

Kashmir Convener



HMPV: Centre Asks States To Increase Surveillance For Respiratory Diseases

P/02



BPSC exam row: SC refuses to hear plea over alleged irregularities, police action

P/07



Delhi To Go To The Polls On February 5, Votes To Be Counted On February 8

P/02



PM Modi to Inaugurate Z-Morh Tunnel on Jan 26

Raja Syed Rather

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the Z-Morh tunnel in Ganderbal district on January 26, a project expected to prove a game changer in regional connectivity and will improve border security, and



enhance civilian and military logistics in the region.

As per the reports received by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the

>>>SEE ON P-7

Terror-free and fear-free J&K is our resolve: LG Sinha

● Attends Passing Out Parade of Probationer DySPs at Police Academy, Udhampur

KC NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today said terror-free and fear-free Jammu Kashmir is our resolve.

'At operational level, we have improved coordination between Police and other Security agencies and adopted 'Whole of Government Approach' to dismantle the entire terrorists and separatists' ecosystem," the Lieutenant Governor said during his speech while attending the Passing Out Parade of Probationer Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs) at Police Academy,



Udhampur. In his address, the Lieutenant

Governor congratulated all the 61 passing out police officers and

asked them to discharge their duty with honesty, dedication and high professionalism.

"From today, the nation is entrusting you with the important responsibility of maintaining internal security, combating terrorism, ensuring Rule of Law, and a safe and secure environment for the people. I wish you victory in every mission," he said. The Lieutenant Governor paid tributes to the brave-hearts of J&K Police and the jawans of other security forces who have laid down their lives for the nation.

>>>SEE ON P-7

Amit Shah launches BHARATPOL portal for Intl police assistance



KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR : Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, today inaugurated the BHARATPOL portal developed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at Bharat Mandapam in New

Delhi today. Amit Shah said that the country will celebrate the centenary of independence in the year 2047 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called the present period as Amrit Kaal. He said that 140 crore people of the country have also acknowledged this period as Amrit Kaal and taken a collective pledge to make India first in every sphere in the world by 2047.

Amit Shah also presented police medals to 35 award-winning CBI officers, who were honored with the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and the Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation. On this occasion, several dignitaries, including the Union Home Secretary, the Director of CBI, and the Secretary of DoPT, were present. In his address, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India is ushering into a new era in international investigation with the launch of BHARATPOL. He mentioned that through BHARATPOL, every agency and police force in India will be able to seamlessly connect with INTERPOL, thereby expediting investigations.

He said that 'Amrit Kaal' is the time period to fulfill the resolve to make India a fully developed nation by 2047. He said that 'Amrit Kaal' is a golden opportunity for India. Union Home Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi,

>>>SEE ON P-7

Commissioner Railway Safety Begins Two-day Inspection of USBRL



KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Commissioner of Railway Safety (Northern Circle), Dinesh Chand Deshwal, commenced a two-day statutory inspection of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project on Tuesday, marking a significant step toward operationalizing train services

to Kashmir.

The USBRL project, a monumental undertaking to connect the Kashmir Valley with the rest of India, achieved a key milestone last month with the completion of the Udhampur-Reasi-Katra section. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had announced the section's completion, hailing it as a

transformative development in the decades-long project.

Deshwal's inspection follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's virtual inauguration of the Jammu Railway Division, aimed at streamlining train operations in India's northernmost region.

On the first day of his visit, Deshwal conducted a statutory inspection of the Katra-Reasi section, including a visit to the Anji Khad Bridge in Reasi district. The Anji Khad Bridge, India's first cable-stayed rail bridge, is a critical engineering achievement within the project.

The CRS will also inspect the iconic Chenab Bridge at Kauri, the world's highest railway bridge, before overseeing a to-and-fro speed trial

>>>SEE ON P-7

CM Omar Abdullah meets Finance Minister Sitharaman



KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday met Union Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman here as part of pre-Budget consultations, officials said. The meeting at Sitharaman's North Block office went on for more

>>>SEE ON P-7

Locals of Warwan Valley Thank CM Omar Abdullah for Fulfilling 'Relief' Promise

KC NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: The residents of Mulwaran village in the remote Warwan Valley of Kishtwar district have expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his swift response and fulfillment of promises made during his visit following a devastating fire that engulfed the village on October 14.

The tragic fire left several families homeless and caused significant damage to the community. Speaking to the KNS, a local professor, Mazzafer Ahmed Wani, shared his appreciation for the immediate relief provided by the J&K government. "Omar Abdullah visited

>>>SEE ON P-7

Bye-polls for Bugam & Nagrota to be announced Later: CEC



Mubahir Aalam Wani

SRINAGAR: The Election Commission of India on Tuesday announced that bye-elections for the Budgam and Nagrota

constituencies in Jammu & Kashmir will be held later due to snowy conditions. Addressing a news conference, as per news

>>>SEE ON P-7

NC to Field Strong Candidates: Imran Nabi

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar on Tuesday said the party will field the best candidates in the upcoming by-polls in Budgam and Nagrota.

Speaking to KNS, Dar stated that the people of Jammu and

>>>SEE ON P-7

Completion of Rules of procedure & conduct in JKLA before budget session

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: J&K legislative assembly's committee on framing rules Tuesday decided to carry out modifications and adaptations in the rules applicable to the legislature of erstwhile state for conducting business in the Union Territory's law-making House.

Sources told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the committee headed by Speaker Abdul Rahim today met and held threadbare discussions on framing the rules of procedure and conduct of business in the House. After examining legal provisions governing framing of



business rules, the panel decided to carry out necessary adaptations and modifications in the old rules for conducting routine business in the House.

A member of the committee, wishing anonymity, said that existing rules would continue but necessary

>>>SEE ON P-7

Over 17 Pc Primary, 12 Pc Hr Sec students quit studies midway in JK

Riyaz Bhat

SRINAGAR: In Jammu and Kashmir, over 17 percent of students at primary level and 12 percent learners at senior secondary level quit studies midway—thus raising a question on the functioning of the department.

The official figures accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveal that "The retention rate at Primary level in Jammu and Kashmir was 82.70 and 88.42 at senior secondary level."

The official documents however state that, "About 46,000 Out of School Children (OoSC) have been mainstreamed."

Meanwhile, the government-run-school teachers say that many students in rural areas

quit studies midway. "The retention problem is mainly seen in tribal and remote areas wherein the students quit studies midway."

The documents further state that a notable shift of thousands of students from private to government schools has been recorded.

"There has been impressive enrolment of 217,890 students in 2022-23, marking a 17.87 percent increase in total enrolment," it reads.

It also said that the department introduced vocational education in 804 schools, and expanded to 1,067 schools in 2023-24—thus benefiting 1.25 lakh students.

The documents further reveal that the School Education

>>>SEE ON P-7

MeT predicts light snow on Jan 11, 12



KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR : The night temperature has settled above normal across Kashmir barring the famous tourist destination, Pahalgam

where the mercury settled at minus 7.8 degree Celsius, which was the coldest place across the Valley. According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO),

>>>SEE ON P-7

J&K govt has greater responsibilities than clearing snow: Mehbooba Mufti

Jahangeer Ganaie

BIJBEHARA (ANANTNAG): People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said the Omar Abdullah-led government has a major responsibility to provide relief to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have been "enduring a challenging phase" since 2019.

Speaking on the 9th death anniversary of her father and former Chief Minister Mufti Muhammad Sayeed at Daro Shikoh Bagh in Bijbehara, Mehbooba, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that



the Chief Minister of J&K has significant responsibilities, as the people have elected him, yet he is merely focused on clearing snow from roads.

>>>SEE ON P-7

BPSC Exam Row

Supreme Court refuses to hear plea over alleged irregularities, police action

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to examine a plea over the alleged irregularities in the BPSC exam held on December 13, 2024, and the consequent police action on protestors.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan asked petitioner to move the Patna High Court with the grievances.

The counsel appearing for petitioner, Anand Legal Aid Forum Trust, urged the bench to consider the plea, saying the country witnessed Bihar police's brutally on peaceful protestors who sought cancellation of the contentious Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) exam.

"We are asking you to go to the Patna High Court," the CJ said.

The counsel, however, said, "This paper leak is happening as a daily matter."

"We understand your sentiments



attached...but we cannot be the court of first instance," the CJ said, "and we feel it will be appropriate and more expeditious that the petitioner approached the Patna High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution."

The lawyer informed the bench the place where police led a charge with batons

on protestors was near the Patna High Court chief justice's official residence and a suo-motu note could have been taken.

Bihar police allegedly used force to control civil service aspirants who demanded the cancellation of the BPSC examination held on December 13, 2024.

The state public service commission ordered a re-exam held on January 4 at 22 centers in Patna for certain candidates.

Of the 12,012 candidates eligible for the retest, a total of 8,111 downloaded their admit cards, and 5,943 appeared for the examination.

Jan Suraj founder Prashant Kishor, who was on an indefinite fast in Patna's Gandhi Maidan, raising the same demand was arrested and later released on bail. He was moved to the ICU of Medanta Hospital in the city on Tuesday over health complications.

Delhi To Go To The Polls On February 5, Votes To Be Counted On February 8



NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India has announced the dates for polls to the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

The elections will be held in a single phase on February 5, while the counting of votes will take place on February 8. The last date of filing nominations is January 17. The date for scrutiny of nominations is January 18. While last date for withdrawal of candidature is January 20.

With the announcement of the election dates, the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) has come into force in the national capital and will remain in force till the completion of the election process.

The final voter list published on January 6, 2025 for the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections recorded a total of 1,55,24,858 registered voters in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, showing a net increase of 1.09 per cent.

As the elections approach, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has intensified its campaign. The BJP candidates have targeted Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over his alleged involvement in the Delhi Excise Policy case and expressed confidence in forming the next government with a "double engine" administration.

The BJP has accused the AAP leaders of corruption and misgovernance while the AAP, which is aiming to come to power for the third consecutive time, is focusing on highlighting its achievements in the education and health sector.

In the race for the New Delhi seat, the BJP has fielded Parvesh Verma, former MP and son of former Delhi CM Sahib Singh Verma, to challenge Arvind Kejriwal.

The Congress has also entered the fray with Sandeep Dixit, son of former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dixit, from the same seat.

The BJP has fielded former MP Ramesh Bidhuri against Delhi CM Arishi in the Kalkaji seat while the Congress has fielded former MLA Alka Lamba.

The Congress, which was in power for 15 consecutive years in Delhi, has suffered setbacks in the last two assembly elections and has failed to win any seat. In contrast, the AAP dominated the 2020 assembly elections by winning 62 out of 70 seats while the BJP got only eight seats.

HMPV

Centre Asks States To Increase Surveillance For Respiratory Diseases

NEW DELHI, Jan 7: The Centre has advised states to step up surveillance for respiratory illnesses including ILI and SARI, and spread awareness about the prevention of transmission of the human metapneumovirus (HMPV) after five cases were detected in India.



Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava on Monday chaired a virtual meeting with states and union territories to take stock of respiratory illnesses and HMPV cases in the country and public health measures for their management, a health ministry statement said.

The meeting was attended by Health Research Department Secretary Dr Rajiv Bahl, Director General of Health Services Dr Atul Goel, experts from National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme, (IDSP), Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), National Institute of Virology (NIV) and State Surveillance Units of IDSP, a health ministry statement said.

The meeting was held amid reports of a surge in HMPV cases in China and on a day when five cases of HMPV were confirmed in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

HMPV is a globally recognised respiratory virus. It is a viral pathogen that causes respiratory

Nine RSS workers sentenced to life for 2005 murder of CPI(M) worker in Kerala

KANNUR (KERALA): Nine RSS workers were sentenced to life imprisonment by a court in Thalassery on Tuesday for the murder of a CPI(M) worker in this north Kerala district 19 years ago.

Rijith Sankaran, a 25-year-old CPI(M) member from Kannapuram Chunda, was attacked and killed near a temple in Chunda on October 3, 2005 allegedly by RSS workers during a period of political tension between the two parties in the area.

Rijith was walking home when the accused, armed with weapons, ambushed him and his friends near a well. Three of his friends were injured in the attack.

On January 4, the Additional District Sessions Court in Thalassery found the accused guilty. There were a total of 10 accused in the case, one of whom had died in a road accident.

The convicts include Sudhakaran (57), Jayesh (41),

Ranjith (44), Ajeendran (51), Anilkumar (52), Rajesh (46), Sreekanth (47), his brother Sreejith (43), and Bhaskaran (67).

The court found them guilty under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including murder (Section 302), attempted murder (Section 307), unlawful assembly (Section 143), rioting (Section 147), wrongful restraint (Section 341), and voluntarily causing hurt with weapons (Section 324).

US taking steps to facilitate civil nuclear cooperation between Indian, American firms: NSA Sullivan

NEW DELHI: The US is finalising necessary steps to "remove" hurdles for civil nuclear partnership between Indian and American firms, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on Monday, giving a fresh momentum to the implementation of a landmark pact sealed by the two sides 16 years back.

In an address at the IIT-Delhi, Sullivan, who is on a two-day visit to India, also slammed China for its "predatory industrial strategies" and virtually cautioned Beijing against "weaponization" of interdependencies while highlighting issues relating to supply chains.

The significant announcement by the top official of the outgoing Biden administration on the civil nuclear cooperation came hours after he held separate talks with NSA Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. India and the US unveiled an



ambitious plan to co-operate in civil nuclear energy in July 2005 following then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's meeting with American President George W Bush.

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SRINAGAR

10-Karan Nagar, Srinagar Kashmir, 190010
Phone No. 0194-2504119 Fax No 0194-2503115
(Academic Section)

Subject: Selection of Senior Residents on Academic Arrangement Basis in various Disciplines of Government Medical College, Srinagar. Reference: This office Advertisement No. 04 of 2024 Dated. 17-10-2024
OFFICE ORDER NO: 34-RA of 2025.
DATED: 07 -01-2025.
Pursuant to the Notifications issued vide this office No. 04-RA of 2024 Dated. 04-11-2024 and 06-RA of 2024 Dated. 26-11-2024 and on the basis of Satisfactory verification reports of Character & antecedents by Criminal Investigation Department (CID), J&K, the following not In-service candidates are provisionally engaged as Senior Resident(s) in the disciplines shown against each on academic arrangement basis under S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated. 27.11.2020 and Government Order No. 383-JK (HME) of 2024 Dated. 20.06.2024, initially for a period of one year, which is extendable upto (03) years on basis of good performance to be certified by the concerned HOD: -

S. No.	NAME OF CANDIDATE	Qualification	Discipline	CID verification received vide Form No. & date
1.	Dr. Shahid Ahmad Nangroo	MD	Medicine	Form No. 116943 Dated. 03-01-2025
2.	Dr. Munisa Amin	MD	Obsts & Gyane	Form No. 119267 Dated. 30-12-2024

The appointment of the above doctors is further subject to the following terms and conditions: -

- The selected candidates are supposed to submit their joining report alongwith an affidavit(s) in the office of the undersigned duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate to the effect that: -
 - They are not In-service candidates, the information if found wrong the selectees shall be punished under Rules which includes confiscation of the Registration of the Doctors.
 - They will not participate in any kind of strike during the period of their tenure engagement. In the event they proceed on strike, their tenure engagement shall be terminated without any notice as this service is covered under ESMA Act.
 - They shall remain disciplined during the whole tenure; any kind of misconduct shall make them liable for termination without any prior notice.
 - They are not involved in any criminal activity or there is no FIR pending or registered in any criminal department or police station against them.
 - They shall not claim any experience certificate, in case they leave Senior Residency before completion at least of six months
 - They will not indulge in any private practice. In case they are found doing private practice their appointment shall be liable for termination without any notice.
- The above doctors shall have to execute an agreement with the institution on the prescribed format (Form A) with regard to the various terms and conditions applicable during academic arrangement same can be downloaded from the official website of Government Medical College, Srinagar.
- The appointees are required to join within (21) days from the date of issuance of this order failing which the order shall be deemed to have been cancelled.
- The Senior Residents appointed on an Academic Arrangement basis shall be paid as per S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated. 27-11-2020.
- The Senior Residents appointed on Academic Arrangement basis shall be entitled leaves as per the Government Order No. 451-JK (HME) of 2024 Dated. 08.07.2024.
NO: RA-MC/SecI/SR/0415-20/MC
Dated:-07-01-2025

Sd/-Principal/Dean
Govt. Medical College
Srinagar

DIPK-10543/24

Bijapur Naxal attack: Chhattisgarh, CRPF top cops visit blast site

BIJAPUR: Chhattisgarh Director General of Police Ashok Juneja and CRPF DG Vitul

security forces in Chhattisgarh in two years, Naxalites on Monday blew up a vehicle using



Kumar on Tuesday visited the site in Bijapur district where eight security personnel and a civilian driver were killed after Naxalites blew up their vehicle, officials said.

In their biggest strike on

an improvised explosive device (IED), weighing 60 to 70 kg, near Ambeli village under the Kutru police station area of the district.

Eight security personnel, four each from the state police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) and

Bastar Fighters units, travelling in the SUV and the vehicle's driver died on the spot, located around 70 km from the district headquarters.

Chhattisgarh DGP Juneja and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director General Kumar on Tuesday visited the site separately and took stock of the incident, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Yadav told reporters here.

Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P and senior CRPF officials accompanied Director General Kumar, as per officials.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and other senior state leaders paid homage to the deceased security personnel and their vehicle driver at the wreath-laying ceremony held at Police Lines, Karli, in Dantewada.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Zonal Education Officer Tullamulla District Ganderbal

No: ZEOT/Estt/026.
Dated: 07.01.2025

Subc Tentative (Annexure "A") List of 02 Candidates for Engagement/Hiring of AAYA/Helper of Zone Tullamulla in various schools for the year 2024-25 under ECCE and submission of objections thereof Ref: Administrative Department, School Education, J&K vide communication No. Edu-PSOCS/75/2021-01-SED(97253), dated 04.01.2023 & Director Samagra Shiksha, J&K Order No. 07 of Chirag 2023, dated 09.01.2023, engagement in remaining schools vide his letter No. EDU/PD/SMS/ECCE/Helpers/1861-1905/2023-24 Dated 06.06.2023 and CEO Ganderbal's Letter No. CEO/Gbl/SS/285, dated 20.06.2023 and this office advertisement notification no. 01 of 2023, Dated 15.10.2024

The merit list framed by U/Sd in presence of committee members of Zone Tullamulla and Chief Education Officer Ganderbal. The Candidates whose particulars are given below have been recommended by U/sd for the engagement /Hiring of AAYA/Helpers on the basis of merit determined by them from their credentials. It is to inform to the general public that the objections (if any) regarding the mentioned list should reach to the office of the Zonal Education Officer Tullamulla within a period of five days after that no objections (w.ef 07.01.2025 to 11.01.2025) shall be entertained. The Candidates have been recommended for Engagement/Hiring of AAYA/Helpers on following guidelines.

- Only female Candidates have been considered.
- Preference given to Candidates belonging to BPL Category in the below mentioned order of priority.
 - Widow
 - Divorced
 - Orphan
 - Any Candidate among the poorest of the poor in the Village.
- Minimum Qualification 8th Class Pass have been considered.
- The Candidates recommended for Engagement/Hiring of AAYA/Helper are fit to carry out job as per Medical Report of BMO.
- Age of the Candidates is between 18-45 years as on 1 January 2024. The Candidates recommended for Engagement/Hiring of AAYA/Helper are domicile of that particular village.

Annexure A

SNO	Name of the Village	Name of the candidate	D/W/O	Date of birth	Residence	Qual	Category Widow, Divorced, Orphan, Poor)	Type of Ration card	Mobile no.	School where Engaged
1	Safapora	Subreena Maqbool	Late Mohammad Maqbool Ahanger	01.03.1995	Safapora	BA	Orphan	BPL	7051620572	MS Gratabal
2	Theru	Fehmeeda Bano	Late Nazir Ahmad Zargar	30.10.1988	Theru Dangerpora	10th	Widow	BPL	6006217763	PS Thuru

DIPK-10572/24

Sd/-Zonal Education Officer
Tullamulla District Ganderbal

Mission YUVA: Baseline Survey to Identify Aspiring Entrepreneurs Begins in Bandipora

BANDIPORA : A vibrant launch ceremony of MISSION YUVA was held today at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora, marking a significant step towards making Jammu and Kashmir a hub of enterprise creation and employment generation.

While addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri stressed the importance of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) strategies to channelize the mission effectively. Highlighting the survey component of MISSION YUVA, the DC underlined its basic objective of identifying potential entrepreneurs and urged the enumerators to approach the task with dedication. He urged Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Bandipora to accelerate the process while ensuring data accuracy.

Speaking at the event, the DC urged senior officials, including ADC, ALC, and AD Employment, to closely monitor the process and ensure assignments are carried out as per job profiles without any



changes or swaps.

Speaking on the occasion, Nodal Officer, Entre-

preneurship Development Institute (EDI) highlighted the importance of productive interaction between enumerators and aspiring entrepreneurs. She emphasized the need to focus on the target audience to serve them effectively. She outlined the objectives of MISSION YUVA, including enterprise creation, identification of potential entrepreneurs, and understanding their needs. She stated that MISSION YUVA, being an umbrella project, is built on the foundation of 4C's including Culture, Capital, Capacity and Connectivity, which will guide its execution and success.

During the event, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl reminded the enumerators that their work should be commendable, as it directly impacts the program's success and emphasized corrective measures should be taken

promptly to reduce delays, and additional deployments have been arranged considering the region's challenging terrain and topography.

Joint Director Employment and Nodal Officer for Bandipora District stressed the need for dedication and persistence from the enumerators and supervisors. She acknowledged the challenges faced at the grassroots level but urged the teams to tackle them with determination to ensure the program's success.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to make MISSION YUVA a transformative initiative for the district, fostering an entrepreneurial spirit and creating sustainable employment opportunities.

Among others, the event was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora, Irfan Bahadur; Chief Planning Officer Bandipora Mohammed Maqbool Lone; Assistant Labour Commissioner Bandipora, BDO's, Supervisors, Enumerators and other concerned officials.

DC Bandipora Inaugurates Blood Donation Camp at Kishanganga Power Station

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Monday inaugurated a Voluntary Blood Donation Camp at the



NHPC office, organized by Kishanganga Power Station in collaboration with the District Hospital Bandipora. The blood donation camp witnessed participation from employees of Kishanganga Power Station, healthcare professionals, volunteers, and

members of the local community.

Speaking at the event, DC Bandipora commended the collaborative efforts of Kishanganga Power Station and District Hospital Bandipora, emphasizing that such initiatives not only save lives but also inspire others to contribute to societal well-being.

He stated that blood donation is one of the highest forms of community service. He further stated that each drop of blood has the potential to save lives, and this initiative reflects the spirit of selflessness and unity. The camp was supervised by a team of expert medical professionals from District Hospital Bandipora, including Medical Superintendent Dr. Masrat, who ensured strict adherence to safety and hygiene protocols.

On the occasion, the head of Kishanganga Power Station said that blood is a precious resource and such efforts ensure that we are prepared for medical emergencies. He assured that similar initiatives will continue to be organized in the future, with a vision to create a healthier and more compassionate society.

DC Bandipora convenes meeting to streamline PDS Beneficiary Verification

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Monday convened a meeting with the concerned officers to discuss and streamline the verification process of beneficiaries enrolled in the Public Distribution System (PDS) database.

The meeting was attended by SDM Sumbal Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh, SDM Gurez Mukhtar Ahmad, ACR Bandipora Shabir Ahamd, ACD Bandipora Irfan Bahadur, AD Food Naseer Ahmad Baba, CPO Bandipora, Tehsildars, Block Development Officers, and other relevant officials.

The meeting aimed to ensure the accurate identification and verification of beneficiaries under different categories, including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Priority Households (PHH), and Non-Priority Households (NPHH). The DC emphasized the importance of a thorough and timely verification process to ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive the benefits they are entitled to, while also preventing any misuse of the system.

During the meeting, the DC issued clear instructions to all concerned officials to adhere to the guidelines laid down in the Government Order



issued last year regarding the same. He directed them to form Tehsil and Village Level Committees to expedite the verification process and ensure its completion within the stipulated timeframe.

M.A Qadri also stressed the need for close monitoring of the verification process by Sub-Divisional Magistrates to ensure transparency and accountability. He directed the concerned to ensure that the PDS system functions efficiently and reaches the most vulnerable sections of society.

DC Kupwara finalizes arrangements for Lolab Winter Festival

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers to finalize the arrangements for conduct of the Lolab Winter Festival.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned officers to make fool proof arrangements for vibrant and smooth conduct of the Lolab Winter Festival in the serene Lolab valley.



To ensure well organized facilities and participation of local populace in the Lolab Snow Festival venue, a Committee consisting of CEO LBDDA, SDM Lolab and Tehsildar Sogam was designated who shall personally monitor the arrangements in coordination with

different departments and stakeholders.

Police department will ensure security arrangements and participation of the Police band. DFO Kamraj will decorate the venue and make arrangements for the Bonfire. Besides, installation of stalls displaying information related to various government schemes and achievements will be done by the Forest department, Industries, YS&S, CEO LBDDA, Handicrafts/ Handloom, NRLM and Agriculture & allied departments.

Besides, GM DIC and District Officer KVIB shall ensure ATV, Snow biking, Zip Lines and Ice skating facilities at the venue.

Several other arrangements which were finalized include publicity of the festival, sanitation and cleanliness of the venue, decoration of sports, Igloo competition, transport, road clearance, seating/ heating arrangements, fire tender etc and the concerned officers were directed to ensure the same at the venue well before the beginning of the event.

The meeting was attended by CEO LBDDA, SDM Lolab, ASP Kupwara, ACD, ACP, CPO, DFO Kamraj, XEN R&B Lolab, besides, officers from Police and Army were present in the meeting.

BJP demands action against MP Aga Rahullah over ‘cultural invasion’ remarks on tourism

SRINAGAR: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday demanded the National Conference (NC) sack its Member of Parliament Aga Rahullah for allegedly terming increasing tourism in Jammu and Kashmir as a “cultural invasion.”

Addressing a press conference, BJP chief spokesperson Sunil Sethi criticized the statement reportedly made by Aga Rahullah, claiming it undermines efforts to promote tourism in the region.

“We want to ask Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah if they support this statement. The NC has leaders who make such controversial Remarks. Earlier, NC leader Mohammad Akbar Lone had also raised pro-Pakistan slogans,” Sethi alleged, according to the news agency KINS.

He further demanded that the NC clarify its stance on the matter. “If Omar Abdullah supports this state-

the grievances of the residents and assured them that their concerns would be addressed promptly. Officials also promised to resolve



all genuine issues raised by the locals to restore their confidence and ensure safety.

Talking to Kashmir Convener, a local youth said that they are protesting because their issue with the PDD department is regarding the installation of smart meters. He said that they welcome the installation of these smart meters and are not against it, but the area lacks proper wiring, proper poles, and a proper Distribution Point (DP) system.

He further said that an incident occurred last evening that could have caused significant damage if it hadn't been brought under control quickly. He appealed to the administration to address this issue seriously.

The wiring of the newly installed smart meters is not up to standard. It should be

120 MM, but the contractor has used 50 MM wiring, which cannot handle the load and burns out. He emphasized the need for

proper metering and the installation of a proper DP system to support the infrastructure for smart meters.

He clarified that their intention is not to oppose the installation of meters but to ensure the system is installed correctly. They also requested the restoration of electricity and resolution of the meter-related issues, especially since the area has been without electricity for the last four days. With winter approaching, homes have children, and there are oxygen-dependent patients, making electricity a necessity. He urged the administration to act promptly to resolve these problems.

Another youth told Kashmir Convener that 4-5 days ago, smart meters were installed here. We are not against it, but we want proper wiring and proper DP meters to be in place. In the last five days, two incidents have occurred here. Last evening, there was an incident that caused panic among the people, leading us to call fire and emergency services as well as the police. However, the concerned PDD department employees did not respond to phone calls and had their mobiles switched off.



ment, then he has no moral right to run the government. If not, the NC should immediately expel Aga Rahullah from the party,” Sethi demanded.

Highlighting the importance of tourism, Sethi said, “Boosting tourism is vital for increasing income and creating job opportunities for Kashmiris. Such statements discourage tourists and amount to political terrorism—a direct attack on Kashmir's tourism sector.”

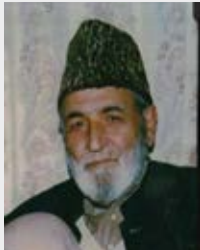
He urged political leaders to avoid making remarks that could harm the region's economic interests. (KINS)

Bandipore Literary Forum Pays Tribute to Professor Rasheed Nazki on His 9th Anniversary

BANDIPORE: The Literary Forum Bandipore remember the esteemed Professor Rasheed Nazki on the occasion of his 9th death anniversary. Professor Nazki was a towering figure in Kashmiri literature, and his contributions to the literary world have left an indelible mark on the cultural landscape of the region.

The Bandipore Literary Forum, along with admirers and scholars of Professor Rasheed Nazki's work, pay homage to his memory. The event featured readings of his poetry and prose, discussions on his literary legacy, and personal anecdotes shared by those who were fortunate enough to have known him.

Professor Rasheed Nazki was a prolific writer, poet, and academic whose deep understanding of the human experience was reflected in his evocative and thought-provoking writings.



Veteran Warrior Hav Baldev Singh Passes Away at 93

NAUSHERA: Havildar Baldev Singh (Retd), a revered war hero and veteran of the Indian Army, passed away on January 6, 2025, at the age of 93 in his hometown of Naushera. Known for his extraordinary service and contributions to the nation, Hav Baldev Singh's passing marks the end of a legacy of patriotism and valor.

Born on September 27, 1931, in the village of Naunihal, Naushera, Baldev Singh joined the Bal Sena Force at the age of 16 under the leadership of Brigadier Usman during the Battle of Naushera and Jhangar in 1947-48. The Bal Sena, composed of local boys aged 12 to 16, served as despatch runners for the Indian Army during critical moments. Recognizing their bravery, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru honored the Bal Sainiks with gramophones, watches, and opportunities to join the Indian Army.

Hav Baldev Singh formally enlisted in the Indian Army on November 14, 1950, and served with distinction for nearly three decades. He actively participated in several wars, including the Indo-Pak conflicts of 1961, 1962, and 1965. After retiring in October 1969, he was recalled during the Indo-Pak War of 1971 and served in the 11 JAT Battalion of the 25 Infantry Division for eight months.

Throughout his career, Hav Baldev Singh was recognized for his exemplary service, receiving honors from leaders such as Prime Minister Nehru, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Vice President Hamid Ansari. His legacy continues to inspire generations as a testament to courage and dedication to the nation.

The last rites of Hav Baldev Singh will be performed today at 12:00 PM in his native village of Naunihal, Naushera, with full military honors and service protocols.

The Ministry of Defence, along with the entire nation, extends heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones in this moment of loss.



PhysicsWallah expands offline network with 150+ Vidyapeeth, Pathshala centers

SRINAGAR, Jan 7: Speaking at an annual event in Kota-Disha 2025 - amid students, Alakh Pandey, Founder & CEO of PhysicsWallah (PW) said, “As educators, it breaks our hearts to see students take drastic measures when they lose hope. We want to be their hope. Today I appeal to you all - to join us in our effort to avert tragedies. Use our 24x7 country-wide free helpline - Prerna and seek support whenever you feel stressed or overwhelmed.” Furthermore, he announced a 30 per cent off for the coming academic year 2025-26 across all offline batches till 20th January 2025.

PhysicsWallah (PW), an Indian Ed-Tech platform, currently has over 150 Vidyapeeth and Pathshala centres across 20 states of India. Approximately ten of these centres also have the Vidyapeeth Residential Programme (VPRP). For the current academic year (AY) 2025-26, PW has broadened its offline presence by opening Vidyapeeth and Pathshala centres in several new cities including key locations like Dibrugarh, Chennai, and Udaipur. Chennai marks the platform's first offline foray into the state of Tamil Nadu.

The event also saw participation from students who previously studied at PW and secured seats at government colleges such as IIT and AIIMS. These students were congratulated and asked to share their journey with the current students.

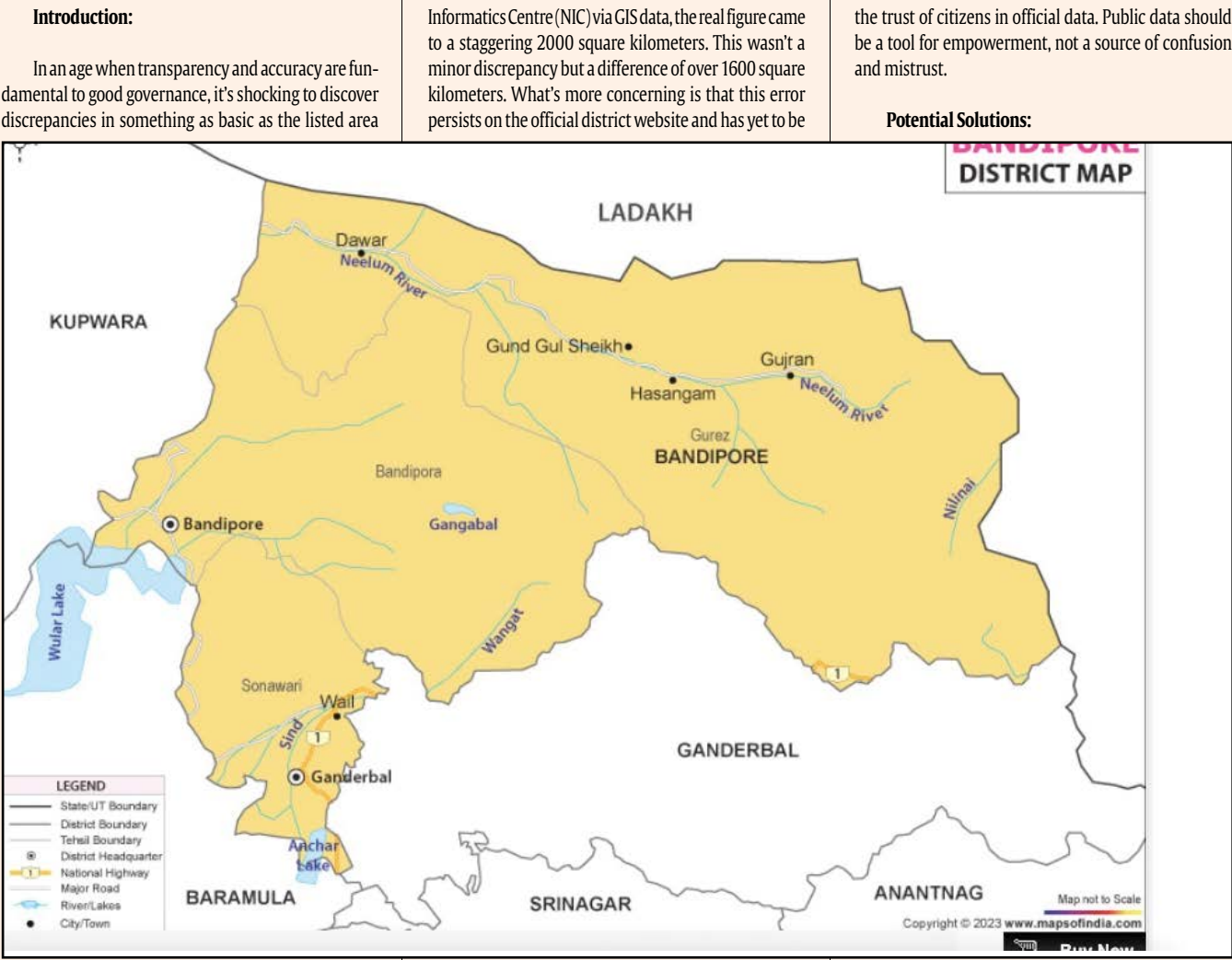
The Vidyapeeth Residential Program (VPRP) is designed for NEET and JEE aspirants seeking a learning experience with residential support. This program provides a structured and academically stimulating environment, allowing students to fully dedicate themselves to their academic objectives. By offering consistent faculty for both online and offline classes, VPRP is trying to ensure a smooth learning experience, and attempting to minimize and attempting to minimize the challenges typically associated with switching between formats.

PhysicsWallah (PW), an Indian EdTech company, was founded in 2020 by Alakh Pandey and Prateek Maheshwari. Headquartered in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, PW aims to democratize education through online, offline and hybrid platforms. Initially launched as a YouTube channel in 2014, PW now offers education to students through its YouTube channels in multiple vernacular languages. PW aims to create a hybrid education ecosystem in the country by establishing tech-enabled offline and hybrid centres in cities nationwide. PW's offerings span various educational segments, including test preparation in multiple categories, a skilling vertical, higher education, and study abroad. Additionally, the company also has an Institute of Innovation (IOI) that provides residential job-ready programs. PW has raised funding from investors, including Hornbill Capital, Lightspeed Ventures, Westbridge and GSV Ventures.

Empowering Rural India

Launched on National Panchayati Raj Day in April 2020 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the SVAMITVA Scheme has emerged as a landmark initiative aimed at transforming the rural landscape of India. By providing property owners in village Abadi areas with a formal “Record of Rights,” the scheme addresses a critical gap that has existed for decades—lack of legal documentation for rural properties. The upcoming e-distribution of 57 lakh property cards across 46,351 villages in 10 states and 2 Union Territories on December 27, 2024, will mark another milestone in the scheme's journey. This initiative, which will connect beneficiaries virtually to the Prime Minister, reflects the government's commitment to ensuring that even the remotest corners of the country benefit from technological advancements and equitable governance. For over seven decades, incomplete surveys and the absence of formal records left rural property owners unable to leverage their assets for loans or other financial benefits. SVAMITVA has addressed this challenge head-on by using drone and GIS technology to demarcate land and issue formal property cards. With 3.17 lakh villages already surveyed and 2.19 crore property cards prepared for 1.49 lakh villages, the scheme has made remarkable strides in a short period. Moreover, all inhabited villages in states like Haryana, Uttarakhand, Goa, and others now have generated property cards, symbolizing the scheme's nationwide reach. The impact of SVAMITVA goes beyond just property validation. It resolves disputes, encourages financial inclusion, and facilitates smarter village-level planning. The use of survey-grade drones and a centralized dashboard for real-time monitoring has set new benchmarks in governance and efficiency. Additionally, property cards are accessible through the DigiLocker app, ensuring transparency and convenience for beneficiaries. SVAMITVA is more than a technical initiative; it is a movement towards inclusive and transformative governance. The success of SVAMITVA lies in its ability to marry technology with governance, creating a framework that is not only efficient but also transformative. As the scheme continues to expand its reach, it promises to build a stronger, more unified rural India, one property card at a time. This is not just a testament to innovative governance but a beacon of hope for millions aspiring for a brighter, more secure future.

Bandipora: The Curious Case of Shrinking District



of a district. I first noted this discrepancy years ago as I traveled across the picturesque Kashmir Valley, marveling at the vast landscapes of Bandipora. At the time, I dismissed the incongruity between the district's listed area and what I observed on the ground, partly due to the fragility of human perception, but largely because reliable data simply wasn't available to confirm my suspicions. However, after revisiting the issue and consulting official government resources, I was stunned to find that the district's area is drastically misrepresented—by a margin of over 1600 square kilometers.

Context:

The history of administrative divisions in the Kashmir Valley is critical in understanding the importance of accurate district data. For much of its modern history, the Valley had only six districts. It was only in 2006, under the coalition government of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the Indian National Congress (INC), that four new districts were carved out, including Bandipora, which became a standalone district. The creation of new districts—Bandipora, Kulgam, Shopian, and Anantnag—was a significant move aimed at improving local governance, better resource allocation, and bringing administration closer to the people.

Yet, more than a decade after this administrative shift, the district of Bandipora's official area remains misrepresented, leading to potential consequences for local governance.

When I first checked the official government website for Bandipora's listed area, it stated the district's size as a modest 345 square kilometers. However, when I recalculated the area using government-issued maps and trusted geographic tools, provided by the National

corrected, despite being easily verifiable using publicly available data.

Disclaimer:

It's important to note that the calculations provided in this op-ed were done by me, the author, who is not a geoinformatics expert but a student of physics and mathematics. The tools I used, including GIS data from the NIC, are widely accessible online and can be easily verified by the district administration. The discrepancies outlined here are not a result of any advanced or specialized techniques but rather basic geographic analysis that can be reproduced by anyone with access to the same public resources.

Consequences:

The implications of such a discrepancy are more than just a bureaucratic oversight; they have real-world consequences on governance, resource distribution, and political representation. If the true area of Bandipora is significantly larger than what is officially listed, the district's actual needs in terms of infrastructure, services, and resource allocation are being grossly underestimated.

For example, underfunding of vital services such as road repairs, healthcare facilities, and schools may occur if officials base their budgets on faulty data. Similarly, the misrepresentation could affect political representation, as district boundaries—critical in redistricting—are drawn based on the area. If the official data is wrong, it could distort the district's true political power and its share of state or central funding.

The continued misrepresentation of the district's size not only hampers local governance but undermines

The first and most immediate solution is simple: update the data. Government websites must be held accountable for the accuracy of the information they present, and this glaring discrepancy should be addressed immediately. Local authorities need to ensure that the correct area of Bandipora is reflected in all official documents and platforms.

Moreover, oversight mechanisms should be strengthened to regularly verify and audit data provided to the public. Geographic data can change over time, and it's critical that government bodies are proactive in ensuring that data stays up-to-date and accurate. Independent audits or third-party verification could serve as a safeguard to prevent such errors from going unnoticed.

Lastly, citizens and local experts must be actively involved in the process of verifying official data. In this case, I used GIS tools and government maps from the NIC to uncover the discrepancy, but local communities should be empowered to cross-check and validate such information. When citizens are equipped with the resources to challenge incorrect data, it fosters greater accountability and transparency in governance.

Supporting Evidence:

To further substantiate the claims made in this piece, I have provided the following screenshots and data:

- Screenshot of Bandipora's Official Website: This screenshot clearly lists the area of Bandipora as 345 square kilometers.
- Map of Kashmir Valley: A map showing the layout of the Kashmir Valley, providing context for the region's geography.
- Calculated Area of Bandipora: A map showing the actual area of Bandipora, which is closer to 2000 square

kilometers, as calculated using GIS tools.

4. Table of District Areas (Pre- and Post-2007): A table listing the areas of all districts in the Kashmir Valley before and after the creation of new districts in 2007, highlighting the changes that should have been reflected in the official data.

“The history of administrative divisions in the Kashmir Valley is critical in understanding the importance of accurate district data. For much of its modern history, the Valley had only six districts. It was only in 2006, under the coalition government of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the Indian National Congress (INC), that four new districts were carved out, including Bandipora, which became a standalone district. The creation of new districts—Bandipora, Kulgam, Shopian, and Anantnag—was a significant move aimed at improving local governance, better resource allocation, and bringing administration closer to the people.”

square kilometers, is far smaller than the actual 2000 square kilometers. This discrepancy is not just a technical mistake—it affects everything from local services to political representation. As someone who has lived and traveled extensively across the Kashmir Valley, I find it deeply troubling that this mistake has persisted for so long without correction.

The creation of new districts in 2006 was meant to bring administration closer to the people, but the continued misrepresentation of data in Bandipora undermines that goal. It is time for local authorities to take immediate action to correct this discrepancy and restore trust in the accuracy of public data. The accuracy of district boundaries and area figures is not just a matter of numbers—it shapes the future of our communities.

Chai as Currency: How a Symbol of Hospitality Fuels Corruption in Kashmir



Faheem ul islam

In the heart of our Kashmir Valley, where the breathtaking snow-capped mountains embrace the serene landscape, a cherished tradition has flourished—one as rich and inviting as the region's famous saffron chai. It's not merely the tea that matters, but the act it represents—a transaction of goodwill, a quiet form of patronage, and a frequently whispered practice of corruption. Across the valley's streets, within bureaucratic offices, and even in government hospitals, "chai" has become synonymous with the subtle yet pervasive system of bribery.

It starts simply enough. An individual enters an office, a governmental building, or even a local establishment with a request. This could be as straightforward as a document needing a signature, a procedure requiring acceleration, or a favor needing attention. What follows is the offering of chai—not strictly in the form of tea, but as a representation of unvoiced negotiation. For those seeking assistance, chai turns into the gesture of goodwill. It signifies a quiet submission, an unspoken acknowledgment that a "gift" is anticipated in exchange for a task that should, ideally, be performed irrespective of personal contributions.

A Personal Experience

A friend once recounted his experience to me. His father, an aging man, had spent months awaiting the processing of his pension paperwork. Despite numerous visits, he consistently faced delays and promises that remained unfulfilled. After yet another unsuccessful visit, a colleague suggested, "Why don't you just bring a few packets of dry fruit, some tea, and return?" My friend was hesitant, but ultimately agreed. Upon his return, the paperwork was finalized in less than a week. The dry fruit, the chai, had effectively "greased

the wheels" in a manner that forms, signatures, and official duties had not managed to.

This experience is not unique. Within the government

transparency are often subordinated to the barter of favors.

The Irony of Hospitality and Corruption



offices of Kashmir, a concealed truth exists. The power structures are frequently biased in favor of those who can afford to offer something, anything at all. This reality is deeply embedded in the region's social fabric. It's not just bureaucrats; even the common citizen has learned to navigate this system. From educators expecting "chai" from students in return for grades to hospital personnel anticipating small gifts from patients in exchange for prompt care, the ramifications of this culture stretch through all facets of society. Yet, it's not merely a question of money or materials; it's about survival, about maneuvering through a system so enmeshed in its own inefficiency and corruption that individuals feel compelled to engage in it. Many, if not the majority, of those trapped in this cycle do not act out of avarice; rather, it's the consequence of a deeply entrenched system where justice, equity, and

There exists a painful irony in the way chai has evolved into a representation of both hospitality and corruption. In a culture that values hospitality deeply, where offering a cup of tea signifies kindness and reverence, this same chai has come to embody more somber implications. For numerous individuals, it transcends mere refreshment; it represents a barrier to progress, the fee for services that should be effortlessly accessible. This concern reaches beyond the simple act of drinking chai. It mirrors a more profound issue—an ailing system where fundamental rights, ranging from healthcare to education to justice, are not assured unless one is willing to pay a price that often exceeds monetary value. This reality is one that many have come to accept, as they maneuver through the obscured and narrow paths that lead to achieving

what they desire—be it a signature, necessary treatment, or government funding.

Although chai culture in Kashmir is deeply embedded, it is not something we should accept without scrutiny. It is indeed a harsh reality, but it does not have to dictate the future of this enchanting region. What we perceive in each corner—from bureaucratic institutions to medical centers—is a manifestation of a far more complex issue—an atmosphere where inefficiency, corruption, and survival instincts intersect, rendering daily tasks feel like a battle against the odds. However, transformation is achievable.

Conclusion

Many individuals are weary of this flawed system, advocating for change, and envisioning a brighter Kashmir as not merely a fantasy, but a goal worth pursuing. The youthful population of Kashmir, educated and conscious, is starting to raise their voices, rejecting the notion of bribery as an unavoidable reality. The fact remains that this cycle of chai as a bribe will persist only if we allow it. The strength resides within the community—every individual who chooses to abstain from it, every teacher who refrains from requesting "chai" from students, every government official who opts for honesty instead of a quick favor, can play a role in dismantling this cycle.

Kashmir's future doesn't have to be defined by chai as the cost for progress. Instead, it can evolve into a place where access to necessary services is viewed as a right rather than a transaction. Achieving this will necessitate a united effort. It's a challenging task, and change won't happen instantly, but each small act of defiance, every voice raised against the prevailing norms, brings us closer to a future where chai is simply a beverage, a mark of hospitality, rather than a measure of survival.

Faheem ul islam hails from Achan Pulwama and has done his masters in international politics from Aligarh Muslim University. He can be reached at faheemulislam9@gmail.com

A friend once recounted his experience to me. His father, an aging man, had spent months awaiting the processing of his pension paperwork. Despite numerous visits, he consistently faced delays and promises that remained unfulfilled. After yet another unsuccessful visit, a colleague suggested, "Why don't you just bring a few packets of dry fruit, some tea, and return?" My friend was hesitant, but ultimately agreed. Upon his return, the paperwork was finalized in less than a week. The dry fruit, the chai, had effectively "greased the wheels" in a manner that forms, signatures, and official duties had not managed to.

Satish Sharma calls on Union Minister; discusses issues regarding road, transport infra in J&K

NEW DELHI: Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, I&T, S&T, ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today called on Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi and discussed the development scenario in J&K related to road infrastructure and transportation. Satish Sharma expressed gratitude for all the support being extended by the Union government towards development of the region. He apprised the Union Minister of status of the road network in J&K. He stated that J&K being a mountainous region requires good road connectivity to develop the far-flung areas. The Minister also submitted a memorandum mentioning the construction and repair of several roads, highways and bridges throughout J&K. He urged for a dedicated corridor for Jammu and

Airport to Padamshri Padma Sachdev College for Women, Grade elevator for K C Theatre BC Road to Mandal, one elevated corridor from Jewel Chowk Jammu to Canal Road crossing to be connected with Akhnoor flyover. Similarly, Satish Sharma also demanded one elevated corridor from Akhara Maisuma Chowk to Dalgate Srinagar, an elevated corridor from Qamarwari to Srinagar city, one elevated corridor for Downtown Srinagar just parallel above the existing route/roads from Soura-Nowhatta-Bohri Kadal-old city-Habba Kadal area besides elevated corridor/4-lanning on Boulevard road from Dalgate to Nishat area, second bridge over Jhelum with viaduct connecting existing Abdullah bridge Rajbagh and Lal Mandi Road, Srinagar. The Minister requested for underpasses for the pedestrians

and Mono-Rail under Urban Transportation, development of Integrated Transport Hubs to improve multimodal connectivity in Jammu and Srinagar cities. Satish Sharma also urged for four lanning/ upgradation of road connectivity in border areas especially Akhnoor-Chhamb and Kupwara-Uri (Border Transportation) besides enhanced allocations under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for remote

and border villages. The Minister discussed various other issues including early completion of ongoing tunnel projects and approval of new tunnels at various places especially snow bound areas, assistance for procuring electric buses and establishing charging infrastructure under ongoing schemes for public transport modernisation, Pilot projects on smart public transport systems using real-time tracking

and passenger information systems, installation of Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) Cameras on State and Local Roads, approval for ropeway projects to boost tourism and improve connectivity in border and hilly regions besides expansion of existing ropeway projects. Satish Sharma also requested for financial support for feasibility and project execution under the National Ropeway Development Program, strengthening border area roads for strategic and civilian purposes under the Bharatmala Pariyojana, establishment of a Center of Excellence in Road and Transport Engineering in J&K for research and training, allocation of funds for procurement and strengthening of government owned public transport fleet in J&K, establishment of an Institute of Driving Training and Research

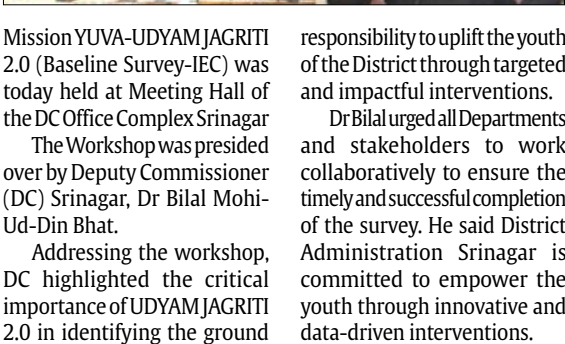
(IDTR) in Kashmir province in the upcoming financial year on the similar pattern of IDTR in Jammu, establishment of Government-Funded Automatic Vehicle Fitness and Inspection Centres in different locations in J&K. The Union Minister, while responding to the issues raised by the UT Minister, assured that all these matters of vital public importance would be considered for redressal within the shortest possible time. Nitin Gadkari said that the vision of Viksit Bharat can't be achieved without the progress of J&K as it has exceptional place in national progress policy. He said that centre government is committed for establishment of a robust roads and highways infrastructure in the region. He assured to consider the projects highlighted by the UT Minister, Satish Sharma.



Workshop on Mission YUVA- UDYAM JAGRITI 2.0 (Baseline Survey-IEC) held at Srinagar

Baseline Survey will play a pivotal role in tailoring self-employment schemes, youth-centric programs: DC Srinagar

SRINAGAR: In order to ensure the effective implementation of Baseline Survey for assessing the socio-economic aspirations and challenges of youth in District, a Workshop cum interaction session under



realities and paving the way for effective policymaking under Mission YUVA. The DC reaffirmed the commitment to the goals of Mission YUVA and underscored the need of collective responsibility to uplift the youth of the District through targeted and impactful interventions. Dr Bilal urged all Departments and stakeholders to work collaboratively to ensure the timely and successful completion of the survey. He said District Administration Srinagar is committed to empower the youth through innovative and data-driven interventions.

He stressed the need for meticulous data collection, as the insights gathered from this baseline survey will play a pivotal role in tailoring self-employment schemes and youth-centric programs. He also encouraged Officers to engage actively with field teams and provide the necessary support to ensure the survey's efficiency and accuracy. During the programme, the challenges faced by supervisors and enumerators were also discussed in detail, and directions were issued to address these issues promptly. Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria; Chief Planning Officer, Deputy Director Employment, District Statistics and Evaluation Officer, besides District Employment Officer, District Career Counseling Officer, other Officers and stakeholders were present on the occasion.

DC Kupwara hands-over Rs.12 lakh cheque to fish farmer for establishment of Trout Feed Mill

KUPWARA: In a significant step towards promoting sustainable aquaculture and enhancing the fisheries sector in District Kupwara, the first-ever Trout Feed Mill has been established under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). This project, valued at Rs.30 lakh, has received a subsidy of Rs.12 lakh, marking a major milestone in the region's efforts to boost fish farming and improve the livelihoods of local fish farmers. The cheque for the project was handed over to the fish farmer by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan in presence of

Assistant Director Fisheries Kupwara. The establishment of the Trout Feed Mill will play a crucial role in providing high-quality feed for trout farming, which is a key component of the region's aquaculture industry. This initiative aligns with the central government's goal of promoting fisheries and aquaculture under the PMMSY scheme, ensuring food security,

creating employment opportunities, and increasing the income of fish farmers across the country. This development marks a new chapter in the growth of District Kupwara's fisheries industry, and it is hoped that it will lead to increased production, better quality fish, and a significant improvement in the livelihoods of the local community.



DC Anantnag launches Udhyaam Jagriti Baseline Survey Phase 2.0 at Sheikhgund, Shangus

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Syed Fakhruddin Hamid Tuesday launched the Udhyaam Jagriti Baseline Survey Phase 2.0 at Panchayat Sheikhgund, Shangus Block of Anantnag District. Udhyaam Jagriti Baseline Survey Phase 2.0 is a comprehensive initiative designed to collect and analyze detailed information about the area. The primary objective is to utilize these insights to formulate a development program tailored to the unique requirements of the region, ensuring equitable and sustainable growth. DC while addressing the gathering emphasized the importance of the baseline survey as a tool for holistic development. He highlighted its potential to provide targeted interventions for enhancing the quality of life in the region. He also commended the villagers of Sheikhgund for their remarkable achievement in declaring their village smoking-free, a milestone that reflects their dedication to community well-being. Recognizing their efforts, he announced that the villagers of Sheikhgund would be special



invitees for Republic Day 2025 celebrations, as a tribute to their progressive mindset and exemplary initiatives. The Udhyaam Jagriti Baseline Survey Phase 2.0 is expected to pave the way for evidence-based planning and targeted interventions. This initiative aims to empower Sheikhgund besides other villages in the district, creating a roadmap for comprehensive and inclusive development. The District Administration of Anantnag remains committed to fostering progressive, community-driven initiatives that ensure long-term benefits for all. Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Assistant Director (AD) Employment, Employment officer and CCO of DE&CC Anantnag and other senior officers were present at the event.

Arrangements for celebration of Republic Day-2025 reviewed at Karnah

KUPWARA: A meeting of all concerned officers of Karnah Sub Division was held at Meeting Hall Mini Secretariat Tangdar to review the arrangements for celebration of the Republic Day 2025. The meeting was convened by Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Karnah, Zaffar Ahmad Lone. He directed all the departments to ensure fool proof arrangements in place so that the National event is celebrated seamlessly in the sub division. He also emphasized the need for maintaining protocol in seating arrangement and also issued directions to the police department for taking proper protocol of the National Flag and security arrangements. Arrangements including Power supply, water, sanitation, seating arrangements were also discussed at large, and the concerned departments were directed to ensure these arrangements at the venue well before the beginning of the celebration. Other arrangements including refreshment, deployment of magistrates, arrangement of cultural programmes, barricading, facility of commentators and availability of fire-tenders were also reviewed. The meeting was attended by BDO, Tehsildar Karnah, BMO, Engineers from R&B and PHE Karnah, SHO Tangdar and Teetwal and other concerned officers.



Udhyaam Jagriti 2.0 under Mission YUVA launched at Pulwama

DDC highlights significance of Mission YUVA in fostering entrepreneurial awareness, youth empowerment

PULWAMA: district-level program to launch the Baseline Survey for Udhyaam Jagriti 2.0 under Mission YUVA was held at District Administrative Complex, Pulwama. The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom inaugurated the program and highlighted the significance of Mission YUVA in fostering entrepreneurial awareness and youth empowerment in the region. During the program, officials elaborated on the objectives of Udhyaam Jagriti 2.0, focusing on conducting a baseline survey to assess the skill sets, aspirations and employment opportunities available to the youth in the district. The survey aims to create a comprehensive database to design targeted interventions for capacity building, skill development and entrepreneurship promotion under Mission YUVA. Speaking on the occasion, DDC urged local youth to actively participate in the program and leverage the opportunities provided to enhance their skills and entrepreneurial potential. In his remarks, DC emphasized the need to ensure that the public is well-informed about



the objectives and advantages of the scheme. He directed supervisors to conduct door-to-door surveys and also distribute informative pamphlets, besides actively engage with the residents to highlight the program's potential to generate employment and support local businesses. Dr. Basharat commended the officers and officials involved in the Mission YUVA initiative, appreciating their dedication and hard work in advancing the program. He specifically lauded the progress made in the baseline survey, which commenced on January 2, 2025, as a preparatory step for the initiative. The program was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pulwama (Nodal Officer YUVA), DSEO Pulwama, Assistant Director Employment, Pulwama and other officers and Supervisors nominated for Mission YUVA.

Awareness program under Mission YUVA (Udyam Jagriti 2.0 – Baseline Survey) held at Kupwara

KUPWARA: The District Administration Kupwara today organized an awareness program as part of Mission YUVA (Udyam Jagriti 2.0 – Baseline Survey), which saw an enthusiastic participation from district officers, supervisors, and investigators. Addressing the programme, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan appreciated the efforts of the officers including supervisors and investigators for showing good progress in undertaking the Baseline Survey under Mission YUVA. She enjoined upon them to pace up the survey and adhere to the collection of quality data to ensure accuracy of the database which is the key to the success of the Mission YUVA programme. Earlier, Assistant Director Employment Kupwara emphasized the significance of fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among the region's unemployed youth. He stressed the pivotal role Mission YUVA plays in empowering young people by offering them the necessary tools, knowledge, and financial support to establish their own enterprises. He further highlighted how the initiative is a vital step towards transforming the

economic landscape of the district by providing youth with avenues to become job creators rather than job seekers. The Employment Officer engaged the participants with insightful PowerPoint presentation and provided a comprehensive overview of the mission's goals, objectives, and the various opportunities it offers to the youth. The presentation served to clarify the process and advantages of participating in the scheme, encouraging the attendees to spread the word and ensure maximum outreach among eligible candidates. The program concluded with an interactive session, where participants had the opportunity to ask questions and



gain further clarity on the steps to avail the benefits of Mission YUVA. This initiative reflects the district's commitment to enhancing employment opportunities and creating a sustainable ecosystem of entrepreneurship for the youth of Kupwara. It was informed that a survey of 39000 households has already been completed under Mission YUVA in district Kupwara covering around 2 lakh individuals in the district. Later, the DC said that Baseline survey is being conducted under Mission YUVA in all 385 panchayats of district Kupwara. To execute the survey, 60 supervisors and more than 1200 investigators have been deputed who have been provided proper training. The objective of the Mission YUVA is to understand the aspirations and demands of the youth and connect them with self employment schemes of the Government for their better future. She appealed to the people of Kupwara district to participate in the Baseline Survey so that quality data is obtained for betterment and welfare of the unemployed youth.

Mission YUVA: DE&CC Baramulla hosts capacity building seminar at Sheeri

BARAMULLA: The District Employment and Counseling Centre (DE&CC), Baramulla, today organized a one-day capacity-building seminar at Narwah in Sheeri, as part of the IEC (Information, Education & Communication) campaign for Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan). The seminar was presided over by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina and was attended by the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Assistant Director Employment, and witnessed significant participation from enthusiastic youth and local stakeholders. The seminar, part of Project YUVA, focused on empowering young individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to embark on entrepreneurial ventures and seize employment opportunities. The initiative aligns with the government's vision to promote self-reliance and job creation in the region. Speaking during the workshop, the ADC emphasized that through initiatives like Project YUVA, aim is to transform the aspirations of our youth into tangible achievements and underscored that the

district administration remains committed to creating a conducive environment for employment and entrepreneurship. Dr. Zahoor Ahmad further stated that the district administration has deployed 1,500 invigilators to carry out a comprehensive baseline survey aimed at identifying unemployed youth and empower them by facilitating access to sustainable livelihood opportunities. In his address, the AD, DE&CC Baramulla elaborated on the various schemes and programs designed to support youth in achieving financial independence, including, financial assistance programs, skill development workshops and business



mentorship initiatives. Throughout the day, a series of interactive sessions were conducted by experts in financial literacy and covered topics such as effective business strategies, and leveraging government schemes for self-employment. The participants also had the opportunity to engage directly with resource persons to seek advice and share their ideas. The seminar also provided a platform for inspiring success stories, where local entrepreneurs who had benefited from previous government initiatives shared their journeys, resonating deeply with the participants and serving as a source of motivation.

Vitamin C: Move over lemons and oranges, these 5 foods have heaps of this nutrient

A water-soluble nutrient, vitamin C is strongly linked to antioxidant properties that benefit skin health and strengthen immunity as well. This nutrient is found in abundance in fruits and vegetables. Unlike vitamin D, the human body cannot produce or store vitamin C which is why it is essential to consume it in good quantities. This nutrient is also essential for small blood vessels, bones, teeth and collagen tissue. Experts recommend a minimum of 90mg of vitamin C for normal functioning of the body and to

dodge the risk of deficiency. On one hand, the most popular sources of vitamin C like oranges and lemons give 53.2mg and 53mg of vitamin C in a 100-gram serving. However, there are a number of other sources of vitamin C that contain way more of this nutrient as compared to lemons and oranges. Keep reading to find out what they are. Pineapple: Some people enjoy its juice, some like it sliced and some enjoy it over a pizza – irrespective, pineapple is one of the best sources of vitamin C with 79mg in a single serving. Additionally, this fruit can help

build strong bones while maintaining blood sugar levels well. : Often recommended for irregular periods, this tropical fruit offers a distinct taste with some black salt sprinkled on top. Papayas, while being a rich source of fibre, a single cup of papaya gives 88m of vitamin C. Guava: Often enjoyed on a summer afternoon at grandma's house, guavas are a low-calorie fruit with limited quantities of fibre and carbohydrates per fruit. And in terms of vitamin C, a single fruit can give 126 mg of this nutrient – and most of it is found



in the rind. Kiwi: The deep-green coloured fruit has an extremely low

glycemic index and is often seen on the recommended list of those who are trying to lose weight or of

diabetes patients struggling with high blood sugar levels. However, what makes this fruit a must-have is its vitamin C value – two kiwis can give as much as 137 mg of this nutrient. Bell peppers: Fruits indeed are some of the best sources of vitamin C; and in the vegetable category, bell peppers are another super-rich source. Be it the red, yellow or green variety, bell peppers have a varied quantity of vitamin C – the medium-sized red version contains 152mg, 96mg in the green version and the yellow one offers 218mg.

PART-III

The Best Foods To Eat When You're On A Diet

Final Verdict About Broth-Based Soups
Soups are filling and keep you full for a long time. Soup at the start of a meal can help you feel fuller, eat fewer calories, and lose weight over time. Plus, who can say no to broth-based soups? They're not only filling but delicious as well!

Boiled Potatoes

Many individuals avoid potatoes when trying to lose weight because of their high carb content, but they shouldn't. Vitamins, fiber, and other essential components are abundant in whole potatoes. Resistant starch, a kind of starch, is also included. Regular starch has half the calories of resistant starch (2 instead of 4 calories per gram). It works in the same manner as soluble fiber does in the digestive tract to make you feel full. People eat less calories when resistant starch is added to meals to help them feel full.

What Studies Say About Boiled Potatoes

Potatoes should be chilled after cooking to increase the amount of resistant starch they contain. Cooling and reheating potatoes several times increases their hunger-suppressing impact, according to studies. Boiling potatoes came out on top in research that looked at the ability of 38 different foods to satisfy hunger. The most filling item tested was boiling potatoes, however, fried potato chips were found to be three times less filling.

Final Verdict About Boiled Potatoes

On the satiety index, boiling potatoes, which are high in nutrients, rank first. Because fried potato chips are three times less full than baked potato chips, they are not recommended for weight loss. If you're on a diet and want to consume potatoes, make sure you cook them first.

Berries

Are you a sucker for sweets? A bunch of berries popped into your mouth – such an easy, delicious, and healthful way to satisfy that craving. Strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries can be combined together or picked out separately. Berries are great on their own or mixed into yogurt, and they add the perfect amount of spice to your diet. Because they're high in antioxidants and fiber, they're a healthy way to satisfy your sugar cravings.

Yogurt

For good reason, yogurt is always near the top of any list of healthy foods. Yogurt is a delicious breakfast, lunch, or dinner option. Try it plain or add berries and granola to amp up the flavor. Yogurt is high in probiotics, which help your body absorb less fat and supply beneficial microorganisms to help your intestines clean themselves. Yogurt also helps you burn fat, so there's no reason not to incorporate it in your daily routine!

Chili

Make things a little more interesting in your life! Spicy foods increase your metabolism, allowing you to burn fat faster. In only one chili pepper, you can get enough beta carotene for the entire day and TWICE the amount of vitamin C you require. Benefits to the skin, hair, nails, and waistline!

Cucumbers

Cucumbers are a must-have in any diet. Because cucumbers are mostly water, they are low in calories and satisfying. Try to include one in your daily lunch and see how much less bread you consume as a result! Cucumbers also aid in the reduction of bloating and water retention, so it's a win-win situation!

Salsa

Salsa can be produced with several fruits and vegetables, although tomatoes, onions, and peppers are the most frequent. All of these vegetables are incredibly nutritious and abundant in nutrients. Salsa has a low-calorie count due to the fact that it is produced using water rather than milk or oil. You are welcome

to eat it!

Lettuce

Lettuce has a bad rep for being nutritionally insufficient and the poor cousin of cabbage, spinach, kale, and all other greens. So, stop hating lettuce, because we're here to tell you that you shouldn't! If you choose the right kind, it's loaded with nutrients. Other dark green and purple lettuces, as well as romaine lettuce, contain vitamin B, folic acid, and manganese.

Quinoa

Quinoa is currently one of the most popular foods, and for good reason. It's low in calories but high in

We don't recommend doing the cinnamon challenge (in fact, we strongly discourage it...), but a pinch of cinnamon here and there can help you lose weight. The spice stimulates the synthesis of insulin, which aids in the regulation of high blood sugar levels. It may even encourage your body to burn fat rather than store it. Cinnamon is a fantastic health keeper for both the inside and outside.

Kale

Kale has definitely had its moment in the sun (and then some) but as far as healthy greens go, it certainly deserves praise. Cruciferous green (which is even available at McDonald's these days) is loaded with



protein, making it a filling addition to any meal and a terrific replacement for rice, pasta, potatoes, and other carbs. There are many different types of quinoa, but there isn't much nutritional difference between them, so choose your favorite – or mix them all together!

Cranberry Juice

We're not talking about the sugar-laden cranberry juice cocktail here. Grab a glass of 100% cranberry juice and watch the pounds melt away. The bitter juice is abundant in vitamin C and acts as a diuretic, allowing your body to rid itself of excess fluid.

Dark Chocolate

You probably didn't think chocolate would make the cut! Diets are challenging, and if you restrict yourself totally, you risk bingeing and destroying all of your hard work. If you want something sweet, consume a couple squares of dark chocolate every now and again to avoid this. Dark chocolate has healthy fats and contains less sugar than other chocolates, making it significantly healthier than other treats. According to some studies, it's even good for your heart! So, if you have a craving, don't be afraid to indulge – but only in moderation.

Almonds

Almonds are the least calorie-dense nut, with only about 7 calories per nut, but they are also the healthiest. They're high in protein and healthy fats (both of which are essential for weight loss), as well as vitamin E.

Cinnamon

health-boosting nutrients like vitamin A, phosphorus, and B vitamins like folic acid, and boasts twice the vitamin C of spinach, another nutritional superstar. Additionally, a study in the journal JRSMD Cardiovascular Disease found that a high daily intake of leafy green vegetables and cruciferous vegetables (such as kale) significantly reduced the incidence of several types of cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death among women in the United States. Feel free to add some kale to a variety of meals ranging from egg dishes to tacos, to beverages like juices and smoothies.

Dark green leafy vegetables, oranges and tomatoes, even fresh herbs, are full of vitamins, fiber and minerals. Adding frozen bell peppers, broccoli or onions to casseroles and omelets gives them a quick and convenient boost of color and nutrients. Oranges are not only delicious, but also packed with vitamins. They contain fiber, vitamin C, potassium, nutrients, and pectin. It would also help us lower blood pressure, improve blood vessel function, control cholesterol, and could boost our sodium and protein balance. This fruit would give us a lot of benefit to our body, especially our heart.

Garlic

Garlic belongs to the genus Allium and is closely related to onions, rakkyo (an onion found in Asia), chives, chives, leeks, and shallots. It has been used by humans for thousands of years and was used in Ancient Egypt both for culinary purposes and for its health and therapeutic benefits. In many countries, garlic has been used for medicinal purposes for centuries. Garlic

can have a variety of health benefits, both raw and cooked. It may have important antibiotic properties. Garlic has been used around the world for thousands of years. Records indicate that garlic was in use when the Giza pyramids were built, some 5,000 years ago.

Red Wine

Researchers have studied wine, especially red wine, extensively for its potential health benefits. Red wine has been part of social, religious and cultural events for hundreds of years. Medieval monasteries believed that their monks lived longer in part because they drank wine regularly and in moderation. In recent years, science has indicated that there might be some truth to these claims. According to a 2018 study, Trusted Source, although there are no official recommendations on these benefits in particular, drinking red wine in moderation has positive links with: cardiovascular disease, atherosclerosis, hypertension, certain types of cancer, type 2 diabetes, neurological disorders, syndrome metabolic

Sardines

Sardines have been around for centuries. These small fish are said to be named after Sardinia, an island in Italy, due to the abundance that could be found there. While sardines can be enjoyed fresh, they are highly perishable. That is why they are most often found in cans. Sardines abound in the Atlantic, Pacific and Mediterranean seas. They feed solely on plankton, which means they do not contain the high levels of mercury that other fish do. Sardines are not a popular fish in the United States, but after taking a look at their nutritional benefits, you might decide to give them a try for yourself. These small fish are packed with nutrients that can be beneficial in preventing a number of health problems.

Lentils

Here are some amazing ratios: One cup of lentils has the protein of three eggs, with less than a gram of fat! Their high fiber content makes them extremely satiating, and studies have shown that they accelerate fat loss: Spanish researchers found that people whose diets included four weekly servings of legumes lost more weight and improved their cholesterol more than people who didn't. Eat them plain as a side or simmer them in a soup. Lentils are relatively quick and easy to prepare, and their low cost makes them an affordable form of high-quality protein for many people around the world. Lentils can improve health, great nutritional content.

Pomegranate

When cracking open a pomegranate and freeing the jewels from the fruit is hard work, you may be making it even harder by spitting out the seeds. Despite some popular opinions, pomegranate seeds can be eaten, and they're good for you too! Pomegranate is a very healthy fruit. Many people open them, take out the seeds and eat them whole. Others suck the juice from each seed before spitting out the white stringy medium. This latter group may be missing out on some of the health benefits of pomegranate. In vitamin C, potassium and fiber. Most of that fiber is found in the white seeds that hide under the juice bags. Contains 48 percent of the recommended daily intake of vitamin C, important for a variety of health functions.

Blueberries

Blueberries can be eaten freshly picked or incorporated into a variety of recipes. They can also be bought frozen. They have been shown to protect against heart disease and cancer, and may also help maintain bone strength, mental health, and healthy blood pressure. Fast facts on blueberries: Blueberries contain a plant compound called anthocyanin. This gives blueberries both their blue color and many of their health benefits. Blueberries can support heart health, bone strength, skin health, blood pressure, diabetes control, cancer prevention, and mental health. A cup of blueberries provides 24 percent of the daily recommended amount of vitamin C.

Continued From P1...

PM Modi to

tunnel, built at a cost of ₹2,400 crore, is strategically vital for maintaining uninterrupted connectivity to Sonamarg, a region that often remains cut off during harsh winters due to heavy snowfall. This development is being seen as a major milestone in improving infrastructure and ensuring all-weather accessibility in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Z-Morh tunnel is a game-changer for both the military and civilians. It will facilitate faster deployment of troops, seamless supply of military equipment, and uninterrupted transport of essential goods to border areas. Improved connectivity will also enhance travel speed between Jammu and Kashmir and other regions, easing movement for local residents," says a senior official associated with the project.

"With the completion of the Z-Morh tunnel, connectivity to Sonamarg will now remain intact even during severe weather conditions," said Harpal Singh, General Manager of the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL). Singh credited the success of the project to local workers and engineers, with 90% of the workforce hailing from Kashmir, Doda, and Banihal.

The tunnel is expected to provide a major boost to tourism in Sonamarg, which has traditionally remained inaccessible for six months of the year due to snowfall. "This project will enable safe travel through avalanche-prone areas and significantly reduce travel time from Gagangir to Sonamarg to just 30 minutes," said Riyaz Ahmad, a local resident.

Ahmad highlighted that the tunnel's completion will enhance winter tourism, offering a lifeline to businesses and livelihoods in the region that have been adversely affected during the off-season.

Construction of the Z-Morh tunnel began in 2020 but faced delays, including a setback due to a militant attack in September. Despite these challenges, the project is now ready for inauguration. Officials have confirmed that the Prime Minister will in-inaugurate the tunnel on Republic Day, and that it will be the government's push for infrastructure development in Jammu and Kashmir

Terror-free

He highlighted that the J&K Police, working under extremely challenging circumstances, is playing a significant role in the country's internal security, ensuring the integrity of the nation and safety of the citizens of Union Territory.

Speaking on the new emerging security challenges, the Lieutenant Governor entrusted upon J&K Police to use the innovative tools to enhance its capabilities in countering disinformation and dealing with cross-border cyber threats.

Modern technology like Artificial Intelligence tools have changed the security landscape. Challenges of disinformation and deep fakes, remain major concerns, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called for better use of technological tools to maintain law and order and remain constantly vigilant for effective monitoring and respond to challenges in real time, while also anticipating and analysing changes in the criminals' Modus Operandi to remain a step ahead. "We need to shift our tactics from reactive nature of policing to proactive nature of policing," he said.

"Narco-terrorism, social media weaponization, disinformation campaigns have also emerged as big threats to internal security and harmony in the society. I call upon young police officers to work with new ideas, new tools, and lead the fight against Narco-terrorism, Drug trafficking, cyber-crime and counter radicalization," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that one more column of prosecution be added to the achievements and it should be ensured that the investigation of every crime is taken to its logical conclusion.

"Investigation and successful prosecution are important weaponries of effective policing. The responsibility of J&K Police is not limited to just neutralizing the terrorists, but also eliminating the divisive elements and those aiding and abetting terrorism and separatism," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the J&K Police for its civil action programmes.

Garib Dass, Director, Udampur Police Academy briefed about the program and various activities conducted during the Training course.

The Lieutenant Governor took the ceremonial Salute and inspected the parade. He also felicitated the new recruits who excelled during their training.

An oath was administered to the passing out DySPs for performing their duties with dedication and honesty.

DGP, Nalin Prabhat; Principal Secretary, Home Chandraker Bharti, senior officials of Police, Security Forces and civil administration and family members of the passing out DySPs were present.

Lal Chand, Chairman, District Development Council, Udampur; Balwant Singh Mankotia and Sunil Bhardwaj, Members of Legislative Assembly and prominent citizens in large number were also present on the occasion.

Commissioner Railway

of the Katra-Banihal section using a CRS Special train on Wednesday.

Earlier this month, the Katra-Banihal section saw a successful trial run of an electric train. The railways have conducted six trial runs in the past month across various segments of the track, including the Anji Khad and The officials stated that the CRS report, expected after the two-day inspection, will guide the final steps toward launching passenger services to Kashmir.

Started in 1997, the USBRL project has faced numerous delays due to complex geological, topographical, and meteorological challenges. However, its completion is set to revolutionize connectivity and boost economic and tourism prospects in Jammu and Kashmir.

With the CRS inspection nearing its conclusion, the long-awaited dream of rail connectivity to the Kashmir Valley is on the verge of becoming a reality, a testament to India's engineering prowess and determination.

CM Omar

than 30 minutes and was "cordial", they said.

The finance minister is scheduled to present the Union Budget on February

This is the second meeting between the two leaders in two months.

Abdullah called on Sitharaman in November for his first meeting with the finance minister since taking charge as Jammu and Kashmir chief minister.

Amit Shah

India's journey from being a regional leader to a global leader is being shaped through scientific roadmaps and time-bound execution of programs. He said that India has continued to make good progress in this path. Shah emphasized on the need to upgrading our systems and mechanisms as we move forward and tackle global challenges, and BHARATPOL is a timely step in that direction.

Amit Shah stated that the five key modules of BHARATPOL – Connect, INTERPOL Notices, References, Broadcast, and Resources

– provide a technological platform to support all our law enforcement agencies. He explained that through Connect, all our law enforcement agencies will essentially function as an extension of INTERPOL's National Central Bureau (NCB-New Delhi). He added that the system will ensure quick, secure, and structured transmission of requests for INTERPOL notices, enabling a scientific mechanism to swiftly locate criminals from India and across the globe, within India. Shah highlighted that the INTERPOL References from 195 countries will make it much simpler to seek and provide international assistance for investigations abroad. He mentioned that requests for assistance from 195 countries will now be immediately available through the Broadcast module, while the Resources module will facilitate the exchange and management of documents and capacity-building initiatives.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation highlighted the portal's key feature — a real-time interface — that will enable seamless and effective communication among agencies to enhance crime control measures. Union Home Minister stated that the portal will significantly expedite responses to domestic and international requests for real-time data sharing, including the issuance of Red Corner Notices and other alerts through a global network. He noted that, for years, criminals committing crimes in India and fleeing to other countries have evaded the reach of Indian laws. However, with the implementation of modern systems like BHARATPOL, such criminals can now be brought within the ambit of justice.

Completion of Rules

modifications and adaptations would be carried out due to reorganization of J&K. "The Reorganization Act authorizes the Speaker to make any necessary modifications and adaptations to these rules and standing orders to ensure their effective application," he said.

Another member of the committee, who also wished not to be named, said that references to J&K Constitution, Governor, Legislative Council and Joint Selection Committee (JSC) would be deleted from the old Rules for their effective applicability to the UT Assembly.

"In the old rules, there are references to the legislative council but the Council doesn't exist anymore. So you need to delete it from the rules," he added.

He said the committee would examine the draft proposal regarding the necessary changes to be made in the rules in its next meeting.

Bye-polls for

agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the schedule for the bye-polls in Budgam and Nagrota will not be announced today due to the adverse weather conditions in the region. "There are two constituencies in J&K which are also due for elections: Budgam and Nagrota. Because of snow conditions, we will do it later. We still have time till April; before that, we will complete the election," he said.

Omar Abdullah vacated the Budgam seat on October 21, while the Nagrota seat became vacant on October 31 following the demise of Devinder Singh Rana. According to section 151A of the Representation of Peoples Act -1951, a bye-election for filling any vacancy must be held within six months from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy.

So election of these seats has to be completed before April 20. While the BJP is likely to field Devinder Singh Rana's daughter, Devyani Rana, as its candidate for the Nagrota seat, there is widespread curiosity about who the NC's candidate for the Budgam seat will be. The NC has not provided any hints about its candidate, evoking interest among political observers and voters alike.

In the 2024 J&K polls, Omar Abdullah won the Budgam seat by defeating Muntazir Mehdi, son of separatist leader Agha Hassan, by a margin of more than 18,000 votes. Devinder Singh Rana won the Nagrota seat by defeating Joginder Singh of the National Conference by 30,472 votes

NC to Field

Kashmir have already placed their faith in the National Conference and will continue to support the party in these twin constituencies.

He reiterated that the party remains committed to fulfilling the promises made during the elections. "Some historic decisions have already been taken, and the remaining commitments will also be fulfilled," he added.

Highlighting the party's role during recent snowfall in Kashmir, Dar mentioned that National Conference leaders remained available in their respective constituencies to address public concerns. He also noted that two ministers and the advisor to the chief minister were actively assessing the post-snowfall situation in the Valley.

Locals of Warwan

us after the disaster and ensured that 2 lakh rupees were delivered to the affected families through the CM Care Fund. His prompt action brought hope to us during the difficult time."

Residents also acknowledged the Chief Minister's efforts in addressing their concerns with the central government. " CM assured us that a letter has been sent to the Prime Minister, seeking additional assistance from the PM Care Fund," he added. However, they expressed disappointment over the lack of central government support so far.

The villagers urged their MP, Jitendra Singh, to expedite central assistance for them. "We request him to work alongside the Chief Minister to ensure the PM package reaches us soon," another resident appealed.

While the immediate relief provided by the J&K government

Condolence

It is with the deepest sorrow and a heavy heart that I announced the sad demise of my father **MOHAMMAD SHAFI DAR SB.** who departed from this world today on 07.01.2025 at 01:30 pm after brief illness. Words cannot capture the pain of this sudden loss. His absence leaves an emptiness that can never be filled. Please keep him in your prayers as our family mourn this irreparable loss. May Almighty Allah swt grant his departed soul Magfirah & Jannah and forbearance & fortitude to our grieved family. The Fatah Khawani Rasm e Charum would be performed on 10-02-2025 Friday at 10-30am at Moominabad graveyard near Lower Court Tangpora Batamalo Srinagar. Residence: 52 Faizabad Colony near Masjid Ali Naikbagh Nowgam

9906457733* 9797704366

was appreciated, locals emphasized that the amount was insufficient to rebuild their lives entirely. They are now pinning their hopes on the promised PM package for further assistance.

Over 17 Pc

Department established 3,000 ICT and CAL labs and were planning for additional 834 ICT labs and 1,352 smart classrooms in 2023-24 to enhance experiential learning.

Stating the works completed in the School Education Department, the documents reveal that it has completed 2,562 infrastructure projects in 2022-23, including civil works and facility enhancements under UT Capex and Samagra Shiksha.

MeT predicts

the minimum temperature in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has settled at 0.9 degree while in Qazigund, it has settled at 0.4 degree.

Kupwara in north Kashmir has recorded a low of minus 1.4 degree Celsius while Kokernag recorded a minimum temperature of minus 0.5 degree.

Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, has recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.6 degree Celsius.

The weatherman has however, predicted dry weather conditions for the next three days, saying that the weather would remain generally dry till January 10.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that there is a possibility of light snow at isolated to scattered places on January 11 and 12.

CAT's Jammu bench disposed of record over 15,500 cases

NEW DELHI: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Jammu bench, has disposed of a record over 15,500 cases in a brief period since its inception in 2020, Union minister Jitendra Singh said on Tuesday.



This was shared by the Union minister of state for personnel after a meeting he had with CAT Chairman Justice Ranjit More here about the current status and working of the tribunal, tasked with redressing government employees' service matters.

The meeting focused specifically on the infrastructural setup, manning position and institution/ disposal of cases by the bench in Jammu, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, an official statement said. "The Central Administrative Tribunal Jammu bench has achieved a record of sorts by disposing of as many as 15,537 cases in a brief period since its inception in 2020 during the height of Covid pandemic," the minister was quoted as havi

مدرسۃ البنات دارالعلوم رحیمیہ بانڈی پورہ

کی تعمیر و تکمیل کے صدقہ جاریہ میں خصوصی حصہ لیجیے، موقع غنیمت جائیں

اللہ تبارک و تعالیٰ کے فضل و کرم سے لڑکیوں کے لئے زیر تعمیر "مدرسۃ البنات" کی پہلی محفلت کی آخری منزل مکمل ہونے والی ہے۔ اب اس میں اہم مرحلہ چھت کے بنانے کا ہے۔ انجینئر محضرات کے تجویز کے مطابق چھت میں تقریباً 33 لاکھ روپے کا کام کیا جائے گا۔ لیبر اور میٹریل کا کل خرچہ تقریباً 40 لاکھ روپے ہے۔ چھت پر لگنے والے پٹن کے عینیت کام محفلت کے بعد جس میں الگ سے تقریباً 10 لاکھ روپے لگنے کا تجویز ہے۔

عماریت کی چھت کی حیثیت سرپرش کی ہوتی ہے جو سارے کام کی ستر پٹی اور سارے کرتا ہے۔ لہذا انجینئرس اور مستورات کے اس ادارے کی سرپرشی اور سارے کا انتظام کرنا اللہ تعالیٰ کی جانب سے رحمت اور ساریا ہونے کا ذریعہ ہے گا۔ ان شاء اللہ تعالیٰ۔ اس کا رخیہ میں حصہ لینے کے لئے مدرسۃ البنات کا کیا کا مفت ممبر بنیں کیا گیا ہے:

Account Number	0727010100000200
Title of account	Madrasa Tul Banat Darul Uloom Raheemiyah
Branch	JK Bank Branch Nishat Park Bandipora Kashmir
IFSC Code	JAKA0NIPARK

اس سے نقل بھی اس تعمیر میں بہت سے خوش نصیب محضرات سے کرے گا کہ ان کا حصہ لیکر صدقہ جاریہ پر لگنے کے لئے اپنا حصہ ادا فرمایا۔ اب پھر اللہ پاک نے یہ عمدہ عطا فرمایا کہ خوش رکھنے والے لوگ اس کام میں بھی حصہ لیں گے، اپنے والدین کے لئے عزیز و متعلقین کے لئے صدقہ جاریہ میں متین کر سکتے ہیں۔ اپنی خواہش کو بھی ترقیب دیں تاکہ وہ بھی اپنا حصہ اس کا رخیہ میں لگیں کیونکہ یہ مدرسہ مستورات کے لئے مخصوص ہے۔ ایک کمرے کی ایک سائے سے پانچ لاکھ روپے سے بھی توفیق ہو کر وہ میں یا چھت میں حصہ لیں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ فرمائے۔

اہم گذارش یہ ہے کہ بنگلہ محفلت میں رقم لے کے بعد فوری طور پر 9419089250 پر 8899101091 پر کریں یا شات ڈال دیں ورنہ اس بات پر شک کے ذریعہ یا فون پر اطلاع کریں نیز اپنا نام اور ایڈرس روانہ کریں تاکہ کر دیہہ نیچے میں سہولت ہو سکیگا۔ اب یہ تصدیقات بنگ سے دستیاب نہیں ہوتیں۔

محمد مصطفیٰ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم
چانم دارالعلوم رحیمیہ بانڈی پورہ کشمیر

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that i want to apply for fresh Fertilizer License from Department of Agriculture, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Chief Agriculture officer Mini Secretariat Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be accepted. Hilal Ahmad Reshi.

S/O Mohamad Shafi Reshi.
R/O Buthoo ,
District: Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15 20190000227, my Cost has been Mistakenly written as"Ganie " While as my Actual and correct Cost as per my Aadhar card and other documents is "Lone" Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Muzamil Jamil Lone.
S/O Jamil Ahmad Lone.
R/O Gulshanpora Bagtor Gurez, District Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15 20190000227, my Cost has been Mistakenly written as"Ganie " While as my Actual and correct Cost as per my Aadhar card and other documents is "Lone" Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Muzamil Jamil Lone.
S/O Jamil Ahmad Lone.
R/O Gulshanpora Bagtor Gurez, District

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No:0216020006106, my name and parantege has been Mistakenly written as Bashir Ahmad Malla S/O Mohd Afzal Malla. While as my Actual and correct name and parantege is Bashir Ahmed Sofi S/O Mohd Afzal Sofi. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division kaloosa Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Bashir Ahmed Sofi.
S/O Mohd Afzal Sofi.
R/O Rather Mohalla Kaloosa Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the DOB of my Son has been Mistakenly written in his school records as 08-09-2011, While as his Actual and correct DOB is 30-10-2012. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the principal Gousia Middle school plan Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mohd Hussain Mir.
F/O Mohammad Anzar Mir.
R/O Dachigam Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Aadhar card bearing Registration No: 9232 5099 1128. My name has been Mistakenly written as Jahanara khatun. While as my Actual and correct name as per my Domicile Certificate is Rubeena Begum. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Concern Authorities with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Rubeena Begum.
W/O Javaid Ahmad Ganie.
R/O Kunusa Guzerbal Bandipora.
Jammu and Kashmir UT India, pin code

Whitewash at home bigger failure than BGT loss; not fair to target Rohit, Virat: Yuvraj

World Cup-winning former all-rounder Yuvraj Singh has said that being whitewashed at home by New Zealand was a bigger low for Team India than the loss of Border-Gavaskar Trophy but refused to join the chorus of criticism against embattled veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

India have endured a difficult last few months in the five-day format, going down 0-3 to an under-strength New Zealand at home, which was a first in the team's Test history. This was followed by a 1-3 drubbing by Australia in the away edition of the Border Gavaskar series.

Both the debacles have been largely attributed to the team's batting frailties, especially those of Rohit and Kohli.

"According to me, losing (to) New Zealand is more hurting (sic). Because they are losing 3-0 at home. You know, that is not acceptable. This (losing BGT) is still acceptable because you have won two times in Australia. And this time you lost," Yuvraj told 'PTI Videos' in an interview here.

"Australia has been a dominant side for the last so many years, that is my thought," the 43-year-old hero of India's 2011 World Cup triumph said.

While Kohli managed at least a hundred during the series despite continuing to be dismissed whenever he was baited outside

the off stump, Rohit was worse with a tally of just 31 runs and had to drop himself from the final Test.

Yuvraj said it is unfair to lambast the duo given their past achievements.

"We are talking about our greats, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, we are saying very bad things about them," he said.

"...people forget what they have achieved in the past. They are one of the greatest cricket-

ers of this time. Okay, they lost, they did not play good cricket. They are getting hurt more than us," he added.

Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, they are the best minds in cricket right now," he asserted.

"And they have to decide what's the way for Indian cricket in future," he said.

The big-hitting former batter also lauded Rohit for dropping himself from the Sydney Test, saying it was a selfless act.

"I think it is a big thing. I have never seen in the past that the captain's form is not going well and he himself has gone out. And this is Rohit Sharma's greatness that he has kept the team ahead of himself," Yuvraj said.

"I think he is a great captain. Whether win or lose, he will always be a great captain. And in his captaincy, we have played the (ODI) World Cup final. We won a T20 World Cup. We have achieved a lot," he pointed out.

He urged the critics to exercise restraint while dissecting the team's performance.

"I was a student of the game and now I am a student of the game. The amount of cricket I have played, they have played more cricket than me," said the man, who played 304 ODIs, 40 Tests and 58 T20 Internationals for India, amassing 11,000 runs across formats.

"I can give my opinion. And my opinion is that when players are not performing, it is easy to say bad about them. But it is very difficult to support them. Media's job is to say bad about them. My job is to support my friends and brothers. For me, they are my family. Simple," he signed off.



"I was a student of the game and now I am a student of the game.
The amount of cricket I have played, they have played more cricket than me," said the man, who played 304 ODIs, 40 Tests and 58 T20 Internationals for India, amassing 11,000 runs across formats.

62 medals for J&K: Stellar performance at 30th National Thang-Ta Championship

HARIDWAR, UTTARAKHAND: The Jammu and Kashmir Thang-Ta team has brought laurels to the Union Territory by clinching second place at the 30th Sub-Junior and Senior National Thang-Ta Championship 2024-25. The championship, held from January 4 to 6 in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, saw participation from 26 states, showcasing top talent in this traditional martial art.

The J&K team delivered a stellar performance, securing a total of 62 medals—20 gold, 20 silver, and 22 bronze. Their commendable effort earned them the overall second position, with Manipur taking the top spot and Assam finishing third.

Adding to the team's success, Mr. Ayjaz Ahmad Bhat received the prestigious "Best Coach of the Year" award from the President of the World Thang-Ta Federation. This recognition highlights Mr. Bhat's dedication and significant contribution to the growth of Thang-Ta in the region.

Expressing pride in the team's achievement, the Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Thang-Ta Association stated, "This victory is a moment of immense pride for all of us. Our players worked tirelessly, and the residential coaching camp organized by the J&K Sports Council played a vital role in refining their skills and boosting their stamina. We are particularly grateful to Madam Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, for her unwavering support and efforts to promote sports in the region."



30th National Thang-Ta Championship: Two Athletes from Pulwama Clinch Gold Medals

Bilal Habib

PAMPORE: Two talented athletes from South Kashmir's Pulwama district, have made their mark on the national stage by securing gold medals at the 30th Senior National Thang-Ta Championship 2024 at Haridwar Uttarakhand.



Kashamat Nazir and Sheebu Ashraf both hailing from Kakapora Pulwama showcased exceptional skill and determination to claim top honors in their respective categories during the championship held in Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

The event was organized by the Uttarakhand Thang-Ta Martial Arts Association under the auspices of the Thang-Ta Martial Arts Federation of India. The competition took place from January 4 to January 6, attracting participants from across the country.

The achievements of these athletes have brought pride to their community and highlighted the growing prominence of martial arts in the region.

Talking to Kashmir Convener, Kashamat Nazir said that the championship began on January 4th and concluded on Monday. "Sheebu Ashraf and I, both from Kakapora, participated in this championship, and we both won gold medals,".

He said that many athletes from various states were participating in this championship, and we were representing Pulwama district.

"I have been associated with martial arts for the past 8-9 years and, so far, I have won 5 gold medals and one silver at the national level in martial arts and Thai boxing."

Talking to Kashmir Convener, Sheebu Ashraf said that I won a gold medal in the 30th Thang-Ta Martial Art Championship in the senior and sub-junior categories. I participated in the senior category and secured the gold medal.

I have been involved in martial arts since 2014 and have participated in numerous national-level events. So far, I have won nine medals, including three gold, three silver, and three bronze medals.

My message to other girls is that they should step into sports and showcase their talent. It's not just boys who can excel in sports; girls are equally talented and capable. The key is having parental support. With the right encouragement, girls can achieve anything. I am fortunate to have immense support from my parents and my coach, Sajad Ahmad Dar, who has been a great source of motivation for me.

I would like to request sponsors and the administration to support us so we can represent at international levels. This support is crucial for us to achieve greater heights in sports.

TATA BLUESCOPE STEEL

TIME TO SHINE WITH

durashine

PRO

Available with

COOL ROOFING

CRDR

DIRT RESISTANCE

Advanced Coating Technology

Colour Coated Steel for Roof & Wall Cladding

Higher Scratch Resistance

Cool Roofing

Dirt Resistance

Superior UV Protection

Tested & Proven

BIS Approved

Leaders in Colour Coated Roofing and Cladding Solutions

#ShelterForAll