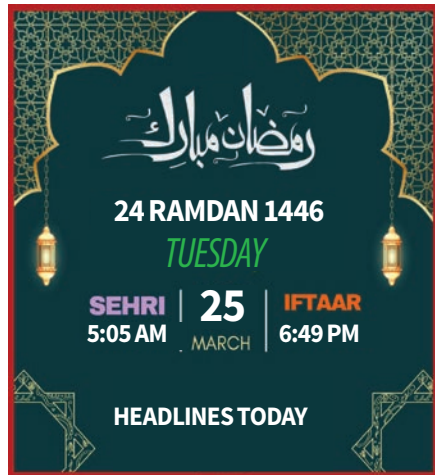




DC Srinagar finalizes  
arrangements for Shab-e-  
Qadr, Jumat ul vida,  
Eid-ul-Fitr

PJ07



# Militancy cannot be wiped out without support from people: Omar Abdullah Says Waqf institutions are being selectively targeted

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 24: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that militancy cannot be wiped out from Jammu & Kashmir without support from local people.

Talking to reporters here, as per news agency—, Omar said that security is not the domain of the elected government but they are lending help (LG) to keep situation under control and maintain peace in the Union Territory.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



## Govt to assess, address issues of Border, LOC fencing landowners: CM

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 24: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, today assured the House that the government would discuss issues affecting the border and LoC landowners, particularly those with properties within the border fencing area.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Govt working tirelessly to meet infrastructural needs of new Colleges: Sakeena Itoo

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MARCH 24 : Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed the House that the government is actively working on meeting the infra

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



## Over 3.7 lakh unemployed youth register on employment portal: Dy CM

12524 youth get jobs: JKPS, JKSSB complete major recruitment exercise

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MARCH 24 : Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that a total of 370811 unemployed youth including 240502 males and 130309 females have been



registered on the Employment Portal ending January, 2025.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Ali Mohammad Sagar.

The Minister informed the House that registration of the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Lieutenant Governor pays tributes to veteran leader Shri Lalmuni Chaubey

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, MARCH 24: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today paid tributes to veteran leader and Parliamentarian Shri Lalmuni Chaubey.

Addressing a public event commemorating the Death Anniversary of Shri Lalmuni Chaubey, at Buxar in Bihar, the Lieutenant Governor spoke on the lifelong campaigns of the seasoned political figure dedicated to public welfare and nation building.

"Shri Lalmuni Chaubey Ji was a widely respected leader who had dedicated every fragment of his body and every moment of his life to the service of the people and to restore the glory of Mother India.

He was a beacon of hope for the underprivileged section of society and dedicated himself to dignity, equality and opportunity for all. His life and ideals will inspire generations to come. During the Emergency, when individual freedom was in peril, Lalmuni Chaubey protected it with all his might. He Championed the cause of national unity and integrity and propagated

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### NEWS BRIEF

#### Minister Seeks One-Year Extension for Special Cells for Women in J&K

JAMMU, MAR 24: Minister for Social Welfare, Sakina Itoo, has formally requested the National Commission for Women to extend the tenure of Special Cells for Women in Jammu and Kashmir by at least one year. With the Commission set to discontinue its support for these cells on March 31, thousands of women across the region face uncertainty. The Minister emphasized the critical role these cells play in assisting women in distress. She further highlighted

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

#### Soldier Injured in Mysterious Blast Near LoC in Poonch

POONCH, MAR 24 : A soldier sustained injuries in a mysterious blast near the Line of Control (LoC) in Bagyal Dara area of Poonch district on Monday afternoon, official sources said.

According to sources, the incident occurred while an Army patrol was moving through the area when an unidentified explosive device accidentally detonated. One soldier was injured in the explosion and was immediately evacuated to a nearby military hospital for treatment.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

#### Over 900 worshippers performing Itikaf at Dar-ul-Uloom Raheemiya

SRINAGAR, MAR 24 : More than 900 worshippers have gathered at Dar-ul-Uloom Raheemiya, one of the largest Islamic seminaries in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, performing Itikaf this Ramadan.

The seminary, known for its long-standing tradition of hosting large Itikaf gatherings, has become a hub for spiritual seekers from across the country and even abroad.

According to the institution's man

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

#### 2024 Assembly polls cost state exchequer Rs 155 crore

Liabilities being cleared: Minister

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 24 The Jammu & Kashmir government on Monday revealed that the 2024 Assembly elections cost the state exchequer



Rs 155 crore. In reply to a cut motion raised by MLA Kupwara Mir Muhammad Fayaz, as per news agency— Minister in- charge of the Election Department, Javaid Ahmad Dar, informed the Assembly that Rs 155 crore was incurred on conducting the 2024 Assembly elections, which was held after six year direct central rule. He further said the release of funds to clear

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Hiranagar operation enters 2nd day; DGP Prabhat arrives at encounter site Search teams recover huge cache of ammunition

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 24: Anti-terrorist operation at Sanyal village near the International Border in the Hiranagar sector of Kathua district entered its second day on Monday.

The operation, according to the news agency— launched by a joint team of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army's Rising Star Corps, and other security forces, was initiated on March



23 (Sunday) following inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area.

Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat arrived

at the encounter site on Monday evening to personally supervise the operation. He was accompanied by Inspector General of Police (Jammu) Bhim Sen Tuti.

The security forces have cordoned off a dense nursery area where 3 to 5 heavily armed terrorists are believed to be hiding.

The deployment of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

#### 12 free gas cylinders... J&K Govt says proposal under examination

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 24: The Jammu and Kashmir government is actively reviewing a proposal to provide 12 free LPG cylinders per year to residents, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma informed the Assembly on Monday. Responding to a query from People's Conference MLA Sajad Gani Lone, Sharma stated that the matter is under examination and efforts are being made to fulfill commitments. Lone had

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

#### Budget Session 2025: House passes grants of Agriculture Production, RDD, Cooperative, Election Departments

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 24: : The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today passed the Demands of Grants for various departments.

The approved grants included Rs. 258369.98 Lakh for Agriculture Production Department, Rs. 122899.58 Lakh for Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department, Rs. 22524.86 Lakh for Fisheries Department, Rs. 475485.95 Lakh for Rural

Development Department, Rs. 70429.33 lakh for Horticulture Department, Rs. 35960.43 lakh for Election Department, and Rs. 9642.4 Lakh for the Co-operatives Department.

Winding up the discussion on Demands for Grants, Minister for Agriculture Production, RDD, Cooperative and Election, Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, said that agriculture and allied sectors are indeed the backbone of Jammu & Kashmir's economy, contributing

a staggering Rs 37,559 crore, which accounts for 18 percent of the State's Gross Domestic Product (SGDP). The Horticulture sector takes the lead, accounting for a whopping 41 percent of this contribution, reaffirming J&K's dominance in high value fruit production. He said that the Livestock sector plays a crucial role, contributing 33 percent to the economy, while core agriculture activities make up 25 percent, demonstrating

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Invest in horticulture sector to curb unemployment: Sajad Lone to Govt Calls for opening doors for corporate investment, increasing budget allocation

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 24: Peoples Conference Chairman and MLA Handwara Sajad Lone on Monday raised concerns over the low budget allocation for the horticulture sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

"There is a lot of scope in this industry to generate employment, but the budget allocation remains low. Day by day, job opportunities are shrinking, and this sector has the potential to grow," Lone



said while speaking in the assembly.

Highlighting the financial struggles of farmers, he stated that those engaged in tradi-

tional paddy farming barely manage to allocate Rs 2,500 after covering expenses, whereas high-gain industries offer significantly higher incomes. "If farmers earn well, they will continue agricultural activities. Otherwise, why would they grow rice just for the sake of tradition, even when it is not profitable?" he asked.

Lone warned that agricultural land is increasingly being diverted to real estate and

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## HC allows virtual hearing for migrant litigants amid security concerns

'Migrants can fight case from Jammu via video conferencing'

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 24: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh ruled that the petitioners in a long-standing land dispute case, who are migrants from Kashmir, can attend hearings virtually due to security concerns.

The petitioners had sought the transfer of their



case from the Srinagar Wing to the Jammu Wing of the

High Court, citing threat

TURN ON.....PAGE 02





## CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

### LOC

The Chief Minister, while intervening during the Question Hour in the Legislative Assembly, stated that funds are being disbursed efficiently. Out of the Rs 155 crore received, Rs 144 crore have already been distributed among the landowners, leaving only Rs 11 crore to be released soon. While individual concerns may persist, the government is committed towards expediting the fund disbursement as efficiently as possible.

He said that the concerned department will be urged to expedite the process in this regard. "However, as one of the members pointed out, this is not merely an issue of relief but it's a humanitarian concern. Beyond this relief, there are so many other pressing concerns affecting the people in these areas that demand our attention," he asserted.

"I urge the members to allow the session to conclude at the earliest. Once the session ends in the first week of April, I will convene a meeting with all the members representing the border and LoC areas," maintained the Chief Minister. We will engage in comprehensive discussions and promptly implement the necessary government actions, he added.

Earlier, replying to the main question raised by Vijay Kumar, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, on behalf of Chief Minister, said that land measuring 13415 Kanal in 113 villages of Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts in Jammu division has been acquired by the BSF for Border fencing.

The Minister informed that an amount of Rs. 155.08 crore, as compensation, has been received by the concerned Collectors, out of which, Rs. 144.12 crore have been disbursed among the landowners and remaining amount is under process of title verification.

### WOMEN

that, alongside these cells, One Stop Centres continue to provide essential services, including legal aid, counseling, medical assistance, and shelter.

### POONCH

Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the nature of the blast and whether it was caused by an old unexploded ordnance or any other explosive device. Security forces have also intensified vigilance in the region following the incident.

### CM

"I am repeatedly saying that militancy cannot be uprooted without support from local people," he said.

He said that no contact has been established by forces with militants in Kathua.

"As far as my information is concerned, no contact has been established. Search and cordon has been launched after suspicious movement in the area," he said.

To a question about the Waqf Bill, Omar said Waqf institutions are being selectively targeted. "It is evident that only one religion is being targeted. Religious institutions are affiliated with every religion and there is no religion which doesn't have its institutions. There is no religion which doesn't carry out charitable activities. Muslims carry out charitable activities through Waqf but it is being selectively targeted," Omar said.

The report of the joint parliamentary committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was tabled in the Lok Sabha in February this year. The bill is expected to come up in the Lok Sabha during the ongoing budget session—

### LG

discipline and self-confidence among people," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the people, especially the youth to take inspiration from the life of Shri Lal-muni Chaubey and his commitment to public service and work selflessly for the betterment of the society.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "If we all dedicate ourselves to a noble cause that could make a strong and prosperous society and contribute to a developed India and Aatm-Nirbhar villages, only then we will be able to pay our real tributes to that great soul.

Hon'ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Arif Mohammed Khan; senior political leaders, and prominent personalities from all walks of life also paid their homage to Shri Lal-muni Chaubey.

### SAKEENA

structural needs of newly established Degree Colleges in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Abdul Majeed Bhat.

She said that the government is pursuing infrastructural needs viz; land, buildings and related things of the 50 new Colleges established vide Government Order No: 48-HE of 2019 Dated: 05.02.2019 and Government Order No: 106-HE of 2019 Dated: 01.03.2019.

The Minister said that establishment of new Degree Colleges involves huge capital

by way of creation of staff including both the Teaching and Non-Teaching, besides infra-structural requirements and a good chunk of land.

Regarding establishment of a Degree College in Achabal, she said that the Department is receiving demands for establishment of new Degree Colleges in Jammu and Kashmir which includes a request with regard to Achabal for which feasibility is being sought as per the norms in vogue on the subject.

### DYCM

unemployed educated youth is a voluntary process and job seekers register themselves on the Employment Portal to access different Self-Employment Schemes. He apprised that, as of February 2 2025, a total of 558870 potential entrepreneurs have been surveyed under the Baseline Survey of Mission YUVA. The survey revealed 154695 employed, 347247 unemployed and 56928 unregistered potential entrepreneurs.

He further informed that 12524 selections and appointments have been made during the past two years by the JKPS and JKSSB in the government sector.

Besides, the Minister informed that 246 job fairs have been organised across J&K in which 4893 job seekers were given on spot placements and 6640 were recommended for different skill training.

### DGP

(UAVs), officials said, has resulted in the recovery of arms and ammunition in Hiranagar. "The search parties have found a few M4 carbine magazines, sleeping bags, track suits, several packets of eatables, and separate polythene bags," said an official.

Earlier on Sunday the operation saw an exchange of gunfire till evening, which subsided after 7 pm, with no further firing reported overnight.

"Efforts to neutralize the terrorists continue, with reinforcements, including commandos, drones, and sniffer dogs, deployed to intensify the searches," said an official.

Meanwhile, a 7-year-old girl, Anchal Kumari, daughter of Nago, sustained minor injuries during the initial exchange of fire between the terrorists and the security forces yesterday.

Kumari, originally a resident of Bihar is currently living near Radha Swami Ashram in Hiranagar.

The victim is undergoing treatment and her condition is stated to be stable—

### SATISH SHARMA

ordered a verification of beneficiaries to make the PDS database clean and credible. He added that the Government of India has advised the States/UTs to undertake proper verification and remove undeserving beneficiaries from the ration cards from time to time

The Minister said that the process of verification has been ordered to include and retain genuine beneficiaries under PDS and weed the undeserving beneficiaries so as to meet the requirements of Targeted Public Distribution System. He said that every AAY household receives 35 Kg of food grains every month while every PHH beneficiary receives 5Kg of food grains every month, free of cost, under the ambitious National Food Security Act (NFSA).

The Minister assured the House that the order issued by the GAD for verification of beneficiaries shall be put on hold.

G.A Mir, Sajjad Gani Lone, Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Syed Bashir Veeri and Mehraj Malik raised the supplementaries to the question.

### GAS

sought clarity on whether the government plans to implement the scheme and, if so, when it would take effect.

The proposal, originally promised in the National Conference's 2014 election manifesto, aims to benefit the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of J&K. While no official timeline has been set, Sharma had previously hinted in November last year that an announcement on free LPG cylinders and increased ration allocations was forthcoming.

Officials suggest that the government is currently finalizing modalities, and a decision may be announced soon.

### JAVID DAR

liabilities from the recent elections is under active consideration by the Government.

"The recently conducted Assembly elections incurred an expenditure of Rs 155 crore. The matter of releasing funds to clear liabilities is under active consideration," the Minister said.

The elections for J&K Assembly were held in three phases during September and October last year. In the polls, National Conference emerged as the single largest party, securing 42 seats, while its ally Congress won six seats. The BJP claimed 29 seats, and the Peoples Democratic Party secured three.

People's Conference (PC), Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) each won one seat, while

independent candidates bagged seven seats—

### SAJAD LONE

other industries. "The law cannot indefinitely prevent land-use change. If farmers do not see financial returns, they will shift to other occupations," he said, adding that government intervention or corporate investments are needed to ensure the sector remains viable.

He also pointed to challenges such as the cost burden on farmers despite subsidies, and the growing impact of global market dynamics on local agriculture. "Even with a 50% subsidy, many farmers struggle to afford the remaining costs. There is resistance to modernising agriculture because of financial constraints," he said.

Lone urged the government to open doors for corporate investment or directly inject funds into the horticulture sector to support farmers. "Without this transition, a significant portion of agricultural land will be lost to non-agricultural purposes," he said—

### HC

perception. However, the court declined the transfer request, instead directing the Srinagar Wing to facilitate virtual hearings.

As per the news agency—the case revolves around a 17-kanal land dispute in Shopian, initially ruled in favor of respondents 4 to 7 through an allegedly fraudulent compromise decree in the Munsiff Court, Pulwama.

The decree was later set aside, and the case was transferred to the Jammu court due to the security concerns of the petitioners, who had migrated from Kashmir.

After nearly two decades of litigation, the suit was dismissed on November 16, 2023, and possession of the land was handed back to the petitioners on February 14, 2024.

Following this, the respondents challenged the dismissal order in the Srinagar Wing of the High Court, prompting the petitioners to seek a transfer back to Jammu, citing the same security concerns that had initially led to the case's relocation.

Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan acknowledged the threat perception that the petitioners face, stating that the security situation in Kashmir had previously justified transferring the case. However, he said that modern virtual hearing facilities now allow litigants to attend proceedings remotely.

"Two decades ago, there was a significant security risk due to militancy, making it impossible for the petitioners to pursue their case in Srinagar. However, with virtual proceedings now available in both Wings of the High Court, the petitioners can attend hearings from Jammu itself," the Chief Justice said.

Instead of transferring the case, the court directed the Registrar (Judicial) of the Srinagar Wing to ensure that the petitioners and their counsel are provided virtual hearing links in advance. This arrangement allows them to argue their case without physically appearing in Srinagar, mitigating their security concerns—(KNO)

### 900

agement, every Iftar and Sehri at Dar-ul-Uloom Raheemiya, around 230 plates of food are prepared, each serving four people. Volunteers ensure the timely distribution of meals, allowing nearly 900 Itikafis to break their fast and eat together in an organized manner.

As per the Itikaf, a practice where individuals isolate themselves in Masjid or designated spaces to engage in prayers, supplications, and religious reflection, is considered an important part of Ramadan.

The large-scale gathering at Dar-ul-Uloom Raheemiya is not just about worship but also about community participation, with volunteers playing a crucial role in supporting those observing Itikaf.

Many locals, known as Khadims (helpers), dedicate themselves to ensuring that the participants, or Itikafis, have everything they need. From preparing meals for Sehri (pre-dawn meal) and Iftar (evening meal) to maintaining cleanliness in the seminary, the volunteers work tirelessly behind the scenes.

Shahid Ahmad, a local volunteer, has been assisting in Itikaf arrangements for the past five years. "Serving those in Itikaf is a blessing for us," he said. "We wake up before Sehri to prepare food and ensure that everything is ready on time. It is tiring, but the satisfaction we get from serving others makes it worthwhile." The seminary sees a structured daily routine during these ten days, with prayers, Quranic recitations, and religious discussions filling the schedule. Volunteers like Muneeb Hussain, a 30-year-old from Bandipora, said the sense of brotherhood during this time is unparalleled.

"People from different places come here, but we all work together as one family. During Iftar, we ensure everyone gets their meal in time, and seeing them break their fast peacefully makes all our efforts worth it," he said—(KNO)

### HOUSE

ing the region's diverse and resilient agrarian economy.

# HT - NEWS

He said that the government is complementing its ongoing investments in infrastructure with a stronger emphasis on beneficiary-oriented schemes, ensuring that the farmers directly benefit from targeted interventions. One such initiative is the High-Density Plantation (HD) Scheme, which has already brought 836 hectare under high-density orchards, including 174 hectare covered in the current financial year. With Rs 30 crore budget allocation during 2024-25, this initiative is driving higher productivity, increased farmer income and long-term sustainability in the horticulture sector, he added.

The Minister said that the government is also driving transformational growth in the livestock sector through targeted interventions that enhance productivity, employment and income generation for farmers. He said 3,220 dairy units were established in 2024-25 under Integrated Dairy Development Scheme, generating employment for nearly 5,000 people. Similarly, 2,170 units were set up in 2024-25 under the Integrated Sheep Development Scheme.

Jammu and Kashmir's agriculture sector is experiencing a remarkable transformation under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), delivering tangible results, said the Minister. He extolled that agriculture in the UT is undergoing a transformative shift, from a focus solely on produce to a producer-centric approach. This evolution is driving higher returns for the farmers, nurturing entrepreneurship and creating a more sustainable and commercially viable agricultural ecosystem, he added.

He said that there are 29 projects under HADP, spanning across all sectors within the Agriculture Production Department (APD), driving a fundamental transformation in Jammu & Kashmir's agri-economy.

The Minister highlighted significant strides in horticulture, particularly in the expansion of High-Density (HD) Plantations. The government is developing rootstock banks and mother orchards to support growth of HD plantations across 5,500 hectare under Project 21 of HADP. During 2024-25, the government promoted protected cultivation with 9,083 square meters already developed for rootstock production besides establishment of 45 hectares as mother orchards and cultivating 18.6 hectare for rootstock production, he maintained. He said that assistance will now be disbursed in three phases, 50 percent after plantation, 30 percent upon sprouting and the final 20 percent after one year, if survival reaches 90 percent, to address setbacks in traditional orchards due to reduced farmer engagement post-financial support.

The Minister said that the government is also launching scientific measures to improve livestock breeding besides implementing Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) and Artificial Insemination (AI) to enhance the genetic potential in cattle, sheep and goats. He said that 191 satellite heifer rearing units had been established in 2024-25 to reduce dependence on animal imports and improve the quality of dairy animals in J&K. Additionally, 19 milk value-addition SHGs were supported with Rs 25 lakh each, equipping 88 SHGs with automatic milk collection units linked to bulk milk coolers. Regarding the mutton sector, he informed that four breed-based farms (each housing 500 sheep) and 673 commercial sheep farms had been established during 2024-25 said. Besides, the government is importing 900 high quality Texel and Dorper sheep from Australia to enhance the meat production. The Minister said that 210 trout units, 6 Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) units and 8 biofloc units had been established in 2024-25, to boost fish production, improve livelihoods and promote sustainable aquaculture in J&K. He added that the government is focusing on improving irrigation coverage, promoting climate-resilient cropping and ensuring judicious use of water resources for expanding irrigation infrastructure and enhancing water efficiency in rainfed areas.

He informed that the District Irrigation Plan aims to cover 415,000 hectare of Culturable Command Area (CCA). So far, 191,000 hectare has been covered and efforts are underway to bring an additional 33,000 hectare under irrigation. He said that, to bridge this gap, 18 projects are in progress under UT Capex and 14 new projects worth Rs 48.83 crore have been sanctioned. Also, 20,102 hectare has been brought under irrigation during 2024-25. Over the next three years, an allocation of Rs 116.86 crore will be utilized on establishment of 200 community borewells, integrated with drip and sprinkler irrigation systems to significantly enhance water use efficiency and boost agricultural productivity across 2,000 hectare.

The Minister said that, simultaneously, the Rainfed Area Development (RAD) Project 16 is focused on making rainfed farming more sustainable and climate resilient under HADP. He said that the department through its project on "Promotion of Vegetables and Exotic Vegetables under Open and Hi-Tech Protected Cultivation" is expanding both open-field vegetable cultivation and hi-tech protected farming, ensuring higher yields, better quality and greater market competitiveness. The Minister revealed that 21 lakh soil health cards have been issued to farmers

under the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme.

He said that currently there are 37 mandis with 24 fully operational and the remaining 13 in various stages of development. Significantly, out of the 19 wholesale mandis, 17 have already been integrated with the e-NAM platform, while the integration of the remaining two is underway. In 2024-25 alone, 54,975 stakeholders were registered on the platform, including 3,634 growers, 72 traders and 108 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). In 2024-25, a total of 9.44 lakh quintal of agricultural and horticultural produce worth Rs 594 crore, was traded through e-NAM, as compared to 6.55 lakh quintal worth Rs 416 crore in 2023-24, he said.

The Minister said that introduction of the rail network in Kashmir will be a game-changer for the apple growers, significantly reducing freight costs and ensuring better profitability.

"Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP) is a forward-looking initiative being launched with support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)" the Minister said.

Javid Dar said that in J&K, there are 10.82 lakh active KCC accounts, 8.49 lakh for crops and 2.33 lakh for animal husbandry. This year alone, 61,316 new KCCs were issued. The total sanctioned limit stands at 9,726 crore with an outstanding credit of Rs 7,393 crore. The NPA ratios remain low at 4.7% for crops and 2.1% for animal husbandry, reflecting strong credit discipline. In FY 2025-26, we aim to add 1 lakh new KCCs in the crop sector and 2 lakh in Animal Husbandry, he added.

He said that the Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme is also being implemented to promote small food processors, improve value addition and enhance market access. Based on a One District One Product (ODOP) strategy, it offers a 35% credit-linked subsidy up to 10 lakh, and support to SHGs and FPOs. He said upto 2024-25, 1743 applications were cleared by District Committees, with 1,326 sanctioned, 927 disbursed and 1,000 new units targeted for establishment in 2025-26.

In 2024-25, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) provided insurance coverage to 1.48 lakh farmers during Rabi, covering 60,556 hectare and 60,178 farmers in Kharif with 20,561 hectares insured. To further enhance climate risk coverage, the Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) is being implemented for the first time in J&K during 2025-26. He said that for the first time, apple, saffron, mango and litchi will be covered under the Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS), the Minister emphasised.

He said that seven unique agricultural products from J&K have been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) Tag by the Government of India, reinforcing their authenticity, heritage and market value. These included Saffron, Basmati, Baderwah Rajmash, Mushkbadji Rice, Udampur Kaladi, Ramban Sulai Honey and Ramban Anardana. In continuation, GI tagging for 17 more crops shall be processed during 2025-26.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to all general public notice that i ali mohammad khawjas/o gh ahmad khawja r/o diver yakmanpora that my son namelyirfan Hussain khawaja is born on 06-2-2012 if any body have any objection regarding issuance of dob certicate he she the cctoct of bdo singpora with in period of seven days

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to all generl public through the medium of notice that i mohammad ibrahim wanis/o mohammad akbar R/o kripal pora bala that my daughter namely tatheer fati-mais born on 10-4-2008 if any body have any objection regarding issuance of d o b he she the cctoct of bdo singpora with in period of seven days

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to all general public notice that i gh mohammad mallas/o jaffar malla r/o kripal pora bala that my son namely sameer Hussain malla is born on12-06-2015 if any body have any objection regarding issuance of d,ob he she the cctoct of Bdo singpora with in period of seven days

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my No Plate Of My vechile Bearing Registration No JK01AU - 3106 from Saibug to HMT Srinagar - if any found it Kindly return at the above adress. otherwise I have to applied for its Dublicate . if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Concerned RTO Kashmir within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name...Fayaz Ahmad Lone  
Mob.No:-7780942884





# DC Srinagar finalizes arrangements for Shab-e-Qadr, Jumat ul vida, Eid-ul-Fitr

Stresses on better facilities to people, seamless & hassle-free culmination of large congregations

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MARCH 24: In order to review the arrangements for the upcoming auspicious religious occasions of Shab-e-Qadr, Jumat-ul-Vida and Eid-ul-Fitr in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat chaired a meeting at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here on Monday. At the outset, the DC took a detailed assessment of the arrangements being made by all line Departments on the auspicious occasions of upcoming Jumat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr, including availability of essential supplies and services, sanitation measures, traffic and parking management. The DC directed the Officers of all the line departments to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance so that devotees/ people do not face any difficulty during the observance/ celebrations of the holy occasions. The DC also directed the PDD authorities to ensure uninterrupted supply of power during Jamat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr, while the PHE Department was asked to ensure adequate water supply to the people during the auspicious days. The Department was also directed to deploy water tankers at prominent Shrines of the City so that people do not face any difficulty



in performing ablution. Similarly, the SMC authorities were asked to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness arrangements across the City particularly at Hazratbal and other main Shrines, besides installation and repairs of the Street lights at important religious places where large congregations are expected to be held.

SMC Officers were further asked to take adequate measures to contain dog menace in the City particularly at prominent Shrines. Dr Bilal stressed for ensuring adequate Transport and Parking facilities at Hazratbal and other prominent Masjids and Shrines for the devotees on the auspicious days. He asked the concerned authorities to prepare a comprehensive route plan, besides creating temporary additional parking slots for better traffic regulation. The DC directed the Health Department to set up first aid & medical camps with paramedical staff, critical care ambulance and medicines at main congregation places and major Shrines. The Fire and Emergency Department was directed to provide 24x7 services across the district to tackle any eventuality. The DC stressed all concerned officers to work with added zeal and utmost coordination for the seamless and hassle-free culmination of large congregations of Jamat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr across the district.

## NHIDCL to re-sanction Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel under MoRTH: Dy CM

HT News Network

Jammu, MARCH 24: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel will be re-sanctioned by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) under the Ministry for Road Transport and Highway (MoRTH). The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Payare Lal Sharma. He informed the House that bids were invited for Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel, which was annulled due to administrative reasons. He said that the project was sanctioned under Bharatmala Pariyojna Phase-I, which was ceased and the said project requires sanction under NH (O) scheme of MoRTH. The Deputy Chief Minister said that the matter has been taken up with MoRTH for re-sanction of the Project by the NHIDCL and the bids will be invited pursuant to sanction of the project from MoRTH. He further informed that there is no proposal under consideration for Changer, Bhoonda, Choidraman, Warwan, Dardpora and Vailoo Tunnels. Mohammad Chowdhary Akram raised the supplementary to the question.



## 243 Doctors, Paramedics deployed in Ramnagar Constituency: Sakeena Itoo

Selection process for 181 Medical Officer underway with JKPS

HT News Network

Jammu Mar 24, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today said that out of 252 sanctioned posts of Doctors, Paramedics, Non-Gazetted, 142 have been filled up and an additional staff of 101 Doctors and Paramedics have been deployed under the National Health Mission to improve healthcare in remote areas of Ramnagar Constituency. The Minister was replying to a question raised by Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj in the Legislative Assembly. The Minister informed the House that, out of 365 newly appointed Medical Officers, 17 have been posted in Udhampur while selection process for 181 Medical Officer posts is still underway with the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC). "Once the selections are received, the appointed doctors will be assigned to health institutions experiencing severe staff shortages" she added. The Minister informed that in addition to this, the department is also in the process of operating the waitlist for



91 selected Medical Officers. She said that, additionally, 292 vacancies in non-gazetted, paramedical categories from the Directorate of Family Welfare and 290 from the Directorate of Health Services have been referred for recruitment to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board to strengthen the healthcare in the region. Regarding Ramnagar Constituency, the Minister informed that 51 health institutions have been sanctioned

with 19 in government buildings, 29 in rented buildings and 3 in other departmental buildings. The Minister said that construction and repair work on nine institutes was initiated, out of which, six have been completed and three are under execution. Additionally, initiatives like e-Sanjeevani, Tele-radiology, Tele-Manas and implementation of National Health Mission schemes, Pradhan Mantri ABHIM and PMJAY-SEHAT are strengthening the healthcare services immensely for the UT populace, the Minister informed. The Minister said that Jammu and Kashmir, with 554 NTPHCs as of now, is among the top in health institution density in the country, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's 2023 report. The region is working on consolidation of existing health facilities with over 4,200 health institutions across primary, secondary and tertiary levels. The creation and upgradation of health institutions will follow the IPHS-2022 guidelines, which serve as the benchmarks for developing or upgrading the existing healthcare facilities.

## Power Shutdown of 132 KV Delina-Pattan Tr. Line Ckt-I

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MARCH 24: According to the Chief Engineer JKPTCL, Kashmir, in order to carry out the work of 132 KV CT erection on 132 KV Delina-Pattan Transmission Line Ckt-I, Bay at Grid Substation Delina, the shutdown of 132 KV Delina-Pattan Tr. Line Ckt-I shall be observed due to which power supply to Kunzer, Kongamdar, Ahmadnagar, Dhobiwan, Lolpora, Khoore, Agar, Beerwah, Magam and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 25 March, 2025.

## BBBP: SWD Sgr organizes Mega Plantation Drive in the name of Girl Child

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MARCH 24: Department of Social Welfare, SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women- Mission Shakti Srinagar organized Mega Plantation Drive in the name of Girl Child under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) in different Higher Secondary institutions of district Srinagar. The drive aimed to raise awareness on different aspects of BBBP, importance of plants for future generations and visualize the life of a girl child as a soothing shadow of plants. Such drives are intended to celebrate the birth of girl children and recognize their rights and potential. They also promote environmental awareness and conservation by planting trees. The act of planting a tree in a girl's name was aimed to symbolize empowerment and a commitment to her future, said an official. The Plantation Drive started w.e.f 22-03-2025 in various Higher secondary institutions including GGHSS Rajbagh, GGHSS Kothibagh, GGHSS Amira Kadal, GGHSS Sonwar, GGHSS Nawakdaland GGHSS Zadibal and successfully concluded on 24-03-2025 at GGHSS Nishat.

## SWD Srinagar organizes Vocational Training Programme

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MARCH 24: In order to equip students with practical, job-specific skills and knowledge, and prepare them for specific careers, enhancing their employability and economic opportunities, the Department of Social Welfare, SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women- Mission Shakti Srinagar organized Vocational Training Programme with the students of Government Girls Higher secondary school Nishat. On the occasion, Principal of GGHSS Nishat, Anjum Saleem discussed the objective of vocational training programme. Experts from Women Polytechnic and ITI presented detailed descriptions of various vocational/ Skill courses available to the students along with their employment opportunities and numerous institutions offering these Skill Courses and their admission procedures. Concluding the programme, Certificate of Participation and career guides were distributed among the female students for helping them in career counselling and choosing the right career option.

## Govt contemplates to open 1600 new Fair Price Shops: Satish Sharma



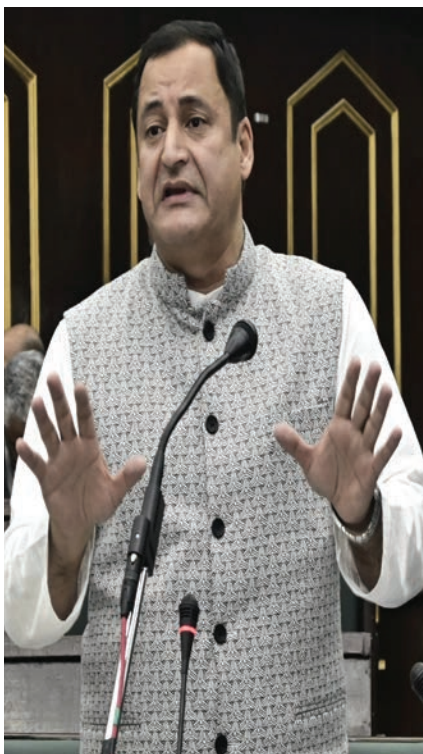
Jammu Mar 24, :Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, today said that the Department is contemplating opening of 1600 new Fair Price Shops across J&K, as part of Jammu and Kashmir Targeted Public Distribution. The Minister was replying to a question raised by Ajaz Ahmad Jan. The Minister today informed the House that the government intends to rope in the elected members to firm up new Fair Price Shops in J&K. He added that the uncovered underserved panchayat areas shall be prioritized for opening of these new Fair Price Shops. He apprised that food grains are being provided to different categories in accordance with the entitlement prescribed under NFSA. Additionally, a top up upto 10 Kg is also being provided to an eligible household in PHH category under J&K Government run scheme of PMFSS, he added. The Minister said that there is also a proposal in the Annual Financial Statement of 2025-26 to provide additional free food grains in the context of AAY households only. He said that the Department does not maintain any updation lists of the beneficiaries, however, complete details of the beneficiaries under all the groups are available on RCMS portal, which is in public domain and can be accessed at rcms.jk.gov.in.

# Govt aims to boost farmer income, productivity & sustainability: Javed Dar

HT News Network

Jammu:-Minister for Agriculture, Javed Ahmad Dar, today said that the government is focused on revolutionizing agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir with emphasis on enhancing farmer's income, productivity and sustainability. The Minister was replying to a question raised by Ranbir Singh. He informed the House regarding key initiatives being undertaken to transform the agriculture sector in J&K. These included introduction of advanced technology, crop diversification, soil health management, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), financial support and subsidies, Research and Development, Training and Capacity Building, Infrastructure Development, Market Linkages and Promotion of Agro-based Industries. The Minister further said that various schemes have been initiated by the government to extend financial assistance to unemployed youth in the agriculture sector under Interest Subvention and Credit Linked

Schemes including KCC, AIF, AHIDF, PMFME and NLM. He added that several initiatives have been undertaken to promote agricultural growth and sustainability in the UT, as part of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). These included Custom Hiring Centres, Hi-Tech Polygreen Houses, Controlled Cropping Mushroom Unit, Establishment of Pasteurized Compost Unit, Apiculture, KKG, Millet Restaurants, Establishment of Millet Mills, Establishment of Mini Soil Testing Labs, Establishment of Seed Processing Units, Dairy development projects, Self Sufficiency in Mutton Production, Poultry Development Project, Fish Seed and Trout Production besides Fodder production. The Minister said that, similarly, many other schemes have been initiated under the Agriculture Sector Centrally Sponsored Schemes. These included Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Soil Health Card, Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM), Per Drop More Crop scheme,



Rainfed Area Development (RAD), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Sub Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF), Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO) besides Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP). The Minister informed that 4.14 lakh hectare of total land has been brought under Culturable Command Area (CCA), of which, 1.91 lakh hectare has already been covered. Besides, 0.33 lakh hectare is being covered under new projects to facilitate the farmers to overcome irrigation challenges. He said that 18 irrigation projects are currently being implemented with financial assistance from NABARD while 14 additional projects have been sanctioned under RIDF with an outlay of Rs 4883.54 lakh to cater 11678 Hectare of land in J&K. He added that 200 community bore wells are under construction under the Per Drop More Crop scheme.



EDITORIAL

Government hospitals all set to witness extra patient rush

At a time when the government hospitals are already over burdened with patient rush the rush is all set to increase as the government has decided to absolve the private hospitals from some of the surgeries and procedures under the golden card health scheme. These surgeries and procedures will be carried out in the government sector and the patients have been asked not to visit the private hospitals in this regard while having a golden health card.

It would be in place to mention here that there is a dearth of staff in most of the government hospitals and other health institutions. Given this scenario it would be a herculean task for the doctors, para-medical staff and theatre staff to carry out surgeries and procedures that have been assigned to the government sector exclusively. The dearth of staff in the government sector has been acknowledged by the government itself during the ongoing budget session of the Jammu & Kashmir legislative assembly.

Ever since the golden card scheme was introduced by the central government the government hospitals in the union territory have been keeping the patients waiting for months together even for simple procedures and surgeries. In such a situation the problems for the patients are going to increase since some surgeries and procedures have been kept as exclusive for the government hospitals. There would be endless queues of patients at the government hospitals in order to get the surgeries and procedures there.

Since most of the patients want their surgeries and procedures to be carried out in a timely manner these people can go to any extent in this regard. Such patients are ready to shell out money in the private sector so that the surgery or procedure is carried out in a quick manner and they are absolved of the tension. In such a manner the purpose and aim of the golden card would be defeated and people would be forced to go for expensive treatment in the private sector.

As the government has decided to keep some of the surgeries and procedures exclusive for the government sector it is important that the dearth of staff in the hospitals is overcome. The posts of specialists need to be filled at the earliest and at the same time steps should also be taken to fill the various posts associated with the operation theatres of the government hospitals. There should not be any compromise in this regard and people would be benefitted.

From Vision to Victory: How India is Reshaping Its Fight Against TB



BY JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA

On this World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, I reflect with immense pride on how India is rewriting the playbook in the fight against TB. The recently concluded 100-day Intensified TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan has not only demonstrated the power of innovation but has also shown that mobilizing communities is just as crucial as transforming the programmatic approach. The campaign was launched on 7th, December 2024 with the objectives to Accelerate TB case detection, Reduce mortality and Prevent new cases.

The 100-day Intensified TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan introduced cutting-edge strategies to detect TB early, ensuring that even those without symptoms - who would have otherwise gone undiagnosed - were identified and treated. Portable X-ray machines were taken directly to high-risk individuals, including people with diabetes, smokers, alcohol consumers, those living with HIV, the elderly, those with low BMI and household contacts of TB patients. Artificial intelligence-powered X-rays flagged suspected TB cases instantly, and confirmation was done using gold-standard Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAAT). These efforts ensured that contagious cases were identified and treated quickly, curbing transmission and saving lives.

The campaign reached every corner of the country, screening 12.97 crore people belonging to vulnerable populations. This intensive effort led to the notification of 7.19 lakh TB patients, out of which 2.85 lakh cases were asymptomatic and would have otherwise been missed but for this innovative approach, thus breaking the chain of TB infection. This is more than just a milestone - it's a turning point.



TB- Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan: A people's movement

But the real game-changer wasn't just the technology - it was the unprecedented mobilization of communities. TB elimination is now a mass movement powered by Jan Bhagidari (people's participation). Across India, over 13.46 lakh Nikshay Shivirs were held, where more than 30,000 elected representatives, including Hon'ble MPs, MLAs, and representatives of PRIs and ULBs stepped up to support the 100 day TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan. Corporate partners and ordinary citizens joined the campaign, reinforcing the idea that TB elimination is not just a government responsibility but a collective mission. And in this mission Jan Bhagidari was exemplified across the States /UTs where in more than 35000 activities like TB awareness, nutrition kit distribution, undertaking pledge for TB free India etc was carried out across 22 line ministries. Similarly more than 21000 activities were held with PSUs, Trade associations, Business associations, voluntary organisations and more than 7.7 lakh students across 78000 educational institutions participated in TB awareness and sensitisation activities.

Screening and testing of more than 4.17 lakhs vulnerable population was undertaken in congregate settings like prisons, mines, tea gardens, construction sites and work places. More than 21000 TB awareness activities were held on festivals during the campaign duration involving faith based leaders and community influencers.

The vision of our honorable PM, which laid the foundation stone of Jan-Bhagidari, mobilized extensive social support for adoption of patients not only for nutrition but also psychosocial and vocational support. Support for TB patients is no longer limited to hospitals - it is happening at homes, in villages, and at workplaces. Through the Ni-kshay Mitra initiative, individuals and organizations are providing nutritional support to TB-affected families, with thousands of food baskets already delivered. In just 100 days, 1,05,181 new Ni-kshay Mitras were enrolled. Recognizing the critical link between nutrition and TB recovery, the government has doubled financial assistance under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 per month, ensuring that no TB patient fights this battle alone.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also providing tailored

and personalised treatment for TB patients under the Differentiated TB care program. For instance, if a TB patient is found to be underweight (with a BMI < 18.5 kg/m2), their healthcare providers will chart out a tailored nutrition and treatment plan and monitor their progress each month during treatment.

Building on the momentum of the 100-day campaign

The momentum of this campaign has also demonstrated how a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach can drive transformative change. 22 ministries joined forces to integrate TB awareness and services into everyday life. TB awareness floats became a highlight of the Goa Carnival parades. In schools across the country, TB awareness messages were incorporated into morning assemblies. The Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises leveraged its network of cluster offices to offer free TB screenings to thousands of visitors. These diverse efforts shattered stigma, corrected misinformation and put TB elimination at the centre of public consciousness.

The 100-day campaign is just the beginning. India is all set to scale up these efforts nationwide, ensuring that every citizen - regardless of where they live - has access to modern diagnostics, quality treatment, and unwavering community support. Just as India rapidly scaled up COVID-19 testing, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is investing in next-generation TB diagnostics to bring faster and more accurate testing to the last mile.

India has witnessed the power of community-driven action before - whether through Swachh Bharat Mission or our Polio eradication drive. Similarly, TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyan is now becoming another people led movement. When innovation meets access, and when governments, communities & individuals unite the impossible becomes reality.

India is not just fighting TB—we are defeating it.

The author is the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, Government of India

The Need for Moral Education in Schools: A Call for a Balanced Generation



REYAZ RABBANI KASHMIRI

In our rapidly evolving world, the younger generation faces unprecedented challenges as technological advancements and material pursuits increasingly overshadow timeless moral values. Today's youth, though often excelling in academics and professional qualifications, are also growing more detached from the ethical foundations that once defined community and character. This trend calls for immediate intervention - one that reintroduces moral education, counseling and spiritual teachings into every school system to nurture not only intelligent but also compassionate, responsible citizens.

Education has long been viewed as a means to empower individuals to become scientists, doctors, engineers, and leaders. However, professional success should never come at the cost of moral grounding. Along with academic excellence, children must be encouraged to develop empathy, respect for elders, and a commitment to supporting the underprivileged. A well-rounded education, therefore, must balance intellectual growth with character building, ultimately fostering future citizens who embody



justice, kindness, and integrity.

Historically, both schools and homes served as the primary centers for imparting ethical and moral lessons. Past generations, though less formally educated by today's standards, were raised with a deep reverence for tradition, discipline, and a connection with nature. They lived in harmony with their surroundings, respected communal bonds, and maintained a sense of responsibility toward the welfare of others. These values, while perhaps less formally documented, contributed significantly to creating humble, God-fearing individuals who prioritized community over self-interest.

In contrast, the current generation, despite its impressive academic credentials, often seems to lack these fundamental human virtues. Growing selfishness, rampant materialism, and a disregard for environmental stewardship are increasingly evident in everyday life. The

careless disposal of waste in public spaces and the neglect of natural resources signal a broader shift from a value system grounded in ethical and spiritual awareness to one dominated by materialistic pursuits. This divergence between knowledge and wisdom risks undermining the very fabric of society.

If this moral decline is not addressed, the future may bring a society where intellectual achievements are undermined by ethical decay, leading to chaos and social disintegration. True education, after all, transcends the mere acquisition of knowledge - it involves the cultivation of wisdom, ethical decision-making, and a deep respect for life. Without a balanced approach that integrates moral teachings into academic curricula, we risk raising a generation that excels professionally but falls short in character.

To reverse this worrisome trend, moral education must become a cornerstone of both gov-

ernment and private schooling. Alongside core subjects such as science, mathematics, and social studies, curricula should include dedicated programs for ethical, moral, and spiritual learning. Children should be taught the importance of honoring their families, engaging in acts of kindness, preserving the environment, and upholding truthfulness in all aspects of life. Lessons in patience, humility, and self-restraint are equally critical, as they help young people navigate life's challenges with inner peace and gratitude.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes innovation and modern pedagogy in science and technology, yet it is equally important to focus on nurturing responsible citizens. The alarming rise in issues such as drug addiction and irresponsible behavior among the educated youth can be partly attributed to a lack of proper counseling and moral guidance during formative years. Integrating comprehensive counseling and moral education into school programs is not simply an additional subject - it is a necessary investment in the future of society.

Ultimately, education should not be solely about creating professionals; it must first and foremost cultivate good human beings. By placing morality and humanity at the heart of learning, we can build a future where success is measured not only by intellectual achievements but also by the strength of one's character. In this way, we can hope to develop generations that contribute to a world of peace, respect, and righteousness.



# Hill Kaka’s Struggle for Basic Facilities: A Call for Immediate Action

BY MS NAZKI

The Hill Kaka, a remote and isolated village in Surankote area of Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, UT is grappling with severe challenges due to its lack of basic infrastructure and government support. The people of Hill Kaka are forced to carry pregnant women on a cot (charpai) for over 40 kilometers to reach the nearest hospital in Surankote, as the village has no road connectivity or transportation facilities. The villagers live without electricity, potable water, or Anganwadi services, and reaching Surankote takes an entire day on foot. Even basic healthcare is out of reach, as medical staff rarely reports for duty, leaving the residents to suffer in silence.

Education in Hill Kaka is another pressing issue. Although a government school has been established, the state authorities have shown little interest in ensuring its proper functioning. While a room was constructed for the school and teachers were assigned, they are often absent, leaving the children of Hill Kaka eager to learn but without a teacher to guide them. The Education Department of Jammu and Kashmir needs to intervene and provide these children with the education they deserve. Until then,

the people of Hill Kaka continue to be deprived of opportunities for a better future.

Despite being part of the Mora Panchayat, which is about 40 kilometers away, Hill Kaka’s residents are unable to benefit from government schemes due to the lack of connectivity and basic services. The local people are largely illiterate and impoverished, yet they remain fiercely patriotic. In 2003, they fought alongside the Indian Army to clear the area of militants in the historic Operation ‘Sarp Vinash.’ Many locals lost their lives in this operation, and Hill Kaka remains the only village in Jammu and Kashmir where women members of the Village Defense Committee (VDC) participated in the fight against terrorism. The bravery of these martyrs will never be forgotten, yet their families continue to face hardships, with little support from the government.

The road connectivity issue has seen some progress with the construction of a 14-kilometer road from Bafliaz to Hill Kaka. However, only half of the road has been completed, and it remains in poor condition. The completion of this road is crucial for the overall development of the area and would help alleviate many of the difficulties faced by the residents.

The government’s promises to



improve the lives of the people of Hill Kaka remain unfulfilled. While there has been some improvement since 2004, the lack of attention and proper governance continues to hinder the community’s progress. Residents question why the promises of development, education, and healthcare remain unmet, leaving them to wonder if the government is truly committed to their welfare.

The extension of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006 to Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 was intended to ensure the land tenure, food security, and livelihood of traditional forest dwellers, including communities like the Gujjars and Bakerwals. However, these communities, including Hill Kaka’s residents, have found that the implementation of the FRA has made their lives even more difficult. The Forest Department’s response has been to restrict their rights, adding to their struggles.

The people of Hill Kaka need urgent intervention. Despite their history of sacrifice and patriotism, their needs remain largely ignored. The road to Hill Kaka needs to be completed, medical staff should be posted to the local aid center, and children should be admitted to schools to ensure their future. A fair price shop should be opened, especially during the summer

months, and the residents should be provided with compensation for their sacrifices during Operation ‘Sarp Vinash.’ Additionally, the government must ensure that the village has access to clean drinking water, electricity, and basic sanitation services. Solar energy systems could provide a sustainable solution to their power needs.

Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, who has shown a commitment to addressing the issues faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, is urged to pay special attention to the residents of Hill Kaka. His intervention can help uplift the village and ensure that the people’s needs are addressed. The Home Minister and the Defense Minister of India should also issue directives to the concerned authorities to ensure that the people of Hill Kaka receive the facilities and support they deserve.

Hill Kaka’s bravery in the face of terrorism is a testament to its people’s resilience and patriotism. However, despite their sacrifices, they continue to face neglect from the government. It is time for the authorities to recognize their struggles and take meaningful action to improve their lives, so that the martyrs of Hill Kaka, who gave their lives for the nation, are honored with the basic rights and services they have long been denied.

## World Water Day 2024



SAHIL MANZOOR  
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Earth covers a total of 71 percent of the water. 97 percent of the water is present in the oceans, and only 3 percent of the water is fresh. Water in oceans is salty and has no use for drinking or agricultural purposes. The chemical structure of water is v-shaped, and the chemical formula is H2O. Means two molecules of hydrogen, and one molecule is oxygen. Water is the most abundant component on earth and can be found in solid, liquid, and gaseous states. The world has been observing World Water Day since 1993. The theme for World Water Day 2024 is "Leveraging Water for Peace." Collaborating to solve water-related issues creates positive outcomes and builds resilience for shared challenges.

Water quenches our thirst, keeps us hydrated, keeps us neat and clean, and has great and immense benefits. Water can also be found in seas, oceans, rivers, ponds, canals, etc. We know it very well. When there is no water, no life on this earth.

Human beings are living on a very unique planet known as Earth. The earth is one of the unique planets among the other planets in our solar system. Earth, neither small nor big, among other planets in the solar system. Today’s field of science and technology is very advanced and progressing very rapidly with the involvement of the great and intelligent minds of humans. Every day we are experiencing various objects around us. Some of our friends wonder, some are getting excited, some are enjoying them, and only a few are curious to know them merely and eagerly.

Throughout the world, every country facilitates and equips its learners with highly modified, advanced, and latest technologies, securing their internal as well as external interests to tackle the new challenges coming ahead. Seminars, various television programs, rallies, and awareness programs are being held to aware people about current issues around the world. Today’s world is facing immense challenges like environmental degradation, ozone depletion, and water scarcity, which are concerning issues for today’s generation. Water scarcity is primarily caused by inefficient water resource management. The government and other accountable authorities should prioritize water related resources.

Water is necessary for all living beings. Every cell, tissue, and organ needs water to



help with temperature regulation, keeping hydrated, and maintaining bodily functions. Water acts as a lubricant and cushions in our joints. Water is very important for overall health. So all of us should drink plenty of water. Water keeps our hearts healthy. Heart is working continually to pump 2,000 gallons of blood throughout our body in a day. By drinking water and keeping hydrated, it helps our heart do its job easily.

Water has no colour, taste, or smell and is transparent in nature. Drinking water keeps us hydrated while also protecting us from a variety of other chronic diseases. Water helps to clear our bowel-related problems like constipation, stomach aches, and many more health-related problems. Water can neither be created nor destroyed, but it can be changed from one form to another by heating and cooling it. Water maintains the water cycle, which plays a vital role in the weather. There are infinite functions water plays in our body; besides, it provides essential nutrients to plants, from very small to very large. The world is deeply concerned about water-related issues. There are approximately billions of people in the world who face water scarcity.

Every year on March 22nd, we observe world water day, which has been celebrated since 1993. On this day, the whole world is being aware of its importance. How to get rid of its scarcity, How to save fresh water from dirt and how to save different sources of water. The sources of water on this planet include glaciers, rain, rivers, lakes, and many more other sources, which are very necessary for the existence of this blue planet. Earth is also known as the blue planet because it looks blue from the sky. Save water, safe life.

## Creativity Reimagined: How India’s WAVES Summit 2025 Will Reshape Global Entertainment



CHAITANYA K PRASAD  
FORMER CIVIL SERVANT

In a world hungry for authentic stories and innovative entertainment, India is all set to revolutionize the global media landscape. The World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) isn’t just another media & entertainment stakeholder—it represents a transformative vision that will redefine how creators, policymakers, and audiences worldwide engage with content. Set to unfold from May 1-4, 2025, in Mumbai, WAVES emerges as perhaps the most visionary initiative undertaken by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for the creator ecosystem, establishing a new gold standard for global entertainment forums.

For decades, India has been a storytelling powerhouse, captivating the world with its films, music, and digital content. Yet, despite its sheer creative output, the country has rarely dictated the terms of engagement in the global entertainment industry. WAVES seeks to change that narrative. This isn’t just about showcasing Indian creativity—it’s about shaping the global conversation around media, entertainment, and technology. If Davos is the nerve centre of economic policy and Cannes the temple of cinema, WAVES aims to define the future of entertainment through innovation creation and collaboration of key stakeholders- “The Sangam of Artistic Brilliance”.

WAVES is not just about big-picture strategy—it’s about real opportunities for creators, businesses, and investors. The Bharat Pavilion will celebrate India’s storytelling legacy, tracing its evolution from ancient epics and folklore to AI-driven content and immersive digital storytelling. This is India telling the world: our stories are timeless, but our storytelling is cutting-edge. At the same time, the WAVES Bazaar, a first-of-its-kind year-round global content marketplace, is set to transform how content is bought, sold, and distributed. Moving beyond the traditional festival-driven acquisi-

tion model, this digital-first platform will enable constant global transactions, ensuring that content creators from India and beyond have access to an always-on monetization ecosystem.

Recent successes like “Dune: Part Two” winning the 2025 Oscar for Best Visual Effects with significant Indian VFX contributions exemplify the creative potential WAVES aims to showcase and nurture on a global platform. But beyond all the industry talk, what makes WAVES truly different is its big-picture vision. This is not a one-time event—it is a long-term strategy to position India as the global headquarters of entertainment innovation. As the global M&E industry moves toward a \$3 trillion valuation by 2030, India is making its case not as an outsourcing hub, but as a global leader in entertainment production, policy, and investment. The summit’s integration of content creation, financing, policy discussions, and emerging technologies makes it a launchpad for the future of entertainment.

The summit’s ambitions extend beyond showcasing talent to fostering international cooperation through the Global Media Dialogue. This diplomatic initiative, aims to create a truly global ecosystem that connects creators and industry stakeholders across continents under India’s leadership. The Global Media Dialogue will culminate in the landmark ‘WAVES Declaration 2025’—a visionary roadmap for the global media and entertainment fraternity that will establish the foundation for an enduring World Entertainment Forum. This declaration will address critical industry trends and challenges while proposing inclusive frameworks that benefit creators worldwide.

One of the most groundbreaking initiatives at WAVES is the WaveXcelerator, a startup incubator designed specifically for creative entrepreneurs. With the rise of AI-generated content, interactive media, and virtual production, the need for structured mentorship, funding, and market access has never been greater. WaveXcelerator ensures that India not only fosters cutting-edge storytelling but also builds the businesses that will define the next decade of entertainment. By integrating investment facilitation with intellectual property protection, India is signalling to the world that it is serious about creating a sustainable creative economy. A major highlight of WAVES is its focus on talent discovery and mentor-

ship. Through its Create in India Challenges, the summit has already identified 725 top-tier creators across gaming, comics, animation, music, esports, and broadcasting. These selected talents will participate in CreatoSphere, an interactive hub filled with live competitions, masterclasses, and collaborative projects, ensuring that the best new voices in entertainment emerge from India and onto the global stage. This structured talent pipeline underscores India’s ambition to be not just a content hub, but a talent powerhouse.

The summit’s Thought Leaders Track will bring together CEOs, media executives, policymakers, and creative pioneers to tackle some of the biggest questions in entertainment today: What does the future of storytelling look like? How will AI reshape content creation? What new monetization models will define the streaming era? How do we balance creativity with regulation? These aren’t just conference buzzwords—they’re the real debates shaping the future of entertainment, and WAVES will be at the centre of them.

WAVES’ strategic objectives align perfectly with global industry needs: driving sector growth, nurturing innovation through emerging technologies like AI and immersive experiences, empowering young talent, and facilitating meaningful cultural exchange between Indian and international media professionals. The benefits extend far beyond the summit itself. WAVES positions India to attract substantial investment in its creative industries, solidify its leadership in global entertainment, strengthen its contribution to the worldwide creative economy, and develop a skilled workforce prepared for the industry’s future demands. By focusing on diverse areas—from content creation and financing to gaming, animation, music, and IP development—WAVES addresses the full spectrum of media and entertainment challenges and opportunities in an increasingly interconnected world.

As the countdown to May 1, 2025 begins, the world is paying attention. WAVES isn’t just a media summit—it’s a movement. A movement where creativity meets commerce, tradition meets technology, and India meets the world on its own terms. The entertainment industry is at an inflection point, and India is making sure that when the next chapter is written, it’s written in bold letters, with WAVES at its center.





# Commissioner Secretary HUDD chairs meeting on Interest Subsidy Scheme under PMAY-Urban 2.0

## HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 24: Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD), Mandeep Kaur, today chaired a high level meeting with senior officials from J&K Bank (Lead Bank, J&K UTLCB) and other financial institutions operating in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting focused on devising strategies for effective implementation of the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) component under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0).

Pertinently, the Pradhan

Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0, launched by the Prime Minister on 17th September 2024, included the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) as a key initiative to enhance affordable housing accessibility. Under this Central Sector Scheme, the eligible beneficiaries from the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Lower Income Group (LIG) and Middle-Income Group (MIG) categories will receive an interest subsidy on home loans sanctioned and disbursed on or after 1st September 2024. The subsidy aims to support the beneficiaries seeking to construct or purchase a house.

The Commissioner Secretary



emphasized the urgent need for all banks to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with any Central Nodal

Agency (CNA) designated by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India. This step is

crucial to facilitate the timely claim and transfer of subsidies to the eligible beneficiaries.

Under the scheme, the eli-

gible beneficiaries with an annual family income of up to 9 lakh can avail of an interest subsidy of 1.80 lakh. Home loans up to 25 lakh for properties valued at up to 35 lakh, with a carpet area of up to 120 square meters, qualify for a 4.0% subsidy on the first 8 lakh for a loan tenure of up to 12 years.

During the meeting, Mandeep Kaur asked the J&K Bank, as the Convenor of J&K UTLCB, to ensure that the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) is thoroughly reviewed in the upcoming J&K UTLCB meeting. She also urged all financial institutions to actively participate in the scheme's rollout and provide

necessary support to beneficiaries.

The meeting was attended by the Managing Director, J&K Housing Board (Mission Director, PMAY-Urban 2.0), Director Finance, Housing & Urban Development Department; General Manager, J&K Bank Ltd.; Financial Advisor/Chief Accounts Officer, J&K Housing Board; Assistant General Manager, National Housing Bank (NHB); Regional Chief, Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO); Chief Manager, State Bank of India (SBI); and other senior representatives from public and private sector banks.

## GOVT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR SRINAGAR TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICE

TRAFFIC ADVISORY / APPEAL  
(TRAFFIC ROUTE PLAN FOR TULIP FESTIVAL-2025)

Asia's largest Tulip Garden will be thrown open to public on 26th March-2025 and a large number of tourists and local populace will be thronging to the Tulip Garden and other gardens in its vicinity especially after Eid-ul-Fitr. Due to the expected rush of people; there are chances of congestion and for the convenience of people and to avoid slow movement, one way traffic especially on Holidays shall be regulated: visit Tulip Garden shall adopt Lal Chowk-Dalgate-People intending to Boulevard/Gupkar Road to reach Tulip Garden and on their return they shall adopt Nishat-Foreshore-Habak-Dargah-Khanyar route to reach their respective destinations. Likewise, motorist's intending to travel from Harwan-Shalimar-Nishat and other adjacent areas towards Lal-Chowk are requested to travel via Foreshore- Hazratbal route instead of Nishat-Boulevard road axis to reach their respective destinations. Motorists intending to travel from Gulab Bagh-Zakoora-Naseembagh-Habbak and adjacent areas shall adopt 90 feet road and Ali Jan route to reach Lal Chowk instead of Foreshore Road.

Visitors are advised to park their vehicles at designated parking places only and avoid parking their vehicles on roadside. Wrongly parked vehicles will be challaned & towed away also.

Available parking places are:

In front of Botanical Garden

Open land at Karpura

LCMA Parking at Nishat.

Emergencies shall be allowed to take the shortest route.

One way traffic will be implemented from 0900 hrs till 1900 hrs.

DIPK-13353/24

Date: Mar 24 2025

Sd/

Muzaffar Ahmad Shah-JKPS Sr. Superintendent  
of Police, Traffic City Srinagar

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Subject:- Regulation of Treasury operations during last week of March, 2025.  
Ref: GAD-ADMOIII/300/2024-09-GAD-Part(1) dated 18.03.2025

Government Order No. \oD -Fof 2025

Dated: 4.03.2025

In order to regulate the treasury operations during last week of March, it is hereby ordered that- Last day/time for receipt of bills at treasuries shall be Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> of March, 2025 upto 04.00 P.M. The Treasury Officers shall communicate consolidated liability on 27th by 05.30 P.M. positively. Dated: 4.03.2025 All treasuries, including Civil Secretariat Treasury and Sub Treasury, New Delhi, shall remain functional on Saturday 29 of March, 2025.

All treasuries shall remain open on March 30th 2025 (Sunday) and March 31<sup>st</sup> (Monday), for receipt of cash/remittances only.

(iv) The bills / claims so presented in the Month of March are liable to Special Audit, wherever required.

By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir

DIPK-13365/24

Date: Mar 24 2025

Sd/

Santosh D Vaidya) IAS,  
Principal Secretary to Government  
Finance Department

## Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER PULWAMA

E-mail on: cmopulwama796@gmail.com

Subject:- Tentative Seniority List of Matriculate Class-IV (MTS Including Sanitation Workers) District Cadre Pulwama.

Reference: Administrative Department's letter Circular No.15-HME of 2024, dated: 24.06.2024, read with DHSK Letter No: Est/V/NG/796/6018-50, dated: 03.07.2024.

### NOTICE

The Tentative Seniority List of Matriculate Class-IV (MTS including Sanitation Workers) , District Pulwama, has been framed /issued vide this Office No: CMO/Pul/Est/ MTS (Seniority)/64/ 8635-44 dated: 22-03-2025, in reference to the communication(s) under reference.

Now by virtue of this Notice, it is hereby informed that said Seniority List (Class-IV, MTS including Sanitation Workers) , which is subject to objections (if any) , has been circulated among all DDO's and also circulated on Official WhatsApp group(s) for information of all concerned.

In case of any Official is aggrieved with his/her Seniority Position, he/she may route his/her objection/representation , through his/her controlling Officer, with documentary evidence, to this Office, within five (05) days from the date of publication of this Notice, after which no objection/ representation shall be entertained.

Sd/-

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER,  
PULWAMA

DIPK-13352/24

Dated: 25/03/2025

## اطلاع عام

ہر غاس و عام کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے بجلی بل زیر نمبر 0209020000467 جو غلام حسن پٹے داماد علی محمد ولد غلام قادر پٹے ساکن جمون پہلگام کے نام پر درج ہے اب تبدیل کر کے اب رفیق حسن پٹے ولد غلام حسن پٹے ساکن جمون عشمقما کے نام پر درج کرنی مطلوب ہے کسی کو کوئی عذر نہ ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر pdd سب ڈوین عشمقما کے دفتر میں پیش کرے بعد ازاں معاد کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا

المستتر

رفیق حسن ولد غلام حسن پٹے

ساکن جمون عشمقما پہلگام

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as Sara Beigum W/O Ghulam Mohammad Rather R/o Aarath Budgam in my Adhaar card bearing adhaar No 7466 2802 4386 while my correct name is Sara Bano .which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his / her objection in the office of concerned Aadhar authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name.....Sara Bano

W/O Ghulam Mohammad Rather

R/O : Aarath Budgam

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name ) Farooq Ahmad Shaheen to (New name) Farooq Ahmad Shaheen Gojri in future I will be known as (new name) Farooq Ahmad Shaheen Gojri if any body having objection he/she may contact passport office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objections will be accepted.

Name:- Farooq Ahmad Shaheen Gojri

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill ) power connection is registered on the name my father's name LATE SYED MOHAMMAD AMIN S/O LATE GHULAM MOHD R/O CHINAR COLONY CHEKI KAWOOSA JAGEER ..Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0206050002197 wants to be registered on my name REYEZ AHMAD QADRI S/O LATE SYED MOHAMMAD AMIN R/O CHINAR COLONY CHEKI KAWOOSA JAGEER .if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...REYEZ AHMAD QADRI

S/O ...LATE SYED MOHAMMAD AMIN

R/O CHINAR COLONY CHEKI KAWOOSA JAGEER

DISTT..... SRINAGAR

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being notified that my name on my back account number 0122040100013260 branch pahalgam has been wrongly mention it as AVSAN AKHTER my actual name as per Aadhar is AVSAN Fayaz C/o Fayaz Ahmed khanday R/o pahalgam ANANTNAG JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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 ZAINAB ALI. DYO ALI MOHAMMAD LONE R/O AUTHOORA RSHIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 01/04/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate  
1st Class KREERI

## IUST Hosts Seminar on World Meteorological Day 2025

### HT News Network

Srinagar, March 23: The Indian Meteorological Society (IMS) Srinagar Chapter successfully organized a seminar to commemorate World Meteorological Day 2025, focusing on the theme "Closing the Early Warning Gap Together." The event brought together eminent experts, researchers, and professionals to discuss advancements in meteorology, disaster preparedness, and climate resilience. The seminar was hosted online and featured insightful talks from distinguished speakers.

The Lead Talk was delivered by Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor IUST and Chairman of IMS Srinagar Chapter. Prof. Romshoo highlighted the pressing need for strengthening early warning systems in the region and the role of scientific advancements in mitigating climate-related disasters. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Scientist-D at IMD and Secretary IMS Srinagar Chapter, who was the keynote speaker of the seminar provided deep insights into the latest developments in meteorology and their implications for climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I Zainab Akther Wadera W/O Late Abdul Ghani Wadera R/O Koker Bazar Lal chowk Srinagar Has Lost my Pension Payment Order ( APO) Bearing No MHAF8109744. If any found it kindly return at the above adress. otherwise I have to applied for its Duplicate .

if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Zainab Akther Wadera  
W/O Late Abdul Gani Wadera  
R/O Koker Bazar Lal chowk Srinagar  
Contact No7051891811

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have purchased a vehicle Maruti ALTO K10 bearing registration number MH05 -AS/5287 Chasis No MA3EAD1500111487 engine no K10 BN4115516 Model 2010 from Naseer Ahmad Shah s/o Abdul Qadeer Shah resident of Arampora Sopore .Now I am going to transfer this vehicle to my own name as Abdul Rashid Sofi S/O Abdul Aziz sofi resident of Shedipira Drugmulla Kupwara if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

ABDUL RASHID SOFI  
S/O ABDUL AZIZ SOFI R/O SHEDIPORA DRUGMULLA  
KUPWARA Contact No 7006757267

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as FAIZAN NISSAR MALIK in my Adhaar card while my correct name is MALIK FAIZAN which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his / her objection in the office of concerned Aadhar authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name.....MALIK FAIZAN  
R/O DAULATPORA KREERI  
Contact no.....9541344459

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 HAFSA IQBAL S/O MOHAMMAD IQBAL MAGRAY R/O KAREWA KREERI Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 01/01/2020 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 Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate  
1st Class KREERI



# DC Bandipora reviews arrangements for Shabi Qadar, Jumat-ul-Vida, Eid-ul-Fitr & Navratra

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, MARCH 24: The Deputy Commissioner BANDIPORA, MARCH 24: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri today chaired a meeting at mini secretariat, here to finalize the arrangements for the upcoming religious festivals, including Shabi Qadar, Jumat-ul-Vida, Eid-ul-Fitr, and Navratra 2025.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the importance of ensuring smooth celebrations by making

adequate arrangements for essential services viz. electricity, water supply, sanitation, traffic management, security and medical facilities. He directed the concerned departments to put in place a coordinated action plan to facilitate the observance of these religious festival without any inconvenience to the public.

The meeting was informed that special teams, including officers from Police, Revenue, and Legal Metrology, were constituted at the beginning of Ramadan to monitor markets and prevent overpricing.

On the occasion, the DC urged the



Traders Federation to maintain fair prices, emphasizing that everyone is a consumer and that price hikes during festivals cause distress to the general public, besides directed the concerned departments to conduct regular market inspections to prevent hoarding and overpricing.

Qadri urged concerned from Municipal Committees to conduct special cleanliness drives at religious places.

He instructed the Health Department to deploy medical teams and ambulances to handle

emergencies and directed Transport Department to ensure smooth public transportation and reducing traffic congestion by managing unnecessary parking.

The DC further urged the Rural Development Department (RDD) to oversee cleanliness efforts at religious places on Eid-ul-Fitr.

Among others the meeting was attended by ADC, Zaffar Husson Shawl; ACD, Irfan Bahadur, District Officers of various Departments, Representatives of traders federation, Waqf board and other concerned.

## DC Srinagar reviews arrangements for celebration of Navratri festival

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MARCH 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting here to review the arrangements for celebrations of upcoming festival of Navratri (Nowreh) in the district.

During the meeting, DC took a detailed review of the arrangements to be put in place for smooth celebrations of the Navratri, the festival celebrated on New Year as per Hindu calendar to be celebrated with traditional enthusiasm and religious fervour on 30th March and 5th & 6th April respectively in the district.

At the outset, the DC directed all the line departments to make elaborate measures for the smooth



celebrations of the festival and ensure all basic arrangements are put in place for the devotees well in advance.

On the occasion, the DC passed directions to the

concerned Departments to ensure better facilities including adequate transport and parking facilities, sanitation and cleaning measures at Shankar Achariya Temple, Sharika Devi

Temple, Durga Nag temple, Zeathyar Temple, Purishyar Temple and other major temples in the City.

Besides Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Dr Khalid Hussain Malik and Syed Ahmad Kataria; RTO, Kashmir, Qazi Irfan and Superintendent of Police, Umer Shah the meeting was attended by senior Officers of Revenue, PDD, SMC, PHE, Health Services, Fire & Emergency Services and other concerned Officers.

The representatives of Shankar Achariya Temple, Sharika Devi Temple, Durga Nag temple, Zeathyar Temple, Purishyar Temple also participated in the meeting and discussed the arrangements to be made on the occasion.

## DIC Shopian organises Awareness camp/ Workshop on PM Vishwakarma Scheme

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MARCH 24: An awareness camp cum workshop regarding implementation of PM Vishwakarma scheme, onboarding of trades on e-commerce platforms was organised by District Industries Centre (DIC) Shopian in coordination with state level project implementation unit in the conference hall of Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

The event was attended by General Manager DIC Shopian, Principal Govt Polytechnic College Shopian, Superintendent ITI Shopian and private training partners of the district. Moreover, a large number of Vishwakarmas participated in the event.

In his address, General Manager DIC Shopian elaborated the key aspects of the scheme and highlighted the need of organising such camps from time to time.

The experts from SL-PIU informed the participants about the possible opportunities presently available in the e-marketing space like the GEM portal, Flipkart, Amazon etc.

The benefits of e-marketing were



also explained on the occasion. The Vishwakarmas were also informed regarding local developed e-commerce portals like KACI and Help Rush etc.

Later, a Q&A session followed wherein the participants made queries and sought suggestions from the experts. The experts ascertained that all the queries will be addressed promptly and the suggestions will be shared with the authorities for consideration.

Among others, officers and officials of DIC were present at the event. The event was attended by General Man-

ager DIC Shopian, Principal Govt Polytechnic College Shopian, Superintendent ITI Shopian and private training partners of the district. Moreover, a large number of Vishwakarmas participated in the event.

In his address, General Manager DIC Shopian elaborated the key aspects of the scheme and highlighted the need of organising such camps from time to time.

The experts from SL-PIU informed the participants about the possible opportunities presently available in the e-marketing space like the GEM portal, Flipkart, Amazon etc.

## IUST to Host National Seminar on the Indian Knowledge System in Digital Learning

■ HT News Network

Awantipora, March 24: The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), is set to organize a Two-Day National Seminar on "Role of the Indian Knowledge System in Promoting Digital Learning and Education" on March 26-27, 2025. Sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), the seminar will bring together leading scholars, researchers, and experts to explore the relevance of India's rich knowledge traditions in shaping contemporary digital education practices.

The seminar will feature three prominent keynote speakers: Prof. Govind Singh, former Dean Academic Affairs, IIMC Delhi; Prof. Rakesh Vaid, Director, Poonch Campus, University of Jammu; and Mr. Zareef Ahmed Zareef, renowned historian and poet. Their addresses will offer insights into integrating indigenous wisdom with modern digital pedagogy, preserving cultural heritage through online platforms, and promoting inclusive digital learning. The event will also include paper presentations by researchers from various institutions, focusing on innovative strategies to blend traditional knowledge systems with emerging digital technologies. Through interactive sessions and panel discussions, the seminar aims to foster meaningful dialogue on leveraging India's intellectual heritage to enhance the accessibility, effectiveness, and inclusivity of digital education.

## IUST Hosts Seminar on Protecting Frozen Water Resources for the Future

■ HT News Network

Awantipora, March 21: The Department of Environment, Sustainability & Climate Change, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence for Glacial Studies (University of Kashmir), Indian Society of Geomatics (ISG), and the Indian Meteorological Society (IMS), successfully organized a One-Day Seminar cum Panel Discussion on "Protecting Frozen Water Resources for the Future".

The seminar featured distinguished panellists, including Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, IUST; Mr. Naseer Ahmad Kakroo, Retired Chief Engineer, UEED, J&K; Prof. Humayun Rashid, Professor of Practice, IUST; Er. Ajaz Rasool, Member, Technical Committee, J&K Wetlands Authority; Prof. A.Q. Dar, Head, Water Resources Centre, NIT Srinagar; Dr. Majid Farooq, Scientist, Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, J&K; Dr. Sumira Nazir Zaz, Coordinator.

## Stray Dogs Kill 40 Sheep, Injure Several in Kralgund Villages

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

Handwara, Mar, 24: A surge in stray dog attacks has caused panic among livestock owners in Gundkamal-Rangpath and neighboring villages of Kralgund in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Over the past three months, at least 40 sheep have been killed, and several other livestock injured, triggering concerns among locals.

According to residents, the attacks began on January 1 in Gujjarnor village, where two sheep belonging to Mohd Rafiq Cheche and Shams-ud-Din were killed. Subsequent incidents saw multiple livestock losses, including:

January 20: Four sheep killed, three injured (Gh Hassan Cheche). February 12: Two sheep injured (Rayees Ahmad



Khan). February 20: Four sheep injured (Jahangir Ahmad Malla, Pakribal). March 17: Four sheep injured (Ab Raheem Khan, Moshnor). March 21: Two sheep and one goat killed, three sheep injured (Mohd Shafi Cheche, Mohd Yasir). Residents report that stray dogs have been freely roaming in the

locality, creating fear, especially among children. Many villagers are now hesitant to let their livestock graze, fearing further attacks. Despite growing concerns, local authorities have yet to take concrete action. A police official confirmed the incidents, stating that officers visited the affected areas to assess the situation. However, the Tehsildar of the region mentioned that no formal complaints had been received so far but assured that necessary steps would be taken once the revenue department conducts a ground review. The villagers have urged authorities, particularly the Animal Husbandry Department and Municipal bodies, to intervene immediately and address the stray dog menace before the situation worsens.

## World TB Day observed at Pulwama

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, MARCH 24: An awareness programme was organised today at the Circuit House Pulwama to mark the occasion of World Tuberculosis (TB) Day.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Ruquaya Rasool Kapta, District Tuberculosis Officer Pulwama, emphasized the concerted efforts made towards TB elimination.

She highlighted that the roadmap for achieving TB-free status has been drafted in 2014 and since then, relentless efforts by the DTO Pulwama and Shopian have led to the reduction of mortality rate to less than 4% and drug defaulter rate to less than 2%, while treatment success rate has reached almost 90%. Additionally, she underscored the special focus given to TB patients from the private sector, ensuring comprehensive follow-up for up to two years post-treatment.

As part of the awareness drive, banners were displayed and informative posters and pamphlets were

distributed to educate the public about TB prevention, treatment and elimination strategies.

During the event, silver and bronze statues of Mahatma Gandhi, along with certificates, were awarded to TB Mukht Panchayats, guests and speakers who played a pivotal role in TB awareness and control.

The programme saw the participation of Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Pulwama, Gul Afsha Nighat; alongside Chief Medical Officer Pulwama, Dr. Tehmeena and participants. Additionally Deputy CMO Pulwama; District Immunization Officer; Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Pulwama; District Health Officer Pulwama; Block Medical Officer Pulwama, Pampore, Rajpora & Tral also attended. Besides officials from the Rural Development Department, health staff under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) and students from SkyLark Paramedical Institute Pulwama were also present.

## Renowned Teacher Mohammad Abdullah Khan Passes Away, Thousands Mourn His Demise

■ HT News Network

SHANDWARA :In a heart-wrenching loss to the teaching fraternity and society at large, Mohammad Abdullah Khan, a young and dedicated teacher posted at Government Girls Upper Primary School Kukroosa, passed away, leaving thousands in grief. His untimely demise has created a deep void in the education sector, particularly among his students and colleagues who remember him as a passionate and inspiring mentor. Known for his amiable personality, commitment to education, and selfless service, Khan was a beloved figure in his community. His kindness, humility, and dedication earned him respect and admiration from students, colleagues, and the local population alike. A sea of mourners gathered



at his ancestral village Kukroosa, Handwara, to pay their last respects. The funeral ceremony (Nimaz-e-Janaza) witnessed an unprecedented gathering, reflecting the deep impact he had on the lives of those around him. People from different walks of life, including fellow teachers, students, parents, and community members, attended the solemn



occasion to offer prayers and bid farewell to the departed soul. The Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum and other education stakeholders expressed their profound grief over the loss. Leaders from various social and educational organizations lauded Khan's contributions to the field of education, emphasizing that his legacy will continue to inspire

generations. "We have lost a dedicated teacher, a compassionate human being, and a role model for students. His contribution to the education sector and his love for his students will always be remembered," said one of his colleagues. His students, devastated by the news, shared emotional tributes, recalling his encouraging words, guidance, and unwavering support in their academic journeys. "Sir was not just a teacher to us; he was a mentor, a guide, and a fatherly figure who always motivated us to excel," said one of his pupils. As the region mourns the loss of a teacher, prayers pour in for his departed soul, with the hope that his family finds the strength to bear this irreparable loss. His passing serves as a stark reminder of the invaluable role educators play in shaping society.





## Drug Peddler Arrested in Handwara; 9.14 Grams of Brown Sugar Seized

■ DR.AB QAYOOM



Handwara, Mar, 24: In a significant crackdown on drug trafficking, Handwara Police arrested a drug peddler and seized a contraband substance from his possession. The action comes as part of the police's intensified efforts to combat the drug menace in the region. During a routine Naka on GMC Handwara Road, a team from Police Station Handwara, led by Station House Officer (SHO) Wahid Bhat, son of Ab Khaliq Bhat, a resident of Turkpora Zachaldara. Upon conducting a search, officers recovered 9.14 grams of a brown sugar-like substance from him. Following the recovery, the accused was immediately taken into custody, and a case was registered under the relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act at Handwara Police Station. Authorities have launched an investigation to trace potential links and uncover any larger drug networks associated with the accused. Law enforcement agencies continue to emphasize the importance of community cooperation in tackling the drug problem. The police have urged citizens to stay vigilant and report any drug-related activities by contacting the nearest police station or dialing 112.

A police spokesperson reiterated the department's firm stance against narcotics and reaffirmed their commitment to strict action against individuals involved in drug trafficking. "We remain dedicated to eradicating the drug menace from our society. Public cooperation is essential in this fight," the spokesperson stated. The latest arrest serves as a strong warning to those engaged in illegal drug activities that law enforcement agencies remain vigilant and committed to bringing offenders to justice.

## Ramban Admin organises workshop on 'IEC Campaign against drug abuse'

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, MARCH 24: To formulate a strategy to combat drug abuse, the District Administration Ramban, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, today organized a one-day workshop-cum-training session at Maitra for identified Panchayat-wise resource persons to prepare them for conducting an Awareness Drive-cum-IEC Campaign under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan. Deputy Commissioner Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary, presided over the session, which witnessed the participation of Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) S. Harpal Singh; Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Shrinath Suman; Chief Education Officer (CEO) S. Bikram Singh; Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Kamal Je Zadu; BMO Ukhral Dr. Mohd Iqbal; Tehsil Social Welfare Officer (TSWO) Mohd Shahbaz, along with stakeholders from the Health, Education, Police, Rural Development, Social Welfare, and Excise Departments, as well as members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for a collaborative approach to tackle drug abuse, urging all stakeholders, including teachers, parents, religious leaders, and the media, to contribute to this noble cause. He directed the ACD to identify trained staff across departments for active participation in the campaign and stressed the importance of parental vigilance, particularly by female family members, in keeping teenagers away from substance abuse. Highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a drug-free India.

# Udhampur Admin reviews arrangements upcoming festivals

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, MARCH 24: To discuss the arrangements for upcoming festivals, the Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today convened a meeting with officers and prominent citizens of the District here at Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Amod Ashok Nagpure; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh; PO Poshan, Subash Dogra; GM DIC, Kishore Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Umesh Shan and district heads of other departments attended the meeting.

Threadbare discussions were held on various arrangements related to security, safe drinking water, power supply, first-aid, sanitation, checking of rates, fire tenders, maintenance of internal roads, repair of street lights, Deployment of police personnel, Traffic congestion in the town etc discussed in detail.

Necessary directions were issued to



district heads to ensure fool-proof arrangements pertaining to their respective department during the festival. The DC stressed upon the Police Department to make sufficient security arrangements to avoid any

untoward incident during the festive season. The CMO was asked to deploy a health team along with an ambulance for providing necessary health facilities. Executive Engineer PHE was asked to ensure regular

supply of drinking water besides Executive Engineer PDD was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the festival.

Stressing on maintaining cleanliness in the town, the DC directed the CEO MC to take necessary steps in this regard and also sought the cooperation of prominent citizens in keeping the town clean. Keeping in view the festive season, a committee comprising Tehsildar, Assistant Director FCS & CA, CEO Municipality and Food Safety Officer was constituted to conduct market inspection to keep check on overcharging by the shopkeepers.

General public was advised not to park their vehicles on the road side. Meanwhile, the shopkeepers were also asked to display the rate list of all the essential commodities for the information of the general public.

Further, the Traffic department was directed to deploy an adequate number of traffic personnel at traffic jam prone areas to avoid any traffic congestion during the festival.

## 21 day residential training for Yuva Aapda Mitra volunteers as "Master Trainers" concludes

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 24: The 21 day residential training programme for Yuva Aapda Mitra volunteers as "Master Trainers" (TOT) concluded here today at CTI, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu. Nearly, 92 male and female trainees from Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Chandigarh participated in the training course.

Principal Secretary, Home Department, Chandraker Bharti was the chief guest at the valedictory ceremony of the programme.

The Principal Secretary lauded the role of these young trainees for their voluntary services to the nation. He appreciated the services of NDRF/SDRF and other resource persons besides all the officers and officials who made this training programme successful. He also emphasised upon the trainees to impart training to other civilians of their respective areas to assist the community during any



disaster like situations by using the basic disaster techniques.

On the occasion, S.J.M Gillani, DGP/Commandant General HG/CD and SDRF, J&K, presented a brief history and achievements of the training institute. He underscored the objective of this TOT course for the Aapda Mitras, being conducted under the aegis of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), New Delhi, at 7 different locations in the country including Central Training Institute (CTI), Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

This training module has been designed in consultation with NDMA which included Basic Disaster Management, earthquake safety, cloud burst, lifting of moving patients, basic search and rescue, flood and cyclone. He asserted that services of NDRF/SDRF Instructors and resource persons of Health Department and professors from Jammu University besides J&K Police and Armed Police were utilised for smooth conduct of the training programme.

## Nasha Mukht Bharat IEC Campaign conducted in Doda, Thathri

■ HT News Network

DODA, MARCH 24: An Information, Education and Communication campaign was conducted under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan here at Community Hall Doda and Dak Bungalow Thathri.

The twin events were held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Harvin Singh and the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Tariq Qazi to raise awareness about the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of community involve-



ment in combating the menace of drugs.

A comprehensive training program was held for Panchayat-wise Resource Persons as part of the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign against drug abuse. The initiative aimed to equip resource persons with the necessary knowledge and skills to spread awareness

at the grassroots level and sensitize communities about the dangers of substance abuse.

The participants were trained on the causes, effects, and preventive measures related to drug addiction, along with strategies to engage youth, parents, and educators in the fight against this growing menace.

## DC inspects provision of civic amenities in Rajouri town ahead of festival season

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, MARCH 24: In view of the upcoming festival season, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Rajouri town to review sanitation, infrastructure, and public amenities. He assessed the cleanliness and sanitation conditions in different areas and issued necessary directions to the Executive Officer, Municipal Council.

Taking serious note of the unsafe open manholes in some parts of the town, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the concerned officers to undertake immediate corrective measures.

The issue of open waste dumping at certain locations was also addressed, with the Deputy Commissioner directing the authorities to prevent such practices and implement measures to keep the town clean.

To ease traffic congestion and enhance

parking facilities, it was decided that a dedicated two-wheeler parking slot would be established near the Jal Shakti Department's Pumping Station.

During his visit to the Power Development Department (PDD) office, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with locals, who raised concerns about inflated electricity bills. Taking note of the grievances, he directed the concerned officials to ensure fair billing practices and address public complaints in a time-bound manner.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the Vendata Ashram Bridge site and asked the concerned authorities to pool funds for expediting work on the project. Additionally, he visited the road stretch from Workshop Bridge to Mubarak Pura, where local disputes have posed challenges. He directed the Public Works Department (PWD) to resolve the matter amicably and expedite necessary interventions.

# Mission YUVA: 3-day Technical Training for SBDU, BHU members begins at Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 24: The Labour and Employment Department of Jammu and Kashmir today launched a three-day technical training program for Small Business Development Units (SBDU) and Business Help Desk Units (BHU) in the Jammu division here at Udyog Bhawan. Administrative Secretary Labour and Employment department Rajeev Ranjan was the chief guest at the program. In his keynote address, he emphasized the role of SBDUs and BHDs, motivating them to have a positive approach to deliver maximum results

in Mission YUVA. This training program aims to enhance the capabilities of business development units, providing valuable insights into the government's mission of fostering entrepreneurship across the region. A total of 266 participants from SBDU and BHU units at the district and sub-division level are attending the program. Director Employment and Mission Director for Mission Yuva, Shahzad Alam in his inaugural speech, emphasized the importance of understanding the government's goals in launching the scheme. He encouraged participants to make the most of the training to bring these goals to fruition. Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Mission Youth/YUVA Dr



Murtaza Rashid gave a detailed overview of the program emphasizing on the four strategic pillars, vision and outcomes of the program through four interventions of Ecosystem creation, capital, capacity building and connectivity.

Mission Yuva is a flagship program of the Jammu and Kashmir government, designed to create 137,000 entrepreneurial units, generating employment for 4,25,000 individuals across the region over the period of 5 years. The program envisions establishing Jammu & Kashmir as a thriving hub of enterprises and holistic employment by fostering entrepreneurship culture and unlocking its inherent potential. The training pro-

gram includes an in-depth overview of Mission Yuva Scheme. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the scheme's objectives, benefits, and implementation strategies. - Yuva Portal and App Guidance: Experts will provide hands-on training on using the Yuva portal and app, ensuring participants can effectively utilize these tools. - Preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPR): Participants will learn the essential skills required to prepare DPRs, a critical component of the Mission Yuva initiative. Credit Facilitation: Sessions will focus on credit facilitation, enabling participants to understand the process of accessing credit for entrepreneurial ventures.







# Bhaderwah admin reviews arrangements ahead of festival season

HT News Network

BHADERWAH, MARCH 24: The local administration in Bhaderwah has geared up for seamless arrangements for the upcoming festival season.

With several major festivals approaching, including the Eid-ul-fitre, Navaratri and Baisakhi, the administration is on the job to take all measures to meet public expectations.

In this regard, Additional District Development Commissioner Sunil Kumar conducted a comprehensive review of the arrangements for the upcoming festival season, ensuring smooth operations and safety for the locals and visitors alike. The review meeting focused on key aspects including security, traffic management, healthcare facilities, and waste management.

The meeting was attended by Tehsildars from Bhaderwah and Bhalla, local SDPO, Executive Officer MC, Block Medical Offi-



cer and officials from functionaries from Power, Jal Shakti, MVD, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affair, fire and emergency department, representatives of

religious organizations and traders unions.

The meeting reviewed the availability of essential commodities, especially mutton,

Chicken, Vegetables and milk and the mechanism in place for regulation of market prices, quality of food, hygiene besides checking overpricing and hoarding. The officers of all departments were asked to work in a synergized manner so that the people do not face any inconvenience during the Festivals.

The ADC directed the PDD and PHE to ensure that the consumers get adequate power and potable water supply during the festivals in all mosques and at all temples particularly at Mata Chandi Temple, the main venue of Navratra. He also directed them to repair all defunct street lights, damaged poles, transformers and water pipes and gravity lines to ensure smooth supply.

The FCS&CA department was asked to keep available essential commodities and effectively monitor the ration distribution mechanism in the Sub District to ensure that the quota of the same reaches to the people well in time.

## NoKs of accident victims provided compensation

HT News Network



KISHTWAR, MARCH 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today gave away cheques to the next of the kin of the road accident victims here under the J&K Road Accident Victim Fund. Cheques worth Rs. 1 lakh each was given away to the legal heirs of eight deceased victims of road accidents.

The government's Road Accident Victim Fund initiative aims to extend support to those affected by such tragic incidents and underscores its ongoing commitment to assist the bereaved families.

## Awareness camp organised for artisans at Atholi Padder

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MARCH 24: The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, organized an awareness camp for weavers and artisans here at Atholi Padder. The event aimed to educate artisans and weavers about various departmental schemes and encourage them to register with the department to avail benefits. The program was attended by more than 100 artisans of Padder areas, besides officials from the Handicrafts Department. DDC Hari Krishan, Social Activist Veena Parihar, and Jagdish Ji encouraged artisans and weavers to take advantage of departmental schemes. Assistant Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kishtwar, Pardeep Shan informed participants about various schemes, including Credit Card Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Weavers Mudra Yojna, Financial Support Scheme, Karkhandar Scheme, Education Scholarship Scheme etc.

He also urged artisans and weavers to register with the department to avail benefits, including the formation of Pehchan Card to access Development Commissioner Handicrafts and Handloom, GOI schemes. During the event, registration certificates of two Handicrafts industrial Cooperative Societies were distributed, and pamphlets covering departmental schemes were shared among participants.

## Poster Making Competition on World Water Day held at GCW Parade

HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 24: The Science Club of Government College for Women Parade, under the patronage of Principal Dr Ravender Kumar Tickoo and guidance of Prof. Anjali Abrol (Convener, Science Club) today celebrated World Water Day by organizing Poster Making Competition and Power Point Competition on the theme "Glacier Preservation".

The purpose of organizing the event was to highlight the steps required to preserve the Glaciers and to educate the students about the importance of Glacier Preservation for our future generations. Students from various Major subjects and semesters took part in the Poster Making Competition.

The Judges of the event were Dr. Balbir Singh (HOD, Physics), Prof. Anita Sharma (Associate Professor, Mathematics) and Dr Shally Chadha (Associate Professor, Chemistry).

The first prize was bagged by Deepankshi, second prize by Amrita Sharma and third prize by Saliha Sultan in Poster Making Competition. Sonal Devi, Kanvi Hans and Amrita Sharma gave Power Point Presentation and all the participants of this category were then appreciated with the trophies. The event concluded with vote of thanks by Prof. Bha-wandeep Kour. Dr Usha Bhagat, Dr Neha Gupta, Dr Manjulla Gupta, Dr Sushma Sharma and Dr Atiya Syed organized the event.

## Mission Shakti SANKALP HEW Jammu hosts awareness event on Menstrual Hygiene

HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 24: Mission Shakti SANKALP HEW Jammu (Social Welfare Department) on Monday organised an awareness session on Menstrual hygiene here at Hindustan Pencil Pvt Limited Factory Talab Tillo.

The officials of Mission Shakti educated Factory's female workers about menstruation and its biological significance, importance of safe and hygienic practices.

They addressed the myths and misconceptions, encouraged confidence and open discussions on menstrual health. The target audience was female factory workers. Officials also explained the menstrual cycle in simple terms, the role of hormones and why periods happen.

Stressing on hygiene & Safe Practices, the team highlighted the importance of using clean sanitary products (pads, menstrual cups, cloth pads), way to change and dispose of sanitary products properly, preventing infections through proper cleaning and drying of reusable cloth pads etc. Further, the Officials of Mission Shakti also distributed Sanitary Napkins among the workers and made female workers aware about the ways of water conservation. Stressing on hygiene & Safe Practices, the team highlighted the importance of using clean sanitary products (pads, menstrual cups, cloth pads), way to change and dispose of sanitary products properly, preventing infections through proper cleaning and drying of reusable cloth pads etc.

## District level Healthy Baby competition held at Udhampur

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, MARCH 24: To raise awareness about child health and nutrition, a District-Level Healthy Baby Competition was held here today.

Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai was the chief guest and inaugurated the event in the presence of District Programme Officer Poshan Subhash Chander Dogra; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anil Manhas, Chief Education Officer, CDPOs, officials from ICDS, parents and other dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering, the DC commended the efforts of the Poshan Department in organizing the competition and emphasized the importance of early childhood nutrition. She urged mothers to prioritize breastfeeding and balanced diets for their children. The DC stressed the need for community-wide awareness to ensure proper child nutrition, fostering a healthier future generation. She highlighted that the primary objective of the competition was to



promote the health and well-being of newborns and ensure adequate care for mothers.

Earlier, PO Poshan briefed the DC on various initiatives undertaken in the district in implementing the Poshan Abhiyan. He stated that the Healthy Baby Competition aimed to educate parents on early childhood care, proper nutrition and best parenting practices. The healthy baby competitions were organised throughout the District starting from

panchayat level, sector level, project level and finally culminating at District level. This event encouraged mothers to adopt healthy habits for their children's holistic development and well-being.

During the event, several activities such as frog jump, singing, reciting of the poems and dancing competitions were organized for the children.

Later, the DC presented gifts to all the children participants on the occasion.

## World TB Day :DC felicitates 14 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs for declaring facilities as TB-Free Zones

HT News Network

KATHUA, MARCH 24: To mark World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, a series of awareness and recognition programs were organized by the District Tuberculosis Centre Kathua today. The event underscored the collective commitment of healthcare authorities and the community towards the fight against tuberculosis.

A felicitation ceremony was held here at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, where the In-charges of 14 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs were recognized for declaring their facilities as TB-Free Zones. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas emphasized the need for sustained efforts to ensure a TB-free Kathua and urged the community to actively participate in the mission.

Earlier, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vijay Raina flagged off an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) awareness van



for public announcements across Kathua city.

The initiative aims to spread awareness about TB and promote health-seeking behavior among the public.

Dr. Raina was joined by District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Radha Krishan and Block Medical Officer Parole, Dr. Vivek Mangotra. The staff of the District Tuberculosis Centre and CMO Office was also present.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Raina commended the relentless efforts of healthcare teams in identifying and treating TB

patients in the district. He highlighted that 760 TB patients have been diagnosed and treated in the past year. Under the ongoing 100 Days TB Elimination Campaign, which commenced on December 7, 2024, a total of 298 cases have been detected so far. The campaign has also resulted in extensive diagnostic efforts, with 4,280 tests conducted, including 1,210 multiparty tests and 4,110 X-ray examinations. The event concluded with a pledge to intensify efforts toward TB elimination, aligning with the national goal of a TB-free India.

## DC reviews progress of Border Area Development Plan in Poonch District

HT News Network

POONCH, MARCH 24: District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal today convened a meeting to review physical and financial progress achieved in the execution of the Border Area Development Programme (BAPD) in the district.

The meeting brought together officers from stakeholder departments providing a brief on the current status of expenditure, highlighting both completed and pending projects. The DDC emphasized the necessity for timely completion of ongoing initiatives.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner sought updates on the physical status of ongoing projects and requested information regarding the number of completed schemes. This proactive approach aims to enhance the development efforts in the border areas and ensure that the intended benefits reach the local communities.

The meeting saw participation from the Chief Planning Officer, SE PWD (R&B) and Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, who joined virtually to provide insights on roads and other projects within their respective divisions.



# World Tuberculosis Day 2025 observed at Kishtwar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MARCH 24: The Department of Health Kishtwar today marked World Tuberculosis Day 2025 with a significant event held in the District Tuberculosis Centre.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan was the Chief Guest. In a gesture of support, the DC distributed 12 TB care kits

among TB patients. This year's theme for World TB Day-2025 "Yes - We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver," offers an opportunity to reflect on ongoing efforts and encourage a stronger commitment at local, national, and international levels to end TB, including combating the growing threat of drug-resistant TB.

During the event, four distinguished speakers from the ANM School Kishtwar shared their valuable insights on the current state



of tuberculosis in the region, preventive measures, and the critical need for early detection and treatment. Additionally, the event saw the vaccination of 22 jail prisoners with the adult BCG vaccine, furthering the Health Department's commitment to tackling TB in all sections of society. As part of ongoing efforts, a comprehensive TB screening initiative is being rolled out across Kishtwar. A total of 70 Panchayats out of 136 total Panchayats

in the district have been recommended for TB-Free Panchayat status to the Central TB Division Ministry by the Health Department of Kishtwar. In a phased approach, the remaining 66 aspirational Panchayats will undergo thorough screening and testing to ensure early detection and treatment of tuberculosis. The event was attended by CMO/DTO Dr. Rajinder Kumar, along with staff from the District Tuberculosis Centre Kishtwar.





## BJP slams Shivakumar over remarks on Constitution, DCM clarifies

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI/BENGALURU/  
KALABURAGI, MAR 24 (UNI)

The BJP on Monday launched a scathing attack on Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar over his reported remarks on constitutional changes, accusing him and the Congress of indulging in Muslim appeasement politics.

Shivakumar, however, hit back, asserting that his statement was being misquoted.

Addressing a press conference in Delhi, senior BJP leader and MP Ravi Shankar Prasad read out a statement attributed to Shivakumar on the issue of 4% Muslim reservation. "What does this mean? That the Constitution will be changed if needed? Now, he claims that he is being misquoted. Religion-based reservation is not permissible in our Constitution. Where will this Muslim appeasement politics go?" Prasad questioned.

He further alleged that



the Congress was indulging in communal politics for electoral gains. "Did Rahul Gandhi go to Kumbh? Why is he ashamed? He was seen visiting temples earlier, but now that has stopped. This is all for votes. They are losing again and again but won't stop Muslim appeasement," Prasad charged.

BJP leader Shehzad Poonawalla also lashed out at the Congress, stating that the party was a "threat to the Indian Constitution". "DK Shivakumar says that to support the illegal, unconstitutional Muslim reservation in government contracts is anti-Ambedkar and against the Constitution. Congress has always been against reser-

vation and the rights of SC/ST and OBCs," he alleged.

Responding to the criticism, Shivakumar defended his statement, claiming that it was being twisted. "I am a sensible, senior politician, more experienced than Mr Nadda. I have been in the Assembly for 36 years. I have a basic common sense. I casually remarked that many changes occur after various judgements. As per the quota for backward classes, reservation has been given. I never said that we are going to change the Constitution," he asserted in Bengaluru.

He further warned of legal action against those misquoting him. "Whatever they are quoting is wrong. They are misrepresenting it. We are a national party. It is our party that brought the Constitution to this country. I will take breach of privilege on this and fight a case," he said.

In Kalaburagi, Karnataka BJP president Vijayendra Yediyurappa also hit out at Shivakumar, stating that if he truly respected

the Constitution and Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, he would not have made such a statement. "Everyone is aware that changes were made in the past, but reservation based on religion is not allowed. It is unfortunate the way he has spoken. I urge him to go through his statement," Vijayendra said.

Meanwhile, BJP leader CR Kesavan linked the controversy to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. "Rahul Gandhi is the real voice behind DK Shivakumar's alarming anti-constitutional remark. The Congress has always tried to snatch away guarantees given to SC/ST and OBC communities to serve its communal agenda. The real threat to the Constitution is the Congress," he alleged.

The political slugfest over the remarks comes amid the larger debate on reservation policies, with both the BJP and Congress seeking to position themselves as protectors of the Constitution in the run-up to the elections.

## Changing Constitution to provide religion-based reservation cannot be tolerated : Kiren Rijiju slams Cong

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAR 24 (UNI)

Parliament Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday slammed the Congress Party over the issue of Muslim reservation in Karnataka, saying, "There can be reservation on the basis of economic and social criteria, but there cannot be reservation on the basis of religious identity and affiliation."

Kiren Rijiju's remarks came after Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivkumar on Sunday said that the Congress will "amend the Constitution" to provide reservation to Muslims and other backward class in Karnataka.

"This issue was squarely



rejected in 1947, when The Muslim League brought this matter to the Constituent Assembly. Sardar Patel and the rest of the members at that time rejected this question of reservation to Muslim because they all believed that there should be no reservation on religious basis according to the Constitution of India. So our constitution is secular" he added.

The Parliament Affairs

Minister also sought clarification from the Congress President on the matter of reservation to muslim community in Karnataka.

"Congress Party president, and he must clear the position of congress on the floor of the house whether they are going to sack the person holding constitution position or they are going to state clearly that Congress will destroy the Constitution of

India, they cannot go the both sides" he told reporters.

"We cannot take this statement lightly," the minister said, adding that the statement has not come from any ordinary party leader but from someone holding a constitutional post. Stating that it is "extremely serious", he said changing the Constitution to provide religion based reservation "cannot be tolerated".

The Karnataka State Cabinet earlier approved an amendment to the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTTP) Act, which aims to provide a four percent reservation in tenders to minority contractors.

## Dalit issues will be raised with State, Central Govts: Chennithala

### AGENCIES

THIRUVANANTHAPURM, MAR 24 (UNI)

Senior Congress leader and AICC Working Committee Member Ramesh Chennithala has said serious social issues facing by Dalit communities will be raised with the Central and State Governments.

The issues and suggestions discussed at the 'Dalit Progressive Conclave-2025' will be taken up with the State and the Central authorities to find a solution to uplift the marginalised sections in the country, Chennithala



said.

"About 25 crore Dalit people, constituting 16.6 percent of countrys population, are still marginalized."

The Conclave has been

organised by the Gandhi Gramam Foundation, which was formed in 2010 when Ramesh Chennithala was President of Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC).

Though Rs 3000 crore is earmarked for various SC/ST projects, even Rs 1500 crore is not allocated for such projects currently, showing negligence from the part of the authorities, the Conclave pointed out.

Alleging that SC/ST sections are being denied social justice in Kerala, Chennithala, who presided over the event, said Dalit communities are being further impoverished by Governments by subverting various norms of reservation guaranteed for them in the Constitution, leading to their backwardness.

## Venue of Kunal Kamra comedy show- unicontinental Studio demolished

### AGENCIES

MUMBAI, MAR 24 (UNI)

The BMC officials on Monday carried out demolition drive at unicontinental Studio in Khar area of Mumbai where comedian Kunal Kamra's show was recorded, officials arrived at the premises with hammers. The controversy erupted after Kamra called Eknath Shinde a traitor



and he also made fun of Shinde's political life with-

out taking his name. Earlier in the day, the

Mumbai police arrested 11 members of the Yuva Sena, the youth faction of Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena on Monday for vandalizing the Habitat comedy venue.

Sena workers vandalize the habitat Comedy club in Khar area where Kunal Kamra perform and made satirical remarks against deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde.

## Japan creates Joint Operations Command in Defense Ministry - Govt

### AGENCIES

TOKYO, MAR 24 (UNI)

A Joint Operations Command was created in Japan's Ministry of Defense on Monday to improve defense efficiency and flexibility and enhance cooperation with allies, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said at a press conference.

"The creation of the Joint Operations Command will make it possible to exercise unified command and control over the troops on a daily basis



and will allow for the creation of a flexible defense system that responds to changes in the situation even faster. By centralizing cooperation with the commands of allied and friendly countries in conducting operations, exchanging information, and in command and centralization, the efficiency of the unified command

will increase," Hayashi said.

Hayashi said discussions will continue to advance and enhance unified command between Japan and the United States on a daily basis and in the event of an emergency.

In July 2024, the US and Japanese defense ministers agreed to establish a working group to enhance interaction between the two countries' commands. Before that, the US said it would establish a new unified military command structure in Japan

to strenghten interaction and coordination between the US forces stationed in Japan and the Japanese Self-Defense Forces. The new structure is meant to improve coordination with the Joint Operations Command, which will combine the Self-Defense Forces' ground, maritime and air forces of 240 people.

The newly-established command will be headed by Gen. Kenichiro Nagumo, who previously was vice chief of staff for the Self-Defense Forces' Joint Staff Office.

## SC refuses to recall bail granted to Ashish Mishra in Lakhimpur Kheri Violence Case

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAR 24 (UNI)

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to recall its order granting bail to Ashish Mishra, son of former Union Minister Ajay Mishra, in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, despite allegations that witnesses were being threatened.

A Bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice N Kottiswar Singh observed that the police report did not substantiate claims that an individual close to Mishra had attempted to influence witnesses.

However, the Court

granted the affected witness the liberty to file a complaint with the local police, directing that it be considered independently. It further ordered expedited examination of crucial witnesses.

"Let the trial proceed. Since the next hearing is scheduled for April 16, the examination of eye-witnesses and crucial witnesses shall be prioritised. The schedule for the same should be placed before the Court by the next date," the Bench directed.

The Supreme Court had earlier, in November 2024, asked Mishra to respond to the allegations raised

in an application filed during his bail plea. The Superintendent of Police, Lakhimpur, was also directed to look into the matter, and the police report was submitted today.

During the hearing, Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the applicants, claimed that transcripts of conversations indicated a BJP leader trying to influence a witness, though the police stated that the identity of the person was unknown.

However, Senior Advo-



cate Siddharth Dave, representing Mishra, denied these allegations. After reviewing the report, the Court noted, "If you are aggrieved, you may move an application."

Mishra is accused of



killing four farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh, in 2021, during protests against the now-revoked farm laws. In total, eight people, including a journalist, lost their lives in the violence.

trial and granted interim bail to Mishra in January 2023, followed by regular bail in July 2024.

As per the bail conditions, Mishra is allowed to stay in either Delhi or Lucknow but can visit

Lakhimpur Kheri only for trial-related proceedings. The Court's July 22 order reiterated that he must return to Lucknow within the stipulated timeframe after each visit.

The Bench raised concerns over the long list of witnesses cited in the case, emphasizing that only vital statements should be recorded.

"Why have such a long list of witnesses? There is a new trend of listing 200-300 witnesses, but many do not stand by their original statements. The prosecution should conduct a scientific review and streamline the list," Justice

Kant remarked.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court allowed Mishra to visit Lakhimpur Kheri on April 5 for Ram Navami celebrations under strict conditions.

"The petitioner is permitted to visit Lakhimpur Kheri on April 5, celebrate Ram Navami on April 6, and return to Lucknow by 5 PM on April 7. No political worker shall participate in the celebrations," the Court ordered.

The Top said that the case will continue to remain under close judicial scrutiny, ensuring the trial progresses without undue influence.



## Residual cancer may hide behind clear scans, linked to worse outcomes: Study

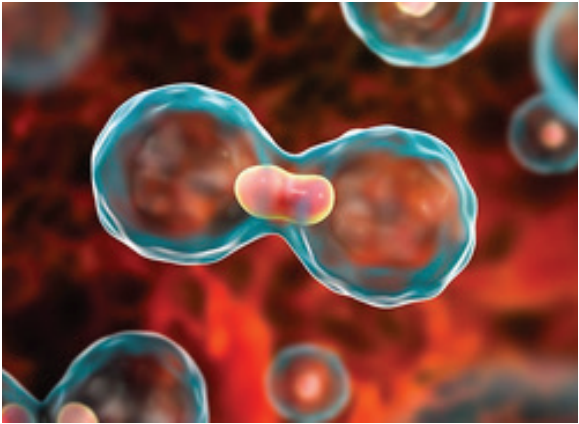
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

While radiotherapy is a highly effective cancer treatment -- useful for about 60 per cent of all cancers -- it may lead to residual cancer that has the potential to hide behind clear scans and lead to worse outcomes, according to a study.

Residual cancer is microscopic levels of cancer cells that are left behind after cancer treatments. These are often not visible on scan images, which can be misleading, argued researchers from the University of Chicago Medical Center in the US.

In an editorial, published in the journal *Oncotarget*, they said that this “residual disease” is more common than expected and is linked to worse long-term outcomes.

“Residual cancer is identified on histology in 40 per cent of the lung,



57-69 per cent of renal cell, 7.7-47.6 per cent of prostate, and 0-86.7 per cent of hepatocellular carcinoma,” Dr. Muzamil Arshad from the varsity.

The expert called “for a rethinking of how treatment success is judged and how cancer is followed up after therapy”.

Radiotherapy -- especially a form known as stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR) -- is widely used to treat cancers in the lung, liver, prostate, and

other organs.

SABR delivers high-dose radiation with outstanding precision and often shows excellent results on scans. However, the team highlights that relying only on imaging may not provide a complete picture. Months or even years later, follow-up biopsies frequently reveal cancer cells that scan imaging tests were unable to identify.

The gap between what scans show and what tissue analysis finds can

have serious consequences.

Studies across several cancer types have shown that patients with residual disease -- even if small -- are more likely to experience cancer recurrence and shorter survival. This pattern holds for rectal, cervical, prostate, and liver cancers, among others.

In some cases, not destroying the tumour completely may allow it to spread to distant organs.

“A complete response on scan imaging does not necessarily indicate the complete disappearance of the tumour. This mismatch can mislead both clinicians and patients into thinking treatment was more successful than it truly was,” said the editorial.

It encouraged more regular use of biopsy-based tests and new strategies to increase true effectiveness.

## Non-invasive bladder tests for female incontinence effective: Lancet

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Non-invasive bladder pressure tests work as effectively as invasive assessments that are often embarrassing for women with ongoing urinary incontinence, according to new research, published in the journal *The Lancet*, on Saturday.

The study led by researchers at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, suggests that women with ongoing urinary incontinence or overactive bladder, predominantly characterised by a sudden urgency to urinate, could avoid invasive bladder pressure tests.

The invasive urodynamics testing -- commonly used in clinical practice for over 40 years -- assesses how well the bladder stores and releases urine and can be an uncomfortable test for many.

The tests include filling the bladder with



water through a catheter inserted into the bladder. Another catheter is inserted into the vagina or rectum to measure the pressures inside the bladder and abdomen.

On the other hand, Comprehensive Clinical Assessment (CCA) for female incontinence can reveal equally useful information to guide treatment without the need for invasive testing, said the team.

CCA includes a detailed medical questionnaire, a thorough physical examination, a bladder diary, and a “cough test” to assess for stress incontinence.

It may also involve urinalysis and a test to mea-

sure the amount of urine left in the bladder after urination.

“Invasive urodynamics tests can be embarrassing and uncomfortable procedures. For many women who are struggling with finding a treatment that works for this type of urinary incontinence, our trial shows they no longer have to go through that experience to achieve an improvement in their symptoms and quality of life,” said lead researcher Professor Mohamed Abdel-Fattah, Director of the Aberdeen Centre for Women’s Health Research, University of Aberdeen.

To understand the effectiveness of both methods,

the team recruited 1,099 women with an overactive bladder or urinary incontinence, across 63 UK hospitals.

Participants were randomised to either undergo invasive urodynamics testing plus a CCA, or just a CCA.

The trial found no significant difference between the two forms of assessment, during the 15-24-month follow-up period. About 23.6 per cent of women reported their symptoms were ‘very much’ and ‘much’ improved in the urodynamics group versus 22.7 per cent in the CCA only group.

Women who only underwent CCA also reported earlier improvement in their symptoms. About 13 per cent of women undergoing urodynamics had their diagnosis changed to urodynamic stress incontinence and their treatment plan changed accordingly.

## High cholesterol? Study shows your office coffee brewing machine may be the culprit

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Love to sip that freshly brewed coffee at work? Beware, your coffee brewing machine at the office may raise your cholesterol levels, claims a study.

The study led by researchers from the Uppsala University and Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden found that automated coffee brewing machines in the workplace contain natural chemicals, known as diterpenes -- known to increase cholesterol.

Elevated cholesterol levels are an established risk factor for cardiovascular diseases.

In the paper, published in the journal *Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases*, the team found significantly higher levels of cafestol and kahweol in coffee examined from 14 machines in Swedish healthcare facilities.



Cafestol and kahweol are coffee-specific diterpenes -- known for their potential to increase cholesterol levels.

The diterpene concentrations in coffee from brewing machines considerably exceeded paper-filtered coffee. It is because paper filters typically trap these compounds, but metal filters found in many coffee machines allow them to pass into your cup.

The researchers examined brewing machines -- which produce coffee in 10-30 seconds by passing

hot water through ground beans and a metal filter; liquid-model machines -- which mix liquid coffee concentrate with hot water; and instant machines.

While the brewing machines showed the highest diterpene levels, the liquid-model machines generally contained much lower levels comparable to paper-filtered coffee.

For espresso, there was a considerable and unexplained variation in diterpene concentration between the four samples tested. This needs further

study but may be of importance for regular espresso consumers, said the team.

“Based on the concentrations of cafestol and kahweol in investigated machine coffees, thoroughly filtered coffee seems like the preferable choice for cardiovascular health. Accordingly, filtered coffee should be preferred, also in workplace settings,” said the researchers.

“Intake of insufficiently filtered coffee during working hours could be an overlooked factor for cardiovascular health due to its effect on plasma cholesterol concentrations,” they added.

The researchers also acknowledged major limitations such as its small sample size and lack of details regarding the designs of each coffee machine. The team also called for establishing the link with more studies.

## Scientists link type 2 diabetes with some obesity-related cancers

AGENCIES  
LONDON

A new diagnosis of type 2 diabetes (T2D) has been linked to a subsequent increase in the risk of developing some, but not all, obesity related cancers, according to new research.

Previous research has described associations between type 2 diabetes mellitus and higher risk of several obesity-related cancers.

However, it remains unclear whether these associations are causal, due to confounding (their mutual risk factor of obesity); immortal time bias (many studies combine prevalent and new-onset T2D); or time detection bias (for example, the co-diagnosis of two relatively common conditions at the same time).

In this study, to be presented at European Congress on Obesity (ECO



2025, Malaga, Spain, 11-14 May), the authors aimed to address these previous methodological flaws.

They performed a matched cohort control study within UK Biobank of new-onset T2D (defined by date of first reported non-insulin dependent diabetes) versus unexposed individuals matched (1 participant to 3 controls) on body mass index (BMI), age, and sex.

A total of 23,750 participants with T2D were

matched with 71,123 controls. Over a median follow-up time of 5 years, there were 2431 new primary cancers among T2D participants and 5184 new primary cancers among matched controls.

The data analysis showed new-onset T2D was associated with a 48 per cent increased risk of obesity related cancers in men and a 24 per cent increased risk in women -- an effect independent of BMI. However, there

were no associations with several site-specific ORCs -- notably, endometrial, and post-menopausal breast cancer in women

There were positive associations found -- new onset T2D increased the risk for bowel cancer by 27 per cent in men and 34 per cent in women; for pancreatic cancer by 74 per cent in men and a near-doubling of risk in women. For liver cancer new onset T2D was associated with a near-quadrupling of risk in men and near 5-fold increased risk in women.

“At this stage, we are unsure whether these differences in men and women are due to a sex-dependent biological pathway such as hormone levels, insulin sensitivity, body fat composition, or due to a simple difference in the number of cancers found in men and women within UK Biobank by chance,” said the study authors.

## Researchers find mechanisms that may lead to inflammatory bowel disease

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK

A team of scientists has discovered mechanisms of abnormal immune cell function that may lead to Crohn’s disease, an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

Crohn’s disease causes chronic inflammation of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, and symptoms can include abdominal pain, diarrhoea, weight loss, anaemia, and fatigue.

White blood cells in the GI tract known as intraepithelial lymphocytes express the gamma delta T cell receptor (gamma delta IELs), which prevent infection and provide surveillance for the intestinal barrier. These gamma delta IELs are often reduced in patients with active Crohn’s disease.

A research team led by Mount Sinai said their study is the first to show that gamma delta IELs are critical to maintain a balance between pro-inflam-



matory and regulatory immune responses, and these cells are impaired during the onset and progression of long-term inflammation in the lower small intestine.

“Previous studies assessing patient biopsies

revealed a decrease in gamma delta IELs in those with active IBD. However, it was unknown whether the loss of these cells was a cause or consequence of disease,” said Karen Edelblum, Associate Professor of Pathology, Molecular

and Cell-Based Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

The findings, published in *Science Immunology*, now show that gamma delta IELs are substantially decreased weeks before clinical or histological evidence of disease in a mouse model of Crohn’s disease-like ileitis.

Furthermore, “we were able to generate a timeline of events leading to the dysregulation of gamma delta IELs that mirrored findings from prior studies in patients with IBD,” Edelblum said.

The researchers said loss of gamma delta IELs could be used as a predictive biomarker for disease relapse or patient responsiveness to treatment.

Additionally, development of future therapies that boost the function of gamma delta IELs may provide a new way to maintain remission in IBD patients or prevent disease development in susceptible individuals.

## Waist circumference stronger risk marker than BMI for obesity-related cancer in men

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Waist circumference (WC) is a stronger risk marker than BMI for developing obesity-related cancers in men, but not women, says a new study.

BMI is a measure of body size, but does not provide information on fat distribution, whereas waist circumference is a proxy more closely related to abdominal adiposity.

“This distinction is crucial because visceral fat, which accumulates around the abdominal organs, is more metabolically active and has been implicated in adverse health outcomes, including insulin resistance, inflammation, and abnormal blood fat levels,” said the study conducted by Dr Ming Sun, Dr Josef Fritz and Dr Tanja Stocks.

Consequently, individuals with similar BMIs may have distinct cancer risks due to differences in fat distribution, they noted.

The study analysed data



from 339,190 individuals collected from various Swedish populations who had undergone health assessments with BMI and WC assessments from 1981-2019 (61 per cent objectively measured, 39 per cent self-reported, mean age 51.4 years). Cancer diagnoses were obtained from the Swedish Cancer Register.

The authors calculated relative risks associated with obesity-related cancers for WC and BMI, taking into account multiple factors that could influence the results, such as age, smoking habits, and sociodemographic factors including education level, income, birth country and marital status.

During a median fol-

low-up of 14 years, 18,185 established obesity-related cancers were recorded.

After accounting for BMI, high WC still remained a risk factor for obesity-related cancer in men. This suggests that the elevated risk associated with abdominal adiposity is specific, and not explained by high body size alone, as measured by BMI.

Among women, the associations were weaker and similar for both WC and BMI.

“A plausible explanation is that men are more likely to store fat viscerally, while women generally accumulate more subcutaneous and peripheral fat,” said authors in *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

Including hip circumference into risk models may provide further insights into this sex difference and enhance the association between WC and cancer, particularly for women, they added.





## BCCI announce Women's central contracts for 2024-25

### AGENCIES

MUMBAI, MAR 24 (UNI)

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday announced the retainership for the Indian Women's team for the 2024-25 season, covering the period from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025. All-format skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, alongside star batter Smriti Mandhana and stylish all-rounder Deepti Sharma have been slotted in Grade A, thanks to their consistent performances over the years.

Grade-wise Player List:

Grade A: Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma

Grade B: Renuka Singh, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh, Shafali Verma

Grade C: Yastika Bhatia, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil, Titas Sadhu, Arun-



dathi Reddy, Amanjot Kaur, Uma Chetry, Sneha Rana, Pooja Vastrakar Renuka Singh, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh and Shafali Verma have all been retained in Grade B, while Yastika Bhatia, Radha Yadav, Sneha Rana and Pooja Vastrakar join them in Grade C in the central contracts list from the 2022/23 season.

Rajeshwari Gayakwad from Grade B, alongside Meghna Singh, Devika Vaidya, Sabbineni Meghana, Anjali Sarvani and Harleen Deol who were

in Grade C missed out.

Shreyanka Patil, Titas Sadhu, Arundhati Reddy, Amanjot Kaur and Uma Chetry are the fresh new faces who made the cut in the retainership.

India will next take on Sri Lanka and South Africa in an ODI tri-nation series in Sri Lanka, set to start on 27 April.

The ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 runners-up are also gearing up for the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 which is all set to be held on home soil later in the year.

## Gill's GT eye home dominance as Iyer begins new era with PBKS

### AGENCIES

AHMEDABAD, MAR 24 (UNI)

Gujarat Titans (GT) will look to make a strong start at home under the leadership of Shubman Gill as they take on a revamped Punjab Kings (PBKS) led by Shreyas Iyer in their IPL 2025 clash at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Tuesday.

Gill, who has been instrumental in GT's recent success, will aim to establish their home ground as a fortress after a disappointing 2024 campaign that saw them finish eighth. In contrast, Iyer, fresh off leading Kolkata Knight Riders to an IPL title last year, now takes charge of Punjab Kings, hoping to change their fortunes after a decade of underwhelming performances.

Gujarat boast a for-



midable lineup with an explosive opening pair in Gill and Jos Buttler. Their middle order, comprising Sai Sudharsan, Shahrukh Khan, and Washington Sundar, will aim to provide stability, while Glenn Phillips and Rashid Khan will be crucial in the finishing role.

On the bowling front, Gujarat has bolstered its attack with Kagiso Rabada and Mohammad Siraj expected to make early inroads, while Rashid

Khan and Washington Sundar will be vital in the middle overs. Mohammad Arshad Khan and Rahul Tewatia are likely to play supporting roles.

Punjab Kings, who have consistently struggled to make an impact in the tournament, will be banking on Iyer's leadership to turn their fortunes around. PBKS will rely on Prabhsimran Singh and Vishnu Vinod to provide a solid start, while the middle order, compris-

ing Iyer, Marcus Stoinis, and Glenn Maxwell, will be expected to guide the innings. Marco Jansen, Harpreet Brar, and Yuzvendra Chahal add depth to the squad in both batting and bowling.

With the pitch at the Narendra Modi Stadium known to offer good bounce and turn, spinners are expected to play a key role. The average first-innings score at the venue is around 170, and chasing teams have historically had an advantage, winning four out of the last five matches played here.

GT will go into the match as favourites, having a stronger squad and a good record at home. However, Punjab Kings will look to upset the odds and start their campaign on a positive note.

## Shakib al Hasan betting deal stirred controversy

### AGENCIES

DHAKA, MAR 24 (UNI)

Former Bangladesh captain Shakib al Hasan stirred controversy in the country's sports arena Saturday evening after publicly announcing his affiliation with a betting company.

In his social media post, Shakib encouraged his followers to join the platform - illegal in Bangladesh - and even offered a promo code under his name for a joining bonus, according to The Dhaka Tribune report.

While the Public Gambling Act of 1867 prohibits public gambling and common casinos in Bangladesh, the rise of online gambling has created a legal gray area.

## Shafali Verma included in BCCI's annual retainers

### AGENCIES

MUMBAI, MAR 24 (UNI)

Young batswoman Shafali Verma has secured a place in the BCCI's annual retainers list for the 2024-25 season despite not having featured in the national team since October last year.

The 20-year-old has been placed in Grade B, which carries a retainer worth INR 30 lakh.

The BCCI has awarded contracts to 16 players, one short of the 17 announced in April 2023.

Notably, the board did not make the 2023-24 contract details public.

As in the previous cycle, only three players—captain Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, and Deepti Sharma—have been offered Grade A contracts, valued at INR 50 lakh each.

Among the five players placed in Grade B last year, four have retained their spots, with left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad being the only exclusion.

The Grade C category (INR 10 lakh) has seen the inclusion of five new players: off-spinning allrounder Shreyanka Patil, seamers Arundhati Reddy and Titas Sadhu, allrounder Amanjot Kaur, and wicketkeeper Uma Chetry.

Despite their prolonged



absence from the national side since the T20 World Cup last October, all-rounders Sneha Rana and Pooja Vastrakar have held on to their Grade C retainers. Vastrakar continues to recover from a back injury that ruled her out of WPL 2025, while Rana has not played for India since 2023. Wicketkeeper-batswoman Yastika Bhatia also remains in Grade C despite struggling with form and fitness.

Batswomen Harleen Deol and Pratika Rawal, along with leg-spinner Priya Mishra, are among the notable omissions. Harleen returned from a long injury layoff to register her maiden international century during the home ODI series against West Indies in January.

Pratika made a strong impression in her debut season, scoring a record 444 runs in her first six international innings, the most by any woman batswoman. Priya, who was

part of every squad since her ODI debut against New Zealand in October, emerged as one of the standout Indian players in WPL 2025.

The list, finalised by the women's senior selection panel headed by Neetu David and head coach Amol Muzumdar, covers the period from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025.

India's next assignment is an ODI tri-series in Sri Lanka featuring South Africa, scheduled for April. This will be followed by a tour of England in the summer as part of the team's FTP commitments, leading up to the 50-over World Cup, which India will host in September.

New Entrants: Shreyanka Patil, Titas Sadhu, Arundhati Reddy, Uma Chetry, Amanjot Kaur Excluded Players: Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Harleen Deol, Meghna Singh, Devika Vaidya, S Meghana, Anjali Sarvani.

## Djokovic battles past Ugo Carabelli to reach Miami last 16

### AGENCIES

FLORIDA, MAR 24 (UNI)

Novak Djokovic is through to the last 16 of the Miami Open after a 6-1 7-6 (7-1) win over a spirited Camilo Ugo Carabelli.

The Serb, seeded fourth, looked on course for a comfortable victory against the Argentine world number 65 when he

took the first set in just 34 minutes and broke early in the second, the BBC reported.

But lucky loser Ugo Carabelli began to show more resistance, breaking back immediately and forcing the tie-break.

But the 24-time Grand Slam champion showed his class and comfortably took the tie-break 7-1 to



seal victory.

The win moves Djokovic onto 411 wins in ATP Masters 1000 events, moving him ahead of Rafael Nadal and into top spot on the all-time list.

The 37-year-old, seeking a seventh Miami Open title, will play Lorenzo

Musetti in the last 16 after the Italian beat Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime 4-6 6-2 6-3.

Elsewhere, Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas, seeded ninth, is out after a 7-6 (7-4) 6-3 defeat to American 24th seed Sebastian Korda, while Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov beat Russian Karen Khachanov 6-7 (7-3) 6-4 7-5.

## Pakistan record 10th lowest total in T20I history

### AGENCIES

MOUNT MAUNGANUI, MAR 24 (UNI)

Pakistan suffered a humiliating defeat in the fourth T20I against New Zealand, getting bowled out for just 105 runs in 16.2 overs—one of their lowest-ever totals in T20I history.

Batting first at Mount Maunganui, New Zealand posted a formidable total of 220-6 in 20 overs. Tim Seifert led with 44 runs, while captain Michael

Bracewell top-scored with 46. Pakistan's bowling attack saw Haris Rauf claim three wickets, Abrar Ahmed take two, and Abbas Afridi pick up one.

Chasing the target, Pakistan's batting collapsed early, with opener Mohammad Haris scoring just 2 runs. Khushdil Shah (6), Hassan Nawaz, captain Agha Salman, Shadab Khan, and Abbas Afridi each managed only a single run before being dismissed. Abdul Samad

was the lone bright spot, scoring a fighting 44 runs, according to The Express Tribune report.

This is the second time Pakistan has been dismissed for 105 runs in a T20I, the previous instance occurring in 2018 against New Zealand at Sky Stadium. Their lowest-ever total remains 74 against Australia.

The final match of the series is scheduled for Wednesday, 26 March, before the teams shift to the ODI format.

## Tamim Iqbal suffers heart attack mid-match

### AGENCIES

DHAKA, MAR 24 (UNI)

Bangladesh cricket was left stunned as former captain Tamim Iqbal suffered a heart attack mid-match during a Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League game in Savar.

The veteran opener had to be rushed to hospital, where an emergency angioplasty was performed to clear arterial blockages.

The incident unfolded dramatically as Tamim, who was leading Mohammedan Sporting Club, fielded for just one over before experiencing chest discomfort. Match referee Debabrata Paul confirmed that he left the field and proceeded to the KPJ Specialised Hospital and Nursing Home (formerly Fazilatunnesa Hospital) for medical consultation.

Following initial medical advice, Tamim returned to the ground intending to board an air ambulance to another hospital. However, his condition worsened, forcing him to be taken back to the original hospital in critical condition. Medical examinations confirmed arterial blockages, necessitating immediate intervention.

"He was in good spirits during the toss," Montu Dutta, chief cricket coach at BKSP, told reporters. "When he felt unwell, he left the field and drove himself to the hospital. The doctors initially advised him against leaving, but he insisted and was making arrangements for an air ambulance."

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