block Diwas is being organised with the sole objective to provide public-friendly and responsive administration to the people.

Progress of Mission YUVA survey reviewed at Kupwara

HT News Network

KUPWARA, JANUARY 22: A meeting to review the progress achieved on Mission Yuva Udhayami Vikas Abhiyan (YUVA) survey, going on across the district was today held at Kupwara.

On the occasion, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, M Rouf Rehman emphasized the objectives of the Mission YUVA, a government initiative aimed at fostering sustainable employment opportunities in J&K by supporting the creation of new micro-enterprises, expanding existing businesses and encouraging innovative



entrepreneurial ventures. The ADC directed all the line departments to focus on the key action points to ensure the Mission's objectives are achieved effectively and efficiently.

The meeting was informed that 81% progress under the Survey has been made in the district so far. To ensure the accuracy of the data and timely completion of the Survey, the

District Administration had deployed 60 Supervisors and 1250 Investigators to complete the month-long baseline survey which started on 01.01.2025.

Meanwhile, the Tehsildars, Block Development Officers, Child Development Officers, besides, Lumberdars and Chowkidars have been directed to extend full cooperation and coordination.

Weekly Block Diwas held at Arin Bandipora

DC reaffirms District Administration's commitment to the comprehensive development of the region & its people

Farooq Rather

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 22: In an effort to bring governance and administrative services closer to the people and to address public grievances, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Wednesday presided over a Mega Public Outreach program at Arin, Bandipora.

The event witnessed participation of DDC Member Arin, Ghulam Mohiddin, Officers from various government departments, local representatives, and public from all walks of life, including youth and senior citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, DC emphasized that Block Diwas is an initiative designed to foster direct interaction between the administration and the public, offering a platform for citizens to voice their concerns and seek resolutions.

He assured the residents that their issues would be addressed promptly and efficiently, issuing immediate directions to resolve various matters. He urged the concerned officers to take swift action and ensure continuous follow-up on the cases.

The event offered residents an opportunity to engage directly with district officials, allowing them to raise concerns and seek resolutions.



During the event, a diverse array of issues was discussed, spanning critical sectors such as education, infrastructure, healthcare, water supply, and electricity. Addressing the gathering, Qadri reaffirmed the District Administration's commitment to the comprehensive development of the region and its people. He emphasized that as societal and community needs continue to evolve, the government remains dedicated to adapting and tackling emerging challenges efficiently. Earlier, Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora spoke extensively about the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), emphasizing its significant benefits and the pro-

found impact it has on addressing homelessness.

Among others, CPO, CMO, CEO, CAO, ALC, ExEn R&B, ExEn PMGSY, ExEn Jal Shakti, AD FCS&CA, Tehsildar, BDOs, LDM and other concerned were also present on the occasion. Earlier, Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora spoke extensively about the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), emphasizing its significant benefits and the profound impact it has on addressing homelessness. Among others, CPO, CMO, CEO, CAO, ALC, ExEn R&B, ExEn PMGSY, ExEn Jal Shakti, AD FCS&CA, Tehsildar, BDOs, LDM and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

Principal Secretary Culture releases O P Vidyarthi's book at JKAACL

Emphasises importance of such literary works in raising awareness about environmental issues

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 22: Principal Secretary, Culture and School Education, Suresh Kumar Gupta, today released a Hindi book titled "PushpitPulkit Path Pe" authored by Dr. O.P. Vidyarthi at an event held at K.L. Saigal Hall.

The function was organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), bringing together a galaxy of eminent writers, thinkers and literary enthusiasts.

The event was presided over by Dr. Ashok Bhan, former Director General of Police and graced by Deepika Sharma, Secretary in Culture Department; prominent Dogri writer, Professor Lalit Mangotra; author Dr. O.P. Vidyarthi besides Dr. Javaid Rahi, Chief Editor, Gojri and Head of Jammu Division, JKAACL.

In his keynote address, Suresh Kumar Gupta lauded Dr. O.P. Vidyarthi's deep connection with the biodiversity of Jammu & Kashmir. He praised the author for his prolific contribution, having penned 51 books dedicated to the themes of envi-



ronmental conservation and the beauty of Mother Earth. Calling him a "living encyclopedia of forests and forest products," Gupta emphasized the importance of such literary works in raising awareness about environmental issues.

Deepika Sharma highlighted the need to disseminate Dr. Vidyarthi's knowledge among the younger generations. She advocated for organizing similar programs in educational institutions to inspire students to connect with and conserve the environment.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, in his presidential address, described the book as a poetic representation of the forests' beauty, the anguish of nature during disasters and the healing touch of environmental balance. He read select excerpts from the book, sharing their profound impact with the audience.

Dr. O.P. Vidyarthi shared insights from his journey, reflecting on the life experiences that inspired him to write and dedicate himself to environmental conservation. Eminent art historian Lalit

Gupta commended Dr. Vidyarthi's unparalleled contributions, advocating for his recognition on a national scale.

Professor Lalit Mangotra also spoke about the author's remarkable literary contributions, particularly in Dogri literature, and shared his personal association with him.

Earlier, Dr. Javaid Rahi, said that the objective of the event was to honor Dr. O.P. Vidyarthi's significant contributions to Dogri and Hindi literature, as well as his efforts in promoting environmental awareness.

The program featured scholarly presentations by Maharaj Krishan Santoshi and Pooja Kapoor Suri, who shared critical analyses of the book and the author's literary journey.

The proceedings were conducted by Rajkumar Behrupia, while S. Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Punjabi, JKAACL, delivered the vote of thanks.

This event celebrated a writer whose works not only enrich regional languages but also serve as a call to action for environmental preservation, inspiring future generations to value and protect nature.

MVD Doda organises awareness rally as part of National Road Safety Month 2025

■ HT News Network



DODA, JANUARY 22: As part of the National Road Safety Month 2025, the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Doda, in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) and the National Service Scheme (NSS), organized a special awareness rally to promote safe and responsible driving. The rally commenced from the ARTO Office and concluded at Khan Plaza, with enthusiastic participation from students, volunteers, and stakeholders.

The event was held under the directions of the Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, and Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, and was supervised by ARTO Rajesh Gupta.

Participants were educated about the significance of adhering to traffic rules to ensure road safety. They were informed about measures to minimize accidents, including disciplined driving practices, avoiding over-speeding, and the importance of wearing helmets and seat belts.

During the rally, drivers, conductors, and the general public were encouraged to adopt road safety as a lifestyle to protect lives and prevent injuries. The initiative aimed to foster a sense of responsibility among road users, with a focus on reducing road accidents and saving precious lives.

The event highlighted the administration's commitment to spreading awareness about road safety and emphasized the collective effort required to make roads safer for everyone.

GDC Ramgarh organises awareness program themed 'Disease Free India, Healthy India'

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, JANUARY 22: NSS Unit 'Prabha' and NCORD of Government Degree College, Ramgarh, in collaboration with Health and Medical Education Department Directorate of Ayush, organised an awareness programme on 'Disease Free India, Healthy India'.

The programme was aimed to raise awareness about the importance of a healthy lifestyle and encourage individuals to adopt measures that prevent diseases and promote overall well-being. The event was organised under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College. The program began with a welcome address by Prof. Brham Dutt, who outlined the significance of the initiative and emphasized the need for a collective effort in achieving a disease-free and healthy India. He stressed the importance of making informed health choices and the role of both prevention and early intervention in ensuring long-term health. The distinguished guest speakers for the event were Dr. Rozy and yoga instructor Pooja from the Health and Medical Department. Dr. Rozy delivered a powerful and informative lecture on ill-effects of drug abuse and on various aspects of health and well-being, providing valuable insights into maintaining a disease-free lifestyle. Pooja demonstrated various Asanas and explained their benefits in enhancing physical health and mental peace. Her session left a lasting impact, encouraging attendees to incorporate yoga into their daily routines for better health. The programme ended with a pledge taken by all attendees to fight against drug abuse, highlighting the importance of living a drug-free life for better health and well-being. The event was attended by all faculty members of the college. This awareness programme successfully contributed to raising consciousness about health and wellness, fostering a sense of responsibility among the students and staff to work towards a disease-free and healthy future.

GDC Sunderbani organises awareness rally themed- Sadak Suraksha, Jeevan Raksha

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 22: NSS Unit of Government Degree College Sunderbani organized an awareness rally on the theme "Sadak Suraksha, Jeevan Raksha" to observe Road Safety Month and raise awareness about road safety among the public. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and staff. During the rally, students highlighted critical aspects of road safety, such as wearing helmets, using seat belts, adhering to speed limits, and avoiding the use of mobile phones while driving. The participants also interacted with local residents, distributing pamphlets and sharing valuable tips on minimizing road accidents and saving lives. The event was part of the college's ongoing commitment towards social responsibility and fostering community awareness. A notable highlight of the rally was the students' effort to raise awareness about traffic signals and their significance in preventing road accidents.

They displayed informative placards explaining the meaning of various traffic signals and emphasized the need for strict adherence to these rules. The rally concluded with a pledge by the participants.

Javed Rana chairs meeting of forest department; asks for streamlining of HR management

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of all sectors of the forest department at Civil Secretariat Jammu. The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests J&K; PCCF/Director, Soil & Water Conservation Department; PCCF (WL)/Chief Wildlife Warden; Chairman, JK Pollution Control Committee; Director, Forest Research Institute; Secretary in Department of Forest, Ecology &



Environment; Director, Forest Protection Force; Director, Social Forestry; Managing Director, J&K FDC; Director, Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing Department; Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu/Kashmir; Chief Conservator of Forests, Planning & Projects; Chief Executive Director, WUCMA, Kashmir; Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu/

Kashmir; Director Finance, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department; Special Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department and Additional Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on Human Resource (HR) management in various wings of Forest Department. Addressing the officers,

Javed Rana sought details of sanctioned, in-position and vacant posts in the department and the steps taken by the HoDs to address the issues on this account. He urged upon all the HoDs to maintain accountability and transparency, ensuring administrative efficiency and timely resolution of employee related matters. Emphasising the need for time bound promotion in the department to ensure career progression for the deserving employees, the Minister sought actionable solutions from the officers. He said there should be no unnecessary delay in appointment by promotion.

Mega Awareness Camp on PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana held at Kishtwar

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, JANUARY 22: To promote PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited Kishtwar today organized an awareness camp for government officials of the district about the importance of utilizing non-conventional sources of energy.

The event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan.

The event aimed to promote rooftop solar installations and spread awareness about the scheme's benefits among officers and employees of the District. AEE Sudheer Sharma, while giving a PowerPoint presentation, said that the scheme offers 1KW to 10 KW rooftop solar setups for the consumers eligible to avail the scheme.

He highlighted that the initiative would help reduce monthly electricity bills of households and mentioned that the subsidy components range from Rs. 38,000 up to Rs. 94,800 depending on the capac-



ity of the equipment opted by the consumer. He also shared plans to organise similar awareness camps across various blocks.

The DC, while addressing the gathering, encouraged officers and govt employees from across the District. The DC also shared a slogan on the occasion: "Let our officers and employees be smart enough to use solar electricity."

For facilitating the registration, a dis-

trict-level control room will be established at the headquarters, comprising members from JPDC, vendors, and the DC office. Additionally, control rooms will also be set up at the tehsil and block levels to assist consumers and raise awareness about the scheme.

The DC also directed all bank authorities to fast track the process and clear the cases related to the scheme within 24 hours. The DC mentioned that the scheme

would be implemented in all 136 panchayats, including the 13 model panchayats of the district.

The DC set a timeline of 4 days for all officers/DDOs to register their employees for the scheme, 10 days for field staff, and 15 days for frontline workers. The DC also directed JPDC authorities to provide house-to-house registration facilities.

It was further informed that a training camp for the scheme is going to be organized at Jammu from 14th January for ITI students, where they will be trained in the installation of rooftop set up, providing them a lucrative career option.

The awareness camp was attended by CPO Kishtwar Shah Nawaz Bali, ACD Kishtwar Phulail Singh, AD FCS & CA Kishtwar Shafiqat Ali Keen, Dy. Registrar Cooperative/EO MC Kishtwar Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, AD Handicrafts, Ex En JPDC Kishtwar, CHO Kishtwar, DYSSO Kishtwar, along with other district officers and banking representatives.

Poonch celebrates 10 Years of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme with grand scooty rally

DC announces plan for week-long promotional activities

■ HT News Network

POONCH, JANUARY 22: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today flagged off a Scooty rally here from the DC office to mark the 10th anniversary of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign.

The grand rally passed main areas of the Poonch Township and culminated at Dhallan Bridge. The event was organized by the Social Welfare Department.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the sig-



nificant improvements in women's education, women's empowerment, and child sex ratios achieved over the past ten years. He emphasized that the district administration is committed to furthering these

initiatives through a series of week-long activities aimed at promoting the goals of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.

District Social Welfare Officer Wakeel Ahmed Bhat also spoke about the

programme, outlining plans for community engagement activities throughout the week to raise awareness about the critical importance of educating and uplifting girls.

The Deputy Commissioner called on all citizens to participate actively in these efforts, reinforcing the message of the programme that aims to protect and empower the girl child.

In addition to the rally, a signature campaign was also held to encourage community support for the programme.

Directorate Tribal Affairs organizes awareness camp on tribal welfare

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, JANUARY 22: Directorate of Tribal Affairs, Jammu and Kashmir today organised a day long awareness-cum-educational camp on the welfare of tribals at Gujjar and Bakerwal Boys Hostel, Samba. The aim of the camp was to bridge the gap between the government and the tribal people who are not fully aware of various government schemes.

Director Tribal Affairs, Ghulam Rasool who chaired the event said that in every sector including health, education, power



and water supply, road connectivity, skill upgradation, etc special emphasis is being given to ensure that the benefits percolate to the deserving tribal communities.

Director impressed upon the concerned offi-

tribal students by way of establishing Hostels and other developmental schemes.

Director Tribal Affairs also inspected and reviewed the progress of various developmental projects and issued instructions for expeditious completion while maintaining the quality standards of the work.

Deputy Director Tribal Affairs, Mannu Hansa, Warden G&B Boys Hostel Samba, Rashid Alam and a large gathering of tribal leaders and other citizens of the adjoining tribal hamlets were present on the occasion.

Over Past Decade, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Has Become People-Powered Initiative: PM Modi

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Jan 22: With the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative completing 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said it has been instrumental in overcoming gender biases and at the same time created the right environment to ensure that the girl child has access to education and opportunities to achieve her dreams.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) was launched by the prime minister on January 22, 2015 at Panipat, Haryana. BBBP addresses the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of women empowerment over a life-cycle continuum.

"Today we mark 10 years of the #Beti-BachaoBetiPadhao movement. Over the past decade, it has become a transformative, people-powered initiative and has drawn participation from people across all walks of life," Modi said.

"Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" has been



instrumental in overcoming gender biases and at the same time it has created the right environment to ensure that the girl child has access to education and oppor-

tunities to achieve her dreams, the prime minister said.

"Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the people and various community service organisations, 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' has achieved remarkable milestones," Modi said in his post on X.

"Districts with historically low child sex ratios have reported significant improvements and awareness campaigns have instilled a deeper sense of the importance of gender equality," Modi said.

"I compliment all stakeholders who have made this movement vibrant at the grassroots level. Let us continue to protect the rights of our daughters, ensure their education and create a society where they can thrive without any discrimination," he said.

"Together, we can ensure that the coming years bring even greater progress and opportunity for India's daughters," Modi added. (Agencies)

Kolkata medic's rape-murder case: CBI to seek death sentence in HC for Sanjay Roy

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Jan 22: The CBI will file an appeal before the Calcutta High Court, seeking death sentence for Sanjay Roy, who was sentenced to "life imprisonment until death" by a Sealdah court in the rape-cum-murder case of an on-duty doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, officials said Wednesday.

The agency received a legal advice suggesting that the case may be categorised as the "rarest of rare", deserving capital punishment, they said.

The agency is likely to file the appeal against the Sealdah court order as soon as possible with detailed arguments in favour of capital punishment, they said.

The agency's plea seeking death penalty for Roy was turned down by the trial court, where Additional District and Sessions Judge Anirban Das said that the crime did not fall under the "rarest of the rare" category.

"The CBI prayed for the death penalty. The defence lawyer prayed that a jail term be given instead of the death penalty. This crime does not fall under the 'rarest of the rare' category," the judge said on Monday while sentencing Roy.

"I am sentencing you to life imprisonment, meaning till the last day of your life, for causing injury during the act of committing rape on the victim that led to her death..." he told Roy.

The West Bengal government has already approached the high court, challenging the verdict and seeking death penalty for Roy.

The CBI has opposed the state's right to file an appeal in the case, claiming that as it was the prosecuting agency, it had the right to appeal on the grounds of inadequacy of the sentence.

Her body with severe injury marks was found inside the hall by a doctor next morning.

Civic volunteer Sanjay Roy was arrested the next day based on CCTV footage in which he was seen entering the seminar hall at 4.03 am on the day of the incident.

On August 13, the Calcutta High Court ordered the transfer of the probe from Kolkata Police to the CBI, which took over the case on August 14. (PTI)

Rahul Gandhi defamation case: Hearing deferred again due to lawyers' strike

HT News Network

Sultanpur (UP), Jan 22: The hearing in the defamation case against Congress MP Rahul Gandhi was adjourned again due to the continuing strike of lawyers.

Plaintiff Vijay Mishra's counsel Santosh Kumar Pandey said the special MP-MLA judge Shubham Verma set January 30 as the next date of hearing to complete the cross-examination in the case.

Mishra, a local BJP politician, filed a defamation complaint against Gandhi in 2018 in the court alleging that during the Karnataka elections, the Congress leader made an offensive remark about BJP leader Amit Shah which hurt his sentiments.

The case was pending for five years, and when Gandhi failed to appear, the court issued a warrant in December, 2023, summoning him.

While Gandhi surrendered in court in February, 2024, his statement was recorded on July 26, 2024.

The special magistrate granted him bail on two sureties of Rs 25,000 each.

During his appearance in court, Gandhi claimed innocence and said a political conspiracy was being plotted against him.

The court subsequently directed the plaintiff to present evidence.

Though a hearing was scheduled on



December 16, 2024, it was deferred due to the judge's absence. On January 2, 2025, when the cross-examination was not completed, the court set the next date for January 10, 2025. However, the hearing was rescheduled for January 22, 2025 due to the lawyers' strike. The case was pending for five years, and when Gandhi failed to appear, the court issued a warrant in December, 2023, summoning him.

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The court subsequently directed the plaintiff to present evidence.

Kejriwal unveils 7-point 'manifesto' for middle class, says they are victim of 'tax terrorism'

HT News Network

New Delhi, Jan 22 A national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday announced a seven-point "manifesto" for the country's middle class, saying they have been neglected by successive governments and are a victim of "tax terrorism".

In a video message on Wednesday, he said the middle class is the real superpower of the Indian economy but has long been ignored and exploited solely for tax collection.

Kejriwal announced the seven-point charter aimed at addressing the concerns of the middle class.

The demands included raising the education budget from the current 2 percent to 10 percent and capping private school fees. He also proposed subsidies and scholarships for higher education to make quality education accessible to all.

The A chief stressed the need for an increase in healthcare spending, suggesting a rise to 10 percent of the GDP, along with the removal of taxes on health insurance premiums.

Kejriwal also called for an increase in the income tax exemption limit from 7 lakh to 10 lakh, citing the heavy financial burden on the middle class.

Another demand was the removal of GST on essential goods, which Kejriwal



argued disproportionately affects middle class households. He also advocated for more robust retirement plans, including free healthcare for senior citizens in both private and government hospitals.

Additionally, he urged the central government to reinstate the 50 percent concession on train fares for senior citizens, which was discontinued in recent years.

Kejriwal criticised political parties for reducing the middle class to what he described as a "slave mindset" since independence. He pledged that A MPs would raise the voice of the middle class in upcoming parliamentary sessions, vowing to make their issues a central focus of the political discourse.

The announcement comes just weeks before the Delhi Assembly elections scheduled for February 5, with results to be declared on February 8.

'Kalpvasis' Brave Chill, Austerity In Search Of Spiritual Salvation At Maha Kumbh

HT News Network

MAHAKUMBH NAGAR, Jan 22: Sexagenarian Rohini Jha from Bihar's Maithili region sleeps on the ground in her camp on the banks of the Sangam, wakes up early to take up a holy dip, and has one meal a day despite the biting cold.

The 68-year-old is performing Kalpvās

— a month-long practice of austerity and spiritual focus — at the Maha Kumbh.

Stretching from Paush Purnima to Magh Purnima, Kalpvās has been a part of the region's spiritual heritage for centuries. The tradition is highlighted in various Vedic texts, including the Mahabharata and the Ramcharitmanas, showcasing its deep-rooted significance in Hindu spirituality.

Jha is among more than 10 lakh devotees performing Kalpvās at the Maha Kumbh.

On her 11th Kalpvās, Jha said her first was when she was four years old, accompanying her mother and father during their Kalpvās. "It is considered auspicious to perform at least 12 Kalpvās. The rituals begin with the devotees' arrival at the Sangam where they set up their temporary

tents. This is the maiden step in this spiritual journey," she told PTI.

"The devotees move away from all the comforts of home and lead a simple lifestyle, symbolising detachment from material possessions," she added. Jha is accompanied by seven members of her family, all senior citizens also on their Kalpvās — a practice she called "living in pain".

SC refers to another bench pleas of RBI, others related to writing off AT-1 bonds of Yes Bank

HT News Network

New Delhi, Jan 22: The Supreme Court on Wednesday referred to another bench the pleas of the Reserve Bank of India and others challenging a Bombay High Court order that quashed a decision of the Yes Bank administrator to write off additional tier 1 bonds worth Rs 8,415 crore as part of a bailout.

Additional Tier 1 (AT-1) are perpetual bonds issued by banks to increase their capital base and they are riskier than traditional bonds having higher interest rates. The RBI can ask a bank to cancel them if the bank is in trouble.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan said



it will not hear the four pleas filed against the high court's decision.

Without assigning any reason, the CJ said the pleas will now be heard by a bench headed by Justice AS Oka after a week.

A bench headed by the then CJ DY Chandrachud (since retired), on March 3, 2023, had issued the notices to Axis Trustee Services Ltd on as many as four petitions filed by the RBI and

The high court had on January 20, 2023 quashed the decision of the Yes Bank on March 14, 2020 to write off the bonds noting the administrator did not have the authority to take such a decision.

The top court, however, had assured the AT-1 bond investors that it would try to find out some kind of solution to the financial trouble being faced by them after senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Axis Trustee Services Ltd, said the invested money has become "zero" for no fault of theirs.

"It was the top officials of the bank who brought down the bank... Our money has become zero... we are not Tata-Birla. We are institutional investors. Some people invested their hard earned money.

SC extends stay on court-monitored survey of Shahi Idgah mosque complex in Mathura

HT News Network

New Delhi, Jan 22: The Supreme Court on Wednesday extended its stay on the Allahabad High Court's order that permitted a court-monitored survey of the Shahi Idgah Mosque complex in Mathura. The complex is located adjacent to the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple, a site of significant religious importance for Hindus.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan said it will defer the hearing on the plea of the 'Committee of Management of Trust Shahi Masjid Idgah' against the court-monitored survey of the mosque complex in the week commencing April 1.

The bench said in the meanwhile the interim



order of the Allahabad High Court staying the court-monitored survey of the Shahi Idgah mosque complex will continue to operate. The top court, on January 16 last year, had first stayed the operation of the December 14, 2023 order of the high court. The high court had allowed a court-monitored survey of the Shahi Idgah mosque complex and agreed to the appointment of a court

commissioner to oversee it. The Hindu side claims the premises hold signs suggesting that a temple once existed at the site. Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, appearing for the Hindu parties, had said the appeal of the mosque committee was filed against the December 14, 2023 order of the high court and connected orders in the matter had become infructuous. "All these petitions have become infructuous as the high court has pronounced its order later," he said. Jain referred to the subsequent order of the high court by which it rejected a plea of the Muslim parties challenging the maintainability of 18 cases related to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute in Mathura.

Body Building: Enhancing Your Personality and Reducing Your Stress



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI
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As per biological science, our life cycle undergoes various stages and processes. Adolescence is one of the stages where different biological changes take place naturally. Hormonal changes take place, due to which the whole body structure gets a new shape in both females and males. This stage is being considered a crucial period for teenagers. Adolescence periods start at 9 years of age for females and at 11 for males. Hormonal changes are very important and crucial. During this crucial period, most of the

teenagers were involved in different kinds of evil. Like being involved in drugs, engaged in wayward tasks, getting arrogant, stubborn, rude, lacking patience, etc.

Teenagers need proper counselling and motivation for their upliftment during this crucial period. Our society is filled with great and renowned personalities who have done miracles for the nation and are still doing their best. For the time being, we have to utilise each and every facility for the upliftment of our young buds and teach them what is suitable and beneficial for them. The government administration, from lower to higher levels, left no stone unturned to minimise the crimes and drug addiction among the teenagers and youths, but it is very unfortunate that we are still miles away from making it possible. One thing is quite clear: with the passage of time, we have to experience all the happenings within our society, which include negative as well as positive events. This world is



full of mysterious stories. Every event has its own story. Today in this article, let's try to motivate our friends of all ages towards bodybuilding sports. Today, bodybuilding is trending throughout the country. India has

been enlisted among the top countries that have good sports infrastructure and have participated at the international level for centuries. As I have experienced, bodybuilding is one of the best and most addic-

tive activities one can engage in. Bodybuilding endows your body with an attractive shape that keeps you fit and fine. There are great and interesting facts about bodybuilding, as mentioned. (1) Bodybuilding keeps you disease free and boosts your immunity in different ways. (2) Bodybuilding keeps you warm during the winter and makes you feel relaxed during the summer. (3) Bodybuilding reduces the risks among obese patients and burns their extra fat up to the optimum level. (4) Bodybuilding reduces your belly fat, makes you good, and enhances your diet capacity. (6) Bodybuilding keeps you happy and reduces your depression, so when you are depressed, do certain exercises.

All the points I have mentioned are based on my own experience. First of all, try to convince yourself that "I want to look good, be disease free, and not get involved in any drug addiction." I will motivate my friends toward sports activities and be ready,

fit, and healthy all the time. These days, gym centres are everywhere, laced with advanced equipment. There are trained and experienced trainers there. So we have a great chance to burn our extra fat during these winter days. After spending a couple days in the gym, we have to follow a balanced diet. Diet plays a vital role for those who indulge in bodybuilding activities.

Gym centres facilitate music, advanced equipment, a hygienic environment, and experienced trainers. Always follow the trainer and avoid muscle cramps, bone injuries, etc. I suggest you all join gym centres. I hope you will feel good and relaxed. Government administration at district level should provide gym centres at the panchayat level so that everyone should get engaged in and keep themselves fit and fine. One more thing: do machine exercise for almost 6 months; that will get your body in cutting-edge shape; believe in a natural diet; and avoid supplements.

Timely Intervention by Medical Team at PHC Boniyar Saves Life of 60-Year-Old Patient

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

Boniyar, January 22: A 60-year-old male patient, a smoker, arrived to PHC Boniyar at approximately 11:45 AM with complaints of acute retrosternal chest pain. Understanding the severity of the situation, the on-duty doctor immediately shifted the patient to the emergency room, where a series of investigations, including ECG and TROP-T, were carried out as per protocol. The ECG findings indicated Inferior Wall Myocardial Infarction (IWI) accompanied by Complete Heart Block (CHB), although the TROP-T test results were negative. Acting swiftly and decisively, the highly skilled Team Boniyar, led by Dr. Syed Raza Murad under the direct supervision of BMO Boniyar, Dr. Ruqaya Shokat, administered thrombolysis using Tenecteplase, a life-saving medication valued at over 40,000, provided entirely free of cost. This



timely intervention successfully stabilized the patient. He was later referred to SKIMS Srinagar for advanced management via a free 108 ambulance service, ensuring his transfer was both safe and smooth. At SKIMS, the team's efforts were widely appreciated.

The patient, now in stable condition, is under the care of cardiologists in cardiology department

SKIMS Srinagar, who have planned further management, including PCI with CAGBMO Boniyar, Dr. Ruqaya Shokat, praised the dedication and efficiency of Team Boniyar, stating, "The commitment of our staff to saving lives at the PHC level is commendable. Such efforts are a testament to the quality of care we aim to deliver, even in remote and challenging conditions." She also thanked

to the patient and their family for trusting PHC Boniyar's services. In view of the harsh winter in Kashmir, particularly in hilly areas, Dr. Ruqaya Shokat advised elderly individuals with comorbidities to take extra precautions, avoid unnecessary outdoor activities, and prioritize their health and safety.

PHC Boniyar continues to set a high standard for healthcare delivery in remote regions, ensuring that every patient receives timely, high-quality, and compassionate care.

BMO Boniyar, extended heartfelt gratitude to the Director Health Services Kashmir and the Chief Medical Officer Baramulla for their positive support in providing Injection Tenecteplase at the PHC level.

She remarked, "The availability of this life-saving drug has allowed us to save precious lives time and again. Their trust in Team Boniyar and their consistent appreciation motivate us to deliver our best in serving the community."

NEWS

9 Reasons You Should Eat 5 Soaked Almonds Daily For Better Health

Almonds are often praised for their health benefits and flexibility in snacks. When you soak them overnight, their advantages become even better. Making it a habit to eat at least 5 soaked almonds daily can greatly benefit your health.

1. Helps with Digestion

Soaking almonds reduces phytic acid, which can make it hard for your body to absorb important minerals. When soaked, almonds become easier to digest, allowing you to get more nutrients from them. This is especially good for anyone with a sensitive stomach or those wanting to boost their digestive health.

2. Supports Brain Function

Almonds are full of vitamin E, linked to better brain function and a lower chance of decline. Soaking them helps your body absorb this essential vitamin better. They also contain riboflavin and L-carnitine, which are helpful for memory and overall brain health, making soaked almonds a great snack for mental clarity.

3. Provides Healthy Fats

Almonds are a good source of healthy monounsaturated fats that are good for your heart. Soaking helps your body to absorb these fats more effectively, which can help lower bad cholesterol and reduce heart disease risk. Eating soaked almonds regularly can benefit your heart health overall.

4. Aids Blood Sugar Control

Soaked almonds are an ideal snack for those managing diabetes or wanting stable blood sugar levels. The magnesium and fiber in almonds help manage insulin and control blood sugar. Regularly eating soaked almonds can help lower the risk of type 2 diabetes by improving metabolism.

5. Improves Skin Health

The high vitamin E in soaked almonds benefits your skin, acting as an antioxidant to protect it from damage. Plus, the healthy fats in soaked almonds provide moisture from the inside out, helping you achieve a healthy and glowing complexion.

6. Supports Weight Management

If you're trying to manage your weight, soaked almonds could be a perfect snack. They are rich in protein, fiber, and healthy fats, which can help you feel full and cut down on calorie intake. Eating soaked almonds can help control hunger and prevent overeating.

7. Strengthens Bones and Teeth

Almonds are rich in calcium and magnesium, both vital for bone and tooth health. Soaking enhances the absorption of these nutrients, making it easier for your body to use them. Adding soaked almonds to your diet can help improve bone density and overall skeletal health.

8. Encourages Hair Growth

Soaked almonds are high in biotin, known for promoting healthy hair. This B-vitamin helps strengthen hair and can reduce loss. Enjoying soaked almonds regularly can support hair growth and improve its overall look and feel.

9. Boosts Immunity

Loaded with antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals, almonds play a key role in strengthening your immune system. Soaking them enhances nutrient absorption, helping your body fight off illnesses more effectively. Eating soaked almonds often can bolster your immune health throughout the year.



Dealing With Motion Sickness? Avoid These Foods To Feel Better

Motion sickness is a condition characterised by nausea, dizziness, sweating, and discomfort that occurs when there is a disconnect between the movement your inner ear senses and what your eyes see. It commonly arises during travel by car, boat, plane, or other moving vehicles. This sensory mismatch confuses the brain, triggering symptoms. Certain foods can worsen motion sickness by irritating the stomach, increasing acid production, or slowing digestion. Avoiding these foods and opting for lighter meals can help minimise discomfort during travel. Read on as we share a list of foods you must avoid while traveling if you experience motion sickness.

1. Greasy and fried foods

Greasy foods are heavy and difficult to digest, increasing the risk of nausea. Burgers, fries, and fried snacks sit in the stomach longer, causing discomfort during travel. Opt for lighter, non-oily meals before and during trips to ease digestion.

2. Spicy foods

Spicy foods can irritate the stomach lining and increase acid production, exacerbating symptoms of nausea and dizziness. Avoid spicy dishes such as curries, chilli, and hot sauces before traveling to prevent triggering motion sickness.

3. Caffeine-containing beverages

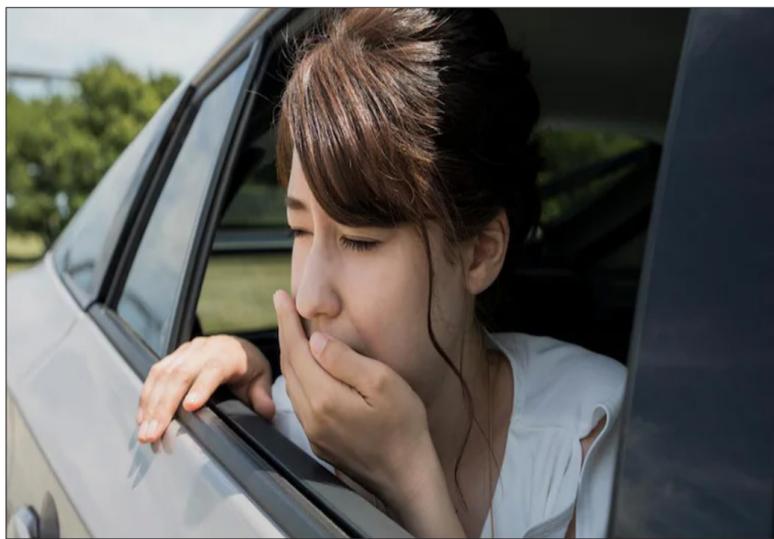
Coffee, tea, and energy drinks can dehydrate the body and stimulate the nervous system, making you more sensitive to motion. Additionally, caffeine increases stomach acidity, which may worsen nausea.

4. Carbonated drinks

Sodas and fizzy beverages can lead to bloating and increased gas, which may intensify feelings of nausea and discomfort. Opt for still water or herbal teas instead to keep hydrated without causing additional digestive issues.

5. Dairy products

Milk, cheese, and creamy dishes are rich and heavy, which can upset the stomach when consumed before or during travel. Dairy products



may also produce mucus, potentially increasing the sensation of queasiness in some individuals.

6. Citrus fruits and juices

Oranges, lemons, and grapefruit, along with their juices, are acidic and may irritate the stomach lining. While these are healthy foods, their acidity can worsen nausea for those prone to motion sickness.

7. Alcohol

Alcohol dehydrates the body and impairs the brain's ability to process sensory inputs, intensifying motion sickness. Avoid alcoholic beverages before and during travel to minimise symptoms and stay hydrated.

8. High-sugar foods

Candy, pastries, and sugary snacks can cause blood sugar levels to spike and crash, leading to

feelings of lightheadedness and nausea. Choose low-sugar snacks like nuts or whole grains instead for sustained energy.

9. Red meat

Red meat is high in fat and takes longer to digest, making it a poor choice before travel. Digestive discomfort from heavy proteins can heighten nausea and reduce your overall travel experience.

10. Foods with strong odours

Pungent foods like garlic, onion, or certain fish can trigger nausea due to their strong smells. The heightened sensitivity to odours during motion sickness makes avoiding these foods crucial for comfort.

Avoiding these foods and eating light, bland meals can help reduce the risk of motion sickness, keeping you more comfortable while traveling.

Bangladesh enter Super Six with win over Scotland

AGENCIES
BANGI, (MALAYSIA) JAN 22

Legspinner Anisa Akter Soba produced a match-winning spell of 4 for 25 to guide Bangladesh to a 17-run victory over Scotland, securing their place in the Super Six stage from Group D of the ICC Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

Bangladesh join Australia in advancing, while Scotland's hopes hinge on Australia defeating Nepal.

After being asked to bat, Bangladesh endured a shaky start, reeling at 50 for 5 in ten overs. A crucial 38-run partnership between Afia Ashima and captain Sumaiya Akter brought stability, with Ashima contributing 21 before her dismissal. Sumaiya remained unbeaten on 28 off 36 balls, steering Bangladesh to a modest 120 for 9.

In reply, Scotland started steadily, reaching 19 for no loss in four overs. However, Soba bowled Emma Walsingham for 11 and combined with a sharp runout to dismiss Pippa Kelly in the same over. Wicketkeeper Pippa Sproul (43 off 41) and captain Niamh Muir (22) added 50 runs to keep the chase alive, but Soba's brilliance with the ball ended Sproul's resistance, as Scotland faltered to 103 for 8.

In Kuching, New Zealand secured their Super Six spot with a dominant victory over Samoa in a rain-shortened 17-over match. Despite struggling at 12 for 3 early on, Eve Wolland (48 off 43) and Anika Todd (27 off 19) stitched a 55-run partnership to help New Zealand post 107 for 9. Olive Lefaga and Verra Farane were the pick of Samoa's bowlers, sharing five wickets.

Samoa's chase never gained momentum, as Rishika Jaswal and Tash Wakelin bagged three wickets each, bundling them out for just 40 runs.

In Johor, Davina Perrin's explosive 74 off 45 balls ensured England's dominant victory over the USA in a Group B top-of-the-table clash. After restricting the USA to 119 for 5, courtesy of Prisha Thanawala and Trudy Johnson's twin strikes, England lost opener Erin Thomas for a golden duck.

However, Perrin and Johnson (44 not out) stitched an unbeaten 117-run partnership, with England cruising to a nine-wicket win. Both teams have secured their spots in the Super Six stage.

Sindhu, Lakshya Sen to lead India at Qingdao

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JAN 22

India will field a 14-member strong team for the prestigious Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships, to be held in Qingdao, China, from February 11-16.

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu and Paris Olympics semifinalist Lakshya Sen will spearhead the team, with the national squad aiming to improve on their bronze medal finish at the 2023 edition in Dubai.

The squad selection has been influenced by player rankings and current form, with prominent players like HS Prannoy and Malvika Bansod taking up the second spots in the men's and women's singles respectively.

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) is optimistic about the team's performance, with secretary general Sanjay Mishra setting a target to reach the finals.

Mishra said, "The Bad-



minton Asia Mixed Team Championships is a prestigious event where the depth and quality of teams is tested. We did well by winning the bronze medal two years ago, but the target this year is to reach the finals, and then anything is possible. We will go all out."

India also boast a formidable doubles pairing, with the former world no. 1 men's duo Satwicksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty leading the charge. The women's doubles team will feature Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly or

the experienced Olympians Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto.

Tanisha will also partner Dhruv Kapila for mixed doubles, with K Sathish Kumar and Adya Variyath forming the second combination.

India Squad - Men: Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, Satwicksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, Dhruv Kapila, MR Arjun, Sathish Kumar K; Women: PV Sindhu, Malvika Bansod, Gayatri Gopichand, Treasa Jolly, Ashwini Ponnappa, Tanisha Crasto, Adya Variyath.

Australia & South Africa continue dominance in U19WC 2025, Ireland beat Pakistan

AGENCIES
BANGI, (MALAYSIA) JAN 22

Australia and South Africa remained unbeaten to wrap up their group stage, while Pakistan was knocked out of the tournament by Ireland.

On Day 4 of the U19 Women's T20 U19 World Cup in Malaysia, the final standings for three of the four groups were determined as multiple teams paved way to the Super Six stage.

Australia emerged triumphant over Nepal after initially being put under pressure by Nepal's bowlers. A flurry of quick runs in the death overs, coupled with a strong bowling performance, saw Australia defeat Nepal by 83 runs to top Group D.

Ireland stunned Pakistan, knocking them out of the tournament, in a rain-affected match. With the game cut short to nine-overs-a-side, Pakistan failed to chase down the target of 73, allowing Ireland to become the third and final team from Group B to qualify for the Super Six Stage.

In Group C, South Africa continued their dominance with a comfortable win over Nigeria. Rain reduced the match to eight-overs-a-side, South Africa set a DLS-adjusted target of 65. Their bowlers restricted Nigeria to



just 24, ensuring South Africa topped Group C and remained unbeaten. Nigeria, despite the loss, are also through to the next round.

Australia beat Nepal by 83 runs. After winning the toss, Australia chose to bat but were quickly put under pressure by Nepal, who claimed three early wickets within the first three overs.

However, Australia steadied the innings and avoided further losses in the powerplay, finishing it at 33/3.

Caoimhe Bray and Eleanor Larosa formed a crucial 72-run partnership to rebuild Australia's innings. Hasrat Gill and Chloe Ainsworth unleashed a flurry of boundaries in the final three overs, propelling Australia to a total of 139 at the end of their 20 overs.

Australia's bowlers applied early pressure on Nepal's batters, restricting their run flow from the outset. By the 10th over,

their chase of 73, managing only 59 runs in 9 overs while losing 7 wickets. With this win, Ireland secured the necessary points to qualify for the Super Six stage. Meanwhile, Pakistan will head home early, finishing at the bottom of Group B with just 1 point.

In Sarawak, South Africa beat Nigeria by 41 runs (DLS Method). South Africa didn't lose a wicket in the powerplay but were kept in check by Nigeria's bowlers, who limited the Proteas to 25/0 at the end of the powerplay. South Africa reached 41/1 in 7.2 overs before rain interrupted play.

Due to rain interruption, the match was reduced to 8 overs per side. South Africa managed to score 49 in their 8 overs, with Simone Lourens top-scoring on 25 off 29 balls. Nigeria's DLS-adjusted target of 65 proved too steep, and South Africa restricted them to 24/8 to secure the win, remaining unbeaten and topping Group C. Seshnie Naidu was named Player of the Match for her two wickets in a single over.

With this victory, South Africa qualifies for the Super Six stage. Despite the loss, Nigeria also progresses to the Super Six stage, finishing second in the group with 3 points.

Shelton secures Australian Open Semifinal berth

Melbourne, Jan 22 American tennis sensation Ben Shelton showcased nerves of steel and an unyielding fighting spirit to edge past Italy's Lorenzo Sonego in a gripping quarterfinal at the Australian Open on Wednesday.

In a match marked by relentless aggression and spectacular shot-making, Shelton triumphed 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6(4) to book his maiden semifinal appearance at Melbourne Park.

World No. 55 Sonego adopted a daring approach, charging the net 90 times and winning 67 of those exchanges, creating a spectacle for fans at Rod Laver Arena.

The 29-year-old Italian's aggressive tactics, combined with his creative shot selection, kept the 22-year-old left-hander Shelton on his toes throughout the match.

Shelton, who previously reached the semifinals of the US Open in 2023, displayed maturity and composure under pressure, managing to capitalise on key moments. His powerful serve was a decisive weapon, clocking a 232 km/h ace to seal the first set, the joint-fastest serve of the tournament so far.



Despite trailing two sets to love, Sonego continued to fight, thrilling the spectators with his shot-making skills, including an audacious diving backhand volley in the second set that drew applause from Shelton himself. However, Shelton's consistency proved the difference, with his 33 unforced errors significantly fewer than Sonego's 55.

The Italian pulled one set back in the third, breaking Shelton in the 10th game with a forehand winner. The fourth set was closely contested, with both players trading fierce rallies. A tiebreak decided the outcome, where Shelton capitalised on a crucial forehand volley error from Sonego to gain a 5-4

lead. Shelton sealed victory with two commanding serves.

With the win, Shelton advances to face either World No. 1 Jannik Sinner or Australian favourite Alex de Minaur in the semifinals. Undaunted by the prospect of a partisan crowd, Shelton said, "You guys can boo me, you can throw stuff at me," he quipped. "I'm looking forward to it. I know I've got a few people out in the crowd who are going to pull for me too."

The American's electrifying performance not only marked a significant milestone in his career but also set the stage for what promises to be a thrilling semifinal clash.

Struggling Dortmund sack coach Nuri Sahin

AGENCIES
GERMANY, JAN 22

Borussia Dortmund have sacked head coach Nuri Sahin after the 2-1 Champions League defeat at Bologna.

The German side have lost four successive matches in all competitions since the winter break.

Defeat to Bologna on Tuesday was their third loss in this season's Champions League, meaning last season's runners-up need a result against Shakhtar Donetsk in their



Bundesliga, seven points outside the top four and therefore endangering their chances of a return to the Champions League next term.

"We value Nuri Sahin and his work very much, we hoped for a long-term collaboration and until the end we had hoped that we could achieve a sporting turnaround together," said Dortmund sporting director Lars Ricken.

"This decision hurts me personally, but it was unavoidable after the game in Bologna." Sahin, 36, who had two stints at the club as a player, said: "Unfortunately, we have not managed to live up to Borussia Dortmund's sporting ambitions this season. "I wish this special club all the best."

Sahin was appointed Dortmund boss in June 2024 as a replacement for Edin Terzic, who left the club following their Champions League final defeat to Real Madrid.

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- Business Cards
- Envelopes
- Brochures
- Booklets
- Catalogues
- Post Cards
- Presentation folders
- letterheads
- Magazines
- Newsletters
- Raised printing
- Wedding Cards
- Invoices
- Note pad
- Forms
- Labels
- Scratch coupon
- Signs/Banners
- Pen/Caps
- T-Shirts
- Calendars
- Embroidery
- Door Hangers