

# Kashmir Convener



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## Inter-ministerial team arrives in Rajouri to investigate mysterious deaths

● Examines neurotoxins after 17 deaths over 50 days, takes samples, interacts with locals

Jahangeer Ganaie

**SRINAGAR:** A high-level inter-ministerial team formed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah has arrived in Budhal village, Rajouri, to investigate the mysterious deaths that have claimed 17 lives over the past 50 days.

An official told the news agencies that the team was accompanied by experts from some of the most reputed institutions in the country. The team interacted with locals and officials and collected various samples for comprehensive analysis.

The investigation team included experts from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and the Ministry of Water



Resources. Specialists from animal husbandry, food safety, and forensic science laboratories were also present.

The team was supported by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, SSP Rajouri, and other senior officials. The experts' primary

objective is to understand the causative factors behind the deaths and manage the situation effectively.

J&K Health Minister Sakina Itoo said no virus or infection has been identified as the cause of the deaths.

She said samples analysed at premier laboratories revealed the presence of neurotoxins, which have caused brain damage. The government has sent these samples for broader investigations to determine the specific toxin responsible, as there are over 800 potential poisons under consideration.

A local water spring, used by around 15 families—including three directly affected families—was sealed after traces of pesticides and insecticides were found in the water.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday directed the formation of the inter-ministerial team after three incidents of unexplained deaths were reported in the village.

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## Soldier Killed in First Encounter of 2025 in Sopore

● Terrorists flee after intense gunfight in Zaloora's Gujar Pati, operation called off



File Photo

Waris Fayaz

**SOPORE:** An army soldier was killed in an encounter that erupted in the Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday.

The operation marks the first gunfight in Jammu and Kashmir in the year 2025.

The operation, conducted in Gujar Pati, Zaloora, under the jurisdiction of Sopore police district, was based on intelligence inputs regarding the presence of terrorists, an official informed reporters.

He, however, said that after an extensive search, the terrorists managed to flee the encounter site. The operation was then called off.

The official said the operation began with a joint team of the Army, CRPF, and Jammu & Kashmir Police cordoning off the area. The search intensified after fire was observed from inside a busted hideout. The operation, which was halted due to darkness, resumed at first light. Security measures had already

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## LG pays tribute to slain soldier



KC NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tributes to Swr Pangala Kartheek, who laid down his life in the line of duty in Sopore.

"I salute the supreme sacrifice of our Army braveheart Swr Pangala Kartheek. His valour and sacrifice

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## J&K Govt Constitutes High Level Panel For Monitoring DPCs

KC NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government has constituted a high-level panel led by Shantmanu, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Higher Education Department, for monitoring the conduct of the Departmental Promotional Committees (DPCs) across the departments in the Union Territory



of Jammu and Kashmir.

The committee, formed under Government Order No. 107-JK(GAD) of 2025, will oversee the functioning of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) across all administrative departments in the Union Territory.

The committee comprises senior IAS officers and a secretary from key government departments: Shantmanu, IAS, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Higher Education Department - Chairman, Shaleen Kabra, IAS, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Jal Shakti Department - Member, Santosh D. Vaidya, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government, Finance Department - Member, M. Raju, IAS, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, General Administration

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## LG Sinha Pledges to Donate Organs, Encourages Others to Follow

KC NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday took pledge for Organ Donation by registering on Ayushman Bharat Organ Donation Registry of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India (notto.abdm.gov.in). The State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO)

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## JK Govt To Launch Crack Down on Sale of Fake Hand-Made Carpets

● Warns People for selling machine-made items in garb of Kashmir Handicrafts

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir Monday warned showroom owners dealing with hand-made craft products to desist from selling machine-made items in the garb of genuine handmade products, failing which strict action under the ambit of Tourist Trade and Quality Control Acts shall be initiated.

An official spokesperson from the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, stated that several complaints have been received by the department wherein machine-made Turkish carpets have been sold to tourists and other buyers in the name of Kashmir hand-knotted carpets, thus bringing a bad name to the rich heritage of Kashmir. "Acting swiftly, several showrooms are being inspected and unlabelled



machine-made products confiscated," he said.

The spokesman further stated that the Central Inspection Squad from the Quality Control wing of the Department has been directed to intensify inspections of various

showrooms in Srinagar City Centre and en route health resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam, besides other locations to crackdown on traders engaged in sale

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## Traffic enforcement generates over Rs 28.36 cr of revenue in Kmr

Raja Syed Rather

**SRINAGAR:** The traffic enforcement authorities in Kashmir have made significant strides in improving road discipline, generating a revenue of Rs 28,36,03,261 from 8,25,304 challans issued between January and December 2024.

In addition to this, a total of 12,612 vehicles were seized across the region for various traffic violations.

In Traffic City Srinagar, 4,13,150 challans were executed, leading to a revenue collection of Rs 16,56,97,211. December saw the highest number of challans at 43,947, followed by 41,225 in July and 37,506 in August. August also recorded the highest revenue collection at Rs 1,61,85,600, while February brought in Rs 1,52,42,000.

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## Sakina Itoo reviews performance, functioning of SKIMS, Soura

● SKIMS to Launch Liver Transplant and Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Services This Year

KC NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Minister for Health and Medical

review the performance and functioning of Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura.

Rasheed Shah, Director SKIMS, Dr. Ashraf Ganaie; Director General Budget, Director Finance Health and Medical Education, Medical Superintendent SKIMS and other senior officers of Health and Medical Education department and SKIMS Soura.

Addressing the officers, Sakeena Itoo emphasized the critical role of SKIMS in delivering specialized medical care not only to the people of Kashmir valley but also to patients from

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## RECPDCL Hands Over ₹22,700 Crore HVDC Project to Adani Energy Solutions



KC NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI:** REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, the Maharatna CPSU under the aegis of Ministry of Power, has handed over the project specific SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) of HVDC Transmission Project under TBCB route viz, Rajasthan Part I Power Transmission Limited to Adani Energy Solutions Limited on Monday at Gurugram. Adani Energy Solutions Limited (AESL) emerged as the Transmission Service Provider (TSP)

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## Roadside Parking Near HP Gas Plant in Pampore Poses Threat to Public

Bilal Habib

**PAMPORE:** Dozens of oil tankers and trucks carrying HP gas cylinders are parked along the roadside near the HP Gas Plant in Letterbal, Pampore, creating a significant safety hazard for commuters. The illegal parking has severely reduced the width of the road, causing traffic congestion and increasing the risk of accidents.

Commuters have raised concerns about the growing number of fatalities near the plant, which they attribute to the frequent illegal parking by trucks and tankers. The plant does have its own parking area, but the vehicles continue to block the road, creating an unsafe environment for both pedestrians and drivers.

Mohammad Asif Ganie, Vice



President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for Pulwama, visited the site and interacted with commuters and truckers. He called for immediate intervention from the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir, the Deputy Commissioner of Pulwama,

and the Tehsildar of Pampore to resolve the issue and save lives.

"I visited the area near the gas plant to address the growing issue of the footpaths on the old national highway near Galander Pampore being blocked by gas tankers, oil tankers,

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Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat to

The meeting was attended by Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid



Road Safety

# SC Asks 23 States, 7 UTs To File Reports On Compliance Of Legal Provisions, Rules

**NEW DELHI:** In a significant order, the Supreme Court on Monday directed 23 states and seven union territories to file compliance reports indicating implementation of the Motor Vehicle law's recent provisions besides rules on electronic monitoring and road safety measures.

A bench comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan noted six states and a UT, namely, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Delhi, had filed their compliance reports.

The top court on September 2, 2024 passed directions on the implementation of Section 136A of the Motor Vehicles Act read with Rule 167A of the Motor Vehicles Rules which allow authorities to electronically monitor speeding vehicles.

The bench has now asked the remaining 23 states and seven UTs to file their compliance reports which will be shared with the Supreme Court committee on road safety.

The apex court panel, in turn, would look into all aspects and provide its inputs which could be considered by the Centre in framing the standard operating procedure on electronic monitoring and enforcement of road safety measures, the bench said.

Senior advocate Gaurav Agrawal, assisting the bench as an amicus curiae,

informed the bench that six states had filed their reports and the necessary directions may be passed with regard to them.



The bench said it would consider the aspect on March 25 and its panel on road safety, in the meantime, could seek assistance of the six states while deliberating upon the reports.

Section 136A, introduced in 2021 in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, aims to deploy advanced technologies such as speed cameras, closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, speed guns, body-worn cameras, and automatic number plate recognition systems to ensure better traffic management and enforcement of traffic laws.

It also emphasises electronic monitoring on national highways, state highways, and urban roads in cities with

Act is an innovative provision with the potential to transform road safety enforcement by leveraging technology. Proper implementation will ensure road discipline and allow for the efficient prosecution of violators," the bench had observed.

It directed the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to circulate the order to all states and union territories for immediate compliance.

The bench said the state governments were required to install devices in high-risk corridors, major junctions, and cities with populations exceeding one million.

Devices such as body-worn cameras used by enforcement officials must notify offenders about ongoing recording, it said, and offenders will be issued electronic challans, complete with photographic evidence, date, time, and location stamps, apart from details of the violations.

The court, however, clarified electronic enforcement devices must not be used for surveillance purposes unrelated to traffic violations.

The Supreme Court committee on road safety was tasked by the bench to oversee the nationwide implementation of the measures.

The top court was hearing a PIL on road safety filed in 2012.

Remarks Against Amit Shah

## SC Stays Proceedings In Defamation Case Against Rahul Gandhi

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday stayed trial court proceedings against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a criminal defamation case filed against him for alleged defamatory remarks against Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Naveen Jha, a BJP worker, had filed the case against Gandhi in 2019 for his alleged remarks against Shah.

During one of his public speeches in Chaibasa before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Gandhi had allegedly referred to Shah as a "murderer".

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notice to the Jharkhand government and the BJP leader while seeking their response on Gandhi's appeal.

"Issue notice. Till further orders, further proceedings in the trial shall remain stayed," the bench said.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Gandhi, said there are several judgments which say that only the aggrieved person can file a criminal defamation complaint.

He submitted that the defamation complaint cannot be filed by a proxy third party.

Senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani appeared for Jha.

Gandhi has challenged the Jharkhand High Court order, which rejected his petition to quash proceedings against him in a trial court in connection with the complaint.

The Congress leader had contested the decision of a magisterial court in Ranchi, which instructed him to personally appear before the court to undergo trial. Later, Gandhi moved the high



court, which issued a stay order on any further actions in the lower court against him.

After recording the statements of the complainant and witnesses, the magistrate had found merit in the case against Gandhi and directed him to appear before the trial court on February 4, 2023.

Later, the HC, while issuing a stay on the notice issued by the magistrate, ordered that "no coercive steps" be taken against Gandhi.

## People of Delhi suffering in battle of supremacy between AAP govt, Centre: Sachin Pilot

**UDAIPUR:** Ahead of the Delhi polls, Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Monday said the people of the capital are suffering in the battle for supremacy between the AAP-led city government and the BJP-led central government, and that his party



has emerged as the "better option". Speaking to reporters here, he exuded confidence that the people of Delhi will vote for the Congress this time.

"There is a battle of supremacy between the Delhi government and the central government and the people (of the city) are suffering in this," Pilot said. The Congress party has emerged as the "better option" and people will give the mandate to it in the Delhi assembly elections, he said.

"We have given some guarantees to the people of Delhi. They also remember the development that took place under the Sheila Dikshit-led Congress government.

We will fight strongly and the Congress will do well in the Delhi polls," the former deputy chief minister of Rajasthan said.

## Constitution under assault; RSS chief must apologise for 'anti-national' statement: Congress

**NEW DELHI:** Ahead of its 'Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' rally in Karnataka's Belagavi, the Congress on Monday alleged the Constitution is under assault and reiterated its demand that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat must apologise for the "anti-national statement he delivered on the freedom movement".

The opposition party also claimed that Mahatma Gandhi is being insulted and BR Ambedkar is being attacked.

"Tomorrow, the INC's Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan rally will be held in Belagavi. This was to take place on Dec 27th, 2024 but was postponed due to the passing away of Dr. Manmohan Singh," Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

It was at Belagavi that Mahatma Gandhi had taken over as Congress president on December 26, 1924, he recalled.

"Mahatma Gandhi is being insulted. Dr. Ambedkar is being attacked. The Constitution of India and its values are under assault," Ramesh alleged.

The Belagavi rally is a reaffirmation of the Congress' steadfast resolve to preserve, protect, and promote the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and Ambedkar, he said.

This will be followed by a similar rally at Mhow — Dr. Ambedkar's janmabhoomi — on January 27, Ramesh said.

"Shri Mohan Bhagwat must apologise for the atrocious, anti-national statement he delivered on the freedom movement on January 14th 2025," he said.

"The Union Home Minister must resign and tender an apology for his atrocious remarks on Dr. Ambedkar in Parliament on December 17th, 2024," Ramesh said.

Last week, Ramesh had described Bhagwat's remarks that India's "true independence" was established on the day of the Ram temple's consecration as "anti-national" and demanded an apology over the statement.

Bhagwat said the date of the Ram temple's consecration in Ayodhya should be celebrated as "Pratishtha Dwadashi" as the "true independence" of Bharat, which had faced

"para chakra" (enemy attack) for several centuries, was established on this day.

The Congress has repeatedly also alleged that Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks in the Rajya Sabha during a debate on the Constitution during the winter session show that the BJP and the RSS leaders have a "lot of hatred" for Ambedkar and demanded an apology from him.



The rally in Mhow will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Constitution and the founding of India's republic as well as the purported attack on the legacy of Babasaheb Ambedkar by the ruling regime, a party circular had said.

Following Singh's demise on December 26, the Congress had announced that all party official programmes, including its foundation day celebrations, will be cancelled for seven days as a mark of respect.

Singh, the architect of India's economic reforms, died at the age of 92.

Singh passed away just hours after the Congress party concluded its Congress Working Committee meeting at Belagavi, marking the 100th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi assuming the presidency of the party at the Belgaum session in 1924.

## Sanjay Roy Sentenced To Life Imprisonment Till Death In Rape, Murder Of RG Kar Hospital Doctor

**KOLKATA:** A Kolkata court sentenced Sanjay Roy to life imprisonment till death on Monday after he was convicted of rape and murder of an on-duty doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Anirban Das in Sealdah had on Saturday held Roy guilty of the crime committed against the postgraduate trainee doctor at the hospital on August 9 last year, which sparked off unprecedented and prolonged nationwide protests.

Judge Das said the crime did not fall under the "rarest of the rare" category as justification

for not giving death penalty to the convict.

The court also directed the state to pay a compensation of Rs 17 lakh to the family of the deceased doctor.

The sentence was passed after the judge heard the final statements of the convict and his counsels placed in self-defence as well as those of the victim's family, and the CBI.

Roy, a former civic volunteer with the Kolkata Police, was held guilty under Sections 64 (rape), 66 (punishment for causing death), and 103(1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

## First draft of Indian history written by colonisers with distorted perspective: Jagdeep Dhankhar

**NEW DELHI:** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday said it was a travesty that the ignorant were trying to make us aware about inclusivity by their narrow -minded approach.

He also said that the first draft of the country's history came through colonisers' distorted perspective.

While thousands contributed to the freedom struggle, only a few were promoted. Even post-Independence, this was allowed to take roots. This disrupted organic evolution of our knowledge system, the vice president said.

"We have to unshackle ourselves from colonial legacy and mindset," he said.

He asserted that the philosophical schools of Vedanta, Jainism, Buddhism and others have always encouraged dialogue and co-existence — the principles that hold immense value in today's polarised world. It was time now to ensure India's heritage blossoms and thrives and there could not be a more opportune time, he noted



while urging the youth to take pride in India's mathematical contributions.

Much of the problems we are facing today will be resolved on a fast track basis if we keep indology in mind, he said after laying the foundation stone for the Nandlal Niwaul Centre of Indology at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan here.

## Maruti Suzuki unveils e VITARA, first battery electric vehicle SUV

**SRINAGAR:** Demonstrating its commitment to decarbonisation and joy of mobility for all, Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) today unveiled its first BEV (Battery Electric Vehicle) SUV — the e VITARA, along with the comprehensive 'e for me' Electric Eco-Solutions at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025. Built on the ground-up HEARTECT-e platform, the e VITARA offers superior performance and excellent range, with uncompromised comfort and safety. Set to be introduced in the premium NEXA channel, the e VITARA embodies NEXA's core values of innovation, sophistication and premium customer experiences.

Speaking at the unveiling, Toshihiro Suzuki, Representative Director and President, Suzuki Motor Corporation, said, "We aim to make BEVs attractive to customers through a three-pronged strategy. First is to develop a BEV dedicated platform for optimum performance. Second is to evolve the right product for the target markets, based on customer requirements. The third is to leverage our global economies of scale and concentrate manufacturing at a single location for the world. For this purpose, we have chosen India as the global manufacturing

base due to its quality products, and scale merit. And this is exactly the vision of Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, to Make in India."



Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "The e VITARA is an SUV built on the all-new platform, called HEARTECT-e, exclusively designed for electric vehicles. It comes with highly efficient battery pack option to deliver more than 500 km/1 for 61 kWh on a single charge. We have equipped the e VITARA with several premium and advanced features such as Level 2 ADAS, Integrated Digital Display, and Next-Gen Suzuki Connect." Elaborating on the steps to increase EV adoption, he said, "Our goal is to create Electric Eco-Solutions for the customers. We call it "e for me".

We will offer smart home chargers along with installation support, leverage our vast network to provide fast charging support in the top 100 cities in the first phase, and then expand further. The idea is that, within these cities, every 5 to 10 km a customer finds a charging point by Maruti Suzuki. We are also preparing 1,500 EV enabled service workshops covering over 1,000 cities with specially trained manpower and special equipment to address all EV related support, including charging. Additionally, we will provide roadside assistance all over India."

The e VITARA will be showcased through a phased rollout across NEXA dealerships nationwide. Reaffirming its dedication to establish India as a global hub for EV manufacturing, the e VITARA will be exported to more than 100 countries, including key markets like Japan and Europe.

The e VITARA's bold polyhedral styling and aerodynamic details like R18 (18") aerodynamic alloy wheel and roof-end spoilers exude strength and dynamism. The next generation NEXTTré 3-Point Matrix LED DRLs with LED projector headlamps, and futuristic front fascia enhance its appeal.

## Take decision on Balwant Singh Rajoana's mercy petition by March 18: SC asks Centre

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to take a decision by March 18 on the mercy petition of death row convict Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted in the 1995 assassination case of then Punjab chief minister Beant Singh.

"We are granting you time by way of a last chance. Either you take a decision or otherwise we will hear it on merits," a bench headed by Justice B R Gavai told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Centre.

The bench, also comprising Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and K V Viswanathan, was hearing Rajoana's plea seeking directions to commute his death sentence to life term due to the "inordinate delay" in deciding his mercy petition.

At the outset, Mehta referred to the sensitivity involved in the matter and said the mercy petition was under consideration.

He requested the bench to grant six weeks time.

Rajoana's counsel told the bench that he has spent around 29 years in jail.

"We will hear it on merits on March 18," the bench said, adding, "By then, if you can take a decision, well and good. Either

way you decide it so that it could facilitate us. Otherwise we will hear it (plea seeking directions to commute death sentence) on merits".



Mehta said the matter relates to murder of a sitting chief minister.

On November 25 last year, the Centre had told the apex court that there was sensitivity involved in the matter related to the mercy petition of Rajoana.

While hearing the petition on November 18 last year, the apex court had put on hold its order asking President Droupadi Murmu's secretary to place before her the mercy petition of Rajoana for consideration.

After the order was passed in the morning on November 18, 2024, the solicitor general had urged the bench that it should not be given effect as there were "sensitivities" involved in the issue.

Mehta had then told the top court that the file was with the home ministry and not the President.

On September 25 last year, the top court sought responses from the Centre, the Punjab government and the administration of the Union Territory of Chandigarh on Rajoana's plea.

The then Punjab chief minister and 16 others were killed in a blast at the entrance of the civil secretariat in Chandigarh on August 31, 1995. A special court sentenced Rajoana to death in July 2007.

In his plea, Rajoana has sought the apex court's direction to the respondent authorities to commute his death sentence "due to inordinate delay" in its execution and in deciding the "mercy petition filed on his behalf".

The plea said consequentially, a direction be issued for his release.

On May 3, 2023, the apex court refused to commute his death sentence and said



...KC IMPACT

## RDD Cleans Roadside Solid Waste at Bazipora; Locals Demand 'Rock Park' to Attract Travellers

**BANDIPORA:** A recent video shared by Kashmir Convener on its social media platform showcasing solid waste being dumped at one of the beautiful stretches of Bandipora-Srinagar Road near Bazipora has prompted swift action from the Rural Development Department (RDD), Block Hajin.

On Saturday morning the Kashmir Convener shared a video of Bazipora village along Srinagar Bandipora road wherein the solid waste was dumped turning the road ugly for visitors.

The department, under the directions of the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP) Bandipora, immediately intervened and cleared the accumulated waste and initiated measures to prevent further littering.

In a statement issued by the RDD, Officials said the issue of waste accumulation at these locations on Srinagar-Bandipora road is matter of concern, however, it is important to clarify the circumstances leading to this situation.

Officials said the identified spots are located along the roadside, and unfortunately, travelers commuting from Bandipora and beyond have developed a habit of indiscriminately disposing



of garbage from their vehicles. Despite regular clearance of these waste spots by the Rural Development Department (RDD) Block Hajin on the directions of ACP Bandipora, the problem persists due to continuous littering by commuters.



They said to address the issue, strict monitoring is being undertaken. "One vehicle involved in illegal waste disposal has already been identified, and its details will be submitted to the police authorities for the registration of an FIR," officials informed Kashmir Convener.

"Stern action will be taken against violators to prevent further environmental degradation. The sites stand again cleared today, the photographs are enclosed, demonstrating our ongoing

efforts to maintain cleanliness."

The Officers informed that any individual or vehicle caught dumping waste at these locations shall be penalised and action as required under law will be taken. We urge all citizens to act responsibly and contribute towards maintaining a clean and sustainable environment.

Meanwhile locals appreciated the department for paying heed to the peoples' concerns by restoring the old glory of the identified areas that are close to forests and on the banks of Wullar adding beauty the road.

Many residents have proposed converting the site into a rock garden, leveraging the area's large natural boulders as a point of attraction.

"It wouldn't require a significant budget," locals suggested. "With some fencing, planting of flowers, and cleaning the rocks, this stretch of the Bandipora-Srinagar Road near Bazipora could become a beautiful spot for travelers and a stop-over for travellers like at Sunset Point at SK Payeen," locals said.

## Bharti Airtel and Bajaj Finance Partner to Build One of India's Largest Digital Financial Platforms

**SRINAGAR:** Bharti Airtel, a leading telecom service provider, and Bajaj Finance, the largest private-sector Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) in India, have announced a strategic partnership to create one of the country's largest digital platforms for financial services. The collaboration aims to transform last-mile delivery of financial products and services.

This partnership combines Airtel's expansive customer base of 370 million and its distribution network of over 12 lakh outlets with Bajaj Finance's suite of 27 financial products and its extensive network of 5,000+ branches and 70,000 field agents.

Airtel will initially offer Bajaj Finance's retail financial products on its Airtel Thanks App, providing a seamless and secure experience for customers. Subsequently, these products will also be available at Airtel's nationwide stores. This collaboration seeks to deepen the penetration of financial products and services across India.

Gopal Vittal, Vice Chairman and MD of Bharti Airtel, stated: "Airtel and Bajaj Finance share a vision to empower millions of Indians with diverse financial solutions. Combining the reach and strengths of both companies will help us succeed in this endeavor. We are building Airtel Finance as a strategic asset and will continue investing in its growth. With over 1 million customers already trusting us, our aim is to become a one-stop financial solution for all."

Rajeev Jain, Managing Director of Bajaj Finance, highlighted: "India's digital ecosystem has enabled data-driven credit underwriting and financial inclusion. Our partnership with Airtel leverages this infrastructure, bringing together two trusted brands to empower millions with financial ser-

vices, even in remote areas. This collaboration aligns with Bajaj Finance's focus on AI to enhance customer experiences and operational efficiency."

Currently, two Bajaj Finance products have been piloted on the Airtel Thanks App, with plans to expand to four by March, including Gold Loan,



Business Loan, Insta EMI Card, and Personal Loan. By the end of the year, Airtel plans to offer up to 10 Bajaj Finance products through its app and stores.

The Airtel-Bajaj Finserv Insta EMI Card will provide flexible EMI options for purchases like electronics, furniture, and groceries at over 1.5 lakh partner stores across 4,000+ cities. Additionally, the co-branded card will support e-commerce transactions.

The partnership also introduces gold loans via the Airtel Thanks App, enabling new-to-credit customers to access finance and integrate with the formal financial system. Both companies emphasize their commitment to regulatory compliance, data privacy, and superior customer service.

This collaboration marks a significant step toward enhancing financial inclusion and offering customers a comprehensive and accessible digital financial ecosystem.

## CSIR-IIIM Hosts cGMP Pilot Plant Workshop to Advance Herbal Medicine Industry

**JAMMU:** A three-day skill development training program under the theme "cGMP Pilot Plant for Extraction of Traditional (ISM) Herbal Plants" commenced at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine on Monday with an aim to advance the herbal medicine industry.

An official spokesperson of the institution said about 30 participants from diverse backgrounds of Chemical Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Life Sciences, Medicine and AYUSH enrolled for the workshop.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu. Dr Ahmed, Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Zabeer underscored the significance of merging traditional medicinal knowledge with modern scientific methods and regulatory frameworks.

He emphasized that the program aims to advance the herbal medicine industry while preserving the rich heritage of the Indian System of Medicine.

Dr Ahmed further said that the extraction process is the cornerstone of any herbal formulation. However, achieving optimal extraction requires a deep understanding of the plant material, the methods of extraction, quality control, quality assurance and the factors that can influence the stability of bioactive compounds.

He further described extraction, formulation, and packaging of traditional herbal medicinal formulations are crucial steps in ensuring the efficacy, safety, and quality of herbal products.

Recognizing the significance of this discipline in the contemporary scientific landscape, CSIR-IIIM, following the NEP guidelines, has taken the initiative to introduce a specialized Skill Development programme aimed at equipping individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge in Extraction, Formulation and Packaging of

Traditional Herbal Medicinal Formulations.

Officials said Over the course of three days, distinguished speakers and subject matter experts will lead interactive sessions and hands-on training modules.

Topics include advanced extraction technologies for herbal compounds and practical



experiments such as extraction, distillation, and evaporation. The program has drawn participants from diverse backgrounds, including pharmaceutical professionals, researchers, academicians, and students, fostering a collaborative environment for knowledge sharing and skill development.

Pertinently these hands-on training and skill development series have been launched by CSIR-IIIM Jammu as part of CSIR-Integrated skill initiatives.

The event was conducted under the overall supervision of Er Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist & Head RMBD & IST. Dr Deepika Singh, Head of QMIDivision & Principal Scientist, welcomed all dignitaries and participants.

Er Anil Katore, Principal Scientist & Technical Coordinator of this Training program, gave an overview of the whole training program, while Dr Nasir Ul Rasheed, Senior Scientist, gave the formal vote of thanks.

The Inaugural session saw the participation of Heads of all scientific divisions and associated technical staff.

## Digital Conservation: Chinar Trees Get Geotagged for Protection

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant step towards preserving the iconic chinar tree, a cultural and ecological

the Research Forest Division Srinagar, involves the geotagging and QR coding of chinar trees to enable precise monitoring and management.



symbol of Jammu and Kashmir, the J&K Forest Department, in collaboration with the J&K Forest Research Institute, has initiated a GIS-based, QR-enabled conservation project.

This innovative approach aims to protect the chinar from threats such as urbanization, deforestation, and habitat degradation.

The project, spearheaded by

the news agency Kashmir News Trust.

He said: "Chinar trees are a living testament to our heritage, but urban expansion and habitat loss have put them at risk. This initiative is our way of securing their future," he added.

The geotagging process involves mapping the exact locations of

chinar trees across the region, providing a comprehensive database for their management. QR codes attached to each chinar tree offer detailed information about its health, age, and growth patterns, enabling researchers and conservationists to track changes over time.

"Through geotagging and QR technology, we aim to create a robust system for monitoring these trees and addressing threats proactively," said senior scientist, Dr Tariq Bhat from the J&K Forest Research Institute.

He said the initiative also aims to raise public awareness about the significance of chinar trees and encourage community participation in their preservation.

"The QR codes provide accessible information, allowing residents and visitors to learn about the trees' ecological and cultural value."

## MLA Baramulla reviews developmental works in the constituency

**BARAMULLA:** Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Baramulla Constituency, Javed Ahmad Beigh, today chaired



a meeting to review the progress of various developmental works in the Baramulla constituency.

During the meeting, a detailed assessment of the ongoing projects was conducted to address any challenges faced during their execution and to ensure that the works progress effectively.

The MLA directed the respective officers to address the concerns of families affected by the developmental projects,

particularly those whose structures were impacted, stressing the importance of ensuring fair and adequate compensation while prioritizing the timely redressal of their grievances.

Addressing the issue of road sinking in slide-prone areas such as Walraman and Chandosa, the MLA highlighted the importance of adopting effective soil conservation techniques while constructing roads, including piling and other innovative methods, to prevent further damage.

Furthermore, Javed Beigh directed the concerned officials to expedite the execution of all approved and sanctioned works, ensuring that the projects are carried out efficiently and meet the community's needs.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer R&B, CEO MC Baramulla and BDOs from various blocks besides other officers and officials.

## Theatrical Performance Commemorates 35 Years of Kashmiri Pandit Exodus

CONVENER NEWS DESK

**JAMMU:** Hima Kaul Kalanidhi organized a poignant theatrical performance to mark the 35th anniversary of the Kashmiri Pandit exodus. The performance was based on '19 January ke Baad,' a widely acclaimed short story by renowned author Kshama Kaul.

The story chronicles the harrowing experiences of Ramesh Marhatta, a celebrated news broadcaster who survived abduction and torture at the hands of militants during the tumultuous 1990s in the Kashmir Valley. It delves into the subversive ecosystem that thrived during that period, highlighting the survivor's courageous struggle and ultimate escape from captivity.

The theatrical rendition was brought to life by an impressive cast led by noted actor Sunil Soni, supported by eminent state artists Soham Kashyap and Nazuk Bhagat. The production was skillfully directed by Bhasha Sumbli, a respected theatre and film actress.

A key highlight of the evening was the felicitation of Ramesh Marhatta, the real-life hero of the story, by the author Kshama Kaul. The audience, comprising writers, artists, and intellectuals, gave a standing ovation to honor his resilience.

The event was anchored by Sahil Bazaz, with music coordinated by Sahoul Dutt, ensuring an immersive and emotive experience for attendees.

This performance served as a powerful reminder of the resilience of the Kashmiri Pandit community and the enduring impact of their stories on India's cultural and historical landscape.



## Crime Branch Books Three Employees of Jammu Flour Mills for Multi-Crore Embezzlement

**JAMMU, JAN 20:** The Crime Branch (CB) of Jammu has booked three employees of M/S Jammu Flour Mills for allegedly embezzling between 2 to 2.5 crores by committing criminal breach of trust and executing a well-orchestrated fraud.

An official spokesperson of the CB said the case came to light after Arun Mahajan, Managing Partner of M/S Jammu Flour Mills, filed a complaint alleging financial irregularities by three employees: Dikshant Anand (Area Salesman), Narinder Chopra (Billing Clerk), and Amit Sharma (Accountant).

In September 2024, Operations Manager Moti Lal flagged suspicious billing activities involving Narinder Chopra. Following this, a self-audit by the complainant uncovered multiple fraudulent transactions, which were later substantiated by a comprehensive audit conducted by a chartered accountant.

The audit revealed that the accused had devised a systematic modus operandi. They manipulated NEFT transactions to divert funds to unrelated parties, under-billed cash transactions, and created fake parties to embezzle funds. For instance, bills amounting to 1 lakh were reduced to 80,000, with the difference misappropriated. Accountant Amit Sharma manipulated account entries, enabling the fraud to go unnoticed for an extended period.

Moreover, Dikshant Anand allegedly created fake accounts and sold goods to multiple retailers under fictitious names. He also recovered book debts and embezzled the amounts. Payments from the company were transferred to bank accounts belonging to the accused, their family members, and acquaintances.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh, confirmed that FIR No. 06/2025 under sections 409, 465, 467, 468, 470, 471, 472, and 120-B of the IPC has been registered at Police Station EOW, Crime Branch Jammu.

The accused, identified as Dikshant Anand (resident of Rehambale, Udhampur), Narinder Chopra (resident of Lakhdata Bazar, Jammu), and Amit Sharma (resident of Preet Nagar, Jammu), are under investigation, and an in-depth probe has been initiated to uncover further details of the alleged conspiracy.

## DC Baramulla chairs DLCC meeting on NTPC programme, reviews COTPA implementation

**BARAMULLA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of the District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTPC) to review the implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) in the district.

The meeting threadbare discussed effective measures to strengthen tobacco control initiatives in the district.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the importance of enforcing COTPA regulations to ensure a tobacco-free environment. Key directives included regular inspections by enforcement teams near educational institutions, especially within a 100-meter radius, and ensuring that all public offices display 'No Smoking' signage and remain smoke-free.

The DC also outlined plans for weekly drives in public spaces to promote awareness and prevent tobacco consumption. Awareness campaigns will be conducted during school assemblies to inform students about the harmful effects of tobacco and the provisions of COTPA.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from all stakeholders to collaborate and intensify efforts towards creating a healthier, tobacco-free Baramulla. The District Administration aims to continue monitoring and ensuring strict adherence to tobacco control laws for the well-being of the community.



# High Drug Prices: So Who Is to Blame?



YAMIN MOHAMMAD MUNSHI

he price of medicines in the country is being decided by the doctors themselves and not by the government. Doctors get the brands made according to their liking. They fix the price. The MRP of medicine of Rs. 38 is being increased to Rs. 1200. This is just an example; this is being done in all medicines. Experts believe that in 20 years, the medicine business will reach Rs. 40 thousand crores to Rs. 2 lakh crores. They consider this to be the big reason for the big game in MRP. From 2005 to 2009, medicines were being sold at 50 percent MRP. If the MRP was Rs. 1200, then it was given to the dealer for Rs. 600. Now doctors are getting the MRP decided according to their liking. However, according to the rules, doctors do not decide the rates of medicines. The rates of medicines are decided by the companies that make medicines. Many factors are involved in fixing the rates of medicines. Traders make good profits on medicines.

Retailers offer a maximum discount of 20-25 percent on branded medicines. Generic medicines offer a discount of 50-70 percent. Generic medicines are cheaper because they do not have to undergo expensive tests. While buying medicines, there should be a QR code on the medicine wrapper. The QR code on the medicine wrapper gives the name of the medicine, brand name, manufacturer information, manufacturing date, and expiry date. For information about medicines or their ingredients, one can ask a doctor or pharmacist. But for those medicines that are outside the control of the government, the National Pharmaceutical Price Authority works under the Ministry of Health of the Government of India to monitor arbitrary drug quality and MRP. The government controls the MRP of the medicine through the Drugs Price Control Order. Along with fixing the maximum price for essential and life-saving medicines, the DPCO is also responsible for making medicines affordable and accessible to patients.

The medicines that the government brings under DPCO have their MRP under control, but medicines of hundreds of formulas are still out of the government's control, whose MRP is being arbitrarily fixed. The government's guideline regarding the increase in the prices of medicines is that the MRP can be increased only by 10 percent in a year. But the companies are changing the names of the products and making the MRP as per the demand of the doctors every year. The companies fix the MRP as per their own convenience by changing different divisions and brands.

Medicines are supplied in the country from pharma factories. In this game of companies and doctors, companies, for their profit, ignore the rules and not only agree to make medicines according to the doctors, but also fix arbitrary prices. Not only this, deals are made with these companies on mobile. That is why doctors and hospitals across the country are getting their own medicines made and selling them at arbitrary prices. Doctors and hospitals are getting their own medicines made and using micro-pilots. This determines the expiry time. If the quality of micro pilot in the medicine is reduced a little, the margin will

increase, but the expiry time will be reduced. The reason behind this is that the government has no guidelines regarding material and expiry. The expiry date is also decided by the companies. There is a little strictness regarding the medicines that are under

over-the-counter drugs that can only be sold in pharmacies must be sold at exactly the same price in all pharmacies. Therefore, the prices of drugs do not fluctuate between pharmacies, meaning it does not matter which pharmacy you choose to fill your

and the patient does not have to buy an injection worth Rs. 300 for twelve thousand. Herbal medicines and types of over-the-counter medicines that can be sold in stores other than pharmacies, such as super-



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the control of the government. There is no special monitoring on the rest of the medicines. It is a serious issue that the companies that manufacture, import, or sell the medicine determine the prices of the medicine. The rules state that prescription-only drugs and types of

prescription. Not only this, the rules should be strictly enforced on drug manufacturing companies to set the same price of every salt as per the rules of the Government of India, no matter what the brand is. The price should be on the salt and not on the brand so that the black marketing of doctors and companies is curbed

markets and kiosks, have the government's permission to change their prices. These prices are set entirely by the store, so you may experience differences in prices from one store to another.

Author is a Research Scholar

## A Comparative Analysis of Medical Doctors and Teaching Communities



Dr. Reyaz Ahmad

Medical doctors and teaching communities are often considered indispensable to society, each contributing uniquely to individual and societal well-being. While doctors ensure physical and mental health, teachers shape character and intellect. Ranking their importance involves examining their roles through a nuanced lens. This analysis considers their services and their impact on individuals, society, and the world, culminating in an argument for why one profession might hold greater long-term significance.

**Role in Individual Development**  
**Medical Doctors: Preserving Life and Health**

Doctors address the fundamental need for health. Without physical and mental well-being, individuals cannot pursue education, work, or personal aspirations. Doctors cure illnesses, save lives, and promote preventive care. However, their role is often reactive, addressing immediate crises rather than long-term character or societal change.

**Teaching Communities: Shaping Minds and Characters**

Teachers go beyond transferring knowledge; they build the character, morals, and intellectual capacity of individuals. They instill values, nurture critical thinking, and lay the foundation for lifelong learning. The saying, "If health is lost, something is lost; if the character is lost, everything is

lost," underscores the profound importance of education in shaping ethical, compassionate, and competent individuals who contribute to society. Insight: While health is vital, the absence of character and intellect prevents individuals from leading meaningful lives or making sound contributions to society. Teachers



provide the moral compass that guides individuals toward productive and ethical choices.

**Contribution to Society**  
**Medical Doctors: Ensuring Public Health and Stability**

Doctors are central to managing public health crises, improving life expectancy, and ensuring societal stability. A healthy population is more productive and can better contribute to economic and social progress. However, their influence is primarily focused on preventing or mitigating harm rather than proactively building societal structures or values.

**Teaching Communities: Cultivating Social Foundations**

Teachers educate future leaders, innovators, and responsible citizens. By fostering literacy, critical thinking, and ethical values, they create the foundation for social progress and governance. An educated populace is essential for addressing global challenges, from climate change to political stability. Insight: While doctors protect society from immediate health threats, teachers empower society with the tools to prevent and address long-term challenges. A society's progress often hinges on the quality of its education.

**Global Impact**  
**Medical Doctors: Pioneering Healthcare Innovations**

Doctors contribute to groundbreaking medical research and global health initiatives. Their expertise advances treatments and technologies that improve the quality of life worldwide. However, their innovations often address symptoms rather than root causes, such as poor education on health or inadequate infrastructure.

**Teaching Communities: Shaping Global Progress**

Teachers play a pivotal role in fostering global cooperation, cultural understanding, and technological innovation. Education drives sustainable development and peace by addressing systemic issues and empowering individuals to lead change. Insight: While doctors save lives, teachers create the thinkers, policymakers, and professionals—including doctors—who tackle complex global challenges.

**Challenges and Ethical Considerations**

Both professions face immense challenges. Doctors confront ethical dilemmas such as equitable healthcare access,

while teachers struggle with societal undervaluation and systemic inequalities in education. Despite these challenges, their societal roles emphasize that teachers often work on a deeper, long-term scale, while doctors address immediate, critical needs.

**Ranking Their Importance**

While both professions are vital, teachers hold a slight edge when evaluated through the lens of long-term societal impact. Doctors ensure survival and well-being, enabling individuals to live productive lives. Their role is foundational but reactive, addressing immediate needs. Teachers create the framework for progress by cultivating character, knowledge, and values. They shape the very fabric of society by influencing future generations. The saying, "If character is lost, everything is lost," highlights why teachers might rank higher. A healthy but unprincipled individual can pose a danger to society, while a person of character contributes positively, even amid adversity. Without teachers, there would be no doctors, leaders, or innovators.

**Conclusion**

Medical doctors and teaching communities are both indispensable, but when considering long-term impact, teachers emerge as slightly more crucial. Their role in shaping character and intellect lays the foundation for all other professions and societal progress. However, a balanced society requires both professions to work in harmony—health ensures that individuals can learn, and education ensures that individuals use their health for constructive purposes. Both must be celebrated and supported for a brighter future.

Author is Faculty of Mathematics, Department of General Education SUC, Sharjah, UAE. He can be mailed at [reyaz56@gmail.com](mailto:reyaz56@gmail.com)



# Srinagar Admin accords approval to 34 cases under Mission Youth schemes

**SRINAGAR:** A meeting of District Level Implementation Committee on Mission Youth schemes was Monday convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat to review the execution of Mission Youth schemes including Mumkin, Tejaswini and Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative (SEI) in the District.

During the meeting, a total of 34 cases were approved under various Mission Youth schemes including 16 cases under SEI scheme, 14 cases under Mumkin scheme and 04 cases under Tejaswini scheme to provide self-employment to aspiring entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC/Chairman DLIC highlighted the importance of these self-employment initiatives in fostering youth empowerment within the district. He stressed on giving wide publicity to these schemes so that maximum unemployed youth can avail benefits.



The Chairman DLIC impressed upon all the stakeholders to

create an enabling environment through Government sponsored schemes, where youth can think beyond Government jobs and opt for gainful self-employment.

While expressing his displeasure over poor performance of certain banks by rejecting the cases approved by DLIC, the DC advised the banks operating in district to go an extra mile and show empathy towards the unemployed youth in guiding them towards the path of prosperity and self-sufficiency through various Government sponsored self-employment schemes tailored in accordance to their entrepreneurial aspirations.

General Manager DIC Srinagar, Hamida Akhter; Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Fayaz Ahmad; ARTO, Syed Farhana Asgar, Deputy Director Employment, Dr. Sheeba Inayat; District Social Welfare Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Lead District Manager Srinagar, representatives from JKEDI & KVIB and other concerned were present in the meeting.

### SSP Srinagar, FOUR others promoted



**Srinagar:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday elevated five Senior Superintendents of Police, including SSP Srinagar, Imtiyaz Hussain Mir, to the grade of Super Time Scale 1.

An order states that Imtiyaz Hussain Mir (SSP Srinagar—JKPS:1999) Suhail Munawar Mir (JKPS: 1999), Ramesh Kumar Angral (JKPS: 1999), Mohammad Arshad (JKPS: 1999) and Tahir Sajad Bhat (JKPS: 1999) have been promoted to the grade of Super Time Scale -I.

### 125 SPs elevated, get Police Selection Grade II

**Srinagar:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday accorded sanction to the promotion of 125 JKPS officers to the grade of Superintendent of Police Selection Grade (II).

An order a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reads: "In terms of J&K Police (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules 2024 notified vide SO 500 of 2024 dated 10/10/2024 and as recommended by the Selection Committee-I, sanction is hereby accorded to the promotion of 125 officers in the Superintendent of Police Selection Grade (II) (Level 12 (78800-209200) of the Pay Matrix) w.e.f 24/12/2024."

The officers are: Kulbir Singh (JKPS: 1999), Mohammad Arif Rishu (JKPS: 1999), Shailender Singh (JKPS: 1999), Dalip Kumar (JKPS: 1999), Abdul Waheed Shah (JKPS: 1999), Javid Hassan Bhat (JKPS: 1999), Benam Tosh (JKPS: 1999), Showkat Hussain Shah (JKPS: 1999), Joginder Singh (JKPS: 1999), Mehmood Ahmad (JKPS: 1999), Shamsher Hussain (JKPS: 1999), Ashok Kumar Sharma (JKPS: 1999), Stenzin Nurboo (JKPS: 1999), Randeep Kumar (JKPS: 1999), Pawan Kumar Parihar (JKPS: 1999), Wasim Qadri (JKPS:2001), Atul Sharma (JKPS:2001), Harmeet Singh Mehta (JKPS:2001), Shiv Deep Singh Jamwal (JKPS:2001), Rohit Baskotra (JKPS:2001), Yugal Kumar (JKPS:2001), Shabir Nawab (JKPS:2001), Manjit Kour (JKPS:2001), Arun Gupta (JKPS:2001), Randhir Singh (JKPS:2001), Virinder Singh (JKPS:2001), Sandeep Kumar Mehta (JKPS:2001), Sheikh Zulfikar Azad (JKPS:2001), Amit Gupta (JKPS:2001), Mohd Majid Malik (JKPS:2001), Monika Sagar (JKPS:2001), Tahir Saleem Khan (JKPS:2001), Manzoor Ahmad Mir (JKPS:2001), Javid Iqbal (JKPS:2001), Amarjit Singh (JKPS:2001), Mohd Zaid (JKPS:2001), Ravinder Paul Singh (JKPS:2001), Khalil Ahmad Poswal (JKPS:2001), Liaqat Ali (JKPS:2001), Rakesh Kumar (JKPS:2001), Girdhari Lal, (JKPS:2001), Ramesh Chander Kotwal (JKPS:2001), Mohd Rashid (JKPS:2001), Jameel Ahmad (JKPS:2001), Vinay Kumar (JKPS:2001), Javid Ahmad Dar (JKPS:2001), Sunil Raj (JKPS:2001), Sanjay Kumar Bhagat (JKPS:2001), Abdul Hakim Munshi (JKPS:2001), Sukhdev Raj (JKPS:2001), Gh. Jeelani Wani (JKPS:2001), Amit Bhasin (JKPS:2001), Sanjay Singh Rana (JKPS:2001), Abdul Qayoom (JKPS:2001), Shafqat Hussain (JKPS:2001), Rajinder Kumar Katoch (JKPS:2001), Suram Singh (JKPS:2001), Raj Singh (JKPS:2001), Paramvir Singh (JKPS:2001), Manoj Kumar Pandit (JKPS:2001), Dr. S. D. Choudhary (JKPS:2001), Tanveer Jeelani (JKPS:2002), Mohd. Fiesel Qureshi (JKPS:2002), Sanjay Sharma (JKPS:2002), Paramjeet Singh (JKPS:2002), Nasir Ahmed (JKPS:2002), Dushant Sharma (JKPS:2002), Al-Tahir Geelani (JKPS:2002), Kulwant Singh Jasrotia (JKPS:2002), Mohd. Aftab Mir (JKPS:2002), Muneer Ahmed (JKPS:2003), Naresh Singh Jamwal (JKPS:2003), Muzaffar Ahmad Shah (JKPS:2004), Master Popsy (JKPS:2004), Rammish Gupta (JKPS:2004), Sajad Ahmad Shah (JKPS:2004), Azhar Bashir Baba (JKPS:2004), Raja Adil Hamid Ganaie (JKPS:2004), Arif Amin Shah (JKPS:2004), Sajad Khaliq Bhat (JKPS:2004), Suresh Kumar (JKPS:2004), Sumir Kotwal (JKPS:2004), Peerzada Naveed (JKPS:2004), Mamta Sharma (JKPS:2004), Shahzad Ahmad Salaria (JKPS:2004), Dawood Ayoub (JKPS:2004), Stenzin Losal (JKPS:2004), Aijaz Ahmad Zargar (JKPS:2004), Perbeet Singh (JKPS:2004), Tahir Ashraf Bhatti (JKPS:2004), Mushtaq Ahmad (JKPS:2004), Farooq Qesor Malik (JKPS:2004), Naresh Singh (JKPS:2004), Surjeet Kumar Bhagat (JKPS:2004), Aftab Ahmed Sheikh (JKPS:2004), Raj Kumar (JKPS:2004), Sheikh Faisal Qayoom (JKPS:2004), Khalid Amin (JKPS:2004), Sanjay Kumar Parihar (JKPS:2004), Mubbasher Hussain (JKPS:2004), Ifroz Ahmad (JKPS:2004), ushim Ahmad (JKPS:2004), Rajinder Singh (JKPS:2004), Arun Kumar (JKPS:2004), Mohd Anwar-ul-Haq (JKPS:2004), Shaheen Wahid (JKPS:2004), Sonam Dechen (JKPS:2004), Masroor Ahmad Mir (JKPS:2004), Mohd Ibrahim (JKPS:2007), Gurmeet Singh (JKPS:2007), Rasheeq Ahmad (JKPS:2007), Zahoor Ahmed Wani (JKPS:2008), Ayaz Ahmad Sheikh (JKPS:2008), Vivek Shekhar Sharma (JKPS:2008), Amran Farooq (JKPS:2008), Bharat Bhushan Sharma (JKPS:2008), Zulafqar Ahmad (JKPS:2008), Vipin Chandran (JKPS:2008), Deepak Digra (JKPS:2008), Rahul Charak (JKPS:2008), Feroz Ahmad (JKPS:2008), Irshad Hussain Rather (JKPS:2008), Shakeel Rehman Bhat (JKPS:2008), Tanweer Ahmad Dar (JKPS:2008) and Safdar Hamid Hassan (JKPS:2008).

## DDC Kulgam reviews physical & financial progress recorded under District Capex 2024-25

**KULGAM:** District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today convened a meeting to take stock of the physical and financial achievements made under District Capex 2024-25.

During the meeting, it was informed that out of 2600 approved works 1500 works have been completed physically by the end of December.

DDC took a detailed review of progress achieved in each department including RDD, Health, Education, R&B, PDD, PHE & Agriculture allied departments.

It was given out in the meeting that in the RDD department alone as many as 1220 works were taken up out of which 920 stands were completed by the end of December.

The DDC directed the concerned executing agencies to ensure that the implementation of



all the works on ground is expedited so that they are completed at the earliest.

### DC Srinagar hands-over Rs 2.31 Lakh Cheque for nutritional support to TB patients

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar/ Chairman District Red cross Society, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Monday handed over a cheque amounting Rs 2.31 lakh from the Red Cross Society to the Chief Medical Officer Srinagar here in his Office chamber for providing nutritional support to Tuberculosis (TB) patients aiding in their faster recovery under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana.

The Nikshay Poshan scheme is an initiative, launched by the Government of India, to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) from the country by providing comprehensive support to patients and ensuring successful treatment outcomes aimed to enhance the nutritional status of TB patients, aiding their recovery and overall well-being.

On the occasion, DC said that the initiative is a vital step towards strengthening the healthcare system in the district and reiterated the



Administration's dedication to public health.

He emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to combat TB and urged all stakeholders to actively contribute to the success of such initiatives.

It is pertinent to mention that the District Administration Srinagar has adopted 77 TB patients under Nikshay Mitra scheme exhibiting its proactive stand to eradicate TB from the district and ensuring better outcomes for affected individuals.

Meanwhile, Chief Medical Officer Srinagar Dr. Tahir Sajad extended his heartfelt gratitude to District Administration Srinagar, particularly to the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar for valuable support, coordination and key contribution in facilitating the process.

### GMC Anantnag bans outside food, introduces diet facility for patients

**Jahangeer Ganaie**

**Anantnag:** To enhance patient care and uphold hospital decorum, the administration of Mirza Mohammad Afzal Begh Memorial (MMABM) Associated Hospital, Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag, has prohibited outside food for patients while introducing a dedicated diet facility tailored to their medical needs.

A hospital official told that this decision is aimed at improving hygiene, discipline and overall care standards within the hospital.

He said attendants are now allowed to visit patients strictly between 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm, adding that this restriction ensures minimal disruptions to patient care and helps medical staff focus on their duties efficiently.

"The hospital now provides four meals daily, from breakfast to dinner, specially prepared to meet the nutritional and medical needs of patients. Attendants can access food from outside facilities such as the hospital canteen," he said.

To ensure hygiene and prevent health hazards, patients are no longer permitted to bring outside food into the wards, the official said, adding that the use of polythene bags within hospital premises has been strictly banned to maintain cleanliness and align with eco-friendly practices.



The measures were introduced following concerns about improper hygiene and issues such as rodent infestation, which were exacerbated by food brought from outside.

The hospital's Incharge Security Officer has been directed to enforce these rules diligently, with strict action to be taken against any violations.

The administration has urged patients, attendants and staff to cooperate with the new measures, saying these changes aim to create a safe and conducive environment for patient recovery.

"This initiative ensures patients receive hygienic and nutritionally balanced meals while also contributing to better hygiene and discipline within the hospital," the official said.


### Director Agriculture Jammu flags off farmers' Training cum Exposure tour to Punjab Agriculture University

**JAMMU:** A group of 55 farmers and entrepreneurs from Jammu, Samba, Kathua and Udhampur Districts was flagged off by Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen here from the Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan on Training cum Exposure visit outside UT. The five-day visit, scheduled from 20th to 24th January 2025, to Punjab Agriculture University (PAU) Ludhiana has been arranged under HADP 2024-25, Project no. 01, Development of Seed and Seed Multiplication Chain.

The Director Agriculture Jammu, while interacting with the farmers, said that the training cum exposure visit is being organized to acquaint the farmers and entrepreneurs with different aspects of Development of Seed and Seed Multiplication Chain. "Seed multiplication is

essential because it ensures that the genetic purity of the seed is maintained as it transitions from breeder to farmer. This process guarantees that the variety performs as expected, enhancing both yield and quality," he maintained. Director A.S Reen encouraged the farmers and entrepreneurs to actively engage with the scientists and researchers during their visit to PAU Ludhiana. He further

asked the farmers to utilize the technology in their fields after learning from such training and



also share it with fellow farmers in their respective communities.

Joint Director Agriculture Extension/SLUB, Satish Sharma stressed the importance of applying the newly acquired skills and technologies in their agricultural practices, which can significantly contribute to improving farm productivity and profitability.

### JK Govt to import 900 high-quality Sheep from Australia

**Srinagar:** In a bid to meet the rising demand for meat in Jammu and Kashmir, the state government has approved the import of 900 sheep from Australia under the Integrated Agriculture Development Program (HAPD).

The initiative, with a budget of Rs 26 crore, focuses on two high-yield breeds, Dorper and Texel, renowned for their superior meat production capabilities.

As per the details available with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Jammu and Kashmir government has decided to import 900 high-quality sheep from Australia to meet the increasing demand for meat in the region.

These sheep, belonging to the Dorper and Texel breeds, are known worldwide for their superior meat production. The initiative is part of the Integrated Agriculture Development Program (HAPD) and comes with a budget of Rs 26 crore.

The plan aims to make the state self-sufficient in meat production, reducing dependency on imports.

Currently, Jammu and Kashmir consume

approximately 15 lakh sheep annually, with 41% of the demand being met through imports from other parts of the country, costing the



state Rs 1,400 crore. The new project is part of a broader Rs 329 crore, five-year plan to boost wool and mutton production while cutting down on imports.

Official sources informed KNO that the imported sheep will undergo a thorough quarantine process, spending one month in quarantine in Australia before being transported to India, where they will stay in dedicated quarantine centers for another two months.

A center has already been set up in Rajbagh Srinagar, Kathua- Jammu, and the sheep will later be housed at government sheep rearing farms in Reasi. Out of the 900 sheep, 450 Dorper sheep will be allocated to the Jammu division, while the same number of Texel sheep will go to the Kashmir division.

Dorper sheep, originally from South Africa, are known for their high fertility, adaptability to different climates, and rapid muscle development.

Lambs of this breed can grow to 35-40 kilograms in just four months, with adult sheep weighing up to 90 kilograms.

Texel sheep, a Dutch breed from the Netherlands, are equally prized for their exceptional muscle development.

They have smooth heads and legs, short height, broad faces, black noses, and small ears, making them ideal for meat production.

Reports inform that a team of six sheep farming experts from Jammu and Kashmir will soon leave for Australia to oversee the selection and transportation process—(KNO)

### Woman entrepreneur establishes Rural Business Services Hub by availing HADP

**RAMBAN:** The District Administration Ramban, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary, continues its efforts to promote Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) to explore the huge potential of job opportunities for the rural youth in agriculture and allied sector activities.

In a significant development, a Rural Business Services Hub was inaugurated today at Maitra.

The inaugural function was graced by Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Dr. Shamshad Shan; MLA Ramban, Arjun Singh Raju; Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary; Senior Superintendent of Police, Kulbir Singh; and Assistant Commissioner Revenue, S. Harpal Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer, Ram Gopal Sharma, AGMO Horticulture P&M Raju Zutshi.

The private agro-related facility "Zaheeda Agro Trading Co", established

under HADP and sponsored by the Department of Planning and Marketing (P&M), Jammu and Kashmir Government, is designed to promote rural entrepreneurship. It aims to provide comprehensive agro-based business and services to the farming community at a single point.

Speaking at the event, the Chairperson and other guests highlighted the importance of such initiatives in empowering rural communities, enhancing farmers' income and advancing holistic agricultural development across the district. The Chairperson lauded the collaborative efforts of the government and private stakeholders in establishing the hub and encouraged farmers to utilize the services offered effectively.

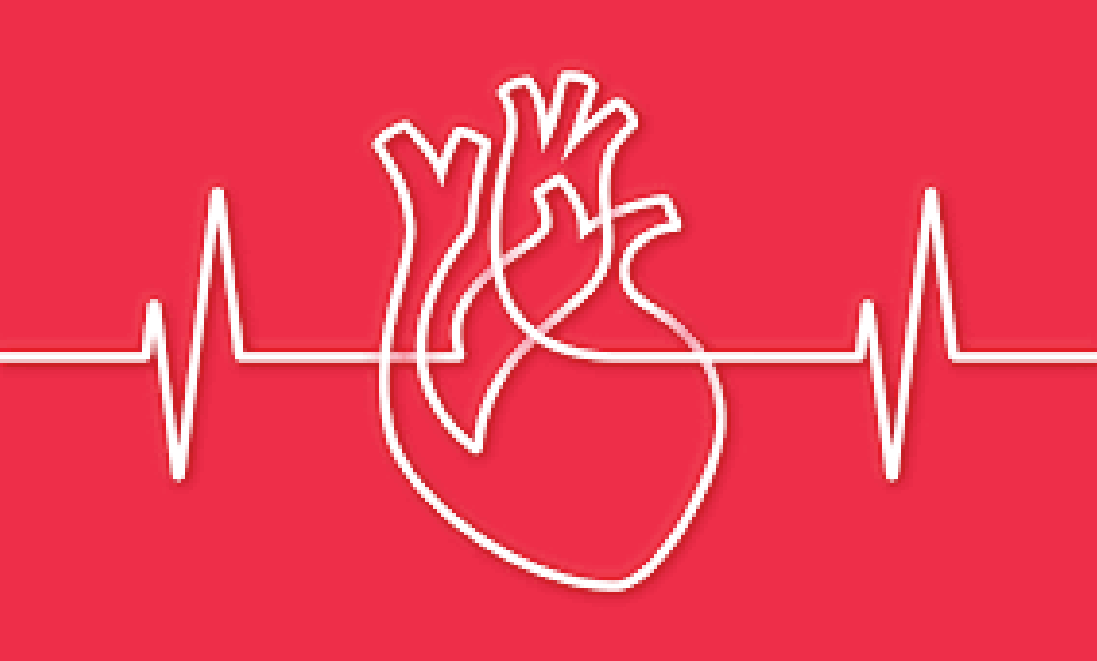
They also reiterated the commitment of the Government for strengthening the agricultural sector and creating employment opportunities for the youth.



# Unexpected signs of silent heart attack

## Signs of silent heart attack

In the movies, heart attacks always happen in the most dramatic fashion, with the patient crushing under severe pain in their chest, at the site of their heart. But in reality, a heart attack could happen with not-so-evident signs. This makes it all the more risky,



for people may not be able to identify the deadly condition, and dismiss it as something less urgent or serious.

There are certain tell-tale signs of this silent heart attack, which can especially happen in the morning. Knowing these and paying attention to them if they happen is essential for immediate treatment. Here are some of these signs in detail:

### Waking up in a cold sweat

If your arteries are clogged, your heart will have to work harder with more pressure to push the blood throughout your body. When such extra exertion happens, your body may sweat more to keep your body temperature down. In case you experience cold sweats or clammy skin upon waking up in the morning or in the middle of the night, you should consult your doctor.

### Feeling nauseated

You may also experience mild indigestion and other gastrointestinal problems before having a heart attack. It is important to not take these for granted by popping antacids, and seek medical attention. Older people, who are typically more prone to digestive issues, are more likely to dismiss these signs of heart attack as heartburn or any other food-related problem.

### Vomiting

Nausea may also be accompanied by stomach pain. Some people may even experience vomiting. When you vomit, the contents of your stomach are forced up through the food pipe and out of the mouth. Vomiting is not healthy and you should see your doctor.

People may often dismiss these signs as symptoms of flu. However, even if similar, pay attention to your body and you may feel that this does not feel flu-like as before.

Study says 150 minute of workout per week can lower risk of death; know details

### A large scale study has revealed interesting facts

An extensive study in which more than 116,000 people had participated and were studied for over 30 years has found that exercising for even 150 minutes a week can lower the risk of death by a large extent.

The participants were from the Nurses' Health Study and Health Professionals Follow-up Study (1988–2018). They were asked to answer a questionnaire with detailed self reports of physical activity.

The research study titled "Long-Term Leisure-Time Physical Activity Intensity and All-Cause and Cause-Specific Mortality: A Prospective Cohort of US Adults"

was published in July 2022 in Circulation, a scientific journal published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins for the American Heart Association.

### What did the researchers find out?



The researchers found that physical activity, even in moderate duration, reduced the risk of all cause deaths.

The study saw a dip in mortality risk in those people who were engaged in physical activities 150-599 minutes per week. "Participants reporting 2 to 4 times above the recommended minimum of long-term leisure-time activity (150-299 minutes per week) or moderate activity (300-599 minutes per week), had 2 to 4% and 3 to 13% additional lower mortality," says a health report.

"The nearly maximum association with lower mortality was achieved by performing ~150 to 300 min/wk of long-term leisure-time VPA, 300 to 600 min/wk of long-term leisure-time MPA, or an equivalent combination of both," the study found.

### What do experts say?

"When it comes to exercise, more might be better. A new study found that people who followed the recommendations for physical activity lowered their risk of dying from any cause by as much as 21%. But

adults who exercised 2X to 4X the recommended amount might lower their mortality risk by as much as 31%," the American Heart Association (AHA) has captioned a social media post on the study and the importance of physical activity.

### 32% deaths worldwide happen due to heart issues

One of the leading causes of deaths in the world, heart diseases claim close to 18 million lives annually. Most of the deaths associated with heart diseases are due to heart attacks and strokes.

Heart diseases also account for premature deaths. The World Health Organisation (WHO) says, one third of these deaths occur prematurely in people under 70 years of age.

Out of the 17 million premature deaths (under the age of 70) due to noncommunicable diseases in 2019, 38% were caused by heart diseases.

In the latest report on top causes of death worldwide, the WHO had said that heart diseases were the number one killer among all non-communicable diseases.

### What do other research studies say on the importance of exercise on heart health?

This is not the first time a study has talked about the effect of physical activity on heart health; though it might be one of the first studies done on such a massive scale and over a longer duration.

As per a 2010 study: More activity is associated with a lower risk of developing cardiovascular disease when compared to less physical activity. Although there may be a threshold over which activity levels convey greater risk, only those who are totally sedentary (i.e., "weekend warriors") or who have pre-existing

health conditions are at risk for acute CV events with sudden, vigorous-intensity physical activity. "The gradual introduction of activity combined with physician evaluation prior to starting an exercise program may mitigate these risks," the study suggests.

A 2003 study published in Circulation journal of AHA stressed on the risk that a sedentary lifestyle poses on the human heart. "A sedentary lifestyle is one of the 5 major risk factors (along with high blood pressure, abnormal values for blood lipids, smoking, and obesity) for cardiovascular disease," the study said and had suggested walking, golf playing, calisthenics, gardening, cycling, swimming and climbing hills among various physical activities one should do.

### What are the risk factors?

There are several risk factors for heart diseases. Overuse of tobacco, consumption of more salt, less consumption of seasonal fruits and vegetables, no physical activity, and overdrinking of alcohol are the risk factors associated with heart disease.

"The effects of behavioural risk factors may show up in individuals as raised blood pressure, raised blood glucose, raised blood lipids, and overweight and obesity,"

warns the WHO.

Apart from this, hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol also influence heart diseases. "In addition, drug treatment of hypertension, diabetes and high blood lipids are necessary to reduce cardiovascular risk and prevent heart attacks and strokes among people with these conditions," the global health agency has said.

### Things to do

The symptoms associated with heart diseases are too subtle to be observed. Only when it poses a risk to your health, does it become visible.

However, if you have a history of heart disease running in the family you need to be extra careful about your health. Also, those who have diabetes and/or high cholesterol should also be careful about heart diseases.

Apart from these factors lifestyle habits like drinking, smoking or having sedentary life can also influence the occurrence of heart complications to a large extent.

Additionally, diet also plays a crucial role. Always try to portion your meal with an exact amount of nutrients and vitamins. Include a portion of seasonal fruits and vegetables on your food plate.



If your arteries are clogged, your heart will have to work harder with more pressure to push the blood throughout your body. When such extra exertion happens, your body may sweat more to keep your body temperature down. In case you experience cold sweats or clammy skin upon waking up in the morning or in the middle of the night, you should consult your doctor.



## White or pink guava: Which is healthier?

Experts always suggest that seasonal fruits be added to one's diet. But, it must be noted that some fruits have many varieties, each having its own set of health benefits. One such fruit is the guava – which comes in pink and white varieties. Taking to Instagram, dietitian Shikha Kumari listed the benefits of having guava, and also the differences between the two.

Some of the health benefits of the light green, mildly sweet, and tangy fruit are:

- \*Helps to lower blood sugar levels.
- \*Boost heart health.
- \*May help relieve painful symptoms of

menstruation.

- \*Extremely good for the digestive system.
- \*Good for weight loss.
- \*May have an anti-cancer effect.
- \*Helps to boost your immunity.
- \*Is good for your skin.

Besides these benefits, guavas are also a good source of iron, calcium, and phosphorus, said Tanvi S Chiplunkar, senior dietitian at Bhatia Hospital Mumbai, adding that guava is a "good source of dietary fibre" which is useful in maintaining blood sugar levels in diabetic people.

Now, let's find out which one should you pick "Pink guava has more water content, less sugar, less starch content and vitamin C, and less seed or is even seedless. On the other hand, white guava has more sugar, starch, vitamin C and more seed. The white-fleshed guava is high in antioxidants, but the red-fleshed variety has even higher," said Kumari.

She added that pink guava contains naturally occurring class of organic pigment called carotenoid, which gives carrots and tomatoes their distinct red colour. The concentration of carotenoid vary from

species to species depending upon which the colour of guavas also range from light pink to deep pink. The carotenoid content of white guava, on the other



hand, is insufficient to impart colour to its pericarp (pulp). Apart from above mentioned reason, white and pink guava also slightly vary in their taste, said Kumari.

Agreed Chiplunkar and added that ripe guava or the pink ones should be avoided if you are suffering from regular cold and cough. On the other hand, raw ones are recommended to be taken to reduce mucous formation.

Pink guavas are frequently marketed as 'super fruits' as they are high in vitamins A and C, as well as omega 3 and omega 6 poly unsaturated fatty

acids and dietary fibre. It is high in fibre and is beneficial to diabetics, said Dr Archana Batra, nutritionist, and certified diabetes educator.

What is the best way to consume them?

It is best to have vitamin C-rich fruits as a whole so that you do not leave a cut piece for a long time in the open, advised Dr Rohini Patil, nutritionist, MBBS, and CEO of Nutracy Lifestyle. "Otherwise, its vitamin C content starts to decrease," she said.

What should you keep in mind when buying guavas?

Best to buy small to medium-sized guavas such that you can eat one guava completely in one sitting, said Dr Patil.

Look for a guava that is free of blemishes, cuts, or bruises, as these can affect the flavour. "When purchasing guava, consider its quality and also know that many types of adulteration occur in guava, such as hard guava, green guava, desi guava, and so on. So, try to buy guava from a reputable store and pay attention to its quality. Use your fingers to gently squeeze the fruit to check for ripeness. You can also smell the fruit to get an idea about its sweetness," said Dr Batra.



# Continued From P1...

## Inter-ministerial

Meanwhile, the Jammu & Kashmir Police have established an 11-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the matter.

Locals expressed dissatisfaction with the government's initial response, accusing authorities of being casual until multiple deaths occurred.

Speaking to local news agency KNO, MLA Budhal Javed Iqbal Choudhary said the government initially believed the first death was due to food poisoning and only took the situation seriously after the second fatality.

"Three related families suffered the most as they lost a majority of their members," he said Choudhary said. He assured residents that the government is now fully engaged in the investigation.

The MLA said no new illnesses have been reported in the village, and the situation is under control. He urged locals to remain patient while investigations continue.

The government has pledged to expedite the process and determine the cause of these deaths as quickly as possible

## Soldier Killed

been heightened across the valley ahead of Republic Day celebrations.

In the ensuing gunfight, an army man, Swr Pangala Kartheek of 22 Rashtriya Rifles, sustained fatal injuries and succumbed, the official said, adding that despite sealing all entry and exit points, the terrorists escaped.

The Indian Army's Chinar Corps paid rich tributes to Swr Pangala Kartheek for his "supreme sacrifice".

In a post on social media platform X, Chinar Corps said: "All ranks of the Chinar Corps salute the supreme sacrifice of Braveheart Swr Pangala Kartheek, who laid down his life in the line of duty. Chinar Warriors salute his immense valour and sacrifice, express deepest condolences, and stand in solidarity with the bereaved family."

## LG pays tribute

will never be forgotten. The entire nation stands firmly with the family of the martyr in this hour of grief," the Lieutenant Governor said.

## LG Sinha Pledges

representatives, Dr Elias Sharma, Nodal Officer, Dr Sanjeev Puri, Joint Director and Sh Irfan Ahmed Lone, Transplant Coordinator, visited Raj Bhawan and handed over the pledge certificate to the Lieutenant Governor.

Sandeep Jain, President and Monika Jain, General Secretary of Bharatiya Jain Sangathan, J&K were also present.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor has expressed his

willingness for organ donation during a programme organised by Bharatiya Jain Sansthan, yesterday on 19th January.

## J&K Govt Constitutes

Department - Member, Achal Sethi, Secretary, Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs - Member.

The committee has been tasked with, Ensuring the timely conduct of DPC meetings across administrative departments and their subordinate offices, Addressing stagnation and creating clear roadmaps for the career progression of employees and resolving issues of promotional vacancies, reducing the need for ad hoc promotions, and curbing additional charge assignments.

The committee will work closely with concerned departments to record decisions, take actionable measures, and report progress to the General Administration Department for appraisal.

Officials said this initiative is expected to bring greater transparency and efficiency to the promotion process, fostering career growth and addressing long-pending grievances of government employees. (ANB)

## JK Govt To

of counterfeit products, branded as hand-made Kashmir Art.

In order to promote sale of exquisite hand-made products, the spokesperson urged the stakeholders to approach the Handicrafts & Handloom Department for GI tagging, testing and certification of their products at CDI & IICT, reaching out to the customer satisfaction and safeguarding rich heritage of Kashmir.

"The department has worked out a plan to significantly increase the capacity of testing and certification of hand-made products especially at Pashmina Testing and Quality Certification Centre at CDI," he said, adding that various IEC campaigns are currently running at local as well as national level to motivate the customers to insist upon buying labelled hand-made products.

## Traffic enforcement

In terms of vehicle seizures, the Traffic City Srinagar impounded 9,118 vehicles, including 2,244 two-wheelers, 2,688 three-wheelers, and 4,186 four-wheelers. July saw the highest number of vehicle seizures, with 1,063, while April had the lowest, with 528 impounded vehicles.

Meanwhile, in Traffic Rural Kashmir, 4,12,154 challans were executed, generating Rs 11,79,06,050 in revenue. March recorded the highest number of challans in rural areas, at 40,410, followed by October with 39,583 and January with 37,883. October also witnessed the highest revenue collection of Rs 1,26,35,630, followed

by Rs 1,08,10,850 in July.

In rural areas, 3,497 vehicles were seized, including 1,504 two-wheelers, 112 three-wheelers, and 1,861 four-wheelers. The highest number of seizures occurred in April, with 386 vehicles, while March recorded 265.

Officials emphasized that the enforcement drive aims to enhance road safety and ensure compliance with traffic regulations. The implementation of modern technology has allowed for online fine issuance, and vehicles are seized for violations to maintain order.

An official stated that while the enforcement drive plays a key role in regulating traffic, it is not a standalone solution to reducing accidents. "We can fine and seize vehicles, but road safety is everyone's responsibility. It is essential for people to follow traffic rules, wear helmets, and avoid reckless driving," he remarked.

Authorities have also been conducting awareness campaigns to educate the public on the importance of road safety and the consequences of violations. They urged commuters to cooperate and follow traffic laws for safer roads in the region—(KNO)

## Sakina Htoo reviews

neighbouring regions. She outlined that the contribution of SKIMS is unmatched for society. "SKIMS is the cornerstone of our healthcare system and its performance directly impacts the well-being of thousands of people on regular basis", the Minister stated.

She highlighted the importance of maintaining high standards in patient care, medical education and research at this prestigious institution. "We must work collectively to ensure that the institute continues to work with its full potential in delivering advanced and quality medicare to our people", Sakeena said.

While reviewing the current state of infrastructure at SKIMS, including inpatient and outpatient facilities,

# NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216018005319, which is Registered in the name of my Father, Ghulam Mohammad Sofi, Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Tariq Ahmad Sofi, S/O Ghulam Mohammad Sofi, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Tariq Ahmad Sofi.**  
**S/O Ghulam Mohammad Sofi.**  
**R/O Sofi Mohalla, Nusoo, ward**  
**NO:07, Bandipora**

# NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Bank account No: 0061040150006322, my name, parantege and DOB has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Mohd Aqib Mir, S/O Mohd Rehmatulla Mir, and DOB as 15-12-1994. While as my Actual and correct name, Parantege and DOB is Mohammad Aaqib Mir, S/O Mohammad Rehmatulla Mir, and DOB is 15-12-1993. 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 Manager jammu and kashmir Bank branch office Main Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Mohammad Aaqib Mir.**  
**S/O Mohammad Rehmatulla Mir.**  
**R/O Konan Baba Gund Bandipora.**

# NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15 20130007804, my name, parantege and Adress has been Wrongly mentioned as Nisar Ahmad Khan, S/O Ghulam Mohi ud Din Khan, R/O Panjagam Bandipora. While as my Actual and correct name, parantege and Adress is, Nissar Ahmad Khan, S/O Gh Mohi Uddin khan, R/O Phalwanpora (Panjigam) Bandipora. 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.

**Nissar Ahmad Khan.**  
**S/O Gh Mohi Uddin khan**  
**R/O Phalwanpora (Panjigam)**  
**Bandipora.**

diagnostic centers as well as emergency services, the Minister urged the administration to expedite the works on ongoing projects aimed at modernizing facilities and ensuring patient comfort at the institute. She also asked them for decongestion of emergency ward so that the patients are treated effectively.

## RECPDCL Hands

through Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) process conducted by RECPDCL, the Bid Process Coordinator, for development of the transmission project on Build, Own, Operate & Transfer (BOOT) basis.

This is the first HVDC transmission project, whereby the project is awarded to a private sector developer through TBCB route. The scheme covers establishment of 2 Nos. HVDC terminal stations of 6000 MW at Bhadla (Rajasthan) and Fatehpur (UP), + 800 kV HVDC line (Hexa Lapwing) from Bhadla to Fatehpur (955 km) along with associated works. Estimated cost of the project is around ₹ 22,700 Crore. The SPV was handed over by Shri T.S.C. Bosh, CEO, RECPDCL to Shri Sanjay Arvind Johari, Chief Business Development Officer, Adani Energy Solutions Limited in the presence of Senior Officials of RECPDCL, Adani Energy Solutions Limited and Central Transmission Utility of India Limited. The implementation period of the project is 54 months.

# SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sad demise of Zaiba Begum, wife of Master Ab Samad Wani from Rahmoo Pulwama. She passed away on the Morning of Monday, 20th January 2025. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. May Allah grant her Maghfirah and a place in Jannat-ul-Firdous.

Large number of people participated in the Namaz-e-Janaza. Social activist and PWD Icon from Pulwama, Aftab Alam, also expressed grief over the death and prayed for patience and strength for the bereaved family.

# NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216020000572, my name and parantege has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Dr Tasaduk Hassan Malik, S/O Mohd Hussain Malik, While as my Actual and correct name and parantege is Dr Malik Tassaduq Hussain, S/O Gh Hussain Malik. 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.

**Dr Malik Tassaduq Hussain.**  
**S/O Gh Hussain Malik.**  
**R/O Rangwar Aloosa, District**

# NOTICE

This is an information for general public that my Daughter Namely Maahruck Tanveer, her Mother's name has been Mistakenly Mentioned in her School Records as Falaah Jan, while as her actual and correct Mother's name is Shahida Rashid, 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 Faiz Aam Secondary school Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Shahida Rashid.**  
**W/O Tanveer Ahmad Dar.**  
**Mother of: Maahruck Tanveer.**  
**R/O Pohru peth, Tehsil Langate**  
**District kupwara.**



Mushtaq ul islam

**PULWAMA:** The SPVLG Foundation inaugurated its flagship initiative, Project Mamta (Maternal Assistance through Monitoring and Treatment Assurance), with an Awareness cum Medical Camp held in Dessu, Kokernag, Anantnag. This groundbreaking initiative aims to address critical maternal health challenges in tribal communities by providing accessible medical services and promoting health awareness.

The project is funded by J&K Bank under its

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, underscoring the bank's commitment to community welfare.

The camp saw a significant turnout of tribal women, who benefited from free medical consultations, essential medicines, and health education sessions. Medical professionals highlighted key aspects of maternal health, including the importance of prenatal care, nutrition, and regular health check-ups to ensure the well-being of mothers and children.

Mr. Syed Shahid Hussain, Branch Head of Larnoo, Kokernag, attended the event and reiterated the bank's dedication to community welfare. "At J&K Bank, we are committed to driving meaningful change through impactful CSR initiatives. Project Mamta is a step forward in ensuring better maternal healthcare in underserved regions," he stated.

A representative from SPVLG Foundation expressed gratitude to J&K Bank for supporting this initiative. "Project Mamta is our effort to bridge healthcare gaps in marginalized areas. With the support of J&K Bank, we aim to provide sustainable healthcare solutions, ensuring healthier futures for mothers and children," they said. The SPVLG Foundation plans to organize more such programs under Project Mamta, reaffirming its mission to improve maternal health outcomes and foster community development in remote regions.

# Rising Star Corps Organises "Know Your Army Mela" at Kathua Stadium

**KATHUA:** The Gurj Division of the Rising Star Corps organized the "Know Your Army Mela" at Kathua Stadium on Monday as a prelude to the 76th Republic Day Celebrations. The event served as a powerful platform to motivate and integrate youth more closely with the national mainstream.

DC Kathua, District Info Officer (DIO), ASP Kathua, Principal GMC Kathua and No of School Teachers attended the event along with 700 Plus Students from Eight different Schools. In addition, the attendees also included 50 wards of Gujar and Bakarwals, 250 Civilians and 15 ESMs.

Youth attended the event with full fervor and zeal and were enthralled by a series of dynamic martial performances, such as the energetic Kukri dance by Gorkha troops, the traditional Mallakhamb by Marathas soldiers and the spirited Gatka by Sikh warriors. The event offered visitors a unique opportunity to engage with the life and ethos of the Indian Army.



A wide range of military equipment was also on display, including Infantry, Artillery, Armoured vehicles and Surveillance systems to include T-72 tanks, ICV MkIII, Artillery Field Guns, Medium Range and Weapon Locating Radars, Small Arms and newly inducted vehicles.

These showcased the Army's advancements in weapon systems, protection and mobility.

The event provided youth with a deeper insight into the Army's equipment, capabilities & traditions

and left a lasting impression on the youth. The youths displayed keen interest in joining the armed forces and serving the nation. Almost 500 Students flooded the kiosk to know of schemes to join the Indian Army where Information Pamphlets were circulated to the students by the Army.

Civil dignitaries including DC Kathua, ASP Kathua and School Teachers appreciated Rising Star Corps efforts towards motivating the youths and contribution to Nation Building.



# Kraig Brathwaite Laments Inability To Adapt To Spinning Conditions

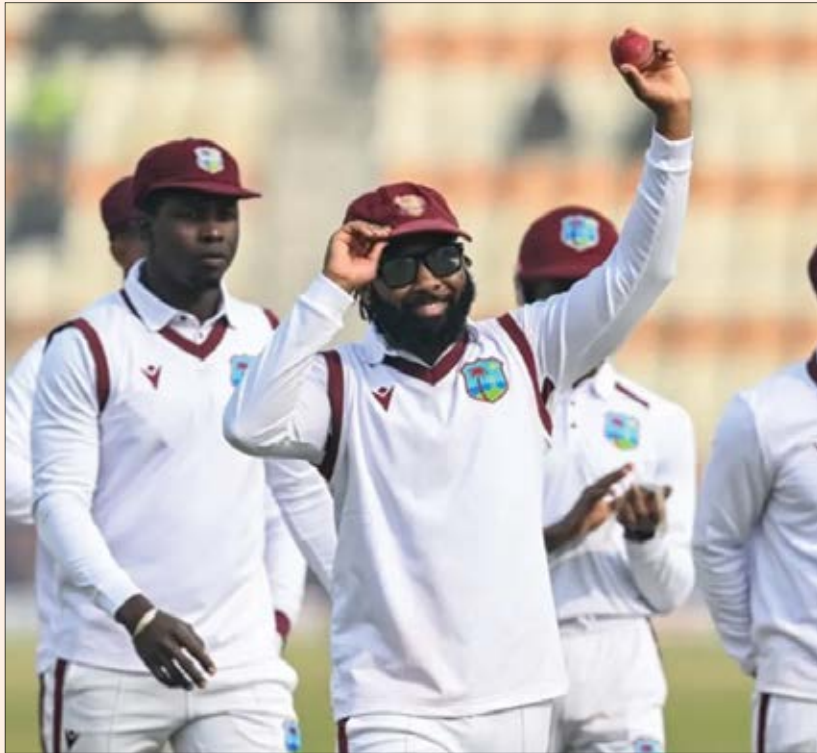
West Indian captain Kraig Brathwaite did not ignore the elephant in the room, but did not hide behind it, either. He said straightaway that Pakistan "prepared a dry spinning pitch from day one", while acknowledging it was their right to do so, and challenging both his batters and his bowlers to adapt to it better in the second Test.

"We expect the same type of pitch in the second Test and we've got to come better," Brathwaite said at the post-Test press conference. "It was a difficult pitch to bat on for sure. But it's their decision how they want the pitch. We've just got to come good." What encouraged Brathwaite was West Indies' ability to, for the most part, match their hosts toe-to-toe. While Sajid Khan and Noman Ali found themselves in the wickets, the best bowling figures of the Test belonged to West Indian left arm spinner Jomel Warrican, whose figures of 7 for 32 in the second innings are the third best ever by a visiting bowler in a Test in Pakistan. With the bat, too, West Indies' efforts of 137 and 123 weren't worlds removed from Pakistan's second innings score of 157, with a first innings fifth wicket stand of 141 between Saud Shakeel and Mohammad Rizwan the sharpest point of difference.

"It's great to see. Jamal has worked extremely hard over the years and it's good to see he got his first five-wicket haul. His hard work has paid off. He bowled well; he was consistent. I wish him all the best in his second test match.

"I do think we could improve bowling wise. We gave them 50-60 runs too much in the first innings because the pitch spun from ball one and we could have created enough pressure on the batters to get more wickets.

easy it can be. You've got to be braver in your shot selection. But I think a better all-round performance and we could win the second Test." With the pitch tricky and the Test match



Saying that, we also didn't bat as well as we could. I think Alick [Athanaze, whose fourth innings 55 was West Indies highest individual score] showed us today how

short, smaller differences were always going to prove decisive, and Brathwaite was keen to stress that, despite the margin of victory, he felt the disparity between the two sides

was small. With Pakistan's strategy certain - both captains effectively confirmed they expected a similar turner for the second Test - which also takes place in Multan, starting on January 25 - surprise is not something that can catch West Indies out. "I think we could be better with the ball in the first innings. We gave them 50 runs too much, and on top of that, we didn't bat as well as we could have, especially in the first innings. Both innings the top order didn't get any runs. So I think batting wise the top six should be able to bat at least a session. "Pakistan only batted one session in their second innings, too, and I think bowling wise once we stay consistent in bringing batters onto the front foot, we'll have a better chance of limiting that first innings total. And we've got to bat better, we've got to find a better way."

While he didn't commit to that strategy, perhaps judicious aggression, a measure of which West Indies began to introduce into their batting as each innings wore on, is something West Indies might look to do more of next week. Some batters found the use of reverse sweeps from outside the line a fruitful scoring option, while West Indies' most destructive phase with the bat came when the tenth wicket partnership put on 46 in 21 balls, taking the spinners on when they flighted the ball.

"The ball was ragging, so one is going to have your name on it regardless. The pitch was difficult as you could see. It was very dry before even the game started. So I'm not surprised with the game finishing early."

**"Pakistan only batted one session in their second innings, too, and I think bowling wise once we stay consistent** in bringing batters onto the front foot, we'll have a better chance of limiting that first innings total. And we've got to bat better, we've got to find a better way."

## Badminton: Singapore set to appoint former India player Anup Sridhar as coach

SINGAPORE: The Singapore Badminton Association (SBA) is set to hire former India international Anup Sridhar as its new singles coach, as per media reports here on Monday.

"The move is subject to the successful application of an employment pass," the Channel News Asia reported quoting SBA.

Sridhar, who has coached top singles players such as Lakshya Sen and PV Sindhu, will work under the "guidance" of South Korean coach Kim Ji-hyun, the Channel report stated.

Kim will continue to be the singles head coach for both men's and women's teams, with Sridhar offering "additional support", said SBA's vice-president of business development and communications David Tan.

"Our national team is made up of players at different development stages and world-ranking levels, and therefore have different coaching, training and competition needs. We are looking to address this by bringing in more coaches with different abilities," he explained.

"With this in mind, SBA had advertised for the position of an additional singles coach whose credentials include a minimum of five years' experience within a national badminton team structure with a primary focus on singles."

"Sridhar has also impressed us with his in-depth comprehensive analysis of the strengths and shortcomings of many top players on the tour at the moment. And this knowledge will be most useful to our national team," he said.

A former singles player, Sridhar captained India's Thomas Cup team in 2006 and 2008. He represented his country at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and was the country's top-ranked men's singles player between 2005 and 2008.



# Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

