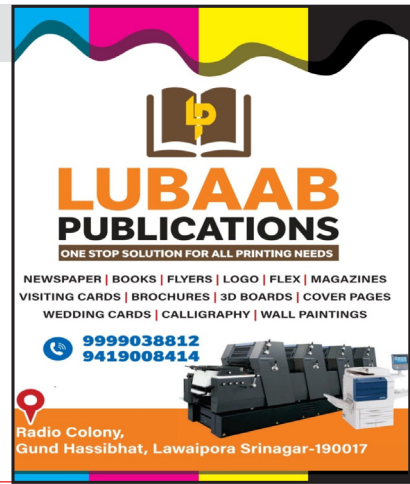


Srinagar  
Thursday  
January 08 | 2026  
18 Rajab1447 AH  
Issue No: 07  
Volume: 16  
Pages: 12  
Price: Rs 02/-

16TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION  
**HEADLINES TODAY**  
Voice To The Voiceless



## Amit Shah to Chair Key J&K Security Review in Delhi Today

Meeting to Chart Roadmap For Zero Infiltration, Intensified Counter-Terror Push as Centre Eyes 2026 As Decisive Year Against Militancy

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR, JAN 7:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a crucial high-level meeting in New Delhi on Thursday to comprehensively review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, marking the first such top-level assessment of the Union Territory in 2026. The meeting is expected to set the tone for an aggressive, coordinated security strategy aimed at completely eliminating terrorism from J&K. Officials said the meeting will be attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director Gen-



eral of Police Nalin Prabhat, senior civil and police officers of the UT, top officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, heads of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and intelligence agencies. Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and J&K Home Secretary Chandraker Bharti will also be present. According to officials, the review will focus on ensuring zero infiltration along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB), particularly during the winter months, while stepping up counter-terror operations to neutralise remaining terrorists, with special emphasis on

● Turn on Page 2

## Youth Is a Mindset, Not an Age: LG Manoj Sinha

- Flags Off J&K Contingent for National Youth Festival 2026,
- Calls J&K Youth The Driving Force For Viksit Bharat

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, JAN 07:** Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, on Wednesday virtually flagged off a 53-member Youth Contingent from the Union Territory for New Delhi to participate in the 29th National Youth Festival Viksit Bharat Young Leaders' Dialogue 2026, describing youth as a mindset driven by courage, curiosity and the power to bring about change.

The national event will be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from January 10 to 12, 2026, to mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on January 12. The National Youth Festival, organised annually to promote youth empowerment and national unity, was restructured in 2025 as Viksit Bharat Young Leaders' Dialogue in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.



The contingent, selected under the Viksit Bharat Challenge Track and Cultural/Innovation Track, will represent Jammu and Kashmir at the prestigious national platform.

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## Cyber Terror Network

### Busted in Kashmir: Police Raids 22 Locations, Detains 22 Suspects

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR, JAN 7:** In a major crackdown on cyber terror and financial crime, the Counter Intelligence wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday conducted coordinated raids across the Kashmir Valley, detaining 22 suspects in connection with a high-profile cyber terror case.

Officials said the operation targeted a sophisticated syndicate involved in the use of "mule bank accounts" to funnel illicit money generated through cyber fraud, illegal online gaming, betting rackets and other unlawful activities. Acting on specific intelligence inputs, Counter Intelligence Kashmir

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## Traffic Police outline 'sector-by-sector' plan to decongest Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

**SRINAGAR, JAN 07:** Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic City Srinagar, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, on Wednesday said the department is working with a planned strategy to streamline vehicular movement and address key bottlenecks in the city.

He said the drives are aimed at easing congestion and ensuring smooth traffic flow, with officials continuously monitoring peak-hour movement and public adherence to road rules.

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## Development Must Translate Into Jobs, Livelihoods and Visible Change on Ground: CM Omar Abdullah

Chairs Kathua District Review, Inaugurates, Lays Foundation of Projects Worth ₹11.58 crore

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**KATHUA, JAN 07:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that development initiatives must deliver tangible outcomes in the form of employment generation, strengthened livelihoods and improved public infrastructure, as he chaired a District Review Meeting of Kathua and dedicated projects worth ₹11.58

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## Cold wave to intensify in J&K as Chillai-Kalan enters peak phase

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

**SRINAGAR, JAN 07:** Cold wave conditions are set to intensify across Jammu and Kashmir from Wednesday as the 40-day harsh winter period of Chillai-Kalan enters its peak phase, the independent weather forecaster said on Wednesday.

Minimum temperatures dipped further across the Kashmir Valley, with Sonamarg recording the lowest at minus 10.1 degrees Celsius, followed by Gulmarg at minus 7.6 degrees and Pahalgam at minus 7.2 degrees Celsius. Srinagar recorded a minimum of minus 1.6 degrees, while the airport registered minus 2.2 degrees Celsius, it said.

Other places in the Valley also witnessed sub-zero

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## Drass reels under -22°C, Army's 'Jashn-E-Fateh' keeps sports spirit alive

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

**DRASS (LADAKH), JAN 07:** As intense cold tightened its grip over Ladakh, Drass—the world's second coldest inhabited place—recorded a biting minimum temperature of minus 22 degrees Celsius, freezing water

● Turn on Page 2

Budget Session:

## Law Dept Seeks Early Submission of Bills

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JAN 07:** In a significant move, the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has directed all departments to submit draft bills and other legislative proposals, intended to be introduced in the Assembly during the session and requiring legal vetting, well before the commencement of the session.

In a circular, a copy of which is in possession of the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has instructed departments to submit legislative proposals

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## Panel Flags LoP Role in PM-CM Removal Law

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI, JAN 7:** Members of a parliamentary committee on Wednesday sought to know whether the office of the Leader of Opposition, a statutory post, came within the ambit of a proposed law for the removal of the prime minister and chief ministers from their posts if they fail to get bail within a month of arrest in serious criminal matters.

The Joint Committee, chaired by BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi, which is examining The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, The Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill and The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, heard the views of Law Commission Chairman Dinesh Maheshwari and others.

Vice Chancellor of National Law University, G S Bajpai, and the Vice Chancellor of Hyderabad-based National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), Sri Krishna

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## 631 Vehicles Seized In Action Against Illegal Mining In Jammu Last Year

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, JAN 7:** Police have seized 631 vehicles involved in illegal mining and imposed fines amounting nearly Rs 1 crore last year, officials said on Wednesday.

"Jammu Police will continue its zero-tolerance policy against illegal mining and take stringent action against violators without exception," Jammu SSP Joginder Singh said.

Illegal mining, he said, leads to environmental degradation, loss to public revenue, and damage to public infrastructure.

Giving details about the crackdown against illegal mining,

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# Rana reviews functioning of Territorial Forest Department in Kashmir Division

**■ HT NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR, JAN 07:** Minister for Forest, Environment and Ecology Javed Ahmed Rana today chaired a review meeting of senior officers to assess the overall functioning and performance of the Territorial Forest Department in the Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Irfan Rasool Wani, Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir; Irfan Shah, Conservator of Forests, North Circle; Dr. Nadeem, Conservator of Forests, South Circle along with other senior officers of the department.

The Minister had a comprehensive review of key operational, developmental and service delivery aspects of the department.

Detailed discussions were held on the availability and distribution of firewood, progress of afforestation and plantation activities, timber supply under the Kashmir Notice Timber framework, implementation of



Special Area Sector Capital Investment (SASCI) projects, development of Eco Parks and Forest Huts, timber marking besides achievement of prescribed physical and financial targets.

The officers informed the Minister that the department has achieved approximately 53 per cent physical progress under the

SASCI projects. It was further stated that the remaining works under these projects, as well as other ongoing developmental initiatives, are on track and targeted for completion by March this year.

Regarding essential public services, the Minister was apprised that against the

Notice Timber mechanism, around 2 lakh cubic feet (CFT) of timber has been supplied to 2,274 beneficiaries. Additionally, both the North and South Forest Circles have successfully completed timber marking of 5 lakh CFT each, which will be extracted by the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Development Corporation.

While expressing satisfaction over the progress achieved so far, Rana issued clear directions to the officers to expedite all ongoing works and adhere strictly to the set timelines. He stressed the need for ensuring firewood availability on a demand-driven basis while maintaining smooth, transparent and efficient functioning of the Forest Department.

Emphasizing timely achievement of targets and improved service delivery, the Minister urged the officers to remain responsive to public needs. He asked them to ensure that essential forest-related services are delivered effectively, particularly during the harsh winter months.

## Deputations call on Javed Rana

**■ HT NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR, JAN 07:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today held a series of meetings with various public deputations and individuals at Srinagar, during which they apprised him of issues and grievances.

A deputation of the Jal Shakti Contractors Welfare Association, Kashmir submitted a detailed memorandum highlighting the acute financial distress being faced by contractors owing to the non-release of work-done liabilities under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The Association informed the Minister that contractors have executed works strictly in accordance with approved estimates and technical specifications, but payments have remained pending for a prolonged period, adversely impacting their financial stability and ability to continue ongoing projects.

A delegation of Range Officers Grade-II also called on the Minister and presented a comprehensive representation seeking early redressal of issues related to their promotions.



The delegation urged the Government to expedite the promotion process, citing long-standing stagnation that has affected morale, career progression, and overall efficiency within the department.

Another deputation, comprising employees working in water testing laboratories, apprised the Minister of challenges related to low remuneration and inadequate financial support for water quality monitoring activities.

They emphasized that strengthening laboratory infrastructure, providing adequate resources, and ensuring fair compensation are essential for maintaining prescribed drinking water quality standards under various water supply schemes.

Additionally, a delegation sought their re-engagement in the Sindh Forest Division, highlighting their past contributions and experience.

Besides these, several other deputations and individuals raised issues of public importance concerning development works and civic amenities in their respective areas, seeking the Minister's intervention for timely resolution.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and assured them that their genuine concerns would be examined sympathetically in consultation with the concerned departments.

He reiterated the Government's commitment to addressing public grievances and assured that appropriate steps would be taken for their redressal at the earliest.

## DC Kulgam Reviews PMFBY Progress, Stresses Maximum Enrolment of Farmers

**■ FAROOQ RATHER**

**KULGAM, JAN 07:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Shafi Khan (IAS) today chaired a review meeting at the Mini Secretariat to assess the implementation and progress of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in the district.

During the meeting, it was informed that the Agriculture Department Kulgam has so far registered 6,590 non-loanee and 733 loanee oilseed growers under PMFBY for the Rabi 2025-26 season. The total insured area in the district has reached approximately 1,018.27 hectares, reflecting a significant response from the farming community.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of maximising farmer enrolment under the crop insurance scheme, particularly encouraging coverage of all eligible and vulnerable farmers so they can receive financial protection against potential crop loss due to natural calamities and adverse weather conditions.

He directed officers of the Agriculture Department and banking institutions to step up awareness-generation activities and ensure hassle-free registra-



tion and timely completion of formalities. The DC also underscored the role of coordination between departments to enhance coverage and safeguard the livelihood of farmers.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Viqar Ahmed Gir (JKAS); Joint Director Planning, Malik Suhail; Chief Agriculture Officer Kulgam; Lead District Manager Kulgam; Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officers of Kulgam and Qaimoh; District Manager Agriculture Insurance Company, besides other concerned officers.

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana aims to provide comprehensive risk coverage to farmers against crop loss, thereby supporting agricultural sustainability and financial security in rural communities.

## KU's MMTTC begins week-long FDP on academic leadership

**■ HT NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR JAN 07:** The UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), University of Kashmir (KU), on Tuesday began a week-long Faculty Development Programme on Academic Leadership and Resource Management (Interdisciplinary) at the Main Campus.

The programme aims to strengthen leadership capacities among faculty members, enhance effective resource planning, and encourage interdisciplinary approaches to academic governance in higher education institutions.

In her message, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, highlighted the need for academic leadership that is responsive to institutional change and said, "Universities today require leaders who can combine academic vision with responsible resource management to ensure quality, equity, and sustainability in higher education."

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, highlighted the importance of continuous faculty development and remarked, "Leadership in academia must evolve with changing educational demands, and programmes like this play a vital role in preparing

faculty for administrative and academic responsibilities."

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, in his remarks, said that structured training programmes contribute to strengthening institutional efficiency and enable faculty members to engage more effectively with policy, planning, and governance processes.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Director MMTTC KU, Prof. Nazir Ahmed Nazir, noted that the programme seeks to build informed academic leaders by integrating leadership skills with effective resource management in contemporary university settings. Prof. Sabiya Mufti, Course Coordinator, presented an overview of the programme, detailing its objectives, structure, and expected learning outcomes.

The programme includes a series of expert sessions on academic leadership, institutional governance, resource management, interdisciplinary practices, and policy implementation in higher education. It is being attended by faculty members from various higher educational institutions across the country.

The proceedings of the inaugural session were conducted by Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Wani, Coordinator MMTTC KU, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. Sumeer Gul, Deputy Director MMTTC KU.



## Capacity Building Training camp Held under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao in Budgam

**■ HT NEWS NETWORK**

**BUDGAM, JAN 07:** A capacity building training programme was organised under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme at the Meeting Hall of the District Social Welfare Office (DSWO), Budgam. The programme was conducted by the SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Mission Shakti Budgam, with active participation of teachers from various educational institutions across the district.

The objective of the training was to strengthen the role of teachers as frontline stakeholders in promoting girls' education, preventing gender-based discrimination, and addressing social challenges such as child marriage, school dropouts, and gender stereotypes. Participants were sensitised about the objectives and key components of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme and their crucial role in ensuring its effective implementation at the grassroots level.

Resource persons from the SANKALP Hub deliberated on key themes including the importance of girl child education, relevant legal provisions related to child protection, early identification of vulnerable cases, counselling techniques, and effective community engagement strategies. Special emphasis was laid on creating gender-sensitive school environments and

motivating students—particularly girls—to continue their education.

The programme featured interactive sessions and discussions, enabling teachers to share field-level experiences and best practices. Participants also explored ways to conduct school-based awareness programmes, strengthen parent-teacher interactions, and enhance community outreach activities in support of BBBP objectives.

The programme concluded with a collective pledge by the participants to actively contribute towards the goals of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and to work collectively for the education, empowerment, and protection of the girl child in District Budgam.

The capacity-building initiative reflects the sustained commitment of Mission Shakti Budgam towards empowering key stakeholders and ensuring the effective implementation of women and child-centric schemes at the district level.



## Kulgam Tightens Noose on Illegal Mining: 23 Vehicles Seized, Over ₹3 Lakh Recovered in Major Enforcement Drive

**■ FAROOQ RATHER**

**KULGAM, JAN 07:** In a strong and uncompromising action against illegal mining, the District Mineral Office Kulgam has launched a massive enforcement drive across the district, resulting in the seizure of 23 vehicles involved in unlawful extraction and transportation of minerals.

During the intensified crackdown, a penalty of over Rupees 3 lakh was imposed and realised on the spot from the offenders. The action has sent a clear and stern warning to all violators that illegal mining will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

District Mineral Officer (DMO) Kulgam, Dr. Khurshid Ahmad, who supervised the operation, reaffirmed the department's commitment to safeguarding natural resources and preventing environmental degradation, while also ensuring government revenue is protected from unlawful activities.

He expressed gratitude for the continued support of the district administration and local police, whose coordinated efforts have strengthened the enforcement mechanism. The DMO Kulgam Dr. Khurshid Ahmad also appealed to the public to refrain from illegal extraction and transportation of minerals and to extend full cooperation in preserving the ecological balance of the region.

The decisive action has been widely appreciated by the general public across Kulgam, who termed the crackdown a timely and necessary step to protect natural resources and uphold the rule of law. Authorities have further cautioned that similar enforcement drives will continue in the coming days, and strict legal action will be taken against anyone found involved in illegal mining activities.



# Div Com Kashmir Inaugurates Parking Facility at Old Secretariat

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JAN 07:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today inaugurated a dedicated parking facility at the Old Secretariat, Srinagar, for the staff of various offices housed at the Amar Niwas Complex.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo and other officers including Assistant Commissioner Central, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Deputy Director Planning, and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The parking space for around 50 vehicles has been earmarked to facilitate employees of various offices including the Financial Commissioner's Office, Divisional Commissioner's Office, and Deputy Commissioner's Office.

The newly inaugurated parking facility is expected to provide significant relief to employees who



were earlier unable to park their vehicles conveniently due to space constraints.

On the occasion, the Divisional

Commissioner directed police officials to assist in the efficient utilization of the parking facility. He also instructed officials of the

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) to relocate electric poles from the parking area to ensure smooth functioning.

## DC Kupwara reviews functioning of Common Service Centres and CoE for E-Governance

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA, JAN 7:** Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today reviewed the functioning of the newly established Centre of Excellence for e-Governance at the DC Office Complex, Kupwara as well as Common service centres operating in the district.

Centre of Excellence for e-Governance has been established with the objective of providing digital services to citizens as well digital literacy.

He added that the centre will serve as a Model Common Service Centre (CSC) and citizen can avail can avail facility of guidance as well as on spot enrolment to various financial inclusion and social security schemes including Atal Pension Yojana (APY), PM-Jan Jeevan Yojana (JJY), PM-Suraksha Bima Yojana (SBY), Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi



Maandhan (PMSYM), E-Shram, PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), e-KYC, PM Kisan Maandhan Yojana, Digital Banking, Aadhar Services Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, Jeevan Praman, Digi Dost etc.

He also reviewed newly operationalised CSC touch points in the district in

terms of VLE wise transactions and registrations done regarding different schemes and other digital services provided so far.

He directed District Manager CSC as well as concerned Tehsildars/BDOs to regularly visit these centres and monitor their performance.

## DC Shopian presides over Block Diwas at Kanjiuller

Emphasises improving service delivery, transparency

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN, JAN 07:** In a significant outreach initiative, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today presided over a Block Diwas program held at Kanjiuller Shopian, aimed at strengthening grassroots governance and ensuring timely redressal of public grievances.

During the programme, a large number of people from various Panchayat halqas of the block participated in the programme.

The DC patiently heard the grievances and passed



on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for immediate redressal. Issues related to Block-level services, including, mecadamization of Narva Shali Chek Shamsipora road, dumping site for Garbage lifting, repairs of Padsoo link road, bridges, Power, agriculture inputs, JK Bank services, Jal Shakti, PHCs, Ration cards and other essential facilities were discussed in detail.

The DC emphasized coordinated efforts among departments to ensure prompt service delivery and accountability. He directed officers to dispose of pending cases within stipulated timelines, ensure field-level follow-up and maintain regular public outreach to address genuine concerns of the people. Special emphasis was laid on improving service delivery, transparency and citizen satisfaction.

ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, Exens, BDO, line department heads, BMO and other concerned were present during the Block Diwas.

# DC Srinagar reviews progress on saturation of Government flagship schemes in rural areas of District

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JAN 07:** In order to assess the progress on the saturation of various Government flagship schemes in the Rural Blocks of the district, a meeting of concerned Officers was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office.

The meeting was convened in the backdrop of month long saturation campaign launched across all rural blocks of the district to cover every eligible beneficiary under different beneficiary oriented schemes and key citizen centric programmes related to social welfare, livelihood, agriculture & farmer welfare housing, employment generation and other public welfare schemes.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner was apprised

of the block-wise achievements made under the saturation campaign in various Rural Development Blocks of Srinagar District, including Harwan, Khonmoh, Srinagar and Qamarwari. Detailed presentations highlighted efforts undertaken to ensure maximum outreach and enrolment of eligible beneficiaries under different government-sponsored schemes.

While reviewing the progress, the DC emphasized the need for intensified outreach at the grassroots level and stressed upon conducting door-to-door surveys and proactive service delivery to bridge existing gaps. He directed all Block Development Officers to work with missionary zeal and ensure that every eligible household and individual is covered under the respective welfare schemes, leaving no beneficiary behind.

The DC also underscored the



importance of strengthened coordination among line departments and block-level officers. He instructed all concerned officers to work with renewed focus, dedication, and accountability to achieve the saturation targets within the stipulated timeframe.

The DC further highlighted the commitment of the district administration towards ensuring last-mile delivery of Government initiatives so that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries in an efficient and time bound manner.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; PQ ICDS, Bureeda Majeed; Assistant Commissioner Development, Tariq Ahmad Reshi; District Social Welfare Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, all Block Development Officers, all District/Sectoral Officers, LDM(Banks), other Officers and Engineers.

## DDC Baramulla reviews progress of works under District Capex Budget 2025-26

Directs departments to expedite works, ensure timely achievement of annual targets

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA, JAN 07:** District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a review meeting at the DC Office meeting hall to assess the progress of works being executed under various components of the District Capex Budget 2025-26.

During the meeting, the DDC conducted a detailed, sector-wise assess-

ment of the progress on deliverables outlined in the 2025-26 district CAPEX budget, covering all concerned departments such as R&B, Animal Husbandry, Revenue, Education, and others.

The DDC was apprised by the department heads of the sector-wise status of allotted and tendered works, including their progress and completion across various departments.

After conducting a department-wise review of work progress, Minga Sherpa impressed upon the concerned heads to adopt all necessary measures to accelerate the pace of execution.

Meanwhile, The DDC called upon

the department heads to strengthen inter-departmental coordination to promptly address bottlenecks and issues that could hinder the smooth implementation of developmental initiatives.

The DDC further emphasized strict adherence to timelines for achieving the developmental goals of 2025-26 and stressed the need for judicious and timely utilization of funds within the current quarter.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development, Superintending Engineer R&B, Chief Education Officer, besides all officers of concerned departments.

## DC Ganderbal inaugurates TrueNat Machine under National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme at PHC Manigam

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL, JAN 07:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today inaugurated a TrueNat Machine under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) at Primary Health Centre (PHC) Manigam, marking a significant step towards strengthening tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the importance of early and accurate diagnosis in the fight against tuberculosis. He emphasized that the installation of such modern diagnostic tools will greatly support the district's efforts in achieving the national goal of TB elimination, while ensuring timely, accessible, and quality healthcare for the people.

The newly installed TrueNat machine is a four-module molecular diagnostic device capable of conducting four tests simultaneously, delivering results within two hours.

The advanced machine will not only help in confirming TB-positive cases but also play a crucial role in detecting drug-resistant tuberculosis, which earlier would take up to two months to diagnose using conventional methods.

An indigenous, battery-operated diagnostic system, the TrueNat machine is suited for uninterrupted testing even during limited power supply. Its deployment is expected to significantly reduce diagnostic delays, enabling early treatment initiation and improving patient outcomes. DC urged the officers of the Health Department to ensure optimum utilization of the machine to ensure maximum patient screening and presumptive testing.

Later, DC took a round of the Casualty, OPD, Dental section and X-ray unit of the PHC Manigam to take stock of their functioning.

He also took feedback from patients regarding the facilities available at the Primary Health Centre.

# COMMISSIONER SMC CONDUCTS FIELD INSPECTION OF MUNICIPAL ASSETS TO STRENGTHEN REVENUE BASE

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JAN 7:** In a concerted push to reinforce financial sustainability and enhance the delivery of civic services, the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, on Wednesday undertook an extensive field inspection of key municipal assets, underscoring the pivotal role of revenue generation in effective urban governance.

The Commissioner inspected municipal properties at Bagh Nand Singh and Pindchi Mandi (Tattoo Ground), accompanied by the Joint

Commissioner, Chief Revenue Officer, and other senior officers of the Corporation.

During the visit, the Commissioner reviewed the physical condition, operational status, and current utilisation of the assets under the ongoing asset mapping and monetisation programme. He assessed their scope for optimal, lawful, and transparent utilisation through policy-driven monetisation mechanisms aimed at strengthening the Corporation's revenue base.

Highlighting the direct correlation between strong municipal finances and



improved civic amenities, the Commissioner stated that sustainable revenue streams are fundamental to ensuring efficient sanitation services, upgraded urban infrastructure, and the timely delivery of

essential civic facilities. He directed the concerned officers to prepare a comprehensive and updated inventory of all municipal assets, identify underutilised properties, and initiate time-bound measures

for their effective monetisation strictly in accordance with existing rules and government policies.

The Commissioner further emphasised the importance of regular monitoring, planned maintenance, prevention of encroachments, and plugging revenue leakages as integral components of sound asset management.

Senior officers briefed him on the progress achieved under the asset mapping and monetisation drive, which is aimed at augmenting municipal revenues and strengthening citizen-centric civic services across Srinagar.

# DC Ganderbal chairs Public Outreach Programme at Kijpara, Kangan

Listens patiently to public grievances; distributes sanction & authorization letters among beneficiaries

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL, JAN 07:** In a continued effort to strengthen grassroots governance and ensure responsive administration, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a public outreach programme at Kijpara in subdivision Kangan.

The programme witnessed active participation from residents of Kijpara, Barwalla, Wusan, Wangath, Kachnambal and adjoining villages.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad, Sub-divisional Magistrate Kangan, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat/ Development, and officers from line departments were present in the program.

During the interaction, locals raised issues related to road widening and macadamization, protection bunds along the Sind embankment, power supply, healthcare and education facilities, door-to-door garbage collection, water supply, de-siltation and repairs of canals, among other civic amenities.



Officers and heads of departments responded patiently to the issues and grievances pertaining to their respective sectors and assured necessary follow up.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said that such outreach programmes provide the administration with a first-hand understanding of the problems faced

by people at the grassroots level, besides enabling feedback on developmental works already executed. He noted that the issues raised during the programme

were noted by the officers and all efforts would be made to ensure timely resolution.

The DC reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to efficient, transparent and responsive governance, and emphasized continuous public engagement for improving service delivery. He also appreciated the active participation of the public and urged them to continue cooperating with the administration for overall development of the area.

Earlier, the DC inspected various departmental stalls established by Revenue, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Social Welfare, Handicrafts & Handloom, and CSC/Khidmat Centres, among others. These stalls facilitated dissemination of information about government schemes and provided on-the-spot services to the public.

On the occasion, the DC distributed authorization and approval letters under HADP, ISDS, JKCIIP and other government schemes as well as handed over various certificates related to online Revenue services to applicants.

## District Admin Budgam holds Block Diwas at Waterhail

DC takes stock of developmental activities, stresses on prompt Public Services delivery, Drug-Free Panchayats

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, JAN 07:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, today chaired the Public Grievance Redressal Camp (Block Diwas) at Higher Secondary School Waterhail in Block Waterhail of Budgam district.

During the programme, senior citizens and other respected residents from villages Jawalapora, Sheelipora, Lasipora, Rohama and adjoining areas apprised the Deputy Commissioner of their issues and demands. The DC gave a patient hearing to the public grievances and directed the concerned departments to take up all genuine demands on priority.

Reviewing developmental activities, the DC stressed that ongoing projects, including Water Supply Schemes (WSS), shall be completed within the stipulated timeframe to ensure adequate potable water supply to the residents.

The DC informed that Rs 8 lakh has been approved for the development of a playground at G.A. Naik, Waterhail under the MGNREGA scheme.

On the occasion, he handed over the work order to the Panchayat Secretary, Waterhail, and directed for speedy execution of the work so that the playground is completed within the shortest possible time for the benefit of local youth. He emphasized that timely completion will help promote sports culture in the area.

The Power Development Department (PDD) authorities were directed to conduct a survey for improvement of electricity-related infrastructure in the area.

The Block Medical Officer (BMO) was instructed to ensure better healthcare facilities and improved service delivery for the general public.

The DC also stressed the need for road development and improved transport facilities, directing the concerned departments to expedite works. He emphasized coordination among departments and directed field functionaries to remain available on the ground for addressing public issues.

The BDO was instructed to collect door-to-door genuine public demands and submit the same to the district administration for early disposal.

Emphasizing cleanliness and sanitation, the DC urged the public to ensure a complete ban on single-use plastic, proper garbage disposal, and construction of compost pits and soakage pits for effective solid and liquid waste management.

He further directed that works related to irrigation, roads, and other sectors be executed in a time-bound manner for public convenience. The DC appealed to the locals to extend full cooperation to the administration for overall development of the area.

Speaking on youth welfare, the DC said that youth are an important component of society and Rozgar Melas play a vital role in their empowerment. He directed the concerned departments to register all unemployed youth of the area and announced that a Rozgar Mela will be conducted in the area next week.

Addressing the issue of drug abuse, the DC stressed the importance of drug-free panchayats, assured strict legal action against drug peddlers, and urged parents and community members to support the rehabilitation of drug victims at the newly established Drug De-addiction Centre, Budgam.

Among others, CPO budgam, CMO Budgam, ACD, ACP, BDO concerned, Tehsildar Budgam, Executive Engineers from various engineering wings, and other district officers and officials attended the programme.

## ARTO Bandipora conducts Road Safety Awareness Program

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA, JAN 07:** As part of the ongoing observance of National Road Safety Month 2026, the Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Bandipora, today organized a Road Safety Awareness Program aimed at promoting safe driving practices and sensitizing commercial drivers about strict adherence to traffic rules.

A large number of commercial vehicle drivers participated in the programme, during which they were briefed on the importance of following traffic signs, speed regulations, use of safety devices, and overall responsible driving behaviour as mandated under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

ARTO, Mohommad Mukhtar Sofi, stressed that commercial drivers bear a greater responsibility towards public safety due to their frequent road usage and passenger transport duties.

The resource persons also highlighted the grave consequences of drug abuse, particularly its adverse impact on driving skills, reaction time, judgment, and overall road safety.

Drivers were cautioned that operating vehicles under the influence of drugs or intoxicants endangers their own lives as well as those of passengers and other road users.

The ARTO Bandipora issued a clear warning that any commercial driver found indulging in drug abuse or driving under the influence would face strict legal action, including cancellation or disqualification of driving licences as per the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

The programme concluded with an appeal to all drivers to uphold traffic rules, refrain from substance abuse, and act as responsible road users.

## KVK Bandipora launches 7-Day Skill Development Programme on Livestock-Based Entrepreneurship

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA, JAN 07:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1, in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship and Management Development Programme (EMDP) Division, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, today launched a 7-Day Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme on Livestock-Based Entrepreneurship for Youth Empowerment.

The programme aims to nurture entrepreneurial spirit among rural youth and women by equipping them with practical skills, scientific knowledge, and business insights related to livestock-based enterprises. Participants from various villages of Bandipora district are actively participating, reflecting a growing aspiration for self-employment through livestock farming.

Head, KVK Bandipora-1, Dr. Tariq Sultan, highlighted the importance of skill-based training in empowering rural youth. He encouraged trainees to adopt modern technologies and benefit from government schemes supporting agripreneurship.

The training programme is being coordinated by Dr. Nazir Ahmad Mir, SMS (Animal Science), KVK Bandipora-1, who emphasized that livestock-based entrepreneurship offers strong opportunities for employment generation, income enhancement, and rural development.



and fodder development, animal health management, entrepreneurship development, preparation of bankable project reports, and financial linkages through lectures, demonstrations, and interactive sessions.

The programme includes expert sessions by specialists from universities and line departments, covering scientific livestock management, enterprise planning, value addition, marketing, and financial support. These sessions proved especially beneficial for rural women, enhancing their confidence and entrepreneurial skills.

The training covers dairy, sheep

and fodder development, animal health management, entrepreneurship development, preparation of bankable project reports, and financial linkages through lectures, demonstrations, and interactive sessions.

The initiative reflects KVK Bandipora-1's commitment to youth empowerment and promotion of sustainable livestock-based entrepreneurship for socio-economic upliftment of rural communities.

# DC Budgam conducts On-Spot inspection of Key Infrastructure Projects in Sub-Division Beerwah

Emphasises quality & close monitoring for timely completion of projects

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, JAN 07:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, today conducted an on-spot inspection of the progress of key infrastructure projects in Sub-Division Beerwah of Budgam district.

During the visit, the DC inspected District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) of Excellence, Beerwah, Bridge over Nallah Sukhnag at Beerwah on Magam-Beerwah Road, and Chewdara-Beerwah 3x37 metre Truss Girder Bridge.

During the inspection of the DIET of Excellence, Beerwah, being executed by the PW (R&B) Department, Kashmir Division Beerwah, at an allotted cost of 5.92 crore, the DC reviewed the status of various components of the project, including the G+2 multipurpose academic block, 50-bedded female hostel, family quarters, canteen, and male/female/CWSN toilets. He was informed that works on different components are at advanced stages.

The DC stressed upon maintaining quality standards and expediting the remaining works to ensure timely completion as per approved timelines.

Inspecting the Bridge over Nallah Sukhnag at Beerwah on Magam-Beerwah Road, being executed under NABARD-RIDF XXX in EPC mode by R&B Division Beerwah, at an allotted cost of 799.65 lakh, the DC reviewed the ongoing foundation and pier works. He emphasized that the bridge is a vital urban connectivity project, which will facilitate smooth and all-weather



movement, reduce traffic congestion within Beerwah town, and improve access for commuters and emergency services.

The DC also inspected the Chewdara-Beerwah 3x37-metre Truss Girder Bridge, being constructed under NABARD-RIDF XXIX in EPC mode at an allotted cost of 1415.08 lakh.

He was apprised that major components including abutments, piers, and concreting works have been completed, while work on approach roads is in progress.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure that the remaining works, including launching of girders, are completed within the approved timeframe.

During the inspections, the

DC emphasized strict adherence to timelines, quality control, and regular field-level monitoring.

He directed the executing agencies to deploy adequate manpower and machinery at all sites and cautioned that unwarranted delays will not be tolerated.

The DC reiterated that these projects are crucial for strengthening educational infrastructure, improving road connectivity, and ensuring overall socio-economic development of Budgam district, and assured continued monitoring by the district administration for timely completion.

Besides, CPO budgam, Executive Engineer PWD, Tehsildar Khanshaib, BDO, and other concerned officers accompanied the DC.

HT EDITORIAL

## Vagaries of Chillai Kalan missing in Kashmir

The 40 day long harshest stint of the winter season locally known as Chillai Kalan is in progress in Kashmir valley. In the past this period was marked by heavy snowfall followed by icy weather conditions. The situation has changed and the bountiful mounds of snow are not found like they used to be in the past. In the previous winter negligible snow was recorded in the Kashmir valley and the consequences of the same were found in the corresponding summer months.

As far as Srinagar district is concerned, the summer capital of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir witnessed snowfall on December 27, 2024 and after that there was no snowfall whatsoever. The far-flung areas and the higher reaches of the valley would receive snowfall on a regular basis but that was not to be in the winter season of 2024 and 2025. Scant spells of snowfall were recorded at the other places of Kashmir valley including the world famous health resorts.

Given the fact that there has been very less precipitation ever since the start of the present winter season there are chances that the weather pattern would remain the same as was seen in the last winter season. Since there was scant snowfall or precipitation last winter people living across the length and breadth of the valley faced tremendous shortage of drinking water. People carried out protests in support of their demands and at times the law enforcing agencies had to use force against the protesters.

Most people become melancholic when they talk about the winter season of the past and narrate tales of the same to their children and grand-children. The masses, especially those belonging to the older generations, are somewhat disturbed over the fact that the glory associated with the winter season, particularly Chillai Kalan, is likely to have gone forever. Over the years there has been a change in the weather pattern and climate change has had its impact on the environment of Kashmir as well.

Environmentalists have already sounded a bugle about the environmental degradation especially plundering of green gold across the Kashmir valley. Despite all this the greedy nature of the people is not keeping them back and trees continue to be cut like anything. It is important that people wake up from the slumber and stop destroying Mother Nature. Once proactive measures are taken then there are chances that lost glory can be regained.

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# Planting Trees Can Beautify the Heart of Srinagar



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Development is certain for every country. There are only a few countries in the world today that are economically sound and generate a good amount of employment through beneficial schemes. These countries have adequate sectors that offer employment with handsome earnings for their educated and skilled youth. As we know, in the future, most countries may be included in the list of developing countries.

Today, we have immense, effective, and useful communication tools, which are used for the exchange of business ideas from one corner of the world to the other. Most trade-related deals are carried out through virtual means such as emails, WhatsApp, video conferencing, etc. For the upliftment of any country, development is very crucial and plays an immense role in the economy. Development of roads, the transport sector, trade and commerce, and at the same time, management of cities while keeping environmental issues in mind are essential aspects of development.

The government has framed separate bodies that look after the management of environment-related issues in the country and issue guidelines from time to time for safeguarding the environment. Development is not only about the construction of giant tunnels, large buildings, long railway tracks, widening of roads, or construction of dams. Development is the need of the time. The development of any country requires proper planning, effective management, and coordination among different agencies, while keeping environmental concerns in mind. There is an intellectual class in the government sector that continuously addresses the grievances of the general public and ensures the availability of essential facilities.

In this article, I would like to highlight the importance of planting trees in cities and major business hubs of the district, where there is heavy movement of traffic. Day by day, our demands are increasing, and traffic flow pollutes the environment in various ways. Every factory in the manufacturing sector releases immense pollution into the air, water, and soil. Such activities cannot be stopped overnight. Therefore, the only viable option we have is to minimize environmental damage by actively participating in environmental protection measures



and addressing the threats we face today. The government administration is doing commendable work by taking cognizance of environmental issues and implementing necessary measures.

What is the environment? The environment plays a vital and significant role in our lives in many ways. Environment means our surroundings; it includes plants, water bodies, animals, birds, air, soil, and other natural elements. It is a vast and essential concept in our day-to-day life. First and foremost, we must understand the importance of the environment and its role in sustaining life. However, development in the form of roads, connectivity, bridges, buildings, railway tracks, airports, factories, industries, and hydroelectric dams is, in some ways, damaging our environment.

If we analyze how this damage occurs, one major reason is the cutting of trees during road widening and railway construction. This leads to soil erosion, which is the wearing away of the upper fertile layer of the soil. Soil erosion adversely affects soil fertility and increases the risk of flash floods, landslides, and other environmental hazards.

■ **How to Maintain Temperature in Cities**  
Cities are considered busy business hubs. They enhance the beauty and economic strength of a country, state, union territory, or district. However, the temperature in cities often rises due to the release of polluting gases from vehicles. Greenhouse gases

are responsible for the increase in temperature in areas that experience heavy vehicular movement, and cities rank at the top in this regard.

Effective city management is crucial for the administration. While planning urban development, authorities must prioritize a clean environment, protection of water bodies, improvement of air quality, and proper management of drainage systems. These aspects should be carefully considered while widening roads, installing sewage systems, and managing solid waste generated from hospitals, business establishments, and households.

Planting more and more trees can significantly help in lowering city temperatures, improving air quality, and enhancing the overall beauty of urban areas. Trees act as natural air purifiers and provide shade, thereby reducing the heat island effect in cities. In addition, eco-friendly transportation options should be promoted. The use of e-rickshaws should be enhanced, as currently there are only 314 e-rickshaws operating in the city (source: Daily Sheherbeen).

In conclusion, planting trees is one of the most effective and sustainable ways to beautify the heart of Srinagar while protecting the environment. It is a shared responsibility of the government and citizens to ensure balanced development that harmonizes economic growth with environmental preservation.

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## New Year: Not a Changing Date, But a Changing Vision is Needed



■ DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

With the New Year's arrival, a strange buzz begins in our society. The calendar changes, mobile phones are flooded with greetings, TV channels start airing "New Year Special" programs, and we all try to reassure each other that "everything will be fine this year." But, as every year, the question remains: is anything truly new, or are we simply changing the date and continuing in the same old ways? In a country like India, New Year's Day shouldn't be just a celebration, but an occasion for introspection. Because New Year's Day isn't the same for everyone. For some, it's a time of holidays, parties, and resolutions, while for others, it's the same old routine—four-a-morning naps, unfulfilled desires, and a constant stream of responsibilities. For mothers, working women, daily wage laborers, farmers, teachers, nurses, drivers—New Year's Day often becomes just another date on the calendar.

On New Year's Eve, as we celebrate with lights, fireworks, and music, a mother goes to bed early, worrying about the next day's lunch. A laborer tosses and turns, wondering if he'll find work the next morning. A farmer looks to the sky, calculating whether this year

will bring rain or debt. We often say, "New Year, new beginning." But is this new beginning possible for everyone?

As long as societal structures remain the same, mindsets the same, and inequalities persist, the New Year remains merely an emotional illusion. Real change comes when, amidst the celebratory noise, we begin to listen to the voices that are often suppressed. The New Year gains true meaning only when we acknowledge that not everyone's life is the same, and that equal opportunities are impossible without equal vision.

Most New Year's wishes are addressed to women. They are expected to smile in every situation, manage everything, and never complain. But rarely does anyone ask them if they are tired or if they need a break. A working woman's New Year often begins with old struggles. She is expected to manage the home, her job, her emotional balance, and, amidst all this, forget herself.

Society glorifies her tolerance as her strength, but avoids seeing the fatigue hidden behind that tolerance. If this New Year is to be truly new, then first and foremost, we must recognize women not as embodiments of sacrifice but as equal citizens. We must give them the right to feel tired, speak out, disagree, and even ask for time for themselves.

The New Year isn't just about personal resolutions; it's also a time for collective responsibility. We often make resolutions for ourselves—to work harder, earn more, live better lives. But we rarely make resolutions for society. Can we decide to treat household chores

as a "responsibility," not "help"? Can we think about teaching children compassion, not just competition? Will we accept that not everyone's trajectory is the same?

The family is society's first school. If there's no equality at home, how can there be equality in society? If a woman's fatigue is accepted as normal at home, then talk of her rights outside will ring hollow. If there's one true resolution we should make this New Year, it's to start change from our own homes.

For the younger generation, the New Year symbolizes dreams and hopes. New goals, new plans, and new flights. But today's youth are also surrounded by many pressures—competition, unemployment, social comparison, and the mental burden of the digital world. Every New Year, they are told to do something big, to prove something. But rarely does anyone say that it's okay to stop if they get tired, that their life doesn't end if they fail.

May this New Year reassure young people that their worth isn't solely measured by their achievements. Mental health, self-esteem, and balance are just as important as success. Society must recognize that every young person is not a machine, but a sensitive human being. On New Year's Day, governments, institutions, and the media announce new development plans. Roads, buildings, statistics, and targets—everything is touted in the name of development. But development cannot simply mean material progress. True development occurs when even the last person in society feels that they are not alone, that

their suffering matters.

Unless empathy becomes part of the language of development, the new year will simply be a list of new plans. We need to consider whether, in the pursuit of development, we are forgetting our human nature. Is there something beyond profit and gain that needs to be preserved?

The greatest meaning of the New Year is introspection. The courage to question ourselves about where we went wrong, what injustices we witnessed and what we remained silent about. This introspection must be both personal and societal. Because until we recognize our role, it is futile to expect any change. It's our responsibility to decide what the New Year will be like. If this year is limited to just good wishes, it will be like any other year. But if it can make us a little more humane, a little more responsible, and a little more just, that will be its greatest achievement.

The New Year doesn't draw a magical line that transforms everything. Change comes from within—from our thoughts, our behavior, and our small decisions. If this New Year can give us the opportunity to see, understand, and be sensitive to the suffering of others, that will be its true celebration.

Because the New Year is new only when

When the vision of society is new.

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# Sharp rise in fire incidents amid harsh winter

■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF

A massive fire that broke out in a scrap yard and an adjoining carpet godown in the Tengpora locality of Srinagar on Tuesday has once again drawn attention to the growing fire hazard confronting the Kashmir Valley this winter. The blaze erupted in a densely populated slum area where scrap material was stored for transportation to recycling factories, quickly spreading to a nearby carpet godown and sending thick plumes of smoke billowing across the neighbourhood. While no casualties were reported, the incident caused extensive damage to property and underscored the potentially catastrophic consequences of unregulated commercial activity in residential zones.

Goods worth several lakhs of rupees were destroyed in the fire. Firefighters described it as a providential escape that several fuel tankers parked on an adjacent plot of land were not engulfed by the flames, a scenario that could have triggered a far larger disaster. Dozens of fire tenders were pressed into service, and firefighting operations continued for several hours before the blaze was brought under control. The cause of the fire was yet to be ascertained.

The Tengpora incident is the latest in a worrying series of fire outbreaks reported across the Kashmir Valley during the ongoing winter season. As the region experiences prolonged cold wave conditions with sub-zero night temperatures, fire and emergency services have remained on constant alert, responding to multiple incidents almost daily. Residential areas, commercial structures and even institutional facilities have all featured among the affected sites, reflecting the breadth of the challenge.

In recent weeks, fire service records indicate a sustained surge in incidents, with several days witnessing seven to eleven separate fire calls across the Kashmir Division. Srinagar has borne a significant share of the burden, particularly its older and more congested neighbourhoods, though north and south Kashmir districts have also recorded repeated emergencies. The frequency of incidents has stretched response capabilities and exposed gaps in infrastructure and preparedness.

One of the most damaging recent residential fires occurred in the Umar Colony area of Lal Bazar in Srinagar, where a multi-storey house was completely gutted during late-night hours. Firefight-



ers managed to prevent the flames from spreading to adjoining structures, but the incident highlighted persistent challenges such as narrow access lanes, delayed response times and limited water availability. Similar conditions prevail in several parts of the city, increasing the risk of rapid fire spread.

Earlier this winter, a major blaze in the Khanyar area of Srinagar's Nowpora locality damaged multiple adjoining houses, leaving several families without shelter at the height of the cold season. Although there were no reports of casualties, the loss of household goods, winter supplies and personal belongings caused severe hardship. Recovery for affected families has been slow, underscoring the limited financial and institutional support available after such incidents.

Rural areas have also faced serious fire threats. In north Kashmir's Handwara region, a fire that broke out in a cowshed in the densely populated Chottipura Mohalla threatened nearby residential houses before being brought under control. The fire was reportedly triggered by an electrical fault near a power pole, a factor that has featured repeatedly in investigations into recent incidents. Timely intervention by locals and security personnel prevented wider damage.

Non-residential facilities have not been immune. In Srinagar, a late-night fire at Central Reserve Police Force bar-

racks and adjoining store rooms caused extensive damage to property. The incident reinforced concerns that high electrical loads and ageing infrastructure pose risks even in secured premises during winter.

The primary causes behind the surge in fire incidents remain largely consistent. The severe cold has led to heavy reliance on electric heaters, blowers, cooking stoves and electric blankets, placing unprecedented strain on household electrical systems. Fire officials say a majority of recent incidents have been linked to electrical short circuits, often originating from overloaded sockets, damaged wiring or uncertified heating appliances.

Substandard electric blankets have emerged as a major concern. Widely sold in local markets, many such products lack basic safety mechanisms such as automatic cut-off systems. Continuous overnight use, combined with outdated wiring, has turned these devices into frequent ignition sources, particularly in sleeping areas. Several recent residential fires are believed to have started in bedrooms during late-night hours.

Ageing and poorly maintained electrical infrastructure further compounds the risk. In older neighbourhoods across the Valley, wiring systems installed decades ago are ill-equipped to handle current electricity demand. The problem is exacerbated in congested localities

where houses are closely packed, increasing the likelihood that a single spark can quickly escalate into a major blaze.

Firefighting operations continue to face structural and logistical challenges. Narrow roads, encroachments and unauthorised constructions often obstruct the movement of fire tenders, forcing crews to deploy hoses over long distances or rely on portable equipment. Water scarcity in several areas further hampers efforts, prolonging response times and increasing damage.

The human and economic costs of the winter fire surge have been substantial. Families affected by residential fires frequently lose shelter, savings and essential winter supplies, leading to displacement during freezing conditions. For small traders and shop owners, fire damage can erase years of investment, with limited insurance coverage available to absorb the losses.

Beyond material damage, the psychological impact has been profound. The repeated occurrence of fires has heightened anxiety among residents, particularly in densely populated neighbourhoods where evacuation options are limited. Night-time evacuations and the fear of losing one's home have left a lasting imprint on children and elderly residents.

Authorities have repeatedly urged the public to adhere to basic fire safety measures, including regular inspection

of electrical wiring, cautious use of heating appliances and prompt reporting of fire incidents. Fire and emergency officials have stressed the importance of switching off heaters and electric blankets when not in use and avoiding the use of multiple high-load devices on a single connection.

However, experts argue that advisories alone are insufficient. Preventive measures need to be institutionalised through routine electrical safety audits, stricter enforcement against the sale of unsafe heating devices and stronger action against commercial operations functioning illegally in residential areas. The Tengpora fire has once again highlighted the risks posed by such violations.

Urban planning and infrastructure upgrades are equally critical. Improved enforcement of building codes, creation of designated emergency access routes, installation of functional fire hydrants and expansion of fire service infrastructure could significantly enhance response capacity. In rural areas, better access to water sources and basic firefighting equipment could help contain fires in their early stages.

Community participation has played an important role in limiting damage in several recent incidents, with neighbours and volunteers assisting firefighters and helping evacuate affected families. While this reflects social resilience, it also points to gaps in formal emergency preparedness that require urgent policy attention.

As the Valley continues to endure extreme winter conditions, the current scenario suggests that the risk of fire incidents remains high. Electricity demand shows no sign of easing, and ageing infrastructure remains under constant strain. Without coordinated preventive action, the pattern of winter fires risks becoming a recurring seasonal crisis.

The ongoing surge in fire incidents serves as a stark reminder that fire safety is not merely an emergency response issue but a broader challenge linked to urban planning, regulation and public awareness. Addressing it will require sustained investment, effective governance and collective responsibility. As Kashmir navigates another harsh winter, reducing the toll of fire-related disasters must become an urgent and shared priority.

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## Teachers: The unsung sculptors shaping our society



■ DR VIJAY GARG

As the New Year tiptoes in with its ritualistic optimism, glittering resolutions and recycled affirmations about growth and transformation, it is an opportune moment to acknowledge a profession that has been transforming society long before hashtags made it fashionable. Teachers are, after all, the sculptors of society — though not the romanticised kind chiselling masterpieces in sunlit studios. Their workshop is a crowded classroom, their tools are patience and persistence, and their raw material is a volatile mix of curiosity, confusion, defiance, brilliance and inherited prejudice. They are expected to mould the future while standing knee-deep in systemic contradictions, armed with idealism but short on institutional backing.

It is universally agreed, at least in theory, that teachers shape the destiny of nations. This belief is proclaimed in speeches, policy documents and ceremonial celebrations. Yet, once the applause fades, the same society turns

conveniently forgetful. Teachers are instructed to inspire innovation but discouraged from questioning outdated curricula. They are urged to cultivate critical thinking but warned against unsettling established narratives. They are told to personalise learning while being handed overcrowded classrooms and rigid timelines. Apparently, sculpting excellence is easy — as long as it fits neatly into predefined moulds.

Modern teachers are also expected to be marvels of multitasking efficiency. They must alternate between educator, counsellor, administrator, technologist, motivator, evaluator and, occasionally, crisis manager. They are expected to nurture emotional intelligence while navigating their own burn-out in silence. When a child falters, teaching methods are interrogated. When a child excels, credit is distributed among parenting styles, private tutoring and inspirational influencers. Teachers, it seems, are valued as background characters in success stories and foreground suspects in narratives of failure.

Accountability flows generously in one direction. Teachers are observed, assessed, retrained and audited with admirable regularity. Meanwhile, systemic inefficiencies enjoy immunity from scrutiny. Policies are drafted far from classrooms; reforms are announced without groundwork, and implementation gaps are treated as

minor inconveniences. Teachers are expected to adapt overnight, smiling through workshops steeped in jargon and detached optimism. If the sculpture cracks, the sculptor is blamed — never the flawed marble or unstable pedestal.

Yet teachers persist with a stubborn commitment. They arrive each day carrying not just lesson plans, but hope. They notice the silent child shrinking into invisibility, the restless mind seeking purpose, the confident voice masking insecurity. They teach beyond academic content; they model resilience and quietly challenge inherited biases. In an age obsessed with instant gratification, teachers practise the radical act of patience.

As society enters another year of promises, it is time to reassess how we treat those entrusted with our collective future. Respect cannot remain performative and expectations cannot remain unrealistic. Teachers do not seek sainthood or sympathy; they seek trust, autonomy and systems that enable meaningful education. Ultimately, the quality of a society can often be traced back to its classrooms. When classrooms thrive, communities flourish, and nations inherit a deeper, lasting resilience for generations ahead.

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# Protect Lips in Winter



■ SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

The lips, like the eyes, add character to the face. They are the focus of attention when we speak. The lips also add balance to the face, along with other facial features like the eyes and the nose. As far as beauty is concerned, appropriate lip make-up can enhance the beauty of the face. In winter, keeping the skin of the lips soft and smooth can present a problem due to lack of moisture and the effect of lip make-up.

Nutritional deficiencies can also lead to dry, chapped lips. Sometimes, even cracks may develop. Vitamins A, C and B2 are important for the lips. So, foods like citrus fruits, ripe papaya, tomatoes, carrots, green leafy vegetables, nuts, whole-grains, oats, and milk products

daily on the lips and leave on overnight. Oils like Argan and Coconut oil also help to nourish the skin on the lips. Argon oil is actually native to Morocco, where it has been traditionally used for food purposes, as well as to treat skin and scalp problems. Today, it is being increasingly used for cosmetic purposes to make cosmetics like moisturisers, creams, lotions, face packs, hair oils, hair conditioners, etc. Argan oil is rich in unsaturated fatty acids and Vitamin E. Since it contains Vitamin E and antioxidants, it helps to delay the visible ageing sign and even rejuvenate the skin. It protects the youthful properties of the skin, like elasticity and resilience. As it is easily absorbed by the skin, it can be ideal for care of the lips. The fatty acids also nourish and soften the skin. The oil was used for medicinal purposes to cure skin problems and also heal and soothe burns. It nourishes the skin and improves skin texture. Argan oil can be used directly on the skin. Use only a few drops directly on the lips.

Coconut oil has also been valued for its nourishing and moisturizing ability. It has a great skin softening ability and



may be included in the diet. Of course, it's best to take your doctor's advice before making changes in your diet, especially if you have any medical condition. Use glossy lipsticks and lip balm. Avoid soap and powder on lips. Remove lipstick with a cleansing cream or gel. Apply almond oil or cream at night and leave on.

Taking care of the lips only helps lip make-up. As far as care is concerned, I must mention that the skin of the lips is thin and delicate. It does not contain oil glands. That is why it becomes dry and chaps easily, especially during winter. After washing the face, the lips may be rubbed gently with a soft towel to remove dead skin. Apply cream of milk (malai) daily and leave on for an hour. If the lips become dark, add a few drops of lemon juice to the cream of milk. At night, apply pure almond oil or an almond cream

helps to make the skin soft and smooth. It may be applied on the lips and is also said to protect the skin from the damage caused by exposure to ultraviolet rays of the sun. It is said to protect the skin better than cream. It also helps to heal cracks on the lips. In fact, it can be used to remove make-up from the face, including the lips. Coconut oil may be applied on the lips and left on overnight. Or, it can be left on for 15 minutes and wiped off with moist cotton wool. The advantage is that unlike other preparations that may contain synthetic ingredients, coconut oil can be safely applied on the lips and even ingested. Another advantage is that unlike other oils, coconut oil does not become rancid.

Coconut oil and Argan oil based lip balms and lip creams can also be used for the care of the lips.

# Hazards And Implications Of Tobacco; The Way Forward



■ DR. TASADUK HUSSAIN ITOO

As per recent data by WHO, across the globe around 3.5 million hectares of land are converted for tobacco production each year, besides that growing tobacco also contributes to deforestation of around 2 lakh hectares of land per year.

As per another statement from WHO, tobacco growing is resource intensive and requires heavy use of pesticides and fertilizers, which contribute to soil degradation, besides that the land used for tobacco growing has a lower capacity for growing other crops, such as any food -- since tobacco depletes soil fertility. And, compared with other agricultural activities such as maize growing and even livestock grazing -- tobacco farming has a far more destructive impact on ecosystems as tobacco farmlands are more prone to desertification.

One of the important negative impacts of tobacco growing and production is that it exacerbates food insecurity -- which is emerging as a global issue of social cum public health concern -- that needs serious attention and redressal. While food is one of the most essential requirements for the sustenance of human life, there are millions of people worldwide who couldn't afford a healthy diet and fulfill the need for regular access to nutritious food.

The developmental, economic, social, and medical impacts of the global burden of food insecurity are serious and lasting for individuals, families, communities and countries. Having said, unhealthy diets and poor nutrition are among the top risk factors for diet-related non-

communicable diseases including cardiovascular diseases, certain cancers, and diabetes.

One of the important consequences of rising food insecurity is the development of malnutrition in general and undernutrition in particular - in all its forms (including wasting, stunting, underweight, inadequacy/deficiency of vitamins and minerals).

While every country in the world is affected by one or more forms of malnutrition - the major impact is found to occur in middle and low income countries, including India. As a result, combating malnutrition in all its forms is becoming one of the serious global health challenge. Undernutrition makes children in particular much more vulnerable to disease and death.

Generally speaking, all age groups are at risk of malnutrition -- women, infants, children, and adolescents. Poverty amplifies the risk - people who are poor are more likely to be affected by different forms of malnutrition. Moreover, malnutrition increases health care costs, reduces productivity, and slows economic growth, which can accentuate a cycle of poverty and ill-health.

Secondly, the most disastrous consequences of tobacco growing and production are its associated health risks directly or indirectly. For example, the intensive handling of insecticides and toxic chemicals during the cultivation of tobacco is attributed to cause ill health among many farmers and their families.

Smoking tobacco poses multiple health risks to human body and development of multiple disease conditions, besides posing a threat to living beings around us, including the environment we live in. And smoking tobacco is the crucial cause of diseases of almost every organ system of the human body most common being lung cancers, stroke and heart diseases, including other lifestyle diseases. We could see rising incidence of such medical conditions nowadays -- one of the prominent risk factor being

smoking tobacco.

More importantly, exposure to second-hand smoke raises the risk -- by as much as 30 percent -- that others will get lung cancer and many other types of cancer, besides pose a risk for development of heart diseases. Moreover, chewing tobacco use is also a risk factor for the development of oral cancers, gum disease, tooth decay and tooth loss, and have possible links to other cancers as well.

To address the problem, the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control offers specific principles and policy options on the promotion of economically viable alternatives for tobacco workers, growers and individual sellers -- to move into the production of alternative sustainable food crops, and on enhancing protection of the environment and the health of people.

Moreover, the campaign focuses on to acknowledge governments and policy-makers to step up legislation, develop suitable policies and strategies, and enable market conditions for tobacco farmers to shift to growing sustainable food crops that would provide them and their families with a better life. And, the land used to grow tobacco could be more efficiently used to achieve United Nations Sustainable Development Goals like SDG 2 (to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) and SDG 3 (to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages).

More to say, there is a dire need to held more awareness public campaigns to sensitize the society towards the ill effects of smoking (and chewing) tobacco on human body, our environment and other living beings and to ensure the ways for its prevention.

The author is a Noted physician and columnist Fellow, Royal Society for Public Health (FRSPH, UK) drtasadukitoo@gmail.com

## Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo: An Inspiring Medico

**DR. TASADUK HUSSAIN ITOO**  
(PHYSICIAN)

MBBS, FRSPH(UK), IPFPH(RCP, UK), MRSB(UK),  
MAcadMed(UK), FIDF (BELGIUM)

MEMBER, AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS (ACP, USA)  
| ACADEMIC LIFE MEMBER, RESEARCH SOCIETY FOR  
THE STUDY OF DIABETES IN INDIA (RSSDI)

JKMC REGD. NO. 15414

Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo is a distinguished physician, medical educator, writer and public health fellow from Jammu and Kashmir, India. Internationally recognized for his contributions in health and wellness, Dr Itoo is a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health (FRSPH), United Kingdom; Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow, Belgium); Member of the Academy of Medical Educators (MAcadMed), UK, Member of the

Royal Society of Biology (MRSB, UK) and International Practitioner of the Faculty of Public Health (IPFPH, UK). He is also an active member of leading global medical organizations, including the American College of Physicians (ACP, USA) and Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI).

He has authored hundreds of health awareness articles published in reputed newspapers, magazines and journals, contributing significantly to health literacy

and preventive healthcare. His expertise spans non-communicable diseases, medical education, and community health intervention strategies.

Beyond clinical work, Dr. Itoo is known as a motivational speaker, columnist, and youth mentor. Through his impactful leadership, advocacy, and educational initiatives, he continues to inspire young medical professionals and serve communities across India and beyond.

**DR. JIBRAN BASHIR**  
Orthopedic Surgeon

MBBS, DNB ORTHOPAEDICS, D.ORTHO, MNAMS.  
FELLOWSHIP JOINT REPLACEMENT & SPORTS INJURY GERMANY  
EX CONSULTANT ORTHOPEDIC TRAUMA & ROBOTIC JOINT REPLACEMENT AIMS - FBD

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IQRA COACHING AND  
COUNSELLING INSTITUTE  
(ICCI) HANDWARA

Registered with the department of education Jammu and Kashmir Vide No.  
11-DSEK-2021 Dated:-12-01-2021  
**FACULTY POSITION AT IQRA FOR SESSION 2025-2026**

| S. No | Name                    | Qualification | Design/Subject | Experience |
|-------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------|
| 01    | Dr.Aasim Khaja          | Ph.D Physics  | Physics        | 6 years    |
| 02    | Mr.Mubashir Hassan Bhat | Msc.B.Ed      | Chemistry      | 7 years    |
| 03    | Mr.Sideeq Maqbool       | M.Phil B.Ed   | Zoology        | 8 years    |
| 04    | Mr.Farooq Ahmad Bhat    | MSc M.Ed      | Botany         | 16 years   |
| 05    | Mtr. Samreena Farooq    | MCA B.Ed      | Computer.Sc    | 7 years    |
| 06    | Mr.Akhter sofi          | M.Sc..M.Phil  | Math           | 8 years    |
| 07    | Mr.Shakir Majeed        | M.Sc          | Zoology        | 3 years    |
| 08    | Hilal Habib             | M.A           | English        | 7 years    |
| 09    | Khalid Hussain          | M.Sc          | Physics        | 2 years    |
| 10    | Shahid Ahmad Shah       | M.A           | Urdu           | 6 years    |
| 11    | Mudasir Yousuf          | M.A           | History        | 8 years    |

Guest Faculty For Counselling And Doubt Clearance

| S. No | Name                    | Parent Institution / Department | Subject   |
|-------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 01    | Mr. Rizwan Maqbool Wani | IIT Bombay                      | Chemistry |
| 02    | Ms. Zoya Zahoor         | IIT Roorkee                     | Maths     |
| 03    | Wajid Shafeeq Shah      | NIT Srinagar                    | Chemistry |
| 04    | Ovais Iqbal Shah        | IIT Jammu                       | Physics   |

Fee structure for session 2026:

The tuition fee including study material charges for the session 2026 will be as follows. However, free coaching will be given to orphan/needy students, scholarship will be provided to the toppers of talent search examination in each class conducted by the managing body.

| Class       | Tuition Fee + Study Material |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 11th / 12th | 8000                         |
| 9th/ 10th   | 2500 per month               |

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the  
Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Application of Tajammul Bashir, S/o Bashir Ahmad Butt, R/o Kawarigam, Tehsil Achabal, District Anantnag for issuance of RBA Certificate.

Whereas the above-named applicant has applied in this office for issuance of RBA Certificate in his favour. In this connection, report from the concerned Patwari Halqa has been sought, which reveals that the applicant is a resident of village Kawarigam, Tehsil Achabal, District Anantnag.

Now, therefore, any person having any objection with regard to the issuance of the said certificate in favour of the applicant may present his/her objection along with documentary proof in this office within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Issued under my hand and seal of this office.

Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the  
Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Application of Dilber Mohd Abas, S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Shah, R/o Kawarigam, Tehsil Achabal, District Anantnag for issuance of RBA Certificate.

Whereas the above-named applicant has applied in this office for issuance of RBA Certificate in his favour. In this connection, report from the concerned Patwari Halqa has been sought, which reveals that the applicant is a resident of village Kawarigam, Tehsil Achabal, District Anantnag.

Now, therefore, any person having any objection with regard to the issuance of the said certificate in favour of the applicant may present his/her objection along with documentary proof in this office within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Issued under my hand and seal of this office.

Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

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 Death of MOHAMMAD RAMZAN BHAT S/O ABDUL GANI BHAT R/O CHANPORA RESHIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Death as 14 /10 /2024 and event has been shown to be occurred at CHANPORA RESHIPORA for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri  
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Death of TALIB HUSSAIN BAIGH S/O Let MOHAMMAD LATEEF BAIGH R/O LATIEF ABAD Tehsil NORVAW Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Death as 30/04/1990 and event has been shown to be occurred at AUTHOORA RESHIPORA for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of OBC certificate applicant DANISH AHMAD NAJAR S/O ABDUL KARIM NAJAR R/O KALANTRA PAYEEN Tehsil KREERI in favour of self for the issuance of OBC ( Other Backward class in his /her / their favor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KALANTRA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the NAJAR community having annual income 250000 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...AB KARIM NAJAR Father 48 years carpenter
- 2..FAHMEEDA BEGUM Mother 45 years House wife
- 3..ARIF AHMAD NAJAR Brother 24 years Student
- 4.. GOWHAR AHMAD NAJAR Brother 23 years student
- 5 ....AMINA KAREEM sister 22 years student
- 6...DANISH AHMAD self 20 years student

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of OBC certificate applicant DANISH AHMAD NAJAR S/O ABDUL KARIM NAJAR R/O KALANTRA PAYEEN Tehsil KREERI in favour of self for the issuance of OBC ( Other Backward class in his /her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

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- 6...DANISH AHMAD self 20 years student

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application INSHA BASHIR & RIZWANA D/O BASHIR AHMAD SOFI R/O SHEIKHPORA for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his / her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the SOFI community having annual income 318012 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..BASHIR AHMAD SOFI Father 51 years Lumberdar
- 2.DILSHADA BAGUM Mother 50 years H/W
- 3... INSHA BASHIR applicant 28 years student
- 4..MUZAMIL BASHIR Brother 25 years student
- 5....RIZWANA BASHIR applicant 21 years student

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application INSHA BASHIR & RIZWANA D/O BASHIR AHMAD SOFI R/O SHEIKHPORA for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his / her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the SOFI community having annual income 318012 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

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- 3... INSHA BASHIR applicant 28 years student
- 4..MUZAMIL BASHIR Brother 25 years student
- 5....RIZWANA BASHIR applicant 21 years student

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the District Social Welfare Officer  
Mini Secretariat Bandipora

E.Mail: dswo-bandipora@jk.gov.in | Fax: 01957-225360

**Subject:** Selection list for the post of Data Entry Operator, District Hub for Empowerment of Women "DHEW" Bandipora.  
**Reference:** Advertisement Notice: DSWO/Bpr/Estt/2023-24/547-52, dated: 06-09-2025

Whereas, the District Social Welfare Officer, Bandipora (Nodal Officer DHEW), advertised one (01) post for Data Entry Operator, for the District Hub for Empowerment (DHEW), Bandipora, of Women of Women" DHEW" Scheme, and.

Whereas, in response to the said advertisement, thirty-nine (39) applications were received for the said post, and.

Whereas, out of applications so received, five (05) eligible candidates were shortlisted for one (01) post in the ratio of 1:5. and. Whereas, the interview of the shortlisted candidates was conducted on 24-12-2025 Selection by Committee Constituted by the District Development Bandipora, for the Commissioner said purpose.

Now, THEREFORE, on the basis of the performance in the interview and other notified parameters, the merit of the candidates who appeared in the interview is enclosed as "Annexure-A" to this notification. Consequently, the selection list against the available post is enclosed as "Annexure-B" of this Notification.

The candidate figuring in selection list (ANNEXURE-B) directed to submit his joining report in the office of the District Social Welfare Officer Bandipora, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notification. In case the selected candidate fails to join within the prescribed time period, the next candidate in this order of merit, as reflected in Annexure-B, shall be called for joining.

ANNEXURE-A (Merit List)

| S.No | Name of the Candidate    | Parentage             | Address                | Marks Percentage in Graduation | Academic Qualification points (out of 80 points) | Average interview marks | Total (Qualification + Interview) |
|------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 01   | Ms. Sunaina Bhat         | Hera Lal Bhat         | Kaloosa                | 67.70                          | 54.16                                            | 14.375                  | 68.535                            |
| 02   | Ms. Shahzadi Sarvat      | Mohammad Amin Mir     | Ward No. 02, Bandipora | 65.20                          | 52.16                                            | 13.50                   | 65.66                             |
| 03   | Mr. Yasir Hassan Tantray | Ab. Hassan Tantary    | Braripora              | 64.81                          | 51.84                                            | 10.625                  | 62.465                            |
| 04   | Mr. Haris Ahmad Malik    | Mohammad Sultan Malik | Plan Bandipora         | 63.70                          | 50.96                                            | 18.25                   | 69.21                             |
| 05   | Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Dar      | Noor Mohammad Dar     | Chewa Sonarwani        | 62.63                          | 50.10                                            | 16.125                  | 66.225                            |

Annexure-B

| S.No | Name of the Candidate | Parentage             | Address        | Marks Percentage in Graduation | Academic Qualification points (out of 80 points) | Average interview marks | Total (Qualification + Interview) | Remarks  |
|------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 01   | Mr. Haris Ahmad Malik | Mohammad Sultan Malik | Plan Bandipora | 63.70                          | 50.96                                            | 18.25                   | 69.21                             | Selected |
| 02   | Ms. Sunaina Bhat      | Hera Lal Bhat         | Kaloosa        | 67.70                          | 54.16                                            | 14.375                  | 68.535                            | Waiting  |

Terms and Conditions of Selected Candidate:

01. Applicant should be medically fit for field visits in different blocks/wards of District Bandipora.
02. The engagement being temporary/contractual in nature, is terminable if the performance is not satisfactory as assessed by the District Level Committee headed by the District Magistrate/District Development Commissioner.
03. The engagement shall be till 31st March 2026, further continuation will be on the basis of performance assessed by District Level Committee headed by District Magistrate/District Commissioner and continuation of the scheme.
04. There shall be no right to seek permanent absorption in any department or regularization of any sort (Affidavit in this regard, sworn before judicial Magistrate 1st Class and attested by him/her needed to be submitted upon selection before joining)
05. The Honorarium mentioned herein may vary as and when desired by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. GOI/ Social Welfare, Department J&K.
06. The Selection list to be issued shall be provisional and subject to the verification report regarding authenticity of the documents from the issuing bodies/organizations. Any adverse report received regarding the documents produced based on which selection is obtained shall invite legal/penal action under relevant rules/laws and selection so obtained shall be cancelled ab initio.
07. Character certificate issued by concerned Police Station.

No: DSWO/Bpr/Estt/2025-26/145-50 | Dated: 06/01/2026

Sd/- District Development Commissioner,  
Bandipora (Chairperson)

DIPK: 9780/25 | Dated: 07-01-2025

اہلیہ فداحسین انصاری (مرحوم) کے انتقال پرتعزیت وتسلیت کے لئے  
اظہارِ تشکر

ہم نہایت عجز و انکساری کے ساتھ اُن تمام معزز شخصیات، اِداروں اور احباب کا تہہ دل سے شکریہ ادا کرتے ہیں جنہوں نے میری والدہ محترمہ زینت بیگم زوجہ فداحسین انصاری (مرحوم) کے انتقال پر ہمارے غم میں شریک ہوکر ہمیں حوصلہ، صبر اور ڈھارس بندھائی۔ خصوصی طور پر ہم مختلف ادبی انجمنوں، سیاسی انجمنوں، نامور ادبی شخصیات، سماجی و فلاحی تنظیموں، بلڈ ڈونیشن اداروں، پرنٹ و الیکٹرانک میڈیا، اخبارات، ریڈیو کشمیر سرینگر، محلہ برادری، علماء و فضلاء، دینی اِداروں، رشتہ داروں، عزیز واقارب اور تمام خیر خواہوں کے بے حد ممنون ہیں جنہوں نے ذاتی طور پر ہمارے گھر آکر، ٹیلی فون کے ذریعے، سوشل میڈیا اور دیگر ذرائع سے تعزیت وتسلیت کا اظہار کیا۔ آپ تمام حضرات کی ہمدردی، دعاؤں اور محبت بھرے کلمات نے ہمارے دلوں کو بڑا سہارا دیا اور اس کٹھن گھڑی میں ہمارے حوصلے کو تقویت بخشی۔ ہم اُن تمام افراد کے بھی شکر گزار ہیں جو کسی مجبوری کے باعث ہنسن نفیس شریک نہ ہو سکے مگر دل سے ہمارے غم میں شریک رہے اور دعاؤں میں ہمیں یاد رکھا۔ اللہ تعالیٰ آپ سب کو اس حسِن سلوک کا بہترین اجر عطا فرمائے، آپ کے گھر دل کو خوشیوں سے آباد کرکے اور ہمیں مرحومہ کے لیے ایصالِ ثواب اور صبرِ جمیل کی توفیق عطا فرمائے۔ آخر میں ہم ایک مرتبہ پھر تمام احباب، اِداروں اور افراد کے تہہ دل سے مشکور ہیں جنہوں نے اس صدمے کے وقت ہمارا ساتھ دیا۔

سوگواران: شجاع انصاری ابنِ فداحُسین انصاری (مرحوم)، دلنہ بارہمولا



# DC Ganderbal releases Annual Calendar by District Information Centre

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL, JAN 07:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today released the Annual Calendar brought out by the District Information Centre, Ganderbal.

The calendar reflects the natural beauty, cultural heritage, spiritual significance and developmental profile of District Ganderbal through a series of carefully curated photographs. The calendar highlights prominent tourist destinations including Sonamarg, Thajiwas Glacier, Manasbal Lake and the scenic alpine lakes of Vishansar and Krishansar, showcasing the district's rich landscape and tourism potential.

The calendar also features prominent religious and heritage sites such as the Shrine of Sayed Qamar-ud-Din Shah Sahib in Ganderbal town, ancient Naranag



Temple, Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tullmulla and the holy Amarnath Cave, representing faith, devotion and communal harmony.

The calendar provided a platform to local photographers to

showcase their works and also served as an encouragement for budding photographers.

The DC appreciated the efforts of the District Information Centre in creatively portraying the dis-

trict's multifaceted identity and said that the calendar serves as an effective medium to promote tourism, cultural heritage and developmental achievements of Ganderbal.

## SKUAST-K Strengthens Tribal Livelihoods through Backyard Poultry

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JAN 07:** SKUAST-K's Division of Livestock Production and Management (LPM), Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry organised a Backyard Poultry Chick Distribution Program at the Shuhama Campus under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST)- AICRP on Poultry.

The program was conducted as part of the ongoing DAPST programmes in AICRP on Poultry enhance livelihood security, household nutrition, and income generation among tribal and rural farming communities.

During the program, 30 beneficiary farmers were provided with improved Gramapriya chicks, a hardy backyard poultry strain well-suited to local agro-climatic conditions.

During the program, the farmers were briefed on scientific backyard poultry rearing practices, including brooding management, feeding strategies, health care, and biosecurity measures.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Hilal Musadiq Khan, Head, Division of LPM, highlighted the strategic importance of backyard poultry under tribal development programmes. He stated that ICAR-DAPST interventions are designed not merely as input-distribution activities but as holistic

capacity-building initiatives aimed at long-term sustainability. He encouraged farmers to adopt recommended practices and maintain close linkage with the Division for technical support, disease management, and performance monitoring.

The programme witnessed active participation from farmers, who expressed appreciation for the initiative and interacted with scientists on practical chal-



lenges related to backyard poultry rearing.

The event concluded with an assurance from the Division of LPM to continue farmer-centric interventions under ICAR-DAPST, reinforcing SKUAST-K's role in promoting inclusive, sustainable, and nutrition-sensitive livestock development in the region.

## NC Govt Loses Moral Ground To Be In Power: Vibodh Election Assurances Remain on Paper Under NC Rule: Vibodh

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**RAJOURI, JAN 7:** Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former MLC Vibodh Gupta today addressed a meeting of pooling booth presidents at Potha, Dhangri in Rajouri, where he strongly criticised the National Conference government for its repeated failure to deliver on key election promises and fulfil commitments made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to present political situation in J&K, Vibodh urged the NC-government to step down on moral grounds. He highlighted specific pledges from the NC-Congress manifesto — including the promise of 200 units of free electricity for households, the generation of one lakh jobs, monthly support for women-headed families, and the provision of 12 free LPG cylinders annually — that have not materialised despite repeated assurances.

Vibodh strongly criticised the NC government for relying on rhetoric rather than results, asserting that the administration has fallen short on both governance and delivery on core issues concerning public welfare. He said that after repeatedly failing to fulfil its electoral guarantees, the present government in J&K has lost the moral authority to continue in power.

In his address, Vibodh Gupta also spoke on BJP's vision of development, accountability, and transparent governance, stressing the need for decisive leadership that prioritises people's welfare over political interests. He strongly asserted that the Central Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has been extending full cooperation and support to the NC-led government to ensure overall development of Jammu and Kashmir. However, he alleged that instead of utilising this support in the larger public interest, the National Conference government has remained preoccupied with promoting vested interests.

Young BJP leader Harish Bharti also addressed the gathering and launched a sharp attack on the Congress leadership in Rajouri. He said that the people of Rajouri are suffering due to the petty vote-bank politics of Congress leaders, who are deliberately trying to divide society on religious lines for their narrow political gains.

Harish asserted that the BJP, inspired by the guiding principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas," has always placed national interest above all else and ensured that the benefits of development reach every section of society without discrimination. He maintained that Congress leaders in Rajouri have prioritised their personal and political interests over the genuine concerns and welfare of the people.

On the occasion, BJP Mandal President Jagdev Singh also addressed the gathering and echoed similar sentiments. He said that the NC-Congress government has completely failed to address grassroots-level issues and has disappointed the people of Rajouri.

Jagdev Singh stated that the BJP remains firmly committed to public service, transparent governance, and people-centric development, and will continue to raise its voice against misgovernance and divisive politics.

# Weekly Block Diwas outreach camp held at Tashnal Dhara- Doda

DC addresses public grievances, encourages youth to avail self-employment schemes

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**DODA, JAN 07:** Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh today presided over a Block Diwas Public outreach camp at Tashnal Dhara, Block Ghat, aimed at strengthening grassroots governance and ensuring prompt redressal of public grievances. The programme witnessed active participation from local residents, ex-PRI members and officers of the line departments.

ACD, Din Mohammad Afaqi, PO ICDS, Akhtar Hussain Qazi, CPO, Manesh Kumar Manhas, ACP, Mushraf Haff besides other district and sectoral officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner.

During the interaction, public representatives and residents raised a wide range of demands seeking improved road connectivity, augmentation of drinking water supply, power supply, healthcare facilities, education infrastructure including upgradation of schools to High/Higher Secondary level, streamlining of ration distribution, creation of employment opportunities, pensions under Social Security schemes to eligible persons, PMAY benefits and

timely execution of development works.

They also sought establishment of Anganwadi Centres, JK Bank Branch, provision of Panchayat Ghar, Animal Husbandry/ Sheep Centres, development of playground, installation of solar lights along forest pathways to prevent wild animal attacks and improved access to government schemes related to Agriculture, Horticulture, Social Welfare, HADP and Mission YUVA.

The Deputy Commissioner listened patiently to the issues raised and assured time-bound and transparent redressal. He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments.

The PWD (R&B) was directed to examine road connectivity projects in detail, while the CMO was asked to explore possibilities for establishing a health centre as per norms and submit a proposal to higher authorities.

The Forest Department was instructed to resolve forest-related issues while Jal Shakti Department (PHE) was directed to identify sustainable water sources and prepare a DPR with feasibility of constructing a reservoir near the local spring.

On MGNREGA-related issues,



the ACD was directed to ensure early resolution of issues of Job Card holders. The DC emphasized close inter-departmental coordination, accountability and regular field-level monitoring for effective service delivery.

Highlighting key social welfare and development priorities, the DC urged parents to ensure complete vaccination of children.

The Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department was asked to organize a cattle vaccination camp in the area.

Responding to other demands, the DC assured support for strengthening school infrastructure and computer learning, directing the CEO to look into the requirements of desks and other infrastructure in

schools.

The BDO concerned was directed to ensure installation of solar lights and proper stone pitching on the pathway leading to the area. The DC also instructed the HADP Nodal Officer to facilitate access to schemes. The Employment and Counselling Centre was asked to constitute a Youth Club to connect local youth with skill development, self-employment and other initiatives under Mission YUVA. The DC encouraged local women to form Self Help Groups to promote local products and enhance livelihoods.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner informed the public that the District Administration has established Krishi Kendra Gramin (KKG) in every Panchayat, with one Krishi Udhymi, to provide agricultural support and services at the grassroots level. He also advised citizens to contact the District Control Room for any emergency assistance.

The Block Diwas concluded with a reaffirmation of the district administration's commitment to responsive, people-centric governance and inclusive development of District Doda.

## Devyani Rana Reviews Education Infrastructure and Academic Performance in Nagrota

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, JAN 07:** MLA Nagrota, Ms. Devyani Rana, today chaired an extensive review meeting of the School Education Department to assess the status of education infrastructure and academic performance in government schools across the Nagrota Assembly Constituency, with special emphasis on schools damaged due to recent floods.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Education Officer (CEO), Jammu, Deputy Chief Education Officer (Dy. CEO), Jammu, and Principals and Heads of various government schools functioning within the constituency. The interaction focused on assessing academic performance, availability of teaching staff, infrastructure facilities, enrollment trends, and the effective implementation of various education-related government schemes. During the detailed review, Ms. Devyani Rana sought a comprehensive briefing on the status of schools, including classroom availability, sanitation facilities, drinking water, electricity, and digital learning resources. She also reviewed issues related to staff shortages, rationalization of teachers, and subject-wise availability of faculty in higher secondary schools. The MLA stressed the need for addressing these challenges on priority to ensure uninterrupted academic

activities.

Ms. Rana emphasized that quality education and student welfare are among her top priorities. She called upon education officers and school principals to work with dedication and accountability to enhance learning outcomes. Highlighting the importance of discipline and regular attendance, she urged the department to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and take proactive steps to reduce dropout rates, particularly at the secondary level.

The MLA also underscored the need to promote co-curricular activities, sports, and skill development initiatives to ensure the holistic development of students. She encouraged Principals to actively engage with parents, local communities, and School Management Committees to create a supportive educational ecosystem. The CEO and Dy. CEO Jammu assured Ms. Rana that all concerns raised during the meeting would be examined in detail and addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

Reiterating her commitment, Ms. Devyani Rana assured full cooperation and support to the School Education Department for strengthening infrastructure, improving academic standards, and ensuring that students of Nagrota constituency receive quality education and better opportunities for the future.

## NCDC Sounds Alarm: Overprotective Parenting Creating a Generation Unable to Cope, Says Core Committee

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JAN 07:** The National Child Development Council (NCDC) held an important committee meeting this week. They expressed serious concerns about the rising trend of overprotective and overly pampered children in today's homes. The committee unanimously agreed that while modern parenting comes from a place of love, it is unintentionally weakening children's resilience, emotional maturity, and problem-solving skills.

During the discussion, members pointed out that parents are increasingly protecting their children from even minor challenges. One member shared a recent case of a child who insisted on being first in everything at school and wanted parents to step in whenever things did not go their way.

The committee noted that these children often struggle to understand the feelings of others, cannot handle the word "no," and miss chances to build courage or think independently. "Parents and teachers need to actively encourage confidence, resilience, and emotional control through structured activities at home and in school."

One of the Committee members warned about the risks of excessive pampering. She recounted an incident from a recent school

trip where an only child refused to stand in line. She wanted to cut ahead of others because she was used to being first.

She observed that over-pampered children often: Cannot wait their turn, Get upset or argumentative easily, Misunderstand freedom as entitlement, Struggle with logic, rules, or boundaries, and Show less respect for elders.

She emphasized that Montessori settings help children learn boundaries naturally. She urged parents to lessen reward-based parenting, explaining, "When every act is rewarded, children value the reward—not the responsibility."

Senior NCDC official made a strong statement. He said, "Parenting is the most important life skill, yet it is missing from our education system."

He argued that modern overprotection mainly arises from having fewer children and a lack of parenting knowledge. He suggested: Making parenting education a required subject in higher secondary education, Offering pre-marriage and post-marriage training courses, Teaching young adults how to care for children's physical, mental, and emotional needs. He warned that poorly parented children become adults who struggle in society, affecting the nation overall.

# Double standards reality of global politics: Jaishankar calls out Western hypocrisy over Operation Sindoor

## UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**LUXEMBOURG, JAN 7 :** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday took a swipe at Western nations, criticising their double standards during India's Operation Sindoor in May 2025, while simultaneously emphasising the deepening partnership between India and Luxembourg. While interacting with members of the Indian diaspora in Luxembourg, Jaishankar called out countries that was delivering lectures to India on regional tensions while ignoring violence and risks in their own regions.

"Sometimes you hear people say, like it happened during Operation Sindoor. Now if you ask them, say, oh really you're worried, why don't you look at your own region? And ask

yourself, what are the levels of violence there, how much risks have been taken, how much worry the rest of us have about what you are doing. But that's the nature of the world. People, what they say is not what they do. And we have to accept it in that spirit as well," he said.

Jaishankar's remarks displayed his frustration with nations that offer unsolicited advice on conflicts they barely understand. Countries far removed from the situation, he suggested, often speak "without thinking through the complexities or considering their own strategic interests". "Now, to what extent does the developments in the rest of the world affect it? It's hard to say. People sitting far away will say things, sometimes with application of mind, sometimes not, sometimes with



a self-interest, sometimes carelessly. That will happen. In this day and age, countries are becoming more selfish and will do things only if it is of direct benefit to them. They'll offer you free advice," Jaishankar said.

Jaishankar made clear that India's approach varies depending

on who it's dealing with, "India is willing to engage positively and constructively with the countries who are willing to work with New Delhi in a helpful manner, but those who act the way Pakistan does must be dealt with differently."

Beyond his pointed critique

of Western hypocrisy, Jaishankar highlighted the robust and evolving relationship between India and Luxembourg, which dates back 78 years.

"We have come a long way, and we really see Luxembourg as a very important partner in itself, but also with the European Union, and also at a very crucial time with the development of our own ties with the European Union," he said while expressing gratitude to the Indian Diaspora.

He added, "The influence you have in shaping that larger relationship, the support that you extend, that is something which is of great value to us, in many ways you have been very much an advocate of deepening ties between India and the European Union."

Jaishankar wrote on X, "Glad to interact with members of

Indian community in Luxembourg today. Underlined the significant deepening of our partnership with Luxembourg across political, business and technology domains. Appreciate the contributions of our diaspora in deepening India - Luxembourg ties."

Jaishankar predicted a significant upswing in India's engagement with Europe in the coming year, describing it as a period of recalibration across the global order. "Every country, every region is reassessing its interest, reassessing its calculations, and trying to see what it is we can do? Bringing India and the European union much closer. I can fairly, confidently predict that 2026 will see an upswing in ties with Europe."

He emphasised that open dialogue would be central to this

relationship, "I think the state of the world is also particularly interesting at this time. So I am sure we can both profit from our open discussions, and I know that you won't hold back on that score. So I look forward to our discussions. Thank you once again for the warm welcome."

Artificial intelligence dominated much of Jaishankar's conversations in Luxembourg, reflecting the technology's growing importance in bilateral relations. "Today no meeting, no interaction is complete without some exchange of views on AI. We are hosting the AI Impact Summit in about six weeks from now. Europe and Luxembourg have their own particular approach by which they come at AI and are very interested to know how we looked at it," he said. UNI

## Venezuela to export USD 2 billion worth of oil to US

### UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**WASHINGTON, JAN 7 :** Venezuela and the United States have reached an agreement that could see up to "USD 2 billion worth of Venezuelan crude" shipped to the US, President Donald Trump announced.

The deal will help redirect some oil away from China and help alleviate pressure caused by Venezuela's production cuts.

Trump described the agreement as evidence that Caracas is "complying with his demands for greater access for US oil companies," after he warned of "stricter action" if the country did not open its energy



sector. Donald Trump had stated that a core objective of the recent military operation in Venezuela was to place the country's oil sector under US control, and give US oil companies the ability to rebuild there.

Trump said that the US wants Venezuela's interim president to grant "total access" to the nation's resources. "We need total access. We need access to the oil and to other things in their country that allow us to rebuild their country," he stated during a press interaction on Air Force One.

He added that Delcy Rodríguez is "cooperating" with Washington and that his administration is engaging with "the people that just got sworn in."

When asked about Rodríguez's situation, Trump said she "will face a situation probably worse than Maduro." The announcement comes after a US export blockade imposed in mid-December, which left large amounts of Venezuelan crude stranded on tankers and in storage. This blockade was part of broader US pressure on President Nicolás Maduro's government, culminating in US forces capturing Maduro and his wife. Trump also said that Venezuela would provide between "30 million and 50 million barrels" of sanctioned oil, which would be sold at market prices, with the proceeds controlled by his administration to ensure benefits for both Venezuelans and Americans.

Trump said that he has directed Energy Secretary Chris Wright to supervise the operation, ensuring that the oil is transported from vessels directly to US ports. UNI

## Maduro a 'violent guy', says Trump, calls US military op in Venezuela as 'amazing'

### UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**WASHINGTON, JAN 7 :** US President Donald Trump reiterated his praise for the US military operation in Venezuela, calling it an amazing and brilliant military feat, and described Venezuela's former President Nicolás Maduro as a "violent" guy.

Talking about the US mission during remarks to Republicans at the Kennedy Center on Tuesday, Trump said: "It was an amazing military feat that took place."

"It was amazing. And think of it, nobody was killed. And on the other side, a lot of people were killed," Trump said, noting the large number of Cubans who were killed in attacks. "They knew we were coming, and they were protected, and our guys weren't. You know, our guys are jumping out of helicopters ... it was so brilliant."

It was President Trump's first public appearance since Nicolás

Maduro, and his wife, Cilia Flores, appeared in federal court on Monday and pleaded "not-guilty" to all charges against them.

Trump called the US military operation in Venezuela, that saw US forces take the Venezuelan president and his wife captive, "brilliant tactically" and "an incredible thing".

Criticising Nicolás Maduro, Trump said that he is a "violent" guy. "They've been after this guy for years and years and years and he's a violent guy. He gets up there and he tries to imitate my dance a little bit. But he's a violent guy, and he's killed millions of people. He's tortured -- they have a torture chamber in the middle of Caracas that they are closing up. But he's tortured people," Trump said.

Speaking to House Republicans at their annual retreat, Trump also noted that lawmakers across the aisle have been reluctant to congratulate him for the operation, despite their condemnation of

Maduro's regime.

"At some point they should say, you know, 'you did a great job,'" Trump said. "Wouldn't it be good? I would say that if they did a good job, their philosophies are so different, but if they did a good job, I'd be happy for the country. They've been after this guy for years and years and years, and he was a violent guy."

Trump also hinted about his upcoming meeting with US oil manufacturing executives this week on Venezuelan oil. "You know what that's about. We got a lot of oil to drill, which is going to bring down oil prices even further," he said.

Several of the Trump administration's top officials are to brief Senate lawmakers on Capitol Hill tomorrow on the Venezuela operation. This comes as the same group, including secretary of state Marco Rubio, attorney general Pam Bondi, defense secretary Pete Hegseth, chairman of the joint

chiefs of staff Dan Caine, spoke with a small group of congressional leaders on Monday about the military operation in Venezuela.

In an interview with NBC News on Monday, Donald Trump named several top administration officials -- including secretary of state Marco Rubio, defense secretary Pete Hegseth, deputy White House chief of staff Stephen Miller and vice-president JD Vance -- as the team who will help oversee America's involvement in Venezuela. "They have all expertise, different expertise," Trump said.

Trump also told NBC that there was no possibility of an election within the next 30 days. "We have to fix the country first. You can't have an election. There's no way the people could even vote," Trump said.

He also noted in the interview that Delcy Rodríguez, who was sworn in as Venezuela's interim leader, has been "cooperating" with US officials. Trump also

declined to say whether he's spoken to Rodríguez yet, but he said that Rubio "speaks to her fluently in Spanish" and that their "relationship has been very strong".

Nicolás Maduro remains in federal custody in New York after being snatched from his home in Caracas by US special forces on Saturday. He pleaded not guilty to "narco-terrorism" and weapons charges in a Manhattan court on Monday.

Florida's Republican governor Ron DeSantis has said he will look at bringing state charges against Venezuela's deposed president Nicolás Maduro, ostensibly for trafficking drugs to the state. "We've had people in Florida that have been victimized," DeSantis said at a Tuesday morning press conference in Clearwater.

Florida is home to the largest number of Venezuelan expatriates in the US. UNI

## India "concerned" about Venezuela, "urges dialogue": Jaishankar

### UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**LUXEMBOURG, JAN 7 :** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday expressed India's "concern about recent developments in Venezuela," marking New Delhi's first public response to the crisis that unfolded after a US military operation that resulted in the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife.

Speaking alongside Luxembourg's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Xavier Bettel, Jaishankar emphasised that India's focus is on the well-being and safety of the Venezuelan people.

He called on all parties and stakeholders to pursue dialogue and seek a peaceful resolution to protect civilians.

"Yes, we are concerned about developments in Venezuela. We would really urge all the parties involved to now sit down and come to a position

which is in the interest of the well-being and safety of the people of Venezuela," Jaishankar said, referencing India's long-standing relationship with the South American nation.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in a statement, had also expressed "deep concern" over the situation in Venezuela and called for a peaceful resolution through dialogue.

Ministry of External Affairs reaffirms support for the Venezuelan people and calls for peaceful dialogue to address the crisis.

The ministry also issued an advisory urging Indian nationals to avoid non-essential travel to Venezuela and maintain close contact with the Indian Embassy in Caracas.

Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, are currently in US custody at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, New York, and are facing trial for allegedly being involved in

"narco-terrorism." The couple pleaded not guilty on Monday to charges related to drugs and weapons.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump announced that Venezuela's interim authorities will transfer between 30 and 50 million barrels of sanctioned oil to the United States. Trump said the oil would be sold at market price, with proceeds controlled by the U.S. government to benefit both the Venezuelan and American people.

In a Truth Social post, Trump directed Energy Secretary Chris Wright to implement the plan immediately, with oil to be loaded onto storage vessels and shipped directly to US ports.

"This oil will be sold at its market price, and the money will be controlled by me, as President of the United States, to ensure it is used to benefit the people of Venezuela and the United States," Trump wrote. UNI

## Bangladesh records 1.53 million voter registrations online ahead of Feb polls

### UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**DHAKA, JAN 7 :** Bangladesh has recorded a surge in online registrations for postal ballots, with more than 1.53 million voters signing up, as the interim government accelerates preparations for the forthcoming national election, placing emphasis on security, voter awareness and participation by the diaspora.

Briefing journalists at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka on Monday, Chief Advisor's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said the scale of the response—particularly from expatriate Bangladeshis—has drawn close international attention.

"This is the first time we are doing this, and the response has been unprecedented. Many

countries are closely watching how our diaspora voting model works," he said. According to Alam, a total of 1,533,682 voters completed online registration for postal ballots before the deadline expired late Monday. Of these, 761,140 are voters within the country, largely officials assigned election-related duties, while the remainder are Bangladeshi citizens living overseas.

He noted that globally, countries with established overseas voting systems typically see diaspora participation of around two per cent. "In our very first year, the rate has crossed five per cent, which is remarkable," he said. Postal ballots are set to become available from January 21, following the publication of the final list of candidates. On voter outreach, Alam



said the government has deployed 10 election caravan buses, each accompanied by 10 vehicles, with plans to double the fleet to cover all 495 upazilas, including remote and island areas. Outreach activities are scheduled to resume on January 9 and continue until January 31.

Security preparations are also advancing, with around 75% personnel from police, the paramilitary Ansar battalion, and the BGB (Border Guard Bangladesh), along with the Coast Guard said to have completed their training.

Training on the use of CCTV

systems and body cameras is ongoing and expected to conclude by the end of January.

The home ministry is establishing a central monitoring system, with control rooms planned at upazila, district, divisional and national levels to enable rapid responses to any disruptions.

Alam said the government is also coordinating with the Ministry of Religious Affairs to boost public engagement, enlisting imams and other religious leaders across mosques, temples and churches, alongside nationwide leaflet distribution. Candidate security, he added, will be provided based on assessed risk, with police authorised to take additional measures where necessary at the local level. UNI

## Mexican President rejects foreign intervention, calls for dialogue with US

### UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**MEXICO CITY, JAN 7 :** Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum on Tuesday rejected any form of foreign intervention in Mexico following U.S. President Donald Trump's recent suggestions of sending U.S. troops to help fight drug trafficking.

During her daily morning press conference, Sheinbaum advocated for dialogue and bilateral cooperation, within a framework of shared responsibility and unwavering respect for national sovereignty, as the way to effectively combat drug trafficking.

According to Sheinbaum, Mexico maintains a firm, principled stance without closing the channels



of communication with Washington.

"We prioritize dialogue above all else. We have our position, we have our principles, but we always seek dialogue with the United States government," she said.

She insisted that the appropriate way to work together is to strengthen diplomatic channels and move forward with agreements based on mutual respect and the principles of international cooperation.

Mexico assumes its responsibility in combating organized crime, but the United States must also do its part to curb arms trafficking, drug distribution, and money laundering within its territory, Sheinbaum stressed. UNI

# Head and Smith centuries grind England in the SCG dirt

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**SYDNEY:** Travis Head departed the SCG field to a thunderous ovation after his latest demolition of England in this Ashes series. But the roars from the terraces soon deafened when Usman Khawaja walked to the crease in his final Test match.

After Head's belligerent 163 off 166 balls, his third century in what has been a remarkable series, Khawaja - batting at No.6 - could not produce a fairytale innings against a flagging England attack in the Sydney sunshine. In what might prove to be his final Test innings, Khawaja fell for 17 in an ungainly dismissal - a low full-toss from Brydon Carse - and left the ground to more hearty applause.

Skipper Steven Smith then stole the show for the remainder of day three with an unbeaten 129 off 205 balls to put Australia in a commanding position as they seek a convincing 4-1 series victory. Australia appear to have broken England's spirit in an innings stretching 124 overs. Their first-innings lead has ballooned to 134 runs and looks particularly significant with uneven bounce becoming notable and cracks set to widen amid warm weather in Sydney. Smith wasn't at his most fluent, but looked locked in from the get go with his usual theatrics at the crease on full display. He even at one point asked Carse at mid-off to put his sunglasses on the back of his hat due to the reflection.

Smith feasted on wayward England bowling and also made a point to be aggressive against spinners Will Jacks and Jacob Bethell. A 37th Test century and 13th against England almost felt inevitable as he ended a relatively lean series in style, kissing his helmet in celebration late in the day. Smith moved into second all-time on the Ashes run-scorers and century list, with only Sir Donald Bradman ahead on both fronts.

His first home Ashes hundred since the 2017-18 series has tightened Australia's grip on the match. They were aided by shabby bowling and fielding from England, who dropped four catches in the first session with Smith being reprieved on 12 by Zak

Crawley at leg-slip just before lunch.

The early part of the day was dominated by Head, who had only just fallen short of scoring a century in an elongated final session on day two, but it didn't take him long to reach his 12th Test ton.

After resuming on 91, Head completed his 105-ball century just 25 minutes into the day's play and he celebrated by sticking his helmet on top of his bat handle as he once again had the crowd in the palm of his hands. It ended Head's modest record at the SCG as he became the fifth player to score tons at seven different venues in Australia.

Head received strong support from Michael Nesar, who was used wisely as the nightwatcher ahead of Scott Boland after the latter performed the role in the previous Test. Nesar showed off his batting credentials, having made 4000 career runs in first-class cricket with five centuries. He frustrated England with solid defence and the occasional boundary to grind down the beleaguered tourists.

Head continued his rampant form from the previous afternoon when he inflicted more pain on hapless seamer Matthew Potts, whose Ashes debut has turned into a nightmare.

A new day did not bring an improved showing with Potts immediately smashed for three consecutive fours by a ruthless Head. England continued to persist with short-ball plans, even to Nesar, and it almost paid off when Head skied Carse to deep mid-wicket only for Jacks to drop a sitter, taking his eyes off the ball as he was seemingly worried about the nearby boundary cushion.

Not only did it prove costly for England, Jacks had the further ignominy of receiving mocked cheers from the Australian fans when he subsequently fielded.

Head in the next over had another lucky escape when Carse dropped a much tougher chance at deep third but it only left Potts feeling even more aggrieved. For all their focus on hitting a shorter length, Carse finally dislodged Nesar with a superb outswinger that was caught behind to end the 72-run partnership.



## Zoonimar Shaheens, Hill View Rajouri Register Wins in Chinara Premier League

HT SPORTS DESK

**JAMMU, JAN 4:** The seventh edition of the Chinara Premier League (CPL) continued in full swing at the M.A. Stadium, Jammu, with two exciting Group D encounters played on Saturday. The tournament is being organised by Mehboob ul Alam Sports, MACC Kashmir, with support from AD Caps Anantnag.

In the first match of the day, Zoonimar Shaheens



posted a modest total of 118 runs for the loss of nine wickets in their allotted 20 overs after winning the toss against Friends XI. Chasing the target, Friends XI reached the score in the 19th over, securing a three-wicket victory. Bilal Polard was adjudged Man of the Match for his impressive all-round performance.

The second match saw Hill View Rajouri deliver a commanding performance against Star XI. Hill View Rajouri piled up a massive 218 runs for eight wickets in 20 overs. In reply, Star XI could manage only 132 runs for the loss of eight wickets, handing Hill View Rajouri a convincing win. Ishtiaq Rasool was declared Man of the Match for his brilliant knock of 52 runs and claiming two wickets.

Meanwhile, Shabir Ahmad Shah (Chief Manager), Waseem Baba (Chief Organizer), Zahid Farooq, Manzoor Ahmad, along with the ground staff and umpires, expressed their gratitude to the Administration, J&K Sports Council, Manager JKSC M.A. Stadium, participating teams, players, well-wishers and the general public for their continued support and cooperation in ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of the tournament.

## J&K UT Handball Championship begins in Jammu

AASHIQ HUSSAIN

**JAMMU JAN 7:** The 3-day 11th J&K U.T Handball Championship began on Wednesday here at Shastri Nagar Play Field for senior men and women sections. The Championship is being organized by J&K Handball Association, in collaboration with J&K Sports Council. The Championship will be organized on League - Cum - Knock out basis.

Dr Ajay Sharma SP South was the Chief Guest in the opening ceremony, while Mohit Sharma (JKAS) Field Publicity Officer Jammu Department of Information was the Guests of Honour. In his address, the chief guest stressed upon the players to concentrate on honing their skills and maintain high physical standards to achieve big and this event serves as a platform for players from across the region to showcase their talent and compete at the U.T level. He congratulated the J&K sHandball Association's office bearers for organizing the championship.



case their talent and compete at the U.T level. He congratulated the J&K sHandball Association's office bearers for organizing the championship.

About 300 players of the different districts of the UT are participating in the tournament. Earlier, Ashwani Kumar Raina President JKHA welcomed the

guests, players, officials, spectators and media persons. The Opening match in the men's section was played between District Poonch and District Udhampur in which District Udhampur won by 23-20 goals.

The 2nd match in the Women section was played between District Baramulla & District Kupwara in which Baramulla defeated Kupwara by 8-2 goals.

Among others who were present on the occasion were Rajesh Chandan General Secretary JKHA, Rajesh Kapoor Vice President JKHA, Sanjeev Jamwal Treasurer JKHA, and Suresh Khajuria Executive Member JKHA. Sajjad Ahmed ex-member Shiv Arora.

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