

Bumrah wins ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year award

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The Lifeline of LJHP: Exploring the Balancing Reservoir of Baramulla

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NEWS BRIEF

Gulmarg Gondola authorities urge tourists to follow slot allotment

HT NEWS NETWORK  
SRINAGAR, JAN 27

Amidst the ongoing peak winter season, the management of Gulmarg Gondola has appealed to visitors to adhere to the slot allotment system to ensure a hassle-free experience and avoid long queues. "We are committed to providing a

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

Chairman SYSF Foundation, social activist call on LG Sinha

HT NEWS NETWORK  
JAMMU, JAN 27

Wajahat Farooq Bhat, Chairman, Save Youth Save Future Foundation, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Monday.

He was accompanied by Anika Nazir, Women's Wing President, and Mudasir Ahmed Dar, South Kashmir Zonal President of the foundation.

Bhat apprised the Lieutenant Governor on

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Shab-e-Mehraj: Thousands of devotees flock to Hazratbal shrine

HT NEWS NETWORK  
SRINAGAR, JAN 27

Thousands of devotees from across Kashmir thronged the revered Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar on Monday evening to observe Shab-e-Mehraj, an occasion

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Govt hikes monthly stipends for FMGs to Rs 12,300

HT NEWS NETWORK  
SRINAGAR, JAN 27

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday granted sanction to the stipends in favour of Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs).

As per an order issued by Health and Medical Education Department, a copy

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CM Omar Abdullah reviews implementation of JSD schemes



HT NEWS NETWORK  
JAMMU, JAN 27

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday chaired a review meeting

of the Jal Shakti Department here at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting discussed the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Jammu and Kashmir.

CM emphasized the need for effective implementation and robust monitoring mechanisms to achieve the mission's objectives.

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Isolated in winter, Gurez Valley yearns for year-round connectivity

HT NEWS NETWORK  
SRINAGAR, JAN 27

Villages near the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir face severe challenges every winter when heavy snowfall disconnects them from the rest of the world.

Essential commodities, including food and healthcare, become scarce as roads remain blocked for months, leaving residents to endure long periods of isolation.

The Gurez Valley, located near the LoC, is one such area. Known for its snow-capped mountains

and pristine rivers, the valley transforms into a harsh winter zone for its residents.

"We stock firewood, rice, oil, and dried vegetables before the snowfall begins," Abdul Rasheed, a resident of Tulail, told the

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J&K govt hikes dearness allowance for employees

HT NEWS NETWORK  
SRINAGAR, JAN 27

The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday announced a hike in the Dearness Allowance (DA) for all government employees working under the 7th Pay Commission. This decision follows the Council of

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Weatherman predicts Series of WDs from Jan 29

HT NEWS NETWORK  
SRINAGAR, JAN 27

The weatherman on Monday said that the series of Western Disturbances are affecting Jammu and Kashmir from January 29 onwards and light snowfall is expected at isolated places or scattered places till February 05.

According to the news agency, Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather is expected to remain dry till January 29 afternoon.

However, he said that a series of WDs are affecting J&K till February 5 and under its influence, there

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Srinagar weaver weaves his way to Padma Shri glory

HT NEWS NETWORK  
SRINAGAR, JAN 27

At 72, Farooq Ahmed Mir from Pamposh Colony, Natipora, Srinagar has shown that age is no barrier to achieving greatness.

Honoured with the "Padma Shri" on this Republic Day, Mir's journey as a Kashmiri weaver and artisan shows his passion, dedication and perseverance.

Speaking to the news agency, Mir expressed his gratitude to the government, calling the award a validation of his lifelong dedication

to preserving Kashmir's traditional weaving techniques.

"Despite being illiterate, my passion and skill in crafting 'Tuiji Pashmina', a form of weaving, have brought me national recognition," he said, adding, "I never dreamed of winning such a prestigious award. This is a moment of immense happiness for me."

Farooq said he learned this craft from his father by watching him work from a young age.

His journey has been marked by numerous accolades.

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22 JKAS officers transferred in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK  
SRINAGAR, JAN 27

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday ordered the transfer and posting of 22 JKAS officers in the interests of administration.

According to an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), a copy of which lies with the news agency, Munir-ul-Islam, Chief JKAS, has been transferred and appointed as Secretary in the

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Poets & writers have also ensured that our traditions are passed on to the next generation: LG Sinha



HT NEWS NETWORK  
JAMMU, JANUARY 27

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated the 'Rashtriya Kavi Sammelan' in Hindi, Dogri and Urdu, at Abhinav Theatre today.

The three-day literary event is being organised by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages as a part of the 76th Republic Day celebrations.

The Lieutenant Governor

extended his felicitations to the acclaimed and young poets from J&K and other parts of the country participating in the Poetry Sessions.

He said the Rashtriya Kavi Sammelan, starting from today, reflects the richness and variety of our unique literary heritage. In these sessions we get an opportunity to see a repository of wisdom and tradition of our civilization that has existed

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

HT BOTTOM STORY

Inspiring Journey of Gulshan Begum of Kupwara; The Agricultural Icon

DR.AB QAYOOM  
KUPWARA, JAN 27

Gulshan Begum, a 35-year-old resident of Dudipora village in North Kashmir's Kupwara district, has emerged as a beacon of hope and an inspiring agricultural entrepreneur, transforming her life and providing opportunities for others.

With a background as a BSc 2nd-year student and a nursing trainee, Gulshan Begum decided to put her education on hold to explore innovative agricultural practices. Her journey began in 2023 when

she approached the Agriculture Department in Handwara to establish a low-cost polyhouse. Within months, she received approval and began cultivating vegetables inside the polyhouse.

"Since 2024, I have earned nearly 2 lakh as profit from this polyhouse setup," she shared with pride.

Gulshan's determination led her to expand her skills. She underwent a seven-day training program on mushroom cultivation at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kupwara, facilitated by SKUAST-K.

Impressed by her dedication, the Agriculture Department approved a mushroom unit for her after a team visited her home. Her efforts bore fruit, and she generated a steady income through mushroom farming.

Her entrepreneurial spirit didn't stop there. Although she initially faced setbacks in securing livestock support from the Sheep Husbandry Department, she took matters into her own hands. In March 2024, she purchased 10 sheep, which have now grown to a flock of 35.

"I am also thankful to the Animal Husbandry Department, which provided me with three cows last year. This has been a significant source of income and health for my family," Gulshan said.

Today, she is not just an entrepreneur but also a job provider. Gulshan employs three unemployed youths to care for her sheep, ensuring they receive proper salaries.

"My goal is to engage unemployed youth in agricultural activities and steer them away from harmful habits like drug abuse," she said.

Gulshan plans to further diversify her efforts by venturing into poultry and floriculture, emphasizing the importance of sustainable and innovative farming practices.

Her husband, a police officer, has been a pillar of support throughout her journey, helping her balance family responsibilities with her entrepreneurial ventures. The couple has three children who are excelling in their studies, with their eldest daughter being 14 years old.

Gulshan credits her success to the unwavering support of

agricultural and allied departments, particularly the scientific team at KVK Kupwara and SKUAST-K. She also expressed gratitude to progressive farmer Mohammad Ramzan Bramri, whom she regards as a mentor.

Her story is a testament to how determination, hard work, and collaboration with government departments can transform lives. Gulshan Begum is now a role model for educated, unemployed youth in Kupwara, proving that agriculture can be a rewarding and impactful career.

Missing man's body found near Budshah bridge, probe underway

HT NEWS NETWORK  
SRINAGAR, JAN 27

The body of a man, who was missing for the past two months, was recovered near Budshah Bridge in Srinagar's Lal Chowk area on Monday, officials said.

An official told the news agency that locals spotted the body near the bridge and immediately informed the police. He said the police, along

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## CM Omar Abdullah...

The meeting was attended by Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmad Rana, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance, Commissioner Secretary H&UDD, Commissioner Secretary Forest, Ecology & Environment, Mission Director JJM and other senior officers from concerned departments.

During the meeting, ACS Jal Shakti presented a comprehensive overview of the mission's progress, goals, and challenges.

He highlighted that 81% of households across Jammu and Kashmir have been connected with tap water supply under the Jal Jeevan Mission and efforts are being made to achieve the remaining targets.

It was informed that the mission aims to provide 55 litres per capita per day (lpcd) of safe and clean drinking water, adhering to BIS 10500 standards. The adoption of alternative and effective designs, coupled with detailed technical scrutiny of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), has led to significant cost savings amounting to Rs 522 crore, underscoring the department's commitment to efficiency and innovation.

The Chief Minister reviewed various challenges faced during the mission's implementation, including low tender responses, delays in the supply of Galvanized Iron (GI) pipes in Jammu and Ductile Iron (DI) pipes in Kashmir, and incidence of dry bore wells in multiple districts. Electro-mechanical issues were also highlighted as significant concerns impacting the timely execution of projects.

The proposed project size under the Jal Jeevan Mission covers 3,253 schemes aimed at ensuring a sustainable water supply system.

The meeting was informed that establishment of District Project Management Units (DPMUs) and continuous technical review by consultants are being carried out to ensure the quality and success of the mission.

The Chief Minister stressed the importance of robust third-party monitoring mechanisms to enhance transparency and accountability.

He directed that complaints from specific areas be addressed promptly by engaging these monitoring agencies for swift resolutions. Furthermore, he called for addressing concerns related to the improper laying of water supply pipes above ground and ensuring the sustainability of water resources in affected regions.

The meeting also focused on water quality monitoring and surveillance, with the Chief Minister emphasizing the need to strengthen Pani Samities at the Panchayat level.

He encouraged regular interaction with concerned Ministers and MLAs to define their roles and responsibilities in enhancing the effectiveness of these committees.

In addition, the meeting discussed the operation and maintenance of rural water supply and extension of the Nal Jal Mitra Programme, e-billing systems and other operational aspects. The Chief Minister highlighted the urgency of addressing manpower shortages within the department to improve service delivery and achieve mission objectives.

The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction with the progress made under the Jal Jeevan Mission while reiterating the importance of sustaining momentum and overcoming challenges.

He assured full government support in realizing the mission's vision of providing clean and reliable drinking water to every household in Jammu and Kashmir. KNO

## Isolated in winter...

news agency, adding, "These provisions are critical for survival as roads connecting the valley to Bandipora remain inaccessible for several months."

Razdan Pass, the main route to Gurez, records about 10-15 feet of snow during winter. This heavy snowfall blocks the road, leaving the region isolated.

According to locals, this closure creates administrative challenges and disrupts daily life. "During winter, we cannot even take critically ill patients to the hospital. Sometimes, it takes days to move a body back to its native area for burial," one of the residents said.

The administration has been using helicopters to manage medical emergencies. "Critically ill patients are airlifted to city hospitals, and students in need of evacuation also use the chopper service," an official told KNO.

However, locals expressed concerns about this reliance on choppers. "If the weather is bad, the helicopters can't operate," said Ishfaq Ahmad another local.

The region's harsh conditions force many residents to leave during winter.

Bashir Ahmad, a health worker, said the closure of roads, coupled with health emergencies and food shortages, forces migration.

"For those who stay, daily life is centred around survival," Bashir said, adding, "During heavy snowfall, we gather at someone's house to sing traditional songs and share folk tales."

The winter months also bring unique challenges in healthcare. The sub-district hospital often remains out of reach for residents due to blocked roads. "The snow-clad region includes 15 sub-villages, and during winter, accessing healthcare is nearly impossible," said a local.

Despite the administration's efforts, the lack of a year-round road link remains a problem.

Residents believe a tunnel at the high-altitude Razdan Pass could provide a permanent solution. "A tunnel would ensure year-round connectivity and eliminate dependence on temporary measures like helicopter services," another resident said.

Snow clearance operations are currently underway to reopen the Gurez-Bandipora road. "We are working to ensure the road is cleared as soon as possible," an official said.

"Winter life here is about patience and preparation. You might not see your neighbours for weeks because of the snow," said Aziz, another local. "The challenges are an integral part of life in the Gurez Valley." KNO

## Rajouri mysterious deaths...

two months.

Officials informed the news agency that three siblings who were undergoing treatment at GMC Jammu and SMGS Srinagar have recovered and were discharged. These individuals have been shifted back to Rajouri, where they will remain under observation along with their families and close contacts.

Another patient, Aijaz Ahmad, who is being treated at PGI Chandigarh, is also showing signs of recovery, while

other patients admitted to GMC Rajouri have also recovered.

Top health officials suspect that organophosphorus poisoning might be behind the deaths, as patients responded positively to atropine injections—a standard antidote for organophosphate poisoning.

A senior doctor explained, "Atropine was initially administered to two patients for heart rate management, and they showed significant improvement. This led us to consider organophosphorus poisoning as a likely cause."

However, the doctor cautioned against premature conclusions, as official reports from top laboratories are still awaited.

Organophosphorus poisoning is caused by exposure to organophosphates, a class of chemicals commonly used in pesticides, herbicides, and nerve agents. Exposure can occur via ingestion, inhalation, or skin contact.

Common symptoms include excessive saliva and tears, vomiting and diarrhoea, small pupils, sweating, muscle tremors and confusion.

The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report from Chandigarh, which could provide critical insights, is expected within 2-3 days.

Dr Shuja Qadri, an epidemiologist and Head of Community Medicine at GMC Rajouri, stated that active and passive surveillance of cases has ruled out communicable diseases, bacteria, viruses, and zoonotic causes. "Our investigation has narrowed down to food-related toxins, either ingested accidentally or deliberately," he said.

Samples have been sent to toxicology labs for screening against 200 potential toxins. Dr. Qadri expressed optimism that the investigation will identify the toxin within a week, enabling authorities to prevent further deaths.

Over the last two months, 17 people, including 14 children, succumbed to the mysterious illness, with several others requiring hospitalisation.

Authorities are maintaining strict surveillance in the affected village, and all efforts are focused on identifying the cause to ensure no further loss of life.

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakina Itoo, speaking to KNO expressed confidence in the investigating team. She assured that all possible efforts are being made to identify the cause behind the mysterious deaths in Rajouri.

"The team is working diligently to gather more information and laboratory results, which will provide critical insights into the situation," she said.

With the situation seeming to normalise, the minister appealed to the public to remain vigilant and cooperate fully with the authorities. "The government is committed to taking every necessary step to ensure the safety and well-being of the people, particularly those living in the affected areas," Itoo added. KNO

## Amid health...

functioning.

"Out of 23 sanctioned posts for professors, only one professor is currently available," an official said, adding that the hospital is also facing acute shortages of doctors and paramedics, leaving key departments understaffed and overburdened.

The hospital lacks critical diagnostic and treatment facilities, including an MRI machine and a Cath Lab, forcing patients from Rajouri and neighbouring Poonch district to travel to Jammu for advanced medical care.

Residents of Rajouri and Poonch have expressed concern over the inadequate healthcare facilities and have urged the government to address the shortages in staff and infrastructure at GMC Rajouri.

MLA Budhal, Javed Iqbal Choudhary said the hospital is in a dire state. "The hospital is severely short-staffed and is functioning without many essential diagnostic facilities," he said.

Principal GMC Rajouri has formally requested the Health and Medical Education Department to establish an MRI facility at the hospital.

In a letter to the Health Secretary, a copy of which has been accessed by KNO, the Principal stated: "In continuation of Office No. GMCR/2022-23/9754-59 dated 21.11.2022 and in reference to the request submitted by the In-charge Head of the Department, Radio Diagnosis & Imaging, GMC Rajouri, it is forwarded with a request to kindly direct the concerned authorities for the establishment of an MRI facility at the Associated Hospital of GMC Rajouri."

In light of the mysterious illness that claimed 17 lives in Badhal village, authorities recently deployed 10 paediatricians and anesthesiologists to GMC Rajouri. All leaves for doctors and paramedics have been cancelled under a medical alert issued by the administration.

The residents of Rajouri have appealed to the government to prioritise the hospital's needs. They said the absence of proper medical facilities in this frontier district is causing undue suffering. Local treatment options should be improved to minimise patient reliance on distant healthcare facilities, they added. KNO

## J&K govt hikes...

Ministers' approval on January 20.

According to an order issued by the Finance Department, a copy of which lies with news agency, the Dearness Allowance will be revised to 53% of the basic pay, effective from July 1, 2024, up from the previous rate of 50%.

The revised DA will be applicable to employees working in regular pay levels under the 7th Pay Commission. The government also announced that employees will receive arrears for the additional DA installments from July to December 2024 in their February 2025 salary. From January 2025 onwards, the increased DA will be included in the monthly salary.

Furthermore, the government clarified that any fraction of 50 paise or more in the DA calculation will be rounded up to the next higher rupee, while any fraction below 50 paise will be disregarded. KNO

## Weatherman predicts...

is a forecast of light snowfall at isolated places.

"Fresh spell of light rain and snow is expected at scattered places during 29th night and 30th morning & at isolated places during 31st January," he said, adding that the weather would remain generally cloudy on February 01 and 02 with the possibility of light rain and snow at scattered to fairly widespread places during the period.

Sharing further details, the Director stated that generally cloudy weather is expected on February 03 with the possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches.

Also, on February 04 and 05, there is a possibility of light rain and snow at scattered places, he said.

Giving further details, the MeT Director said that the

minimum temperature is expected to rise from January 29 by some degrees while the maximum temperature would dip by some degrees and would settle around normal.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir is presently witnessing the prolonged dry spell with the first three weeks of this month recording the deficit rainfall of 81 per cent from January 01 to January 22. KNO

## Srinagar weaver...

"In 2007-08, I won a national award from the Government of India, followed by the prestigious 'Sant Kabir Award' in 2016, presented to me by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Chennai. I also received a gold medal, a silver medal, and a certificate of recognition for my exceptional craftsmanship," he said.

Mir, however, said the rise of machine-based production and societal perceptions of the craft led to the decline of traditional weaving. "Many people now view weaving as a low-level job, which led to its decline. Master artisans have begun to lose ground," he lamented.

Despite the challenges, Farooq has passed his legacy to his three children, all of whom are now skilled weavers. "Kashmiri people are designers by nature and can achieve anything with hard work and dedication," he said, urging younger generations to value and preserve the region's traditional crafts.

Padma Shri is the fourth-highest civilian award of the Republic of India, after the Bharat Ratna, the Padma Vibhushan and the Padma Bhushan. Instituted on 2 January 1954, the award is conferred in recognition of distinguished contributions in various spheres of activity including the arts, education, industry, literature, science, acting, medicine, social service and public affairs. It is awarded by the Government of India every year on India's Republic Day. KNO

## 22 JKAS officers...

Information Department.

Ajaz Abdullah Saraf, JKAS, Additional Transport Commissioner, J&K, has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer/Secretary of the J&K Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.

Firdous Ahmad Giri, JKAS, Additional Director SKIMS, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Mission Director RUSA, J&K. Qazi Sarwar, JKAS, Additional Commissioner in the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, has been appointed as Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir.

Bashir Ahmad Wani, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Kulgam, has been appointed as Additional Registrar Cooperatives, Kashmir. Altaf Ahmad Khan, JKAS, Additional Registrar Cooperatives, Kashmir, has been transferred and appointed as Additional District Development Commissioner, Kulgam.

Akram Ullah Tak, JKAS, Director Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, has been posted as Additional Commissioner in the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir.

Pran Singh, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Doda, has been appointed as Special Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department. Zahoor Ahmad Mir, JKAS, Special Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department, has been posted as Additional Director SKIMS, Srinagar. Sanjay Gupta, JKAS, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Enforcement (Samba), has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Mining Department.

Arun Kishore Kotwal, JKAS, Additional Secretary to the Government, Mining Department, has been posted as Additional Transport Commissioner, J&K. Bal Krishan, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Baderwah, has been transferred and posted as Additional Registrar Cooperatives, Jammu.

Masarat Hashim, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Pahalgam, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Labour Commissioner (Central), J&K. Shah Nawaz Shah, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Kokernag, holding additional charge of Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Verinag, has been posted as Deputy Commissioner.

Waseem Raja, JKAS, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Enforcement (Central) Kashmir, has been posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment. Ajeet Singh, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Bani-Basohli, has been posted as Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Enforcement (Samba).

Mridhu Salathia, JKAS, Additional Mission Director, J&K Rural Livelihood Mission, Jammu, has been posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department. She will also hold the additional charge of Mission Director, National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), in addition to her own duties, until further orders. Ideel Saleem, JKAS, Deputy Labour Commissioner (Central), J&K, has been posted as Additional Secretary in the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Kashmir.

Mir Nasrool Hilal Jeri, JKAS, Joint Registrar, Cooperative (Audit), Srinagar, has been posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department. Manpreet Kour, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner, State Taxes Department, Jammu, has been posted as Additional Mission Director, J&K Rural Livelihood Mission, Jammu.

Bureeda Majid, JKAS, Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD) Budgam, has been transferred and posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Ganderbal. Hilal Ahmad Mir, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD) Budgam. KNO

## Poets & writers have...

over millennia, he further added.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor paid homage to the great litterateurs of Dogri, Hindi and Urdu languages and highlighted the pivotal role of poets and writers in the society.

"In India every generation of poets, writers have made rich contribution to the creative tradition and cultural identity. They have also ensured that our traditions are passed on to the next generation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the poets and literary personalities to become the voice of patriotism and unity and make their valuable contribution in building a vibrant, progressive and united society.

"Poetry Art form has a social responsibility. It can be a powerful medium for creating awareness about socio-economic issues, inspiring the spirit of patriotism and por-

traying the values of harmony and brotherhood," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the Jammu Kashmir is witnessing a historic transformation and it is our collective responsibility to reaffirm our commitment to inclusive development and work with dedication.

In today's Hindi Poetry session, Sh Harish, Sh Upender Pandey, Sh Rajesh Agarwal, Sh Shambhu Shikhar, Sh Deepak Saini, Sh Chetan Charhit, Sh Shailender Madhur, Sh Rajesh Jain, Sh Dharamveer Nishchal, Sh Santosh Singh, Ms Padmini Singh and other renowned poets and young talent, enthralled the audience through their captivating poetry recitation.

Sh Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Sh Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; Ms Harvinder Kour, Secretary, JKAACL; renowned artists and people, especially the youth in large number were present.

## Missing man's body...

with SDRF, soon arrived at the scene, retrieved the body from the water using boats, and shifted it to the hospital for medico-legal formalities.

He said the deceased was later identified as Hilal Ahmad Dar (24), son of Bilal Ahmad Dar, a resident of Palapora Parimpora, who had been reported missing two months ago.

A missing report was filed at his concerned police station. Meanwhile, an investigation to ascertain the circumstances leading to his death is underway and further details are awaited. KNO

## Gulmarg Gondola...

smooth and enjoyable experience for all visitors. We urge tourists to arrive early and enjoy the scenic ride in the first slot of the day," JKCC official told the news agency – Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

"We believe in tourism with trust and transparency," he added.

For those without pre-booked tickets, the Gondola management has introduced an "On-Cabin Ticket" facility, available daily from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. This initiative aims to streamline ticketing and enhance the overall experience for visitors, the official said.

The Gulmarg Gondola, a key attraction in the region, continues to draw large crowds and the management's latest measures are part of efforts to ensure seamless operations and visitor satisfaction. KNO

## Chairman SYSF...

various important issues pertaining to skill development of youth, empowering the women through specialized training and sustainable opportunities to uplift and empower communities across Jammu Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the members of Save Youth Save Future Foundation for the prestigious J&K Government Award for social reforms and empowerment, and appreciated everyone associated with the foundation for their selfless service to the society.

Rajinder Premi, social activist and son of freedom-fighter, social reformer and litterateur, Sarwanand Kaul Premi called on Lieutenant Governor.

Rajinder Premi requested for commemoration of literary and cultural activities on the works of his father martyr Sarwanand Kaul Premi, and naming of PHC Soafshali and Degree College after his late brother Verinder Kaul. KNO

## Shab-e-Mehraj: Thousands...

commemorating the miraculous night journey and ascension of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

The faithful gathered in large numbers to participate in the night-long prayers at the shrine, seeking blessings and spiritual solace.

According to the details obtained by the news agency, for many, the Hazratbal shrine serves as a cornerstone of their faith and a place to reconnect with the divine.

Among the faithful was Ghulam Rasool, 62-year-old, from the Ganderbal district.

He said the shrine holds a special place in his heart. "Whenever I come here, I feel a deep spiritual connection. This year, my son joined me for the pre-dawn prayers," he said.

Another devotee, Mohammad Shaban, a resident of Srinagar, said despite the ups and downs in life, he makes it a point to come here. "This place gives me peace and answers to my prayers," he said, adding that nothing could ever break his connection to the shrine.

Moreover, the shrine echoed with the recitation of Quranic verses and prayers as worshippers, cutting across age groups, expressed their devotion.

The holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) will be displayed after pre-dawn prayers on Tuesday, allowing devotees to offer their respects.

Notably, it is believed that Shab-e-Mehraj, which marks the night when the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) ascended to the heavens, holds immense significance for the Muslim community.

The Hazratbal Shrine, known for housing the holy relic of the Prophet (SAW), becomes the focal point of prayers and gatherings on this auspicious occasion.

Despite cold weather conditions, the devotion of the worshippers remained unwavering as they continued to arrive at the shrine throughout the evening.

Meanwhile, the officials from the Waqf Board said all arrangements have been made for devotees, with washrooms and other facilities set up. "We have made elaborate arrangements for tonight and are expecting a good rush of people. As the weather is good, the crowd is expected to increase tomorrow. The display of the holy relic tonight and tomorrow is also expected to attract a large crowd," said an official. KNO

## Govt hikes monthly...

of which lies with the news agency, Foreign Medical Graduates to get a stipend of Rs 12300 per month for a year and the stipend shall be paid to eligible FMG internees from the date of issuance of the order.

The sanction is subject to the conditions that the payment of stipend to FMGs conforms to NMC guidelines, there is availability of funds under the relevant account head and the stipend for FMG's pursuing internships in Private Medical Colleges of JK UT, shall be borne by the concerned colleges. These issues with the concurrence of the Finance Department conveyed vide U.O. No. FD-Code/62/2021-03-1087 dated 17-01-2025, reads the order. KNO



# Handicrafts & Handloom Dept hails Master Craftsmen conferred Padma Shri, JK Govt Awards 2025

Official team visits Srinagar residence of Padma Shri Awardee Farooq A. Mir to congratulate him on his achievement

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 27: Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, today extended heartiest congratulations to its three master craftsmen for having been conferred Padma Shri and J&K Government Awards for excellence in the field of arts and crafts.

While Farooq Ahmad Mir, the renowned Kani weaver from Srinagar, was conferred the prestigious Padma Shri Award 2025, in recognition of his 60 years of perseverance in promoting the unique craft of Kani weaving, Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat from Sonpah, Beerwah Budgam and Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, from Badamwari Srinagar, were given J&K Government Awards for their immense contribution in taking crafts like Sozni and Kani weaving to the



next level. In a statement issued here today, Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam, showered praise on the awardees for bringing lau-

rels to Kashmir Handicrafts and inspiring younger generation to carry on the tradition of making exquisite hand-made products from the valley. "This recogni-

tion shall provide traction to the indigenous craft of Kani weaving as well as intricate Sozni embroidery on Pashmina fabric which have the potential to emerge on global markets in a much bigger way," he stated. Later, a team of officers led by the Director, visited the residence of Padma Shri Awardee Farooq Ahmad Mir at Chanapora, Srinagar, to personally congratulate him and his family for the honour bestowed upon him. The team included Mirza Shahid Ali, Deputy Director, Quality Control, Amina Assad, Chief Designer, School of Designs and Riyaz Ahmad Kawoosa, PEO. The Department shall shortly organize a function to felicitate all the awardees, and also hold interactive sessions to bring these stalwarts face-to-face with craft trainees enrolled in the department, the statement added.

## Handicrafts Dept's Field Squad inspects craft show-rooms

HT News Network



SRINAGAR, JANUARY 27: Continuing its inspection drives to discourage sale of counterfeit products in the name of Kashmir Handicrafts, the Quality Control wing of the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, conducted surprise inspection of handicraft dealers in Lal Chowk and other City Centre sections, here today. Teams, led by Quality Control Inspectors, checked showroom dealers for valid registrations and strict adherence to sale and display of genuine handmade craft products, duly labelled for price with specifications. In a statement issued today, a spokesman from the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, stated that the stakeholders are appreciative of the efforts made by the Department and extended wholehearted support, aimed at customer satisfaction and safeguarding the interests of highly skilled craftsmen and rich heritage of Kashmir.

The Handicrafts and Handloom Department has again urged the business houses associated with handicrafts and handloom sector to approach the Department for GI tagging, testing and QR-coded certification of their products at Craft Development Institute & Indian Institute of Carpet Technology labs.

## DC Srinagar greets people on Meraj Un Nabi(SAW)

HT News Network



SRINAGAR, JANUARY 27:- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat has felicitated people on the auspicious occasion of Meraj Un Nabi(SAW). Dr. Bilal in his message, stated that the holy night in which Almighty Allah gives us an opportunity to seek His mercy and blessings. On this occasion, Dr. Bilal prayed for the betterment of the people and hoped that the holy night would bring Allah's blessings. He also prayed that the auspicious occasion would strengthen the bonds of communal harmony and brotherhood and be a harbinger of peace and prosperity. Meanwhile, District Administration on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat have made all necessary arrangements on the eve of religious occasion to facilitate the devotees at Hazratbal and other prominent shrines of the District. A special Control Room has also been established for proper coordination among the line Departments to ensure smooth observance of the religious obligations.

## Animal Husbandry Department Kashmir unveils Calendar for 2025

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 27: Animal Husbandry Department Kashmir today officially unveiled its calendar for the year 2025 in an impressive function, held here. The unveiling function was presided over by the Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir, Dr. Parvinder Singh Sudan, and Burhan Hussain, Assistant Director Information department serving as the guest of honour with all departmental officers/ officials in attendance. The calendar is part of an 'information dissemination' campaign initiated by the Animal Husbandry Department to apprise masses about departmental advisories/schemes/ programmes besides initiatives and achievements.

Dr. Sudan highlighted that this initiative aims to provide valuable month-wise advisories specifically designed for pet and livestock owners. This structured approach is intended to enhance awareness regarding animal care practices throughout the year. He said it also acts as a source for information regarding employment generating departmental schemes that align with broader goals aimed at doubling farmers' incomes in Kashmir.

Media Liaison Officer, Dr. Anwar Hussain Nagoo stated that the calendar acts as a strategic planning tool for individuals involved in animal husbandry by providing specific dates and information relevant to their activities, like breeding schedules, feeding regimens and health check-ups.

## JK Cements Set To Acquire 60% Stake Of Saifco Cements

HT News Network



Srinagar, Jan 27, ANB: JK Cement Ltd. is set to mark its presence in J&K, as the industrial giant has entered into a joint venture with Saifco Cements. According to the Associated News Bureau, JK Cement Ltd, one of the leading building materials company and one of India's leading manufacturer of grey and white cement globally, announced that it has entered into a joint venture agreement with Saifco Cements Pvt. Ltd, one of the leading cement brands in Kashmir with an enterprise valuation of INR 290 Crores.

JK Cement will acquire a 60% stake in Saifco Cements at a value of INR 174 Crore. This acquisition marks a strategic step in expanding JK Cement's presence in one of the fastest growing regions of the country and furthering its footprint in Northern India. Saifco Cements

brings strong manufacturing capabilities and an impressive presence in the Jammu & Kashmir market, which will scale up to meet the business plan objectives for JK Cement over the next few years. This move aligns with the government's focus on boosting infrastructural growth in Jammu and Kashmir region, accelerating the development journey. Expressing his delight, Dr. Raghavpat Singhania, Managing Director, JK Cement Ltd. said, "Known for its rich culture and resilience, Jammu & Kashmir brings a special meaning to us, this acquisition

is a significant step forward in accelerating JK Cement's growth journey. He said they are committed to ensuring a seamless and successful integration of our businesses, bringing together our combined expertise and experience. "The state of J&K not only holds strategic importance but also has immense potential for infrastructural development and partnering with Saifco Cements is a step towards solidly cementing the goal to manufacture the best for our customers and nation," he said. Saifco's integrated manufacturing unit at Khunmoh in Sri-

nagar is spread across 54 acres of land and has a clinker capacity of 0.26MTPA and grinding capacity of 0.42MTPA. It has captive limestone reserves spread over an area of 144.25 hectares with a total mineable reserve of 129MnT.

Sharing his views on the acquisition, Madhavkrishna Singhania, Joint MD and CEO, JK Cement Ltd. said, "With this acquisition, we are strategically positioned to build a robust presence in Jammu and Kashmir. The location and rich limestone reserves of Saifco offer a unique opportunity to significantly increase our overall capacity. Currently, per capita cement consumption in Kashmir stands at approximately 168 kilograms, nearly 55% of the national average, presenting a vast growth potential. Cement demand typically leads economic expansion by a factor of 1.2X in regions with significant infrastructural.

# 76th Republic Day:HUDD launches 'Swachh Tantra' campaign in 80 ULBs of J&K

2 lakh citizens take Swachhata Pledge; 3.50 lakh partake in sanitation activities

HT News Network

Srinagar :-The Housing and Urban Development Department organised multiple events under "Swachh Tantra" campaign launched in all 80 Urban Local Bodies of Jammu and Kashmir as part of 76th Republic Day of Jammu & Kashmir. A defining moment of this year's celebration was the collective action witnessed through 'Swachh Tantra' campaign; an inspiring Jan Andolan (people's movement) for cleanliness. Over 2 lakh citizens came together and pledged to remain steadfast in their commitment towards a cleaner and greener environment.

'Swachh Tantra', an innovative campaign aimed to foster a community driven approach towards cleanliness, as a lead up to the Republic Day festivities, was launched by the Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD) from 21st to 26th January, 2025. The initiative has brought together individuals, community groups, volunteers, Swachhata ambassadors, influencers, students and officials in a shared mission to enhance urban sanitation and create a cleaner environment for the Day of Sovereignty. The participants, while partaking in various sanitation activities, pledged to uphold cleanliness as a personal and



societal responsibility. They vowed to voluntarily contribute towards cleanliness efforts and inspire others to

join the mission for creating a sustainable and hygienic

environment. The campaign featured a diverse range of events aimed at fostering awareness and action for sanitation and cleanliness. Swachhata activities like 'Swachhata Mein Ekta' - Celebrating Unity in Cleanliness; Nukkad Natak- "Chhote Kadam, Bade Parivartan"; Pure Waters Pure Future; Sanitation for Safe Healing in health institutions; Social Interventions by Citizens; 'Plogging'-Run for a Swachh J&K; painting competition; quiz competitions and 'Grow Green, Breathe Clean'-Plantation drives, were organised across all 80 Urban Local Bodies of the UT. During the campaign, over

950 different sanitation and cleanliness activities have been carried out in which the citizens participated with great fervour and enthusiasm. More than 3, 50,000 people from urban areas participated in different sanitation activities undertaken by the 80 Urban Local Bodies. Commissioner Secretary H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur, who spearheaded the campaign, said "Swachh Tantra campaign not only enhanced the spirit of Republic Day but also reinforced the vision of Swachh Bharat Mission, celebrating the ideals of sovereignty, unity and civic responsibility through the lens of cleanliness".

## EDITORIAL

## Solve the mystery about hospitals removed from empanelled list

Almost two weeks back the health and medical education department issued an order according to which five hospitals in the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir were removed from the list of empanelled hospitals. While two such hospitals are operating in the Kashmir valley the remaining three are carrying out their work in the Jammu division. The reason put forward by the authorities in this regard was that the hospitals were found flouting laid down rules and regulations.

There was a general notion among the people that these hospitals would be sealed and they would face further action from the concerned department. But this notion turned out to be a wrong one as none of the hospitals were closed by the authorities. The two hospitals of the Kashmir valley came out with advertisements in the local press saying that they are functioning normally and the people should not be worried on any front.

In the advertisements it was also mentioned that the golden card facility would not be available to the patients with the other procedures related to the hospitals being carried out normally. In other words it can be said that the government action turned out to be a blessing in disguise for such hospitals. The management of these hospitals was elated over the punitive action since they were not bound to entertain patients seeking privilege under the Ayushman Bharat scheme (golden card facility).

As if this was not enough, one of the hospitals of the valley came out with yet another advertisement after a few days in which it was mentioned that all the procedures including the golden card facility have been resumed at the hospital. Interestingly the health and medical education department did not respond to this development and the people as a whole started to believe the claim of the hospital. As on date there is confusion among the people as who is right and who is wrong?

The health and medical education department needs to come out clean and clear in this respect so that there is no more confusion among the masses. Mere issuance of an order would not serve any purpose and this should be followed by practical steps on ground. If the hospitals have been removed from the list of empanelled hospitals how can they claim that everything is hunky dory. People have a right to know the truth and it is the responsibility of the concerned department to make things clear.

To write about a person requires true emotions flowing straight from the heart, the steadfast support of pen and paper. It is not just about narrating their story; it demands delving into their life, understanding their essence, and blending one's own thoughts and feelings to create a vivid tapestry of their journey. This process takes time and reflection, as pen and paper must come to an agreement with one's emotions before the ink can truly weave. After much contemplation, the story of a remarkable individual has taken shape—a story of inspiration, sacrifice, and dedication.

The person I am about to present to you is a visionary, a beacon of hope and compassion, hailing from Narvaw, Baramulla. His name is Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Rather, a distinguished Ph.D. scholar, affectionately known as Narvaw Walla. What sets him apart is his resolute commitment to uplifting young minds whose creativity has been shrouded in darkness. Driven by a profound sense of purpose, Dr. Rather has vowed to dedicate his life selflessly, without any monetary pursuits, to uncover and nurture hidden talents. Through his efforts, he has created a platform of love, respect, and encouragement for the youth to bloom and shine.

But his contributions do not stop there. Dr. Rather has consistently extended a helping hand to the poor and needy, alleviating their struggles during difficult times. Whether through social work or raising awareness about pressing societal issues, he has been a tireless advocate for positive change. For years, he has been a guiding light, inspiring others through his actions and reminding us all of the transformative power of selflessness and compassion.

**From Narvawok to Narvaw Walla**

It carries a profound and

heartfelt story, as he has often shared, most recently during an interview with Kashmir Headlines News. Recalling his childhood, he spoke about the joy of visiting his nanihaal (maternal home), where he was affectionately called "Narvawok" by the elders and loved ones around him. The name became a symbol of warmth, belonging, and nostalgia for him.

Years later, during a moment of deep introspection, he found himself drawn back to those cherished memories. It was then that inspiration struck, and he decided to preserve those emotions through the art of storytelling. Translating the essence of those moments into Urdu, he titled it Narvaw Walla.

**Academic Journey of Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Rather (Narvaw Walla)**

Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Rather, also known as Narvaw Walla, was born in the small village of Malpora Narvaw in Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir, India. He completed his early education in this serene region. His academic pursuits were vast, earning him Postgraduate degrees in English Literature, History, and Sociology, as well as an M.Phil. in English Literature and a B.Ed. He later went on to achieve a Ph.D. in English Literature. His research focus centers on the Partition of India and its social impact on women, with a particular emphasis on the ways in which these events affected women's lives.

Dr. Rather's research interests also extend to the region of Kashmir and the ongoing issue of violence against women. In addition to his scholarly work, he founded the Narvaw Literary Society, a platform dedicated to fostering Kashmiri literature, offering poets and scholars an opportunity to share their work and ideas. He has also been associated with the Partition Museum in Amritsar, India, contributing

to the exploration and preservation of the region's history.

Dr. Rather is not only a dedicated academic but also a writer. In a personal conversation, I learned that he has written hundreds of pages on various topics and plans to publish his work in book format in the future. His interests are wide-ranging, finding solace in History, Literature, Oral History, Art, and Culture. Additionally, he is an accomplished filmmaker.

**Challenges Faced by Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Rather**

Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Rather's journey to success reflects his unwavering dedication and hard work. It took years to build the legacy and goodwill of the Narvaw Literary Society, a platform now central to Kashmiri literature. In the early years, he faced limited support and harsh criticism. Despite these challenges, he stayed true to his mission, embodying the words of Denis Waitley: "The price of success is to bear the criticism of envy."

Instead of succumbing to negativity, he used these obstacles to fuel his passion. His commitment to the society's vision led to its success today. Dr. Rather's perseverance is a powerful reminder that with dedication and resilience, even the toughest challenges can be overcome.

**Why Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Rather Chose This Field**

In a recent interview, Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Rather (Narvaw Walla) reflected on the formative moment that set him on his academic path. He recalled an annual school event where one of his teachers assigned him the topic "Surkhiyan" (News). Dr. Rather believes that this was the seed his teacher unknowingly planted in his mind, a seed that would later grow into a passion.

Although he was unaware of its significance at the time, he now recognizes how that early experience shaped his ac-

ademic journey. Later, when Dr. Rather had the opportunity to document the lives of emigrants from neighboring countries, he made a decisive choice to raise awareness about their stories. This experience not only deepened his sense of responsibility but also fueled his commitment to the field, further solidifying his desire to explore the complexities of history, culture, and social impact through academic research.

**Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Rather's Future Goals**

Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Rather humbly refers to himself as a student of literature, with a deep commitment to guiding and inspiring the next generation of literature students. He believes in the transformative power of books and has firmly dedicated himself to supporting and nurturing those who share his passion for literature. For him, books provide not just knowledge, but refuge, a sanctuary where one can always find solace and wisdom.

**To express his dedication, I would like to share a couplet:**

"You have an urge to decorate my room,

There is nothing in my room but books."

This couplet reflects Dr. Rather's profound connection with literature. For him, books are the true treasures that adorn his life, much more valuable than any material possession. His future goals center around creating an environment where students can find the same refuge in literature that he has.

**Other Achievements of Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Rather**

Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Rather has a deep interest in history, particularly in documenting and exploring archaeological sites. He has dedicated much of his work to uncovering these historical treasures and sharing them

with the public. His documentaries provide a rich understanding of our past, offering insights into the cultures and civilizations that shaped our history.

These works not only educate but also help preserve our heritage, ensuring that the stories of our ancestors are remembered and appreciated by future generations. Dr. Rather's passion for history drives him to continue exploring and sharing these important narratives.

**Wishes of Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Rather**

Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Rather hopes that, after his departure from this world, his legacy will live on through the dedication and love he has offered to society. He desires to be remembered for the positive impact he made and the contributions he made toward the betterment of his community.

Above all, Dr. Rather humbly credits all his achievements to the Almighty, recognizing that his success is ultimately a blessing and grace from God. His deep sense of gratitude and devotion reflects his belief that all accomplishments are a gift from a higher power.

During the challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic, he emerged as a beacon of hope and creativity, organizing a myriad of enriching activities. From hosting talk shows and insightful discussions to arranging painting and stone art competitions, his efforts fostered a spirit of resilience and togetherness. Through roadshows, awareness campaigns, and career guidance programs featuring esteemed IAS and KAS officers, he inspired many to dream beyond their circumstances. With an unwavering vision, he aspires to expand these endeavors on a grander scale, creating platforms for empowerment, learning, and transformation in the near future.

## Dr Hilal Sir's enlightening visit coaching institute

With his expertise in chemistry and passion for teaching, Dr Hilal Sir empowered students through engaging discussions and career counselling

MUDASIR ALI

The faculty members at Newland's Coaching Institute express their heartfelt gratitude to Dr Hilal Sir for gracing us with his visit. With over twelve years of teaching experience in chemistry, Dr Hilal is a revered educator, well-known across the length and breadth of Ganderbal district for his profound knowledge and

teaching excellence.

Our students were captivated by his golden words and the way he illuminated complex scientific concepts, simplifying them into manageable and understandable pieces. Beyond his expertise in chemistry, Dr Hilal also spent half an hour discussing career counselling, addressing one of the most pressing challenges students face

today: decision-making. He emphasized the critical role teachers play as mentors in fostering students' holistic growth.

Dr Hilal Sir's interaction with the students was a remarkable experience. He advised students to cultivate the habit of reading textbooks daily, as it develops curiosity and transforms them into active learners. He shared his unique mantra for master-

ing science, encapsulated in four fundamental questions: Why, When, What, and How. By integrating these questions into their approach to learning, students can enhance their understanding and engagement with the subject.

Furthermore, Dr Hilal emphasized the importance of effective and student-centric teaching methodologies, which he believes are essential for

achieving better learning outcomes. His insights into teaching and learning resonated deeply with both students and faculty, leaving a lasting impact on everyone present.

This unparalleled event was orchestrated under the guidance of Mr Annas Sir and his energetic team, who worked tirelessly to ensure the session's success. Their efforts, combined with Dr Hilal's inspir-

ing presence, created a highly invigorating and enriching learning experience for all attendees.

Dr Hilal's visit has undoubtedly set a new benchmark for interactive sessions at Newland's Coaching Institute. We are immensely grateful for his valuable time and wisdom, which have left an indelible mark on the students and faculty alike.

Mudasir Ali is a writer

## Unemployment can be eradicated



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Unemployment can be eradicated or minimized by providing livelihoods to all job card holders during winters, like for snow clearance at main points, like main entry points where snow-clearing machines are unable to move, hospitals, etc., and tourist destinations, which can be taken under the condensation of this scheme. The government has launched ample schemes for the upliftment of poor and unemployed youth with property guarantees.

Unemployed people com-

plain that government schemes are not shown on the ground level; only a few people are taking benefits. The government or accountable officers may sanction in your favour after officers meet proper formalities; then they sanction, and everyone who is eligible can take benefits.

Start a journey for earnings and stop saying that we are unemployed. It will take time, but I hope your earnings will become more as you expect. Earn always in a legal and permissible way and become a role model for others.

During harsh winters the people of the Kashmir Valley, who are residing in upper reaches, are suffering a lot as compared to the people who are residing in cities and towns. As we know, most of the official headquarters are situated in the cities where higher-ranking officials execute their routine work. It helps the residents of

the cities and towns it assists the residents to get rid of their grievances in a very little time. So far as my opinions are concerned in this regard, they are quite clear in favor of the general public because during hard circumstances, grievances should be taken on priority and immediate redressal of them. Winter stock gets expensive instead of providing home commodities at subsidiary rates. It is very unfortunate that the essential services are getting scarce or expensive. Reasons are known to us; during winters, due to inclement weather and frequent snowfall, it directly or indirectly impacts road connectivity. Snow gets frozen on the roads, and it will take months to melt and affect day-to-day life.

It was circulating on different mediums that the unemployment graph has raised throughout the country; it impacts the educated youth who are desperate towards their future; unfor-

tunately, they are involved in different evils, drugs, etc. Our nation, the great India, in terms of area and population, has vast diversity, and luckily there are eminent natural resources as well. The government should utilize fewer sources on the election campaigns and on unnecessary activities and should be focused on how to cater employment to the educated youth and frame different schemes for the unskilled and illiterate folk of the country. Today, in this article, I am going to highlight the issues and grievances faced by the labour class of remote areas of the Kashmir Valley and would like to suggest a few strategies to the government administration for their upliftment. The government is empowered at its own level and has the power conferred by the Indian under constitutional rights to develop the nation and its encourage, uplift people. When a government comes into power at any

level, they forget, or I could say they change their track and try to ignore the main issues of the general public. A shortage of construction works, shorter days in winters, a chilling cold wave, poverty, being financially unsound, being unskilled, a lack of exposure, inflation, a low literacy rate, and so many other factors are responsible for the unemployment in different parts of India.

The government administration has introduced different schemes for the upliftment of the underprivileged class: it includes scholarship schemes and social welfare schemes; banks are providing loans to the financially unsound families on subsidiary schemes, and the government has taken initiatives to eradicate poverty. I wish it would happen soon, but it will take longer, and things will get better gradually. Livelihood commodities are essential, and one cannot survive on this

earth without having them. Government administration should forget to take steps towards the upliftment of the labour class and their families. But there are certain resources in India that generate revenue for the development of the nation and its people, like mineral industries, the agricultural sector, horticulture, etc.

During winters in the Kashmir Valley, most of the workplaces are affected by harsh weather and chilly/shorter days, directly or indirectly. The labour class suffers a lot due to their weak financial conditions. There are schemes, but they are not executed in a proper way. Hope higher-ups consider and redress the issues faced by the labour class. Snow clearance should be taken under the MGNREGA scheme. This step will boost the financial situation and will help generate the livelihood of BPL families and, at the same time, help in the snow clearance

even from the lanes and narrow channel. MGNREGA guarantees a minimum 100 days wage to the family member and has a great aim to provide livelihood security to the underprivileged families. MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005). This scheme came into force on 23rd August 2005. BDOs should be conferred by the power to tender for the snow clearance from lanes and short connectivity, and where snow-clearing machines are getting hurdles, it will generate employment for the MGNREGA cardholder, and the snow clearance problem also gets solved. In the past, the Kashmir Valley's mechanical department was lacking highly advanced snow-clearing machines, and for the last couple of years, we have seen snow cutters and sufficient machines during any forecast.

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## Why Does The World Misunderstand The Pheran?

MAHOOR HAYA SHAH

Not of the fabric, not the wool, not the thread—but the soul of it. They dragged it from the dusty alleys of downtown Srinagar, from its smoky kangris and the whispers of grandmothers by the fire, into boutiques with names like 'Artisanal Kashmir' and 'Rustic Reverie'. Suddenly, this winter armour of the valley, this shapeless, timeless robe of resilience, had price tags and runway struts, slapped with labels that read 'Bohemian chic' or 'Ethnic elegance.' And it burned. Like the ember hidden in a kangri basket—it burned.

The Pheran was never meant to be glamorous. It wasn't meant for billboards or Instagram hashtags. It was meant for survival. It's what you wore when the snow suffocated the world outside. When the mountains turned white, and the air cut like knives, the Pheran was what saved you. It carried the smell of home: smoke from wood fires, the sharp musk of almond oil, and the faint tang of survival. But now? Now it reeks of appropriation.

I remember my grandmother's Pheran. It hung off her small, hunched frame like a second skin. The cuffs were frayed, the fabric patched in places where time had gnawed at it. She'd sit by the window, cradling her kangri like it was a living thing, the fabric patched in places where time had gnawed at it. She'd sit by the window, cradling her kangri like it was a living thing, the fabric patched in places where time had gnawed at it. She'd sit by the window, cradling her kangri like it was a living thing, the fabric patched in places where time had gnawed at it.

But then came the outsiders with their cameras and notebooks. Tourists called it "exotic." Designers called it "versatile." Influencers called it "#SustainableFashion." They stripped it of its quiet dignity, stuffed it with sequins and embroidery, and called it art. They forgot—or perhaps never knew—that the Pheran wasn't just a piece of clothing. It was a rebellion. A refusal to freeze, to falter, to disappear under the weight of snow and time.

The Pheran wasn't just a garment—it was a way of life. It was what you pulled over your shivering shoulders as you prayed for the snow to stop. It was what you wore to funerals, to weddings, to the fields, and to the markets. It was what the poets wrote about and what the labourers worked in. It was both the armour of the Kashmiri man and the sanctuary of the Kashmiri woman, a home within a home, stitched with secrets and strength.

But now, the Pheran stands in glass display cases, sold to those who will never understand

its weight. It's paraded in places where it doesn't belong, worn by those who will never feel the sting of Kashmiri winter. It has been renamed, rebranded, and resold—but what they sell isn't the Pheran. It's a hollow shell of what it once was.

I saw a fashion show once, online. The models walked down the runway in their bastardized versions of the Pheran—tailored at the waist, bedazzled with rhinestones, worn over skinny jeans and stilettos. And the crowd clapped. They clapped for something they didn't understand. I sat there, staring at the screen, thinking of the old man in Sopore who wore his faded, soot-streaked Pheran as he sold walnuts on the roadside. I thought of the young girl in Anantnag who hid her kangri beneath hers, warming her hands as she walked to school. I thought of the artisans in Rainawari, their hands raw from spinning wool in the dead of winter, who crafted these robes not as fashion statements but as shields.

To wear a Pheran is to carry the history of a valley that has known too much pain and too little peace. It's to wrap yourself in the memories of those who fought to keep their culture alive in a world that seems determined to erase it. It's to wear Kashmir.

The Pheran isn't just fabric; it's a battlefield. It carries the whispers of revolution, the prayers of survival, the songs of a land caught between heaven and hell. It is as much a casualty of war as the houses burnt to ash or the orchards razed to the ground.

And yet, despite it all, the Pheran survives. It endures. Because that's what it was always meant to do—endure. It's a quiet rebellion against the cold, against the theft of culture, against forgetting.

So if you must wear it, wear it with respect. Wear it with the knowledge that it doesn't belong to you. Wear it knowing that it carries stories too heavy for your shoulders. And if you can't do that? Leave it alone. Let it stay in the valley, where it belongs, hanging off the shoulders of people who carry the weight of history in every thread.

The Pheran doesn't need sequins. It doesn't need a rebranding campaign. What it needs is what it has always needed: to be left alone, to keep its people warm, and to hold its stories close, far away from the spotlight.

Because the Pheran isn't a trend. It's a testament. A reminder that, in the coldest of winters, Kashmir still finds a way to survive.

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# THE LIFELINE OF LJHP: EXPLORING THE BALANCING RESERVOIR OF BARAMULLA



Sheikh Nazir

The Lower Jhelum Hydel Power Project (LJHP) has a distinction. It is the last power project that PDC owns on the Jhelum. Beyond this, it is a roaring Jhelum that NHPC at Uri-I and Uri-II, shortly before it gushes across the LoC. Even since the project was commissioned in 1978, LJHP has stopped generations only once for a prolonged duration. That was in April 2001 when its forebay was damaged and within a year it was back to work. There have been some minor snags that disrupted generation; the last one was in May 2011 when two of the three units stopped working for a few days.

Conceived in late sixties, the LJHP was taken up for implementation in 1970. With an installed capacity of 105 MW, its three units of 35 MW each are currently generating only 90 MW. The first one was commissioned in February 1979 and the last unit in November 1979. While the locals managed most of the civil works, mostly by the Tirath Ram Ahuja Construction Company and Continental Constructions Limited (now Continental Construction Projects Ltd), the electro-magnetic part of the project was managed by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL). Housed on Jhelum's gorgeous banks, the powerhouse is situated in between lush green mountains. The journey towards the power house starts at the right side of river Jehlum at Gantamulla where from the 9-km water conductor takes off. The 7700 Cusecs canal snakes around the foothills till it reaches the barrage. Its length is 371 feet and has the capacity of holding 80000 cusecs of flood discharge. Inside it is a spillway, a fish pan and under knives which function as garbage cutters. It has 10 bays of 13 meters each. A silt ejector is located



around 2.5 km away. A few kilometres ahead is the balancing reservoir used for maintaining the requisite level of discharge. It is an earthenware water reservoir 1036 meters long with an average width of 183 meters. The canal then travels three more kilometres to reach the forebay where from the penstocks take off. The project has a head of 202.72 meters. It has three penstocks feeding three units. Prior to the fall of water, part of the discharge - not more than 10 cusecs, is diverted for irrigation purposes to Bimyar village and many other surrounding areas. It has revolutionized the mountain belt that lacked irrigation facilities. The project employs scores of locals who manage the canal and take care of the asset that is so crucial to the surging energy requirements of the state. Currently it has 312 individuals on its rolls. The Balancing Reservoir of LJHP (Lower Jhelum Hydroelectric Project) in Baramulla is a critical infrastructure component that plays a key role in the generation of hydroelectric power for the valley. This reservoir is an essential part of the power generation process, ensuring a steady and controlled supply of water to the LJHP power plant, which contributes significantly to the local energy grid. The water for the Balancing Reservoir is sourced from

the Jhelum River at Gantamulla Colony. The water is transported through a meticulously engineered canal that spans approximately 7 to 9 kilometers (7kms. upto Reservoir and 9 Kms. upto power plant) in length. The canal features both underground and open sections, strategically designed to optimize efficiency and durability. Some segments of the canal are constructed underground to protect it from potential damage caused by large stones and debris, which could lead to blockages or structural failures. Other parts of the canal remain open, allowing visitors and passersby to observe the flow of water. These sections have become a popular attraction, drawing numerous people from nearby and distant areas, especially in the evening when the ambiance is serene and picturesque. The canal not only serves a functional purpose but also acts as an important water management system to regulate the flow and maintain the ecosystem balance in the surrounding areas. Seasonal changes, such as heavy rainfall or dry spells, are effectively managed through this canal to ensure an uninterrupted water supply to the reservoir. These dimensions provide a substantial capacity to store and manage water, ensuring that fluctuations in

river flow do not impact the power generation process. The reservoir's storage capacity helps mitigate the impact of seasonal variations in water levels and provides a buffer to maintain optimal power generation conditions. The primary function of the Balancing Reservoir is to supply water to the LJHP power project, which consists of three turbines. Each turbine has a capacity of 35 megawatts (MW), collectively contributing to a total power generation capacity of 105 MW. This power plant plays a crucial role in meeting the energy demands of the region, supporting both residential and industrial needs. The consistent water flow from the reservoir ensures that the turbines operate efficiently, minimizing power outages and fluctuations. Additionally, the plant contributes to the reduction of reliance on non-renewable energy sources, promoting sustainable development in the region. The LJHP Balancing Reservoir not only supports power generation but also offers several environmental and economic benefits. The reservoir aids in flood control by temporarily holding excess water during peak flows, preventing downstream flooding and soil erosion. Moreover, the regulated water release supports agricultural activities in the areaby ensur-

ing a steady water supply for irrigation purposes. Economically, the hydroelectric power generated from the LJHP project contributes to the region's development by providing an affordable and reliable energy source. It reduces dependency on fossil fuels, thereby decreasing the carbon footprint and promoting eco-friendly energy solutions. Additionally, during the winter months, the reservoir becomes a temporary habitat for various migratory bird species. These birds travel from colder regions to the relatively milder climate of Baramulla, making the reservoir an important site for bird watchers and nature enthusiasts. The presence of these birds enhances the ecological value of the reservoir and contributes to the local biodiversity. Apart from its technical and economic significance, the canal and the reservoir have become popular spots for locals and tourists alike. The scenic beauty and engineering marvel of the canal system attract visitors who enjoy spending their evenings in the tranquil environment provided by the flowing water and the surrounding natural landscape. The area around the reservoir has become a favored spot for recreational activities such as picnicking, photography, and nature walks. The lush greenery, coupled

with the calming effect of flowing water, provides an ideal escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Despite its numerous benefits, the Balancing Reservoir requires regular maintenance and monitoring to ensure its efficient operation. Silt deposition, debris accumulation, and potential structural wear and tear pose ongoing challenges that need to be addressed through periodic dredging and repairs. The authorities in charge have implemented stringent maintenance protocols to prevent disruptions in water flow and power generation. The Balancing Reservoir of LJHP Baramulla stands as a testament to effective water resource management and hydroelectric engineering. Its well-planned canal system, thoughtful design to prevent damage, and contribution to the power sector make it an invaluable asset. Moreover, its appeal as a local attraction highlights the harmonious blend of functionality and aesthetic appeal, making it a prominent landmark in the valley. Through careful management and ongoing maintenance, the reservoir will continue to play a pivotal role in sustainable energy production and regional development, ensuring a brighter and more energy-efficient future for Baramulla and beyond.

Shykhnazir580@gmail.com

## Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Completes 10 Years: Driving Women-Led Development for a Viksit Bharat



Annpurna Devi

MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

As India marches confidently toward its vision of becoming Viksit Bharat by 2047, the transformative impact of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme is a testament to how far we have come in our transition from women's development to women-led development. Swami Vivekananda once said, "There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of

women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing." Inspired by this time-less vision, the Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launched the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme on January 22, 2015, in Panipat, Haryana. This landmark initiative sought to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) in India and ensure that girls and women across the nation have the opportunities, care, and dignity they deserve.

The 2011 Census revealed a deeply concerning Child Sex Ratio of 918, a stark reflection of societal biases and the misuse of diagnostic tools. Through targeted, lifecycle-focused interventions, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao was launched to not only reverse this trend but also lay the foundation for a future where women lead and thrive.

Over the past decade, the

scheme has catalyzed significant progress. According to the Health Management Information System, the national Sex Ratio at Birth has improved from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24. Institutional deliveries have surged from 61% in 2014-15 to 97.3% in 2023-24, while first-trimester ante-natal care registrations increased from 61% to 80.5%. Gross enrolment ratios for girls at the secondary level rose from 75.51% in 2014-15 to 79.4% in 2021-22. Additionally, the gap in infant mortality rates between male and female newborns has nearly disappeared, reflecting our commitment to equity in survival and care.

Under the visionary leadership of our Honourable Prime Minister, The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao movement has gone beyond improving statistics; it has

redefined the narrative around women's empowerment. Initiatives like the Yashaswini Bike Expedition, a 10,000-km journey by 150 women bikers in October 2023, symbolized the indomitable spirit of India's daughters. The Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav in 2022 re-enrolled nearly 100,786 out-of-school girls, showcasing the power of education in transforming lives. The National Conference on Skilling emphasized the importance of women's active participation in the workforce, bringing us closer to our vision of women-led development.

As we celebrate ten years of this transformative initiative, it is clear that the mission is far from over. If we are to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat, it is imperative to ensure that girls and women remain at the heart of our

nation-building efforts. India cannot develop till her girls and women are able to live out their full potential. This is the time for us to take decisive action. We must strengthen the implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act of 1994, address dropout rates in education, expand skill development programs, and provide targeted interventions at every stage of a girl's life.

For the Financial Year 2023-2024, Female Labour Force Participation in India stood at 41.7%. While this is a significant increase from previous years, it is still below the Labour Force Participation of Men. Noteworthy also, is the fact that Female Labour Force Participation in the Urban areas is lower than Female Labour Force Participation in the Rural areas of

the country. A large number of women in India, are involved in unpaid domestic care work. Our endeavour should be to not only foster an environment for more women to leave the folds of their domestic spheres and take up employment outside the house, but also to create a means to promote care work as a valid career and a profession, so women who are trained in care work, and want to pursue it, can do so while also gaining financial independence and seeing their efforts contribute to the economic growth of the country. According to the World Economic Forum, closing the workforce gender gap could increase global GDP by 20%. For India, this is not just an opportunity—it is a necessity. Women-led development is central to achieving our goal of a trillion-dollar economy and

becoming a developed nation by 2047. The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme is not just a program; it is a movement that has inspired millions and positioned women at the forefront of India's progress.

Under the visionary leadership of our Honourable Prime Minister, we are witnessing a historic transformation. From women's development to women-led development, the daughters of India are rising as change-makers, entrepreneurs, and leaders. They are transforming into the leaders of their own growth story. Together, let us nurture their dreams and empower their journeys, ensuring that when India completes 100 years of independence, it does so as a nation where every woman plays a central role in shaping its destiny.

# Satish Sharma conducts surprise visit to RTO office Jammu Visits fruit, vegetable market, assesses issues of traders

## HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 27: Minister for Transport, FCS&CA, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, on Monday conducted surprise visit to office of Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Jammu at Narwal and took stock of its functioning. The Minister inspected each counter and interacted with the respective dealing Assistants to understand the nature of services being provided by

them. While interacting with the staff, Satish Sharma directed the concerned to ensure delivery of public services within set time limit.

The Minister had a round of the whole premises and inspected the infrastructural facilities there. He directed for making best use of digital technology to ensure complete transparency in the system and expeditious disposal of public issues.

Satish Sharma said that the government is keeping a strong vigil over the Agent Mafia to save the public from exploitation. He said that the



government is plying adequate public transport facilitating the passengers for religious places and other tourist spots.

The Minister also visited the shops located outside the RTO office and instructed them not to charge any extra amount beyond the prescribed fees. He emphasized the need to educate the public about utilizing faceless services, allowing them to access services from the comfort of their homes without visiting any ARTO/RTO offices.

He reiterated the department's commitment towards providing seamless, faceless services to the public, eliminating the need for physical visits to any office.

Later, Satish Sharma visited fruits and vegetables mandi Narwal and interacted with members of Jammu Fruit and Vegetable Traders Associations and listened to their issues.

The Minister assured the associations that all their genuine demands would be fulfilled in a phased manner.

# Three-day Startup Ideation Workshop Concludes at KU

## HT News Network

Srinagar, Jan 27, ANB: To promote innovation and entrepreneurship, the University of Kashmir (KU) held a three-day Startup Ideation Workshop, as part of the 13-Day Winter Entrepreneur Cohort program. Organized by the NewGen IEDC KU, in collaboration with the MeitY Startup Hub under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the workshop provided a platform for final-year and graduate students, as well as early-stage startup founders, to refine innovative ideas.

According to the Associated News Bureau, the workshop featured interactive sessions led by expert mentors, Arundhati Rao and Adithya Bhagavatula, who focused on creativity,

practical ideation, and entrepreneurial capacity building.

In her message Vice Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofar Khan, while expressing satisfaction with the successful conduct of the workshop said "Such initiatives are crucial for nurturing an entrepreneurial ecosystem and aligning with the University's commitment to excellence in education and innovation."

Khan also appreciated NewGen IEDC's efforts in organizing such impactful and collaborative programs to support first generation entrepreneurs.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, commended the initiative, calling it "a vital step in connecting academic learning with real-world applications."

Dean Research KU, Prof.

Mohammad. Sultan Bhat, emphasized the synergy between research and entrepreneurship, stating, "Workshops like these translate theoretical knowledge into practical solutions and develop a culture of innovation."

Dean College Development Council KU, Prof. Khurshid Ahmad Butt stressed on the importance

of collaborative efforts and said, "Such programs provide a platform for ideas to flourish under expert guidance." Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, highlighted the socio-economic impact of entrepreneurship, adding, "Empowering youth through such opportunities strengthens the region's development framework."

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 hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of ABU BAKR BIN JAVAID S/O JAVAID AHMAD RATHER R/O TILAGAM Tehsil PATTAN Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 07/07/2019 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 death 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 hassubmitted case file pertaining to Death of ABDUL JABBAR THOKER S/O ABDUL KARIM THOKER R/O WAGOORA Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Death as 11/06/2023 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

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 hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of IRFAN ALI LONE S/O ALI MOHAMMAD LONE R/O DOLIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 23/09/2020 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 death 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 hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of IMTIYAZ AHMAD POSWAL S/O BASHIR AHMAD POSWAL R/O BANDI BALA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 20/03/2010 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 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 hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHAMMAD ANAS RATHER S/O MOHAMMAD SHAFI RATHER R/O TARZOO Tehsil SOPORE Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 08/12/2022 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 death 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 PAHALGAM  
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Registrar Births and Deaths (THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE PAHALGAM ) has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of TABASUM MUKHTAR D/O MUKHTAR AHMAD BHAT R/O GANISHBAL PAHALGAM Tehsil PAHALGAM Distt. ANANTNAG with verified the date of Birth, as 25/05/2007 and event has been to be occurred at Home .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of said registration shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate  
1st Class PAHALGAM

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR PAHALGAM  
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Registrar Births and Deaths (THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE ANANTNAG) has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of ABU BAKER MUZAFER GANIE S/O MUZAFER AHMAD GANIE R/O GRANDWEN GRAND AISA Tehsil PAHALGAM Distt. ANANTNAG with verified the date of Birth, as 11/07/2022 and event has been to be occurred at ..... .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of said registration shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate  
1st Class ANANTNAG

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 hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of IMAD MANZOOR S/O MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT R/O KALANTRA BALA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 15/03/2021 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 death 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**

I have applied for issuance of pesticides License in this connection if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his .her objection in the office of concerned PLANT PROTECTION OFFICER LAL MANDI SRINAGAR ( PPO) within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name..... SNOBAR MUSHTAQ  
D/O .....MUSHTAQ AHMAD MIR  
R/O .....KREERI

**اطلاع عام**

مجھے فٹلیزر لیسن بنام رینہ فٹلیزر پہلگام نکانی مطلوب ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر ڈیفائنٹ فٹلیزر کے دفتر میں پیش کر کے بعد ازاں معاد کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

**المستھر**

محمد یعقوب رینہ ولد عبدالسلام رینہ ساکن لاری پورا پہلگام

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 hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of FERHANA BANO S/O LATE BASHIR AHMAD LONE R/O NAGBAL Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 04/02/2007 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 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 hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of FAIQA D/O AWRANGZABE KHAN R/O SALOOSA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 11/08/2022 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 death 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 hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of RAFIYA NAZIR D/O NAZIR AHMAD RATHER R/O DANGARPORA Tehsil DANGARPORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 18/05/2021 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 death 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 hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of USMAT MAJEEF D/O ABDUL MAJEEF LONE R/O NAGBAL Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 05/01/2014 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 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 hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of HAROON NAZIR WANI & ZAINAB UN NISSA D/O NAZIR AHMAD WANI R/O HAIL Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 18/09/2013 & 1/02/2017 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 KREERI

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division  
Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh.**  
Near Silk Factory Srinagar- 190008.

**(Short Term) NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

E-NIT No.173/R&B/Electric Division Kashmir of 2024-25 issued under [Endorsement](#) No: ERB/8832-40 DATED:24-01-2025.

Forandonbehalf of TheGovernment of J&K(U/T)e-tenders(inDoublecoversystem)are Invitedonpercentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and otherState/UT/CentralGovernmentDepartmentsforthefollowingworks:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estim ated. Cost (In. Lacs)	Cost of Tender/ Doc. (In Rs.)	2% Earnes t Money (In Rs.)	Time of Compl etion (Calen dar Days)	Class of Contr act	Major Head of Accou nt	Remarks
01	Development of Shiekh ul Alam Hall as Centre of Skill Development and Training BWO Revamping of internal electrification.	Rs. 14.00 / = Lacs	Rs. 600/=	Rs. 28000/=	20 Days	"AAY" Class Electrical	District Mineral Fund PMKKKY	Accord Administrative of Approval accorded by District Development commissioner Budgam vide order No.29-DDCB of 2024 Dated:-02-08-2024

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24-01-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24-01-2025 from 06.00PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	24-01-2025 from 06.00 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date	01-02-2025 upto 1.00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	01-02-2025 at 02.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh.
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids(Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, bill of quantities( BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:  
Note: The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-NIT carefully before uploading soft's copy.  
23 All other terms & conditions shall be as per the SBD/ Contract Agreement.Engineerin

DIPK-11291/24  
DATED:-27-01-2025

SD/= ExecutiveEngineer, (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh

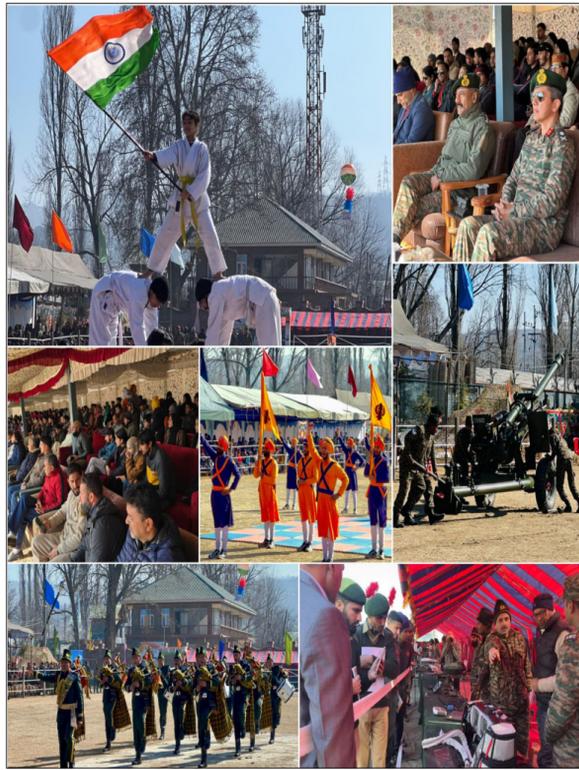
# Baramulla Dagger Division Chinar Corps Hosts an Inspiring Military Showcase: “Celebrating Patriotism and Army’s Cutting-Edge Capabilities”

## Military Excellence Meets Cultural Heritage at “Know Your Army” Event

■ **Ahmed Fayyaz**  
ahmed144@gmail.com

In a remarkable showcase of military precision and technological advancement, Baramulla came alive on Saturday with the grand “Know Your Army” event, held as part of the 76th Republic Day celebrations. Organized by the Dagger Division of the Chinar Corps, the event successfully reinforced the bond between the Indian Army and the public. Under the unifying theme of “Awaam aur Jawaan”, the exhibition highlighted the Army’s operational capabilities, technological innovations, and its commitment to the community. The day commenced with an awe-inspiring 500-meter-long National Flag procession, featuring 150 children participating in a vibrant Tiranga Yatra. This striking display of patriotism evoked a profound sense of pride and unity among attendees. Adding to the emotional fervor was the hoisting of a 35-meter-high National Flag, which stood as a towering symbol of the nation’s strength and shared purpose. Distinguished guests graced the occasion, including the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Dagger Division, who served as the Chief Guest, alongside the Commander of the Baramulla Brigade Representatives from the district administration and security forces, such as the BSF, CRPF, and JKP, lent their presence to the event, along with NCC cadets who emphasized

the youth’s role in shaping the future of the armed forces. The event drew an impressive crowd of over 2,500 attendees, including students, families, youth leaders, and community members. This overwhelming turnout was a testament to the local population’s enthusiasm to engage with the Army and gain insight into its multifaceted roles. More than just a celebration, the event provided a platform for meaningful interaction between the armed forces and the people they serve. One of the most remarkable aspects of the event was its ability to merge military excellence with cultural richness, offering an experience that captivated all age groups. The “Know Your Army” exhibition featured thrilling demonstrations that left spectators in awe. Advanced drone flypasts, a standout attraction, displayed the Army’s aerial precision and technological prowess, offering a glimpse into its modern capabilities. Live artillery demonstrations further showcased the power and operational readiness of the armed forces, leaving many attendees fascinated by the spectacle. Attendees also had the opportunity to get up close to a range of the Army’s latest military vehicles and cutting-edge equipment. This hands-on experience allowed the community to appreciate the advancements driving the modernization of India’s defence forces, sparking admiration and curiosity among visitors. Beyond the military demonstrations, the event honoured India’s rich cultural traditions, ensuring a holistic experience



for the attendees. A riveting performance of Sikh Gatka, a traditional martial art, drew enthusiastic applause for its agility and energy. Adding to the cultural vibrancy, the

Chinar YUVA Karate Kids showcased their martial arts skills, inspiring the audience with their discipline and determination. The Army’s K9 units were another major attraction, as the

trained dogs mesmerized the audience with their extraordinary skills and loyalty during an engaging demonstration. Adding to the celebratory spirit, the Army’s military band delivered a melodious performance that blended rhythm with discipline, leaving a lasting impression on the crowd. Adding a deeply personal dimension to the exhibition, an interactive mobile museum chronicled stories of camaraderie and trust between the Army and the local community. This heartfelt element resonated with visitors, offering them a chance to connect with the Army on an emotional level while reinforcing a sense of mutual respect. A key component of the event was the Army’s recruitment counter, which provided valuable information about career opportunities in the armed forces. This initiative proved to be highly impactful, inspiring many young attendees to consider a future in defence. By presenting the Army as an accessible and fulfilling career option, the recruitment drive played a vital role in strengthening the Army’s connection with the youth and shaping aspirations for the future. The community’s response to the event was overwhelmingly positive, with many attendees expressing their admiration and gratitude for the Army’s efforts. Touseef Raina, a local youth leader, praised the initiative, saying, “Events like this connect young people with the Army, dispel misconceptions, and ignite a sense of pride. It’s motivated many to consider careers in defence.” For local resident Shadaab, the event

marked a momentous occasion. “This is the first time I’ve seen such an event here. The performances by the trained Army dogs and the Sikh Gatka were truly mesmerizing,” he said. Similarly, Rehman Malik, a student from GDC Baramulla, shared his amazement: “I’ve never seen such an impressive display of weapons and vehicles. The Military Band was extraordinary! Such testimonials reflect the profound impact the event had on fostering a sense of belonging, pride, and admiration for the Indian Army. The “Know Your Army” event in Baramulla was far more than just a military showcase. It was a celebration of unity, mutual respect, and collaboration between the armed forces and the people they serve. By combining advanced military displays, cultural traditions, and meaningful community engagement, the event stood out as a shining example of how the Army can bridge gaps and foster enduring connections with local communities. This successful exhibition not only strengthened the spirit of patriotism but also set the stage for similar initiatives in the future. By continuing to prioritize outreach programs like these, the Army reaffirms its commitment to building trust, fostering pride, and reinforcing the unbreakable bond between “Awaam aur Jawaan.” The “Know Your Army” event will be remembered as a testament to the Indian Army’s dedication to safeguarding the nation while serving as a unifying force that celebrates the diversity, aspirations, and resilience of its people.

### DC Kupwara extends greetings on Shab-i-Meraj

■ **HT News Network**



KUPWARA, JANUARY 27: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan has extended her heartfelt greetings to the people of Kupwara district on the eve of Shab-i-Meraj.

In her message of felicitations, Ayushi Sudan hoped that this auspicious occasion would spread the message of peace and promote the spirit of brotherhood, harmony and amity among people of all faiths. She prayed for peace, progress, and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

### Police organises awareness programme on New Criminal Laws in Awantipora

■ **HT News Network**



Awantipora January 27: Police in Awantipora organized an awareness programme on New Criminal Laws at Mr English Training Academy Nambalbal Pampore. The programme is aimed to inform general public especially to educate the students about the recent amendments and additions to the criminal laws, ensuring that they are well-aware and compliant with the legal framework.

During the session, SHO Police Station Pampore Inspector Naieem Ahmad elucidated the nuances of the new laws, providing clarity on their implications and emphasizing the importance of adherence to legal statutes for the maintenance of law and order in society.

The initiative witnessed active participation from the students, who engaged in interactive sessions, seeking clarifications and expressing their queries regarding the legal provisions discussed.

### Eco Park Baramulla in Danger: Illegal Road Construction and Material Extraction Threaten its Integrity

■ **UMAR RASHID**



Baramulla’s iconic Eco Park, known for its natural beauty and a popular spot for locals and tourists, is under threat due to illegal activities. According to locals, an unauthorized road is being constructed near the park’s boundary, allowing the extraction of construction materials using heavy machinery like JCBs and Pokland excavators. These activities are not only damaging the park’s foundation but also disrupting the ecological balance of the Jhelum River. Residents of Khadiyyar, Baramulla, expressed their dismay, stating that the park was once a serene space for families, children, and senior citizens. However, the unauthorized road built beneath the park’s viewpoints poses a severe risk to its structure and aesthetics.

Officials from the Irrigation and Flood Department revealed that

while a contractor was permitted to extract construction materials, the road construction is entirely illegal. “We have cut off the road twice, but unfortunately, the perpetrators rebuild it,” an official stated, assuring that further action will be taken in the coming days. The local population has strongly appealed to the Governor’s administration and district authorities to intervene and take strict action against those responsible. They have urged officials to safeguard the park and restore the natural state of the Jhelum River, ensuring that this vital environmental and recreational asset is preserved for future generations.

## 76th Republic Day 2025 Celebrated in Tehsil Headquarters Kreeri

■ **Aashiq Hussain /Toufeeq Ahmad**



Kreeri ,26 Jan(HT) 76Th Republic day was celebrated in Tehsil Headquarter Kreeri with highest fervor wherein flag was unfurled at Hr Sec School Kreeri in which Tehsildar Wagoora Tahir Ahmad Malik was chief guest unfurled the flag, inspected the parade and took salute at the march-past. Among others SDPO Kreeri Javid Ahmad, Naib Tehsildar Wagoora Nissar Ahmad ,SHO Kreeri Feroz Ahmad ,BDO Wagoora Jehangir Ahmad Shah ,AEE PHE Kreeri , Principal Hr sec kreeri ,DO Police post wagoora TSO kreeri, former BDC Wagoora GM, President Traders Association Kreeri SND Andrabi besides other senior officers of civil admin-

istration/Police Department, Students were present on the occasion. The march-past was presented by the contingent of District Police, Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police Fire and emergency services and SSB. by the chief guest special cultural programmes were also presented by

students of different Schools. Large number of people witnessed the function as elaborate security arrangements were made by the kreeri police.

Some best administrator awards were given to Civil and Police administration SDPO Kreeri, Tehsildar kreeri ,Tehsildar wagoora, SHO Kreeri Feroz Ahmad BDO Wagoora, BMO Kreeri ,Principal Hr Sec School kreeri ,Project officer wagoora , Wagoora , Agriculture Extension officers kreeri , AEE PDD ,AEE PHE ,TSO food and supplies Kreeri BMO Kreeri , Naib Tehsildar ,Manager Seed farm Kreeri kreeri were nominated for best administrator awards. Meanwhile some media persons were also awarded which include irfan Tilgami JK News Tribe, Aashiq Hussain Headlines Today, Toufeeq Ahmad RNA News and Lone Mehraj of ANN News.

## 76th Republic Day Celebrated with Grandeur and Unity at Langate

■ **DR.AB QAYOOM**



Langate, Jan, 27: The 76th Republic Day was celebrated with enthusiasm and grandeur at the Town Hall premises in Langate, jointly organized by the Tehsil Administration and Municipal Committee Langate. The event brought together officials, dignitaries, security personnel, and a large number of civilians, reflecting the spirit of national pride and unity. The celebration began with the ceremonial unfurling of the national flag by Tehsildar Langate, Mohd Ismieel, followed by an inspiring address. Among the distinguished attendees were Executive Officer of the Municipal Committee Langate, Rohi Bhat, PP Officer Shri Rayees Ahmad, and officials from various line departments, including lumberdars and Trade President Langate, Lateef Ahmad Ganie. A disciplined parade and marching contingents stole the show,

showcasing the professionalism and dedication of the security forces and other participating units. The well-coordinated performances and patriotic spirit left an indelible impression on the audience. Cultural performances

by school students and local artists added vibrancy to the occasion, celebrating the region’s rich heritage and reinforcing messages of unity and patriotism. The melodies of patriotic songs filled the air, instilling a sense of

pride among attendees. Tehsildar Langate, in his speech, highlighted the significance of Republic Day and urged all present to uphold the values enshrined in the Constitution. He also lauded the efforts of security forces and administrative officials in maintaining peace and harmony in the region. In recognition of their exceptional contributions, several officials, employees, journalists, police personnel, and municipal workers, including Nazir Ahmad of the Municipal Committee Langate, were felicitated with appreciation certificates. The event concluded with heartfelt expressions of gratitude from the attendees, who praised the organizers for making the celebration a memorable and inspiring event. The occasion stood as a testament to the collaborative spirit and commitment to national welfare, leaving a profound impact on all participants.

### VC DDC Kupwara reviews enrollment process of beneficiaries under PMAY (R)



■ **HT News Network**

KUPWARA, JANUARY 27: Vice Chairman District Development Council (VC- DDC) Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir today chaired a meeting with Panchayat Secretaries and Surveyors at BDO Office Wavoora to review the ongoing enrollment process of beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Rural (PMAY-R).

The meeting was held to ensure that the enrollment process is carried out efficiently and all eligible beneficiaries are registered under the scheme for the provision of affordable housing in rural areas.

The VC DDC highlighted the significance of PMAY-R in addressing the housing needs of rural populations and stressed the need for timely and accurate identification of beneficiaries. He emphasized the role of Panchayat Secretaries and Surveyors in ensuring that the process is transparent, fair, and free from errors.

He urged all stakeholders to work in close coordination to achieve the set targets within the prescribed time frame.

The Vice Chairman appealed to the people of Lolab sub division to contact the concerned Surveyors for registering their name in the PMAY list.

## Secretary RDD for expeditious completion of Panchayat Ghars, CSCs, PLCs

HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 27: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Monday emphasised the need to expedite the construction of Panchayat Ghars (PGs), Common Service Centres (CSCs) and Panchayat Learning Centres (PLCs) across Jammu and Kashmir.

While chairing a meeting held in this regard, the Secretary directed for ensuring completion of all ongoing works of Panchayat Ghars by March 31, 2025. He sought the intervention of Deputy Commissioners (DCs) in the projects wherever land related issues for Panchayat Ghars still exist.



As of now, 258 Panchayat Ghars have been completed.

The Secretary stressed that Panchayat Ghars are essential for strengthening local self-governance, enhancing rural administration, and ensuring better service delivery to citizens.

Furthermore, the Secretary set a deadline of February 3 for submission of balance Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for PGs

planned for the 2024-25 fiscal. He also instructed that the Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs) must be uploaded immediately with an emphasis on addressing bottlenecks in infrastructure development to ensure timely completion of these projects. He added that the ongoing work on PGs and CSCs is vital for effective local governance. He highlighted that the additional

rooms being added to existing PGs for CSCs would provide citizens with improved access to digital services, including online applications, banking and various government schemes. This initiative, he said, would not only streamline services but also contribute significantly towards enhancing digital literacy and fostering greater inclusion in rural areas.

In addition, the Secretary reviewed division-wise progress on PLCs and asked the district officials to complete installation of required equipment by March 31. He urged upon the nodal officers to ensure that centralised specifications for equipment are delivered to the concerned

## Udhampur admin initiates formulation of development plan DC convenes primary consultation meeting with MLAs

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, JANUARY 27: In line with the directions of the Finance Department regarding the collation of major development plans for priority implementation, a Primary Consultation meeting was convened by Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai, with the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the four constituencies of District Udhampur.

The meeting was attended by MLA Udhampur West, Pawan Kumar Gupta; MLA Chenani, Balwant Singh Mankotia, MLA Udhampur East, Ranbir Singh Pathania and MLA Ramnagar, Sunil Bhardwaj. Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Singh and other district officers. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on various aspects of the development agenda, including prioritization of sector-wise works, ensuring a structured approach to development, Drafting constituency-wise proposals for pri-



riority projects, Compilation of major development projects for submission. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to draft a comprehensive proposal of priority projects in consultation with the MLAs and ensure its submission by the evening. She further emphasized that the proposal should be inclusive of all key sectors and reflect the developmental priorities of each constituency. The officers were instructed to

prepare a well-structured draft that encompasses all priority works and submit it to the respective MLAs for further deliberation. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to draft a comprehensive proposal of priority projects in consultation with the MLAs and ensure its submission by the evening. She further emphasized that the proposal should be inclusive of all key sectors.

## As Part of National Road Safety Month ARTO Kulgam Organized a Series of impactful Events.

Farooq Rather

Kulgam, Jan 27: In a remarkable effort to promote road safety, the Events Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Kulgam organized a series of impactful events as part of National Road Safety Month 2025. The initiative aimed at raising awareness and encouraging safer road practices throughout the district.

A major highlight of the campaign was a district-wide bike rally, which drew attention to the importance of road safety while engaging the public. Additionally, road safety awareness sessions were held to educate people on best practices, and posters and stickers with crucial safety messages were distributed across various loca-



tions. Adding an innovative touch, the ARTO also installed diamond-shaped boards displaying road safety slogans along major roads, further reinforcing the message in a dynamic manner.

Focusing on the youth, the campaign featured student awareness programs and rallies, ensuring the next generation is

equipped with the knowledge to make safe choices on the roads. The comprehensive activities reflected the department's commitment to fostering a culture of road safety throughout Kulgam.

This month-long campaign serves as a powerful reminder for all road users, urging them to adhere to traffic rules for a safer future.

## Hold Special Prayers for Badhhal Rajouri, Especially for 17 Mysterious deaths: Dr Darakhshan Andrabi to Imams Reviews Arrangements for Mehraj-un-Nabi (SAW)

HT News Network

Srinagar, Jan 27 (JKNS): Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board chairperson Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, on Monday convened a meeting with Imams and Khateebis from shrines and masjids across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir to discuss the arrangements for the upcoming Mehraj-un-Nabi (SAW).

The meeting also focused on making special prayers for the people of Badhhal Rajouri, especially for the 17 individuals who died due to an unexplained illness.

According to details available with news agency JKNS states that, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi convened a meeting with Imams and Khateebis from shrines and masjids across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir to discuss the arrange-



ments for the upcoming Mehraj-un-Nabi (SAW).

The meeting centered on finalizing preparations for the upcoming religious occasion. Dr. Andrabi

stressed the need for smooth proceedings and for ensuring that all religious practices are carried out with devotion and unity. The Chairperson also focussed on the

significance of this occasion and the power of collective prayers during such challenging times.

In her address to the religious leaders, Dr. Andrabi urged all Imams to make special prayers for the people of Badhhal Rajouri. She particularly highlighted the tragic loss of 17 lives due to the mysterious illness and asked for divine blessings for the affected families.

Talking to news agency JKNS, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi said, "I have urged all Imams and Khateebis to remember the victims of Badhhal Rajouri in their prayers, especially the 17 lives lost."

It is crucial that we stand together as a community, offering our prayers for the families and the overall well-being of the region during this sorrowful period, Andrabi said." (JKNS)

## Beti Bachao Beti Padhao... Awareness event on women centric welfare schemes held at SDH Baderwah

HT News Network

DODA, JANUARY 27: District Social Welfare Department, through the Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women on Monday organised an awareness camp at Sub District Hospital Baderwah to mark 10 years of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP).

The camp was held under the direction of District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Tariq Qazi and attended by Block Medical Officer (BMO) Dr. Ashraf Kuchey and the staff of the Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti and ASHA workers.

As part of the BBBP initiative, baby kits were distributed among mothers of newborn girls to support their well-being and encourage the message of girl child



empowerment. Additionally, sanitary napkins were distributed among postnatal mothers to emphasize the importance of menstrual hygiene in preventing infections and ensuring reproductive health.

Gender Specialist, District Hub for Empowerment of Women Dr. Sanya Khan presented an overview

of the Sambal and Samarthyia components under Mission Shakti. She explained the schemes and programs aimed at women's empowerment, including Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS), Tejaswini, and various pension schemes under the Social Welfare Depart-

ment. She also elaborated on the objectives of BBBP, its target beneficiaries, and the achievements in areas such as education, sports, and skill development.

Dr. Sanya also highlighted the services provided by the Women Helpline (181) and the Sakhi One Stop Centre, focusing on addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and offering assistance to women in distress.

Dr. Ashraf Kuchey emphasized the critical importance of menstrual hygiene, particularly for women from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. He discussed the health risks associated with poor menstrual hygiene, including reproductive and urinary tract infections, and stressed the need for improved awareness and access to sanitation facilities and sanitary products.

## Bharat Vikas Parishad celebrates Republic Day

HT News Network

The Bharat Vikas Parishad Gandhinagar Branch, Jammu celebrated the 76th Republic Day at Nanak Nagar, opposite Varmani Maal with great enthusiasm and patriotism. The ceremony was attended by forty five (45) members of the organization, their families, and distinguished guests. The event began with the unfurling of the national flag by Shri Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Prant President of Bharat Vikas Parishad Jammu (UT). This was followed by a rendition of the national anthem and salute. In his address, Shri B.B. Sharma emphasized the importance of Republic Day and the significance of the Indian Constitution. He also highlighted the contributions of Bharat Vikas Parishad in promoting social welfare, education, and cultural activities in the region. The ceremony included a program featuring patriotic song and poem performed by Diksha Sharma a student. The event concluded with a vote of thanks. by sh. Sush-



il ojha, President branch, sh. C.U. Sharma, Sectt. and Sh. Jagjit Singh Isher, a call to the members to uphold the principles of democracy, secularism, and social justice enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Prominent among participants were S/Sh. Satyanand Sharma, Dr. Dev Raj Sharma, Dr. Balwant Sharma, Arun Sharma, Shiv Ram Sharma, smt. Amita Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Prof. Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Gopal gupta, Sd. Gurmeet Singh, P.S. Chandel, Ram langar, Sham langar, yash pal gupta, B.S. Chib Mrs. and Mr. C.L. koul, and much more members.

## DPIIT, JKEDI Sign MoU to Strengthen Startup Ecosystem in J&K

HT News Network

BARIBRAHMANA, JANUARY 27: In a landmark move to bolster the startup ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering collaboration, mentorship, and support for startups in the region.

The signing took place at "Jammu Kashmir Connect," a special startup-focused program organized at JKEDI's Baribrahmana campus, where startups, incubators, and key-way stakeholders gathered to discuss innovation and growth opportunities.

Director DPIIT Dr. Sumeet K. Jaran-

gal and Director JKEDI Rajinder Kumar Sharma formally signed the MoU, marking a significant step toward strengthening startup support systems in J&K. While incubators and startups from the Jammu division attended the event physically, those from the Kashmir division participated virtually.

During the program, Director DPIIT and Director JKEDI held one-on-one interactions with all incubators, discussing their challenges, needs, and future plans. The session provided a unique platform for incubators to share insights, suggest improvements, and seek policy-level support for enhancing the startup ecosystem.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Sumeet K. Jaranal emphasized the need for DPIIT-recognized incubators



to avail Funds of Funds and Seed Fund. He stressed that while financial resources are available, structured mentorship and handholding remain the most crucial factors for startup success. He also assured that more

interactive sessions will be conducted in the future, encouraging startups to shift their mindset toward becoming job providers rather than job seekers. Furthermore, he highlighted India's ambition to become a global

leader in advanced technology sectors, reducing dependence on countries like Israel and the U.S.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajinder Kumar Sharma reiterated JKEDI's commitment as the nodal agency for Startup JK, stating that the institute is actively collaborating with various organizations to strengthen the startup ecosystem in the region. He assured that more such workshops will be conducted in partnership with DPIIT and incubators to ensure continuous knowledge sharing and engagement. He also lauded the achievements of a startup from Udhampur that has attained unicorn status, underscoring the immense potential of J&K's emerging startup ecosystem.

The MoU between DPIIT and JKEDI paves the way for greater branding,

outreach, and accessibility to Startup India's ecosystem, fostering mentorship, knowledge exchange, and infrastructure support. It also focuses on market linkages, funding networks, and international expansion opportunities, aligning with India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047. During the event, Director JKEDI highlighted the impact of the JK Startup Policy, launched in March 2024, which has led to over 250 new startup registrations on the DPIIT portal taking the total to 988 in a short span. He also emphasized the significant outreach efforts undertaken by JKEDI, stating that during the current financial year, the institute has successfully conducted 601 Entrepreneurship Awareness Programs (EAPs) across Universities, Colleges, Higher Secondary Schools,

# CS reviews progress on ongoing road projects; says survey underway to cover unconnected habitations under PMGSY IV

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 27: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of Public Works Department (PWD) attended by the Engineers of the executing agencies to review progress on major ongoing road projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

While taking stock of overall progress on accomplishing these vital road connectivity links across the UT, the Chief Secretary emphasised on enhancing the capacity of the engineers to enable them in meeting deadlines efficiently. He directed the senior functionaries to monitor the works themselves for timely completion. He maintained that these road projects are highly significant and need to be completed expeditiously while observing all quality parameters and supervision by the senior officers from the concerned agencies.

He emphasised early completion of survey and formulation of DPRs under PMGSY IV so that all of the unconnected habitations are provided all weather road links under this programme without any fail. He advised the Secretary to regularly monitor this process and complete the requisite Comprehensive New Connectivity Priority List (CNCPL) in respect of each village so that due priority is given to them for early execution and completion.

In a presentation, Secretary PWD, Bhupinder Kumar, apprised the meeting of the achievements made under PMGSY I, II and III. He informed that under PMGSY-I a road length of 17578 Km was constructed including 210 Long Span Bridges



(LSBs) and 7 LSBs stands completed under phase II while 1248 km road including a LSB was constructed under phase III of this programme.

The meeting discussed the action plan for completion of remaining works of earlier phases of PMGSY. It also took note of the rolling out of PMGSY IV and its scope of implementation in the UT. The list of unconnected habitations and their survey under the 'Gram Sadak Survey app' and the status of preparation of CNCPL for each proposed habitation at block/district level was debated threadbare in the meeting.

It was revealed that J&K being in special category along with NE states would be given assistance to the extent of 90% by

the central government under PMGSY. It also has a relaxation in terms of population criteria as the habitations here need to have a population of 250 only instead of 500 for other States/UTs with legislatures.

The meeting was apprised that out of the 1386 unconnected villages in J&K, Gram Sadak Survey in favour of 1249 villages had been finalised and those of 102 is under scrutiny to take them up under PMGSY phase IV for execution.

About Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), it was divulged that out of 121 ongoing projects sanctioned at a cost of Rs2366 crore an expenditure of Rs 1180 crore had been incurred till date and 21 projects stands completed against the target of 41 projects for the year 2024-25.

With respect to NABARD RIDF, it was given out that 1098 projects were sanctioned under RIDFs XXIV to XXIX to be completed at a cost of Rs4761 crore. Out of these, an expenditure of Rs 1246 crore had been recorded and 195 projects completed till date. It was added that under RIDF-XXX the UT has submitted 140 projects for approval costing around Rs949 crore.

Regarding the overall performance registered under Capex for the financial year 2024-25, the meeting was informed that 2115 works stands completed as on date against the target of 3469 works sanctioned under Road Sector, NABARD, Cities & Towns, CRIF, PMGSY, Bridges programme and other heads of development.

As far as blacktopping of roads is concerned, it was divulged that a total of 3013 km of roads had been macadamised during the ensuing financial year under different sectors of development. Moreover, 25 bridges had also been completed against the target of 60 fixed for this fiscal.

The Chief Secretary also took appraisal of the progress achieved on major road projects executed in different parts of J&K under various schemes. He asked about the current status of their completion with the possible dates of completion. He also directed for completion of all projects on due date so that there is no more slippage in timelines fixed for them.

Other issues that came up for discussion in the meeting included merger of JKPC staff in PWD and utilisation of funds still lying with the Corporation for finishing of incomplete projects left out by it.

## Beekkeepers felicitated at concluding ceremony of 7-day training program

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, JANUARY 27: Directorate of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu today felicitated 50 aspiring Beekkeepers drawn from Jammu and Samba Districts.

They were felicitated at the concluding ceremony of the seven-day training program on Scientific Beekeeping organized for them at Baba Jitto Kisan Kendra by the Apiculture Development Scheme, Directorate of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu, under the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM).

Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen, presided over the ceremony and felicitated the beekkeepers, presenting them with Tool Kits, literature, bee flora saplings, and certificates of participation.

Earlier, the participants visited the Apiculture Demonstration cum Training Centre in Chimney Chak, Jammu, where they received practical, hands-on training in bee hive operations and colony management.

## GDC Vijaypur organises Slogan Writing, Poster Making event to mark National Geographic Day

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, JANUARY 27: The Geography Department of Government Degree College (GDC) Vijaypur marked National Geographic Day with slogan writing and poster making themed "Support for Conservation and Sustainability." The event was held under the guidance of the Principal Dr. Vandana Verma.

Prof. Meetu Sharma (HOD Geography) coordinated the event and expressed her pleasure in seeing the students' active involvement and creativity.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from the 4th-semester students, who showcased their creativity and understanding of geographical concepts through their slogans and posters.

The Geography Department looks forward to continuing to celebrate National Geographic Day in future years with even more engagement and participation from students.

## GDC Marh organises Financial Literacy Camp

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 27: Government Degree College Marh, in collaboration with SBI organised a two days awareness programme on Financial Literacy. The programme was coordinated by Prof Surbhi Gupta (HOD Commerce), Dr. Priya Sharma (HOD Economics) and Dr. Younus Bhat (Department of Commerce) under the supervision of College Principal Prof (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Koul.

In the opening remarks, the Principal of the college appreciated the initiative taken by the SBI personnel for organizing the programme for the welfare of the staff and the students and introducing them with various government schemes and loan facilities. He also emphasized on the significance of financial literacy, financial freedom and the need of becoming rich by increasing self employment among the youth of the nation.

## EPFO promotes Online Services at Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA, JANUARY 27: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Regional Office, Jammu, today celebrated the second anniversary of the "Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0" initiative with a special awareness and grievance redressal program held here in the Conference Hall, DC Office.

The event was presided over by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner Rizwan Uddin, who addressed grievances of workers and employers while providing essential handholding support.

Launched in January 2023, "Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0" aims to strengthen the connection between EPFO and its stakeholders by promoting awareness about social security provisions, digital services, and fraud prevention.

The EPFO highlighted key themes such as grievances filing mechanisms, UAN activation, e-nomination, and other online services. A special Pension Help Desk was set up to address on-the-spot pension-related queries, while discussions were held on enhanced benefits under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976, which now offers coverage of up to 7 lakh.

The event witnessed active participation from contractors, private schools, and representatives of the government departments, along with beneficiaries from diverse sectors.

Assistant Labour Commissioner Nehal Pandit, CEO P.L. Thapa, and other stakeholders were present to emphasize the importance of extending social security benefits to eligible employees from the beginning of their employment.

The program also focused on initiatives like e-nomination, online claim filing, and employer dashboards, ensuring a robust exchange of information and services for stakeholders.

## DC Rajouri flags off CCI Parisha Girls for Picnic under Mission Vatsalya

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, JANUARY 27: In a significant initiative under the Mission Vatsalya scheme of the Department of Social Welfare, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today flagged off a special picnic for 30 girls from CCI Parisha. The outing aimed to provide the children with a much-needed recreational break while enriching their social and cultural experiences.

The picnic was sent to the scenic and revered destination of Shahadara Sharief, offering the participants a day filled with joy, learning, and exploration. Accompanying the girls were staff members of CCI Parisha, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience.

Speaking at the flag-off ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner lauded the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) Abdul Raheem and the Social Welfare Department for organizing the event.

"Such initiatives are essential for creating a nurturing environment for children in CCIs, helping them experience life beyond institutional care. I commend DCPO Abdul Raheem and his team for their dedication to the



well-being and holistic development of these children," he stated.

The participants expressed their gratitude and excitement at the opportunity to visit the historical and religious site of Shahadara Sharief. The day included shared meals, interactive sessions, and activities aimed at fostering teamwork, unity, and positivity.

DCPO Abdul Raheem highlighted

the significance of such outings under Mission Vatsalya. "These activities are vital for the psychological and emotional growth of the children. Moments of joy and exploration not only inspire confidence but also instill a sense of belonging and hope in their lives," he remarked, thanking the Deputy Commissioner for his unwavering support

## Jal Sanchy Jan Bhagidari

DC reviews execution of Water Conservation projects in Poonch District

■ HT News Network

POONCH, JANUARY 27: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today convened a meeting to assess the progress under the Jal Sanchy Jan Bhagidari initiative. The meeting brought together officers from across the line departments.

The DC underscored the critical need for conservation measures amid growing challenges related to water scarcity. The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti provided an update on the initiative, detailing the latest advancements in schemes and the collaborative role of different departments in ensuring effective implementation.

Key indicators of the Jal Sanchy Jan Bhagidari initiative were thoroughly discussed, including the development of check dams, ponds, rooftop water harvesting structures, open



well recharges, and the renovation of traditional water bodies.

The DC stressed the importance of completing targeted projects within the prescribed timelines, urging all officials to work with dedication and efficiency.

To bolster monitoring, the DC directed the Executive Engineer of Jal Shakti to nominate a designated

Nodal Officer and an Assistant Nodal Officer for the initiative, ensuring consistent performance and adherence to deadlines. The meeting saw participation from various officials, including the ACD, ACP, DFO(T), CMO DEPO and other concerned officers, all committed to making the Jal Sanchy Jan Bhagidari initiative a success for Poonch district.

## Doda Civil society greets DC for receiving Prestigious President's Award

■ HT News Network

DODA, JANUARY 27: Civil society members, including political representatives and local media fraternity from across the district today called on Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and greeted him for receiving the prestigious President's Award. The award, presented by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, on January 25, 2025, recognized his exceptional leadership and efforts in ensuring the smooth and transparent conduct of the 2024 General Assembly Elections in the district. The delegations expressed



their admiration for Harvinder Singh's dedication, meticulous planning, and coordination with various departments that led to an exemplary electoral process.

Representatives from political groups highlighted his impartial approach and commitment to upholding democratic values, while members of the media fraternity com-

mended his transparency and accessibility during the election period.

Public deputations also lauded the efforts made under his leadership to ensure inclusive participation and a secure environment for voters across the district, even in remote and challenging areas.

The visiting groups also praised the Deputy Commissioner's broader con-

tribution towards the development of the District, including his focus on infrastructure, education, health, and social welfare initiatives. They acknowledged that his leadership has not only strengthened governance but also enhanced public trust in the administration.

Harvinder Singh, while expressing gratitude for the recognition and support, reiterated his commitment to serving the district with the same zeal and dedication.

The President's Award is a testament to the Deputy Commissioner's ability to manage large-scale operations efficiently while maintaining

# Kejriwal playing politics of deceit and lies, BJP will end this: Amit Shah

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday accused AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal of playing "politics of deceit and lies" and exhorted people to vote for the BJP for the progress of Delhi under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Shah, who addressed two public meetings in Delhi ahead of the February 5 assembly polls, said that unlike the AAP, which did not fulfil any of its poll promises, the BJP's "double-engine" government will deliver on all its promises.

The home minister also slammed the AAP for allegedly misleading people by claiming that the BJP will discontinue all existing welfare schemes in Delhi if it comes to power in the city.

"PM Modi has assured that no existing welfare scheme for the poor in Delhi will be discontinued and Arvind Kejriwal is spreading lies... They are misleading people. I am saying it again that the BJP will not discontinue any scheme meant for the welfare of the poor," the minister said at a public meeting in Rajouri Garden.

He was campaigning for the BJP's Rajouri Garden candidate Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

Shah alleged that the AAP government did not do anything during its 10-year tenure apart from betraying the people of Delhi.

"Several scams took place under the AAP government like DTC bus scam, smart classroom scam, CCTV scam,"



he claimed. Public money meant for opening new hospitals and schools, and cleaning the Yamuna river was wasted in "scams," he charged.

Kejriwal, who came into politics saying that he would not accept any government bungalow, built a 'sheesh mahal' worth Rs 52 crore for himself, the BJP leader said.

"Arvind Kejriwal promised a corruption-free Delhi but was involved in the liquor scam worth crores of rupees," he alleged.

He further alleged that Kejriwal had promised to shut down liquor shops in residential areas but instead opened them near schools and religious places.

"But PM Modi acted sternly and put him and his ministers behind bars," Shah said. He said Kejriwal had also

promised to clean the Yamuna and take a dip in it but he did not do either.

"Today BJP workers took Kejriwal's effigy for a dip in the Yamuna and that also fell sick," he said.

The minister said the BJP will make a Yamuna riverfront on the lines of the Sabarmati riverfront in Gujarat if it wins the Delhi polls.

Vote for the BJP and strengthen PM Modi's hands to end the "politics of deceit and lies", Shah told the gathering.

"We have to make Delhi garbage-free, remove 'aapda' (disaster - referring to AAP) and ensure potable water supply. To make Delhi the number one capital in the world, make Modi ji win," he said.

Addressing another public meeting in Tri Nagar, Shah alleged that the AAP government gave shelter to Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in Delhi.

He appealed to the people to oust the AAP and vote for the BJP.

"The BJP will free Delhi from Bangladeshis and Rohingyas," he added.

Delhi goes to polls on February 5. The results will be announced on February 8. Addressing another public meeting in Tri Nagar, Shah alleged that the AAP government gave shelter to Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in Delhi.

He appealed to the people to oust the AAP and vote for the BJP. "The BJP will free Delhi from Bangladeshis and Rohingyas," he added. Delhi goes to polls on February 5. The results will be announced on February 8. (PTI)

## India proud to honour extraordinary achievements of Padma awardees: PM Modi

HT News Network



NEW DELHI, Jan 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday congratulated all Padma awardees and said India is proud to honour and celebrate their extraordinary achievements.

A total of 139 Padma awards, including seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri, have been announced.

"Congratulations to all the Padma awardees! India is proud to honour and celebrate their extraordinary achievements. Their dedication and perseverance are truly motivating. Each awardee is synonymous with hard work, passion and innovation, which has positively impacted countless lives. They teach us the value of striving for excellence and serving society selflessly," Modi said on X.

Former Suzuki chief Osamu Suzuki, folk singer Sharda Sinha and renowned writer M T Vasudevan Nair have been awarded the Padma Vibhushan posthumously. (PTI)

## Maha Kumbh biggest event on Earth that symbolises unity: Adityanath

HT News Network

MAHAKUMBH NAGAR: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday described the Maha Kumbh as the biggest event in the world that symbolises unity and likened the Sanatan Dharma to a banyan tree.

"Sanatan Dharma is like a vast and majestic banyan tree. It should never be compared to mere shrubs or bushes," he said.

According to a state government statement, the CM attended an event organised by the All-India Avadhoot Bhes Barah Panth-Yogi Mahasabha on his Saturday's visit to Prayagraj.

"While the world may have different sects and forms of worship, there is only one true religion, Sanatan Dharma, which is the essence of humanity. In India, all forms of worship, though linked to various sects and traditions, are deeply rooted in Sanatan Dharma, sharing a common goal," he said.

Adityanath termed the ongoing mega fair a "sacred event" to deliver a unified message to the world. "As Prime Minister Narendra Modi often says, the message of Mahakumbh is that unity ensures the nation remains undivided."

He added, "If India is safe, we are all safe."



If India faces a crisis, it will impact Sanatan Dharma, and no sect or tradition within the country will feel secure. To prevent such a situation, spreading the message of unity is essential."

Adityanath said Sanatan Dharm spread across the world not through force, but through goodwill. He also claimed the Sanatan Dharm does not discriminate on the basis of caste, sect, or religion. "The only thing that matters is faith."

On his visit, he also honoured Jagadguru Shankaracharya Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Sannidhanam of Dakshinamnaya Sri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri (Chikkamagaluru district), the UP government said.

"It is a matter of immense pride that the revered Shankaracharya of Sringeri Peetham has graced Prayagraj with his presence. The Mahakumbh feels complete with your arrival," he said meeting him.

## V-P Dhankhar questions those opposing common code

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Jan 27: Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday questioned those opposing a uniform civil code and said it was only a matter of time before the entire country adopted a common code, asserting that it would bring gender equality.

Addressing a fresh batch of participants of the Rajya Sabha Internship Programme, Dhankhar said it was a "very auspicious sign" that Uttarakhand made a uniform civil code a reality.

Uttarakhand on Monday became the first state to implement a uniform civil code, with the ruling BJP fulfilling a major commitment made ahead of the 2022 assembly polls.

Article 44 of the Constitution mandates that the state shall endeavour to secure for citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India, the vice-president noted.

"... I am sure it will only be a matter of time before the entire country adopts a similar legislation," he said.

Noting the opposition to a common code, Dhankhar - who is also the Rajya Sabha chairman - said, "Some people, I would say out of ignorance, are criticising it. How can we criticise something which



is a mandate of the Constitution? Ordinance emanating from our founding fathers. Something that has to bring about gender equality. Why oppose it?"

According to an official statement, Dhankhar was of the view that politics had taken "such a deep root" in people's minds that it turned into "poison".

"For political gain, people don't hesitate to forsake nationalism, not even for a moment, without feeling concerned. How can anyone oppose promulgation of a uniform civil code?" he wondered.

In short, a uniform civil code means having a common law for all citizens that is not based on religion. Personal laws and laws related to inheritance, adoption and succession are likely to be covered by a common code. (PTI)

## BJP-RSS people 'traitors'; never contributed to freedom struggle: Kharage urges partymen to unite

HT News Network

Mhow (M.P.), Jan 27: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharage on Monday urged party workers to unite in saving the Constitution, saying the Dalits, backward, tribals and poor will suffer otherwise.

Addressing the "Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan" rally here, he also branded

the BJP-RSS people as "traitors" and said the Congress will never tolerate the exploitation of the poor in the name of religion.

Taking a swipe at BJP leaders taking holy dip at the Maha Kumbh, Kharage said taking a dip in the holy Ganga will not help remove poverty. He, however, stressed that he does not wish to hurt anyone's 'aastha' (faith). "BJP leaders are competing with

each other to take the dip in the Ganga river for the sake of cameras," he said.

The Congress chief also attacked the RSS and the BJP, saying while they make statements like 'don't look for Shilving under every mosque', they continue to "instigate" people to do so. He said the people of the RSS, who abuse the Congress today, did nothing for the country's freedom struggle

and independence as they were with the British. "The RSS-BJP are 'deshdrohi' (traitors). If you want to free yourself from poverty and unemployment, then protect the Constitution and remain united," Kharage said. He said Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on Ambedkar in the Rajya Sabha, while replying to a debate on the Constitution last year.

# Uttarakhand Becomes First State To Implement Uniform Civil Code

HT News Network

Dehradun, Jan 27: Uttarakhand on Monday became the first state in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code with the ruling BJP fulfilling a major commitment made ahead of the 2022 Assembly polls.

The UCC came into force as Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami unveiled its notification, released the rules for its implementation and launched a portal created for the mandatory online registration of marriages, divorce and live-in relationships.

The event took place in the auditorium at Dhami's official residence called "Mukhya Sevak

Sadan" in the presence of his ministerial colleagues and a host of senior officials.

"The UCC, creating equal laws for every citizen across all religions, comes fully into effect at this moment. The credit for it goes entirely to the people of the state," Dhami said at the function.

It is an instrument to put an end to all discriminatory practices against women regardless of their religion, he said.

It marks a historic moment as Uttarakhand is the first state in independent India to bring into effect a UCC, modelled basically upon the vision of a single set of laws applying to all citizens, regardless of their religion as enshrined in Article 44 of the Con-



stitution. It is also the fulfilment of a major pre-poll promise made by Dhami to the people of the state at the

time of the 2022 Assembly polls which saw the BJP retaining power for a second consecutive term, a feat never achieved by any other party in the state since its creation in 2000. On several occasions, Dhami has attributed the historic mandate to the party's commitment to the electorate about bringing a UCC if voted to power for the second time in a row. As soon as Dhami formed the government again in March 2022, the state cabinet at its very first meeting chaired by him cleared a proposal for the formation of an expert committee to draft it.

An expert committee headed by retired Supreme Court Judge Ranjana Prakash Desai was constituted on May 27, 2022, to pre-

pare the draft of the UCC.

The panel headed by Desai submitted a comprehensive draft of the UCC prepared after a prolonged dialogue with a cross-section of people to the state government on February 2, 2024.

A legislation on it was passed a few days later by the state Assembly on February 7. It was given president's assent nearly a month later paving the way for its implementation.

An expert committee headed by former chief secretary Shatrughan Singh, who was also a part of the drafting committee to frame the rules and regulations for the implementation of the Act, submitted its report to the state government late last year.

# Diet and Mental Health: Can What You Eat Affect How You Feel?

Research suggests there's a connection between your gut and brain, which may play a role in how you feel. Eating certain foods and adopting some dietary habits may help improve your mood. It's well-established that diet plays a fundamental role in health and well-being.

But as time goes on, we're learning more about diet's important role in social, emotional, and mental health specifically.

Keep reading to learn more about the relationship between diet and mental health, specific dietary patterns that may improve mental health, and steps you can take to support a healthy mental state.

Diet and mental health: Is there a link?

Historically, mental health conditions have been treated with psychiatric therapies like counseling, medication, and sometimes hospitalization.

Today, an emerging field called nutritional psychiatry emphasizes

how diet and nutrition affect the way people feel mentally. It aims to support the treatment of mental health conditions with diet and lifestyle changes.

Your food choices may affect your brain through the gastrointestinal system — commonly referred to as "the gut" — because it's closely connected to the brain.

The gut is home to trillions of living microbes that have many functions in the body, such as synthesizing neurotransmitters that send chemical messages to the brain to regulate sleep, pain, appetite, mood, and emotion.

In fact, there's such an intricate network of interactions between the two that the gut has been nicknamed the "second brain Trusted Source." Formally, the relationship between the two is called the gut-brain connection or gut-brain axis.

Some research suggests that the foods we eat influence the health of gut microbe colonies, which subsequently influence our brains and,



**"The foods we eat affect our mental health, and our mental health status affects what and how well we eat."**

thus, our mental and emotional health. Dietary patterns linked with improved mental health

Eating a well-balanced, nutrient-dense diet may be the best dietary plan to help improve your mood.

For instance, some research suggests that eating more fruits and

vegetables is linked with improved mental well-being, lower stress levels, and greater life satisfaction.

Consider focusing on eating nutrient-rich whole foods that are high in protein, fiber, and healthy fats.

If you're not sure where to begin, the Mediterranean diet may be a

good place to start. Some researchers and health agencies recommend a Mediterranean-like diet to support gut health and lower the risk of depression.

For instance, a 2019 review found that a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes and low in red and processed meats was associated with 10% lower odds of depressive symptoms. Simple diet tips to support your mental health

Here are some dietary tips to help support your emotional health and well-being.

Remember, the overall quality of your diet is more powerful than any one decision you make in a day. Try to focus on a variety of healthy nutrients rather than just one individually.

Load up on nutrients

Here are some of the nutrients most notably linked with mental health, as well as a few foods they're found in:

Omega-3 fatty acids: walnuts, chia and flaxseeds, salmon, herring, sar-

dines  
Folate: beef liver, rice, fortified cereals, black-eyed peas, spinach, asparagus, Brussels sprouts

Iron: oysters, beef liver, fortified cereals, spinach, dark chocolate, white beans, lentils, tofu

Magnesium: spinach, pumpkin and chia seeds, soy milk, black beans, almonds, cashews, peanuts

Zinc: oysters, chicken, pork chops, beef roast, Alaska king crab, lobster, pumpkin seeds

B vitamins: chicken breast, beef liver, clams, tuna, salmon, chickpeas, potatoes, bananas

Vitamin A: beef liver, herring, cow's milk, ricotta cheese, sweet potatoes, carrots, cantaloupe

Vitamin C: red and green peppers, orange and grapefruit juice, strawberries, broccoli

Pack in prebiotics and probiotics

Prebiotics are foods that provide nutrition to the bacteria already living in your gut, while probiotics actually contain healthy bacteria themselves.

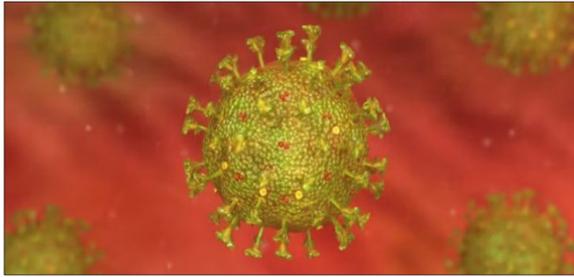
## Nearly two-thirds of those with long Covid struggle with symptoms for over a year, study finds

Nearly two-thirds of those with long Covid continue to struggle with symptoms, including a reduced capacity for exercise and cognitive function, in the second year of illness, a study has found.

Researchers, including those from Ulm University, Germany, studied over 1,500 people aged 18-65 years who were identified as having post-COVID-19 syndrome, or long Covid, which refers to the symptoms persisting despite having recovered from acute infection.

The participants had been previously surveyed for complaints and symptoms they were experiencing after the acute phase of infection had passed and were either diagnosed with long Covid or had not developed the condition.

The study, published in the journal PLoS Medicine, found that 68 per cent of the long Covid patients continued to struggle with symptoms in the second year — most common



ones being fatigue, neurocognitive disturbances, breathlessness and psychiatric ones, including anxiety, depression and sleep problems.

Among these patients with continued illness, the authors also found "significant reductions in handgrip strength, maximal oxygen consumption, and ventilatory efficiency."

"Maximal oxygen consumption" refers to amounts of the gas used by a person during intense exercise, while "ventilatory efficiency" indi-

cates how well one's body exchanges oxygen and carbon dioxide while performing physical activity.

Further, over a third of the 68 per cent also reported a reduced capacity for exercise, with a worsening of symptoms after performing physical activity, and were found to have "worse outcomes and more severe symptoms."

The authors said that while previous studies have described the health problems one might experience fol-

lowing COVID-19 infection, the long-term course of the disease, in the context of long COVID-19, is unknown.

"In this study, we observed that the majority of working-age patients with PCS did not recover in the second year of their illness. Patterns of reported symptoms remained essentially similar, non-specific and dominated by fatigue, exercise intolerance and cognitive complaints," they wrote. Further, the authors noted "grave symptoms with mental and physical exercise dysfunction, but no laboratory markers in Long Covid/post-Covid syndrome."

The findings "call for the inclusion of cognitive and exercise testing in the clinical evaluation and monitoring of patients with suspected (long Covid)," the authors wrote.

They urged for more observational studies with longer follow-ups that can help evaluate factors for improvement and non-recovery from long Covid. (PTI)

## Nutritionist Busts Misconception About Cellulite, Shares What Can Help

If you notice dimples around your arms, thighs, or butt in the mirror, it's not something to worry about. It might be cellulite which is a perfectly natural skin condition that can occur anywhere on your body.

Nevertheless, it makes sense if you're looking for a way to get rid of it. Unfortunately, doing it might be a little challenging. In her latest Instagram post, nutritionist Nмами Agarwal shares her two cents on cellulite and how one can get rid of it.

Busting some misconceptions about cellulite, Nмами wrote, "You've likely seen countless claims about how to 'banish' cellulite with special diets or supplements. But here's the truth: Cellulite is NOT caused by a lack of collagen, antioxidants, or fiber. It's a completely normal physiological occurrence."

Explaining what is cellulite, she added, "Cellulite is that dimpled appearance on your skin, often seen on thighs, buttocks, and abdomen. It happens when fat deposits push against the connective tissue beneath your skin, creating those dimples."

Nмами shared that while good nutrition can help in treating cellulite, it alone won't make it disappear. Nutritionist Nмами shared three tips to get rid of cellulite:

1. Exercise: Cardio and strength training improve circulation and build muscle.
2. Lifestyle: Dry brushing and lymphatic massage can improve skin tone.
3. Professional Treatments: Options like laser therapy and dermal fillers may provide temporary improvement.



## Suffering From Irritable Bowel Syndrome? Nutritionist Explains What To Do



We often tend to lean towards fatty meals or junk foods — leading to greater issues in digestion. Additionally, gut-related problems, acidity and diarrhoea followed by constipation have also become troublesome in today's lifestyle. Nutritionist Anjali Mukerjee claimed that if you are having similar symptoms, this might be pointing towards IBS or Irritable Bowel Syndrome. And according to her, "You need to take care of your gut." In a video posted by the nutritionist on Instagram, she first explained "what IBS is," and then she elaborated on how to tackle the problem in a multi-prolonged approach. Anjali dropped the video with the caption that reads, "Feeling like your gut is throwing tantrums? IBS can be a real party crasher but don't worry, I've got you covered!" In the video, Anjali Mukerjee can be heard saying, "If you are constantly facing a lot of bloating, gas, distention, along with stomach pain, alternating diarrhoea and constipation, and not satisfactorily evacuated stools, then you may be developing IBS." Then, the nutritionist also listed easy remedies that you can try at home: She said, "Firstly, if you feel that this is the

case, immediately you need to repopulate the gut." For this, "You need to avoid gluten and dairy. Also have to avoid fatty food, fried food, spicy food, raw food, and sometimes even raw fruits. It may not suit you. But some people may react to bananas and soft foods like that. Every heavy dals like rajma, chole, these are not easy to digest." These are majorly heavy foods which require more robust digestive systems. Hence, if IBS is detected, avoiding such foods is advisable.

However, the treatment process doesn't end here. She shared, "Now, once you avoid all of these things and also find that your symptoms are improving, then one needs to further work on the gut permeability or the gut lining." After noting Anjali's suggestions, if you are doubting "what can you eat at the end of the day?" Then, she also has a perfect solution for it. She said, "You can have lentils like rice and dal, avocados, you can have fish, cooked vegetables, a few of the fruits like banana, even a papaya suits some people." "You need to get the gut treated with good probiotics. Once the inflammation is reduced, you will find a reversal of your symptoms of IBS," she added.

### NEWS

## Can Magnesium Supplements Improve Health? Know Benefits And Risks



From boosting athletic performance to supporting brain function, magnesium is crucial for your body in more ways than one. Getting enough magnesium improves moods, ensures better sleep, promotes heart health and helps maintain healthy blood sugar levels. Several foods are naturally loaded with magnesium. However, taking supplements can offer benefits for those with low intake. These days, health enthusiasts and influencers are also talking about the importance of magnesium across all social media platforms. Here, let's understand the importance of magnesium and things to consider before taking magnesium supplements.

### ■ Magnesium supplementation

Magnesium deficiency can have a drastic effect on your health. Therefore, those with magnesium deficiency are often prescribed supplements to prevent these side effects. Low levels of magnesium can contribute to:

- Loss of appetite
- Muscle cramps
- Poor mental health
- Increased risk of osteoporosis
- Fatigue
- Irregular heartbeat
- High blood pressure

### ■ How much magnesium do you need?

According to the National Institutes of Health, men require 400mg while women require 310mg of magnesium per day.

As sleep-related issues have become more common than ever, magnesium supplements have gained popularity as an effective solution. Studies have highlighted that people with low magnesium levels are likely to experience sleep problems. Therefore, ensuring enough magnesium intake might help.

### ■ For women:

Magnesium is crucial for all. However, it can offer some additional benefits to women.

Magnesium supplements are known to help with premenstrual syndrome (PMS), pelvic pain and menopausal symptoms. Additionally, it can reduce the risk of osteoporosis which is quite common in women.

### ■ For mental health:

Research has shown that adequate magnesium intake can reduce depression symptoms. It can also improve mood and promote overall well-being.

### ■ Magnesium food sources:

Pumpkin seeds, dark chocolate, nuts, avocados, whole grains, leafy greens, legumes, dairy product, leafy greens and potatoes are good sources of potassium.

### ■ Do you really need supplements?

If you have been experiencing symptoms of magnesium deficiency, it is important to get your levels checked. One must consult an expert before adding supplements to their diet.

## Bumrah wins ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year award

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JAN 27

India's fast-bowling spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been named as the winner of the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year award for 2024. Bumrah picked an astonishing 71 wickets while bowling 357 overs in 13 matches at an average of 14.92 in 2024.

Bumrah's 71 scalps in 2024 made him just the fourth India bowler to take more than 70 Test wickets in a calendar year after Ravichandran Ashwin, Anil Kumble and Kapil Dev. Those numbers were enough for him to beat competition from Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis and England batting duo of Harry Brook, and Joe Root to win the prestigious award. It



was a year where Bumrah excelled in both home and away conditions, proving to be a key contributor in keeping India in contention for a spot in the 2025 World Test Championship Final, though the side fell short of making it to the title clash.

Bumrah's incredible 2024 began during India's memorable Test win against South Africa in Cape Town, where he picked eight wickets. He then went on to bag 19 wickets in India beating England 4-1 margin, with the highlight being a match haul of nine wickets and helping India to a series-levelling win in Visakhapatnam.

Bumrah's most standout performance in Tests in 2024 came in the high-stakes Border-Gavaskar Trophy Series in Australia, where he picked 32 wickets

in five matches at an average of 13.06 and a strike rate 28.37 to clinch the Player of the Series award.

It was during the series in Australia that Bumrah crossed the 200 Test wickets milestone, becoming the 12th Indian bowler to do so, though it didn't help the visitors in avoiding a 3-1 series defeat.

His best performance on tour of Australia came when he picked eight wickets in a stunning spell in Perth, including a five-wicket haul in the first innings, to lift India towards a 295-run win.

Bumrah, 31, also set a unique record while achieving the feat, becoming the only bowler in Test history with a minimum of 200 dismissals to have an average less than 20 (19.4).

## Two National Handball players awarded by Tehsil Administration Kreeri



HT NEWS NETWORK  
KREERI, JAN 27 (HT)

Nadeem Ahmed Shah and umer gulzar were felicitated on republic day today for their outstanding performance in

handball at the National level. it's worth mentioning that both players have represented jammu and kashmir from Mini Nationals to senior Nationals and have also won Medals at National level

## Ranji Trophy: KL Rahul named in Karnataka's squad for match against Haryana

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JAN 27

India batter KL Rahul is set to make a return to the Ranji Trophy after being named in Karnataka's squad for their league stage match against Haryana, to be played at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru from January 30 to February 2.

Rahul was not available for Karnataka's win over Punjab due to an elbow niggle, but is now fit and available for the side in their clash against Elite Group C toppers Haryana, which they need to win to boost their chances of entering the knockouts.

It is also understood that Rahul will practice with the Karnataka team on Tuesday and Wednesday. Rahul, 32, last featured in a Ranji Trophy match back in February 2020 against Bengal at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata. His last domestic red-ball



DDCA about his availability for their last group game against Railways, set to happen at the Arun Jaitley Stadium from January 30 to February 2.

Kohli had opted out of Delhi's previous match, where they lost to Saurashtra by ten wickets in Rajkot, due to a neck niggle. But in the past few days, social media was abuzz with visuals of Kohli working under former India and Royal Challengers Bengaluru batting coach Sanjay Bangar at a training facility away from Mumbai.

Other India players set to play in final league phase of the Ranji Trophy include all-rounder Riyan Parag, who is set to lead Assam against Saurashtra in Rajkot after recovering from a shoulder injury needing surgery, while pacer Mohammed Siraj set to take the field for Hyderabad against Vidarbha in Nagpur.

game came for India A during the Duleep Trophy in Bengaluru in September last year.

Rahul's return means Karnataka are full strength for their game against Haryana, with Mayank Agarwal, Devdutt Padikkal and Prasidh Krishna other capped Indian players in the team. Pacer Vidwath Kaverappa has also been named in the squad after

recovering from an injury which kept him out of action since the Duleep Trophy in September last year.

Meanwhile, talismanic batter Virat Kohli is slated to train with the Delhi team on Tuesday ahead of his first Ranji Trophy appearance since 2012. IANS had previously reported that Kohli had communicated to the

## Attero joins hands with government for 'green' National Games 2025

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JAN 27

Cleantech company Attero on Monday announced a partnership with the government for the upcoming 38th National Games, aiming to make it plastic-free.

The National Games 2025 are set to take place from January 28 to February 14, in Uttarakhand. This year, the



games are centered on sustainability under the theme 'Green Games,' setting a milestone in India's efforts toward eco-conscious sports initiatives.

As part of the partnership, Attero will supply recycled metals with over 99.9 per cent purity, ensuring a positive carbon footprint. This initiative is the first-of-its kind

in Indian sports, using conflict-free recycled materials to demonstrate the country's commitment to sustainability.

The games, designed to be plastic-free, will feature participation from more than 10,000 athletes competing in 38 sports across multiple cities in the state. The event is expected to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## Smriti Mandhana wins ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year award

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JAN 27

India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana has been named the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year for 2024. She pipped Australia all-rounder Annabel Sutherland, Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu and South Africa skipper Laura Wolvaardt to win the top honour for the second time after 2018.

Smriti, the left-handed opener, had a fantastic 2024 as she finished as the highest run-scorer in women's ODIs with an impressive 747 runs coming in just 13 matches, the most number of runs she's scored in a calendar year in the 50-over format, coming at an impressive average of 57.86 and strike rate of 95.15.

She also scored four ODI centuries in the year and set a new record in the women's game. Her year in ODIs began modestly with 29 against Australia in January. But when India returned to action in ODIs against South Africa in June, Smriti was in blistering form.



She smashed consecutive centuries in the first two ODIs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru and narrowly missed a third with a 90-run knock in the series finale, as India won the series 3-0 with Smriti adjudged the Player of the Series for amassing 343 runs.

Smriti's consistency in ODIs was evident once

again in October when she ended a shaky series against New Zealand with a stunning century at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. She capped off the year with an excellent 105 at the WACA against Australia, though it ended up in a losing cause.

It was a knock where Smriti hit 14 fours and

one six in her impressive century coming off 109 balls while the rest of the Indian side managed to score just seven boundaries combined in the innings. Smriti ended the year by delivering a strong show against the West Indies, narrowly missing out on a hundred but hit two half-centuries in a series win for India.

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