

Bumrah & Sutherland triumph in December Player of Month Awards

P-12

Sgr's 'Wall of Kindness' comes alive again

P-2



J&K incomplete without PoK: Rajnath

HT NEWS SERVICE AKHNOOR (JAMMU), JAN 14

Describing Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) as the "crown jewel of India" Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir is incomplete without the PoK.

Speaking at the 9th Armed Forces Veterans' Day event here Singh, according to the news agency said, "PoK is the crown jewel of India, which is nothing more than a foreign territory to Pakistan."

"J&K is incomplete without PoK. The people living there are being deprived of a dignified life. Efforts are being made by Pakistan to mislead and provoke them against India in the name of religion," the Defence Minister said, adding, "PoK's land is being used for terrorism. Training camps for terrorists are running and launch pads have been built in the areas adjacent to the border. The Indian government is well aware of the situation. Pakistan will have to put an end to its nefarious designs."

He accused Pakistan of trying to destabilise Jammu and Kashmir. "Dismantle terror camps or face consequences..." Singh said,



adding, "Over 80% of terrorists entering India come from Pakistan."

"The war between India and Pakistan was fought in Akhnoor in 1965. India succeeded in thwarting the efforts of the Pakistani Army. Pakistan has been promoting illegal infiltration and terrorism since 1965. Cross-border terrorism would have ended in 1965 itself, but the then Central Government was unable to convert the tactical advantage gained in the war into a strategic advantage," he said.

DELHI-J&K RELATIONS Commenting on relations between New Delhi and J&K Government, the Defence Minister said, "Our

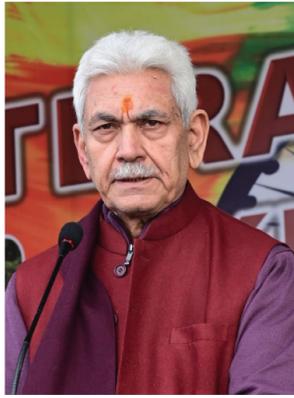
CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

ARMED FORCES VETERANS DAY Martyr's house a sacred temple: LG Sinha

HT NEWS NETWORK JAMMU, JAN 14

Terming a martyr's house as a "sacred temple" Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that soldiers protecting the borders are the guarantee of security and development of the nation.

Speaking on the occasion of the Armed Forces Veterans Day, here LG Sinha, according to the news agency said, "A martyr's house is a sacred temple. This feeling and respect should be there in the minds of common man. Administration and society can express their gratitude to those who sacrificed every-



thing for the country by fulfilling their responsibilities and ensuring that they live a life of comfort and dignity."

"It is the collective responsibility of the society to take concrete measures for the welfare of soldiers and veterans," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "I bow my head in gratitude to all the veterans, valiant jawans, veer naris and families of our armed forces' brave-hearts. We will forever remain indebted to our veterans who protected the nation from the enemies and continue to contribute to the country's growth and development."

LG Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for dedicating Veterans' Day to honour the distinguished service of the servicemen. He reiterated the government's commitment to protect the interests of armed-forces personnel and their families.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the blessed land of Akhnoor bears the indelible footprints of the valour and saga of courage of our veterans. "The 108-ft high Monumental National Flag and Akhnoor Heritage Museum dedicated to the nation by the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

Mine blast along LoC in Nowshera, six Jawans injured

HT NEWS NETWORK JAMMU, JAN 14 (UN)

Six jawans suffered injuries in an accidental mine blast on Tuesday along the Line of Control in the Nowshera area in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources said that an accidental landmine blast took place early morning along the LoC in the Makri area of the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

On Armed Forces Veterans Day, CM praises soldiers for their selfless service to nation

HT NEWS NETWORK AKHNOOR (JAMMU), JAN 14

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday praised soldiers for sacrificing "their today to safeguard the tomorrow" of their countrymen.

Speaking at the Armed Forces Veterans Day event here, Omar, according to the news agency, said, "We sleep peacefully because

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2



NEWS BRIEF

It is apt time for statehood restoration: CM's Advisor on PM Modi's statement

HT NEWS NETWORK SRINAGAR, JAN 14

Stating that the opposition parties should do constructive opposition, Advisor to chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani on Tuesday said that the apt time for the restoration has arrived and it

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

MP Ruhullah's absence at Sonmarg tunnel inauguration raises eyebrows

HT NEWS NETWORK SRINAGAR, JAN 14

The conspicuous absence of National Conference (NC) Member of Parliament from Srinagar, Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, at the high-profile inauguration of the Sonmarg Tunnel on January 14

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

Mysterious disease claims another life in Rajouri

Death toll reaches 14

HT NEWS NETWORK SRINAGAR, JAN 14

A six-year-old girl has succumbed to a mysterious disease in Badhaal village, located in the Kotranka subdivision of Rajouri district, bringing the death toll to 14 since December 2024. The latest victim passed away in a local hospital while receiving treatment.

The outbreak has sparked widespread panic among residents as the disease continues to claim lives, including many children, in the village.

Residents of Badhaal are increasingly worried by the fatalities, especially since the victims do not belong to any single family. This has left every household concerned about the health of its members. Symptoms exhibited by the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

SHA suspends empanelment of twin private Sgr hospitals for 6 months

HT NEWS NETWORK SRINAGAR, JAN 14

The State Health Agency (SHA) in Jammu and Kashmir has suspended the empanelment of Shifa hospital, Srinagar and Florence Hospital Srinagar for violating the guidelines issued by

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

Indian Army gets nano drone for surveillance

HT NEWS NETWORK AKHNOOR, (JAMMU), JAN 14 (UN)

Indian Army gets more teeth with the introduction of modern weaponry to its fleet in Jammu and Kashmir.

To keep a close watch on the movement of the enemy, the Indian Army has introduced a toy-shaped, soundproof Black Hornet nano drone.

Displayed at the Ninth Veterans Day event in the Tanda area of Akhnoor here

Looks like a toy, the soundproof nano drone is the Black Hornet and is laced with two cameras helping the Indian Army to keep watch on the movement of the anti-national elements.

"Having access into the concrete infrastructure, Black Hornet is probably used to locate the hidden terrorists without making noise," said an officer.

Meanwhile, the Indian Army has also deployed Tata Razak on

the borders to keep an eye on the movement of terrorists hiding in Pakistan.

"Tata Razak is a suitable system to keep an eye on the enemy as it can detect human movement up to 18 kilometres and vehicle movement up to 35 kilometres," he said.

Being connected to the programming, Tata Razak can instantly pass all the information to the computer, adding, "The way Pakistan is trying to infiltrate Jammu and Kashmir, Tata Razak plays the role of a sentinel along the boundaries."

The officer, however, said that the Army has also added manufactured-in-Force Motors, Indian-made, light strike vehicles to its fleet.

"The four-seated Light Strike Vehicle has four cylinders and four-stroke discharge engine," said the officer.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2



Feeble WD to affect J&K, light snow likely at isolated higher reaches

HT NEWS NETWORK SRINAGAR, JAN 14

A feeble Western Disturbance (WD) is affecting Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday and under its influence light snowfall is expected at isolated higher reaches in the next 48 hours.

According to the news agency,



Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is a possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches during the early morning of the 16th.

He added that from January 17 to 19, the weather would remain generally cloudy, adding that

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

HT BOTTOM STORY

Shopkeeper across Kashmir markets calling shots, "As administration appears missing from the scene"

HT NEWS NETWORK SRINAGAR, JAN 14

In absence of the government regulations, prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed in Kashmir and no quality check has added to the insecurities of the consumers.

The Department of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCSCA) that regulated the prices and checked the quality of essential items like

bread, mutton, vegetables, and milk lost its teeth after the markets were decontrolled in the Valley.

An official of the FCSCA department while talking to the news agency said, "Our department has no power to regulate the prices of the essential commodities sold in the open market."

He said that many years have passed since markets in Kashmir were decontrolled.



"At present, shopkeepers and traders are free to fix the prices."

Asked whether the department is authorized to check the quality of the items being sold in the market, the official said, "No." "In the open market it's the duty of the traders, vendors and shopkeepers to ensure that no substandard product is sold."

It may be recalled that earlier the government used to fix

the rate of mutton, chicken and other items and special squads were deployed to check the quality of the essential commodities sold in the markets.

"Butchers had to get the mutton stamped before selling it in the open market. The stamp was put by a SMC official under the supervision of an official of the Animal Husbandry Department," said an official.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2



DC Srinagar chairs DLRC/ DCC meet

Reviews performance of Banks in implementation of Government initiatives & sponsored schemes

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 14: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of District Level Review Committee/District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here to review the performance of the Banks and other Financial Institutions under various Government initiatives and sponsored schemes for Quarter ending September 2024.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner/ Chairman DLRC/DCC took a detailed review and sector wise performance of the Banks in implementation of different Government schemes. He also reviewed the achievements of Banks in lending to Priority/Non Priority sectors under Annual Credit Plan.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC urged Banks and sponsoring agencies to prioritize achieving targets under Priority Sector Lending.

He also impressed upon the banks to improve the ease of availing banking facilities to the unemployed youth who



genuinely need it for achieving the gainful employment through various credit facilities tailored in accordance to their entrepreneurial aspirations.

The DC emphasized utmost coordination between Banks and sponsoring agencies for better implementation of self-employment schemes so that beneficiaries set up their income generating units.

He stressed on all the line Departments

and Banks operating in the District to further improve the credit facilities. He also called for educating people about financial literacy and the Digital Payment Ecosystem, besides educating them about digital frauds. Dr Bilal emphasized on improvement of other schemes and flagship programmes of the Government and focused attention towards self-employment to uplift the socio-economic condi-

tions of the people. While reviewing the Bank-wise movement of CD Ratio in the District, the meeting was informed that total deposits of the District Srinagar stood at Rs 36,190.96 crore and Advance at Rs 26,438.30 crore, constituting 73 percent CD Ratio at the Quarter Ending September 2024. It was apprised that Banks operating in Srinagar have provided a total credit of Rs 5185.35 crore among 84864 beneficiaries of District under different schemes during financial year 2024-25.

It was further apprised that under Prime Ministers Mudra Yojna (PMMY) Scheme Banks operating in Srinagar have disbursed Rs 885.19 Crore among 25605 beneficiaries of the District during Financial year 2024-25 as of November 2024. Similarly, under the Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation programme (PMEGP), a total 1302 cases have been sanctioned and an amount of Rs 21.08 Crore have also been sanctioned.

With regard to implementation of Pradhan Mantri SVANIDHI schemes, it was informed that Rs 13.57 crore have been disbursed among 8116 Street Vendors of the District.

DC Srinagar finalizes Action Plan for implementation of Novel Natural Farming in District

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 14:- In order to finalize Action Plan for first of its kind Novel Natural Farming for the year 2025-26 in District, a comprehensive meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here today.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer Srinagar, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Srinagar, and other District level Officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner discussed threadbare the Action Plan for successful implementation of Natural Farming in District Srinagar. He said that the initiative of Novel Natural Farming will pave way forward for sustainable growth of Agriculture without harming the natural environment. The DC impressed upon the officers to ensure effective and successful implementation of Natural Farming programme as per the scheme guidelines.

During the meeting Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar gave a detailed a power point presentation on the subject.

He informed the meeting that the natural Farming is a sustainable method of Farming which encourages use of natural inputs available at the farm including FYM, Agniastra, bejmitra etc and natural methods of disease, pest and weed control.

He added that, the natural Farming also encourages production of on farm natural agri inputs and discourages use of all the chemical based inputs.

DDC Bandipora reviews progress of CAPEX 2024-25 Stresses timely completion of development works

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 14: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Tuesday chaired a review meeting at the Mini Secretariat to assess the progress of works under the District CAPEX 2024-25. The meeting was informed that as of December 2024, a total of Rs. 16184.65 lakhs have been released out of the approved budgetary outlay of Rs. 32073.42 lakhs, with 66 percent of the allocated expenditure already utilized.

It was given out that, District CAPEX Budget for 2024-25 has been set at Rs. 6800.64 lakhs, focusing on 16 key sectors including the improvement of rural infrastructure, upgrading electrification networks, enhancing drinking water facilities, and augmenting infrastructure in educational institutions, among



other essential public welfare works.

Reviewing the sector-wise and work-wise progress, the DDC emphasized the need for accelerating the pace of ongoing works to ensure their timely completion. He further directed all concerned executing agencies to meet both physical and financial tar-

gets for all approved projects within the stipulated timelines.

Qadri, stressed the importance of these developmental works in improving the quality of life of the general public and pointed out that infrastructure improvements, particularly in rural areas, are essential for overall growth

and economic prosperity. He highlighted the role of the executing agencies in ensuring accountability and timely completion of works and urged all stakeholders to collaborate effectively ensuring that the works are completed on time besides maintaining the quality of works. Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt; ACD, CPO Executive Engineers of various Departments, and other concerned. It was given out that, District CAPEX Budget for 2024-25 has been set at Rs. 6800.64 lakhs, focusing on 16 key sectors including the improvement of rural infrastructure, upgrading electrification networks, enhancing drinking water facilities, and augmenting infrastructure in educational institutions, among other essential public welfare works.

6 children forced into bagging, child labour rescued at Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 14: As part of the district administration's ongoing efforts to combat child exploitation, a rescue operation for children in street situations, CISS, was conducted today in Narwal and surrounding areas of Wave Mall and Hotel Radisson Blu. Six minors, engaged in street begging and child labour, were successfully rescued.

Following proper formalities and the filing of a daily diary report, the children were presented before the Child Welfare Committee for rehabilitation and social integration. The district administration reaffirms its commitment to ensuring the well-being and future of vulnerable children through similar sustained efforts.

Rajouri Mysterious Deaths CS directs for coordination between Health & Police Deptts to ascertain actual causes of death

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, JANUARY 14: Chief Secretary, Atal Dooloo, today chaired a meeting of all the concerned from Divisional and District administrations along with Health experts from several national health institutions to take stock of the measures taken so far to identify the real causes behind the mysterious deaths reported from village Badhal in district Rajouri.

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 and Experts from PGIMER, CSIR, National Institute of Virology (NIV), National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), DRDO and others. The Chief Secretary impressed upon the Health and Police Departments to assess the reports received from different institutes of repute to identify the real cause of these deaths. He asked them to work in close coordination to take this investigation to its logical conclusion. He also directed the Police Department to utilize the best of their resources to study these reports along with using other scientific measures to reach to the conclusion. He also urged the Health Department to study these reports to find the reasonable leads causing these deaths. He made out that the reports furnished by different institutions are now available with us and more are going to be received soon. He maintained that these should be enough to conclude the investigations and reach to possible reasons of these deaths reported from this particular village. Dooloo also took this occasion to hear from the different experts from PGIMER (Chandigarh), NIV, CSIR and NCDC about their findings after studying numerous samples taken from the affected persons or area. He also sought suggestions from them about the future course of action to be taken from here.

Rana visits Akhnoor, cautions officers against unnecessary delay in execution of projects

Calls for focussed soil conservation measures in Kalidhar Range

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 14: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Tuesday directed the officers to expedite completion of Water Supply Schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission besides accelerating irrigation and flood control projects in Akhnoor.

The Minister was reviewing the functioning of Jal Shakti and Forest Departments during his visit to Akhnoor constituency.

Minister for Sports, Satish Sharma and local MLA Mohan Lal were also present on the occasion.

The Minister emphasised the need for timely completion of

water supply projects being executed under the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide tap water connections to every rural household. He exhorted upon the officers to ensure faster execution of works and better coordination among various agencies involved. He also called upon them for maintaining quality of works while executing these projects.

While calling for fast tracking irrigation projects to improve water availability for agricultural purposes, the Minister said that flood control projects need to be completed without any unnecessary delay. He emphasised the need for time bound completion of all projects pertaining to various departments and cautioned against



any unnecessary delay in execution of vital works.

Maintaining that govern-

ment has taken several initiatives for soil conservation in the Kalidhar Range, he called for

more focused efforts, particularly in view of climate change challenges.

The Minister called for prioritizing soil conservation measures along nallahs and undertaking afforestation efforts on barren patches in the Kalidhar Range. He said that these steps are crucial for environmental sustainability and will help prevent soil erosion and enhance biodiversity.

Javed Rana asked for increasing awareness regarding environment and soil protection and called for involvement of community for enhanced results. He asked the officers to chalk out a plan to increase the forest cover in the barren lands of Kalidhar range. He asked them to undertake afforestation by planting trees, which will not only provide livelihood opportunities but promote sus-

tainable development and help mitigate climate change.

During his tour to Akhnoor, people handed over memorandums as well as individual requests to the Minister and demanded early resolution of their issues.

Locals raised issues pertaining to Jal Shakti, Irrigation & Flood Control and Forest department.

The Minister asked the officers to take local MLA's into confidence in preparation of DPRs of new works and implementation of government's schemes in the area.

Javed Rana also called for making defunct hand pumps functional on priority basis to ensure that the general public does not suffer on this account.

EDITORIAL

Revamp education system in Jammu & Kashmir

The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education seems to have learnt no lesson from the previous experience and it is due to this reason that students of the government and private schools of Kashmir valley are yet to receive books for the new academic session. This is despite the fact that the academic session started well before the commencement of winter vacation for the educational institutions of the valley.

When the education minister Sakeena Masood Itoo announced the revival of October session she assured that the books would be available for the students well on time and there will be no worries on this front. The incumbent Director School Education Kashmir Ghulam Nabi Itoo has convened some meetings in this regard but on ground there is no difference as the students continue to suffer. It seems the Board authorities don't have the capacity to publish a huge volume of books meant for students of both the government and private schools.

It has been observed that some decisions taken by the government are not in tune with the existing situation. Same can be said about the decision that mandates uniform syllabus for both the government and private schools of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. For this step to be successful it was imperative that the syllabus of the government schools is upgraded and it is updated to the modern day demands. This would have improved the standard of the students receiving education in government schools.

As on date it seems that the standard of education in private schools has come down and the students are ultimate sufferers. In this era of competition the students need to be upgraded with the latest knowledge and information. There is no denying the fact that the syllabus of the government schools in Jammu & Kashmir has not been updated over the years and it is considered to be obsolete by the experts in the field of education.

The Jammu & Kashmir government should take a cue from the innovative measures taken by the Delhi government in the field of education. As on date the government schools of Delhi are no less than the private schools. It is due to this reason that many of the parents have recalled their wards from private schools and enrolled them in the government schools. The government schools of Jammu & Kashmir need a revamp and hopefully the present government takes the necessary steps in this regard.

Baramulla and North Kashmir: “Newly infrastructure Developments till 2024” Model Border Villages: “Transforming Remote Areas”

AHMED FAYAZ
afazil45@gmail.com

In 2024, Baramulla and the broader North Kashmir region witnessed transformative progress in infrastructure and connectivity, setting a new benchmark for regional development and improved living standards. This comprehensive growth spanned border villages, critical transportation links, and urban modernization initiatives, underscoring the government's commitment to uplifting the area. Key Infrastructure Projects Model Border Villages Initiative The Baramulla district administration, in collaboration with NHPC, launched an ambitious project to develop five model border villages under a Rs 2.5 crore initiative. The plan focuses on upgrading essential services, including schools, health centers, sanitation facilities, and electricity supply through the installation of transformers. Local officials highlighted the initiative's potential to transform remote areas during its signing ceremony. By addressing fundamental needs, the project aims to significantly improve the quality of life for residents in these underserved communities. Kanzalwan Bridge Completion A landmark achievement in the region's connectivity came with the completion of the Kanzalwan Bridge in the Gurez Valley by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Inaugurated in October 2024 by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, this bridge is a crucial link for local and strategic mobility, providing easier access to remote areas and strengthening national security efforts. Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) The USBRL project made significant strides in 2024, with the Katra-Reasi section nearing completion. A trial run conducted in December 2024 set the stage for safety inspections planned for early 2025. Once operational, this rail link will connect the Kashmir Valley to India's broader rail network, enhancing passenger comfort and stimulating economic activity. Plans to introduce Vande Bharat Express trains further underscore the project's importance in transforming regional transportation. Rajouri-Baramulla Highway Project A pivotal infrastructure initiative, the Rs 3,300 crore Rajouri-Baramulla highway project, is set to redefine connectivity across a 300-kilometer stretch. This highway will reduce travel times, ease congestion on the Jammu-Srinagar highway, and unlock economic opportunities for the region. Passing through scenic destinations such as Yousmarg and Doodhpathri,



Z- Mohara Tunnel



Baramulla Sangrama FlyOver

the highway is expected to boost tourism and generate employment in hospitality and allied sectors. Enhanced transportation systems, better waste management, and digitized public services are at the core of these initiatives, signaling a move toward sustainable urban development. In the light of Economic and Strategic Implication, The Rajouri-Baramulla highway exemplifies the dual benefits of economic and strategic development. Improved connectivity enables seamless access between districts, reduce travel times, and foster trade and tourism. Scenic routes through picturesque destinations promise to draw tourists, creating opportunities for local entrepreneurs in the hospitality sector. Strategically, the highway is crucial for military operations and emergency services in remote areas. Its construction adheres to the highest safety and quality standards under the supervision of the BRO, ensuring reliability and long-term benefits. The infrastructure is expected to create substantial employment opportunities and improve road safety standards. Kupwara and Baramulla districts have experienced consistent growth in completed development projects over the past four fiscal years: Kupwara: FY 2020-21: 794 projects FY 2021-22: 2,217 projects FY 2022-23: 4,061 projects FY 2023-24: 3,453 projects (ongoing) Baramulla: FY 2020-21: 543 projects FY 2021-22: 2,044 projects FY 2022-23: 2,661 projects FY 2023-24: 2,593 projects (ongoing) These projects span critical sectors such as infrastructure, health, education, rural development, and public utilities, collectively enhancing the socio-economic fabric of the region. Development of Major Tunnel Projects Zojila and Z-Morh Tunnels proved to be the great developmental projects. The Zojila and Z-Morh tunnels are transformative projects ensuring year-round connectivity between Kashmir, Ladakh, and the rest of India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Z-Morh Tunnel on January 13, 2025, in Sonamarg, Jammu and Kashmir. Spanning 6.5 km, the tunnel connects

Gangangir to Sonamarg, ensuring year-round connectivity by bypassing landslide-prone areas. Situated at an altitude of 8,650 feet, it features a 7.5-meter-wide emergency escape tunnel and supports speeds up to 80 km/h, accommodating 1,000 vehicles per hour. Built at a cost of Rs 2,700 crore, construction began in 2015 and concluded in 2024. During the inauguration, PM Modi highlighted the project's role in fostering development in Jammu and Kashmir. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah were also present. The tunnel holds strategic significance, aiding military logistics and enhancing access to Ladakh via the NHI Srinagar-Leh Highway. It is expected to reduce travel time, boost local tourism, and drive economic growth. The Z-Morh Tunnel marks a transformative milestone for the region, offering safer, more efficient travel and unlocking trade potential. It also plays a pivotal role in connecting Srinagar and Ladakh, showcasing India's commitment to infrastructure development in challenging terrains. Scheduled for completion in October 2026, the Zojila tunnel, alongside the Z-Morh tunnel, will bypass avalanche-prone areas, facilitating uninterrupted civilian and military movement. These tunnels represent a strategic and economic lifeline, ensuring accessibility and integration. Four-Laning of Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri Highway Approved in 2022, the Rs 823.45 crore four-laning project for the Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri highway is designed to improve traffic flow and safety. Key features include bypass roads, flyovers, and a 100-kilometer four-lane road. This project is expected to stimulate local commerce and make travel more efficient, strengthening the region's economic potential. Despite these achievements, development in Jammu and Kashmir is not without challenges. Regional instability poses threats to workers and infrastructure. The tragic militant attack on Z-Morh tunnel workers in 2024 highlighted the need for robust security measures. Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha directed security forces

to intensify efforts to safeguard these critical projects, which are pivotal for stability and prosperity. The comprehensive development initiatives in Baramulla and North Kashmir reflect a determined approach to infrastructure, connectivity, and socio-economic growth. By addressing strategic and economic needs, these projects aim to foster regional integration, improve living standards, and align with national objectives. As these efforts progress, they mark a significant step toward a more connected, secure, and prosperous future for Jammu and Kashmir.

These development initiatives reflect a broader commitment to enhancing infrastructure and socio-economic conditions in Baramulla and North Kashmir. They are expected to foster integration with national objectives, boost local economies through improved connectivity, and elevate the overall living standards of residents. The completion of these projects is poised to usher in a new era of progress for the region, marking a significant step toward a more connected and prosperous future. The Rajouri-Baramulla highway project, valued at Rs 3,300 crore, is set to deliver several significant benefits for the region. The highway will connect Rajouri and Baramulla, facilitating easier access between these key districts and the Kashmir Valley via the Mughal Road. This direct linkage is anticipated to improve travel times significantly, providing an alternative to the congested Jammu-Srinagar highway, the new road will help alleviate traffic congestion, making travel smoother and more efficient for both local residents and visitors. Economic Improved connectivity is expected to stimulate economic activities in the region. The highway will enhance access to markets for local farmers and businesses, potentially increasing trade and commerce. The highway's construction is also seen as vital for strategic movement, allowing quicker access for military operations and emergency services in remote areas. Moreover, the Rajouri-Baramulla highway project is poised to significantly

enhance connectivity, stimulate economic growth, improve infrastructure quality, create job opportunities, and bolster strategic access in Jammu and Kashmir Srinagar- Kupwara and Baramulla districts in Jammu & Kashmir have witnessed a significant rise in the completion of development projects over the last four fiscal years, according to official sources. The data indicates a remarkable surge in the pace of infrastructure development, contributing to the overall growth and betterment of these districts. The Zojila tunnel, for instance, will connect Sonamarg in Kashmir with Drass in Kargil, providing Ladakh with all-weather connectivity and reducing travel time from hours to just 15 minutes. Such connectivity is not only beneficial for the local population but is also critical from a security and logistical standpoint. The Z-Morh tunnel, which bypasses the avalanche-prone Gagangir area, connects Kangan town to the popular tourist destination of Sonamarg and ensures year-round access to Ladakh. Together, these tunnels will improve movement for civilians and security personnel alike, enhancing the state's defence capabilities in areas close to the Line of Control (LoC). These projects thus play a dual role, they are instrumental in ensuring territorial integration and supporting national security efforts by making remote areas more accessible. The four-laning of a 100-km Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri highway, approved in 2022, is currently underway to enhance connectivity. This project covers two main phases, The Narbal-Baramulla stretch and the Baramulla-Uri stretch, addressing critical traffic flow and safety concerns. Additionally, it includes bypass roads at Pattan and Baramulla and flyovers at Sangrama and Delina, which aim to streamline travel and reduce congestion in densely populated areas. The entire project, budgeted at Rs 823.45 crore, will significantly improve transport efficiency and boost local economic activity by easing travel between important destinations"

The author is reached at afazil45@gmail.com

Cooperatives: The Key to a Sustainable and Inclusive Global Future

MURLIDHAR MOHOL
UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR COOPERATION AND CIVIL AVIATION

The recent International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Global Cooperative Conference 2024 in New Delhi was more than just a spectacle of global gathering of leaders from over 100 countries; it was a testament to the growing importance of cooperatives in shaping a sustainable and equitable future. During the event, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the United Nations' International Year of Cooperatives 2025 (IYC

2025), a significant global initiative aimed at bringing the spotlight on the critical role cooperatives play in advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year will mark as a turning point in global economic and social discourse, where cooperatives will increasingly be recognised not merely as tools of local development but as nodal players in the global economic development.

The Cooperatives Model: Rooted in Community, Poised for Global Impact

At the heart of the cooperative model lies a simple yet powerful concept: people working together for mutual benefit. Cooperatives emphasise collective ownership, shared responsibility, and democratic decision-making. These principles have led to remarkable successes across the world, from agriculture to healthcare, from financial services to energy production.

In India, cooperatives have been instrumental in rural development. The success of Amul and similar cooperatives is a testament to the potential of cooperative models to drive both economic development and social justice. Further, dairies like Amul support women-led development in rural areas by empowering women who are engaged with milk producing societies for their business activities. Through its cooperative model, such cooperatives offer leadership roles, skill development, and financial support, enabling women to gain economic independence, further strengthening their role in the community and economy.

India's Leadership in Promoting the Cooperative Model India has long recognised the value of cooperatives as a tool for economic transformation and social progress. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi presence at the ICA Global

Cooperative Conference highlighted India's deep-rooted commitment to the cooperative movement. His address during the launch of the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 underscored the role of cooperatives in building a self-reliant, prosperous nation. The Prime Minister's speech also spotlighted the cooperative sector's ability to empower marginalised communities, particularly in rural India, where cooperatives remain the backbone of sectors such as agriculture and dairy farming. Under Shri Narendra Modi's dynamic leadership, the Indian government has made significant strides in enhancing the cooperative sector. The steps taken by the Government to promote co-operatives reflect the recognition that co-operatives are not merely a relic of the past but are an important link in contemporary economic and social development.

The Vision of 'Sahkar se

Samridhhi': The roadmap for Cooperatives Revival

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership and Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah's guidance has played a critical role in reshaping India's cooperative landscape. Under their direction, India is moving toward a modernised cooperative framework that aligns with the demands of a digital economy. Their vision of leveraging technology to expand the reach and effectiveness of cooperatives is especially crucial in an increasingly digital world. The future of cooperatives lies in their ability to evolve with changing times, integrating modern tools to improve efficiency and sustainability.

A Global Agenda: Cooperatives and the SDGs

As nations grapple with economic inequality, climate change, and social unrest,

cooperatives offer an alternative model for growth—one that is inclusive, democratic, and resilient. The cooperative model's emphasis on solidarity, mutual support, and democratic participation positions it uniquely to address key global problems. By providing a framework that prioritises people over profits, cooperatives ensure that the benefits of economic activity are more widely distributed, empowering the underserved and helping bridge societal gaps. By linking the cooperative movement with the Sustainable Development Goals, India has established itself as a global advocate for sustainable and inclusive development. In short, cooperatives are key to achieving an inclusive and sustainable global economy.

The Road Ahead: A Cooperative Future

Cooperatives are not just an economic tool, but they are a

powerful means of achieving social justice, economic equity, and environmental sustainability.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the guidance of Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, the vision of 'Sahkar se Samridhhi' can build a better future for our country of 140 crores people. By promoting cooperatives as vehicles for social and economic development, we can create a world where prosperity is shared, inequalities are reduced, and communities are empowered. It's time to recognise that the future of our global economy depends on cooperation and that cooperatives hold the key to building a fairer, more sustainable world for all.

BY - ISHRAK KASHAFI

As a volunteer dedicated to animal welfare, I have witnessed firsthand the cruelty that animals endure, and each time I am faced with these harsh realities, I ask myself: How did we, as humans, come to this point? How did we become so disconnected from compassion that we allow animals—our fellow living beings—to suffer in ways that are unimaginable? In our pursuit of progress, we've become desensitized to the pain and suffering of those who cannot speak for themselves. "How have we sunk so low as to turn a blind eye to the helpless, all while claiming to be a compassionate society?" The question of why humans can be so cruel and indifferent to the suffering of others remains. How can we foster a culture that truly values the well-being of all living beings, and what role can each of us play in bringing about this change?

One tragic example that deeply shook me occurred in Telangana, India, on January 4, 2025, when 21 dogs were thrown off a 40-foot-high bridge with their mouths and legs tied. The horrifying scene was discovered by the welfare organization Citizens for Animals. These poor animals were left to die in the most-cruel manner, with their bodies found decomposing in the water. Despite the immense suffering, 11 critically injured dogs were rescued, receiving intensive medical care. This tragic event is only one example in a world where animal cruelty is often met with indifference, or worse, apathy. Yet, why do we, as humans, continue to look away from the suffering of those who cannot speak for themselves? How have we become so disconnected from the compassion that should define us?

It is time for us to reflect, take action, and reclaim our humanity. A recent claim on a Facebook page called community dogs in Srinagar (J&K) a "menace" and "inconvenience" to tourists. But is this the message we want to pass on to future generations? Should we teach children that some lives are worth less than others? If all creatures are creations of the same God, who are we to decide the value of any life?

The underlying causes of this widespread cruelty are complex—rooted in ignorance, apathy, and the misuse of power. It's a failure to recognize the intrinsic value of life, which leads to the exploitation of animals for profit, entertainment, or convenience. Whether it's the breeding of animals for monetary gain or the casual disregard for their safety, the normalization of these practices is a grave injustice that we must confront.

Every day, animals face neglect, cruelty, and abandonment from those who should be their protectors. The urgency of animal welfare has never been more pressing, from pets left on their own to community animals suffering on the streets. Community animals, including dogs and cats, are often seen as nuisances in urban areas, with many subjected to brutal treatment such as beating, poisoning, or setting on fire. Abandoned dog mothers and their puppies roam the streets in search of food and shelter. While expensive breeds of cats face similar exploitation, irresponsible breeders take advantage of these animals for profit, only to abandon them once they face health issues or are no longer needed. These issues highlight the urgent need for legal reform, public education, and greater compassion for animals in our society.

This exploitation stems from human negligence, prompting animal welfare organizations to advocate for stronger laws, improved care for domesticated animals, and responsible development to prevent further suffering. Despite the existence of laws like the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, outdated penalties and a lack of public awareness continue to fuel the problem.

Alarming Rise in Animal Cruelty Cases in India

The growing number of animal cruelty cases in India highlights a serious failure to fulfill our ethical responsibilities toward animals. Cruelty ranging from neglect and physical abuse to exploitation and culling—affects community animals, pets, wildlife, and working animals alike and demands immediate attention.

Key Issues to Focus on:

- 1. **Insufficient Legal Deterrents:** The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act is criticized for outdated penalties, such as a mere Rs 50 fine for severe offenses like killing or harming community animals. These lenient punishments undermine the values enshrined in Article 51A(g) of the Constitution, which urge compassion toward all living creatures. Activists are calling for urgent amendments to the law to ensure it reflects the values of a civilized society.
- 2. **Gaps in Enforcement:** Poor law enforcement allows offenders to act without consequence. High-profile cases like Bruno's killing in Kerala and the mass culling of community dogs in Hyderabad demonstrate the systemic failures in holding perpetrators accountable.
- 3. **Public Unawareness and Apathy:** Many citizens lack awareness of animal rights or fail to empathize with their suffering. Public education campaigns are essential to foster a culture of compassion and responsibility.
- 4. **Exploitation across Animal Groups:**
 - o **Working Animals:** Horses, donkeys, and elephants



"An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language"

— Martin Buber

Introducing Milky, a loving community puppy!

endure harsh labor under poor conditions. Stricter regulations and regular welfare inspections are urgently needed.

- o **Wildlife:** Gorillas, monkeys, leopards, tigers, lions, and many more suffer due to legal loopholes and habitat destruction. Elephants are frequently abused for tourism and religious purposes.
- o **Community Animals:** The cruel treatment of community animal populations underscores the need for ethical population control methods, such as Animal Birth Control (ABC) programs.
- 5. **Tourism and Religious Exploitation:** Animals used in tourism and religious practices are often overworked, poorly fed, and abandoned when no longer profitable. Ethical treatment and sustainable practices must become the norm.

These disturbing trends reflect the growing cruelty toward animals in India. Despite laws like the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, penalties remain outdated, and widespread ignorance about animal rights exacerbates the problem.

Misguided Narratives on Community Animals

Common misconceptions



**From Cruelty to Compassion:
A Call to Reclaim Our Humanity.**

about community dogs—such as them being inherently unhealthy, aggressive, or unsuitable as pets—often lead to their mistreatment.

- **Myth 1: Community dogs are unhealthy and carry diseases:** While some community animals may face health challenges, it's important to remember that not all are diseased. With proper veterinary care, community dogs can thrive as healthy companions. Assuming that all community animals are sick only breeds unnecessary fear and leads to mistreatment. While rabies is a common concern, it is preventable through vaccination, just like other

dogs the dignity and care they deserve.

The Role of Community Animals and Their Benefits

Community animals, such as community dogs and cats, play an important role in enhancing urban and rural environments. They contribute to pest control by keeping rodent populations in check, which helps reduce the spread of diseases like leptospirosis and rabies. Community dogs, for example, help deter smaller pests and can even act as informal neighborhood watchdogs, alerting residents to potential intruders.

Their presence fosters community bonding, as local residents often come together to care for these animals, whether by feeding, sterilizing, or seeking adoption opportunities. This shared responsibility can unite neighborhoods and create a compassionate, collaborative spirit. Furthermore, community animals raise awareness about responsible pet ownership and the importance of adoption, encouraging people to choose adoption over purchasing pets. They can also help reduce waste by scavenging food scraps, indirectly contributing to cleaner streets.

However, the absence of community animals can result in several drawbacks. Without these animals, pest populations could surge, leading to a rise in disease transmission and public health risks. For example, without community animals to manage rodent populations, cities may experience larger infestations, which can negatively affect both the environment and human health.

Moreover, without community animals, there is less opportunity for people to engage with and learn from animals in their environment. This absence could mean a decrease in empathy for animals, especially in younger generations, as they lose exposure to the needs and care of animals in their communities.

The absence of community animals also means a loss of natural security. Community dogs often deter potential criminals or intruders, as their barking can alert neighbors to suspicious activity. Without them, neighborhoods may feel less secure, and the burden of safety would fall entirely on human security systems.

Ultimately, community animals, when properly managed, offer both environmental and social benefits, creating a harmonious relationship between people and animals. Without them, we risk a less compassionate, more disjointed society with increased health risks and a decline in community values.

Inhumane Treatment of Community Animals: A Growing Crisis in Society

The treatment of community animals in our societies is a reflection of our compassion—or the lack thereof. Every day,

countless animals face abandonment, neglect, and cruelty in urban and rural spaces alike. Often left on their own, these creatures suffer silently, lacking a voice to demand better care or protection. Unfortunately, some examples of the inhumane treatment of community animals are more shocking than others. In many cities, community dogs are often subjected to brutal killings, either through poisoning, beating, or being set on fire. This is not only cruel but also illegal. Community dogs are sometimes seen as a nuisance, leading to extreme measures taken by people who view them as disposable. In rural settings, community animals often face extreme neglect. They are often overworked, malnourished, and



We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals."

—Immanuel Kant

"Meet young Brownie, once abandoned and separated from his mom, now thriving and full of hope."

suffer from various diseases without access to medical treatment. In some cases, they are used for labor and discarded once they are no longer of use, adding to the cruelty they face.

Mistreatment of Community Animals in Educational Institutions

Recently, a disturbing case at a law college in Uttar Pradesh, along with another prestigious institution in Lucknow, highlighted the cruel treatment of dogs, with authorities ordering their removal. In one heartbreaking instance, a mother dog was separated from her three-day-old puppies—an experience that any mother would find agonizing. Imagine the pain of being torn away from your newborns, helpless to comfort them. This cruel act of separation is an unnecessary tragedy. However, thanks to the tireless efforts of rescuers and concerned citizens, the puppies were eventually reunited with their mother on the campus. This act of compassion offers a glimmer of hope in a world where such cruelty too often prevails. It is troubling that these institutions fail to recognize that these dogs are in their rightful place.

Similarly, in Jammu and Kashmir, community animals such as cats and dogs face similar mistreatment, with authorities at the universities reported to have thrown away cats from the campus, abandoning them in harsh conditions. I have witnessed these cases firsthand, and I was deeply disturbed by the cruelty these animals endured. Unfortunately, those who take it upon themselves to fulfill this constitutional obligation often face hostility and are targeted with hatred for their compassion toward animals.

"Students on any campus should also recognize that while the campus may be their temporary shelter, it is the permanent home for these animals. For these community dogs and cats, the campus is their territory, and removing or displacing them causes unnecessary distress and harm."

The Supreme Court's ruling, which explicitly states that dogs and cats cannot be relocated from the areas where they were born and considers it a criminal offense, is a crucial step toward safeguarding the rights of these animals. This ruling emphasizes the importance of treating them with dignity and respect and calls for humane solutions to manage animal welfare. Now we must reflect: Can we, as a society, rise above the need for external enforcement and instead cultivate a culture where empathy, responsibility, and respect for all living beings become the norm? Relocation as an inhumane practice often leads to significant distress, harm, or even death for the animals involved. Displacing animals from their homes can provoke attacks by other dogs and cats due to territorial behavior. Additionally, the new animals that occupy the space may not be sterilized, vaccinated, or friendly towards humans, further complicating the situation. Without proper care or regard for their well-being, removal and abandonment can cause

prevent unnecessary suffering and ensure that animals aren't left to limp through life due to our negligence.

We cannot let reckless driving cause innocent lives to suffer or die; after all, we are accountable to the One who gave us the gift of life. It's essential that we act with compassion, not only for the well-being of the animals but also as a reflection of our shared humanity. Yet, the question remains: what is being done to protect these helpless animals, and why is their suffering so often overlooked? It is time for a societal shift—one that embraces the principles of compassion, kindness, and responsibility toward all living creatures.

Tackling Dog Bite Incidents: Education and Public Health Approaches

Dog bites, especially in areas with high community dog populations, are a growing concern. Many of these bites occur when dogs feel threatened, especially mother dogs protecting their puppies. Mother dogs should not be harmed—their maternal instincts, just like any other mother's, drive them to fiercely protect their young. When a mother dog feels her puppies are in danger, her protective instincts can lead to aggression, such as biting, especially if she perceives a potential threat. It is essential to respect a mother dog's space and her natural instincts to protect her young. Interacting with her or disturbing her puppies during this period can cause stress and anxiety and increase the likelihood of defensive behavior. Understanding that this protective behavior is not aggression but a survival instinct can help prevent unnecessary conflicts.

In areas with many community dogs, educating the public on how to safely interact with mother dogs, especially those caring for puppies, can reduce dog bites and ensure safer, more compassionate interactions between humans and animals.

The Need for Action: Animal Birth Control, Regulation, and Compassionate Society

Addressing the overpopulation of community animals and improving their quality of life requires comprehensive efforts, with Animal Birth Control (ABC) being one of the most effective solutions. ABC programs help manage community animal populations, reduce the spread of diseases, and enhance public health and safety. Countries like the United States, Australia, and parts of Europe have implemented large-scale animal birth control programs. For example, the Spay-Neuter Assistance Program in the U.S. offers free or low-cost sterilization surgeries, reducing community animal populations and mitigating the public health risks associated with them. Additionally, the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program, which traps feral cats, sterilizes them, and returns them to their original locations, helps control wild cat populations humanely and prevents the spread of disease.

In India, the Animal Welfare Board of India and local animal welfare organizations are actively involved in sterilization campaigns aimed at reducing the community dog population and improving their living conditions.

The Role of Government, Citizens, and Religious Leaders

Governments play a critical role in regulating animal welfare, enforcing laws that protect animals from cruelty, and funding sterilization programs. They must also establish well-equipped veterinary hospitals and shelters and collaborate with NGOs to address animal welfare comprehensively.

Citizens have a responsibility to care for their pets, ensuring they are sterilized and adopted from shelters instead of purchased from breeders. Communities should also support local animal welfare organizations and report instances of cruelty.

To be concluded...

PARAKH supported capacity building workshop concludes at JKBOSE

Upskilling imperative for growth of teachers: Chairman

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 14: A five-day workshop and capacity-building programme on Holistic Progress Card and Standardization of Question Paper Template under the PARAKH initiative organized by NCERT concluded successfully at the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) Rehari, here today. As many as 90 educators participated in this capacity building programme Chairman JKBOSE Prof. (Dr.) Parikshat Singh Manhas was the Chief Guest, while Secretary Sudershan Kumar was the Guest of Honour at the Valedictory Function. In his valedictory address, Prof. Parikshat Singh highlighted the multifaceted role of educators, stating, "Teaching is the noblest of all noble professions. However, teaching is not the sole responsibility of educators; they are also tasked with evaluating students. Balanced question paper setting is a crucial element of the evaluation process". He also emphasized that upskilling is imperative for the growth of teachers. Secretary JKBOSE Sudershan Kumar emphasized the significance of such initiatives, remarking, "Workshops like these play a vital role in fostering a vibrant assessment ecosystem, which is integral to holistic education." Director Academics Dr. Sudhir Singh lauded the Academic Division for its commendable efforts in organizing



the workshop. He announced that similar workshops would be conducted in a cascade manner to further enhance the capacity of question paper setters across the board. Earlier, Deputy Director, Yasir H. Sirwal presented a detailed report on the five-day workshop, expressing gratitude to the expert resource persons for their invaluable deliberations. He explained that the workshop was conducted to equip educators with the skills needed to design and develop a Holistic Progress Card for the secondary stage.

Two highly experienced and well-trained resource persons from PARAKH, NCERT, guided the participants throughout the program. The training focused on creating progress cards that not only assess academic performance but also consider the awareness, sensitivity, and creativity of students, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of their development. Additionally, the educators were trained in the art and science of designing balanced question papers. This involved understanding how to cater to the diverse learning needs and abilities of all types of students, ensuring fairness and inclusivity. The workshop emphasized innovative assessment practices and equipped educators with tools to enhance the learning process while maintaining a student-centric approach. Dr. Romesh Kumar, Incharge Principal and Promila Koul Lecturer while giving their feedback on behalf of participating educators lauded the efforts of JKBOSE in organizing such programmes and requested for follow up to such initiatives to further strengthen the skills of trained educators. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Ashutosh Parashar, Academic Officer. The programme was skillfully anchored by Ms. Sugandh, Academic Officer. Other attendees included Syed Kashif Hashmi, Chander Kumar (Academic Officers), and officials from the CDR Wing JD JKBOSE, who collectively contributed to the success of the event.

ازنیات پھلگام

معاملہ مندرجہ ذیل میں درخواست سال ڈسٹرکٹ میں زیر کارروائی ہے اس نسبت پتواری مندرجہ ذیل سے رپورٹ منظور طلبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلبہ کے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے سال موضع سال ماہل پہلگام میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ بذیل افراد مندرجہ ذیل

1. نغلام رسول ولد ناغ، 56 سال مزدوری آمدنی 5000
2. بلیسو زویو نغلام رسول 45 سال گھریلو کام
3. ...3 مابق رسول پسر 34 سال مزدوری
4. ...4 سخی جان زوجہ عاشق رسول، 29 سال/گھریلو کام

...اوپر ذکر مابق رسول 01 سال

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد نہیں بتایا گیا ہے کہ یہ کسی سالانہ آمدنی 1 مطابق سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اثر کرتے ہیں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو عود یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عود یا اعتراض ساتھ دن کے اندر اندر پیش کریں معاذ کرنے کے بعد کوئی عود یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

**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 AATIF AIJAZ NAJAR S/O AIJAZ AHMAD NAJAR R/O DOULATPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 04/03/2016 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 SYEDA IFRAH GOWHAR & KAFEEL HUSSAIN S/O SYED TASADUQ HUSSAIN R/O KREERI Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 21/05/2015 & 05/09/2019 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection.

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

Executive Magistrate
1st Class kreeri

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of RIZWAN MUSHTAQ S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD KHAN R/O PUTHKHA MUQAM Tehsil KHOIE Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 14/06/2015 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 MARIYA BILAL & BURHAN BILAL S/O BILAL AHMAD BHAT R/O RESHIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 25/03/2020 & 26/06/2023 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Jaweed Ahmad Rather, resident of Tarzoo, holding Consumer ID 0213020005693, with a name of Mohammad subhan Rather who is no more hereby notify the general public that I (Jaweed Ahmad Rather) intend to transfer this power connection to Jaweed Ahmad Rather, who has paid all dues till date. If anyone has any objection to this name change, they are requested to submit their objection in writing, along with valid reasons, to the concerned department within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

No objections will be entertained after the specified period.

Jaweed Ahmad Rather
R/o Tarzoo
pH 8899611388R/OSOURA

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION SRINAGAR**
(Erstwhile Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division Srinagar)
Contact No: 0194-2496089, Email ID: xemmhcdk@yahoo.in

(GIST)
(SHORT TERM)
NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2024-25/134/e-tendering, Dated:-13.01.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from eligible registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:

Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Contract Period	Accord of Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Replacement of 250-amp MCCB, providing and fitting of new coupling to feed pump of 20 lakcal/hr along with allied works at Govt.LD Hospital, Srinagar	0.9135	100	1827	05 Days	06 MCS of 2024 Dt:03.07.2024	M&HDS/TS/118 OF 01/25
2. Providing and fitting of oxygen pressure gauge in MICU Ward and in other locations of SMHS Hospital Srinagar	0.16	50	320	05 Days	06 MCS of 2024 Dt:03.07.2024	M&HSD-1/TS/44 OF 01/25
3. Replacement of old and worn out convectors with radiators in different wards and section at Govt. Lalla Ded Hospital, Srinagar	4.2798	200	8560	15 Days	06 MCS of 2024 Dt:03.07.2024	SEMHK/TS-14/87 Dt:10.01.2025
4. Maintenance/Rectification of Central Heating System at Various Locations at Govt. SMHS, Hospital, Srinagar.	3.313	200	6626	15 Days	06 MCS of 2024 Dt:03.07.2024	SEMHK/TS-14/88 Dt:10.01.2025

Position of funds: Available with the intending department
Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 13.01.2025 (16.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 13.01.2025 (16.00 hrs).
Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 13-01-2025 (16.00 hrs). to 20-01-2025 (12:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 20-01-2025 at 14.00(hrs).

DIPK-10843/24
Date: Jan 14 2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
M&HD, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Date of Birth (DOB) in driving licence has been wrongly written as 04.07/1970. Bearing license no JK0120050055482 while my correct date of birth is 02/01/1976 as per Aadhar card which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the ARTO SRINAGAR / BARAMULLA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...NAZIR AHMAD LONE
S/O ALI MOHAMMAD LONE
R/O SINGHPORA PATTAN

**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 NOOR JAHAN S/O HILAL AHMAD PARAY R/O DUNGARA DOULATPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 03/06/2021 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection.

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of 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 AYESHA BINTI IMRAN S/O MOHD IMRAN PARAY R/O DUNGARA DOULATPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 21/04/2021 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection.

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of 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 to inform the general public that I, Showkat Ahmad Sheikh, son of Gh. Mohammad Sheikh and Fatima Begum, resident of Kalantra Payeen, Kreeri, Baramulla, have lost my 9th class certificates. I am now applying for the reissuance of these certificates. If anyone has any objections regarding this matter, they may file their objections at the Office of the Principal, Government Higher Secondary School, Kachwa Muqam, Wagoora, Baramulla, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

Name.....Showkat Ahmad Sheikh
Son of Gh. Mohammad Sheikh
Resident of Kalantra Payeen, Kreeri, Baramulla.

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B Division Tangdar**

Email: eermtangdar@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTICE NO: 101 Endt No: 4672-82 OF 2024-25 DATED: 14 .01.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders (IN SINGLE COVER SYSTEM) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K U.T Govt., CPWD, Railway and other U.T /Central Government works for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rupees) @2% of the Adv. Cost	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	SCHEME H/A
1	Const. of Fencing and Gate for SDH Tangdar Kupwara	6.22	12440	300	25 days	DEE/CEE	CD&Pyts.

Position of AAA = Accorded.
Position of TS = Accorded.

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14.01.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	14.01.2025
3	Online Bid submission Start Date	14.01.2025
4	Online Bid Submission End Date	03.02.2025 upto 4 PM
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	04.02.2025 at (11 AM) or any other convenient day in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangdar

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of E Challan /Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Tangdar MH 0059-(tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR, APS in case of unbalanced bid pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Div. Tangdar (Tender receiving authority).The Successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% performance security deposit of the allotted cost. The same shall be released after the successful completion of the defect liability period of the work. The EMD of 2% successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security).
Special Condition: For Works Adv. Cost Up-to Rs. 3.00 lakhs, only DEE Class and DDC Registered Card holders of respective Panchayat Halqas shall take part in tendering process in light of the Govt Order No 238-F of 2021 Dated 09-07-2021. Bidder must upload any document Residential certificate/ Aadhar card/Ration card/ Electricity Bill showing Panchayat name, as residence proof that he/she is residing the particular Panchayat halqa.
All the Bidders must submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR. Non submission of Earnest Money Deposit shall render the bidder as (No-responsive). The EMD of successful bidder shall be released only after completion of DLP period.
All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-10830/24
Date: Jan 14 2025

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B
Division Tangdar

Kultoora Villagers Decry Unauthorized Cutting of Green Apple and Pear Trees, Seek Justice

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

Langate, Jan.13: Residents of Kultoora village in Langate, including members of the local Auqaf Committee and the village lumberdar, staged a peaceful protest today against the Horticulture Department over the alleged unauthorized felling of green apple and pear trees in the Kultoora Horticulture Nursery.

According to the locals, the cutting of these "mother trees," which hold significant value for the horticultural ecosystem, was carried out without any prior information to the

community. They expressed shock when they witnessed a wood contractor from Ganderbal using machinery to cut and collect the trees within the nursery premises.

The locals allege that the contractor had procured the bid for this operation for a sum of 20,000, but neither the Auqaf Committee nor the elected lumberdar were informed about the process. Residents, including senior citizens and Deputy Chairman of the Auqaf Committee, Manzoor Ahmad Lone, expressed their dissatisfaction over the lack of transparency.

"It is deeply concerning that over the last 20 years, numerous government



schemes have been inaugurated here, yet no details of their revenue or out-

comes have ever been shared with us," said Abdul Majeed Malla, a senior resident. The locals accused the department of undermining the economy of the region and demanded accountability for what they called a "money-gain conspiracy."

The villagers have appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, and Director Horticulture Zahoor Ahmad to investigate the matter thoroughly and take strict action against those responsible.

In response, Director Horticulture Zahoor Ahmad assured action if the

allegations are found to be true. "The department carried out the felling as per official procedures. A public notice was also published in newspapers regarding the operation," he said. Furthermore, he announced plans to establish a walnut nursery in the same area, citing its suitability as per the department's survey. "This initiative aims to transform the land into a valuable horticulture asset," he added. The situation continues to stir unrest among the residents, who have vowed to ensure accountability and justice for what they believe is a blatant disregard for their community's rights and livelihood.

DC Shopian reviews pace on dev projects in various sectors Asks for uptake of new flagship projects, seeks DPRs

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today reviewed the progress of key development projects in the district, including Mughal Road, Tourism, Municipal Council (MC), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), RDSS, PM Surya Ghar, sports development initiatives and others.

The review aimed to assess the current status and identify areas for improvement.

During the review, the DC emphasized the need for new flagship projects to enhance the district's infrastructure and promote development.



He directed R&B to submit Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for new flagship projects to be taken up in the district especially establishing eco friendly facilities at Dobjan and Pir ki Gali for commuters & tourists, municipal services for town residents, sports development projects of YS&S

and Sports Council among others. Shahid Saleem also reviewed the physical & financial progress of ongoing MC Projects, Sports Council works, JJM Works of water supply, RDSS infrastructure development in power sector, registration and installation of PM Surya Ghar, etc.

The DC laid focus on sports development, given the district's potential for growth in this sector. He instructed the YS&S Department to organise the Sports competitions for youth engagement.

While speaking during the series of meetings held today, the DC emphasised upon streamlining the planning and execution process, ensuring that initiatives are well-planned, efficient, and effective in addressing the district's needs.

The meeting was attended by ACR, CPO, DIO, Ex. Engineer R&B divisions, Jal Shakti, CEO MC, AEEs KPDCL, Officers of YS&S, J&K Sports Council among others.

Heemal Naegrai Dixon Ball Open Cricket Tournament to begin at Shopian from January 26th

■ HT News Network



SHOPIAN, JANUARY 14: On the theme of 'Say No to Drugs, Yes to Sports & Fitness,' the District administration Shopian in collaboration with J&K Sports Council is going to organise District Level Competition in Cricket.

The competition named Heemal Naegrai Dixon Ball Open Cricket Tournament shall start from 26th January, 2025 on the occasion of Republic Day, blending the idea of Nasha Mukht Bharat with National Brotherhood and Cohesion.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar conceived the idea, showing District

Administration's commitment in engaging youth in productive and beneficial activities for tackling the issue of drug menace.

Novel Sports competition shall be open for the age group of 15 years above, and all teams of District Shopian have been asked to participate in this knock-out cricket tournament.

Come and Play, Shahid Saleem appealed to the youth of the district and register on the link shared.

Police facilitates PCPG meetings in Kulgam

■ Farooq Rather

Kulgam January 14: In its ongoing process to address the grievances of general public, police in Kulgam facilitated PCPG meetings at Police Station Kulgam, Police Post Frisal, Police Post Mirbazara and Village Humpathri, DH Pora.

These meetings were chaired by respective jurisdictional officers and were attended by respectable citizens including Market Associations, Auqaf Bodies, Chowkidars, Numberdars, youth and other representatives of Sangus, Kaharwath, Town Kulgam, Frisal, Chingam, Shirpora, Akhran, Malpora, Mirbazara, Humpathri and other adjacent villages.

While speaking, participants appreciated the process of organising such events by Police in which an opportunity is being provided to highlight the prevailing issues of the society like drug abuse, domestic violence, speedy justice and seeks their redressal for the betterment of all. The officers present at the meetings gave a 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 action, besides issues related to police would be resolved on priority. While addressing the participants, the chairing officers urged upon strengthening the police public relations and also cooperate in eradicating all types of crime from the society so that a peaceful and crime free atmosphere is created in the areas.

Police Conducts Training Module on Investigation of NDPS Cases In Kupwara

■ HT News Network

Kupwara January 14: In an effort to enhance the investigation capabilities of police personnel, Police organized a specialized Training Module on NDPS Cases at the Conference Hall of District Police Office (DPO), Kupwara. The training was attended by 20 Investigation Officers from various Police Stations and Police Posts across the district. The primary focus of the module was to familiarize the officers with the practices and procedures essential for the effective investigation of NDPS cases, ensuring adherence to legal protocols and achieving higher conviction rates. The session was conducted by Senior Prosecuting Officer (SrPO) District Police Hqrs, Mr. Masroor Ahmad, who provided detailed insights into the critical aspects of NDPS case investigations, including evidence collection, documentation, and presentation in courts.

MVD, SDRF organize Road Safety awareness program at Anantnag

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, JANUARY 14: The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Anantnag, in collaboration with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), organized a comprehensive Road Safety Awareness Program at Rasool Mir Auditorium, Dooru to enhance life-saving skills and raise awareness about road safety measures.

The programme was attended by drivers, shopkeepers and members of the general public, including hands-on training sessions conducted by the SDRF team. Participants were educated on vital techniques such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Basic Life Support (BLS). These skills equip individuals to recognize emergencies and provide timely assistance in life-threatening situations.

ARTO Anantnag, Dr. Showkat

Bhat emphasized the importance of adopting traffic rules and fostering a culture of good Samaritanism. Whether you are a commercial driver, private vehicle owner, pedestrian, or passenger, adhering to traffic rules can lead to a significant change in road safety. Everyone must step forward in emergencies to save lives during the golden hour, without fear of legal repercussions, he stated.

Dr. Bhat also highlighted the pivotal role of first responders, calling them 'angels for the victims' who can make a life-saving difference. The participants praised the initiative and expressed hope for similar programs in the future to promote road safety and community well-being.

This awareness drive underlines MVD Anantnag's commitment to fostering safer roads and encouraging proactive community par-

24x7 CT Scan facility started at District Hospital Bandipora

Certificate of Completion also issued for Clubfoot Treatment of a patient

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 14: To further enhance healthcare services in the district, the District Hospital (DH) Bandipora has introduced a 24x7 CT scan facility for the first time.

This significant development is aimed to provide uninterrupted diagnostic services, thereby eliminating the need for patients to travel to Srinagar during night hours.

"This initiative will greatly benefit the residents of Bandipora, reduce the pressure on tertiary care hospitals, and ensure that patients receive timely and effective medical care," said Medical Superintendent, DH Bandipora.

Adding to the milestone, DH Bandipora is also set to launch Contrast



CT scans, a first for the district. This advanced diagnostic service will enable more precise and detailed imaging, catering to a wide range of medical needs. A radiologist will be available for on-the-spot reporting and diagnosis, ensuring prompt and accurate medical assessments. He also revealed that the hospital

conducted 2,062 CT scans during daytime alone in the current financial year. With the launch of the 24x7 facility, this number is expected to increase significantly as the service will now be available during the night as well.

"This step is a game-changer for our district. It ensures that advanced diagnostic services are accessible to everyone, especially during emergencies," said a local resident.

Meanwhile, in another heart-warming development a certificate of completion of treatment for a clubfoot patient was issued at the hospital. The patient was born at DH Bandipora four months ago and diagnosed with clubfoot during screening by the District Early Intervention Centre (DEIC) at DH Bandipora.

Empowering Women Through Nutrition: KVK Kupwara Hosts Three-Day Training Programme on Nutri-Mix Preparation

■ By Dr. A.B. Qayoom

Kupwara, Jan. 14: The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kupwara, took a significant step toward combating malnutrition and promoting maternal and child health by launching a three-day training programme focused on the preparation of Nutri-Mix formula for pregnant and lactating women. This initiative, which began today, is designed to empower women by providing them with the knowledge and skills to prepare nutrient-rich supplements using locally available and affordable ingredients.

The training programme is being organized in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) and the Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir. It aims to foster healthier communities by addressing nutritional deficiencies in mothers and children through sustainable and cost-effective solutions.

The event was inaugurated virtually by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganie. In his address, Prof. Ganie emphasized the critical importance of maternal nutrition in building a robust and healthy society. "The health of mothers and children forms the foundation of a prosperous community. Initiatives like this play a vital role in addressing the challenges of malnutrition at the grassroots level," he remarked,



commending KVK Kupwara and its partners for their proactive efforts.

Dr. Shubra Sharma, Mission Director of JKRLM, also participated in the programme, shedding light on the transformative potential of empowering women through such innovative interventions. She underscored the importance of creating awareness and

imparting skills to tackle nutritional challenges effectively.

Lectures and sessions by key experts added depth to the programme. Mr. Bilal Ahmad Khan, District Project Manager NRLM Kupwara, provided valuable insights on nutrition-driven development, while Mr. Jehangir, Supervisor ICDS, highlighted the specific

dietary requirements of pregnant and lactating women

Dr. Faisal Nabi, the programme coordinator, provided a comprehensive overview of the initiative, outlining its objectives and expected outcomes. He explained how the training aligns with broader efforts to improve maternal and child health in rural communities. Dr. Raies Ahmad Bhat, another key figure in the programme, ensured its smooth execution, facilitating active participation and engagement from attendees.

The Nutri-Mix preparation training is expected to create a ripple effect in addressing malnutrition in the region. By equipping participants with practical knowledge, the programme aims to empower them to prepare nutritious supplements that meet the dietary needs of mothers and children.

The initiative also emphasizes the use of locally available ingredients, making the solution not only affordable but also sustainable. This approach ensures that the benefits of the training extend beyond individual participants to their families and communities, fostering long-term improvements in health and well-being.

As the programme progresses over the next two days, it is anticipated to inspire other regions to adopt similar models, emphasizing the vital link between education, empowerment, and nutrition in building healthier societies.

Motor Vehicle Department begins Driving Skill Test at IDTR Khaink Kot Bhalwal

HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 14: The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD), under the leadership of Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Mahajan, today initiated driving skill tests here at the Institute of Driving Training and Research (IDTR) located at Khaink, Kot Bhalwal.

The testing track, currently under construction, is being developed with advanced automation systems by Maruti Suzuki India Limited. The project is expected to be completed on or before March 31, 2025.

The Transport Commissioner was accompanied by Jt. Transport Com-

missioner Vinay Samotra and RTO Jammu Pankaj Bhagotra.

The decision to commence driving skill tests at the under-construction IDTR aims to enhance the confidence of driving license aspirants by exposing them to a more challenging environment with real-life complexities and vulnerabilities through which MVD seeks to prepare better individuals for road safety and responsible driving, which is the prime concern of the department due to increasing trend of fatalities in road accidents in India.

Transport Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan emphasized, "The initiative is a step towards creating safer roads by ensuring that license seekers are



trained and tested in a realistic and modern setting. Once fully auto-

mated, the IDTR will set a benchmark in driving education and testing."

This move aligns with the Government's vision of promoting efficient and technology-driven infrastructure in the transportation sector. During the interaction with DL test aspirants, the Transport Commissioner stressed upon all to follow the Road Safety Rules & Regulations so that lives which are being lost due to road accidents are saved. He also warned the violators of strict punitive action if they don't mend wrong ways of driving on the roads. He also directed the DL Test Board not to conduct Driving Test of DL aspirants without wearing Helmet for 2 Wheeler test and Seat Belt for 4 Wheeler test. A Road Safety

pledge was also solemnised to all present in the DL Test Ground.

A team of MVD comprising ARTO Hqr. Rehana Tabassam, ARTO (P), Kuldeep Singh, ARTO (G), Mudasir Iqbal, ARTO (FS) Bipen Singh Charak and Vikas Srivats (MVI), Jasbir Singh (MVI), Jagandeep Singh (MVI), Amanish Sharma (SMVI) and Tarunjot Singh (MVTA) were also present in the Driving Test Ground, which managed and conducted today's activities. Transport Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan emphasized, "The initiative is a step towards creating safer roads by ensuring that license seekers are trained and tested in a realistic and modern setting. Once fully automated,

DC Rajouri reviews situation in Badhaal; Visits affected families and ensures relief measures

HT News Network

RAJOURI, JANUARY 14, 2025: In the wake of a tragic incident in Badhaal that claimed 14 lives of three families, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, visited Kotranka to review the situation and ensure immediate administrative response.

Chairing a meeting with district officers, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the samples collected for testing, including food, water, and other consumables, to determine the cause of the incident. He directed the concerned departments to expedite the analysis and implement necessary measures to prevent such occurrences.

Subsequently, the Deputy Commissioner visited Badhaal to interact with the affected families. He expressed his heartfelt condolences and assured them of all possible support from the administration in this difficult time.

Additionally, he alongwith officer from Food safety, agriculture, horticulture & other departments inspected nearby shops to verify compliance with safety and quality standards for consumables.

The meeting and visit were attended by ADDC Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, ADC Dilmir Choudhary, SP Wajahat Hussain, Tehsildar Kotranka Syed Sahil Ali, Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO), District Sheep



Husbandry Officer (DSHO) and Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAH), among others. In the wake of a tragic incident in Badhaal that claimed 14 lives of three families, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, visited Kotranka to review the situation and ensure immediate administrative response.

Chairing a meeting with district officers, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the samples collected for testing, including food, water, and

other consumables, to determine the cause of the incident. He directed the concerned departments to expedite the analysis and implement necessary measures to prevent such occurrences.

Subsequently, the Deputy Commissioner visited Badhaal to interact with the affected families. He expressed his heartfelt condolences and assured them of all possible support from the administration in this difficult time.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao SANKALP- Hub Reasi organises mega awareness event at far off Bathoie Panchayat in Mahore

HT News Network

REASI, JANUARY 14: SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women Reasi in collaboration with Mission Poshan organised an awareness programme under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme at Panchayat Bathoie, Tehsil & Block Mahore.

The programme was organised under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Sachin Sharma.

The HEW Team distributed Menstrual Hygiene Kits among adolescent girls for creating awareness on Menstrual Hygiene Management as part of its overall interventions related to behaviour change on sanitation hygiene aspects in rural areas. Apart from this,



mothers and their baby girls were also felicitated in the presence of their grandparents.

Meanwhile, parents were made aware regarding Sukanya Samridhi Yojana for the safe and bright future of their daughters.

They were provided detailed information regarding the working of Hub at District level to facilitate women for their forward and backward linkages under the different women centric schemes such as Prad-

han Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMKVY), One Stop Centre, Pension Schemes, State Marriage Assistance Scheme for poor girls, Skill Development Courses offered by SBI Rural Skill Employment Training Institute (SBI RSETI), Pradhan Mantri Kausal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and Women Entrepreneurship Programmes.

The program concluded with an assurance to the public of holding such camps on regular intervals.

Residents of Chotiware Payeen Demand Justice Over Missing MANREGA Job Cards

HT News Network



Kupwara, Jan, 14: The residents of Chotiware Payeen in the remote Machhal area of Kupwara district have once again voiced their frustration against the Rural Development Department (RDD) for an alleged scam involving the deletion of nearly 350 MANREGA job cards in 2020. Locals claim that officials, including a Village Level Worker (VLW), Gram Rozgar Sevak (GRS), and an operator in the Block Development Office (BDO) Machhal, conspired to remove these job cards to misappropriate funds meant for MANREGA projects.

"We have been left jobless for years due to this scam," said one of the protestors. "Despite multiple complaints to district authorities and elected representatives, our grievances remain unaddressed."

The absence of these job cards has not only deprived residents of employment opportunities under MANREGA but has also barred them from accessing benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana (PMGAY), a central government scheme aimed at providing housing to the rural poor.

While talking to HEADLINES TODAY, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, M. Rouf, held a conference call with Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Kupwara, Muzaffar Ahmad, who stated he was previously unaware of the issue. Ahmad urged residents to approach his office directly before January 26 and assured them of urgent action. "Strict action will be taken against those responsible for this injustice," he added. The residents of Chotiware Payeen have appealed to the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara and the Lieutenant Governor's administration for a thorough investigation and accountability for the officials involved in the alleged scam.

The villagers hope for justice and a resolution to this long-standing issue, urging authorities to act promptly and ensure such incidents do not recur.

SBI RSETI Ramban celebrates Lohri with Tailoring Women trainees

HT News Network

RAMBAN, JANUARY 14: SBI Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Ramban celebrated Lohri with the trainees of the ongoing Women's Tailor Training Program, staff and prominent citizens of Ward No. 2 here on the RSETI Campus.

Director S. Harvinder Singh extended warm Lohri greetings, emphasizing the festival's significance in symbolizing new beginnings, prosperity, and unity. He highlighted RSETI's dedication to empowering individuals through skill development while fostering a sense of community and cultural pride.

The celebration included traditional Lohri customs such as lighting the bonfire, singing folk songs, and distributing festive treats. The train-



ees expressed gratitude to RESTI for providing them opportunity to participate in the event, which boosted their confidence and strengthened their sense of belonging.

The festive gathering underscored SBI RSETI Ramban's commitment to blending skill development with cultural integration to empower rural communities. The festive gathering underscored SBI RSETI Ramban's commitment to blending skill development with cultural integration to empower rural communities.

Dagger Division Organizes Ex-Servicemen Rally in Baramulla

Zargar Gulzar

HT NEWS NETWORK

Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir: The Indian Army's Dagger Division, under the Chinar Corps, organized a successful Ex-Servicemen Rally in Baramulla on January 14, 2025. The event witnessed the participation of hundreds of veterans and their Next of Kin (NOKs) incl Veer Naries and Gallantry Awardees from various tehsils of the district.

Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava, GOC, Chinar Corps, and Maj Gen PS Punia, GOC, Dagger Division, were among the dignitaries who graced the occasion. The rally aimed to provide a platform for veterans to address their concerns related to welfare, medical care, and pay and allowances.

A series of cultural programs, including folk dances, a military band display, and performances by local artists, entertained the attendees.

Representatives from all ECHS, ZSB and various banks conducted lectures to



highlight the benefits available to ex-servicemen through various government schemes. Several banks and recruiting firms set up stalls to inform veterans about employment opportunities and financial schemes. Record Offices were also present to register and address grievances. The highlight of the event was a felicitation ceremony honoring Veer Naris, Veer Matas, and Gallantry awardees. Many veterans expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to reconnect with fellow comrades and learn about the available welfare programs. The Dagger Division reiterated its commitment to the well-being of its veterans and pledged to continue organizing such events in the future.

DC Poonch reviews arrangements for Republic Day 2025 celebration

HT News Network

POONCH, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, convened a review meeting today to discuss the preparations for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations. The meeting was held at the Conference Hall of the Dak Bungalow.

It was decided that the main function would be held at the Sports Stadium where the Chief Guest will unfurl the National Flag and take the salute at the March past. The celebrations will commence with the Shehnai Vadan at designated locations, arranged by the Information Department in the early hours of the day.

The Deputy Commissioner meticulously reviewed all aspects of the upcoming event, including flag unfurl-



ing, cultural programs, security arrangements, venue decoration, Public Address System, seating arrangements, first aid and fire safety, Parade preparations, illumination of government buildings and SK Bridge, Media coverage and distribution of prizes

The Deputy Commissioner asked to launch a cleanliness drive around the

venue and other important places. Stress was laid on uninterrupted power and water supply on the day of the event.

The Information Department was tasked with providing a flawless public address system and extensive media coverage, beginning with Shehnai Vadan. Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner directed executive engineers

to arrange barricading, seating, and drinking water supply, and to ensure uninterrupted power during the celebrations. Provisions for ambulance services, security personnel, and adequate manpower were also thoroughly discussed. The DFO has been tasked with organizing a plantation drive on the eve of the celebration.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed all concerned departments to finalize arrangements promptly to ensure a smooth and successful celebration of this significant national event.

The meeting was attended by SSP, Poonch, ADC, GM DIC, ACR, Principal GDC Poonch, CPO, ACP, DFO, DSWO, Dysp, DAR, AD Food, Deputy Director Employment, Xen PHE / PWD / I&FC / JPDCL, Cultural Officer, officers from Army, Commentator, Paramilitary forces and other concerned officers.

DC reviews progress of NABARD RIDF projects in Poonch District

HT News Network

POONCH, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal assessed the physical and financial progress of the NABARD Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) in Poonch district.

The meeting aimed to evaluate various developmental initiatives targeting infrastructure improvement in underserved areas. During the discussions, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the need for expediting forest and revenue clearance procedures to streamline the development process for community benefit. He stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination to overcome developmental challenges and reviewed the status of road connectivity across the district's three subdivisions.

SDM Mendhar and SDM Surankote participated virtually, providing detailed updates on the ongoing works in their



respective divisions.

Following a thorough discussion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer of PWD to strictly adhere to the approved plans and expedite ongoing projects. He emphasized the need for a proactive approach in resolving pending road issues. Additionally, he instructed

concerned executive engineers to prioritize the clearance of lapse-able funds, particularly under the district Capex.

The Deputy Commissioner also set a deadline for the completion of the BAPD plan by the end of January 2025.

The meeting was attended by key officials including SE PWD (R&B), ACR Poonch,

CPO, Xen PWD Division Poonch, Xen PHE, AEE's, and other concerned officers, all of whom are committed to enhancing infrastructure development in the district. During the discussions, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the need for expediting forest and revenue clearance procedures to streamline the development process for community benefit. He stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination to overcome developmental challenges and reviewed the status of road connectivity across the district's three subdivisions.

SDM Mendhar and SDM Surankote participated virtually, providing detailed updates on the ongoing works in their respective divisions.

Following a thorough discussion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer of PWD to strictly adhere to the approved plans and expedite ongoing projects. He emphasized the need for a proactive approach in resolving pending.

Army celebrates Veterans Day in District Ramban

HT News Network



RAMBAN, JANUARY 14: The Indian Army on Tuesday organized an Ex-Servicemen Meet here at Maitra to commemorate Veterans Day and honor the service of retired personnel, their families, and Veer Naris (war widows).

The event provided a platform for veterans to reconnect, share their experiences, and reminisce about their service. Interactive sessions highlighted the camaraderie and ethos of the armed forces, with veterans sharing insights to inspire current personnel.

Stalls were set up to address the specific needs of veterans and their families, including assistance with SPARSH portal transitions, ECHS card preparation, DSP account benefits, and medical consultations by Army doctors. Additionally, the Revenue, Horticulture, Handicrafts and Handloom Department and State Bank of India showcased their services, products and promoted skill development and employment opportunities.

In a special gesture, the sacrifices of Veer Naris were acknowledged, reflecting their resilience and contributions to the nation. The event also educated veterans about welfare schemes, healthcare services, and post-retirement benefits, ensuring their continued support and well-being.

This celebration was a tribute to the Army's legacy of sacrifice and commitment, fostering stronger bonds within the military community. By addressing grievances and creating engagement opportunities, the Army reaffirmed its gratitude and dedication to its veterans.

The Ex-Servicemen Meet underscored the values of honor, duty, and cares, ensuring the sacrifices of veterans remain a source of pride and inspiration for the Nation.

DSHJ flags off FPO Members of Jammu Division on 5-day exposure tour to Panipat, New Delhi

HT News Network



JAMMU, JANUARY 14: Director Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu Dr. Syed Moin-ul-Haq today flagged off group of 20 FPO Members/Entrepreneurs of Jammu Division on a 5-day exposure tour to Woolen Industries of Panipat and New Delhi to get acquainted with Promotion of Wool and Pelt for effective Processing & Marketing.

The tour has been organized under Holistic Agricultural Development Programme (HADP)

Director advised the FPO Members/Entrepreneurs to take maximum benefits from this tour and learn best practices of Wool & Pelt from the experts during their stay at Panipat and New Delhi. "The objective of the exposure tour is to make farmers aware of the latest technological intervention in the field of Wool & Pelt to achieve the targets and goals," he added. He said under the Holistic Agricultural Development Programme (HADP) special attention has been given to the capacity building of farmers and to achieve this target a number of programs have been devised.

The Farmers were advised to replicate the new technology that they will learn during the visit in their respective areas and further share it with other fellow members/farmers.

Principal Sheep and Wool Workers Training Class Kartholi Dr. Pritam Manhas; Incharge Training Class Kartholi Dr. Vijay Kumar Officer and VAS Dr. Anil Kumar, also accompanied the farmers during the exposure visit.

Those who were present on the occasion included Joint Director (Extension), Dr. Tara Chand; Deputy Director (Central) Dr. Surinder Gupta; Deputy Director (Planning) Shivali Sethi; Technical Officer Dr. Nasir Altaf Zargar and Publicity Officer Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu Asheesh Sharma, besides officers/officials of the Department.

DC Poonch flags off Anti-Drug Marathon organized by Department of School Education

HT News Network

POONCH, JANUARY 14: In a significant step towards spreading awareness about the menace of drugs and fostering a drug-free society, an Anti-Drug Marathon was organized by the Department of School Education, Poonch, here today.

The event was flagged off from the DC Office by Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal in the presence of District Education Planning Officer (DEPO) Mukhtar Manhas, Deputy CEO Mohd Latif Choudhary, students, teachers and local dignitaries.

Participants, including students and faculty, enthusiastically ran through the main roads of Poonch, spreading the message of staying away from drugs and leading a healthy lifestyle.

The event culminated at the Sports Stadium where students took a sol-



emn pledge to stay away from drugs and to educate their peers and communities about its harmful effects.

Addressing the gathering, the DC lauded the efforts of the Department of School Education for organizing such a meaningful initiative. He urged the students to become ambassadors of change and to work collectively towards eradicating drug abuse from society.

District Education Planning Officer Mukhtar Manhas, in his address, highlighted the growing challenges posed by drug abuse among the youth and the need for sustained efforts to tackle this issue. "This marathon is not just a run but a movement to unite the community against the drug menace. We must inspire the younger generation to lead by example and adopt a lifestyle free from drugs," he said.

Deputy CEO Mohammad Latif Choudhary commended the enthusiasm of the participants and the collaborative effort of teachers and students. He stated, "It is heartening to see the overwhelming support from students and educators for this cause. The Department of School Education will continue to focus on such initiatives that promote awareness and a positive lifestyle among the youth."

6-Day Entrepreneurship Development Programme concludes at JKEDI Jammu

HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 14: A six-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP), under the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP), successfully concluded today at the District Centre of Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Jammu.

The EDP was organized by JKEDI under the guidance of Director JKEDI Rajinder Kumar Sharma and aimed at nurturing aspiring entrepreneurs from Jammu district under the JKREGP scheme. A total of 23 participants successfully completed the training program.

Throughout the six-day program, participants were trained in essential business concepts, including business

plan formulation, marketing strategies, accounts management, record keeping, customer relationship management, and other relevant topics. The training also focused on business ventures in manufacturing, services, and agri-allied sectors. Participants explored small business opportunities such as retail outlets for cosmetics and readymade goods, cattle feed units, electrical goods stores, dairy farming, goat farming, commercial vehicle operations, and hardware stores in various parts of Jammu district.

The program was coordinated by District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Rajesh Kotwal, along with Office Associate Monika Salaria and Administrative Assistant Nauty Pandoh.

Speaking at the valedictory ceremony, Rajesh Kotwal emphasized the significance of entrepreneurship

and self-employment in driving economic development in Jammu and Kashmir. He encouraged the participants to leverage the knowledge and skills acquired during the program to establish sustainable business ventures.

Several participants shared their experiences, expressing confidence in embarking on their entrepreneurial journeys. They acknowledged the comprehensive training provided by JKEDI as instrumental in equipping them with the tools and confidence needed to realize their business aspirations.

The program is a testament to JKEDI's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and empowering individuals to contribute to the region's socio-economic development.

Kishtwar admin gears up for National Voters Day 2025 celebration

Dy. DEO reviews activity plan, arrangements

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, JANUARY 14: Deputy District Election Officer (Dy. DEO) Kishtwar, Idrees Lone today chaired a meeting to review the activity plan and arrangements for National Voters' Day (NVD) celebration.

Comprehensive discussions were held at the meeting regarding the arrangements to be made and the activities to be conducted on the occasion of NVD, scheduled on January 25.

It was decided that the celebration will be held at multiple levels across the district, including Villages, Higher Secondary Schools, ERO HQs and District level.

The Dy. DEO emphasized launching

an awareness campaign across the district to enhance citizens' participation in the electoral process and to encourage new eligible voters.

The Dy. DEO informed that as a prelude to the National Voters' Day (NVD) celebrations, the District Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan has emphasised on holding varied activities to promote the theme "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure." These include installing thematic banners, public engagements through social media with posting of awareness videos by Youth Icons and Social Media Influencers, felicitating new voters, and incorporating NVD logos into office stationery, media content, websites, and election-related presentations. Additionally, Media persons who



made outstanding contributions during the last Assembly elections would be felicitated, recognizing their efforts

in raising voter awareness and ensuring the success of the electoral process. It was decided that the events

would feature a pledge ceremony, quiz competitions, drawing competitions at AWCs, seminars, awareness/interactive sessions for the labourers at HEP project sites, awareness programs for transporters and drivers, nukkad natak, and a felicitation ceremony for new voters and polling stations with more than 90% voter turnout. Mega Rally shall be organised at DC Office HQ on the Day.

The Dy. DEO also instructed for the wide publicity of the program through social media platforms, as well as electronic and print media.

Booth Level Officers (BLOs), along with Booth Awareness Groups (BAGs), were directed to celebrate the event by conducting public awareness activities at each polling station in the district. The meeting was attended

by ACD Kishtwar Phulail Singh, DIO Kishtwar Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, Tehsiladar Mughal Maidan, LDM Kishtwar Harsh Rawal, ENT Kishtwar Angra Singh, officials of the Election Cell, representatives of Degree Colleges, and other concerned officers via virtual mode. The Dy. DEO also instructed for the wide publicity of the program through social media platforms, as well as electronic and print media.

Booth Level Officers (BLOs), along with Booth Awareness Groups (BAGs), were directed to celebrate the event by conducting public awareness activities at each polling station in the district. The meeting was attended by ACD Kishtwar Phulail Singh, DIO Kishtwar Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, Tehsiladar Mughal Maidan, LDM Kishtwar Harsh Rawal, ENT Kishtwar

Statistical Tools, Quantitative Techniques Play Significant Role In Effective Governance: Murmu

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Jan 14: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said that statistical tools and quantitative techniques play a significant role in effective governance by providing empirical foundation for policy decisions.

The governments rely on national statistical systems to collect data on health, education, population size and employment among others, which form the basis for policy-making, she said addressing the probationers of the Indian Statistical Service (ISS), who had called on the president at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

Murmu said statistics were used even in ancient civilisations, when the rulers used basic census data for taxation purposes.

“Statistical analysis is a tool to bring in transparency and accountability in governance. Statistics is not only the backbone of efficient governance but also a tool for socio-economic development,” the president said.



Murmu said it is their duty to collect accurate data, which can be the foundation for sound and objective decisions.

“Government needs data to formulate, implement and monitor policies as well as for policy review and impact assessment. The citizens need data for impartial understanding and assessment of government schemes and programmes. Your job requires high proficiency in statistical methods, which you would use to provide solutions to data and information needs of the country,” she said.

The president urged them to be sensitive towards the needs of common people, especially the poor and underprivileged, while collecting data.

“Every bit of data that you collect will be processed, analysed and ultimately used for addressing the needs of the people and helping them achieve their dreams. The development of various sections of the society will lead to greater prosperity of the country,” Murmu said.

For example, authentic data in the fields of health and education will serve as the basis for monitoring literacy rates, school enrolment ratios, health infrastructure and prevalence of diseases, she said.

SC acquits brother-in-law convicted for abetting woman's suicide over dowry

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, Jan 14: The Supreme Court has acquitted a man convicted for abetting a woman's suicide in a dowry case observing there was no evidence like aiding or instigating her to take the extreme step.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan therefore set aside an order of the Allahabad High Court that had upheld the conviction of the man, who was the brother-in-law of the woman who died by suicide.

“There is practically no evidence on the basis of which it could be said the appellant herein as brother-in-law abetted the commission of suicide...,” the bench held.

“In the absence of any cogent evidence as regards harassment or abetment in any form like aiding or instigating,” it said in a January 9 verdict, “the court cannot straightaway invoke Section 113B of the Evidence Act, 1872 and presume that the accused abetted the commission of suicide.” The prosecution alleged harassment of the woman by her husband, in-laws and the appellant due to which she set herself ablaze on September 27, 1990 and succumbed to severe burn injuries.

Her father got an FIR registered with the Aagain Police Station, Unnao on the same day.

The police later filed a chargesheet under relevant provisions for the alleged offences against four accused persons, including the brother-in-law.

The trial court had initially framed a dowry death charge under Section 304-B of the IPC against the accused but acquitted them, and instead convicted them under Section 306 and 498 of the IPC besides Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act for the abetment of suicide.

While the woman's parents-in-law died during the pendency of the appeal, her husband had undergone the sentence imposed by the trial court. (AGENCIES)

Maintain decorum of Home Minister's post: Pawar on Shah's remarks

■ HT News Network

MUMBAI, Jan 14: Former Union Minister Sharad Pawar on Tuesday rubbished Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks that the BJP's victory in the November 20 Maharashtra assembly polls ended the politics of betrayal and treachery started by him in 1978.

“I was the chief minister in 1978. I am not aware about his whereabouts then,” Pawar told reporters in Mumbai. “When I was the Chief Minister, there were people like Uttamrao Patil from Jan Sangh in my ministry,” Pawar added.

The decorum of the post of home minister should be maintained, the NCP (SP) chief said, bemoaning the lack of communication between present political leaders.

“There used to be 'susanvad' (good communication) between political leaders earlier but that is missing now,” he said.

“The victory of BJP in Maharashtra ended the politics of instability and backstabbing started by Sharad Pawar in 1978. You (people) have buried such politics 20-foot in the ground,” Shah had said, addressing a state-level convention of BJP in Shirdi on Sunday.

Pawar recalled that then PM Atal Bihari



Vajpayee had made him the vice-chairman of the Disaster Management Authority after the Bhuj earthquake despite being in the opposition.

“This country has seen many excellent home ministers, but none of them was externed from his state,” Pawar said, in an apparent reference to Shah being externed in 2010 from Gujarat for two years in connection with the Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter case. He was acquitted of all charges in 2014.

“When he (Shah) could not stay in Gujarat (after being externed), he went to Balasaheb Thackeray for help,” Pawar said. (PTI)

Veterans can contribute to nation-building: Army Chief

■ HT News Network

PUNE, Jan 14: The experience and commitment of armed forces veterans can be harnessed for nation-building, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi said here on Tuesday.

Speaking at a gathering of veterans on the 9th Veterans Day, Gen Dwivedi said the day has immense significance as it is meant to honor brave warriors who dedicated their lives to the service of the nation.

“It is a privilege to address and pay tribute to all of you, the valiant protectors of our country who continue to contribute to society even after retirement,” he added.

India is progressing steadfastly towards realising the vision of becoming a developed nation, and active participation of every citizen is vital for this, the army chief said. “If we consider the collective strength of our community, 24 lakh veterans, seven lakh Veer Naris, 28 lakh registered dependents, 12 lakh serving soldiers, their 24 lakh dependents, and 28 lakh other family members, it totals an incredible 1.25 crore. This human capital, enriched with experience, discipline and unwavering commitment, has the potential to make a significant impact on nation-building efforts,” Gen Dwivedi said.



In line with this vision, the Indian Army is working with state governments, he said.

“Efforts are underway to expand the range of opportunities where ex-servicemen can contribute to various fields, reinforcing the foundation of nation-building,” he added.

There are two aspects of this effort that need to be pursued in parallel, Gen Dwivedi further said.

“First, how the state can benefit from the inclusion of veterans in its work, and second, establishing a complementary relationship of recognition and contribution that creates a 'win-win' situation for both the veterans and the state government,” he added.

Similar action is under consideration at the district level too, he said. “The concept has been discussed with some governors, who are themselves ex-servicemen, and the basic ideas behind the initiative have received their support,” he said.

BJP distributing money, gold chains to buy votes ahead of Delhi polls: Kejriwal

■ HT News Network



NEW DELHI, Jan 14: AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday alleged the BJP is distributing money and gold chains to lure voters ahead of the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections.

Addressing a press conference here, he also claimed the AAP's graph is soaring and it will once again get a full majority. The BJP lacks the vision and leadership to challenge the AAP, Kejriwal said.

“The BJP has surrendered all its weapons as it has no narrative, no vision and no chief ministerial face. It doesn't have anything,” the former chief minister said.

Accusing the BJP of adopting unfair means, Kejriwal claimed that the party is distributing jackets, shoes, sarees, money and even gold chains to buy votes.

“I have heard that gold chains are being distributed in two colonies. The BJP is saying it will buy votes. I appeal to the people of Delhi to not vote for anyone, including AAP candidates, if they are offering money or goods during the polls,” he said.

“As the elections are approaching, it is becoming clear that the AAP is going to form a stable government with a full majority. With time, the AAP's graph is soaring,” he added. Delhi will go to polls on February 5 and results will be announced on February 8.

In the 2015 and 2020 Delhi Assembly polls, the AAP won 67 and 62 seats respectively. The BJP won three seats in 2015 and eight in 2020 while the Congress drew a blank. (PTI)

Simultaneous polls will be milestone for achieving 'Viksit Bharat': Shivraj Chouhan

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Jan 14: ‘One nation, one election’ will be a milestone towards achieving the goal of ‘Viksit Bharat’ or developed India, Union Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Tuesday, as he gave a call to people to come out in support of the proposal. Speaking at an event organised by ‘Panchjanya’, a magazine associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Chouhan said the whole government machinery halts at the time of elections, and frequent polls have become a major disruptor for governments to take decisions in public interest. Asked about the proposal to hold simultaneous polls that is under the scrutiny of a joint parliamentary panel, Chouhan said, “The makers of our Constitution made a provision for elections every five



years, but they never thought that Article 356 will be misused so many times. Elections were held together till 1968 because till 1966, Congress had governments everywhere. When other parties started coming to power, they were toppled.”

“At present, there is some election or the other all the time. Now Delhi is going to polls, then it will be Bihar. Political parties are only preparing for elections 365 days, they are not able to work in public interest.

“The agriculture minister has to leave his work and focus on elections of a state... How much time does that waste,” said Chouhan, who was BJP's election in-charge for Jharkhand during the Assembly polls held last year.

“Should nothing happen in the country apart from elections? These continuous elections are the biggest barriers in India's development. Looking at the situation today, this (simultaneous polls) is an appropriate step,” he added. Asked about the opposition to the proposal on holding simultaneous polls to Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities and panchayats from a number of parties, Singh said they should all agree as the move is in national interest.

Need To Develop Earthquake Warning Systems: PM Modi

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Jan 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday urged scientists to develop warning systems for earthquakes while noting that advanced weather forecasts have significantly reduced casualties and minimised economic losses caused by cyclones.

Addressing a function to celebrate 150 years of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), he also lauded the institution as a symbol of India's scientific journey.

Modi noted how advanced weather forecasting has significantly reduced casualties during cyclones and minimised economic losses, boosting investor confidence and building economic resilience.

The prime minister also launched ‘Mission Mausam’ for developing cutting-edge weather surveillance technolo-

gies and systems, implementing high-resolution atmospheric observations, next-generation radars and satellites, and high-performance computers.

“We have launched ‘Mission Mausam’ to make India weather ready and climate smart,” Modi said.

The celebrations were attended by the World Meteorological Organisation Secretary General Celeste Saulo, Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh, Earth Sciences Secretary M Ravichandran, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra and a host of dignitaries.

Modi also released the IMD's Vision-2047 document for weather resilience and climate change adaptation, a commemorative postage stamp and a coin to mark 150 years of the IMD.

“Meteorology offers the most important support for the disaster management capability of any country. To minimise the



impact of natural disasters, we need to maximise the efficiency of meteorology,” the prime minister said.

He recalled how the cyclone in Gujarat's Kandla in 1998 and the 1999 Odisha super cyclone killed thousands.

“But loss of life is minimal now because of better fore-

casts,” he said.

Referring to his visit to Sonamarg in Jammu and Kashmir to inaugurate a 6.5 km tunnel on Monday, Modi said the IMD had suggested that the inaugural function be held on January 13 which was a clear weather day in snow-clad Sonamarg. Jammu local busi-

nesses Jammu and Kashmir tourism

The prime minister said India's disaster management capabilities have significantly improved due to advancements in meteorological technology which has proved to be beneficial not only for the country but also for the global community.

“Today, our Flash Flood Guidance system provides critical information to neighbouring countries, including Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka,” Modi said.

The prime minister stressed on the need to work with future requirements in mind, including developing warning systems for natural disasters like earthquakes.

“There is a need to develop warning systems for earthquakes and scientists and researchers should work in this direction,” Modi said.

The prime minister quoted from scriptures and ancient texts to highlight India's rich history of expertise in understanding weather patterns.

He said traditional knowledge was well documented, refined, and deeply studied in ancient texts like the Vedas, Samhitas, and Surya Siddhanta, Tamil Nadu's Sangam literature and the folk literature of Ghagh

Bhaddari in the north.

Works such as Krishi Parashar and Bruhat Samhita studied cloud formation and the mathematical work on planetary positions, he noted.

The prime minister also referred to the book ‘Pre-Modern Kutchi Navigation Techniques and Voyages’ which documents centuries-old maritime knowledge of Gujarat's sailors.

Modi said that as IMD's weather forecasts become more accurate, their importance will increase across various sectors, industries, and even in everyday life. “There is a need to develop warning systems for earthquakes and scientists and researchers should work in this direction,” Modi said.

The prime minister quoted from scriptures and ancient texts to highlight India's rich history of expertise in understanding weather patterns.

Can a healthy diet help alleviate chronic pain?

Recent research found that a higher-quality diet, rich in whole, nutrient-dense foods, might be linked to reduced pain levels, particularly among women. Participants' body fat levels did not significantly influence this outcome, indicating that a healthy diet may directly and independently aid in managing chronic pain. Experts recommend adding antioxidant-rich foods to your diet and adopting a healthy lifestyle as part of a long-term approach to managing pain effectively. A recent study published in Nutrition Research suggests that diet quality directly impacts pain levels and physical function, especially among women, regardless of body fat levels. Researchers examined data from the Whyalla Intergenerational Study of Health (WISH), which included information from 654 Australian adults ages 18 to 89. The majority were women (57%). They aimed to explore whether body fat—measured by body mass index (BMI), waist circumference, or body fat percentage—acts as a link between diet quality and outcomes like pain or physical function. The WISH study collected diet data using a 12-month food frequency questionnaire and assessed diet qual-

ity with the Australian Dietary Guideline Index, which measures how closely a person's eating habits align with dietary recommendations. Pain levels were measured using a pain scale survey, while hand grip strength was used to evaluate physical function. After analyzing the data and accounting for factors such as age and energy intake, the study observed that body fat did not serve as a link between diet quality and pain. Instead, diet quality alone appeared to have a direct impact on pain levels. Does diet quality affect men and women differently? Although these effects initially seemed to influence the entire study population, differences became apparent when analyzing the data by gender. For women, better diet quality was significantly associated with lower levels of pain, with reductions ranging from 37.2% to 38.8%, and with body fat levels having no influence on this relationship. For women with higher "core food" consumption (whole food choices), the reductions in pain were even larger, ranging from 46.7% to 48.2%, depending on the measure of body fat used. Additionally, for women, better diet quality was linked to improved phys-

ical strength. However, in men, the researchers observed no significant direct or indirect effects of diet quality and bodily pain or physical function.



Further research is necessary, as this observational study cannot determine causation, and its findings may not apply to diverse populations. Still, the study's results offer encouraging evidence that a healthier diet may notably alleviate pain and support physical function, especially in women, irrespective of their body fat levels. How can a healthy diet help reduce chronic pain? Chronic pain, defined as pain lasting

more than three months, affects about 30% of the global population. Trusted Source. While the causes of chronic pain vary greatly, research indicates a strong

link between body fat and chronic pain. Obesity increases the risk of both localized and widespread pain. Trusted Source, creating a cycle where weight gain can worsen pain, and pain can contribute to weight gain. However, recent studies Trusted Source, including the current research, reveal that dietary patterns may influence pain independently of body weight. To help explain this connection,

Thomas M. Holland, MD, MS, a physician-scientist and assistant professor at the RUSH Institute for Healthy Aging, RUSH University, College of Health Sciences, who was not involved in the study, spoke to Medical News Today about the potential mechanisms linking diet quality and chronic pain. "A higher-quality diet can reduce chronic pain by minimizing inflammation and oxidative stress through nutrient-dense foods rich in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. These dietary patterns support overall health and reduce systemic inflammation, which is a known contributor to pain. To contrast this, a lower-quality diet, like a standard American diet/Western diet—high in refined carbohydrates, saturated fats, and added sugars—can substantially increase inflammation and oxidative stress, which will worsen pain and potentially make it last longer." — Thomas M. Holland, MD, MS "With this, we need to keep in mind that dietary quality is going to influence pain directly through its effects on inflammation and oxidative processes, regardless of someone's body composition," Holland said. Foods that may help manage chronic pain The study observed that women who consumed more "core" foods—such

as fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and grains—reported lower pain levels. According to Holland, this is likely due to the anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties of foods like fruits, vegetables, and healthy fats, which may help mitigate pain pathways and provide benefits independent of body weight. So, to support chronic pain management, Holland recommends adding foods with strong anti-inflammatory properties into your diet, including: berries extra virgin olive oil dark leafy greens fatty fish rich in omega-3s nuts and seeds whole grains "Incorporating these into the diet can help reduce pain severity and improve overall well-being," he explained. Kiran Campbell, RDN, a registered dietitian and owner at Kiran Campbell Nutrition, not involved in the study, similarly suggests that "focusing on dietary patterns and constituents that modulate [inflammation and oxidative stress] may be crucial to alleviating chronic pain." She highlighted several specific diets that align with these principles, including the Mediterranean, DASH, MIND, and other anti-inflammatory diet patterns.

Health Benefits Of Adding Almonds To Your Winter Diet

Almonds are one of the most nutrient-dense nuts, rich in vitamins, minerals, and healthy fats. They are especially beneficial in winter as they provide warmth to the body, making them a staple in many winter diets. Packed with vitamin E, magnesium, and antioxidants, almonds help boost immunity, keep the skin hydrated in cold weather, and provide sustained energy. Their warming properties, according to Ayurveda, make them an ideal snack during colder months, helping improve circulation and maintaining overall well-being. Read on as we share a list of benefits you can achieve from adding almonds to your winter diet.

Almonds are rich in vitamin E, a powerful antioxidant that strengthens the immune system. Consuming almonds in winter can help the body fight off common seasonal illnesses like colds and flu, keeping you healthier throughout the chilly months.

The dry winter air often depletes skin moisture, but almonds, rich in vitamin E and healthy fats, can help maintain skin elasticity and hydration. Their antioxidant properties protect against environmental damage, giving you radiant skin even in winter.

Almonds are high in monounsaturated fats and contain magnesium, which can help reduce bad cholesterol (LDL) and improve good cholesterol (HDL) levels. This promotes better heart health, which is especially important as colder weather can stress the cardiovascular system.

Despite being calorie-dense, almonds can help with weight control. Their high protein and fiber content keep you feeling full longer, reducing the likelihood of overeating during winter festivities.

Almonds are considered a warming food, ideal for generating body heat during cold months. Their combination of healthy fats, protein, and carbohydrates provides a steady source of energy to combat winter lethargy. Almonds are an excellent source of calcium, magnesium, and phosphorus, all of which are essential for maintaining strong and healthy bones. Winter, with its limited sun exposure, often necessitates extra bone support, making almonds a great dietary addition.

Rich in riboflavin and L-carnitine, almonds support cognitive function and reduce the risk of neurodegenerative diseases. Adding almonds to your winter diet can help enhance memory and focus, which can decline due to sluggishness in colder weather.

Almonds have a low glycemic index and are rich in magnesium, which helps regulate blood sugar. This makes them a healthy snack choice for managing energy levels and preventing winter sugar cravings.

Almonds contain anti-inflammatory compounds such as flavonoids and healthy fats. Consuming almonds can help alleviate joint and muscle discomfort that often worsens during cold and damp winters.

Almonds are a good source of dietary fibre, which supports healthy digestion. In winter, when physical activity often decreases, including almonds in your diet can help prevent constipation and promote gut health. Adding a handful of almonds to your winter diet, whether in their raw form, soaked, or as almond milk, can provide a plethora of health benefits while keeping you warm and nourished.



How Olive Leaves Can Boost Your Health

Olive leaves are the leaves of the olive tree, widely known for their medicinal properties and health benefits. They have been used in traditional medicine for centuries due to their high content of bioactive compounds like oleuropein, hydroxytyrosol, and flavonoids. Olive leaves are considered healthy because of their antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antimicrobial properties, which contribute to overall wellness. They can be used in various forms, such as teas, extracts, powders, or capsules, and are often incorporated into skincare products. Olive leaf tea is particularly popular for its soothing and health-boosting effects. In this article, we share a list of health benefits you can achieve from consuming olive leaves.



1. Rich in antioxidants

Olive leaves are packed with powerful antioxidants, such as oleuropein and hydroxytyrosol, which protect cells from oxidative damage caused by free radicals. This reduces the risk of chronic diseases like cancer, heart disease, and neurodegenerative disorders.

2. Supports cardiovascular health

The compounds in olive leaves help lower blood pressure, improve blood vessel function, and reduce

LDL (bad) cholesterol levels. These effects contribute to better heart health and decrease the risk of cardiovascular diseases like heart attack and stroke.

3. Boosts immune system

Oleuropein in olive leaves has potent antimicrobial and antiviral properties, which enhance the immune system's ability to fight infections. Regular consumption may help prevent colds, flu, and other viral illnesses.

4. Anti-inflammatory properties Olive leaves reduce inflammation in the body by inhibiting inflammatory markers, making them beneficial for managing conditions like arthritis, joint pain, and other inflammatory disorders.

5. Helps regulate blood sugar

Studies have shown that olive leaves can improve insulin sensitivity and regulate blood sugar levels, making them helpful for people with type 2 diabetes or those looking to manage their blood sugar naturally.

6. Supports brain health

The antioxidant properties of olive leaves help protect brain cells from damage, reducing the risk of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. They also support cognitive function and may improve memory and focus.

7. Promotes skin health

Olive leaf extract is often used in skincare products due to its ability to protect the skin from UV damage, reduce inflammation, and combat signs of aging. It also promotes wound healing and soothes irritated skin.

8. Aids in weight management

The compounds in olive leaves can support metabolism and reduce fat accumulation in the body, aiding in weight management. They also help curb appetite and improve digestion.

9. Protects against infections

Olive leaves exhibit strong antimicrobial properties, making them effective against bacteria, viruses, and fungi. They are particularly useful in fighting respiratory infections, urinary tract infections, and candida overgrowth.

10. Detoxifies the body

Olive leaves help the liver function optimally by supporting its natural detoxification processes. This ensures the elimination of toxins from the body, promoting overall health and vitality.

Incorporating olive leaves into your daily routine whether as tea, a supplement, or an extract—can provide a natural boost to your health.

How Sugary Foods Affect Your Teeth: A Myth Or Truth? Check Doctor Says On This

Excess of everything is harmful anyways. Maintaining oral hygiene is of utmost importance. If you are managing the oral cavity well and following the oral hygiene regimes then whatever you eat or drink will cause less harm to your teeth. So there are lots of parameters that will decide the damage done by sugary foods.

One can definitely consume in moderate quantities if the oral hygiene regime is followed well. When sugar is consumed it interacts with the bacteria within the plaque to produce acid. This acid is responsible for tooth decay because it slowly dissolves the enamel creating holes or cavities in the teeth. So if there is less plaque on tooth surface damage is automatically less.

1. Don't forget to brush twice a day:

Whether it's morning or night, brushing is must.

2. Gum massages:

Spend some time with your gums as they are the foundation of our teeth. Healthy gums are equal to



healthy teeth. Massaging in a circular motion for 5 mins in morning and evening with the oil of your choice (olive oil, vitamin E oil, almond oil) can do wonders for your gums and oral health.

3. Tongue cleaning should be on priority:

Once a day, tongue cleaning with glycerine and cotton pad can prove

to be magical not only for the lovely pink tongue but also bacteria-free oral cavity as a result no bad breath.

4. Mouth wash:

rinse your mouth after every meal for 2-3 times with a mouth wash of your choice swirl it for at least 30 secs each for best results

Dr. Gunita Singh, B.D.S., M.D. Dental Lasers shares how sugary foods

can have many negative effects on your teeth, including:

1. Cavities:

Bacteria in your mouth feed on sugar and produce acids that erode your tooth enamel, leading to cavities.

2. Gum disease:

Sugar feeds bacteria that can cause gum disease, which can lead to tooth loss.

3. Tooth sensitivity:

As your enamel wears down, your teeth can become sensitive to hot, cold, or sweet foods and beverages.

4. Bad breath:

Bacteria that feed on sugar release foul-smelling byproducts that can lead to chronic bad breath.

5. Tooth loss:

Untreated cavities and gum disease can lead to the loss of one or more teeth.

So next time when you eat any sugary food items. Don't forget to brush or at least rinse your mouth properly.

Bumrah & Sutherland triumph in December Player of Month Awards

AGENCIES
DUBAI, JAN 14 (UND)

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday announced the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for December 2024 as India's Jasprit Bumrah and Australia's Annabel Sutherland.

Top-ranked Test bowler Bumrah provided stern resistance to Australia's resurgence in a compelling Border-Gavaskar Trophy series with destructive bowling spells, while Sutherland was in sparkling form during Australia's ODI encounters against India and New Zealand, twice winning Player of the Series accolades for her all-round contributions.

Both players were crowned following a vote conducted among global fans registered at icc-cricket.com and a specialist panel comprising ICC Hall of Famers, former international players and media representatives.

Bumrah clinches his



second ICC Men's Player of the Month crown from fellow nominees, World Test Championship wicket-takers Pat Cummins and Dane Paterson.

Sutherland also wins her second ICC Women's Player of the Month prize, overcoming Smriti Mandhana and Nonkululeko Mlaba in the global vote.

Bumrah's memorable year on the international stage drew to a close with more outstanding efforts in Australia, taking 22 wickets in December's three Tests at an average of 14.22.

As the home side grew in confidence, battling

back from a 1-0 deficit to take the lead in the series, the seamer spearheaded India's resistance, first starring in Adelaide with four for 61.

Onward to Brisbane and Bumrah blitzed the Australian batting lineup in the first innings, recording six for 76 in a fearsome spell in the first innings and three for 18 in the second.

Another nine-wicket return in the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne included a spell of five for 57 in the second innings, upon which the 31-year-old set a new record for the highest rating points tally by any

Indian bowler in history. Bumrah will be hoping for continued success in the coming weeks, where he is nominated for two of the top awards in the ICC Awards 2024 - the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year award and the coveted Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year.

ICC Men's Player of the Month, Bumrah, said, "I am thrilled to be named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for December. It is always humbling to be chosen for individual accolades, and it is always nice to be recognized for your efforts."

"The Border-Gavaskar Trophy was one of the most closely fought contests ever, and it was an honour for me to go out there and perform for my country," he said.

ICC Women's Player of the Month, Sutherland capped a landmark year with bat and ball with a starring role in Australia's recent wins over India and New Zealand, notching 269 runs at 67.25

American stars Navarro, Fritz lead Day 3 victories

AGENCIES
MELBOURNE, JAN 14 (UND)

American players marked a strong start at the Australian Open 2025, with several standout performances on Day 3.

Seventeen players from the United States featured in singles action on Tuesday, and favourites such as Emma Navarro and Taylor Fritz showcased their prowess in an eventful session.

Eighth seed Emma Navarro prevailed in a gruelling three-hour, 20-minute battle against fellow American Peyton Stearns. Navarro secured a 6-7(5), 7-6(5), 7-5 victory, marking the longest women's singles match of the tournament so far.

The 23-year-old made her Rod Laver Arena debut memorable by



staving off a strong challenge from Stearns, who served for the match at 5-4 in the final set. Despite her valiant effort, Stearns remains in search of her first win over a top-10 opponent.

Navarro, who represented the USA at the 2024 Olympics and Billie Jean King Cup, will next face China's Wang Xiyu, who defeated Julia Grab-

her 6-1, 7-5 in her opening match.

In the men's draw, fourth seed Taylor Fritz delivered a commanding performance, defeating compatriot Jensen Brooksby 6-2, 6-0, 6-3. Fritz showcased precision and power, hitting 34 winners and winning 83% of his first-serve points in a match lasting just under two hours.

Fritz will face qualifier Cristian Garin in the second round. The two have met three times previously, with Fritz leading their head-to-head 2-1.

Florida's Amanda Anisimova cruised to a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Maria Lourdes Carle and will next take on Emma Raducanu in their first-ever meeting. Wildcard Iva Jovic also advanced, conceding just three games to Nuria Parrizas Dias.

Meanwhile, 19-year-old qualifier Learner Tien celebrated his maiden Grand Slam win after a four-hour, five-set battle against Camilo Ugo Carabelli. Day 3 of the tournament highlighted the depth of talent among American players, setting the stage for further excitement in the rounds to come.

Niki confident ahead of U19-WT20 WC title defence

AGENCIES
KUALA LUMPUR, JAN 14 (UND)

India U19 Women's cricket team captain, Niki Prasad, has set her sights firmly on defending the title as the team gears up for the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2025 in Malaysia.

"Looking at the trophy on display, I'm excited to go out with my teammates and try and defend the trophy won by Team India in 2023," Niki said, expressing her determination during the Captains' Day event in Kuala Lumpur.

Niki's remarks came during the Captains' Day photoshoot at Kuala Lumpur's iconic Petronas Twin Towers, where skippers of the 16 participating teams gathered to launch the tournament. The bustling Malaysian capital provided a picturesque backdrop as the captains posed with the coveted trophy, sparking dreams of lifting it on



February 2.

Defending champions India and hosts Malaysia stood closest to the trophy, symbolising the tournament's diversity and aspirations.

"Coming to the Captains' Day and meeting the other 15 captains was a great experience, and to do it in front of the towers in Kuala Lumpur makes it extra special," Niki added.

For Samoa, making

their tournament debut, the moment was both awe-inspiring and humbling. Their captain, Avetia Fetu Mapu, shared her excitement at being part of such a historic event.

"It was a good meet-up, getting to meet the other girls was unbelievable," Mapu said. "The feeling is pretty intense—not in a bad way, but I could just feel the pressure lift a little bit. The towers are

huge. I felt a little bit dizzy! Though the experience was good."

This gathering was the only opportunity for all 16 captains to be in one place before the group stage matches begin on January 18.

Teams will now disperse across Malaysia, with Group A and D competing at venues near Kuala Lumpur, Group B heading south to Johor near the Singapore border, and Group C travelling to Sarawak on Borneo Island.

The tournament format includes 41 matches, with the top three teams from each group progressing to the Super Six stage. Points carried over from group matches will determine the semi-finalists, with the top two teams from each Super Six group advancing.

The competition promises intense action and concludes with the final on February 2.

Wasim Akram unveils White Jacket for ICC Champions Trophy

AGENCIES
DUBAI, JAN 14 (UND)

The ICC Men's Champions Trophy returns next month for the first time since 2017.

Setting the momentum in action, the ICC pays tribute to the iconic 'white jackets' with a promo video featuring Pakistan legend and former captain Wasim Akram, who asks fans across the globe to join the journey of champions as the eight teams put it 'All On The Line'.

The unmissable tournament will witness the top eight teams battle it out in 15 matches across 19 days in an intense and



all-out showdown from February 19 to March 9.

Every match counts in the ICC's most high stakes event format, where teams not only vie for the Champions Trophy but also for the coveted white jackets—symbolizing the ultimate measure of greatness and determi-

nation.

The white jacket is a badge of honour adorned by champions. With a decorated career spanning three decades, a cricket champion in his own right, Wasim Akram highlights in the promo video that the jackets embody the relentless

pursuit for tactical brilliance, and a legacy that inspires generations. Winning the white jacket signifies the journey of putting it all on the line for victory.

Wasim Akram said, "The ICC Men's Champions Trophy represents the best of the best and the unveiling of the white jacket, which symbolizes greatness, will now build the excitement of the event across the global cricket community. Next month's Champions Trophy will see the strongest team win the tournament, as every game is a pressure game and there is no chance for any team to have a break."

Knight presses England batters to take initiative in Australia

AGENCIES
LONDON, JAN 14 (UND)

England women once again fell short of a much-needed win against Australia, despite a commendable effort from their bowlers.

Led by the No.1 ranked Women's ODI bowler, Sophie Ecclestone, who picked 4/35, the tourists restricted Australia to 180.

Despite early losses, England had a steady start to their chase, with the side comfortably placed at 68/2 early on. However,

a disciplined Australia, led by Alana King (4/25) and Kim Garth (3/37) managed to tilt the game the hosts' way.

The win gave Australia a 2-0 lead in the series, putting them in a commanding position ahead of the remaining matches.

After the game, a disappointed England captain, Heather Knight, urged her batting unit to show greater resolve in the middle.

"It's frustrating; I feel like it was there for the taking. The wickets cost

us. We need to be braver with the bat," Knight told BBC TMS after the game.

While Nat Sciver-Brunt (35 off 57) and Amy Jones (47 from 103) did get starts, the rest of the batting unit failed. Despite their fight, England kept receiving blows during their chase, especially in the middle overs.

However, Amy Jones received full support from her skipper, who believed she delivered a class performance.

"Amy was great at keep-

ing us in the game. She was trying to face the majority of the balls and picking up boundaries when she could. Amy got us close but unfortunately just not close enough."

Knight added that she believed England were closing in on matching Australia, and hoped for an improved performance in the upcoming games.

"We're really close. We just need to do a few things better in a few areas and need to be braver with the bat."

Increasing business profitability

by reducing printing cost

LUBAAB

PUBLICATIONS

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

LUBAAB Printing services means I get my job back on time, always accurate and of the highest quality

When you need a Company that can handle a complex workload, save your money and deliver on time..... leave it to

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS

Also visit us for:
Newspapers & News Magazines

Specialists in:
Non Woven & Paper Bags

Mobile: 9999038812
 9419008414
 Tel: 0194 2496287
 Email: jahangirbukhari@gmail.com
 Humhama, Budgam/Srinagar

- Prepress
- Sheet Fed
- Bindery
- Finishing
- Promotions

Our Printing Services

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