

# Kashmir Convener



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## ‘Dual centres of power are not to anyone’s advantage’: CM Omar

‘When a farmer tills his land, he thinks of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah’

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the hybrid model of governance in the Union territory is not to anyone’s advantage and the systems work better when there is single centre of command.

“Obviously, dual centres of power are not to anyone’s advantage. If dual centres were effective tools of governance, you would see it everywhere,” Abdullah told reporters at a media interaction here when asked about the hybrid model of governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

The chief minister said while there have been “differences of opinion on some issues”, there was no confrontation with the Raj Bhavan.

“Systems work better when there is single centre of command. For the UT, the dual centres of command are inbuilt. There have been differences of opinion on some issues, but not on the scale at which it is being speculated. Such reports are just a figment of imagination,” he added.

Abdullah said the business rules for the government would be framed after proper consultations and then sent to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The chief minister said that he was not the one to tell people not to go to the Raj Bhavan.

“I would say people should go wherever they can get their issues resolved – be it in the Raj Bhavan or with the local MLA or the officers,” he added.

Asked about his party MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi’s protest over the issue of reservation, Abdullah said the National Conference (NC) is a



democracy and anyone has the right to speak. “NC was often accused of being a family

“When we talk generally to the residents in Srinagar, they talk about decongestion. There is problem of housing. 3-4 families are living in a single house, they say if they get an opportunity they would move to suburbs,” Omar Abdullah said.

party. But we have always said that we are a democracy and everyone has a right to speak. Look at the positive side, how much change

has come,” Abdullah said.

“From a time when protesting was considered illegal, people protested and reached my door. We had a meeting afterwards,” he added, referring to the anti-reservation protest near his residence in Gupkar which was joined by Mehdi.

As far as reservation is concerned, I told the delegates that the cabinet sub-committee has been framed, the chief minister said.

The party expected that Mehdi, the Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar, would hold a similar protest for the restoration of statehood in Parliament as well, he added.

Abdullah, however, said while we can fight the reserved and open category fight, “but first we have to save our jobs”. “What will we do when people from other places come here for jobs?” he asked.

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### Kashmir getting more power this year

Riyaz Bhat

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister (CM) Omar Abdullah Thursday said that Jammu and Kashmir was facing AT&C losses of more than 50 percent. However, the national average of the Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses is nearly 15 percent.

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### Sakina Itoo promises action against private schools selling books at Exorbitant rates

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Sakina Itoo Thursday assured that strict action will be taken against private schools found selling books at exorbitant rates.

Speaking at an interaction with the media at SKICC, Itoo as per news agency KINS, called on parents to come forward with the names of schools that are charging unfair prices for textbooks.



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## CS reviews progress on construction of highways across J&K

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR :** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today convened a meeting with NHAI, NHIDCL, Beacon and Project SAMPARK to review progress on construction of different highways across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, APD, Commissioner Secretary, Forest Department, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir, Secretary, R&B, Deputy Commissioners, Chief Engineers of PWD besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the project implementing agencies to expedite progress on the ongoing works so that the fixed deadlines are met without any fail. He observed that the repeated slippage in timelines for completion of these projects should be avoided as it questions the professional standards of the organisation.

The Chief Secretary directed the Secretary PWD and concerned divisional administrations to take monthly assessment of these projects besides visiting the sites to remove any bottlenecks hampering their progress. He also urged them to extend full

cooperation to the concerned executing agencies for speedy completion of these projects.

Dulloo also had a project wise appraisal of progress achieved, so far, in each of the work. He enquired about the expected date of completion of work on each phase of these



projects along with the current status of physical progress registered in each of them.

Some of the significant projects of NHAI reviewed during the meeting included different phases of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, remaining work on the tunnel on Ring Road Jammu, tunnels and viaducts on Udhampur-Ramban section including Dalwas and Cafeteria Morh.

The Chief Secretary also assessed progress on Marog to Digdol tunnel and Digdol to Khuni-Nallah tunnels under the Ramban-Banihal section of NH-44. In addition, opening of Banihal Bypass besides ongoing work on different phases of

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## CM Omar inaugurates Winter Carnival Festival at Pahalgam Club



KC NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** In a grand celebration of Jammu and Kashmir’s rich cultural heritage, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

inaugurated Winter Carnival at Pahalgam this evening.

The event, which draws attention to the picturesque beauty of the region and its vibrant cultural landscape, was held in the

presence of several dignitaries, including Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Chowdhary, former J&K Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani and Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Pahalgam Altaf Ahmad Wani. The evening’s proceedings began with an electrifying musical performance by the renowned artist Abha Hanjura, whose mesmerizing tunes and captivating stage presence brought the crowd to life.

The musical acts, combined with traditional cultural performances, set the tone for an unforgettable carnival experience.

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## Fire & Emergency Services Department recruitment scandal

ACB probe reveals 109 candidates selected despite securing lower marks than cut-off-marks

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR :** In what could spark an outrage over recruitment process in Jammu & Kashmir, an investigation by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has revealed that 109 candidates secured lower marks than the cutoff marks in the job test in the Fire & Emergency Services Department in 2020, but were selected by showing them to have secured higher



marks in the final selection list than the marks actually

secured by them.

The premier anti-graft

body also found that five real brothers from Budgam district, along with relatives of officials from the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Department and candidates from the same localities, figured in the selection list.

In an official handout, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the ACB said that a manual review of the OMR sheets

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## Heavy Snow, Rains Expected From Jan 4 To 6: MeT

Owais Gul

**SRINAGAR:** The local Meteorological department here has issued a ‘yellow alert’ for January 5 and January 6, saying that heavy rain and snowfall is expected at the isolated places during the period.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the MeT department has issued an alert, stating that there is a possibility of heavy rain and snowfall at



the isolated places. “The disruption of traffic on higher reaches snow avalanches, landslides and shooting stones are expected on January 5 and 6,” the MeT has said.

In a detailed forecast, the weatherman has stated that on January 3, the weather is expected to remain generally cloudy with the possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches.

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### BOTTOM STORY

## Article 370 had sowed the seeds of separatism in the minds of Kashmir Youth

Releases ‘Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh Through The Ages : A Visual Narrative of Continuities and Linkages’ book in New Delhi

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah said that Article 370 had sowed the seeds of separatism in the minds of the youth of the Kashmir Valley.

He questioned why terrorism has not arisen in many parts of the country that have significant

Amit Shah said that Articles 370 and 35A were obstacles, preventing Kashmir from being fully integrated with our country.

Muslim populations.

He pointed out that states like Gujarat and Rajasthan also share borders with Pakistan, yet terrorism did not emerge there. He said that Article 370 created the misconception that the connection between India and Kashmir was temporary, which sowed the seeds of separatism that eventually turned into terrorism.



He expressed regret over the unfortunate fact that more than 40,000 people fell victim to terrorism and that Kashmir’s development was set back by decades.

He further remarked that for years, terrorism wreaked havoc in the region, while the nation stood by as a

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“Distortions have affected history of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh”

**SRINAGAR:** Home Minister Amit Shah said distortions have affected the history of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.

He asserted that interpreting the history of these regions by manipulating facts is both futile and misleading. Such distortions, he remarked, could only stem from the works of historians with a myopic vision. Those who know about India’s illustrious past will never commit such mistakes. Shah pointed out that the book demonstrates, with evidence, that the culture, languages, scripts, spiritual philosophies, art forms, pilgrimage traditions, and trade practices found throughout India have been present in Kashmir for at least thousand years. He emphasized

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# SC Notes ‘Scurrilous Allegations, Insinuations Against Judges’ In Plea Against Senior Designations

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Thursday took exception to the “scurrilous and unfounded allegations” made in a plea against the conferment of senior designations to lawyers.

“How many judges can you name whose offsprings have been designated as senior counsel?” a bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan asked advocate Mathews J Nedumpara, who appeared for the petitioners.



Referring to the averments in the plea, the bench observed it had insinuations against the judges.

“We find that various scurrilous, unfounded allegations have been made against the institution,” it said.

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The bench referred to the averments made in the plea which read, “It is difficult, if not impossible, to find a judge sitting

or retired, of the high court or Supreme Court, who has his offspring, brother, sister or nephew who has crossed the age of 40 remaining to be a plebeian lawyer.” The plea filed by Nedumpara and several others, including many practising advocates, raised a grievance against the senior designations conferred to lawyers.

During the hearing, Nedumpara, who offered to place certain data before the court, argued the bar was fearful of judges.

“Mr Nedumpara, this is a court of law. Not a boat club or Azad Maidan in Bombay (Mumbai) to make speeches. So, when you address a court of law, make legal arguments. Not the arguments only for the purpose of gallery,” said Justice Gavai.

The court said it was willing to grant him the liberty to amend the petition.

“If you do not amend the petition, we may take such steps as we find necessary,” it said. The bench said it would have

proceeded with the matter, but Nedumpara wanted to reflect on the plea’s averments and consult with other petitioners on the future course of action.

“Are you going to delete these averments or not?” the bench said, “be very clear whether you are going to carry on with these scurrilous averments or not.” The petitioners were granted four weeks’ time.

The plea alleged the classification of lawyers into two categories and conferring a minority with “favours and privileges” was against the concept of equality and the ethos of the Constitution.

“The instant petition challenges Sections 16 and 23(5) of the Advocates Act which creates two classes of lawyers, senior advocates and other advocates which in actual practice has resulted in an unthinkable catastrophe and inequities which Parliament certainly would not have contemplated or foreseen,” it said.

The plea therefore sought quashing of the Delhi High Court’s recent conferment of senior designations to about 70 lawyers.

# BSF allowing infiltrators to enter India, idea is to destabilise Bengal, alleges Mamata

**KOLKATA:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday accused the Border Security Force of letting infiltrators from Bangladesh enter India and charged the BSF with trying to destabilise the state.

Stating that she could sense a “blueprint of the central government behind this attitude of the BSF”, Banerjee also accused a section of



district magistrates and SPs of helping the border guards in their illegal act.

“We have got information that the BSF is letting infiltrators enter India through Islampur, Sitai, Chopra and several other bordering areas. The BSF is also torturing women and trying to destabilise the state,” she said at an administrative review meeting at the state secretariat ‘Nabanna’.

“Border security is not our responsibility and BSF looks after this. Visa is not our matter but that of the central government. We used to get the list of who were taking flights to come here, but now it has been stopped. So, we do not know who all are coming,” she said.

TMC. Some media channels are trying to spread this for the sake of their TRP,” she said.

Banerjee also alleged that goons are entering the state from across the border, killing people and going back.

“This is a deep-rooted conspiracy of the BSF and the central government has a blueprint for it. If there was no blueprint of the Centre, it would not have happened,” she said.

Emphasising that West Bengal has been sharing a cordial relationship with Bangladesh, Banerjee went on to say that people could come to the state for treatment as she is keen to have peace on both sides of the international border.

“There is no bad relationship between the two Bengals (West Bengal and Bangladesh). We speak the same language and we follow a similar way of lifestyle. People across the border can come here for treatment. But we should be informed,” she stated. The CM asserted that she had told the Centre several times that she would follow whatever decision it would take on the situation in Bangladesh. “But if I see that someone is helping terrorism to disturb my state, we will have to protest,” Banerjee said adding that she would send a strongly worded letter to the Centre in this regard. “But why didn’t you people (DM, SPs) protest this act of the BSF? I will ask DGP Rajeev Kumar to find out through which spots they had entered the state and where these people stay. The police get information of infiltrations. But (a section of) the DMs and SPs have not shared any information with us. They have not carried out their responsibility properly,” Banerjee said.

The Bengal CM directed the DGP to share a detailed report on the matter as she has planned to send a protest letter to the Centre.

“Rajeev Kumar has shared some information and also some inputs from the locals. But I want detailed information on this to understand why this is being done. I will be writing a strong letter (to the Centre). I want to have peace on both sides of the border,” she said.

# Rahul defamation case: Plaintiff cross-examined

**SULTANPUR (UP):** A special MP-MLA court in Sultanpur conducted a hearing on Thursday in a defamation case against Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and further proceedings including cross-examination will continue on January 10, a lawyer said.

The case pertains to an alleged objectionable remark made by Rae Bareilly Congress MP about Union Home Minister Amit



Shah during the 2018 Karnataka assembly elections, prompting a local BJP politician to file a complaint.

“Today, cross-examination of the complainant, Vijay Mishra, took place. As the questioning could not be completed, the next hearing has been scheduled for January 10,” Gandhi’s lawyer Kashi Prasad Shukla said.

Mishra’s lawyer, Santosh Kumar Pandey, said, “Rahul Gandhi’s counsel cross-examined my client today regarding the defamation case. The next steps will proceed on January 10.”

The case was filed in 2018 by Mishra, a BJP politician and resident of Hanumanganj in Sultanpur’s Kotwali Dehat area. Mishra alleged that Gandhi’s remark on Shah during the Karnataka elections was offensive and had deeply hurt him. Over the past five years, the case underwent multiple proceedings, but Gandhi reportedly failed to appear in court. Consequently, in December 2023, a warrant was issued, compelling Gandhi to appear in the court. In February 2024, the Congress leader complied with the summons and the special magistrate granted him bail on two sureties of Rs 25,000 each. Following this, the court instructed him to record his statement, which was finally completed on July 26, 2024, though after multiple postponements.

# I doubt if Modi Govt will last even for 2 years: Sanjay Raut

**MUMBAI:** Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday said he is doubtful whether the central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will survive even for two years till 2026.

If the Modi government fails to complete its term, it would also trigger a political change in Maharashtra and other states, he claimed.

Talking to reporters, Raut also dismissed speculation that some Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders might jump the ship following the party’s poor showing in the November 2024 Maharashtra assembly polls.



He was responding to a question on buzz that Rajan Salvi, the former Rajapur MLA of Shiv Sena (UBT), might quit the Uddhav Thackeray-led party.

In the Lok Sabha polls held last year, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won 293 seats,

comfortably above the majority mark

of 272 in the 543-member House, paving the way for PM Modi to be at the helm for a third consecutive term.

The BJP, however, fell well short of the majority and is dependent on allies, after enjoying a comfortable majority on its own in the previous two terms of the Modi government.

“My doubt remains whether the

government at the Centre will survive till 2026. Modi will not complete his term, and when that happens, there will be changes not only in Maharashtra but also in other places (states),” Raut claimed.

On speculation that Salvi might quit the Shiv Sena (UBT), the Rajya Sabha member said he spoke to the party leader, who has expressed disappointment over some local issues.

Raut said Uddhav Thackeray was in touch with Salvi, who had been a multiple-term MLA but lost the 2024 state assembly poll from Rajapur to rival Shiv Sena leader Kiran Samant.

Asked about buzz that some Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders might switch over to other parties, Raut asserted there was no unrest in their party.

“This too shall pass. All days are not the same,” he added.

# ED conducts raids at 8 places in Bengal in connection with Rs 1,000 cr cyber fraud in Tamil Nadu



**KOLKATA:** Sleuths of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) started conducting raids at eight locations across West Bengal on Thursday in connection with its probe into cyber frauds involving over Rs 1,000 crore in Tamil Nadu, a senior officer said.

Raids are underway simultaneously at five places in Park Street, Salt Lake, and Baguihati areas in Kolkata and in three

other locations in districts, he said.

During the raid in Salt Lake area, the ED sleuths detained a person for questioning, the officer said. “Our officers are now conducting raids at a flat in a high-end residential complex in Baguihati,” he told PTI. Several people based in states in eastern India have been found involved in the crime, he added.

# NIA sets 100pc conviction record for 2024

**NEW DELHI:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has achieved a remarkable milestone in 2024, securing a 100pc conviction rate across 25 cases, resulting in the convictions of 68 accused.

This achievement underscores the agency’s unwavering commitment to justice and national security.

According to an official press release dated December 31, 2024, this success stems from rigorous investigations and meticulous legal strategies, further solidifying the NIA’s reputation as one of India’s most effective investigative bodies. The agency focused on addressing Left Wing Extremism (LWE) and tackling high-profile cases throughout the year. Among the major achievements of 2024, the NIA registered 80 cases.

# Nitish comes up with cryptic response after Lalu’s fresh offer to join INDIA bloc

**PATNA:** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday came up with a cryptic response to RJD president Lalu Prasad’s offer to return to the INDIA bloc.

“Kya bol rahe hain (What are you saying)” was all the JD(U) boss said in reply to queries from journalists about Prasad’s fresh offer.

Kumar had aligned twice with the RJD, a constituent of the INDIA bloc, in the last one decade.

Prasad’s son and heir apparent Tejashwi Yadav, however, sought to downplay the remarks made by his father, in an interview to a local news channel, claiming that the RJD supremo had merely tried to satisfy the curiosity of the prying media.

Prasad had said, “Our doors are open (for Nitish). He should also unbolt his gates. This would facilitate movement of people from both sides”.

The remark, coming in the backdrop of Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s stance on projecting the JD(U) supremo as NDA’s face in the assembly polls due in less than a year, triggered intense speculations in a section of the media



here.

Kumar was approached with queries by journalists at Raj Bhavan, where he attended the swearing-in ceremony of Arif Mohammad Khan as the new governor.

Flanked by Khan and Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary (BJP) on either side, Kumar folded his hands and smiled when his comments were sought on the offer from Prasad. Pressed further, he asked, “What are you saying”.

When a pointed query was made, as to whether the state government would be able to complete its term, Khan intervened and said, “This is not the occasion for a question of this type. Today is a happy day. Let us only talk about good things”.

Later, the posse of journalists approached Yadav, a former Deputy CM and the current leader of the opposition, who had also come to attend the function.

The young leader, who had on Wednesday declared that the new year will see “departure” of the NDA government headed by Nitish Kumar, said: “I have already made my stand clear”.

When probed further, with reference to the utterances of his father, Yadav said, “What would he do if people like you keep coming to him with the same question? Whatever he said must have been aimed at putting an end to curiosity of you journalists.” Meanwhile, when questions about Prasad were posed to Union minister and former JD(U) president Rajiv Ranjan Singh “Lalan”, he snapped.

“The NDA is strong. JD(U) and BJP are united. It is a free society and anybody can say whatever he pleases. It is for Lalu ji to say more on his own utterances”, he said.

Lalan was perceived to have grown very close to the RJD supremo when Nitish Kumar was out of NDA. It was rumoured to have been the reason why the de facto JD(U) chief chose to take over as the president of the party.

**DIPK-10369/24**

**Sd/ Executive Engineer Machinery Division, Kmr.**

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION Uri

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (Fresh to NIT No.82 sr.1)  
eNT No.86 of 2024-25/7933-42/R&B Uri e-tendering DATED: 01-01-2025

For and on behalf of the L.T. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of (DOC In Rupees)	E/Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M.Ho/Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
01	Construction of Salbed drain from H/o Nazir Ahmad Chahri up to H/o Bashir Ahmad Wathloo Ward No. 12 at MC Uri.	2.98	200/-	5960/-	25 days	07.01.2025	DEE	IDMT

Project Authority: Executive officer MC Uri  
Position of AAA/TS: Accorded/Sanctioned

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, 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](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01.01.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	01.01.2025 from (01:00PM) to 07.01.2025 (02:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	01.01.2025 from (01:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	07.01.2025 (02:00PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	07.01.2025 (03:00PM) in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan debited under M-H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri. (tender receiving authority).

3. At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertisment Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful (1<sup>st</sup> lowest) bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

3 (a) Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

3. (c) The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited if:  
(i) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.  
(ii) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.  
(iii) Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

(iv) If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri/tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

No.: 2024-25/7933-42  
DATED: 02-01-2025

Sd/  
Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division, Uri.

DIPK-10328/24



# Snowfall Cripples Connectivity and Daily Life in Gurez Valley

‘Snow clearance efforts underway, progress hindered by relentless weather conditions’

AADIL ABDULLAH

**Bandipora:** Heavy snowfall blanketed Gurez Valley in Bandipora district on Thursday, disrupting daily life and forcing the closure of the Gurez-Bandipora road to all traffic.

Officials said that the Gurez region received approximately six inches of fresh snow, with ongoing precipitation expected to increase the total accumulation.

They said the snowfall affected key areas such as Dawar, Kanzalwan, Kilshay, and Tulail, leaving the valley under a thick white blanket. Strong winds accompanying the snowfall made travel conditions treacherous, prompting au-



thorities to halt all vehicular movement along the Gurez-Bandipora route.

"Snowfall, coupled with strong winds, has made road travel extremely hazardous, and the area continues to experience heavy precipitation," they said.

Moreover, in response, snow clearance machinery has been deployed to restore connectivity within the valley, though progress remains slow due to the persistent adverse weather.

Notably, harsh winter conditions have left residents struggling, with normal life coming to a standstill. Authorities have urged people to remain indoors and avoid unnecessary travel until the weather improves.

## DC Bandipora takes stock of snow clearance & essential services

**BANDIPORA:** Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar



Husson Shawl on Thursday conducted a comprehensive visit to Bandipora town besides other remote areas to evaluate snow clearance operations and assess the overall post-snowfall situation in the district.

During the visit, the DC assessed the snow clearance operations, reviewed progress, and urged the concerned agencies to accelerate the process.

He said that the district administration is fully prepared to address the challenges brought by the snowfall.

M.A. Qadri reviewed the restoration of essential services, including power supply, water supply and healthcare facilities. On the occasion, he emphasized the importance of swift and efficient restoration to minimize disruptions for residents.

He focused on ensuring uninterrupted electricity, availability of clean drinking water, and the readiness of healthcare centres to handle emergencies.

While assessing the efforts of different departments involved in snow clearance operations, the DC emphasised respective departments to prioritize critical areas and address any bottlenecks promptly.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner paid a visit to District Hospital Bandipora to assess the quality of patient care services.

During his visit, he interacted with the staff and patients to gain firsthand insights into their experiences and concerns.

Medical Superintendent Bandipora briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the range of medical services being provided and the current status of healthcare delivery.

On the occasion, the DC inspected various wards to assess the condition of facilities and took stock of the availability of essential medicines. He emphasized the need for maintaining adequate stock levels and ensuring seamless healthcare services, particularly during adverse weather conditions.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by AD FCS&CA Dr. Naser Ahmad, CMO Dr. Rafi Ahmad Salathi, Executive Engineer R&B/PMGSY Mohammad Hussain, Executive Engineer PHE/I&FC Mutayib Bashir and others.

## Broken Promises, Missed Deadlines: JJM Yet to Provide Clean Drinking Water to Nadihal Residents

ABDUL BASIT

**BANDIPORA:** Residents of Nadihal village of Bandipora have expressed deep concerns as the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Bandipora has missed several deadlines for providing clean drinking water to the area.

Residents of Nadihal village in Bandipora have expressed deep concerns and anger as JJM Bandipora failed to provide clean drinking water during the harsh winter months. Locals allege that while filtration plants are functioning in other parts of the district, Nadihal continues to receive non-potable water.

The Jal Jeevan Mission was launched nationally by the Government of India on August 15, 2019, with the goal of providing safe and adequate drinking water to all rural households through individual household tap connections (FHTC) by 2024. In Kashmir, the implementation of JJM began around the same time, as part of this nationwide initiative. The estimated total outlay for JJM in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) was around

4,000 crore.

A resident, speaking to the Kashmir Convener, expressed concerns about the lack of filtration plants, forcing them to drink



muddy water. He said, "Whenever it rains, we receive water that isn't even fit for washing hands. We have been using this contaminated water for the past 35 years, despite the government allocating a filtration plant for our village. However, the project has missed several deadlines, leaving us with

non-potable water to drink during this harsh winter.

Ghulam Mohideen Bhat, a local resident of Nadihal village, said that despite spending a substantial amount of 4.6 crore on the construction of a filtration tank and steel pipes, access to potable water remains a distant dream. We still fetch drinking water from a nearby spring because the Jal Jeevan Mission filtration plant has yet to become functional. Despite numerous requests to the concerned department, our concerns have always been ignored or met with unsatisfactory

responses.

Residents have appealed to the Deputy Commissioner Manzoor Ahmad Qadri for urgent assistance and immediate action to address the water crisis.

Numerous calls and messages to the Jal Jeevan Mission officials went unanswered.

## Anantnag's Suhail Farooq Publishes Debut Book on Transformation and Resilience

MUQEET MURASHIR

**SRINAGAR:** Suhail Farooq, a law student at Kashmir University, has recently published his debut book, "From a Victim to a Lawyer: A Societal Pressure".

The book narrates a story of transformation, focusing on the struggles faced by individuals trapped in societal challenges and criminal influences.

Hailing from Aishmuqam in Anantnag, Suhail has become the first author from his village, marking a significant milestone in his community. While talking to Kashmir Convener Suhail shared that writing has been a lifelong passion for him and this book represents the culmination of years of his dedication and hard work.

The narrative of "From a Victim to a Lawyer" centers around a protagonist who faces numerous societal pressures and the daunting challenges posed by a life influenced by crime. However, through the themes of self-awareness, education, and unwavering determination, the

character embarks on a transformative journey, ultimately discovering a renewed sense of purpose as an advocate for jus-



tice. This story not only highlights the individual's resilience but also resonates with broader social issues, aiming to inspire readers who may find themselves confronting similar adversities in their own lives.

Suhail credits his success to the un-

wavering support of his parents and close friends, who have been instrumental throughout his journey of writing and publishing this book. Their encouragement and belief in my vision played a significant role and helped me bring this work to an accomplishment, Suhail mentioned.

"My book is a tribute to the power of education and living a life of purpose rooted in integrity and justice," Suhail said. "I hope the book reaches a wide audience, particularly those with a background in law, as the theme is very personal to me", he added.

With the publication of this debut book, Suhail not only paves the way for aspiring writers of his village but also sends a powerful message about resilience, hope, and the transformative power of education. His journey serves as an inspiration for many, proving that with determination and support, it is possible to overcome life's challenges and emerge as a beacon of change.

## DC Baramulla signs MoU with NHPC for development of model border villages

**BARAMULLA:** District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NHPC to implement the Creation of 5 Model Border Villages project under NHPC's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

The signing ceremony was attended by Chief Planning Officer Baramulla, Javed Ahmad, and Sub-Divisional Magistrate Uri, Javed Ahmad Rather.

This Rs 2.5 crore project, with Rs 1 crore allocated for FY 2024-25, focuses on upgrading critical infrastructure in border villages, including schools, health centers, Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), sanitation facilities, centralized housing quarters, and the installation of transformers.

The project is scheduled for completion within 8 months, with a possibility of time extensions based on valid justification.

The scope of work includes the upgradation of schools, health centers, and AWCs, enhancing sanitation facilities, construction of centralized housing quarters, and installation of transformers for improved electricity access.

NHPC will provide Rs 1 crore in financial assistance for FY 2024-25, and the District Administration Baramulla will ensure the timely and effective execution of the project.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Baramulla emphasized the importance of such initiatives in empowering rural communities and enhancing infrastructure in remote areas. He lauded NHPC's CSR efforts and reiterated the administration's commitment to inclusive development.

## Indian Army Felicitates Pencak Silat Champion Sheikh Mohammad Ibrahim

BHAT ZAHOOOR

**SRINAGAR:** The Indian Army today proudly felicitated Master Sheikh Mohammad Ibrahim, a student of the Nirala Army Goodwill School, Margund for his exceptional achievement in winning the prestigious 5th



Pencak Silat World Championship held in Abu Dhabi from 18-22 December 2024.

This remarkable accomplishment has brought immense pride not only to the school and the Army but also to the entire nation.

The felicitation ceremony was organized at HQ Manasbal Sector where Brigadier Vipul Tyagi, Commander Manasbal Sector felicitated Master Sheikh Mohammad Ibrahim (Gold Medalist) and Mr Tanveer Ahmed - Coach and Sports teacher at Nirala Army Goodwill School, Margund.

Sheikh Mohammad Ibrahim, through dedication and perseverance, emerged victorious in 48-52 kg weight category, showcasing extraordinary talent and sportsmanship on the global stage.

Addressing the gathering, Brigadier Vipul Tyagi, Commander Manasbal Sector, commended Master Sheikh Mohammad Ibrahim for the hard work and determination that led to this remarkable feat. "His talent, perseverance and hardwork has earned him this remarkable feat and also reflects the high standards of education and opportunities provided at Army Goodwill Schools, which continue to empower students to excel in all fields." The student and coach were presented with a sports hamper during the ceremony.

In his address, Master Sheikh Mohammad Ibrahim expressed gratitude to the Wussan Battalion of the Indian Army, teachers, and family for their unwavering support and guidance.

This achievement is yet another testimony to the Army's commitment to nurturing young talent and encouraging excellence.

## Cemtac Cements Hosts Distributors' Meet: Unveils 2025 Calendar and Honours Top Performers

Srinagar: Prominent cement manufacturing company, Cemtac Cements recently hosted a grand distributors' meet titled "Mazboot Rishton Ki Nayi Pehchaan" to celebrate its strong network and unveil plans for the future. The event featured the launch of the 2025 company calendar, themed around old Kashmiri architecture, showcasing the region's rich cultural heritage.

A key highlight of the meet was a recap of the company's achievements in 2024 and an awards ceremony recognizing top-performing distributors. The top performer was presented with a Royal Enfield bike, the second place received an electric scooter, the third was gifted an iPhone 16, and other notable performers were rewarded with Home Appliances.

Imtiyaz Bhat, Sales and Marketing Head of Cemtac Cements, addressed the gathering, discussing the company's rebranding initiatives and strategic plans for 2025. He emphasized the company's commitment to sustainability and highlighted upcoming Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects in education and healthcare.

"This meet symbolizes our gratitude and dedication to building stronger relationships with our distributors while shaping a brighter, sustainable future," Bhat remarked.

The event marked another step in Cemtac Cements' journey of growth and community impact, setting the tone for an ambitious and responsible 2025.

## DC Kupwara takes detailed tour of Lolab sub division

**KUPWARA:** Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today held a detailed tour of Lolab sub division and took stock of the arrangements for conduct of the Lolab Snow Festival and other functioning of essential services after recent snowfall.

SDM Lolab, Javid Masoodi and Tehsildar Sogam accompanied the Deputy Commissioner.

During the tour, the Deputy Commissioner visited Kariwan Dever where the Snow Festival by District Administration is scheduled to be held.

She inspected the facilities to be provided to the people who will visit the place during the snow festival and directed the concerned officers to ensure fool proof arrangements in place so that the visitors will enjoy the different activities dur-



ing the festival.

Talking to media persons, the Deputy Com-

missioner appealed the people to come in large number to enjoy the scenic beauty of Lolab during the Snow Festival adding that the District Administration Kupwara has made adequate arrangements to make the Festival more vibrant and successful.

She also inspected the snow clearance operation going on major roads of Lolab sub division.

The Deputy Commissioner also paid a surprise visit to Sub District Hospital Sogam during which she inspected the functioning of all sections of the hospital which include OPD, IPD, Dialysis Unit, Labour Room,

USG, X-Ray, Jan Aushadi Store, Pharmacy, Ophthalmology and Dental Section.

She interacted with the patients and attendants and enquired about the services provided by the Hospital. The DC also interacted with the Doctors and Para medical staff and enjoined upon them to ensure seamless functioning of the hospital so that the people living in far flung areas of Lolab sub division do not face any inconvenience in getting proper healthcare services.

She also enquired from the BMO regarding the availability of essential drugs and was informed that sufficient stock of drugs are available in the hospital to cater the needs of the patients.

The Deputy Commissioner on her visit to Kariwan Dever, inspected newly established Receiving Station Diver while she got feedback from the concerned officials regarding the power supply schedule to different areas falling under the Receiving Station. She directed the officials to ensure adherence to curtailment schedule so that the people are provided electricity as per schedule.



ELECTRIC VEHICLES

The Government of India has made significant strides in promoting sustainable mobility, placing special emphasis on affordable and eco-friendly public transportation options for the masses. A cornerstone of this initiative is the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-India) Scheme, aimed at accelerating the transition to electric mobility. Since its inception in 2015, the scheme has evolved into a robust framework for incentivizing electric vehicles (EVs) and establishing essential infrastructure, ushering in a greener and more sustainable transportation era.

The first phase of FAME was a foundational step, rolled out for two years starting April 1, 2015. Following its success, the scheme's second phase, FAME-II, was launched in 2019 with an ambitious outlay of ₹11,500 crore. Beyond financial incentives, the FAME-II scheme has supported pivotal policy measures, including reducing the GST on EVs and facilitating the formulation of state-specific EV policies. A noteworthy aspect of FAME-II is its phased manufacturing program, which encourages domestic production of EV components and reduces reliance on imports. With an expenditure of ₹8,844 crore under FAME-II—comprising ₹6,577 crore for subsidies, ₹2,244 crore for capital assets, and ₹23 crore for other expenses—the government has demonstrated its unwavering focus on fostering an EV ecosystem. The scheme's progress has positioned India as a key player in sustainable mobility, significantly reducing the nation's carbon footprint while creating new economic opportunities in the EV sector. As India accelerates its transition to green mobility, the success of FAME-II sets the stage for deeper investments in clean energy transportation solutions. However, to fully capitalize on these gains, there is a need for consistent policy support, rapid infrastructure development, and increased public awareness about the environmental and economic benefits of EVs. With the right blend of innovation, collaboration, and governance, India can pave the way for a sustainable transportation future that resonates globally.



Dr. Reyaz Ahmad

In a world inundated with images of physical beauty, the adage "Pretty faces are everywhere, but pretty minds are rare" resonates with profound significance. While society often celebrates external appearances, it is the depth of character, intellect, and emotional intelligence that truly defines a person's worth. This article delves into the essence of inner beauty, exploring why cultivating a beautiful mind is not only essential for personal growth but also for fostering a more compassionate and understanding society.

The Allure of Physical Beauty

From the glossy pages of magazines to the curated feeds of social media, we are constantly bombarded with representations of physical beauty. The allure of a pretty face can be captivating, often leading to admiration and attention. However, this superficial appreciation can be fleeting. Physical beauty, while it may open doors and create initial impressions, does not guarantee lasting connections or meaningful relationships. It is a façade that can easily fade with time, age, or circumstance. Moreover, the obsession with physical beauty can lead to detrimental effects on mental health. Individuals may feel pressured to conform to unrealistic beauty standards, resulting in anxiety, low self-esteem, and body image issues. This societal fixation on appearance can overshadow the importance of nurturing our minds and character, leading to a culture that values superficiality over substance.

The Essence of a Beautiful Mind

In stark contrast, a beautiful mind is characterized by qualities such as empathy, creativity, intelligence, and resilience. It encompasses the ability to think critically, to understand and appreciate diverse perspectives, and to engage in meaningful conversations. A beautiful mind is not merely about academic prowess; it is about emotional depth and the capacity to connect with others on a profound level. Individuals with beautiful minds inspire those around them. They challenge conventional thinking, encourage innovation, and foster an environment where ideas can flourish. Their insights and wisdom often leave a lasting impact, shaping the thoughts and actions of others. In a world that can sometimes feel disconnected, these individuals serve as beacons of hope and understanding.

The Importance of Nurturing Inner Beauty

Cultivating a beautiful mind requires intentional effort and self-reflection. It involves embracing lifelong learning, seeking knowledge, and being open to new experiences. Engaging with literature, art, and diverse cultures can expand our horizons and deepen our understanding of the world. Moreover, practicing empathy and kindness can enhance our emotional intelligence, allowing us to connect with others in meaningful ways. In addition, mindfulness practices such as meditation and journaling can help individuals develop self-awareness and emotional regulation. These practices encourage introspection, allowing us to understand our thoughts and feelings better, ultimately leading to

Inner Brilliance: A Tribute to Rare and Beautiful Minds

a more profound connection with ourselves and others. In a society that often prioritizes external validation, it is crucial to shift our focus towards nurturing our inner selves. This transformation begins with self-acceptance and the recognition that our worth is not defined by our appearance but by our thoughts, actions, and the impact we have on others.

The Ripple Effect of Beautiful Minds

When we prioritize the development of beautiful

intelligence, and creativity, rather than mere physical attributes. on societal perceptions of beauty. By showcasing a broader range of beauty standards—such as featuring models of different sizes, ages, and backgrounds—media can help dismantle the unrealistic ideals that often prevail. Campaigns that celebrate natural beauty and authenticity can encourage individuals to embrace their unique qualities. Education and Awareness: Educational institutions can play a crucial role in reshaping beauty standards by incorporating discussions about body positivity, self-acceptance, and the importance of inner qualities. Workshops and programs that promote emotional intel-

lence, and creativity, rather than mere physical attributes.

The Role of Education and Mentorship

Education plays a pivotal role in shaping beautiful minds. Schools and institutions should prioritize not only academic excellence but also the development of critical thinking, creativity, and emotional intelligence. Encouraging students to engage in discussions, debates, and collaborative projects can foster an environment



minds, we contribute to a ripple effect that can transform communities and societies. Individuals who embody inner beauty are more likely to engage in acts of kindness, advocate for social justice, and inspire others to pursue their passions. They create spaces where collaboration and understanding thrive, fostering a culture of respect and inclusivity. Furthermore, as we celebrate and uplift those with beautiful minds, we challenge societal norms that equate worth with physical appearance. This shift can lead to a more compassionate world, where individuals are valued for their contributions, ideas, and character rather than their looks.

The Role of Society in Changing Perceptions of Beauty

Society plays a pivotal role in shaping perceptions of beauty. Media representation, cultural narratives, and community values all contribute to how beauty is defined and understood. By promoting diverse representations of beauty that encompass various body types, ethnicities, and abilities, society can challenge the narrow standards that have long dominated. Media Influence: The media has a profound impact

ligence and critical thinking can empower individuals to challenge societal norms and appreciate the beauty of diverse minds. Community Engagement: Grassroots movements and community initiatives can foster environments that celebrate inner beauty. By organizing events that highlight talents, creativity, and intellectual achievements, communities can shift the focus from physical appearance to the richness of character and intellect. Celebrating achievements in arts, sciences, and social contributions can inspire individuals to value their minds over their looks. Influencer Responsibility: Social media influencers and public figures have a responsibility to promote positive messages about beauty. By sharing their own journeys of self-acceptance and emphasizing the importance of mental and emotional well-being, they can inspire their followers to prioritize inner beauty. Authenticity in sharing struggles and triumphs can create a more relatable and supportive environment. Cultural Shifts: As society evolves, so too do its values. Movements advocating for body positivity, mental health awareness, and emotional intelligence are gaining momentum. These cultural shifts encourage individuals to redefine beauty in a way that encompasses kindness,

where diverse ideas are valued and explored.

Mentorship is another crucial aspect of nurturing beautiful minds. When experienced individuals guide and support younger generations, they can instill values of curiosity, resilience, and empathy. Mentors can help mentees navigate challenges, encouraging them to embrace their unique perspectives and talents.

Conclusion: Embracing the Rarity of Beautiful Minds

In conclusion, while pretty faces may be ubiquitous, the rarity of beautiful minds is a reminder of the qualities that truly matter. As we navigate a world often fixated on external appearances, let us strive to cultivate our inner beauty and appreciate the minds that inspire us. By doing so, we not only enrich our own lives but also contribute to a more thoughtful, empathetic, and understanding society. In the end, it is the beauty of our minds that will leave a lasting legacy, shaping the world for generations to come.

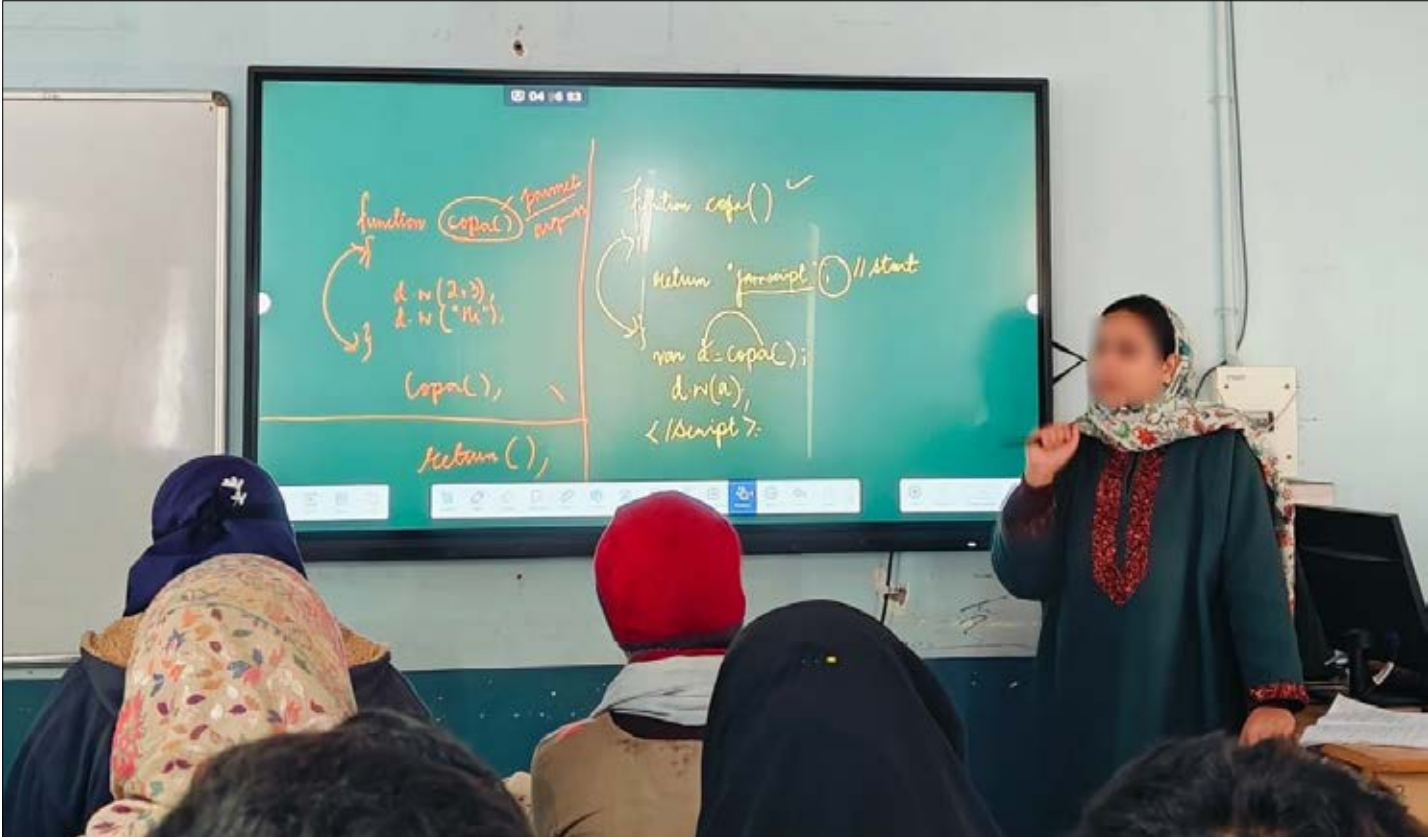
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‘Contractual Conundrum’: Mariya’s Hunt to Stability

By: Zeeshan Ahad

‘A young mother trapped in a job limbo, struggles to meet her dream job. Within times she nourishes, outshines in a teaching profession’

Srinagar: Back in the Autum of 2013, Mariya Bashir, 24 years old from Rainawari, Srinagar was looking at the setting sun when the sun was gone but not its light. She was thinking about her future job, after qualifying her PG in Computers from IUST, Awantipora. Her high hopes, eager young mind had implanted a working soul in her, nurturing her to land in a government job. But her fate surpasses with a test, when she was offered to join ITI, Srinagar as a Contractual Instructor. For Mariya joining the ITI on contractual basis wasn't less then walking on a naked sword. As for her she could hold-out herself for the government job she had dreamed of, but the path which leads her dream was full of uncertain delays. With 'heavy resentment', Mariya braced herself for the journey, accepted the Job, hoping to get permanent within some upcoming years. Though, a decade passed out since she had joined the ITI, her hope to get permanent still hangs up in vain. "Ten years were more than enough to let me getting a permanent designation here," Mariya tells the reporter, while leaning back to her chair. "For the sense of purpose, working as a contractual doesn't offer Job security," she continues. "A low salary doesn't represent my worth, but it represents all the efforts I had made since 2013," she told the reporter with a staid look. "My struggles can't define me, but my strengths will," she further continues. At present, Mariya Bashir, 36, married and the mother of Duo's continues to work determinedly as a contractual Instructor at ITI Srinagar, earning a salary of rupees 20,000 per month. Though, according to Mariya, during her last 10 years of working as a Contractual Instructor, she had approached



the government officials many times to let her secure the permanent position. Nonetheless, her appeals didn't bare any positive outcome. "Approaching the Officials is totally a vague," she told the reporter with pale look. "Sometimes it seems that we 'contractual workers' didn't exist for them," she further added. "Right now, age criteria rules, after crossing the eligibility norms, I can't even apply for any other position. Administra-

tion must sound on our cases," she explains to the reporter. From some recent years, contractual and outsourced employment is transforming the Job market in J&K. These jobs offer limited security and typically lasts for few months to a year, with no guarantee of regularization. According to Aspirants, this shift in employment undermines job security and career growth. And administration must address this issue so that the aspirants must have a stable career opportunity. Moreover, as per Mariya facing numerous uncertain-

ties like the renewal assistance and the lack of permanent position doesn't let her to compromise with the teaching passion she holds out. With a new dawn, between the unexpected twists and turns, 36 years old Mariya Bashir, starts paving her way towards the ITI, Srinagar. Upon her arrival, Mariya Bashir dressed in a Kashmiri attire starts folding-up her Pheran Cuffs, she wisely picks notes from her Handbag, up-holds a pen and starts the lecture.

While Mariya, digging down her lecture, a life-time memories and determination for teaching carves on her face. "Life is full of unforeseen turns. Sometimes the path we choose didn't lead us to our destiny, but still leads us towards transformation and learning," she finally concluded

From some recent years, contractual and outsourced employment is transforming the Job market in J&K. These jobs offer limited security and typically lasts for few months to a year, with no guarantee of regularization. According to Aspirants, this shift in employment undermines job security and career growth. And administration must address this issue so that the aspirants must have a stable career opportunity.

with a sanguine smile. On the Babedemb road, the motor vehicles are echoing with the cacophony sounds. Beneath the Winter Sun, Mariya Bashir, tired-out from her busy day, waits for her bus. Sooner a bus pulls up, Mariya hurries in. Between the hustle-bustle, her eyes spot a vacant chair, she sits on it. As the bus heads forward, Mariya rests her back patiently, breathing calmly, her heart adores to meet her Dou daughters, whom she had promised candies and chocolates, she smiles with herself and hopes for a better tomorrow.

Zeeshan Ahad is an independent journalist based in J&K's Capital Srinagar-India. He can be reached via zeeshanahad26@gmail.com.



# DC Pulwama chairs DLC meet for verification of PDS beneficiaries database

**PULWAMA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, chaired a meeting for review and verification of beneficiaries enrolled in the Public Distribution System (PDS) database.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the current status of the PDS database, ensuring the accuracy of records and identifying discrepancies, if any.

He stressed the importance of streamlining the system to ensure that all deserving beneficiaries receive their entitlements under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and other welfare schemes in alignment with the latest population projections as mandated by rules for inclusion of beneficiaries in existing households and exclusion as per the criteria laid down by rules.

DC outlined a multi-tiered approach to verification, involving the District-Level Committee, the Tehsil-Level Committee and the Village-Level Committee. These committees will work in coordination



to thoroughly verify beneficiaries and weed out ineligible individuals, ensuring that only deserving citizens receive the benefits and inclusion of eligible left out members in the Households.

He further instructed that grievances from the public regarding

PDS benefits be resolved on priority to maintain transparency and accountability in the system. He called for enhanced coordination between the Revenue and FCS&CA departments to ensure the proper categorization of beneficiaries.

Dr. Qayoom further urged all stakeholders to collaborate effectively and adhere to strict timelines for completing the verification process. He stressed the importance of transparency and accountability in delivering public welfare services. The meeting was attended by senior officials, including the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Pulwama (Member Secretary), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Pulwama, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Pulwama, Assistant Director FCS&CA Pulwama, all Tehsildars and other concerned officers. The meeting concluded with a commitment to ensure efficient service delivery and improving the overall functioning of the PDS in the district.

## DDC launches Baseline Survey under Mission Yuva in Baramulla

**BARAMULLA:** District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today launched the baseline survey under Mission Yuva at Dakbanglow Baramulla, a key initiative aimed at empowering youth and fostering entrepreneurship across the

1,500 investigators will be working to gather real-time data on the needs, aspirations, and challenges faced by the youth. Speaking at the launch, the DDC emphasized the importance of the baseline survey in shaping the future of youth empowerment in the district. "This survey will

empowerment and entrepreneurship. These pillars are designed to create an ecosystem where youth can access financial resources, enhance their skills, preserve their cultural identity, and connect with relevant networks to fuel their success.

In addition, the District Development Commissioner directed all officers to gear up for an extensive IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) campaign, ensuring that the public is well-informed and engaged in the mission. This campaign will play a key role in raising awareness about the opportunities available under Mission Yuva and encouraging active participation from the community.

The DDC also directed all officers to ensure close monitoring of the survey's progress and to guarantee its successful implementation.

Residents are encouraged to cooperate with the survey teams and ensure their participation, helping to build a stronger, more self-reliant Baramulla.



district. The survey will identify unemployed, under-employed, and aspiring entrepreneurs, providing valuable data to frame interventions such as loans, skill development programs, and other support mechanisms.

The survey to be conducted through a door-to-door approach, will cover all Panchayats, Blocks, and Villages in Baramulla.

A team of 75 supervisors and

help us understand the specific needs and potential of our youth. Based on the data collected, we will provide them with tailored support through Mission Yuva, ensuring that every aspiring individual has the opportunity to succeed," the DC stated.

Mission Yuva is structured around four strategic pillars: Culture, Capital, Capacity, and Connectivity, to provide a holistic framework for youth

## DLSA Srinagar, Budgam organise training prog for Legal Service Unit for Children

**SRINAGAR:** District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with DLSA Budgam, organized a two-day orientation training programme for the members of the Legal Service Unit for Children (LSUC) for the implementation of the NALSA Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children Scheme 2024.

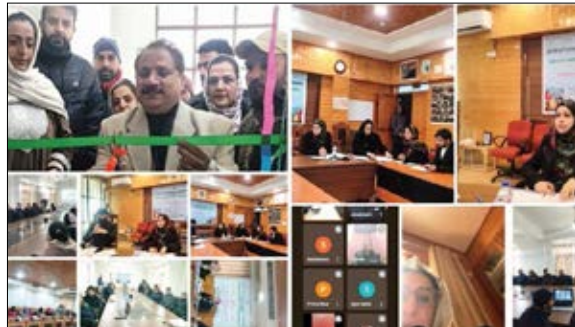
The event, held under the chairmanship of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA Srinagar/Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and Om Prakash Baghat, Chairman DLSA Budgam/Principal District & Sessions Judge, Budgam, aimed to enhance the understanding and execution of the NALSA Scheme 2024.

The training programme was inaugurated at the ADR Centre, District Court Complex, Budgam, by Om Prakash Baghat in the presence of officials and members of the Legal Services Unit of DLSA Budgam.

Masarat Shaheen, a retired judicial officer and mentor of the committee, addressed the participants virtually, emphasizing the pivotal role of the scheme in creating child-friendly legal services. She highlighted the need for a compassionate approach in addressing the legal needs of children. Nusrat Ali Hakak, Civil Judge (Sr. Division) and Secretary DLSA Srinagar/ DLSA Budgam, elaborated on the objectives of the orientation programme.

She stressed the importance of equipping participants with the knowledge and tools required for effective implementation of the scheme, ensuring justice reaches the most vulnerable sections of society.

Advocate Gazala Mumtaz and Mr. Sharooq Ahmad Bhat, members of the LSUC for the implementation of the NALSA Scheme 2024,



shared their practical experiences in the field. They discussed real-world challenges and best practices to address the legal needs of children effectively.

Members of the Legal Services Unit for Children from both DLSA Srinagar and Budgam actively participated in the discussions, sharing insights and experiences. The virtual participation of Budgam LSUC members enriched the discourse, contributing to a broader understanding of the scheme's objectives and strategies for its successful implementation.

## DC Shopian takes stock of arrangements for Winter Carnival Dubjan

**SHOPIAN:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar, today visited Dubjan along the Mughal Road to oversee preparations for the Winter Carnival, scheduled to be held on January 11th & 12th.

This event aims to promote tourism, culture, and community engagement in the district.

The Winter Carnival, named "NAGRAI HEEMAL," is set to feature a variety of activities, including snow crafts, snow igloos, ice sports, competitions for children, and exhibitions of local cuisine and arts. The district administration is coordinating efforts across various departments to ensure the event's success. During his visit, DC emphasized the importance of effective planning and collaboration among departments to provide a memorable experience for participants and to showcase the unique cultural and natural attractions of Shopian.

The district administration invites locals and tourists to participate in the Winter Carnival and experience the diverse activities planned, aiming to make it a significant annual event in Shopian's cultural calendar. Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar and other concerned accompanied the Deputy Commissioner.

## Amidst inclement weather, DC Kupwara deposes officers to review health facilities

**KUPWARA:** In view of the continued cold weather following snowfall, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, deputised Tehsildar Zachaldara, to conduct inspection of hospitals within the territorial jurisdiction of Tehsil Zachaldara. During the inspection, Tehsildar Zachaldara interacted with patients, hospital staff, and administrators to assess the quality of healthcare services being provided.

He enquired about the availability of medical facilities, equipment, and essential medicines, ensuring that patients receive comprehensive healthcare services. Similarly, following the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Tehsildar Handwara, along with the Revenue team conducted market checking in Handwara on Thursday. During the inspection, Tehsildar Handwara visited various markets to inspect the rates of essential commodities. Throughout the drive, erring shopkeepers were fined on the spot and directed to keep fresh vegetables available in the market.



## Vision 2047: Srinagar Charts Path for 25 Years of Sustainable Growth

**SRINAGAR:** In order to review the Action Plan regrading vision document 2047 for carrying out development process in Srinagar District over next 25 years, a meeting was held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here today in the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex.

Besides, Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, the meeting was attended by General Manager DIC, Deputy Director Employment, Assistant

Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Revenue and other Officers of line Departments.

During the meeting a comprehensive discussion was held involving key departmental goals aimed at transforming the District into a model of progress and sustainability.

The participants were sensitized about the objectives of the Vision document 2047 with detailed roadmap of all the sectors to be followed till 2047 for development and all other aspects with focused attention on

connectivity, modern infrastructure, protection of environment, transparent governance keeping community at the core of all the developmental process.

On the occasion, it was impressed upon all the Officers to furnish a comprehensive Action Plan along with the objectives to be achieved. The Officers were also asked to incorporate sector wise strategies to meet specific targets with focus on local resource utilization, private investment and involvement of community for inclusive development.

## DLSA Kulgam holds prog for implementation of NALSA Schemes 2024

**KULGAM:** DLSA Kulgam held an overview Orientation Training Programme for implementation of the NALSA Schemes 2024



District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kulgam held an overview programme on Orientation Training Programme for the members of the Legal Service Unit for Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM) and Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC).

The event was held under

the Chairmanship of Aijaz Ahmed Khan, Chairman DLSA Kulgam/Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Kulgam and under the supervision of Mehreen Mushtaq, Chief Judicial Magistrate/Secretary, DLSA Kulgam and in presence of Additional District and Sessions Judge Parvaiz Iqbal and was attended by Mentor/Advisor of Committee (Retired Judicial Officer) Mohammad Ashraf Bhat and members of the Said units.

The initiative aims to enhance the understanding and implementation of the NALSA Scheme 2024.

Mohammad Ashraf Bhat (Retired Judicial Officer) advisor/

mentor of the committee, addressed the participants virtually.

He emphasized the need for effective implementation of the scheme and provided valuable insights on the role of LSUM and LSUC in bridging the gap between the legal system and vulnerable individuals.

The Resource Person for the programme Basit Farooq Assistant LADC provided insights of the Schemes and the purposes for which the Units have been constituted.

The Chairman DLSA-Kulgam Aijaz Ahmed Khan emphasized upon the fact that there is a need to work with dedication for realizing the purposes of these Schemes and for proper coordination amongst different Units and stakeholders so that the real objectives of the scheme are fulfilled.

## DC Shopian reviews progress under HADP



**Shopian:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

During the meeting, it was informed that 556 individual cases were cleared under the scheme and that all targets shall be achieved by March, 2025.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all agri allied departments to expedite farmer enrollments on Daksh Kisan, Kisan Sathi and Kisan Khidmat Ghars and ensure the timely completion of courses for all farmers availing incentives under the HADP scheme.

Emphasizing the need for leveraging technology, the DC instructed district officers to mobilize field staff and Krishi Udyamis for the installation of the Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) app on farmer's mobile devices. This initiative aims to enable farmers to access benefits and adopt innovative agricultural practices effectively. The Deputy Commissioner further urged all officers and field staff to intensify efforts to reach out to farmers, ensuring maximum participation in HADP initiatives and utilizing available resources to their full potential.

## DC Pulwama Reviews Road Safety

**PULWAMA:** In a bid to enhance road safety awareness and mitigate accidents, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Basharat Qayoom inaugurated the National Road Safety Month 2025 with a resolute commitment towards achieving zero accident-related mortality.

Addressing a gathering of officials, the DC emphasized the importance of collective efforts to make roads safer for everyone. He highlighted the alarming statistics of road accidents and the need for a comprehensive approach to tackle this issue.

"As we embark on National Road Safety Month, our goal is zero accident-related mortality," Dr Qayoom said and added, "Each life lost on the road is one too many and we must work together to change this narrative."

The month-long campaign will feature various activities, including awareness drives, workshops and educational programs aimed at instilling responsible road behavior.

Special emphasis will be placed on educating drivers, pedestrians and cyclists about the importance of adhering to traffic rules and adopting safe practices.

DC announced the implementation of stricter enforcement measures to ensure

compliance with traffic regulations. The initiative also involves collaborating with local schools, businesses and community organizations to create a widespread impact.

"We need a paradigm shift in our approach to road safety. It is not just about regulations; it is about fostering a culture of responsibility and vigilance on our roads," emphasized DC during the event launch.

The National Road Safety Month comes at a critical juncture, aiming to curb the rising trend of road accidents and improve overall road safety infrastructure.

Dr. Qayoom's vision for zero accident-related mortality reflects a commitment to creating a safer environment for all road users.

## Jal Shakti Minister inspects Rangil WTP; reviews functioning

**GANDERBAL:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, today inspected Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Rangil in Ganderbal to take stock of its functioning.

The Minister inspected various units of the plant and enquired about their operational status. He took stock of water supply to households, storage capacity, water reservoirs, pump room and water testing laboratories. He was informed that the water treatment plants at Rangil feed portable drinking water to a large population of Srinagar city, Ganderbal district and few areas of Baramulla district.

While inspecting the 20 million gallons per day (MGD) and 10 MGD reservoirs at Rangil, Javed Rana maintained that nature has gifted the valley with abundant water resources and it is our prime duty to protect and keep them pollution free.

While sharing suggestions for further improvement, Rana urged upon the officials to carry out regular inspection of water tanks. He asked them to keep the surroundings of Rangil WTP clean from any possible contamination of water. He stressed upon the concerned officials to ensure that quality water is supplied to the consumers besides regular water tests are done.

Javed Rana enjoined upon the officers to expedite the work on 5 MGD filtration plant,

while maintaining set quality parameters, which will further boost the carrying capacity of the Rangil plant.

Appreciating the work of the officers of Jal Shakti department, the Minister further emphasised on efficient water supply management and clean, safe drinking water supply to every household. He said that the government is committed to provide drinking water tap connections to every household under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Department, Kashmir, Braham Jyoti Sharma, presented a brief about the functioning of both 20 MGD and 10 MGD WTPs and the future plans.

He apprised the Minister that the water treatment plant assumes huge significance as it feeds potable drinking water to various habitations of Srinagar, Ganderbal and Baramulla districts. He also said that work is in progress on the 5 MGD water filtration plant and steps are afoot to complete it within the stipulated timeframe.



## Div Com, ADGP Jammu review arrangements for celebration of Republic Day-2025

**JAMMU:** Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police Anand Jain today chaired a meeting to review the preparations for UT level celebration of Republic Day-2025.

The meeting was attended by IGP Crime, DCG Youth Services and Sports, senior officers from Police and HODs of different departments including Culture, Science and Technology, Health, Co-operative, Traffic and Security.

The meeting focused on finalizing the Tableaux to be made by different departments. The theme based Tableaux of each department will promote the respective initiatives and schemes launched by the government for the welfare of the people.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the departments to appoint nodal officers to coordinate the arrangements with different departments. He stressed seamless execution of the themes



and concepts approved for the respective departments.

It was informed that the Tableaux of Jammu Kashmir Police will showcase the unrelenting efforts against Drug abuse and Narcotics.

The Health department will display its efforts towards implementation of TB Mukht Bharat in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Culture department will promote the cultural diversity and folk culture of Jammu Kashmir. The Tableaux based on PM Suryaghar Yojna, Fit India movement, Swachh Bharat Mission, Cooperative Credit Societies shall be other features of the celebration of Republic Day 2025.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the departments to complete their respective Tableaux by 20th of January.

He further issued necessary directions with regards to preparations and arrangements of the UT level celebration of the National festival.



# Ministry of Defence: Year End Review: 2024- Part-V

**INDIAN COAST GUARD**

- Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) is constructing two Pollution Control Vessels for Indian Coast Guard. It is for the first time that these vessels are being designed and constructed indigenously. The ship was launched in August 2024 and named as ‘Samudra Pratap’ in the presence of Raksha Rajya Mantri.
- GSL is constructing eight Fast Patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard. The first two ships were launched in October 2024 and named as Adamya and Akshar in the presence of DG, ICG Paramesh Sivamani.

**Procurement**

- Contract with BEL: In January 2024, ICG signed a procurement contract of 267 V/UHF Software Defined Radios portable device for ICG ships and establishments with BEL, Bengaluru at the cost of Rs 90.71 crore.
- ALH Mk-III: Contract for procurement of nine ALH Mk-III Helicopters for ICG was concluded with HAL, Bengaluru in March 2024 for an amount of Rs 4,079.78 crore.

**Major Projects:**

- Inauguration of Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, Chennai in August 2024 by Raksha Mantri.
- Inauguration of ICG Jetty at Vadinar on March 2024 by Raksha Mantri.
- Inauguration of CGAE Puducherry and Regional Marine Pollution Response Centre in August 2024 by Raksha Mantri.
- Inauguration of Hovercraft Maintenance Unit at Okha in March 2024 by Defence Secretary.

**Anti-smuggling & Narcotics**

- In 2024, ICG seized over 6,016 kilograms of methamphetamine, an INMARSAT satellite phone, Myanmar currency worth 633,850 Kyat, 4.9 Kgs of 24 Carat Gold bars with a market value of approx Rs 3.43 crore, 1.38 lakh kgs of contrabands which include sea cucumber, insecticides, Kendu Leaves, Betel Nuts etc. at a total market value of approx Rs 24.29 crore. ICG in six joint operations with NCB, DRI, ATS Gujarat and A&N Police seized 438.04 Kgs of narcotics worth Rs 7,133.60 crore.

**Coastal Security**

- Coastal Surveillance Network: Chain of Static Sensors has been setup along the coastline for enhanced electronic surveillance (46 Radar Stations setup under Phase-I and another 38 Radar Stations being setup under Phase-II).
- ‘Sagar Kavach’: In order to enhance coordination between Coastal Security stakeholders and validate the Coastal Security SOPs promulgated by ICG, ‘Sagar Kavach’ is conducted biannually in each Coastal State/UT. A total of 16 Coastal Security exercises have been conducted since January 2024. In addition, a total of 31 Coastal Security Operations have also been conducted.
- Boarding Operations: Boarding Operations are undertaken by ICG ships on patrol for implementing maritime laws and to create deterrence against inimical elements. A total of 21,873 boarding operations have been conducted since January 2024.

**Aid to Civil Authority**

- In January 2024, ICG received information regarding grounding of MV Swasthya Sathi with approx. 400 pilgrims onboard in position 12 nautical miles North-east of Sagar Lt. ICG immediately launched Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs) from Sagar Island & Haldia to provide assistance to the grounded ferry. ICG Dornier was also launched from Kolkata for monitor the situation. A total of 182 devotees were evacuated by ICG ACVs.
- In July 2024, ICG launched operation ‘Op Sahayata 02/24’ to provide assistance during major landslide at Mep-padi Village, Wayanad District, Kerala. ICG ALH MK-III and Disaster Relief Teams assisted in search and evacuation of stranded persons/ recovery of deceased bodies. Additionally, ICG teams also distributed life-saving equipment, relief stores/ material, medicines and freshwater in the affected areas.

**Search & Rescue**

Search and Rescue data for 2024 as on November 30 is as follows:-

01 Jan – 30 Nov 24	
Missions	158
Life Saved	141
Air Sorties	113
Ship Sorties	256
Medical Evacuation	22

**International Cooperation**

- Ship Visits: During the year, ICG officially visited Sri Lanka, African, ASEAN nations and East Asian countries to strengthen long-standing diplomatic ties and enhance maritime cooperation. ICG also participated in 16th edition of trilateral exercise DOSTI among India, Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- High Level Meetings: ICG as part of the internal maritime cooperation, conducted bilateral meetings with Japan Coast Guard and Royal Oman Police Coast Guard. Also, DG, ICG participated in the 18th Governing Council meeting of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia.
- ICG-JCG Joint Exercise: In January 2024, Japan Coast Guard Ship Yashima was in Chennai for Joint Exercise covering various operational parameters viz. SAR, Law enforcement, Pollution response etc, with ICG.

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION**

- In continuous pursuit of self-reliance and to minimise imports by DPSUs, Department of Defence Production (DDP) notified fifth PIL of 346 items in June 2024. These items would be indigenised in the coming years and procured from Indian Industry after the timelines indicated against each of them.
- DDP has successfully indigenised more than 13,000 items during the period of four years since the launch of Sri-jan Portal. More than 37,000 items were uploaded by DPSUs and Service Headquarters on the portal for indigenisation by Industry. This includes 5,012 items of DPSUs under PILs being notified by DDP. More than 2,700 items of Srijan Portal

including 86 PIL items have been indigenised this year.

- Codification of Defence inventory & stores is steered and directed by Defence Equipment Codification Committee (DECC). Based on the annual Codification Roll-on-Plan formulated by DECC, codification of defence inventory & stores have been carried out. Over 18,000 lines of inventory & stores have been codified during 2024. Total of 94 Common Use equipment & systems (Tri-Service or Two-Service usage) consisting of 43,379 lines of items have been codified.
- Department of Defence Production launched a key initiative named MISSION RAKSHA GYAN SHAKTI (MRGS) in April 2018 for creation and management of Intellectual Property Rights of DPSUs. As on 01.11.2024, DPSUs have filed a total of 6,109 IPR applications, of which 2,840 have been granted/registered.
- The 15th edition of Aero India is scheduled to be held from February 10-14, 2025 at Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Since its inception in 1996, 14 successful events have been held with participation from across the globe.
- Indigenous Design & Development of Defence Systems has been undertaken through ‘Make Procedure’ given at Ch-III of Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020. In 2024, 10 projects have been accorded ‘Approval-in-Principle’ bringing the total tally to 145 projects. Also, five projects



have been accorded AoN this year, taking the number of AoN projects to 65.

**Defence Exports**

- In FY 2023-24, defence exports reached a record high of Rs 21,083 crore registering a growth of 32.5% over the last financial year. Based on the value of Export Authorisation issued by DDP to private companies and actual export/contract done by DPSUs, the export value during the last six years is Rs 10,746 (2018-19), Rs 9,116 (2019-20), Rs 8,436 (2020-21), Rs 12,815 (2021-22), Rs. 15,920 (2022-23) and Rs 21,083 (2023-24).
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Defence Exports was further simplified in May 2024 and made more business-friendly. Provision for export of munitions list items for demonstration and for export of non-lethal items munition list as sample for business development has also been made in the SOP for Export. For Ease of Doing Business, DGFT has authorised DDP to grant export authorisations for items covered under SCOMET sub-categories 6A007 and 6A008. In order to further promote ease of doing business, DDP has promulgated three Open General Export License (OGEL). OGEL is a one-time export license, which permits the industry to export items to the destinations as specified in the OGEL, without seeking export authorisation during the validity of the OGEL. OGEL has been expanded by increasing the number of countries and items therein.
- An online facility/EXIM portal for collation and dissemination of export leads received from all over the world has been established. The portal is a repository of Indian defence exporters and the export leads are transmitted instantly to the concerned exporters. A total of 153 leads have been disseminated through the portal since January 01, 2024.
- To boost defence exports, webinars/seminars are being organised with friendly countries under the aegis of DDP through Industry Associations. Ten webinars/seminars have been organised since January 01, 2024.
- To promote defence exports, overseas offices are being opened by DPSUs. An SOP has been issued to streamline the process for establishment of overseas offices.

**IDEX**

- During the year, 155 winners of IDEX challenges were declared, 88 contracts were signed and nine prototypes were developed.
- IDEX organised the DefConnect 2024 on in March 2024, during which Raksha Mantri carried out the following launches:
  - ADITI (Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with IDEX) scheme to provide support to start-ups/MSMEs with grants of up to Rs 25 crore targeting development of cutting edge, critical and strategic technologies.
  - First edition of ADITI (ADITI 1.0) with 17 challenges.
  - 11th edition of Defence India Start-up

Challenge (DISC) with 22 challenges.

- IDEX-DIO organised DefConnect 4.0 in October 2024. Following events took place:
  - Raksha Mantri launched the following:**
    - ADITI 2.0 with 19 challenges.
    - 12th edition of DISC with 41 challenges.
  - A technology showcase was organised by IDEX-DIO with a diverse range of technology start-ups.
  - During Indian Navy’s ‘Swavilamban 2024’ held in October 2024, Raksha Mantri launched the third edition of ADITI (ADITI 3.0) with one challenge and 13th edition of DISC with seven challenges.
  - DIO achieved a significant milestone by signing its 350th contract in June 2024 to design & develop a miniaturised satellite, capable of carrying multiple payloads up to 150 kgs for Indian Air Force.
  - The third edition of INDUS-X (India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem) Summit was held in California in September 2024. It featured in the Joint Factsheet/Statement of Prime Minister and US President released on September 21, 2024.
  - Government has established two Defence Industrial Corridors in the country - one in Uttar Pradesh with six nodes viz. Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur & Lucknow and another in Tamil Nadu with five nodes viz.



Chennai, Coimbatore, Hosur, Salem and Tiruchirapalli. As on September 2024, in both the corridors, arrangements have been made through 249 MoUs, for proposed investment of Rs 50,083 crore. Actual investment of Rs 8,331 has already been made in these corridors.

- A centralised online Defence Testing Portal has been commissioned as part of Digital DGQA Program for centralised, networked and optimal utilisation of Trial & Testing facilities of labs and firing ranges by industries available in the country. Defence Testing Portal has been made live for Defence Industry to access the portal as service user as well as service provider. Till date, a total of 86 Labs and 15 Proof Ranges of DGQA, DGAQA, DRDO & DPSUs have been on-boarded. 148 Service Providers and 212 Service Users have been registered at DTP with a total of 6,643 Lab tests & 416 Proof Tests which can be requisitioned on DTP.
- As a test bed model, Hybrid QA 4.0 with remote QA was established by DGQA at BEL Machilipatnam. As per directions of MoD/ DDP, Industry 4.0/ QA 4.0 has also been implemented in respect of 100 products in 100 days. Further, all the Products/ processes at DPSUs are to be covered under Industry 4.0/ QA 4.0 towards implementation of Remote/ Hybrid QA in 16x DPSUs in phased manner.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) attained the ‘Maharatna’ status on in October 2024, becoming the 14th Central Public Sector Enterprise in India to receive the recognition.
- HAL has indigenously designed and developed the first 60 KW GTEG-60, the Auxiliary Power Unit for the Military Transport aircraft AN-32. The control unit of GTEG-60 is also designed and developed in house by HAL. It was handed over to IAF by HAL in July 2024.
- Prime Minister inaugurated the Final Assembly Line Complex for the Airbus C295 Aircraft in Vadodara, Gujarat along with Spanish President.
- Raksha Rajya Mantri flagged-off the indigenously developed and manufactured Astra Missiles for supply to Indian Air Force in January 2024 at BDL, Kanchanbagh Unit, Hyderabad.
- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) was conferred with SIDM Champion Award for 2024 by Raksha Mantri under the category Import Substitution for the development of Thermal Imager Technology modules for T90 Tanks. BEL is the only DPSU to receive the SIDM Championship Award 2024.
- Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankar presented the SCOPE Excellence Award in Special Institutional category (Digitalisation) to BEL.
- A historical milestone was achieved as BEL was granted 150th patent, fostering Aatmanirbharta efforts and enhancing the culture of innovation in BEL.
- MIDHANI developed Indian Advanced High Tem-

perature Alloy for Advanced Ultra-Super Critical Thermal power plants to withstand inlet steam temperature of 700 degrees and pressure of 340 bars.

- A Tripartite MoU was signed between BEML, BEL and MIDHANI for the Development of Advanced Fuelling and Control System for Engines. A significant step towards self-reliance.
- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) was conferred ‘Navratna’ status by the DPE in June 2024. MDL is the 21st PSU, first amongst the government owned shipyards and third among DPSUs having ‘Navratna’ status.
- Midget Submarine Prototype ‘Arowana’ was launched in May 2024 at MDL in the presence of Defence Secretary.
- GSL launched the following this year:
  - One Missile Frigate for Indian Navy.
  - One Pollution Control Vessel for Indian Coast Guard
  - Two Fast Patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard.
  - HSL signed a contract with Indian Navy for construction of Five Fleet Support Ships (FSS). Defence Secretary presided over the steel-cutting ceremony of first FSS in April 2024, while the keel laying ceremony was undertaken in November 2024.
- GRSE designed & built first Survey Vessel Large, ‘INS Sandhayak’ was commissioned in the presence of Raksha Mantri at the Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam in February 2024.
- India’s largest ‘Fully Electric 150 Passenger Catamaran Ferry’ built by GRSE for the Government of West Bengal completed river trials successfully and technical acceptance was given in March 2024. This zero-emission ferry, designed by GRSE, is poised to revolutionize passenger transport across River Hooghly as well as the Movement of vessels along National Waterway-I.
- GRSE delivered Second Survey Vessel large ‘INS Nirdeshak’ to Indian Navy in October 2024.
- GRSE launched seventh Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft ‘Abbey’ in October 2024.
- Fusion Technology based Driver Night Sight has been developed for the first time in India by IOL, increasing the efficiency of the Armed Forces.
- Indigenously developed 155x52 cal Towed Gun System was successfully test fired at PXE Balasore by AWEIL, to mark a new beginning in the field of Artillery guns.
- Indigenisation of Bearing of T-90 Tank Article has been completed by AWEIL. This is an important milestone towards successful completion of indigenisation and a step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

**DEFENCE ACQUISITION**

Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 has been driven by the tenets of Defence Reforms announced as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan by promoting indigenous design, development and manufacturing of defence equipment, platforms, systems and sub-systems. A number of initiatives have been taken in Defence procurement to give a thrust to Aatmanirbharta in Defence while also simplifying the procedures. These include:

- For promoting indigenous defence industry, following amendments were made to DAP-2020:-
  - Import of Defence Equipment from any Foreign Original Equipment Manufacturer has been made only as an exception with specific approvals from Defence Acquisition Council.
  - To reduce financial burden on the Indian Industry whilst maintaining financial safeguards, Integrity Pact Bank Guarantee (IPBG) has been dispensed with. Instead, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) will be taken as a bid security which will be valid for the selected vendor up to signing of contract and returned to remaining vendors post declaration of selection.
  - Inclusion of provision for minimum 50% Indigenous Content (IC) in the form of indigenous material/ components/ software in the equipment being acquired with an aim at boosting indigenous production and reduce import dependency.
  - Streamlining and improving the procedures for procurement of technologies developed by Indian Startups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through various schemes like Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) & Technology Development Fund (TDF). Procedure for procurement under TDF and iDEX has been simplified to reduce the procurement cycle, with corresponding resultant reduction in the costs, thus enabling the budding startup talent pool of the country to contribute towards the twin mantras of self-sufficiency and indigenization. In iDEX cases, quantity vetting and scaling will be dispensed with for initial procurement, subject to the procurement value being commensurate with delegated cases.
  - Liberalising the financial parameters of vendor selection criteria for MSMEs and Startups to participate in the Capital procurement cases. For procurement cases where the estimated cost is upto Rs 300 crores, to encourage the Start Ups/ MSMEs and build Industrial ecosystem, the recognized Start Ups/ MSMEs in the relevant fields are considered for issue of RFP without any stipulation of Financial parameters and with General and Technical parameters to be decided on a case to case basis. The same waiver will also be applicable for cases where estimated cost is between Rs 300 and 500 crores, however, on a case to case basis where adequate justification exists, subject to approval by the Defence Procurement Board (DPB).
  - To achieve the goal of Aatmanirbharta, during 2024 (upto November), out of the total 132 defence capital acquisition contracts signed, 126 contracts (approx. 95.45%) have been signed with Indian vendors for procurement of defence equipment.
  - During 2024 (upto November), DAC & DPB accorded AoN for 40 Capital Acquisition proposals amounting to Rs 4,22,129.55 crore.



# Continued From P1...

### Dual centres

Responding to a question about the Raj Bhavan not restoring public holiday on NC founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's birthday on December 5, and July 13 as Martyr's Day, the chief minister said it cannot erase the legacy of those who have made sacrifices.

“The legacy of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah does not begin and end on December 5. Same goes with the martyrs of July 13. When a farmer tills his land, he thinks of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. When a student receives free or subsidized education, it is legacy of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. The hall where we are sitting right now was his legacy as well,” Abdullah said.

“The holidays became a big story. Ideally, we would want to have them as they are emotionally attached with people,” he added.

Asked about difficulties faced by the candidates on account of police verification for appointments in the government jobs, Abdullah said although it is outside his domain as of now, he has discussed the matter with the CID chief.

“I have been long saying this that a militant's son is not a militant. Consciously, we did away with this blacklisting (in his first term as CM). We can only counsel about it right now. But I believe there is some relief. More will be done for them when we are a state,” he said.

Abdullah also said that his government was framing a policy to address the situation of hoteliers in Gulmarg whose land leases have expired after they had opted for now-disbanded Roshini scheme.

Responding to a question on the row over land acquisition for a campus of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, the chief minister said there is a need to find a balance between development and protecting our productive agriculture land.

“We cannot increase our land, development cannot stop. We will try to ensure that development projects are on non-productive lands as much as possible. I met a delegation from Pulwama and I said to them that if you don't want NIT in Pulwama, we will take it to some other location,” Abdullah said.

“Not everyone is against development. There are other areas where we can locate this NIT. We will have to find a balance between development and protecting our productive agriculture land,” he added.

On the opposition's allegation about a satellite colony being built, the chief minister said there is no such proposal on his table as he looks after the department.

“The people who are making most noise were the ones who talked about greater Jammu and Srinagar,” he said.

The chief minister said if the townships would be built, they will just for decongesting the Srinagar city.

“When we talk generally to the residents in Srinagar, they talk about decongestion. There is problem of housing. 3-4 families are living in a single house, they say if they get an opportunity they would move to suburbs,” Abdullah said.

“If the townships will be built, those will not be to settle the outsiders, but for the people of Srinagar, to decongest the city. But there is no such proposal or plan before the government yet,” he added.

### Kashmir getting

Omar as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) in a media interaction session with media said, “This year we are providing more electricity to the people in comparison to the previous years.”

“As of now we are supplying around 1700-1800 MW of power. However, the unrestricted demand for power is much more,” he said.

On asking about the permanent solution of power crisis in Kashmir region, the CM said, “As early as our power projects being constructed will get completed, we can stop the power from the projects for the winter use.”

Omar further said, “As of now the AT&C losses in the power sector are more than 50 percent.”

He said that the promises made by the NC government regarding free 200 Units of electricity will be possible only when smart meters will be installed.

“We can measure the consumption only after installing the meters. We would like to roll out the scheme by Mar-Apr. So it is obvious that the 200 units of free electricity will be delivered to those consumers who will have smart meters installed,” Omar said.

About the unscheduled power cuts, the CM said that it usually happens when there is any maintenance, damage or any work being done by the department.

On Wednesday KNO reported that Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) on an average is getting nearly 1700 Megawatts (MW) of Power against the average demand of nearly 1800 MWs.

A top official informed “The local DISCOM on an average was receiving nearly 1700 MW of power against the peak demand of over 1800 MW.”

The official further said that the highest demand of power in the ongoing winters was recorded at 1922 MW including the enduring power curtailment schedule.

Pertinently, last year, the AT&C loss of the Power Development Department was one of the highest in India—causing a gap between power purchase costs.

In the previous fiscal, the AT&C losses were of the order of 50 per cent against the national average of 19.73 per cent.

### Sakina Itoo

Minister Itoo encouraged parents to report instances of schools selling books at high rates, urging them to include the names and locations of the schools. "Parents should send us the names of these schools along with their locations so that we can take appropriate action," she said.

Sakina Itoo's statement comes amid rising concerns from parents who allege that some private schools are forcing students to buy books at inflated prices, often from designated suppliers

### CS reviews

Ring Road Srinagar were discussed in detail. The concerned divisional and district administrations were asked to assist the construction company in extending the working hours so that the work on this prestigious projects progresses on expected lines.

The road projects of NHIDCL, reviewed during the meeting, included progress on completion of Zojila Tunnel, Z-Morh Tunnel, Jammu-Akhnoor Road, Chenani-

Sudhmahadev Road, Goha-Khellani, Khellani-Khanabal Highways and Singhpoura-Vailoo tunnel which is part of this project.

The projects being executed by BRO under project Beacon and Sampark which came up for discussion included Akhnoor-Poonch Highway, Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri Highway, Sangrama flyover, Pattananad Baramulla Bypass, Rafiabad-Kupwara-Trehgam Highway, Khanabal-Pahalgam Road, Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankot Roads besides others. Various projects of R&B including construction of Flyovers at Bemina and Sanat Nagar, Rehabilitation of Chanapora and Tengpora bridges Srinagar-Budgam-Pulwama-Shopian-Kulgam-Qazigund Highway (NH-444), construction of by-passes for three main towns of Pulwama, Kulgam and Shopian besides other road safety and strengthening works currently going on in different parts of the UT were also reviewed in the meeting.

### CM Omar

The vibrant atmosphere of the event, coupled with the awe-inspiring surroundings of Pahalgam, created a magical experience for both the large gathering of tourists and locals who had gathered to witness the festivities.

The Winter Carnival is not only a celebration of the region's natural beauty but also a vital platform for showcasing the talent of local artists and performers.

This year's edition promises to highlight the region's unique cultural heritage, including traditional music, dance, handicrafts, and culinary delights.

By offering a stage for local talent, the carnival aims to promote Jammu and Kashmir's rich cultural fabric to a wider audience, while also giving local artisans the chance to showcase their work and foster economic growth in the region.

### Fire & Emergency

vis-a-vis answer keys revealed discrepancies in the selection process.

“Out of 690 selected candidates, 109 were found to have secured lower marks than the cutoff marks, but were selected by showing them to have secured higher marks in the final selection list than the marks actually secured by them. For instance, candidates actually securing 11, 17, 24 marks were shown to have secured 90 marks each in the final selection list,” it said.

The ACB said it found that five real brothers from district Budgam were selected and multiple such instances, besides, selection of some relatives of officials of Fire & Emergency Services Department, and the instances of the selected candidates belonging to the same localities have surfaced during the course of enquiry.

The probe revealed that the question papers were found beyond the comprehension of candidates who have studied upto 8th standard which is the required minimum qualification.

The probe also revealed favouritism in selection of firm for conducting job tests.

“It surfaced that favoritism was shown in awarding contract to L-2 Firm, M/s LMES IT LLP, which had no proven experience of conducting similar exercise as mandated in the e-NIT by sidelining L-1 bidder. Further, the bid of L-2 was accepted by the Departmental Recruitment Board knowing that L-2 was a newly formed Firm in November, 2017 and Maharaj Krishan Wali (main partner with 99% share) was the same person who had earlier remained as resource person with M/s Timing Technology (P) Ltd. As per CVC guidelines /circular/order, the negotiation shall be held with L-1 only and there should be re-tendering in case L-1 bidder backs out, but the guideline /order was not complied with in this case,” the probe found.

In 2019, Hyderabad-based M/s Timing Technologies India Pvt. Ltd was selected to conduct the physical test/ written examination for Fire & Emergency Service. The resource person of M/s Timing Technologies India Pvt. Ltd was Sh. Maharaj Krishan Wali.

Following allegations of mass copying etc. in the written test, the Government then cancelled the written examination and ordered to conduct written examination afresh.

The ACB found the then members of Departmental Recruitment Board, members of Technical Committee, Officers/Officials of F&ES Department, who remained associated with the recruitment process, being in league with each other as well as with M/S LMES IT LLP through its main partner Maharaj Krishan Wali (L-2 bidder), abused their official positions for extraneous considerations whereby they awarded work of TRP in favor of L-2 bidder by ignoring L-1 bidder in an illegal and unjustified manner, besides manipulating the selection list by preparing fake / fabricated record in order to confer undue benefits upon themselves and the beneficiaries.

“The aforementioned facts constitute commission of offences punishable under sections 7, 13(1) (a) & 13 (2) of PC Act 1988 (as Amended in 2018) and 120-B, 420, 467, 468 & 471 IPC, against the members of Departmental Recruitment Board, including the Chairmen, Members of the Technical Committee, officers/officials of F&ES department, who remained associated with the recruitment process, M/S LMES IT LLP through its main partner Maharaj Krishan Wali, beneficiaries & others. Consequently, a case FIR No 01/2025 was registered in Police Station ACB Central,” reads the ACB statement.

### Heavy Snow,

From January 4-6, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that moderate to strong WD is expected and under its influence, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain in plains of Jammu and snow at most places of J&K with peak activity during 4th (Night) to 5th (late Night) and 6th morning & improvement from the afternoon.

He added that generally cloudy and dry weather is expected on January 7-10, adding that from January 11-12th, generally cloudy weather is expected with possibility of light snow at isolated places.

In its advisory, the MeT has said that in view of fresh snowfall, sub-freezing temperature & icy conditions over roads in plains and higher reaches, the tourists, travelers and transporters are advised to plan accordingly & follow administration and traffic advisory.

“There is a possibility of heavy snow at isolated higher reaches during 4th night to 5th late night,” it reads.

Furthermore, the night temperature has continued to settle below the freezing point in Kashmir. Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.4 degree Celsius while Kupwara recorded a minimum temperature of 1.4 degree Celsius.

However, Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded a

low of minus 8.6 degree Celsius while Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.0 degree Celsius. Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, has recorded a low of minus 5.2 degree Celsius while Kokernag in South Kashmir recorded minus 5.8 degree Celsius

### Artide 370

silent spectator, he made these remarks after releasing the book 'Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh Through the Ages: A Visual Narrative of Continuities and Linkages' in New Delhi today. Many dignitaries including Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan and Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and Editor of the book Prof. Raghuvendra Tanwar were present on the occasion.

Amit Shah said that Articles 370 and 35A were obstacles, preventing Kashmir from being fully integrated with our country. Shah noted that Prime Minister Modi's resolute determination led to the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019. He further said that by abolishing Article 370, Modi ji ended a tainted chapter of post-independence history and initiated a new chapter of Kashmir's development in tandem with the rest of India.

Amit Shah highlighted that after the abrogation of Article 370, there has been a reduction of over 70 per cent in terrorist incidents in Kashmir, which proves that Article 370 was a facilitator of terrorism. He mentioned that in 2018, there were 2,100 incidents of stone-pelting in Kashmir, whereas in 2023, not a single such incident occurred. He highlighted that over 25,000 panchayat members, including sarpanches, block panchayat members, and district panchayat members, were elected and are actively working for the development of their areas, thereby strengthening the roots of democracy in Kashmir. Shah pointed out that there was a record turnout in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in 33 years. He further added that industries are now setting up in the region, and last year 2 crore 11 lakh tourists visited Kashmir. In 2023 alone, 324 serials or films were shot in the region. For the first time in 33 years, theaters in the Kashmir Valley held night shows, processions for Tazia were organized, and a Krishna Janmashtami tableau was seen at Lal Chowk in Srinagar. He emphasized that all these developments have taken place in the five years since the abrogation of Article 370.

In his address, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation emphasized that the National Book Trust (NBT), through its latest publication, has effectively dismantled a long-standing myth about India by presenting facts and evidence, thereby establishing historical truths. He said that there was a myth that India was never united and the idea of independence for this country was meaningless — a misconception that many had come to accept as truth. The Union Home Minister highlighted that while for most of the countries geo-politics have defined their boundaries, India's case is unique where this nation has been defined by its geo-cultural expanse, and whose borders are made up of from cultural unity. He elaborated that India's essence lies in its geo-cultural identity, with its cultural fabric binding the nation from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Bengal to Gujarat. He argued that interpreting India solely as a geo-political entity overlooks its true nature. Instead, a deep understanding of India requires viewing it through the lens of its geo-cultural identity. He stressed the importance of historical research and academic institutions in promoting this perspective to the world, as it is crucial to understanding the elements that culturally unify the country.

### “Distortions have

that once this historical truth is established, questioning Kashmir's union with India becomes irrelevant. Shah added that this book proves that our rich heritage, scattered across every corner of the country, has been present in Kashmir for thousands of years. The book draws upon references to Kashmir from texts as old as 8,000 years, reaffirming its integral role in the nation's history. The Home Minister firmly stated that Kashmir always has been and will continue to remain an inseparable part of India. He stressed that no legal provision could ever sever this bond, and while there were attempts to separate Kashmir from India in the past, time itself has nullified those efforts. He said that Modi government is committed to revive the historic and cultural heritage of Kashmir, and we will soon reclaim what has been lost.

Union Home Minister remarked that the relationship between Kashmir, Ladakh, Shaivism, and Buddhism has been eloquently captured in this book and exhibition. He commended the documentation of scripts, knowledge systems, spirituality, culture, and languages, emphasizing the meticulous effort that went into presenting this rich heritage. The book vividly chronicles the journey of Buddhism—from Nepal to Bihar via Kashi, and onward to Afghanistan through Kashmir. He highlighted that Kashmir was the birthplace of the refined principles of Buddhism that emerged after Lord Buddha, as well as the foundation for many of the teachings that shape modern Buddhism. The book also features sculptures from Drass and Ladakh, discussions and images of stupas, depictions of temple ruins destroyed by invaders, and references to the use of Sanskrit in Jammu and Kashmir, as described in Rajatarangini. Covering Kashmir's 8,000-year history, he likened this comprehensive effort to encapsulating the sacred Ganga within a vessel. The Home Minister reflected on the vast and, at times, challenging nature of history. He noted that for 150 years, some people's understanding of history was confined to narrow geographies—from Dariba to Ballimaran or Lutyens to Gymkhana. He stressed that history cannot be written from a distance but requires engaging directly with the people and understanding their lived experiences.

Amit Shah emphasized that the time has come to move beyond history written to appease past rulers. He urged historians to confidently document India's history using evidence, facts, and the perspective of its rich, millennia-old culture, and to present it to the world with pride. He remarked that today, India stands as an independent nation with a government committed to upholding the values and ideas rooted in its heritage. Shah highlighted that Kashmir and Ladakh have historically served as centres of civilization, fostering creation, preservation, and cultural promotion. Numerous examples of this rich legacy are detailed in the book. He noted that Kashmir has always been a land of inclusivity, embracing and nurturing diverse faiths. Whether it is Buddhism, Sufism, or Shaivism, each tradition has found the freedom to thrive on Kashmiri soil. Shah also pointed out that Kashmir is often referred to as the land of Kashyap, underscoring its historical and spiritual significance.

## Sakeena Itoo conducts surprise inspection of LD Hospital, assesses healthcare facilities

### Interacts with patients, attendants



SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today conducted surprise inspection of LD Hospital to review healthcare facilities being extended to the patients there.

The Minister visited various sections of the hospital including emergency ward, outpatient department (OPD), inpatient wards, operation theatres, NICU and PICU wards and reviewed their functioning.

Interacting with the doctors and paramedics on

the occasion, Sakeena Itoo impressed upon them for timely medical intervention of referral patients owing to criticality of expecting mothers. She also stressed for optimal utilisation of available resources at this premiere maternity health facility to ensure that patients receive best possible care.

"It is crucial for healthcare facilities to operate with highest standards of medical care and hygiene, especially in government hospitals that serve the majority

of population", Sakeena maintained. She added 'our government is committed to ensure that medical services are efficient, well-managed and patient-centric across all peripheral and tertiary care hospitals as well as other institutions.

During the inspection, the Minister also took note of several critical areas where improvements are needed. She assured the hospital administration that immediate corrective measures would be taken up to address these issues.

Sakeena Itoo also interacted with the patients and their attendants to seek feedback on the condition of facilities and medical care being provided at the facility. She assured them the present government led by Omar Abdullah is determined to strengthen the healthcare system in the region.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation highlighted the linguistic diversity of India as one of its greatest strengths, which is particularly evident in Kashmir. He noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has revitalized regional languages by forming two Union Territories and recognizing their official languages. While Hindi, English, and Sanskrit have retained their importance, Prime Minister Modi has ensured the survival and growth of languages like Kashmiri, Balti, Dogri, Ladakhi, and Zanskari by incorporating them into governance. Shah emphasized that this effort reflects Prime Minister Modi's sensitivity and commitment to preserving the cultural and linguistic heritage of the nation, especially for languages spoken by small number of populations. Shah remarked that Kashmir has long suffered under the onslaught of fundamentalists, invaders, and plunderers with expansionist ambitions.

Union Home Minister said that today, Kashmir is home to the world's largest railway arch bridge, Asia's largest tunnel, and a cable-stayed rail bridge. He highlighted that Kashmir now has an IIT, an IIM, two AIIMS, nine government medical colleges, two nursing institutes, two state cancer institutes', eight colleges that are already operational, while 24 more are under construction.

He added that 59 colleges have been accredited, and highway tunnels are being built—all of this achieved during the tenure of the Modi government. Amit Shah questioned previous governments, asking why even 10 per cent of these developments did not occur during their 70 years of governance, and said they owe an explanation to both the nation and the people of Kashmir. He also mentioned that Prime Minister Modi implemented Rs 80,000 crore development package for Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. Furthermore, 4G and 5G networks have now been extended to approximately 87 per cent of the villages in the region.

Amit Shah stated that the Modi government has not only brought terrorism under control but has also completely dismantled its ecosystem in the Kashmir Valley. He emphasized that the

government has done everything for this land, which has made a significant contribution to the civilizations of the country and the world. Shah said that due to the efforts of the Modi government, Kashmir has once again become an integral part of India's geo-cultural nation and is moving forward on the path of development along with the rest of the country,

with democracy firmly established there. He expressed confidence that whatever has been lost will soon be regained, including not only development but also the cultural heights and ancient glory of Kashmir. He remarked that the people of Kashmir will create and realize those immortal chapters of history on the ground.

Home Minister further quoted Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who had said that Jammu and Kashmir is not just a part of India but an inseparable part of India's soul. Shah asserted that this has now been firmly established, and no one can deny it anymore.

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**Abdul Aziz Rather.**  
**S/O Ghulam Nabi Rather.**  
**R/O Ikhrajpora Srinagar.**

## مدرسۃ البنات دارالعلوم رحیمیہ بانڈی پورہ

### کی تعمیر و تکمیل کے صدقہ جاریہ میں خصوصی حصہ لیجئے، موقع غنیمت جانیں



اللہ تبارک و تعالیٰ کے فضل و کرم سے لڑکیوں کے لئے زیر تعمیر ”مدرسۃ البنات“ کی پہلی عمارت کی آخری منزل مکمل ہونے جا رہی ہے۔ اب اس میں اہم مرحلہ چھت کے بنانے کا ہے۔ انجمن خیر حضرات کے تحفہ کے مطابق چھت میں تقریباً 33 ٹن لوہا لگے گا۔ اس کا لیبر اور میٹرل مکمل مالا کر خرچ تقریباً 40 لاکھ روپیہ بنتا ہے۔ چھت پر لگنے والے ٹین کے شیٹ کام مرحلہ اس کے بعد ہے جس میں الگ سے تقریباً 10 لاکھ روپیہ لگنے کا تخمینہ ہے۔

عمارۃ کی چھت کی حیثیت سرپش کی ہوتی ہے جو سارے کام کی ستر پٹی اور سایہ کرتا ہے۔ لہذا انجمن اور مستورات کے اس ادارے کی سرپش اور سایہ کا انتظام کرنا اللہ تعالیٰ کی جانب سے رحمت اور سایہ نصیب ہونے کا ذریعہ بنے گا۔ ان شاء اللہ تعالیٰ۔ اس کار خیر میں حصہ لینے کے لئے مدرسۃ البنات کا یہ کاؤٹ نمبر متعین کیا گیا ہے:

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محمد رحمت اللہ کشمیری  
ناظم دارالعلوم رحیمیہ بانڈی پورہ کشمیر



# Rohit's future Gambhir: head coach refuses to confirm captain's place in Sydney XI

**SYDNEY:** The question was simple. Will Rohit Sharma play in the fifth and final Test against Australia?

Had Sharma's position been secure, the answer should have been "Yes." Yet, India head coach Gautam Gambhir's response at a pre-match press conference was: "We will take a call on the playing XI after looking at the pitch."

The ambiguous response, equal parts intriguing and dramatic, naturally sparked speculation that the out-of-form skipper was no longer sure of his place in the playing XI.

Within few hours, it swirled into near confirmation that the 37-year-old Rohit is set to become the first serving Indian captain who would be dropped for poor form. And it all began with one line.

Gambhir's reply summed up the tour for Rohit, who missed the first Test due to the birth of his second child.

Ever since he landed Down Under, Rohit the batter has been battered by extra bounce and seam movement and Rohit the skipper has been left bruised by the scathing criticism of his leadership.

And as the tour draws to a close, his career as a Test cricketer seems headed for a dispiriting climax.

Rohit, just like in Melbourne, was last among recognised batters to enter the nets, and if he is dropped he would have no one to blame except the abysmal return of 31 runs

from five innings.

If the expected happens, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who has been the team's top

would keep a player in the dressing room helmed by him.

If he doesn't come out for toss on Friday,



performer with an astonishing 30 wickets in four outings at a sub-20 average, will take over the leadership role. It was under Bumrah's captaincy that India won its only Test on the tour so far – the lung-opener in Perth.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Anil Kumble walked into Test retirements mid-series as their bodies could no longer take the rigours of the longest format.

However, in Rohit's case, he will be dropped on the basis of form after Gambhir made it clear that performance is the only thing that

it would be safe to conclude that Rohit played his last knock at the MCG earlier this week where he looked completely out of place on a good track.

While Gambhir didn't spell out the playing eleven, there were enough indications that India might bring back Shubman Gill at number three.

"Indian cricket's transition is in safe hands as long as there are honest people in the dressing room. Only criteria to be in that dressing room is performance," Gambhir said at the

pre-match press conference.

Trailing 1-2, a win for Australia will seal their place in the final at the Lord's against South Africa in the World Test Championship.

India, on other hand, not only require a win but also need Sri Lanka to not lose any of their two Tests at home against Pat Cummins' men to qualify for the WTC finals.

The visitors aren't looking like a team at ease right now, especially Rohit, who is caught between a rock and a hard place both as skipper and batter.

He may or may not announce retirement but playing the traditional format after Sydney looks a long shot.

Add to this the murmurs of dissension in the team that could have a bearing on how the players perform.

The implosion started with Ravichandran Ashwin retiring and going back home midway through the series and Rohit's poor form has certainly made him lose a bit of command.

Rishabh in the line of fire

There are reports that Rishabh Pant's shot selection has invited the wrath of Gambhir, who is now planning a rap on the knuckles by dropping him in favour of Dhruv Jurel.

If Pant is indeed axed from the game, it would be a redux of the time when legendary all-rounder Kapil Dev was taught a lesson for his poor shot selection during a 1984 tour of England with a similar omission.

## Cummins says no let up in intensity as Australia eye win in Sydney Test

Australia captain Pat Cummins asserted that there would be no let up in intensity despite the hosts grabbing a 2-1 lead heading into the fifth and final Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India, beginning here on Friday.

A commanding 184-run victory in the Boxing Day Test has placed Australia in pole position to reclaim the Trophy for the first time since 2014-15.

"I mean, it's always the preferred position. But you know, you go into every Test match trying to win. So, it's no different this week," Cummins said

"But I'm really happy with how the boys have played in the last three Tests. We've shown that we've been the front-runners, and the aim again this week is to keep it up," he added.

The skipper, however, conceded there are some issues with the Aussies' batting.

"I think, no doubt, there are times when we would have liked to score more runs. In that last game in Melbourne, we would have liked to push that lead out to 400-500, given we were in such a good position. But that's Test cricket."

Cummins said the pitch at the Sydney Cricket Ground could be a little different from the traditional surfaces where spinners often enjoyed their outings, while offering copious help to batters as well.

"It's a tough one to call exactly. It's a little bit different from the traditional SCG wicket. I think the two Shield wickets this year seemed to play really well. The teams were happy with the wicket, which felt like there was a bit on offer for the bowlers, but also runs to be scored.

"It looks pretty good. No doubt there'll be stages where it's good for batting, but potentially it will break up and spin towards the end. You never really know whether weather plays a part here as well. I've played a few Test matches here, but outside of that, only one-days and stuff, so I'm no expert."



"I haven't actually noticed as I am in my own bubble," Pat Cummins said when asked about whether he noticed that in the rival camp, another out-of-form batter Virat Kohli has been looking more proactive in the leadership role than the regular skipper.

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## Debates in dressing room should stay there; honest words have been said: Gambhir

**SYDNEY:**Asserting that "debates" in the dressing room should not come out in public domain, India head coach Gautam Gambhir on Thursday said he has had some "honest" conversations with his players as only performance can help them stay in the set-up.

Gambhir also side-stepped queries on whether out-of-form skipper Rohit Sharma will get a place in the final XI for the fifth and final Test against Australia starting on Friday.

Amid speculation of unrest in the dressing room, the feisty head coach sought to douse the fire by declaring that they were "just reports, not truth".

"Debates between coach and player should remain in dressing room. Stern words. They were just reports not truth," Gambhir said in the pre-match press meet here.

"Indian cricket will be in safe hands till honest people stay in the dressing room. Only thing that keeps you in the dressing room is performance," he added. "There were honest words and honesty is important," he asserted.

Gambhir refused to say whether Rohit will get a place in the team. The question thrown at him was why the captain had not come to address the match-eve press conference as is the norm and if he is there in the final XI.

"Everything is fine with Rohit. The head coach is here and that should be enough. We will decide on the playing XI after looking at the pitch," Gambhir said. The former opener also said his discussions with senior batter Virat Kohli and Rohit have only been about strategies to win the ongoing Test series.

"Every individual knows what are the areas to work on. We have only had one conversation with them (and that is) how to win Test matches," he said.

Gambhir also confirmed that pacer Akash Deep will miss the New Year Test with a stiff back, though he refrained from naming a replacement for him.

Although he refused to analyse individuals when asked about the questionable shot selection of players like Rishabh Pant in crunch situations, Gambhir did assert that the team's interest is paramount.

"I don't want to talk about individuals. Team first ideology matters. People can play natural game but in team sport, individuals only contribute," he said.