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HEADLINES TODAY

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Voice To The Voiceless

Mark Wood return as England announce playing XI for first T20I against India

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J&K Raj Bhawan celebrates Foundation Day of Tripura among 3 places

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Man shot dead in Jammu, ADGP rules out terror angle

HT NEWS NETWORK
 JAMMU, JAN 21

In a shocking incident, a 37-year-old man was shot dead in broad daylight at the busy Jewel Chowk in Jammu City on Tuesday.

An official told the news agency that at around 12.40 in the afternoon, a person identified as Sumit Jandial, son of Om Parkesh of Vijaypur, Samba was traveling in an SUV bearing registration number JK21G-0770 was attacked by unidentified persons in Jewel Chowk area.

Eyewitnesses said that the unidentified gunmen arrived in a car and started firing indiscriminately at Jandial, who was driving the Red colour Thar Jeep.

"The attackers fired six to seven rounds at the driver, injuring him seriously. The shooters managed to flee from the spot after leaving the man in a pool of blood," they said.

"The injured was rushed to the Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu for treatment where he succumbed to injuries," said an official. Meanwhile, Additional Director General of

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CM Omar Visits Budhal, Retirates Government's Commitment to Uncover the Truth

HT NEWS NETWORK
 SRINAGAR, JAN 21

As the inter-ministerial team continued investigations into the mysterious deaths of 17 persons at Budhal village in Rajouri District, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah arrived in the hamlet on Tuesday and reiterated the government's commitment to uncover the truth behind the tragedy.

An official told the news agency the inter ministerial team,

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CM Omar Abdullah releases Tourism Department's Calendar, Trekking Maps

HT NEWS NETWORK
 JAMMU, JANUARY 21

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today unveiled calendars for the year 2025 and trekking maps created by the Department of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir, in a ceremony held at the Civil Secretariat. The launch event was attended by Advisor to the

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Security beefed up across J&K to ensure peaceful Republic Day celebrations



HT NEWS NETWORK
 SRINAGAR, JAN 21

Ahead of Republic Day celebrations authorities have beefed up the security across Jammu and Kashmir.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V K Birdi, while talking to the reporters here said that the multi-tier security arrangements have been put in place to ensure "disruption free" Republic Day celebrations.

This year's Republic Day will be the first following the formation of an elected government after the abrogation of J&K's special status in 2019.

IGP Birdi, according to the

news agency said, "The preparations for 26th January are in full swing, and there will be multi-tier security arrangements to ensure that people can come and go smoothly and enjoy the parade with peace of mind."

Meanwhile, an official told KNO that the multi-tier security measures have been put in place to ensure that day passes peacefully.

"Sanitization and area domination exercises are being carried out by security personnel to ensure safety of the people," the official added.

"The security has been beefed up in 20 districts,

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NEWS BRIEF

Mother, 6-month-old baby killed in Cylinder explosion

HT NEWS NETWORK
 JAMMU, JAN 21

A mother and her child lost their lives in a cylinder explosion on Tuesday in the remote Jandrola area of Block Sathra in Tehsil Mandi of Poonch district.

An official told the news agency that a mother

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DGP Nalin Prabhat visits Samba

HT NEWS NETWORK
 JAMMU, JAN 21

Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat, along with senior officers, visited Samba-Kathua belt on Tuesday to review border security.

An official told the news agency that the DGP assessed the infiltration challenges and visited

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High Court sets aside SHRC's custodial torture verdict, grants relief to police

HT NEWS NETWORK
 SRINAGAR, JAN 21

The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has set aside a 2008 order passed by the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) in a custodial torture case, citing a

violation of natural justice.

According to the news agency, the case in question involved a man, who claimed he was tortured by police officers while in custody at Darhal Police Station. The SHRC had recommended

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"Malicious, concocted": J&K Congress Chief debunks break-up reports with NC

HT NEWS NETWORK
 JAMMU, JAN 21

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hameed Karra while

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NC, PDP enter into verbal brawl over recruitment scams, accuse each other of irregularities

HT NEWS NETWORK
 SRINAGAR, JAN 21

The ruling National Conference (NC) and opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) entered into a verbal brawl on the recruitment scams in Jammu and Kashmir, with leaders from both parties targeting each other for irregularities in examinations.

Iltija Mufti, the daughter of PDP chief and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, as per the news agency, said, "The JKSSB has conducted two recruitment exams for telecommunications and photographer but there are discrepancies in both the exams as the candidates who have topped in these exams have failed to in the recent Jammu and Kashmir Police Constable examinations."

"I want to ask the JKSSB as well as the government how the candidates who have performed poorly in two exams have topped in the Police constable examination and those who have worked hard didn't



even make the list. Are not you (government & JKSSB) able to conduct exams transparently," she said.

Iltija alleged that all the recruitment exams held since 2019 have irregularities. She said agencies like Aptech are tasked with the responsibility of conducting the exams. "There seems a nexus between those who are at the highest position in power and the agencies conducting exams," she said, asking if the government that "rose to power by making lofty promises has conveniently washed their hands off any accountability".

Responding to her allegation, the NC spokesperson, Ifra Jan targeted PDP for what she

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ED Jammu attaches 2 hotels worth over Rs 15 crore at Patnitop

HT NEWS NETWORK
 SRINAGAR, JAN 21

The Enforcement Directorate Jammu has attached two hotels worth Rs nearly 15 crore at Patnitop in a money laundering case.

In a statement, issued to news agency, a spokesperson said that the hotels have been attached in Patnitop Development Authority case

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Dispute Over Power Projects in J&K

Setback for Pak, neutral expert backs India; MEA welcomes decision

HT NEWS NETWORK
 NEW DELHI, JAN 21

In a big setback to Pakistan a World Bank-appointed neutral expert has extended support to India on the framework to resolve certain disputes between the two neighbours on Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects.

The Ministry of External Affairs

(MEA), according to the news agency, has welcomed the decision by the World Bank-appointed neutral expert, International Commission of Large Dams president Michel Lino, who stated that he is competent "to render a decision on the merits of the Points of Difference" between India and Pakistan on the two hydropower

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HT BOTTOM STORY

J&K's Chinars now digitally tracked; 28,000 trees documented in four years

HT NEWS NETWORK
 SRINAGAR, JAN 21

As part of a move towards the conservation of its iconic Chinar trees, Jammu and Kashmir has embarked on a unique initiative that combines modern technology with traditional conservation efforts.

The Jammu & Kashmir Forest Research Institute (JKFRI) and the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department have successfully geotagged over 28,000 Chinar trees across the Union Territory for the past four years, creating a database that ensures the preservation

of these cultural and ecological treasures.

According to details obtained by the news agency, the initiative, which began in 2021 and is expected to continue until 2025, involves the use of GIS and QR codes to monitor and conserve the Chinars.

Each tree is geotagged with vital information such as height, girth, health, canopy size and its geographical location. This data is being compiled using the Chinar Tree Record Form (CTRF-25), designed to standardize the documentation process.

Speaking to KNO, Dr Syed



Tariq, Project Coordinator at JKFRI, said the efforts by the institute and the forest department have led to several significant discoveries. "A Chinar in Ganderbal has been identified as the largest in Asia, measuring 22.25 meters in girth and standing at a height of 27 meters. Another Chinar in Baramulla has earned a place as the third-largest in the world," he said, adding the translocation of two large Chinars has been completed by Forest department.

Dr Tariq said Chinars are an integral part of Kashmir's cultural and historical landscape,

with many trees dating back to the Mughal era. "Emperor Akbar is believed to have planted over 1,200 Chinars at Naseem Bagh, many of which still stand today," he said. Notably, the town of Bijbehara, known as the "Town of Chinars", is home to one of the oldest Chinars in Padshahi Bagh, Bijbehara. In addition to geotagging, the conservation efforts also include the distribution of saplings to schools, government institutions and security forces.

"A Vegetative Multiplication Garden (VMG) has

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J&K Raj Bhawan celebrates Foundation Day of Tripura among 3 places

HT NEWS NETWORK
JAMMU, JAN 21

The Foundation Day of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura was celebrated in J&K Raj Bhawan.

Students, Security personnel and the people of Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur living in J&K were the special invitees for the cultural programme celebrating the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, organized to commemorate the occasion.

In his address, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha conveyed his hearty greetings and best wishes to the people of Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur.

He paid homage to the great personalities of the three states and remem-



bered their significant contribution in nation building.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the socio-economic transformational journey of North Eastern States, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

He said the rapid and inclusive development

has connected the aspirations of the people of the North East to the aspirations of the nation.

"Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur are the treasure troves of India's rich traditions, culture, folk art & crafts. I can say with immense pride that today the North Eastern States have emerged as growth engines of the

country and are inspiring the entire society through their spiritual ideals and cultural values. May these blessed states continue to achieve new heights of growth, progress, and development. I wish the people happiness, peace, and prosperity in the years to come," the Lieutenant Governor said. KNO

Young Pulwama girl wins gold in Thang-Ta National Championship 2025

HT NEWS NETWORK
PULWAMA, JAN 21

A young girl from South Kashmir's Pulwama district has brought laurels to the whole of Jammu and Kashmir by winning a gold medal in National Thang-Ta Championship 2025.

Sheebu Ashraf (20), a resident of Kakapora area of Pulwama, a B A student, won the gold medal in 30th sub junior and senior national championship 2025 held at Haridwar Uttarakhand.

Speaking to the news agency, Sheebu said that she was interested in sports since her childhood and started practicing for Thang-Ta when she was 11. "I got inspired towards this game from one of my friends," she said, adding that her parents had supported her while her coach Sajad Ahmad Dar has helped her to excel



I am hopeful that I will excel further in upcoming events," she said.

Sheebu, who belongs to a financially weak family, said that parents' support is must to achieve any goal and they must support their children to make their future bright.

"Jammu and Kashmir is grappling with drug menace and engaging the younger generation in sports activities will help us to keep them away from drug and other anti-social activities, so there is need to engage more and more youth in sports activities," she added.

Sheebu said that in terms of infrastructure, J&K is very behind as compared to other states, however, infrastructure is being updated and hopefully it will be upgraded to a level where no body faces any problems in terms of infrastructure. KNO

in this game. "Day by day, achieving my goal is becoming easier," she said.

"I have taken part in several national games including two in Delhi, Chandigarh, J&K, Kanyakumari and many other places where I have won several medals," she said.

She said that for the 30th Thang-Ta Champion-

ship, there was a camp in Srinagar for 21 days following which she visited Uttarakhand this month where she managed to win the gold medal.

"Winning a medal at any level always encourages you to work hard and do better in coming events and winning the gold is always special and

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

CM Omar Visits...

constituted by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, led by a director-level officer from the Ministry of Home Affairs on the second consecutive day spent hours collecting samples and interacting with villagers and surviving family members.

Initial investigations, according to the officials, ruled out a communicable bacterial or viral disease, focusing instead on neurotoxins found in the samples of victims.

Authorities also sealed a local spring after discovering traces of pesticides or insecticides in its water.

CM OMAR VISITS BUDHAL

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited Budhal village and met the members of three affected families that witnessed 17 deaths, including 13 children, between December 7, 2024 and January 19, 2025. The victims belonged to three related families.

Accompanied by Minister Javed Ahmad Rana, Omar expressed solidarity with the bereaved families and assured residents of a transparent investigation. He pledged the government's commitment to uncover the truth. Talking to reporters after meeting the families of the victims the Chief Minister said that till now investigators have not been able to establish the reason behind mysterious deaths in the hamlet but efforts are on to ascertain the cause of deaths. "The government's priority is to stop this cycle of deaths and that it should not go beyond 17," he said, adding, "Since the day we have got the information, officials of Health and other departments have been working to understand the cause behind these deaths."

"Tests were done, and we reached the conclusion that there was no bacteria or virus that caused these deaths," he said, adding, "All these deaths have taken place in three families. "But, we are yet to find the reason behind these deaths. Since it's not a disease, Police are also involved in it and they have formed a team to investigate the matter."

The Central Government team is also there, and together we will look into the reason behind these deaths," the Chief Minister said.

He said that the government is fully committed to uncovering the cause of the tragic deaths, with multiple agencies actively involved in the investigation.

Asked about opposition criticism of his government over the handling of the situation, Omar said he would not like to play politics on such a happening.

"...Had we worked in haste and taken any wrong step, then you would have blamed us (for the deaths). The administration responded to the situation in a right way and the local MLA (Javaid Iqbal Choudhary) was there on the ground, taking the people into confidence and keeping them informed."

"We took time because we failed to establish the reason for the deaths. But we will expose the truth though it will take two or three more days and we have no issues with it," he said, adding "we will come out with the answers to all the questions". KNO

CM Omar Abdullah...

Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal, and Directors of Tourism from Kashmir and Jammu and other concerned.

During the event, the Chief Minister launched wall calendars, table calendars for the year 2025 and trekking maps featuring various scenic and tourist destinations, highlighting the rich tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir.

The calendars showcase the breathtaking landscapes, cultural heritage and tourist treasures of the region.

The trekking maps detail several prominent trails, including: The Kolahoi Glacier Trek, Khrew-Wasterwan Trail, Gurez-Sonamarg Trek, Sarbal Bear Valley Trek and Margan Pass Tsoharmarg Trek.

Commending the efforts of the Tourism Department, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of such initiatives in promoting Jammu and Kashmir as a leading travel destination.

He remarked, "These calendars and trekking maps will serve as valuable tools in providing people with essential information about the region's stunning tourist destinations and trekking routes. This initiative will undoubtedly help attract more visitors to explore the natural beauty and adventure opportunities our state offers."

Security beefed...

particularly in the border areas. Enhanced security measures, include road blockades, vehicle checks, security cordons, and search operations," the official said.

He said there is an extensive deployment of police and paramilitary forces along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC). "Senior officers have reviewed security arrangements in sensitive border areas to ensure effective coordination between various agencies," he added.

"To further bolster security, advanced surveillance technologies, including drones and high-resolution CCTV cameras, have been deployed to monitor event venues and surrounding areas," he said, adding that checkpoints have been set up in Srinagar and other district headquarters, particularly at key entry points.

"Random vehicle checks and frisking operations are being conducted to prevent the movement of subversive elements," he added. KNO

Man shot dead...

Police (ADGP), Jammu Anand Jain along with Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma visited the spot to assess the situation.

Speaking to media men, ADGP Anand Jain said, "It is a gang war. He (Jandiyal) belonged to the Gataru gang of Vijaypur. Members of a rival gang fired on him. It is not a terrorist incident, but a case of rivalry."

He added that police have launched an operation to track down the attackers.

Police Issue Statement

Police in a detailed statement urged the people to remain calm and refrain from speculation, awaiting official updates from the police.

"A firing incident occurred this afternoon in the Jewel Chowk area, under the jurisdiction of Police Station Nowabad. Upon receiving the information, ADGP Jammu, along with senior police officers, arrived at the scene," said police in a statement.

Reports indicate that one person has been seriously injured. The injured individual was promptly transported to GMC Jammu by a police team from PS Nowabad. An investigation has been initiated into the incident, and further details will be provided later.

The public is urged to remain calm and refrain from speculation, awaiting official updates from the police. KNO

High Court sets...

compensation of 1 lakh rupees for the victim, but the High Court found that the accused police officers had not been given an opportunity to present their side of the case.

A Bench of Justices Sanjeev Kumar and Puneet Gupta observed that the SHRC had issued its order without issuing notice or providing a hearing to the police officers accused of torturing the man.

The court stated that the SHRC had failed to adhere to the principles of natural justice. The judges said, "Before condemning the petitioners and imposing a penalty upon them, it was incumbent upon the Commission to summon all the petitioners and provide them with an adequate opportunity of being heard. The impugned order of the Commission is, therefore, in violation of the principle of natural justice and cannot sustain."

The court considered remanding the case back to the SHRC for fresh adjudication, allowing the accused officers a chance to be heard. However, the Bench was informed that the SHRC no longer exists in Jammu and Kashmir following the reorganisation of the region in 2019. Consequently, the High Court closed the case.

The order stated, "We could have sent back the case to the Commission for fresh consideration after providing the opportunity of being heard to the petitioners but we are told that the State Human Rights Commission does not exist. It is because of this reason, we are inclined to close the matter."

The case stemmed from a 2008 order issued by the erstwhile SHRC, which had directed that rupees 1 lakh be paid to a man who alleged that he was tortured by the Station House Officer of Darhal Police Station and other unidentified police personnel.

The man had been arrested under Section 364 (kidnapping) of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) and subjected to prolonged interrogation concerning his alleged involvement with militants. He claimed to have been tortured during his custody.

A preliminary investigation into the case found enough

grounds to proceed with the registration of an FIR under Section 330 (causing hurt to extort confession) of the RPC. However, the investigating officer concluded that the torture allegations could not be substantiated and filed a closure report.

Dissatisfied with this outcome, the arrested man approached the SHRC, which ultimately found the police officers guilty of custodial torture. The SHRC ordered that the man be compensated for the alleged torture.

The accused officers filed a writ petition before the High Court, challenging the SHRC's order. After considering the arguments, the Court allowed the petitioners' plea and set aside the 2008 SHRC order. KNO

"Malicious, concocted"...

debunking reports that the alliance with the National Conference is on the verge of a collapse, termed them as "malicious" and "concocted."

Karra, while speaking exclusively with news agency, asserted that there was no truth in these reports and that Congress was committed to this alliance and in support of the present dispensation.

"These are just baseless, malicious, concocted, and constructed rumours. I don't have much to say about it. This is not a thing to respond to," Karra stated.

Karra, however, added that they have been reiterating their principal demand for restoration of statehood and that they would not be a part of the cabinet unless statehood is restored.

"Statehood restoration is our principal stand. We are not joining the cabinet unless statehood is restored," he said.

Several reports have been doing rounds on social media that Congress was contemplating to put an end to the alliance with the National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir. KNO

ED Jammu attaches...

under money laundering act.

"ED, Jammu has provisionally attached Hotel Trinetra Resorts and Hotel Green Orchid both at Patnitop (J&K) worth Rs. 14.93 Crore (approx.) in the Patnitop Development Authority (PDA) case under the PMLA, 2002," the statement reads. KNO

Setback for Pak...

projects under the Indus Water Treaty. India has consistently maintained that the neutral expert alone has the authority to address the concerns surrounding the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric power plants.

The World Bank had appointed the neutral expert and a Chairman for the Court of Arbitration in 2022, following the impasse between India and Pakistan over the projects.

While Pakistan had requested the establishment of a Court of Arbitration to resolve the issue, India had sought the appointment of a neutral expert, arguing that the matter could be addressed by such an expert rather than through arbitration.

The neutral expert's statement clarified that he would proceed with evaluating the merits of the case based on the differences submitted by both countries.

The MEA today said that India's consistent position has been that the neutral expert has the sole authority under the treaty to address these concerns.

The statement said that the neutral expert had found all seven points raised by India in relation to the two projects to be within his jurisdiction. As a result, India views this as a validation of its position on the matter.

The MEA also said that India would continue to engage with the neutral expert process, aiming for a resolution that adheres to the treaty's provisions. India also reiterated its stance of not recognizing the Court of Arbitration established by Pakistan, considering it to be an illegal proceeding.

The MEA's statement also referred to the ongoing dialogue between the two countries concerning potential modifications and reviews of the Indus Water Treaty, as provided for under Article XII(3) of the agreement. The treaty allows for such revisions if both nations agree to it.

Notably, the dispute centers on the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric power plants, which both countries have been debating in relation to the provisions of the 1960 Indus Water Treaty.

The treaty, which governs the use of water from the Indus River system, includes mechanisms for cooperation and dispute resolution between India and Pakistan.

The disagreement revolves around whether the technical design aspects of the two power plants violate the terms of the treaty.

In 2015, Pakistan had sought the appointment of the neutral expert to deal with its objections to the two projects. However, a year later, Islamabad demanded that the objections be handled by the court of arbitration. India has been cooperating with the neutral expert but stayed away from proceedings of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague.

New Delhi considers the start of the two concurrent processes to resolve the dispute a violation of the provision of the graded mechanism prescribed in the IWT. India and Pakistan signed IWT on September 19, 1960 after nine years of negotiations with a sole aim to manage issues relating to cross-border rivers-(KNO)

NC, PDP enter...

termed as the biggest recruitment scam in J&K Bank. "Iltija Mufti belongs to the party that is responsible for the biggest recruitment scam of J&K Bank. We are not answerable to PDP but to the people of J&K," she said.

Ifra further added that these exams have been conducted by the Lieutenant Governor-led administration and instead of raising fingers on the elected government; she should have posed this question to the BJP and LG administration.

"PDP has been raising questions on the NC government only. We have nothing to do with these exams," the NC spokesperson said, adding that the investigation should be held if by the BJP and LG administration have done anything wrong in the recruitment process.

Ifra asked Iltija to muster the courage to ask this question to the LG administration rather than "sabotaging the elected government like the way they have been sabotaging the fight for the restoration of statehood".

The aspirants, who appeared for the JKP Constable Telecommunication and Photography exams, have reportedly cried foul, alleging major irregularities and questioning the transparency of the selection process.

According to aspirants, those who topped the Telecommunication and Photography exams had alarmingly poor scores, some even in the negative marking zone, in the earlier JKP (Executive/Armed/SDRF) paper, which they described as easier in comparison. KNO

J&K's Chinars now...

been established for the sustained production of high-quality saplings, and the transplantation of mature Chinars, including the iconic Char Chinar at Dal Lake, is underway," an official of the forest department said, adding that the integration of QR codes on geotagged Chinars has made it easier for the public to access real-time data on the health and status of these trees.

"The QR codes, which are attached to specialised plates designed to allow the tree to grow without obstruction, can be scanned by citizens to learn more about each tree's condition," he added.

Moreover, Dr Tariq highlighted public awareness as an essential aspect of the project. He said the forest department has been actively engaging in educational programmes, releasing documentaries, and celebrating initiatives such as "Chinar Day" (March 15) and the "Chinar Fall Festival" (October 15) to encourage community participation in the conservation efforts. KNO

Mother, 6-month-old...

and her 6-month-old child lost their lives in a cylinder explosion in the remote Jandrola area.

Shazia Kousar, a 28-year old woman, wife of Sajad Hus-sain, was working in the kitchen when the gas cylinder suddenly exploded, leading to the on-the-spot deaths of both the mother and child, they said.

Meanwhile, Police have taken cognizance of the incident while further investigations taken up. KNO

DGP Nalin Prabhat...

Special Operations Group (SOG) camps near the International Border.

The official said that DGP Prabhat also laid a wreath at the memorial of Assistant Commandant Vinay, who was martyred in a previous operation.

The DGP emphasized the need for synergy, vigilance, and a robust security grid. KNO



Div Com Kashmir assesses preparations for celebration of Republic Day-2025

Inspects civil & security arrangements at Bakhshi Stadium

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 21: In view of ensuring Republic Day celebrations, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, convened a meeting on Tuesday with officials from civil departments and security agencies to assess the final arrangements and facilities for the national event.

During the meeting, the Div Com reviewed the facilities for the participants and emphasized on overwhelming participation in the Republic Day celebrations.

He also instructed for hassle-free entry of participants at the venue, and directed concerned departments to appoint nodal officers to facilitate them.

He called for the illumination of key government buildings and institutions to foster a festive atmosphere.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Director Floriculture, and heads of all divisional and district offices.



Later, the Div Com also visited Bakhshi Stadium to assess the arrangements for the seamless execution of the Republic Day celebrations.

During this visit, he inspected the availability of drinking water and electricity, installation of LED screens, sound systems, seating arrangements, sanitation,

and toilet facilities.

On the occasion, he directed the Roads and Buildings department to install four LED screens at the stadium for live broadcast of the celebration proceedings.

He also urged the relevant authorities to ensure adequate heating arrangements for guests and enjoined the Srinagar

Municipal Corporation to deploy mobile toilets at the venue.

During the visit, the Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, SSP Srinagar, SSP Traffic, ASP Security and officials from various departments, including PHE, KPDCI, R&B, Information, MED, Traffic Police, YSS, AACL, Sports Council, and Hospitality & Protocol, and others. During the meeting, the Div Com reviewed the facilities for the participants and emphasized on overwhelming participation in the Republic Day celebrations.

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The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Director Floriculture, and heads of all divisional and district offices. Later, the Div Com also visited Bakhshi Stadium to assess the arrangements.

Awareness/training programme on 'Red Rice' held at Lalmandi Srinagar

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 21: An awareness cum training programme on 'Red Rice' under HADP Project, (promotion of niche crops in the UT of J&K), was held today at agriculture complex Lalmandi Srinagar.

The programme was organised by an advanced research station for saffron and temperate seed spices, SKUAST-K.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of different niche crops including Red Rice. He enumerated the different initiatives by the department in this direction.

He said that our niche crops would play an important role in the economic growth and sustainability of the agriculture sector in the region. He said under the holistic agriculture development program (HADP) government has approved a multi-crore prestigious project to promote the niche crops in the region.

The Jt. Director said the different interventions under HADP project, (Promotion of niche crops) like establishment of nurseries/ seed villages, would generate job opportunities for unemployed youth working in niche sectors.

Earlier head of the research station, Prof. Dr. Bashir Ahmed Allie presented a detailed scenario of different initiatives by the advanced research station, SKUAST-Kashmir for the promotion of niche crops like Red Rice. Officers of the Research station for saffron and temperate seed spices SKUAST-K, officers of agriculture department and a number of red rice farmers participated in the training program.

SKUAST-K, KVK Budgam conclude MSME entrepreneurship skill development programme for farmers

HT News Network

BUDGAM, JANUARY 21: SKUAST-K, KVK Budgam Tuesday successfully concluded its six weeks MSME entrepreneurship skill development programme titled 'From spores to harvest: a comprehensive mushroom training' sponsored by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Govt of India. The programme that commenced on from 12 December, 2024 culminated today on 21 January, 2025 was aimed at empowering farmers and farm women with vital skills in mushroom cultivation. The program equipped participants with knowledge and practical experience to enhance their farming practices and diversify their income sources. This hands-on training brought together over 25 participants of Galwanpora and adjoining villages of district Budgam. During the programme participants were engaged in a series of interactive sessions covering crucial aspects of mushroom farming, including selecting appropriate mushroom varieties, techniques for spawn preparation and substrate preparation, sustainable cultivation practices, pest and disease management, and harvesting and post-harvest handling. The training included practical demonstrations allowing participants to get first-hand experience in mushroom farming operations. Participants expressed enthusiasm and commitment in applying their newly acquired skills, with many indicating plans to establish their own mushroom farms or integrate mushroom cultivation into their existing farming practices.

DC Srinagar reviews progression of heritage conservation projects

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 21: In order to review the progression of the heritage preservation projects in the district, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, at Conference Hall of DC Office Complex here, today. At the outset, DC highlighted the significant cultural value of Srinagar's architectural heritage, underscoring the critical need to preserve these historical assets as symbols of the District's identity and legacy. He laid emphasis on collaborative frameworks in restoration practices to conserve architecture of the identified sites on heritage patterns.

Dr Bilal remarked that protecting Srinagar's architectural heritage is essential for cultural continuity and tourism promotion besides religious aspects.

On the occasion, the DC directed for constituting an Experts Team that will visit all sites and share a conservation report with the executing agencies so that preservation, revival, maintenance projects on identi-



fied sites in Srinagar District including Aali Masjid, Vicharnag Temple, Ziyarat Naqashband Sahib, Zeathar Narayan Mutt temple, Solina, and Baba Ghulam-U-Din Shrine.

During the meeting, the DC also held interaction with the different stakeholders and received their feedback for ensuring smooth and sustainable progression of the heritage preservation projects. He directed all departments involved to expedite efforts and collaborate closely to ensure the effective implementation of heritage preservation projects.

The DC reiterated the Administration's commitment to protect and revitalize Srinagar's historical assets and religious places, ensuring they are preserved for future generations to appreciate and learn from.

Besides, Chief Planning Officer, the meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer R&B, Executive Engineers of R&B, Officers from Archives, Archaeology & Museums Kashmir, experts from Kashmir University, SKUAST, INTACH and other concerned.

Govt Urges Employees to Register on Mission Karmayogi Portal

HT News Network

Srinagar, Jan 21, ANB: The General Administration Department (GAD) of Jammu and Kashmir has reiterated its directive to government employees to register on the iGOT Karmayogi Portal, a critical platform under the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), also known as Mission Karmayogi. Mission Karmayogi is a flagship initiative by the Government of India, aimed at enhancing the competencies of civil service employees for more efficient public service delivery. The program provides access to exhaustive learning modules designed to assess and develop core and new competencies among government functionaries. According to the Associated News Bureau, despite previous instructions, GAD has observed a significant number of employees are yet to register on the portal.

The department has taken this matter seriously and issued fresh instructions to all Administrative Secretaries and Heads of Departments to ensure compliance.

The circular, issued by Commissioner/Secretary M. Raju, IAS, mandates registration, enrollment, and participation in Competency Assessment Tests available on the portal. Departments have been instructed to submit action-taken reports to GAD to ensure accountability. The directive underscores the importance of aligning government services with evolving governance needs and modern administrative standards. With modules covering diverse areas, the portal aims to empower employees to meet the demands of dynamic administrative roles effectively.

DC Srinagar reviews implementation of PMAY-U

Directs Housing Board to establish citizen centric facilitation centers to provide information about the scheme

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 21: To review the progress of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in Urban and Rural areas of the District, a meeting of the Officers of line Departments was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, here.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed appraisal about the implementation of the PMAY-Urban scheme in the District. He also assessed the status of registration made under the PMAY-U scheme and directed the concerned authorities to organize special awareness camps across the district so that all eligible beneficiaries get benefitted from the scheme.

The DC asked all the concerned Officers after undertaking proper demand survey in

the district it should be ensured that not a single genuine beneficiary is left out from the scheme. He also stressed on maintaining utmost transparency and accountability in addition to timely disposal of cases.

Dr Bilal impressed upon the field functionaries to follow the robust mechanism already put in place to ensure immediate verification and processing of cases at each stage of construction and consequent disbursement of payments to the verified beneficiaries under the scheme.

The DC directed the DGM Housing Board to establish facilitation centers for the beneficiaries so that they are provided information about the scheme and the eligibility criteria to get registered under PMAY-Urban scheme.

With regard to the target achieved under Beneficiary Led Individual House Construction (BLC) and Credit Linked Sub-



sidy Scheme under PMAY-U, the DC was apprised that as of today, as many as 3025 Housing Units have been sanctioned so far in the District.

The DC was also apprised that an amount of Rs 38 crores has been disbursed by State Nodal Agency (SNA) till date in the accounts of genuine ben-

eficiaries after following due procedure and multilevel verification. On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned Officers to ensure that the

scheme guidelines are followed in letter and spirit so that all genuine eligible beneficiaries are covered under the PMAY-U scheme in the district.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Joint Commissioner SMC, Syed Abul Qasim; DGM, Housing Board, Javid Ahmad; Tehsildar Headquarter and other concerned Officers. At the outset, the DC took a detailed appraisal about the implementation of the PMAY-Urban scheme in the District. He also assessed the status of registration made under the PMAY-U scheme and directed the concerned authorities to organize special awareness camps across the district so that all eligible beneficiaries get benefitted from the scheme.

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EDITORIAL

Issues related
to operation of
e-rickshaws need
to be looked into

Some days back the Transport department fixed the rate for e-rickshaws operating in the different areas of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The fixing of rate has led to resentment among the e-rickshaw drivers who say that the same is very less and it would be very difficult for them to make the two ends meet. In other words we can say that the e-rickshaw drivers and the concerned department have entered into a confrontation over the rate issue.

According to the rate fixed the e-rickshaw drivers would have to charge Rs. 2.50 per kilometre per person or Rs. 10 per kilometre. Since these vehicles run on batteries the rate seems to be a genuine one and as such there is no justification in opposing the same. Given the fact that the basic aim of introducing the e-rickshaw was to improve connectivity in non-connected areas the rate is genuine and there is no need to counter the same.

It has been observed that ever since the e-rickshaw service has been started many such drivers have resorted to overcharging from the passengers. Although some complaints have come to the fore, action has been taken in very few cases. Yet another complaint that has come forward is that instead of four passengers the e-rickshaw drivers board five passengers with the fifth one asked to share the driver's seat. This violation has been carried out by all the e-rickshaw drivers with very little action being taken against the violators.

Since the transport commissioner has fixed the rate for the e-rickshaws he should also focus on another important issue. This relates to the connectivity of the areas and the people living in these areas. There are many areas in the Srinagar district and other districts as well as towns of the Kashmir valley which are yet to be connected with any mode of transport. It was ideal that e-rickshaw service be started in these non-connected areas and this need to be looked into by the people at helm of affairs.

As many educated but unemployed youth have turned into e-rickshaw drivers it is important that these people apply their brains and contribute towards the society while earning bread for their families. These people should operate their services where they are supposed to do so and at the same time they should not resort to overcharging from the passengers.



RAVEES AHMAD KUMAR

HT-BOOK REVIEW

Born on March 06 1966 to Gh Rasool Bhat novelsat Chana-pora area of Srinagar, Parvaiz Ahmad Bhat better known by his pen name as Parvaiz Manoos is a prominent name in the realm of urdu literature. Authoring more than two dozen books, Mr Manoos has emerged as an impactful litteratu of valley. Initially starting his literary career as a poet, he turned towards, translation, book reviewing and short story writing. His first poetry collection "Bete lamhon ki sogatein" was well received by the literary circles in 1993 followed by "Shikare ki mouth" Short story collection in 1995. His short stories and poetry items are regularly published by prominent dailies and monthly magazines across the country and receiving accolades from novice and seasoned writers equally. Apart from poetry and short story collections, Parvez Manoos has penned three huge and incredible novels viz Bargashtagi, Sare Jahan Ka Dard and Ishq Jis Ne Bi Kiya. This novel spanning 290 pages is published by Daraksh-shan Publications, adorned with an enticing cover designed by S Tariq and composed by MD Faraz. While writing a detailed and insightful dialogue of the book, Dr Altaf Anjum valley's renowned litteratu of the view "Parvez Manoos has already carved a niche in the world of poetry, but his style and prowess of writing novels has added one more feather in the cap to promote his ideas and opinions incorporated in the book". In it's proem noted columnist of valley, Altaf Jamil Shah writes "novel writing has been a regular feature in J&K as some legendary writers like Krishan Chandar, Hamidi Kashmiri, Umar Majid, Shabnum Qayoom, Noor Shah, Deepak Budki, Deepak Kanwal, Ab Gani Sheikh, Farooq Renuz, Taranum Riyaz and Rahim Rehbar

have authored some brilliantly composed novels. Parvez Manoos is a great addition to the list and his novels have infused hope to the young writers". Subzar Ahmad Bhat an academic and columnist has unveiled the beauties and silent features of the book through his meticulously written write-up. According to him, before writing about the Ishq, Parvez Manoos has himself well acquainted about the philosophy of Ishq. In his word of gratitude, Parvez Manoos has expressed his sincere thanks to everyone who helped him in realising his dream of authoring this novel. In this note of thanks, he has specifically mentioned Amir Ameer a Facebook friends besides Dr Altaf Anjum, Mehrajuddin Faraz, Tariq Shah, Altaf Jamil Shah and Subzar Ahmad Bhat. The novel Ishq Jis Ne Bi Kiya, mainly revolves round few active and vibrant characters viz Gulfam, Gilnar Begum, Shaharyar, Jabar, Mahira, Khalil Rehman, Noor Saba and Dilawar. Gulfam, an owner of a cement factory, two magnificent car showrooms is holding large assets besides an apple orchard spanning many acres of land which he has inherited from his father Shahbaz Ali. Gulnar Begum, his spouse is a generous lady who longs for having a child and despite visiting doctors and faith healers for about twelve years, she couldn't bear a child. However it was only after a gap of twelve years that a saintly man visited her home and drew the figure of a child at the entrance gate, the following day when she accompanied her husband upto the main gate while he was leaving for his office, she suddenly developed abdominal pain. After consulting the doctor at a nearby hospital, the good news of her being pregnant pleased everyone in the family. A moon like son Shaharyar was born, who was treated like a prince and his every wish was fulfilled dutifully by his parents. However due to pampered upbringing, he turns to be stubborn. He shows unusual and unethical behavior while at home and school. Once he chopped the braid of a female teacher who taught him at home, at another occasion the local police caught him alongside four other friends while doing bike stunts, at school his teachers and principal



often complained about his irresponsible and imprudent behavior. At home one day he grew so angry that he left aquarium broken into pieces and the colourful fish died soon. While Gulnar aften shielded his son whenever he did some uncivilized and reckless acts, Gulfam was fed up with his unruly conduct and was anxious to see his son as a civilised and decent human. To make him moralized, Khalil Rehman an Imam and Devband pass out who stayed in a rented accommodation there actually hailed from a far off village, was leading the prayers at the city mosque, was asked to give him moral lessons at home besides Quranic teachings. Soon a positive change in his behavior was witnessed and often posed mind-blowing questions. During the month of Ramadan, Khalil Rehman stayed in the mosque to perform Aitkaf, it was decided that his daughter Noor Saba would do the rest of the task. She taught him with utmost interest and diligence. Shaharyar again posed difficult questions like What is Love? What is Ishq? What is soul? What is self? What is the difference

between Sufi and Darvesh etc, Noor Saba left no stone unturned to make him understand the asked concepts. However soon he felt in love with his newly appointed teacher. Her charm, deep eyes and soulful voice lured him. He often sought opportunities on the pretext of seeing her while she went to teach in a nearby madarsa. On Eid day when he was asked to give them Eid gifts besides the remuneration amount, he was thrilled and hurriedly left home to see her. Fortunately he saw her face to face there, which further tantalized him. Gradually Noor Saba too felt in love with Shaharyar who according to her is a simpleton, truthful and pure-hearted. Soon they began liking each other and the news of their closeness reached every home. When Khalil Rehman knew it, he restricted her daughter from teaching students in the madrasa and asked her not to allow Shaharyar in the home further. Shaharyar was lost in her love and by all means wished to have her. When he disclosed it in front of her mother, she almost scolded him for she belonged to a downtrodden family.

Jabar Gulnar's brother wanted to marry his daughter Mahira with Shaharyar for he being a lone son of a royal family. Deliberately and intentionally he left her at her aunt's house to study at a coaching center. She too wanted to lure Shaharyar but he remained unmoved. When Shaharyar openly revealed his ambitions and tried to persuade his parents, they were stunned and did everything possible to distract his mind. This didn't have any effect on Shaharyar's objective and he got more infuriated. Jabar plotted a secret plan without informing anyone, through Dilawar an allegation was levelled against Khalil Rehman who happened to visit Rukhsana's home during late night as her little daughter was ill. She was Noor Mohammad's wife who had died due to sudden high blood pressure and kept brotherly relations with Khalil Rehman throughout his life. It was alleged that Khalil Rehman had bad intentions, and through a unanimous decision by the masjid committee both the families were forced to leave the city without any further notice. Khalil

Rehman settled along with his three children in a far off destination where nomads rear cattles in summers. The father daughter began teaching the nomadic children there which helped them to sustain during predicament. However the ill-intentions of Jabar were unveiled when Dilawar called him on phone and it was received by his sister Gulnar Begum. The evidence was enough to prove that, it was none other than Jabar who shattered the dreams of couple, ravaged their home and snatched from them their lone pampered son Shaharyar. Shaharyar had already left his home when he knew that the dou families were forced to leave the city on baseless allegations. He left to meet Noor Saba. Gulfam met the members of Masjid committee, revealing the truth behind expelling Khalil Rehman and widow Rukhsana from the city. All members felt sorry and were eager to seek forgiveness from the former Imam. For all fifteen years, the couple left no stone unturned to search for their son, they lodged the missing report at the police station, through print and electronic media also public was informed. However it was only after Gulfam received a call from Wajid Khan IG CID informing him about his son being alive and settling at a far away place beneath the great hill, now famous round the region as Noorani Baba. It was further reiterated that they have matched his son's picture through graphics, which revealed that Noorani baba is actually Shaharyar their own son. A month earlier also, the couple had met Noorani Baba when Firdous informed them about the faith healer but he didn't reveal his identity that time but assured that their son is alive and lost in the love of his Lord. Parvaiz Manoos has diligently and meticulously crafted this novel and indubitably it is a huge addition to the urdu literature. After going through this scrupulously written novel, it can be said that the future of novel in Kashmir is bright because the young and budding writers too display their skill in writing novels.

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Empowering Health and Wellness Centres In Ladakh

DR FAZL UL HAQ WANI

The land of high passes, Ladakh, is renowned for its difficult terrain, isolated locations, and stark beauty. The region is distinct due to its large geographic size and small population, yet these factors also provide major obstacles to the provision of healthcare. To address this, the government has set up Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs) in almost all of the villages, with the goal of offering primary healthcare services to even the most isolated areas of the area. Although the concept of HWCs is admirable, the relevant question still stands: Are these centres actually fulfilling their intended function? Are they benefiting patients as envisioned, or are they

mere establishments with a limited impact on the ground? Additionally, even if HWCs may offer medications and services, are the staff members sufficiently skilled to deliver high-quality care?

The Ground Reality: Services vs. Staff Capability

Ladakh's HWCs provide a basic range of services and are comparatively well-stocked with necessary medications. One may believe that they are enough given the low patient flow in the majority of centres as a result of the small population. But a closer inspection reveals serious issues. The competence of the staff to provide care that satisfies the needs of the patients is the main concern, not the availability of services. Many staff are undertrained to deal

with crises or offer specialized treatment. Programs like NQAS and Kayakalp, for example, emphasize infrastructure and sanitary requirements, but they frequently obscure the need to provide high-quality healthcare.

Emergency and trauma care training programs are desperately needed in Ladakh. Because of the challenging roads, dangerous terrain, and high altitude risks, emergencies—whether from traffic accidents or illnesses brought on by the altitude—occur frequently. Patients are left unprotected during crucial moments since many HWCs' present staff is unable to handle such circumstances.

The Need for Staff Rationalization

The Irrational staffing



distribution across health centres is another major issue. There is an overstaffing problem in certain HWCs with small populations; despite having few patients, two ANMs and three nursing officers are appointed. Greater facilities, such as those that have been transformed into New Type Primary Health Centres (NTPHCs), may lack even the most basic personnel needed to serve a greater popu-

lation. This discrepancy emphasizes how urgently staff must be rationalized to guarantee fair distribution and the best possible use of human resources. The healthcare system can operate more effectively and efficiently by redistributing staff according to workload and population.

Strengthening PHCs for Emergency

As the initial point of contact for emergencies,

Primary Health Centers (PHCs) are essential to Ladakh's healthcare system. PHCs have greater facilities and medical staff than HWCs. However, the majority of PHCs lack both necessary emergency supplies and sufficient staff training. Enhancing PHCs with cutting-edge emergency medical equipment and consistent training initiatives can have a big impact. PHC doctors can use their medical knowledge to manage crises and provide prompt care that may not be available at HWCs due to the absence of doctors.

Conclusion

Undoubtedly, the concept of placing HWCs in each village of Ladakh is a positive move, but its execution calls for assessment and change. The following

actions are necessary to genuinely benefit the general population:

Thorough Staff Training: To guarantee that every healthcare professional can manage life-threatening situations with competence and confidence, regular training in emergency and trauma care must be given top priority.

Staff Rationalization: To prevent overstaffing in certain centers and understaffing in others, a fair staffing distribution based on population and workload is essential.

Strengthening PHCs: Modern emergency care equipment and an emphasis on staff and physician skill development can greatly boost healthcare outcomes at PHCs.

The distinct demographic and geographic

issues regarding Ladakh necessitate a distinctive approach to healthcare delivery. We can guarantee that the goal of providing affordable, high-quality healthcare in every village is realized by filling in these gaps and concentrating on resource allocation and training. I request policymakers and healthcare administrators to take these suggestions into account. In addition to improving the healthcare system, investments in infrastructure, training, and streamlining will also help people trust the services again. Only then can we genuinely assert that HWCs in Ladakh are a reality rather than merely a concept.

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Global warming, cause of snowfall reduction in Kashmir



MUSHTAQ BHAT

Kashmir is renowned for its stunning natural beauty especially in the winters when snow covers the whole valley in a blanket of white. As the Snow falls, a sense of tranquility envelopes the region. Snow is part of Kashmir's identity, culture and lifestyle. It brings merri ment and miser-ies for the people of this region. Nevertheless other than beauty, snow brings with it an unwelcomed state of misery, and struggle. The intense cold wave grips the region leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as water supply lines. Infact everything underwent lapse and comes to a full stop. The season force the people to put on extra clothes and material to stay warm.

With electricity supply erratic people resort to the use of Kangri, an earthen fire-pot, to beat the chill. It adversely affects the daily routine of locals, especially in hilly areas. Even people in cities suffer in a variety of ways.

However winter is one of those rare blessings from God that makes Kashmir unique and beautiful but Kashmir is witnessing a decrease in snowfall every passing year. It's impact can be observed like Dry-ness in winters, less rainfall in March and April, increased heat in summer which is quite alarming. It is evident that climate change- induced sign of things has undoubtedly affected snowfall that will lead to social, economic, and even humanitarian issues in the future.

In Kashmir, snowfall in winter is as anti-

pated as the monsoon is in mainland India. Not only is it essential to ensure the water supply in the Himalayan region, the economy of Kashmir - where 70% of the people associated with agriculture and its allied sectors for livelihood - depends heavily on a good winter.

This adage was once a ubiquitous part of Kashmiri culture, with children often reciting a variation of the phrase:

Shinah, Peto Peto, Mama Yito Yito.

Climate change, deforestation, Urbanization and pollution are considered con-tributing factors to the declining snowfall in Kashmir, as indicated by various studies. This gives a clear image of how global warming is adversely affecting us. Rajeevan tells DH. "Such trends are expected in the next 30-40 years, and we need strategies to cope because the decline in snowfall will effect water reduction in hydroelectricity, drinking water supply, crop production and increase in forest fires, and agricultural drought. In Kashmir there are several rivers like lidder river in Pahalgam, Shaliganag in Doodhpathri, doodhganga in yousmarg, and waterfalls. The main source of all these rivers, canals are the glaciers. Glaciers are the snow covered mountains that cater water to rivers, for drinking purposes, and keeps the surrounding during summers cold and charming. Snow keeps the soil moisture and has immense benefits.

The current situation of decline in snowfal is a serious sign which would have adverse consequences. Experts fear that this prevailing trend is going more frequent in the future which is a threat to human life.

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Dessa Switzerland Of Dods-A Road to Hope For Future



BY MOOL RAJ

This is place exist in the womb of Hills all around the hill cover this beautiful little Dessa Valley. This place so good All the beautiful symbol of vedas are found there so this place is called Davebumi. It is a picnic spot the distance from Jammu railway to Gai is about 280km. The head post office is doda and Branch post office in GAI. This place is know connected to Srinagar through Dessa Capran road. The first motrable bridge under progress in Gai village. Most of the population of this village was under B.P.L The cause behind this is that the politicians are not take it Serious. They come only for votes and when the 5 year complete then they come next time.

Dessa Gai an abode on earth. This place a famous tourist spot lush green meadows compared with Switzerland in winter. A mountainous belt surrounds the valley feels natures pure attraction.

There is something special in these mountains a natural glow of flora and fauna. A perfect hub of God's own creation." For over 75 years, the residents of Dessa, a picturesque village in the Doda district, have lived in relative isolation. Despite a population exceeding 25,000, the absence of proper road connectivity has turned everyday life into a relentless struggle. This has been especially challenging during harsh winters when accessing essential services like health-care and education becomes nearly impossible. The recent initiation of a road survey under the Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY) marks a pivotal moment, bringing a renewed sense of hope to this beleaguered community. The isolation of Dessa is not just a matter of inconvenience; it is a severe impediment to the well-being and prosperity of its residents. The lack of roads has forced villagers to resort to carrying critically ill patients on makeshift stretchers over



treacherous terrain to reach the nearest motorable road, often resulting in tragic outcomes. This dire situation underscores the urgent need for infra-structural development that has long been promised but never realized.

Dessa's stunning natural beauty and moderate climate make it a hidden gem, comparable to the famous

landscapes of Kashmir. With proper infrastructure, it holds the potential to thrive economically and socially. However, the prolonged neglect has forced many villagers to migrate to urban areas, seeking better opportunities for their families. Those who remain continue to endure hardships that are inconceivable in the

21st century. The government's decision to conduct a road survey is a crucial first step towards integrating Dessa into the broader socio-economic framework of the region. This initiative not only promises to alleviate the immediate hardships faced by the villagers but also paves the way for future development. Improved connectivity will facilitate access to healthcare, education, and markets, ultimately enhancing the quality of life and opening new avenues for economic growth.

Moreover, this development could catalyze tourism, tapping into Dessa's scenic beauty and fostering a sustainable source of income for the villagers. It also holds the promise of reversing the migration trend, encouraging those who left to return and contribute to their community's rejuvenation. Investing in road infrastructure can also have a multiplier effect on the local economy by creating jobs during the construction phase

and stimulating local businesses once completed. Access to markets will allow farmers and artisans to sell their products more efficiently, boosting their livelihoods.

However, this initiative must be approached with a long-term vision. It is essential that the government not only completes the road network but also ensures its maintenance and sustainability. Furthermore, the development should be inclusive, taking into account the needs and voices of the local community. The commencement of the road survey in Dessa is more than just a governmental initiative; it is a beacon of hope for a community that has been marginalized for far too long. It is imperative that this momentum not be lost and that the promises made are fulfilled with urgency and commitment. By bridging the gap of isolation, Dessa can finally embark on a journey toward progress and prosperity, ensuring a brighter future for its residents. This road is not just a physical connection but a symbolic one, linking Dessa to opportunity, growth, and a better quality of life.

The author is a regular columnist freelance writer.

Nanotechnology: A Revolutionary Subject Missing In J&K's Curriculum

SUBZARAH GANAI

In 1959, a well-known physicist, Richard Feynman, delivered a visionary lecture at the California Institute of Technology titled "There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom," where he outlined the vast potential of manipulating matter at the atomic and molecular levels. Feynman's revolutionary ideas laid the groundwork for nanotechnology, a field that now drives innovation in medicine, energy, agriculture, and more. Decades later, his vision remains a guiding light for scientific progress worldwide.

The subject emphasized the importance of bridging gaps between physical, chemical, and biological sciences while transforming them into an interdisciplinary one. Until the invention of high-end microscopy, nanotechnology seemed to be

an arbitrary concept. Discoveries like graphene, the Lycurgus Cup (an ancient Roman glass), carbon nanotubes, the setae of geckos' feet, and deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) have proven that nanotechnology plays an artistic role in shaping the design of this universe both physically and biologically. In other words, it transcends objects both intrinsically and extrinsically.

So, the question arises: if nanotechnology has such transformative potential, why don't we dare to expose ourselves—and school-going children—to this vast, pre-existing knowledge system in 2025? Is it because we cling to the so-called basic sciences like chemistry, physics, and biology, which diversify into multiple branches like organic, inorganic, and physical chemistry; classical, quantum, nuclear, and astrophysics; and zoology,

botany, biotechnology, and bioresources? Why not identify a node that connects all these fields? Surely, this will lead us to the subject of nanotechnology as the resolution!

As of 2025, Jammu and Kashmir is lagging behind in introducing this much-needed, revolutionary subject at the school and college levels. Despite its immense potential, nanotechnology remains absent from the +2 curriculum in Jammu and Kashmir. Students aspiring to pursue careers in cutting-edge fields often face a steep learning curve in higher education due to a lack of foundational exposure in school. This gap not only limits their opportunities but also hinders the region's ability to produce skilled professionals in this transformative field.

Thanks to policymakers, students in the Union Territory are still unaware of this subject's name after nearly seven decades. In fact, to high-school teachers, the introduction of this subject seems as daunting as summiting Mount Everest (8,848m)! As per NEP 2020, vocational education is to be imparted to students. How do we expect ideas like regenerative medicine, tissue engineering, targeted drug delivery, nanosensors, carbon nanotube (CNT)-based space ladders, and other advancements to be inculcated in young minds awaiting futuristic educational initiatives through NEP 2020? Should this be linked to the principle of lethargy, which prevents chair-holders from thinking like revolutionary visionaries, or to students who prefer to remain confined to basic theoretical education, never sprouting to contribute meaningfully to society?

At the same time, we must appreciate the Uni-

versity of Kashmir for introducing us to this domain of knowledge, even if only at the age of 24. Although it could have been done earlier, as the saying goes, "Better late than never."

To those who abide by the belief that "Education is a powerful weapon to change the behavior of society positively" and genuinely want to shape the future of this land to produce intellectual mindsets—whether they are school teachers, Chief Education Officers, assistant professors at the college level, or officials in the education sector—it is time to unite and introduce nanotechnology as a core subject at both school and college levels.

By introducing nanotechnology into the curriculum, Jammu and Kashmir can inspire its students to dream big and develop innovative solutions to global and region-

al challenges. As Richard Feynman famously said, "What I cannot create, I do not understand." It is high time we honored this statement by collaborating with experts to introduce the subject at all levels and create a full-fledged multidisciplinary course in nanotechnology.

Policymakers, educators, and industry leaders must come forward to ensure that students in Jammu and Kashmir have access to the opportunities they need to thrive in the 21st century. Introducing nanotechnology in schools is not just a choice—it's a necessity. The time to act is now. Let the seeds of nanotechnology be sown in schools today so they may yield transformative breakthroughs tomorrow.

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Being a republic has deeper meaning for India as it allows us to live values like democracy, equality, justice and freedom

VIJAY GARG

India is going to celebrate its 76th Republic Day after a few days. Preparations for this are going on all over the country. The main event will be organized in the capital Delhi. If someone asks why Republic Day is special for India, then the answer to this question will be that after becoming a republic, the country has become free to take decisions in its internal and external matters. For India to be a republic has a very deep and important meaning. It is not just a political system, but it defines our country's values, history and future direction. The Republic has given India the right to decide its own political, economic and social policies. Through this, a democratic system was

established in the country, in which the people got the right to elect their representatives. After the implementation of the Constitution in India, all adult citizens got the right to vote. Are these all normal things? After becoming a republic the government becomes accountable to the people and has to give account of its policies through regular elections. Was all this possible during monarchy or white government? No. The Republic established the rule of law, in which all citizens are equal before the law. Citizens got fundamental rights, such as right to equality, right to freedom, right to religious freedom, etc. All citizens have these rights without any discrimination. These rights cannot be violated and the law entitles all citizens

toProtects rights. With the formation of the Republic, the rule of law came into force in India. With this, an important step was taken towards establishing the rule of law in the country. This means that all citizens in the country, regardless of their social status, religion, caste or gender, are equal before the law. No person is above the law and everyone has to follow the law. Before becoming a republic, India was under British rule, where laws were made by the British and were intended to maintain their control over India. At that time, Indians did not enjoy equal rights and often faced discrimination. Now let us also talk about the important steps taken after becoming a republic to establish the rule of law. The Constitution of India played an important role

in establishing the rule of law. The Constitution divided powers between different organs of the government (legislature, executive and judiciary), so that no one organ had too much power. An independent judiciary was established in the country, which interprets the laws, and ensure that all citizens get justice. The judiciary is free from interference by the executive and the legislature. To ensure the rule of law, institutions like the Election Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General were created, which ensure that the government works according to the law. Over time, procedures for amending laws were also established so that they could adapt to changing social values and needs. It is important to remember that the rule

of law is the foundation of democracy and it is essential for the development and prosperity of any country. It ensures that all citizens feel safe, all citizens get equal opportunities, the government is accountable, corruption ends and peace and stability is maintained in the country. However, it is also true that there are still challenges in fully implementing the rule of law in India. Poor and marginalized communities face difficulties in accessing justice. Corruption and political interference also undermine the rule of law. Still, the rule of law in IndiaThere is an ideal that continuous efforts are being made to achieve. With the formation of the Republic, the foundation of rule of law was laid in India. But there are still some challenges, but the

country is continuously moving towards a society where the law applies equally to all. This is an ongoing process, in which the government, judiciary, civil society and all citizens will have to work together. The Republic attempted to achieve the goal of social justice, which includes providing equal opportunities to all sections of society. The Republic adopted IndiaThey were given the right to decide their own economic policies, which gave impetus to economic development. The Republic promoted progress in education, leading to increased literacy rates. To understand how the path to India's economic progress was paved after becoming a republic, we have to pay attention to some important aspects: India started five-year plans inspired by

the Soviet Union. Their objective was to develop the country's economy in a planned manner. These schemes include agriculture, industry, education, health and basicFocus was placed on areas such as structure. India adopted a mixed economy, in which both the public and private sectors were given important roles. The public sector was given the responsibility of developing heavy industries and infrastructure, while the private sector was encouraged to produce consumer goods and services. Land reform laws were enacted to end the Zamindari system and distribute land equally among the farmers. This increased agricultural production. in the 1960sThe Green Revolution began, using high-yielding seeds, fertilizers and irrigation techniques.

This made India self-sufficient in food grain production. Loans and subsidies were provided to farmers, which helped them adopt modern agricultural techniques. Being a republic is a great achievement for India. It is a political framework that allows us to live values such as sovereignty, democracy, equality, justice and freedom. This paves the way to make us a strong, united and prosperous nation. We must remain committed to preserving the Republic and carrying forward its ideals. You can say that Republic of India is committed to realizing the happiness and dreams of every citizen. There can be no debate about this.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal, Educational Columnist Street Kaur Chand MHR Malout Punjab

DC Kulgam finalises arrangements for Republic Day celebrations.

■ Farooq Rather.

KULGAM, Jan 21 The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan (IAS) convened a meeting today at the Mini-Secretariat to finalise the preparations for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the necessity for comprehensive arrangements to ensure the seamless conduct of the significant national event. The discussions encompassed various logistical aspects, including security measures, seating arrangements, parking facilities, transportation, building illumination, refreshments, and accommodation for attendees. It was determined that the main function would take place at DPL Kulgam, where the chief guest will unfurl the National Flag to be followed by a parade featuring contingents from JKP, CRPF, NCC, the police band among others. The DC issued directives to all relevant departments to finalize preparations in advance for the Republic Day festivities. Additionally, departments were instructed to make heating arrangements in light of the current cold weather conditions.

The DC urged all involved officers and agencies to collaborate closely while organizing the national event.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from old name Atif Altaf Dijoo to new name Atif Altaf in future I will be known as Atif Altaf. Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact Passport Officer, Srinagar within 7 days. No objection will be entertained after that.

Name....Atif Altaf

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Executive Magistrate
1st Class kreeri

PUBLIC NOTICE

My son's name and residence has been wrongly written as RAKEEB NISAR WANI S/O NISAR AHMAD WANI R/O HAMRAT T TAPPER in date of birth certificate (DOB) while his correct name and residence is Zaid Nisar Wani S/O NISAR AHMAD WANI R/O HAMRAY which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his/ her objection in the office of SDH KREERI / BMO office kreeri with seven days from the date of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of AFFAN NAZIR S/O NAZIR AHMAD PARA R/O TAPPER Tehsil PATTAN Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 31/07/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class kreeri

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHAMMAD MOZIM S/O TARIQ AHMAD HAJAM R/O VIZER Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 16/04/2020 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class kreeri

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on name AMA BHAT S/O .GH RASOOL R/O BAGH MOHALLAH CHOUBUGH BUDGAM ..Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0206010015372 wants to be registered on my name BASHIR AHMAD BHAT S/O AMA BHAT R/O BAGH MOHALLAH CHOUBUGH BADGAM ..If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/ her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....BASHIR AHMAD BAHT
S/O ... AMA BHAT
R/O BAGH MOHALLAH CHOUBUGH BUDGAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Aabid Mohi Ud din R/o Khrew Pampore Want to Correct my Minor Son's Name From Khubaib bin abid s/o Abid Mohi ud din To Khubaib bin aabid s/o Aabid Mohi ud din on All the Documents for All Future Purposes.

Name....Aabid Mohi Ud din
F/OKhrew Pampore

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Executive Magistrate
1st Class kreeri

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Executive Magistrate
1st Class kreeri

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of RONAK RASHID S/O ABDUL RASHID SHEIKH R/O CHANDKOOT Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 20/05/2012 and event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class kreeri

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Executive Magistrate
1st Class kreeri

Delegation from Padder, Aol Gangyal call on Deputy Chief Minister, highlight key issues

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 21: A delegation from Padder, led by Pooja Thakur, Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Kishtwar, called on Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chaudhary here today.

The delegation apprised the Deputy Chief Minister of the pressing issues faced by the residents of Padder-Nagseni, seeking immediate redressal. The key demands presented included improving road connectivity, addressing power supply issues, enhancing healthcare facilities and expediting completion of pending developmental projects in the region.

The Deputy Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them of prompt action. He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for early resolution of several highlighted issues. Later, a deputation of Association of Industries (AoI) Gangyal, Jammu led by Virendra Jain, President and other functionaries met the Deputy Chief Minister.

The delegation apprised the Dep-



uty Chief Minister of current state of Micro/Small Industrial sector, Jammu in particular and J&K in general.

The Association urged for initiating a new industrial policy and package of incentives, the operation part of which must be at par for new and the existing industry as well.

The deputation laid emphasis on compensating local Micro/Small sector through timely reimbursement of fiscal incentives at least equivalent

to the quantum of amount prevalent before adoption of GST regime in J&K by way of VAT remission, CST and Toll Tax exemptions besides Central Excise Duty refund and other demands.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the deputation that the issues projected by them would be looked into and redressed properly. He said the government is committed for ensuring sustained industrial growth in Jammu & Kashmir.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office of the Chief Education Officer Bandipora SHORT TERM QUATATION

Short term quotations are invited from the registered dealers/suppliers of text and other books of District Bandipora as the requirement of books for establishment of library and the list of all books to be procured are not available on GeM portal. The registered dealers/suppliers may submit short term quotations for the books along with reasonable rates for establishment of library within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice as per need. The details of books to be procured along with title can be had from the office of the undersigned

The under signed having every right to reject any tenderer at any time without furnishing any reason/notice prior to the tenderer.

(Kishore Kumar)

Chief Education Officer
Bandipora

DIPK-11096/24

Dated:- 21/01/2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JSD PHE DIVISION BARAMULLA

E- TENDER NOTICE NO 18 OF 01/2025 DATED 01/20/2025

For and on behalf of Government of UT of J&K, "Jal Shakti Department J&K" invites tenders on percentage rate basis from reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms/Companies/Joint Ventures, eligible bidders registered with JKPWD/JS/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Name of Work", approved under Ut Capex The bidding process shall be completed online in two cover system with Cover 1st consisting of Qualification Criteria, Tender fee, Bid Security, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications etc. Cover '2nd' shall consist of Financial Bid (BOQ) in the prescribed format.

S. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of EMD	Cost of T. doc. (in Rs)	Time of completion
1.	WSS Wanigam Tilgam under CAPEX	514.00	Eligible bidders	2% of advertised cost	2500/-	220 days

Instruction/ Terms & Conditions:

1. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, technical specifications, bill of quantities [B.O.Q.] set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given hereunder:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20/01/2025
2.	Date of Publishing	20/01/2025
3.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	20/01/2025
4.	Bid Submission Start date	20/01/2025
5.	Pre Bid Meeting	22/01/2025
6.	Bid Submission End date	10/02/2025
7.	Date and time of opening of bids [online]	11/02/2025

2. Bid must be accompanied with cost of tender documents in shape of TREASURY CHALLAN against account No. 0215 favouring of Executive Engineer, PHE Div. Baramulla [tender inviting authority].

3. All Bidders have to upload scanned copy of Earnest money deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PHE Division Baramulla.

4. The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of Executive Engineer PHE Division Baramulla on 22/01/2025 at 11.00 am.

5. The date and time of opening of Financial Bid shall be notified on website jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened on-line in the office of Executive Engineer, PHE Division, Baramulla.

6. The Executive Engineer, PHE Division, Baramulla reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason thereof. No conditional tenders shall be accepted and such tenders are liable to be rejected even if rates quoted are the lowest.

8. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

9. For item providing, laying and fitting/successful testing commissioning of various dia's of pipes, the pipe shall be buried underground as per trench norms laid in the book of specification and as per direction of Engineer in charge at Site.

10. The pipe material shall be supplied from reputed manufacturers; the agency shall initially establish a store in the vicinity or at divisional store Khawajabagh, Baramulla whichever is approved by the Executive Engineer PHE Division Baramulla and will be binding upon the contractor before the same is issued to site after getting approved. The approval process shall be documented on material approval sheets duly signed by in-charge engineer's quality control committee and contractor. The GI pipe material to be supplied shall be of standard quality, reputed manufacture light class as per IS specifications and the DI pipe shall be K7 as per IS standards from reputed manufacturer. Pipes if any available under erstwhile JKIDFC (Languishing) shall be utilize as a ist

charge and agency shall have no objections in same to avoid non utilization of ground balance. The rates of material issued if any shall be deducted as per divisional stock rates and shall be binding upon the executing agency.

11. The contractor will be responsible for any loss or theft to the quantity of pipe and pipe specials and E&M equipments and sufficient watch and ward has to be provided at his cost.

DIPK- 11069/24
Date: Jan 21 2025

Executive Engineer P.H.E Division
Baramulla

Republic Day 2025 arrangements finalized at Bandipora

DC calls for inter-departmental coordination for smooth celebrations

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 21: To ensure smooth and successful celebration of Republic Day 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Tuesday convened a meeting of officers from various departments at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora. The meeting was aimed at reviewing and finalizing the arrangements for the celebration of the national event. The meeting discussed threadbare various aspects of the preparations, including flag unfurling, parade activities, cultural performances, and other logistical arrangements.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, briefed the chair regarding the measures and plans in place by different departments to ensure the successful conduct of the event. It was informed that, at the sub-divisional level, Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) will unfurl the National Flag while at tehsil level, the concerned tehsildars will preside over Republic Day functions. Similarly at block level, the Block Development Officers (BDOs) will lead the celebrations besides all district officers whose offices are located outside the Mini Secretariat have been directed to organize flag unfurling ceremonies in their respective



offices. It was given out that the Republic Day parade at S.K Stadium Bandipora will feature contingents from Jammu and Kashmir Executive Police, Armed Police, Indian Reserve Police (IRP), District Police Women Battalion, Fire and Emergency Services, National Cadet Corps (NCC), Home Guards/SDRF, Special Police Officers (SPOs) and students from various schools. The meeting was informed that the event will include vibrant cultural performances by students from local schools, highlighting India's rich heritage, diversity, and patriotic spirit. The DC also took stock of the ongoing rehearsal activities and directed all

departments to ensure flawless execution. Qadri emphasized strict adherence to timelines and called for inter-departmental coordination to address any gaps in the preparations. The DC also reviewed other logistical arrangements, including seating, Public Address system, power backup, and security. Special attention was given to crowd management and ensuring smooth access for attendees. He urged the public, and all stakeholders to actively participate in the Republic Day celebrations, emphasizing the importance of fostering unity, patriotism, and respect for the country's sovereignty.

DC Baramulla launches Clean River Jhelum campaign on Republic Day-2025 eve

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 21: In a significant step to promote environmental cleanliness ahead of Republic Day, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today launched the 'Clean River Jhelum Campaign.'

The campaign, running from January 21 to January 25, 2025, aims to clean the River Jhelum and raise awareness about environmental conservation.

Organized by the Housing and Urban Development Department



Kashmir, with active participation from the Municipal Council (MC) Baramulla, the initiative will focus on cleaning the riverbanks, collecting waste, and educating the public on

the importance of preserving natural resources. "The River Jhelum is a vital part of our heritage, and this campaign highlights our collective responsibility to protect and preserve

it for future generations," stated DC during the launch. The campaign is designed to inspire the local community to take action in maintaining a cleaner and greener environment.

The campaign was launched in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Baramulla, Naveed Ajaz, and other officers and officials.

This initiative aligns with the ongoing efforts of the Housing and Urban Development Department Kashmir to improve urban cleanliness and foster sustainable development practices in the region.

Pulwama's Young Author Honoured with National Literature Award 2025

HT News Network

Pulwama's very own literary voice, Faheem ul Islam, has been conferred with the prestigious National Literature Award 2025 by the Indian Literature and Arts Society. The award acknowledges his exceptional contribution to literature, with a focus on social issues and youth empowerment, reflected in his powerful books and thought-provoking newspaper columns.

Faheem, who hails from Achan Pulwama, completed his Master's in International Politics from Aligarh Muslim University, combining academic depth with a passion for social justice. His writings have resonated with readers from all walks of life, earning him widespread admiration

for shedding light on the struggles of society, particularly the youth.

Speaking on the occasion, Faheem expressed his heartfelt gratitude, saying, "I owe this recognition to Allah, and I am forever thankful to my parents and mentors for their continuous guidance and support."

Faheem ul Islam, in his message to the youth, urged them to stay grounded, embrace knowledge, and use their voices to bring about positive change in society.

The Indian Literature and Arts Society applauded Faheem's work and wished him further success in his literary career. With this prestigious recognition, Faheem's future in the literary world looks even brighter.

Police books notorious drug peddler under PIT-NDPS Act in Shopian

HT News Network

Shopian January 21: Police in Shopian booked a notorious drug peddler under Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (PIT NDPS) after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent authority.

The notorious drug peddler namely Manzoor Ahmad Reshi son of Ab Rasheed Reshi resident of Wachi Reshi Mohalla Shopian has been booked under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent authority, subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kothbalwal Jammu.

The aforementioned drug peddler is a habitual offender, involved in Case FIR No. 08/2023 of Police Station Bijbehara & 36/2023 of Police Station Zainapora. Despite having been bound down under preventive measures repeatedly, Manzoor Reshi persisted with his involvement in illegal drug trafficking, posing a grave threat to the society, especially the youth. Known for his notoriety as a chronic miscreant and drug peddler, the accused person has been actively engaged in illegal drug trafficking and creating public nuisances. He is a key figure in the narcotics trade, procuring drugs from various sources and selling them at higher prices, primarily targeting the youth of Zainapora.

Police facilitates Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting in Kulgam

Farooq Rather.

Kulgam January 21: In its ongoing process to address the grievances of general public and to identify issues and collaboratively develop solutions that improve police community relation, improve public safety by strengthening trust, police in Kulgam facilitated PCPG meeting at village Samnoo Nehama, DH Pora.

The meeting was chaired by DySP PC Manzgam Shri Rohit Gupta-JKPS and was attended by respectables of Nehama, Adijan, Samnoo, and other adjacent areas.

While speaking on the occasion, participants appreciated the process of organising such events by police department in which an opportunity is being provided to highlight the prevailing issues of the society like drug abuse, domestic violence, speedy justice etc and seeks their redressal for the betterment of all. The officer present at the meeting gave patient hearing to their issues and assured them that their issues which are pertaining to other departments will be taken up immediately with the concerned officers for appropriate.

DDC Kupwara releases statistical publications

HT News Network

KUPWARA, JANUARY 21: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today released various Statistical publications pertaining to performance of various sectors in district Kupwara.

The publications which were prepared and presented by District Statistics & Evaluation Office (DSEO) Kupwara include District Statistical Handbook, District Profile, District Kupwara at Glance and Economic Review of District Kupwara.

Meanwhile, the DDC said that data collection, its compilation and presenting it in its analytical order is an important factor in every field of development. The data so collected can be used for framing/developing the area and bridging the critical gaps for the



improved version of the planning. Further the publications will be helpful in the long run for its users, research scholars and other agencies engaged in connection with development and framing of policy planning matters at any stage for the betterment of the district.

The publications were released in presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, M Rouf Rehman; ACR Kupwara, Chief Planning Officer Kupwara, Dy. Director Statistics & Evaluation, AD Planning, and staff member of DSEO.

DC Kupwara reviews arrangements for celebration of National Voters Day

HT News Network

KUPWARA, JANUARY 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, who is also District Election Officer (DEO) today, convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements for the celebration of National Voters Day (NVD) in the district.

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held to review various arrangements for the smooth celebration of National Voters Day, falling on 25th January. It was given out in the meeting that the main function of NVD will be held at BHSS Kupwara.

On the occasion, the DC impressed upon the officers to work with added dedication and close coordination to ensure vibrant celebration of the event. The Chief Education Officer was asked to conduct various activ-



ities including Art and Essay competitions in Higher Secondary and High Schools to mark the celebration of National Voters Day.

It was also given out in the meeting that the functions for celebration of NVD shall also be held in Assembly Constituencies and Booth level across the district. The Booth Level Officers

were also directed to conduct special Voter Registration drives for enrollment of new voters, besides they shall also distribute EPIC cards among the newly registered voters.

SDM Lolab, ACR, Dy. DEO, CEO, ACP, ACD, CPO, Tehsildar Handwara and other concerned were present in the meeting.

Side Event of IYGP2025 at IUST Highlights the Impact of Melting Glaciers

HT News Network

Awantipora, Jan. 21: In a significant contribution to the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation (IYGP2025), the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Glacial Studies, University of Kashmir, hosted a side event titled "Himalayan Cryosphere: Major Research Gaps and Shaping the Roadmap Ahead." The event brought together researchers, faculty, students, and policymakers to discuss the far-reaching implications of climate change and melting glaciers on critical sectors such as energy, water, and food security. Held at the Rumi Library, IUST, the event emphasized the urgent need for raising awareness and addressing the challenges posed by the rapidly depleting Himalayan cryosphere.

In the lead talk, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor of IUST and Head of the National Cryosphere Lab, University of Kashmir, highlighted the alarming loss of approximately 30% of glacial mass over the past six decades and the significant decline in streamflow's since the 1990s. Prof. Romshoo stated, "The melting of glaciers under a changing



climate is not only a scientific challenge but also a pressing policy issue that affects water availability, energy generation, and food production in South Asia. It is imperative that researchers, governments, and stakeholders work together to address these challenges."

Experts explored the impacts of depleting stream flows, changing precipitation patterns, and prolonged dry spells on regional livelihoods and economies. Participants stressed the importance of strengthening observational networks, enhancing data

sharing mechanisms, and fostering transboundary collaborations for effective cryosphere research.

The event also featured discussions on integrating advanced technologies like high-resolution climate models and AI/ML approaches to improve the understanding of glacial dynamics and their impact on the Indus Basin system.

The event concluded with a call to action for interdisciplinary and collaborative research efforts to protect the cryosphere and ensure sustainable development in the region.

Police organises One Day training cum workshop on New Criminal Laws, UA(P)A, NDPS cases in Shopian

HT News Network

Shopian January 21: Police in Shopian organised One day training-cum-workshop on implementation and investigation of new Criminal Laws, UA(P)A & NDPS cases at DPO Shopian.

The workshop/programme was conducted under the supervision of Senior Superintendent of Police Shopian Shri. Anayat Ali Chowdhary-IPS and attended by all GOs of District Police Shopian including Sr. Prosecuting Officer DPO Shopian/Awantipora, all SHOs, incharge Police Posts and investigating officers of UA(P)A & NDPS cases, CCTNS operators.

In his inaugural speech, SSP Shopian highlighted the objective of this workshop and underscored its importance to enhance and hone up investigative skills of officers and various SOPs issued from time to time to be adopted while investigating UA(P)A & NDPS Act cases. During the workshop case studies on various conviction as well as acquittals cases were discussed at length.

The Sr. PO DPO Shopian & Sr. PO DPO Awantipora also delivered detailed briefings on various



aspects of NDPS/ UA(P)A Act and related laws and procedures to all GOs, SHOs, IC PPs, IOs of Shopian police. Moreover, Senior Prosecuting Officers have provided in-depth insights on New Criminal Laws. A question-and-answer session was held, where Investigating officers posed questions and received guidance from the senior prosecuting officers.

At the conclusion, SSP Shopian expressed hope that all the officers and IOs investigating the UA(P)A & NDPS cases will put in all efforts to investigate cases in a highly professional manner. At the end of the workshop Senior Prosecuting Officers were honoured with mementos by SSP Shopian.

Sakeena Itoo visits GMC Kathua, chairs induction ceremony of BHMS's 1st batch

Inaugurates Senior/Junior Residents Hostel, STIC of fire fighting system

HT News Network

KATHUA, JANUARY 21: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today visited Government Medical College, Kathua and presided over the induction ceremony of the first batch of students of Bachelors of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS).

MLA Kathua, Dr. Bharat Bhushan, Principal Government Medical College, Kathua, Dr. Surinder K. Attri, Registrar J&K Homeopathy Board and Nodal Officer Government Homeopathy Medical College Kathua, Dr. B.R. Dubb, heads of different speci-



alities, medical professionals, senior officers and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing a large gathering on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo congratulated the first batch of 63 students of BHMS and their parents present there. She said that the institution will help in producing the able medical faculties to serve the local population and

help in improving the healthcare facilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister highlighted that this is the first Government Homeopathy Medical College in North India. She added that the profession of doctors is a noble vocation as it is meant to serve the ailing people.

While speaking on the occasion, Dr. Bharat Bhushan congratulated the students and agencies who

worked hard for establishment of Homeopathy Medical College in Kathua.

Dr. Surinder K. Attri, in his welcome address, expressed gratitude to the Minister for her whole hearted efforts to start the Government Homeopathy Medical College in Kathua. He said that the 30 bedded Homeopathy Hospital is already functioning and facilitating the people of Kathua in terms of medical facilities.

Registrar J&K Homeopathy Board and Nodal Officer Government Homeopathy Medical College Kathua, Dr. B.R. Dubb, while addressing on the occasion, said that presently 600 Homeopathy doctors are registered in the Union Territory.

1st UTRC meeting held at Shopian

03 Under trial prisoners recommended for release

HT News Network

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR-SHOPIAN, JANUARY 21: The District Legal Services Authority Shopian under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority conducted 1st Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting in District Court Shopian today at Shopian.

The meeting was held in compliance with the directions of Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India (Executive Chairman, NALSA) and as per the UTRC meeting schedule issued by National Legal Services Authority for the year 2025.

The meeting aimed to expedite the identification and review of prisoners who are eligible to be considered for release, as well as to accelerate the regular functioning of UTRC and review all eligible under-trial prisoners (UTPs)/prisoners.

The meeting was chaired by Pr.



District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary and attended by Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar with other members of the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC).

In the meeting, the committee reviewed cases of eligible UTPs/Prisoners shortlisted by the Secretary, DLSA Shopian for consideration and

the committee recommended 03 under trial Prisoners for release, besides it also recommended constitution of Medical Board for 02 under trial prisoners.

Additional SP Shopian, Shoukat Rafiq; Secretary District Legal Services Authority Shopian, Mudasar Farooq; Superintendent Jails (Correctional Home), Pulwama, Shabir Ahmad also attended the meeting.

DDC Gbl discusses work plan for SANJY-2025

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JANUARY 21: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyambr, today chaired a high-level meeting in the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat here to discuss the comprehensive work plan for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2025.

The meeting commenced with a review of the action plan from the previous year's Yatra, with a strong emphasis on enhancing the quality of services and infrastructure. Discussions revolved around key focus areas, including improvements in health services, sanitation, flood protection measures, solar lighting, parking facilities, mobile connectivity, transport services, contingency plans, and other vital infra-



structure to ensure a seamless Yatra experience for pilgrims.

Heads of Departments provided updates on their respective preparations and ongoing projects related to SANJY-2025. The DDC underscored the importance of submitting finalized work plans by January 24, 2025, to enable the timely execution of development works critical to the successful conduct of the Yatra. The Animal Husbandry Department was tasked with identifying suitable locations along the Yatra route for hot water facilities for ponies, while

the Jal Shakti Department was directed to ensure the availability of hot water at these identified points.

The Rural Development Department was instructed to prioritize the maintenance of toilet facilities, and BEACON was asked to make provisions for repairing utilities that may require attention during the Yatra.

In addition, the ARTO Ganderbal proposed the establishment of a separate SRTC ticket counter and merging of parking areas to streamline transportation and parking management.

DLC meeting on implementation of HADP held at Baramulla

DC directs concerned departments for close coordination to address implementation challenges & expedite ongoing projects

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 21: A District Level Committee (DLC) meeting was convened today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, to review and strategize the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) in the district.

The meeting witnessed participation from senior officers, experts, and stakeholders from the agriculture and allied sectors.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the importance of achieving the set targets under HADP to enhance agricultural productivity, promote sustainable practices, and uplift the socio-economic conditions of farmers in the district.

Comprehensive discussions were held on various components



of the plan, including capacity-building initiatives, infrastructure development, and ensuring 100% coverage of eligible beneficiaries.

The DC directed concerned departments to work in close coordination to address implementa-

tion challenges and expedite ongoing projects. He also stressed on creating awareness among farmers about the benefits of HADP and adopting innovative techniques to improve yield and profitability.

Key decisions taken during the

meeting included setting timelines for specific projects, allocating resources efficiently, and conducting regular field inspections to monitor progress. The committee resolved to ensure timely execution of all initiatives and maximize the impact of the plan on ground. The meeting witnessed participation from senior officers, experts, and stakeholders from the agriculture and allied sectors.

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Comprehensive discussions were held on various components of the plan, including capacity-building initiatives, infrastructure development, and ensuring 100% coverage of eligible beneficiaries.

District Manager NABARD encourages women trainees at SBI RSETI Ramban

HT News Network

RAMBAN, JANUARY 21: District Development Manager (DDM) NABARD Arashi Sharma today visited SBI Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) and interacted with the women trainees enrolled for tailoring training program.

The DDM appreciated the efforts of SBI RSETI Ramban in empowering women through skill development initiatives. She encouraged the trainees to utilize their newfound skills to achieve self-reliance and explore entrepreneurial opportunities in tailoring and related fields.

Director SBI RSETI S. Harvinder Singh was also present on the occasion. He briefed the DDM about the institute's ongoing and upcoming training programs, highlighting the positive impact of such initiatives on rural women.

The trainees expressed their enthusiasm for the program, thanking NABARD and SBI RSETI for providing them with this opportunity to gain valuable skills. ARTO Kupwara was present on the occasion. Director SBI RSETI S. Harvinder Singh was also present on the occasion. He briefed the DDM about the institute's ongoing and upcoming training programs, highlighting the positive impact of such initiatives on rural women.

DC Samba inspects arrangements for Republic Day celebrations

HT News Network

SAMBA, JANUARY 21: Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma today visited Rani Suchet Singh Sports Stadium to finalize preparations for Republic Day 2025.

Accompanied by SSP Samba, Varinder Singh Manhas and senior officials, the DC reviewed key arrangements, including barricading, pavilion decoration, ground leveling, seating, and rehearsals by school contingents and J&K Police. The DC directed timely completion of



stage construction, sanitation, road beautification, and security arrangements. The Municipal Committee was tasked with beautifying the town and illuminating government buildings, while Social Forestry was instructed to plant trees. Departments were told to organize

cultural programs, ensure uninterrupted power supply, and hoist the National Flag in every Panchayat.

SSP Samba assured robust security and traffic management. The DC emphasized inter-departmental coordination to ensure a smooth and patriotic celebration.

Republic Day-2025 celebration arrangements finalized at Handwara

HT News Network

KUPWARA, JANUARY 21: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, District Programme Officer ICDS Kupwara, Hakeem Tanveer today convened a meeting of all concerned officers here, to finalize the arrangements for smooth and hassle free celebration of Republic Day 2025.

The meeting held threadbare discussions on the arrangements made for the celebration of the national event.

Officers present gave details of their preparations with regard to the smooth celebration of Republic Day.

The meeting was

informed that the function will start with Shahnaivadan at 8:05 AM, while the National Flag will be unfurled by the chief guest at 10:05 AM. The meeting was further informed that the main function of Republic Day will be held at District Police Lines (DPL) Kulangam Handwara, where National Flag will be unfurled and the VIP will take salute at the March past comprising the contingents of paramilitary forces, JKP, JKAP, CRPF, IRPF, BSF, SSB, Home Guards, NCC cadets and school children. The DPO Kupwara asked all officers to work with coordination and ensure proper arrangements on ground for successful conduct of the event.

It was given out in the meeting that smooth power and water supply shall be made available at the venue, for which concerned officers were given directions on spot.

Likewise, BMO Chogal was directed to keep ambulance available at the venue, Medical Superintendent DH Handwara was asked to ensure first aid and availability of doctors at the venue, Municipality Handwara was asked to maintain proper coordination and cleanliness at the venue and Town area.

Other arrangements were also reviewed which included refreshment, reception of chief guest, transport, fire and emergency services, cultural programmes.

Arrangements for Shab-i-Meraj finalized at Kulgam

DC calls for synergizing efforts by concerned departments for celebration of religious occasion with reverence

Farooq Rafter

KULGAM, JANUARY 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Tuesday finalized arrangements for smooth observation of Shab-i-Meraj, at the meeting hall of Mini-Secretariat, here.

DDC asked the PHE department to ensure safe drinking water supply to all mosques and shrines, adding that tanker service be made available to those religious places where huge congregations are expected as a backup and standby measure.

The KPDC authorities were directed to ensure proper power supply in the entire district especially during

the Shab-i-Meraj for smooth celebration of the festival.

The CMO was asked to deploy medical teams along with essential drugs at all the major shrines including Hazrat Syed Simnani (R.A) Shrine Kulgam, Hazrat Sheikh ul Alam (R.A) Shrine Quimoh, Hazrat Noor Shah Bagdad (R.A) Kund & Chimmer as a precautionary measure.

The Assistant Director, FCS&CA was directed to make available essential commodities in all the food stores, ensuring quality of all essentials.

All the Executive Officers of three Municipal Committees were directed to clean up the surroundings of all major shrines in the district.

Tehsildars were directed to inten-



sify the market checking and ensure availability of essentials including mutton, bakery and poultry at a reasonable rate.

The DC called for synergizing efforts by the concerned departments to ensure that the religious eve is celebrated in a smooth and peaceful manner.

He said no stone should be left unturned in extending best civic amenities to the people on this pious and sacred function.

The transport department was directed to prepare a traffic plan & advisory for commuters for hassle free traffic regulation during the festival days.

ADD C Bashir Ahmad Wani; Addl.

Superintendent of Police, ACR, ACP, SDM Noorabad, CMO, Tehsildars, AD Food, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, Jal Shakti, PDD, besides Sectoral Officers attended the meeting. The DC called for synergizing efforts by the concerned departments to ensure that the religious eve is celebrated in a smooth and peaceful manner.

He said no stone should be left unturned in extending best civic amenities to the people on this pious and sacred function.

The transport department was directed to prepare a traffic plan & advisory for commuters for hassle free traffic regulation during the festival days.

DC reviews achievements under HADP in Poonch Pushes for maximum registrations, promotion of sustainable agriculture Practices

HT News Network

POONCH, JANUARY 21: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the implementation and achievements made under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the current financial year 2023-24. The meeting featured comprehensive updates from stakeholder departments, including Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries. Departmental functionaries presented detailed PowerPoint presentations showcasing program registrations, approvals, and ongoing projects. The Deputy Commissioner asked the Chief Horticulture Officer to enhance data quality on the DAKSH portal and encourage maximum acceptance of applications under the Kisan Samridhi Abhiyan (KSA). He urged the officials to improve the registration under Kisan Sathi and increase the enrollment of farmers under KKG.



Highlighting the importance of diverse crop cultivation, the Deputy Commissioner directed the promotion of multiple crops, including pulses, kinu, and hill garlic, particularly in the Mendhar region. He also advocated for the cultivation of Rajmash in Surankote and organic clusters. Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner called for encouraging farmers to avail the poly house and other schemes across all subdivisions. He instructed allied departments to actively promote all avail-

able schemes and proposed the establishment of a Mushroom Sale counter at prominent locations, such as the Bus Stand and near Poonch Fort. Furthermore, he urged the Agriculture Department to focus on growing till. In a bid to streamline processes, the Deputy Commissioner directed concerned SDOs to visit bank branches to expedite the clearance of pending cases under the PM Fasal Bima

Yojana. The meeting was attended by CAO, CHO, CAHO, DSHO, DSO, AD Fisheries, AD Floriculture, AMO, SDAOs all, Veterinary Surgeon all and other concerned officers. The Deputy Commissioner asked the Chief Horticulture Officer to enhance data quality on the DAKSH portal and encourage maximum acceptance of applications under the Kisan Samridhi Abhiyan (KSA). He urged the officials to improve the registration under Kisan Sathi and increase the enrollment of farmers under KKG. Highlighting the importance of diverse crop cultivation, the Deputy Commissioner directed the promotion of multiple crops, including pulses, kinu, and hill garlic, particularly in the Mendhar region. He also advocated for the cultivation of Rajmash in Surankote and organic clusters. Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner called for encouraging farmers to avail the poly house and other schemes across all subdivisions. He instructed allied departments to actively promote all available schemes and proposed the establishment of a Mushroom Sale counter at prominent locations.

Secretary J&K Legislative Assembly participates in 61st Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies

HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 21: Secretary, J&K Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita, participated in the 61st conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India held at Patna, Bihar.

The conference was presided over by Secretary General Lok Sabha, Utpal Kumar Singh. The conference brought together the Secretaries of Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils to share their experiences of Parliamentary Democracy and issues confronted while discharging their duties. During the conference, robust discussions were held on adoption of modern technologies in Legislative Bodies for greater efficiency, effectiveness and productivity.

During the discussions, Manoj Kumar Pandita spoke on the initiatives being taken by the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir under the leadership of present Speaker Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather. He mentioned that the three day orientation programme was recently held at Jammu for newly elected Legislators which has been appreciated throughout India.

Manoj Pandita further discussed with Secretary Legislative Council Bihar, Akhilesh Kumar Jha, about implementation of National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in Bihar Legislative Council.

Earlier, Manoj Kumar had attended 60th conference of Secretaries at Mumbai Maharashtra held on the theme "Making use of Cutting Edge Technologies in the Service of Legislature". He also attended the 59th conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India held at Jaipur in the month of January, 2023 under the theme "Enforcing Executive Accountability by Strengthening Committee System in Legislature".

Kishtwar admin reinforces measures against illegal mining

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, JANUARY 21: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan (Chairman, MD-DLTF) today convened a Multi-Departmental District Level Task Force (MD-DLTF) meeting to address concerns regarding mining activities in the District.

At the outset, the District Mineral Officer (DMO) Abhey Kumar briefed the meeting on the status of monitoring mechanism and enforcement actions put in place to keep check on illegal mining, including regulation of leased-out mining areas in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed that certifications for mining leases for development works be issued only after thorough scrutiny in adherence to established rules and regulations.

He also issued a stern warning against illegal mining, particularly in the Warwan River, emphasizing that no one will be allowed to compromise the ecological balance of the environment in the district.

The DC underscored the importance of active collaboration among all stakeholder departments and MD-DLTF members to develop a comprehensive mechanism to effectively counter illegal mining.

He stressed the need for strict and coordinated action, urging all departments to exhibit zero tolerance towards illegal activities and work collectively to safeguard the environment, but in the meanwhile the administration has to get sustained development also.

The meeting was attended by several key officials, including SSP Kishtwar, Javed Iqbal, DFO Kishtwar, Vijay Kumar, DMO Kishtwar (Member Secretary) Abhey Kumar, Ex-En Jal Shakti, Sunil Sharma and other concerned officers and staff.



GDC Marh shines in Inter-Zonal Display your talent contest

HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 21: Sahil Sandhu of 1st Semester and Kashish of 5th Semester of Government Degree College Marh have secured 1st and 2nd Positions in Western Instrument solo and Rangoli Making contests in first ever Inter Zonal Display Your Talent 2024-25 competition organized at University of Jammu.

The prize distribution ceremony was held on 20th January 2024 at JU where the Chief Guest for the event was Principal Secretary, Department of Culture, JKUT Suresh Gupta, and guest of honour was Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs University of Jammu.

The ceremony was attended by the Principal of the college along with faculty members to encourage the winner students. All the Affiliated Colleges of Jammu Province were divided into 5 zones namely Tawi Zone, Devika Zone, Ravi Zone, Pir-Panjajal Zone and Chenab Zone. Kashish and Sahil Sandhu firstly brought laurels at Tawi Zone Competition and then bagged top positions at Inter-Zonal Level. Their exceptional performance and creativity has earned them a well-deserved recognition and they will be now representing the College at Regional Level at University of Punjab, Chandigarh.

Chairperson DDC Ramban reviews progress under District Capex Plan 2024-25

HT News Network

RAMBAN, JANUARY 21: The District Development Council (DDC) Ramban today reviewed the developmental progress under the District Capex Plan 2024-25 here at a meeting chaired by Chairperson Dr. Shamshad Shan to.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Chairperson Rabia Beig, DDC members, Additional District Development Commissioner Roshan Lal, Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Ashfaq Ahmed and the sectoral officers. Taking sector wise review, the Chairperson



emphasized achieving 100% targets and directed officials to expedite project implementation. The DDC members highlighted critical priorities, seeking augmentation of healthcare and education infrastructure, construction of new roads to strengthen connectivity, acceleration of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) implementation and enhanced power infrastructure.

A strict deadline of 20 days was set for all departments to demonstrate measurable progress by expediting the allotment and initiation of works,

particularly under the Area Development Fund (ADF).

The Chairperson directed the Rural Engineering Wing (REW) to work with full dedication and zeal to achieve tangible results, as a major chunk of the work pertains to the Rural Development Department (RDD). She expressed displeasure over the slow pace of progress by the RDD engineering wing and instructed the functionaries to liaise with all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to ensure swift progress on pending projects. Earlier, the CPO provided a detailed presentation on the district's developmental achievements across various departments.

Community awareness program on Rabies Prevention held at Village Arnia-Block Bishnah

HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 21: The State Surveillance Unit, Directorate of Health Services (DHS) Jammu, in collaboration with the Information Department and with support from the National Health Mission (NHM), organized a Nukkad Natak at Village Arnia in Block Bishnah, to raise awareness about Rabies prevention under National Rabies Control Program (NRCPP) on January 21, 2025.

The Nukkad Natak, presented by a group of artists from the Information Department, was a key component of the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities under the National Rabies Control Program (NRCPP).

The performance focused on educating the community about crucial aspects of rabies prevention, including the importance of immediate and thorough wound washing after an animal bite, timely administration of Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) and Anti-Rabies Serum (ARS) and responsible pet ownership and regular vaccination



of pet dogs.

In addition to providing accurate information, the Natak effectively dispelled common myths related to vaccination and rabies prevention. It also emphasized important Do's and Don'ts, such as Wash animal bite wounds immediately with soap and water for at least 15 minutes, seek medical attention promptly after a bite, don't rely on unverified traditional remedies and don't ignore minor scratches or assume all pets are vaccinated.

The program also highlighted the free availability of ARV and ARS at government health facilities, ensuring accessibility to life-saving interventions for all.

The event saw active participation from local community members, school children, local chemists, health staff, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs). Their involvement further enhanced the impact of the awareness drive, fostering a better understanding of Rabies prevention measures at the grassroots level.

The activity served as a significant step in building community awareness about Rabies prevention and control, aligning with the National Goal of Dog Mediated Rabies elimination by 2030.

The initiative, organized under the guidance of Dr. Rakesh Magotra, Director Health Services Jammu, and the supervision of Dr. Harjeet Rai, State Surveillance Officer/State Nodal Officer NRCPP, received significant support from Dr. Harbaksh Singh, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Jammu, and Dr. Ghanshyam, Block Medical Officer (BMO) Bishnah.

DDC reviews progress of CRF and NABARD Projects in Doda district

HT News Network

DODA, JANUARY 21: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Harvinder Singh on Tuesday chaired a crucial review meeting in the mini conference hall, DC Office Complex, to assess the progress of projects funded under the Central Road Fund (CRF) and NABARD schemes.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Superintending Engineers of PWD (R&B) Chenab Circle and Hydraulic Circle, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Divisional Forest Officer, Chief Medical Officer, and Block Medical Officer. Officials



stationed in Bhanderwah and Batote joined virtually to provide updates on their respective projects.

The DDC emphasized the importance of expediting ongoing projects to enhance the district's infrastructure and socio-economic development.

The Superintending Engineers presented detailed updates on status of the projects, challenges,

and proposed solutions. Issues related to land acquisition, technical approvals and inter-departmental coordination were extensively discussed, with the DDC directing officers to address these bottlenecks promptly. Special focus was placed on resolving delays, particularly those involving land disputes, forest clearance, and road construction

issues, for which coordination with Tehsildars was mandated. The DDC also instructed the termination, blacklisting, and re-tendering of significantly delayed projects within a week. The review also covered the progress of community-centric projects, such as improving road connectivity, irrigation facilities, and healthcare infrastructure. The construction of PHCs and road connectivity to these centers was highlighted, with officers directed to prioritize their timely completion. Forest clearance and land acquisition issues were taken up, and the DDC assured full administrative support.

Month-long Healthy Baby competition concludes in Kishtwar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, JANUARY 21: The month-long Healthy Baby Competition, launched on January 1, 2025, concluded today with a vibrant District-Level Healthy Baby Competition held here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office.

Babies selected from all ICDS Projects of the district participated in the grand finale of this health-focused initiative in today's District Level event.

The initiative was taken by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan to promote the health and



well-being of mothers and children aged 6 months to 6 years. The Competition progressed in three phases, starting from Panchayat level, followed by Project level and culminated at the District level. The participants were evaluated on the multi-criteria including general appearance including the child's hygiene, hair, eyes, nose,

mouth, teeth, ear, nails besides weight, height, Gross Motor Skills, Immunization Status and HB Level as per the given standards and SOPs. Judges evaluated the participants, selecting winners in various categories, who were presented certificates and Gift Packs. The DC also announced that these winners will be felicitated during

the Republic Day 2025 celebrations. The collaborative efforts of the ICDS Department, Health Department, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), Medical officers, and parents played a pivotal role in the success of this initiative, ensuring enthusiastic participation across the district. The Healthy Baby Competition was designed to spread awareness about the importance of early childhood health, proper nutrition, and parental care. It encouraged mothers to adopt best practices for improving their children's well-being, overall development and nutritional needs.

BJP's 2nd manifesto for Delhi promises free KG-to-PG education, insurance

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Jan 21: Former Union Minister and senior BJP leader Anurag Thakur on Tuesday unveiled the second part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Sankalp Patra (manifesto) for the upcoming Delhi Assembly Elections 2025.

Thakur announced several ambitious schemes, including free education for needy students from kindergarten to postgraduate level in government institutions. The manifesto also promises a financial boost for students preparing for competitive exams like the UPSC Civil Services and State PCS, offering Rs 15,000 for up to two attempts.

Under the Bhimrao Ambedkar Stipend Scheme, students from the Scheduled Caste community pursuing technical courses in ITIs and polytechnic skill centres will receive stipends of Rs 1,000 every month.

The BJP has also proposed the formation of an Auto-Taxi Driver Welfare Board, promising Rs 10 lakh life insurance and Rs 5 lakh accident insurance for drivers. Similarly, a welfare board for domestic workers is on the cards, with the same insurance benefits.



The former union minister also announced that if voted to power in the national capital, the BJP will form an SIT to investigate the AAP government's irregularities and scams.

Thakur also criticised the AAP government for failing to implement the Jal Jeevan Mission in Delhi, reiterating the BJP's commitment to improving infra-

structure and welfare if voted to power.

On January 17, Union Minister and BJP national president JP Nadda released the first part of the party's manifesto. It included assurances of continuing existing welfare schemes and new promises like a monthly pension of Rs 2,500 for senior citizens aged 60-70 and Rs 3,000 for those above 70.

For women, the party introduced the Matru Suraksha Vandana scheme, offering six nutrition kits and Rs 21,000 to every pregnant woman.

The BJP, which last ruled Delhi 27 years ago, has struggled in previous assembly elections, securing only three and eight seats in 2015 and 2020, respectively.

The elections for the 70-member Delhi Assembly will take place on February 5, with results to be declared on February 8. The BJP has also proposed the formation of an Auto-Taxi Driver Welfare Board, promising Rs 10 lakh life insurance and Rs 5 lakh accident insurance for drivers. Similarly, a welfare board for domestic workers is on the cards, with the same insurance benefits.

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Rahul Gandhi Unwell, Unlikely To Take Part In Gandhi Bharat Event, Says Congress

HT News Network



Bengaluru, Jan 21: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is unlikely to take part in the Gandhi Bharat event on Tuesday at Belagavi as he is unwell, sources in the ruling party said.

While Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara told PTI Videos in Belagavi that the entire leadership of the Congress party will take part in the function, which is set to commence soon, sources here said that Rahul Gandhi was unwell and hence, he is likely to skip the function.

Mallikarjun Kharge, Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other senior Congress functionaries are expected to take part in the event at the district headquarter town of Belagavi bordering Maharashtra. According to the Congress sources, a statue of Mahatma Gandhi is set to be unveiled at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha and a public meeting has also been scheduled to be held at the CPED grounds.

The Gandhi Bharat event, to commemorate the centenary of the lone Congress session presided by Mahatma Gandhi at Belagavi in 1924, was originally scheduled to be held on December 27, last year. It was, however, postponed due to the demise of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Themed as 'Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan', the Congress event would reiterate the party's commitment to Gandhian ideology and the Constitution.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made in view of the arrival of the VVIPs in the city. (Agencies)

BJP manifesto 'dangerous', will stop free education in govt schools: Arvind Kejriwal

HT News Network



New Delhi, Jan 21: Former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday described the BJP's election manifesto as "dangerous for the country".

He alleged that the party plans to shut free education in government schools and dismantle free health services, including the Mohalla Clinics, if voted to power.

In a press conference, Kejriwal accused the BJP of revealing its "true intentions" in the manifesto and warned voters against supporting the party.

"If the BJP comes to power, they will stop free education, end free health facilities and make it difficult for the poor to survive in Delhi. This is a direct attack on the welfare of the common man," he said.

Kejriwal further appealed to people not to vote for the BJP, claiming that their policies would jeopardise the future of the country and adversely impact the lives of Delhi's poor.

SC Asks HCs To Set Up Panel Over Judges Pay Commission Recommendations

HT News Network

New Delhi, Jan 21: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked all high courts to expedite setting up a two-judge panel to address grievances of district judicial officers on the implementation of the Second National Judges Pay Commission recommendations.

A bench comprising Justices B R Gavai, Augustine George Masih and K Vinod Chandran passed the order after senior advocate K Parameshwar, who is assisting it as an amicus curiae, said many high courts were yet to form the Committees for Service Conditions of the District Judiciary (CSCDJ) as directed by it earlier.

The top court, on January 4 last year, said it recommended setting up the two-judge panel in all high courts to ensure that the orders on pay, pension and other retirement benefits for judicial officers as per the Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC) were implemented.

On Tuesday, the amicus said while some high courts had set up the panels, they did not meet regularly to deal with the grievances, prompting several judicial officers to move the top court.

"We therefore request all the high courts to implement the directions issued by this court by order dated January 4, 2024. If



the CSCDJs are not appointed so far by any of the high courts, the same shall be appointed within a period of four weeks from today," the bench said.

It also directed the nodal officers — required to be retired district judges — of the CSCDJs to be appointed within four weeks.

It asked the respective high courts to provide office space for the nodal officers within their premises. The bench asked the apex court registry to send a copy of its order to the chief secretaries of all states and UTs and the registrar generals of high courts.

The SNJPC recommendations cover pay structure, pension and family pension and allowances, besides dealing with the issue of establishing a permanent mechanism to determine subjects of service conditions of the district judiciary.

Rajnath describes NCC cadets as the assets of India

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Jan 21: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday exhorted NCC cadets to strive hard to realise the government's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, describing them as the assets of India.

Addressing the cadets during his visit to the NCC Republic Day Camp at Delhi Cantt here, the Minister said that the cadets, irrespective of the fields they work in, contribute to nation building through the qualities of 'leadership', 'discipline', 'ambition' and 'patriotism' harnessed in them by NCC, a Defence Ministry statement said.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a pledge to make India a developed country by 2047. He (Modi) has been an NCC cadet himself. So, if an ex-NCC cadet has seen a dream, it becomes the biggest responsibility of all other cadets to fulfill it. Viksit Bharat does not mean development of a piece of land; it means the progress of 140 crore Indians who live in unison despite social and cultural diversity. Along with ourselves, we must do something good for society, and soon India will become a developed nation," Rajnath said.

He commended the cadets for their commitment, discipline and love for the nation. He also emphasised that what India



has been able to achieve as a country is due to the hard work of everyone, especially the youth.

"Whenever I meet NCC cadets, I don't just see a cadet in them. I see the reflection of India, which has many bodies but one soul, many branches but one root, many rays but one light. These cadets hail from different regions, speak different languages and follow different customs and traditions, but the one thing which is common in them is 'unity'. Their energy and enthusiasm is proof that India's future is bright," Singh added.

The Defence Minister added that many countries became independent around the same time when India attained freedom.

"Only those nations which held on to the values of discipline, integrity and national unity are developing today, while those who did not are in chaos," he said.

14 Naxals killed along Odisha-Ch'garh border, another mighty blow to Naxalism: Amit Shah

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Jan 21: Describing it as "another mighty blow to Naxalism", Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said 14 Naxalites were killed in a joint operation by the CRPF, SoG Odisha and Chhattisgarh Police along the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border.

With the resolve for a Naxal-free India and joint efforts of security forces, Naxalism is breathing its last today, Shah said.

"Another mighty blow to Naxalism. Our security forces achieved major success towards building a Naxal-free Bharat. The CRPF, SoG Odisha, and Chhattisgarh Police neutralised 14

Naxalites in a joint operation along the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border," Shah wrote on X.

An official said the Maoists were killed in a fresh exchange of fire that took place late Monday and early Tuesday morning in a forest under the Mainpur police station area along the Chhattisgarh-Odisha border. (Agencies)



Outsourcing Manipur To HM Shah Abdication Of Prime Ministerial Responsibility: Cong Slams Modi

HT News Network

New Delhi, Jan 21: In a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Congress on Tuesday said "outsourcing" Manipur to Union Home Minister Amit Shah is an abdication of prime ministerial responsibility which has proved disastrous and reiterated the demand that the PM visit the violence-hit state.

The opposition party's attack came after PM Modi greeted the people of Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur on their statehood day on Tuesday.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "The formerly non-biological — and now suddenly human — Prime Minister has just



sent greetings to the people of Manipur on their Statehood Day through social media. Yet, he has stubbornly refused to visit Manipur even briefly ever since its agony began on May 3, 2023." "He has gone all over the world but has not found the time nor the inclination to reach out to the people of the state in Imphal and other places," he said.

Modi has stubbornly refused to meet MLAs of his own party in the state

and has not had a one-on-one meeting with the CM, nor has he met with MPs, political leaders, and civil society organisations of the state, Ramesh said.

"His Statehood Day greetings are hollow and reflect his hypocrisy — which knows no limits," the Congress leader said.

"The Congress demands that he visit Manipur immediately. This is the very least he can do to show his concern if he has any. Outsourcing Manipur to

the Union Home Minister is an abdication of Prime Ministerial responsibility and has proved disastrous," Ramesh said.

The Congress last week said that Modi has found time, inclination and energy to go all over the world but has not found it necessary to reach out to the distressed people in the northeastern state.

The party has been attacking the prime minister for not visiting Manipur besides slamming the Centre for its handling of the situation in the ethnic strife-torn northeastern state. More than 220 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023. (Agencies)

'Pralay' missile to be displayed at R-Day parade, ALH Dhruv to miss flypast

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Jan 20: Newly-developed tactical missile 'Pralay', capable of carrying conventional warhead, will be among the indigenous weapon systems to be displayed at the Republic Day parade on Kartavya Path, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said on Monday.

At a media briefing, Singh said the indigenously designed and developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv will not be part of the Republic Day flypast on January 26 and described the grounding of the choppers as "little bit of a setback".

Hopefully, the helicopters will be back soon, he said.

The armed forces have



grounded the fleet following the crash of one of the ALH this month. The Army, the Indian Air Force, the Navy and the Coast Guard are operating around 330 ALHs.

The defence secretary said the around 90-minute parade will comprise 31 tableaux, including 16 from states and 15 from the central ministries.

The defence secretary said the parade will have a larger cultural imprint with participation of 5,000 tribal artists. "What is unique this time about the parade is that from a military character we wanted to showcase a broader cultural aspect," Singh said. At a media briefing, Singh said the indigenously designed and developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv will not be part of the Republic Day flypast on January 26 and described the grounding of the choppers as "little bit of a setback".

Hopefully, the helicopters will be back soon, he said.

The armed forces have grounded the fleet following the crash of one of the ALH this month.

Rajouri Deaths: CS for enforcing stringent containment measures to stop further loss of lives

JAMMU, JANUARY 21: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today held a meeting of the Divisional and District administrations along with Health experts and Police Department to take assessment of the measures taken so far to identify the real causes behind the mysterious deaths reported from village Badhal in district Rajouri here. The meeting besides Secretary Health & Medical Education Department was attended by ADGP, Jammu; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; DIG, Rajouri-Poonch Range; DC, Rajouri; SP, Rajouri; Principal, GMC, Jammu; Principal, GMC, Rajouri; Director, Health Services, Jammu besides some experts from the national health institutions. During this meeting the Chief Secretary impressed upon the concerned from Health and Police Departments to take stringent containment measures in consultation with the Divisional administration to ensure that there is no



further loss of any life. He advised the concerned to frame a proper SOP for monitoring the population of the village. He asked them to deploy sufficient manpower from both the Health department and Police to enforce the Do's and

Don'ts set in the SOP. Dulloo further enjoined upon the divisional and district administration to not let down their guard and allow only tested edibles and non-edibles to be used by the persons under quarantine. He stressed

that till the actual causes of these deaths are not known both the Police and Health professionals should carry on their investigations as required as per the set procedures. He also urged them to study the reports received from

the national diagnostic institutions that had taken samples from the village. He directed them to take every possible measure to protect the lives of these villagers till the toxicology reports point out the actual causes of these

deaths. He also took note of the work done so far by the SIT constituted by the Police Department and other investigation agencies including the Ministerial team sent by the Ministry of Home Affairs. He enquired from the experts the possible preventive measures that could be taken to control the further damage.

The Secretary H&ME, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah informed the meeting that every measure has been taken to isolate the families and provide them food and water after testing the same.

It was given out that the health teams are stationed there to keep surveillance for any of the symptoms appearing in any person. It has further been added that the local PHC/CHC has been kept in a state of readiness besides it is ensured that no food or eatables are exchanged as the families had been removed from their homes and kept under continuously monitored to safeguard their lives.

Melatonin For Sleep: What Are The Risks?

Melatonin supplements have become more common than ever. For the unversed, melatonin is a hormone that your brain produces in response to darkness. It regulates your body's sleep-wake cycle. Darkness increases melatonin production which signals the body to sleep. It has been found that some people who have trouble sleeping have low levels of melatonin in the body.

These days, sleep disorders, especially insomnia affect many. Therefore, more and more people are using melatonin supplements for insomnia and other sleep-related issues. However, overuse of melatonin supplements is linked with several side effects.

The rising reliance on melatonin: Know the dangers

Melatonin is generally considered safe for short-term use. However, it should not be overconsumed.

"As we know, melatonin is a hormone that enables the regulation of circadian rhythms and sleep-wake cycles. However, individuals who take melatonin supplements in excess can face certain side effects



such as disruption of the sleep-wake cycle," Dr. Sumit Aggarwal, Associate Director & Head - Internal Medicine, Sarvodaya Hospital explained.

"Overuse can disrupt natural hormone production, causing anxiety, mood swings, and potential developmental risks in young people," mentioned Dr. Anjali Kumar, Obstetrician & Gynecologist at CK Birla Hospital in an Instagram video on her page Maitri.

Dizziness, headaches, hormonal disturbances, irregular heartbeat and digestive issues are some other

side effects.

How much to consume

It is important to understand how much melatonin one can consume safely. "Usually, a dose between the range of 0.2 and 5mg is considered adequate and safe. However, it depends on one's lifestyle, weight, and reaction to the supplements," Dr. Aggarwal added.

Precautions to follow:

Before taking melatonin it is important to:

1. Consult a doctor:

Your doctor will prescribe the right

amount of melatonin for you. An expert will also help correct the sleep-related issue with right medical assistance.

2. Refrain from long-term dependency:

These supplements should not be considered as a long-term solution for sleep-related issues/disorders.

3. Avoid driving or using any machinery:

After taking melatonin one may experience dizziness. Therefore, do not drive or do any tasks which require concentration or alertness.

Focus on sleep hygiene

Instead of taking these supplements, one should focus on building sustainable sleep habits that can improve overall well-being. It will help reduce dependency on melatonin.

Regulate your sleep cycle. "Individuals taking these supplements must also try and adopt a healthy and consistent sleep cycle," said Dr. Aggarwal.

"Remember, good habits pave the way for restorative sleep and better health," highlighted Dr. Kumar.

Strengthening Immunity Against HMPV: Expert Shares Essential Preventive Measures For All Lifestyles

Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) has recently gained attention due to a reported outbreak, with seven cases confirmed. This has sparked concerns and rumors: Is it something to panic about? Does it pose a serious threat to life? Is it comparable to COVID-19? Could it lead to lockdowns? These are just a few of the questions circulating.

Prof. Ashok Rattan, Former CAREC/WHO/PAHO and lead Advisor, Medical Committee & Quality, Redcliffe Labs says, "It's important to note that HMPV is not a new virus; it was first identified in 2001. However, it remains relatively less well-known due to limited research and awareness."

Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) is a respiratory virus that causes infections with symptoms similar to the common cold or flu. Most individuals recover within a few days without any complications. However, if the infection is not diagnosed early and worsens, it can lead to more serious symptoms such as fever, sore throat, shortness of breath, and even develop into pneumonia or bronchitis. HMPV outbreaks are most commonly seen during the winter and spring seasons.

HMPV infections are more prevalent among older adults (ages 65 and above), children under 5, and individuals with weakened immune systems. The best way to prevent and protect against the virus is by strengthening the immune system. Measures to Build Immunity



Against HMPV

Prof. Ashok Rattan said, "HMPV is a part of the pneumoviridae family, the same family as Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). It is generally a mild virus and tends to have less severe effects in individuals with a strong immune system."

Maintaining proper hygiene is the best way to keep viruses at bay. Start by washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to ensure cleanliness and hygiene.

Avoid Touching Your Face with Unwashed Hands

HMPV, like other respiratory viruses, spreads through the mouth, nose, and eyes. To prevent transmission, it's crucial not to touch your face with unwashed hands, particularly your eyes, mouth, and nose.

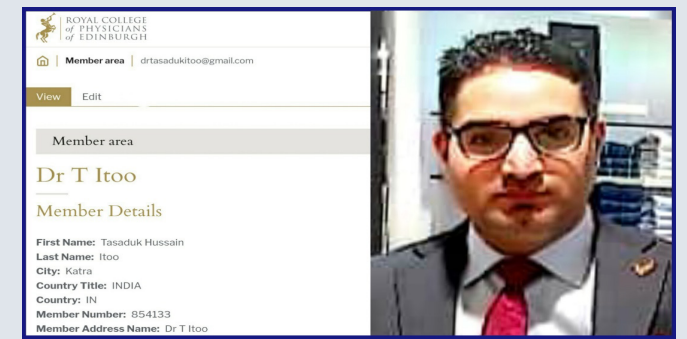
Eat a Balanced Diet

Your overall health is largely influenced by what you eat—up to 80%. To maintain a healthy body inside and out, it's crucial to consume a balanced diet that includes all the essential nutrients to strengthen your immune system. A robust immune system not only helps protect against HMPV but also shields you from seasonal allergies and other illnesses.

It's recommended to focus on nutrient-dense, home-cooked meals that include immunity-boosting ingredients like turmeric, ginger, and jaggery. Incorporate citrus fruits, pulses, and herbal teas into your meals. Avoid processed and packaged foods as much as possible, and ensure that children are particularly encouraged to eat clean, home-cooked meals.

NEWS

Dr Tasaduk receives Associate Membership of Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE)



Kashmir-based medico cum noted health columnist has received the prestigious Associate Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE).

The membership was conferred upon Dr Itoo following successful acceptance and approval of the application. The esteemed membership highlights excellence, dedication and commitment to the field of medicine.

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh is a prestigious institution that promotes excellence in medical practice and education. Dr. Itoo's Associate Membership is a significant achievement, demonstrating his alignment with the college's values and standards.

Dr Itoo's multifaceted career as a medico, educator and medical writer has not only impacted the lives of many individuals but has also contributed significantly to the advancement of knowledge and health-care in his community.

Dr. Itoo's achievement serves as an inspiration to others, and his work continues to make a positive impact on the lives of people in Jammu and Kashmir and beyond.

Why You Must Take These Two Vitamins Together

Vitamin K is a fat-soluble vitamin that plays a crucial role in blood clotting, bone health, and cardiovascular health. It exists in two main forms, vitamin K1 which is found in green leafy vegetables, and vitamin K2 which is found in fermented foods and certain animal products. By activating proteins involved in blood coagulation and calcium regulation, vitamin K ensures proper healing of wounds and prevents arterial calcification, which can lead to heart disease. Keep reading as we share a list of benefits of consuming more vitamin K along with how taking vitamin D along with it can boost your health.

1. Blood clotting

Vitamin K activates clotting factors in the blood, which are essential to stop bleeding when injuries occur. Without adequate vitamin K, the body cannot effectively form blood clots, leading to excessive bleeding even from minor cuts.

2. Bone health

Vitamin K is integral to bone metabolism. It activates a protein that binds calcium to the bone matrix, strengthening bones and reducing the risk of osteoporosis and fractures.

3. Cardiovascular health

Vitamin K helps prevent calcium buildup in blood vessels, reducing arterial stiffness and lowering the risk of heart disease. It achieves this by activating a protein which inhibits calcification in arteries.

4. Cognitive health

Emerging research suggests that vitamin K may support brain health by protecting neurons from oxidative damage, potentially slowing age-related cognitive decline.

5. Skin health

Vitamin K can also support skin healing by promoting proper blood flow and tissue repair, particularly after surgeries or injuries.

Vitamin D and vitamin K work synergistically to promote optimal calcium metabolism and enhance overall health. Here's why they should be taken together:

India bet on T20I form, England seek redemption

AGENCIES

KOLKATA, JAN 21

India's dominance and England's struggles since the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 will set the tone as the two cricketing powerhouses clash in a five-match T20I series starting Wednesday at Eden Gardens.

While India has thrived on consistency and experimentation, England has been on a quest to rediscover its footing in white-ball cricket.

India's journey since lifting the T20 World Cup trophy has been marked by strategic changes and an unbeaten streak in bilateral T20 series. Under the leadership of Suryakumar Yadav, supported by vice-captain Axar Patel, the team is exploring a floating batting lineup and nurturing young talents like Harshit Rana, Nitish Reddy, and Dhruv Jurel.

The retirements of stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have paved the way for a new era, with seasoned players like Mohammad Shami and Washington Sundar



returning to strengthen the squad. The team's adaptability and depth have been critical, as seen in their recent series wins over South Africa and Bangladesh. In contrast, England has struggled to maintain consistency following their semifinal exit in the T20 World Cup. With bilateral series defeats against Australia, Pakistan, and West Indies, the team has faced challenges in all formats. Brendon McCullum's expanded role as head coach for all formats aims to bring a unified approach, but the road

ahead remains daunting. Jos Buttler's leadership is pivotal, with the captain inching closer to the milestone of 150 T20I sixes. England's strategy hinges on balancing experienced players like Harry Brook and Liam Livingstone with emerging talents such as Jacob Bethell, Brydon Carse, and Jamie Smith.

India leads the head-to-head record in T20Is with 13 wins in 24 matches, including a decisive victory in the 2024 World Cup semi-final. England's challenge lies in overcoming India's formidable home

advantage and recent dominance in the format. The opening match is poised to highlight India's experimentation and depth against England's quest for redemption. With a follow-up three-match ODI series serving as a precursor to the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, both teams have much at stake as they refine their strategies for the bigger stage.

T20 Squads:
India squad:

Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Sanju Samson (w/k), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Rinku Singh, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammad Shami, Varun Chakravarthi, Ravi Bishnoi, Washington Sundar, Dhruv Jurel

England squad:
India squad: Jos Buttler (captain), Harry Brook, Ben Duckett, Phil Salt, Jamie Smith (w/k), Jacob Bethell, Brydon Carse, Liam Livingstone, Jamie Overton, Rehan Ahmed, Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Saqib Mahmood, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood

England's Test side since being appointed in 2022 and now takes on both roles until 2027.

Mark Wood return as England announce playing XI for first T20I against India

AGENCIES

KOLKATA, JAN 21

Fast bowler Mark Wood will play for the first time since August in England's first T20 against India at the iconic Eden Gardens here on Wednesday.

Wood, 35, has not played since the first Test against Sri Lanka last summer after a stress fracture was discovered in his elbow while he was sidelined with a minor thigh issue.

The Durham player joins Jofra Archer in England's pace attack with Ben Duckett set to open the batting alongside Phil Salt.

It will be the first time Duckett, England's Test opener, has opened in T20s for six years.

The five-match series against India and the three one-day internationals that follow and England's first matches with Brendon McCullum as their white-ball coach.

McCullum has transformed the Test side since being appointed in 2022 and now takes on both roles until 2027.

England XI: Phil Salt (wk), Ben Duckett, Jos But-



ler (C), Harry Brook (VC), Liam Livingstone, Jacob Bethell, Jamie Overton, Gus Atkinson, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood.

Wicketkeeper Jamie Smith, pace bowlers Brydon Carse and Saqib Mahmood, as well as leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed are the players to miss out on a place in McCullum's first XI, the BBC reported.

Duckett's promotion means England return to the opening partnership used in the ODI series against Australia in September.

Duckett missed the white-ball tour to West Indies in November because of his Test commitments and Salt opened with Surrey batter Will Jacks, who was left out of the squad to tour India.

"All credit to him

(Bethell)," Buttler said. "He has done incredibly well coming into international cricket."

"He has a good head on his shoulders and has the game for it."

"It was fantastic to watch him in New Zealand. He has been playing really well and this is a new challenge for him and one I know he is excited for."

McCullum's arrival comes as England begin preparations for the Champions Trophy in Pakistan next month. The next T20 World Cup is also in India and Sri Lanka next year.

"It is not a new set up because Baz (McCullum) has been around for a while and there are a lot of players in this squad that have been with him the Test set up," added Buttler.

"I am looking forward to building that relationship. It is going to be a great series against a really top side in their own conditions."

India are the current T20 world champions but have named a youthful squad for the T20 series. Experienced fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah is injured and will miss the series.

U19 women T20 WC: Vaishnavi's 5-fer powers India to easy win over Malaysia

AGENCIES

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN 21

Left-arm spinner Vaishnavi Sharma's stunning 5 for 5, including a hat-trick, headlined India's dominant 10-wicket win over Malaysia in a Group A match of the Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup on Tuesday.

With their second consecutive victory, India remain unbeaten in the tournament.

Vaishnavi's heroics, ably supported by Aayushi Shukla (3 for 8), saw Malaysia crumble to a mere 31 in 14.3 overs after being put in to bat. No Malaysian batswomen managed to score more than five runs, with extras (11) contributing significantly to the



total. India's chase was a mere formality. Openers Gongadi Trisha (27 off 12 balls) and Kamalini G (4 not out) completed the target in just 2.5 overs, sealing a comprehensive victory.

India will next take on Sri Lanka on Thursday in a clash to determine the Group A toppers. With

India's dominant bowling attack - having bowled out their opponents for 44 and 31 - facing Sri Lanka's high-scoring batting lineup, the match promises to be a thriller.

Earlier in the day, Sri Lanka posted an imposing 166 for 5 against West Indies, courtesy of significant contributions from

Sanjana Kavindi (39), captain Manudi Nanayakkara (41), and Dahami Sanethma (31 not out). The West Indies bowlers added to their own woes by conceding 36 extras.

In response, West Indies faltered at the start, with Chamodi Praboda's lethal spell in the powerplay (3 for 16) leaving them reeling. Captain Samara Ramnath showed some fight with a 23-ball 24, but the team could only muster 90 runs, falling 81 short of the target.

Sri Lanka will now face India in their final group-stage match on Thursday, a game that will test the mettle of both sides as they vie for supremacy in Group A.

Smriti Mandhana jumps to 2nd spot in ODI batting rankings

AGENCIES

DUBAI, JAN 21

Mandhana's 80-ball 135 has lifted her one place to second position in the ICC batting rankings after the latest weekly update.

Mandhana and Hayley Matthews of the West Indies are among others to gain in the batting rankings after the latest weekly update that considered performances in the last two ODI matches of the Ashes series as well as those in the third match of the ICC Women's Championship (IWC) series between India and Ireland and the first of the IWC series between the West Indies and Bangladesh.

Matthews' match-winning 104 not out has lifted her four slots to a career-best fifth position.



Pratika Rawal, who scored 154 and partnered in a record 233-run opening stand with Mandhana, has gained 12 places and reached 53rd position.

Other batters to gain include India's Jemimah Rodrigues (up two places to 17th) and Richa Ghosh (up six places to 35th), Australia's Tahlia McGrath (up six places to 23rd), Bangladesh's Sharmin Akhter (up four places to 41st) and West Indies' Shemaine Camp-

belle (up one place to 52nd).

In the bowling rankings, Deepti Sharma is up one place to fourth after grabbing three for 27. Australia seamer Kim Garth is up four places to sixth while leg-spinner Alana King's hauls of four for 25 and five for 46 have lifted her to a career-best seventh position.

Australia's Ashleigh Gardner has regained the number one spot for all-rounders and attained

a career-best 10th position among batters in the ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings after her match-winning century in the third ODI against England in Hobart on Friday.

Gardner's run-a-ball 102 helped her reach a career-best 469 rating points to reclaim the No. 1 spot that she had first held in October 2023. Her previous best rating points were 466, which she attained last week to close the gap with South Africa's Marizanne Kapp.

In batting, her previous best was 14th rank, attained in December 2023. Gardner thus continues a fine run that also saw her achieve a career-best second position among bowlers last week, thus placing her at career best positions across all three ODI lists.

Three-day state and national-level swimming competition to be held from Jan 24

AGENCIES

KOLHAPUR, JAN 21

A three-day state and national-level swimming competition will be held from January 24 to 26 at the national swimmer Sagar Patil swimming tank, in the memory of former

deputy prime minister and first chief minister late Yashwantrao Chavan, organised by the Swimming Hub Federation.

According to a press release, the competition will be held in freestyle, butterfly, breaststroke, and IM events


in 50, 100, 200, and 400 meters under the ages of 8, 10, 12, 14, 17, and 19.

Swimmers from all over the state will participate in the state swimming competition, while about 310 swimmers from Karnataka, Goa, Gujarat, MP, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil

Nadu, and Tripura, along with Maharashtra state, will participate in the national swimming competition.

In the national swimming competition, winners will be honoured with Rs 7,000 Sanmanchin, in every group.


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