

# Kashmir Convener



Rahul Gandhi  
defamation case:Hearing  
Deferred Again  
Due To Lawyers' Strike

P/02



Supreme Court refers to  
another bench pleas of RBI,  
others related to writing  
off AT-1 bonds of Yes Bank

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Kejriwal unveils 7-point 'manifesto' for middle class, says they are victim of 'tax terrorism'

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## Centre To Establish 100 New Sainik Schools: Rajnath

KC NEWS NETWORK

**ALAPPUZHA (Kerala):** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that the Centre's decision to establish 100 new sainik schools across the country was part of its efforts to improve the quality of basic education in

India, contributing to the overall development of the nation.

After inaugurating the 47th annual day celebrations of the Vidyadhiraja Sainik School in Alappuzha, Singh stated that the Central government has also paved the way for the admission of girls to sainik schools.

He added that the Centre had decided to expand the reach of sainik schools to every region and district of India to include personnel from diverse cultural backgrounds and remote areas of the country.

The Defence Minister, who is in Kerala for a couple of events, further emphasised that as the country

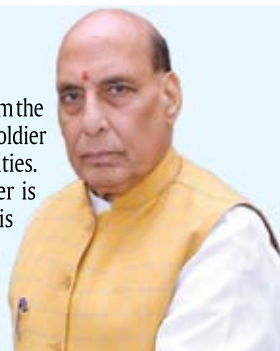
moves towards self-reliance, with advancements in various sectors such as health, communication, industry, transport, and defence, "there is a need for a revolution in education and the holistic development of children."

During his speech, he also remarked that a 'sainik' or soldier

should not be seen solely from the perspective of war, as each soldier possesses many other qualities.

He noted that a soldier is disciplined, focused on his goals, serves selflessly, has self-control, and is dedicated. These

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## Will curb growth of 'illegal colonies' in Jammu : Govt

KC NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA) along with Revenue Department will conduct joint inspections with the Revenue department to 'curb the growth of illegal colonies in Jammu district'.

A Government spokesperson said the decision was taken today during a meeting of Deputy Commissioner, Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaisya with Chairperson, JKRERA, Satish Chandra. During the meeting, the issue of development

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## CM Omar assures grievance redressal to deputations



KC NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met several deputations at Civil Secretariat Jammu, and listened to their issues, demands and grievances for immediate redressal.

A deputation led by District Development Council Chairman Kishtwar, Pooja Thakur, brought development and employment issues to the notice of the Chief Minister.

Representing far-flung areas of Paddar, Dachhan, Atholi, Nagseni

and other areas of Kishtwar district, the delegation submitted a memorandum of demands to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, highlighting key issues faced by these remote areas of Kishtwar district. The delegation emphasized the need for employment opportunities for locals in ongoing and upcoming power projects, along with the upgradation of schools and health institutions to address critical shortages of teachers, doctors and paramedics.

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## Promote idea of unity of all mankind: LG Sinha

KC NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today addressed Shrimad Bhagwat Samagam at Mahakumbh, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The occasion was graced by Acharya Mahamandleshwar Swami Kailashanand Giri ji Maharaj.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the spiritual leaders, thinkers and social leadership to work for unity of mind and heart and contribute in nation building. "Our prime objective should be to promote the idea of unity of all mankind," he said.

"Mahakumbh is the confluence of spirituality, education, experience and enlightenment. It is the symbol of India's spiritual heritage, culture and traditions," the Lieutenant Governor observed.

He said the presence of revered saints at Mahakumbh illuminates

our path and guides us for virtuous living.

"Samagam is the door to enter

philosophers to make dedicated efforts to carry forward our rich spiritual legacy to young generation



the highest level of consciousness. This is also a confluence of great personalities who provide leadership to various sectors of society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He asked the religious heads, saints, teachers, scientists,

and connect more youth to nation-building and realise the resolve of Viksit Bharat.

"Our ancient saints, philosophers and teachers' life and vision of selfless service, brotherhood, equality and universal values is an inspiration for all

humanity. They inspired people to follow the righteous path, awaken the society to fulfil duties for a developed society," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that a mass campaign should be started in mission mode to preserve and nurture the ancient Indian civilizational heritage.

Our mystic saints have created a divine aura through meditation and yoga and laid the foundation for the all-round development and welfare of humanity since time immemorial.

Modern communication tools, reach of social media and other communication mediums have eliminated geographical boundaries. We must use these mediums to spread research work, books, magazines, monographs on meditation and yoga to every corner of the world, he said.

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## Minister Itoo chairs maiden Cabinet Sub-Committee meet



KC NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** The Cabinet Sub-Committee on Reservation Rules convened its meeting under

the chairpersonship of Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo here today.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana (member of Sub-committee); Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sanjeev Verma; Secretary Law, Achal Sethi and representatives from General Administration Department also participated in the meeting. The Sub-committee examined the grievances and issues raised by section of aspirants and students on different aspects of existing reservation policy. The Sub-committee also discussed the existing reservation policy and evaluated several aspects of it.

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## Mirwaiz led MMU to meet Waqf Bill panel chief

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** A delegation of the Mutaahida Majlis Ulema (MMU), led by its chairman, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, is set to meet the chairman of joint parliamentary committee (JPC) on Waqf Amendment Bill in New Delhi on January 24. Speaking with news agency-Kashmir (KNO) secretary Farooq, Syed the delegation will meet Jagdambika Pal, chairman JPC on Waqf Bill, at his residence in New Delhi on Friday. The MMU had sought

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## Health Crisis Deepens In Rajouri As Four More Fall Ill

Fatalities show brain, nervous system damage: Principal GMC Rajouri



Jahangeer Ganaie

**SRINAGAR:** The situation in the Badhaal area of Rajouri district has taken a worrisome turn, with four more persons, including three siblings, falling ill in the past 24 hours. This comes amidst an ongoing investigation into mysterious deaths that have claimed 17 lives over the last 50 days.

An official told the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the latest case involving a 25-year-old youth, Aijaz, who was attending patients at GMC Jammu, has intensified concerns. Aijaz was airlifted to PGI Chandigarh during the night, where his condition is reported to be stable. Three siblings from the family of Bagga Khan also

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## Comprehensive surveillance measures introduced

High risk contacts relocated

KC NEWS NETWORK

**RAJOURI:** To cope with the health crisis in Badhaal village, which led to 17 deaths in the area, the District Administration Rajouri has introduced an array of preventive measures to prevent the situation from escalating. The authorities have replaced existing supplies

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## Div Com, ADGP Review Safety Measures

KC NEWS NETWORK

**RAJOURI:** Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu, Anand Jain, visited Badhaal village today to assess the situation and review ongoing measures for the safety of the residents.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri was directed for immediate relocation of



close contacts and high-risk contacts of affected families from Badhaal Village to Nursing College and Government Medical

College (GMC) Rajouri. Instructions were issued to Child Development Project

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## India Faces Threat From Within, Not Outside: Dr. Farooq

KC NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said that India does not face a threat from the outside but from within. He emphasised the importance of unity and countering divisive narratives to secure the nation's future.

"The country demands sacrifice even today to save itself. India does not face a threat from outside but from within. People inside the country can destroy it, not those from outside. To make the nation strong, we must make ourselves, our brothers, and our sisters strong", Dr Abdullah said while speaking at a function at the National Conference headquarters here.

Dr Abdullah criticised divisive propaganda, particularly the narrative that Hindus are under threat. "There are 80 per cent Hindus in this country, so where is the threat?"

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## Address pending claims under FRA : Javed Ahmad Rana

KC NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana asked the officers to swiftly address pending claims under the Forest Rights Act, filed by forest dwellers.

He also said that steps need to be taken to strengthen forest dependent communities and tribal engagement, Rana

He made remarks today while chairing a comprehensive review meeting of all sectors of the forest department at Civil Secretariat Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests J&K; PCCF/Director, Soil & Water Conservation Department; PCCF (WL)/Chief Wildlife Warden;

Chairman, JK Pollution Control Committee; Director, Forest Research Institute; Secretary in Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment; Director, Forest Protection Force; Director,



Social Forestry; Managing Director, J&K FDC; Director, Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing Department; Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu/Kashmir; Chief Conservator of Forests, Planning & Projects; Chief Executive Director, WUCMA, Kashmir; Regional

Wildlife Warden, Jammu/Kashmir; Director Finance, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department; Special Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department and Additional

Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment.

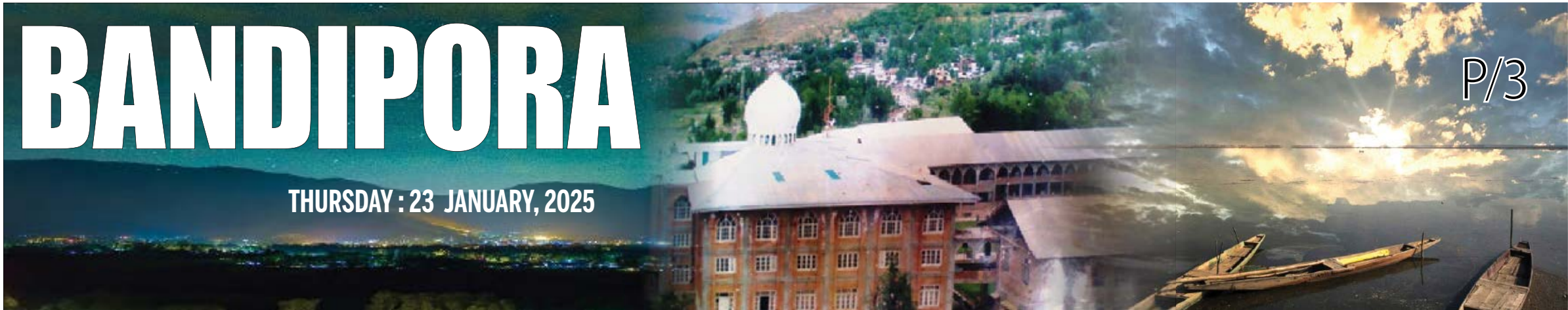
During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on Human Resource (HR) management in various wings of Forest Department.

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# 19 Under Trial Prisoners Recommended for Release in Bandipora

**BANDIPORA:** The first Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) held in Bandipora on Wednesday recommended release of 19 under trial prisoners in the district.

An official statement released by the District Information Centre Bandipora stated that the committee reviewed cases of eligible UTPs/Prisoners shortlisted by the Secretary, DLSA Bandipora for consideration, and the committee recommended 19 Prisoners for release.

As per the UTRC Quarterly meetings schedule issued by National Legal Ser-



vices Authority for the year 2025, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)

Bandipora under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority conducted 1st Un-

der Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting in District Bandipora.

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

The UTRC meeting was held in compliance with the directions of Justice B.R. Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India (Executive Chairman, NALSA) and was chaired by Pr. District

& Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Bandipora, Khalil Ahmad Choudhary with the members of the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC).

The meeting was attended by Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, District Magistrate, Bandipora; Iqbal Ahmad Akhoo, Secretary DLSA/CJM Bandipora; Harmeet Singh Mehta, Senior Superintendent of Police, Bandipora; Abdul Majeed, Chief Prosecuting Officer, Bandipora; Ahmad Shaafi, Dy. S.P.DAR, (Nodal Officer, Subsidiary Jail, Bandipora and Wani Nawaz-ul-Haq, Assistant LADC Bandipora.

## Arin Residents Raise Concerns on Education, Healthcare and other Developmental Gaps

**BANDIPORA:** During the weekly Public Interaction programme-Public Darbar, the residents of Arin Block on Wednesday flagged several issues with regard to Education, health and other developmental gaps.

An official spokesperson said the residents sought better healthcare services in health centres and round the clock availability of doctors besides seeking improvement in teacher pupil ratio in remote schools.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri presided over the Mega Public Outreach Program at Arin, Bandipora in an effort to bring governance and administrative services closer to the people and to address public grievances. DDC Member for Arin Ghulam Mohiddin, Officers from various government departments, local representatives, and public from all walks of life, including youth and senior citizens were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri emphasized that Block Diwas is an initiative designed to foster direct interaction between the administration and the public, offering a platform for citizens to voice their concerns and seek solutions. He assured the residents that their issues would be addressed promptly and efficiently, issuing immediate directions to resolve various matters. He urged the concerned officers to take swift action and ensure continuous follow-up on the cases.

The event offered residents with an opportunity

to engage directly with district officials, allowing them to raise concerns and seek resolutions. During the event, a diverse array of issues were discussed, spanning critical sectors such as education, infrastructure, healthcare, water supply, and electricity.

Addressing the gathering, the DC reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to the comprehensive development of the region and its people. He emphasized that as societal and community needs continue to evolve, the government remains dedicated to adapting and tackling emerging challenges efficiently.

Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora, Irfan Bahadur spoke extensively about the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), emphasizing its significant benefits and the profound impact it has on addressing homelessness. He highlighted that PMAY, launched by the Government of India, aims to provide affordable housing to all urban and rural poor, as it provides them with the opportunity to own a home, thereby ensuring stability and security, enhancement of living conditions and improving the quality of life. Moreover, he emphasized PMAY as a transformative initiative, especially for homeless people, as it not only provides them with shelter but also gives them a sense of dignity and empowerment, fostering long-term socio-economic development.

Among others, CPO Mohammad Maqbool; AD FCS&CA Dr. Naseer Ahmad; CMO, CEO, CAO, ALC, ExEn R&B, ExEn PMGSY, ExEn Jal Shakti, Tehsildar, BDOs, LDM and other concerned were also present on the occasion.



## Awareness Programme on Drug Abuse Held in Bandipora

GOWHAR MAQBOOL

**BANDIPORA:** The Chemists and Distributors Association Bandipora (CDAB), in collaboration with the Drug and Food Control Department, organized an awareness programme on drug abuse and the importance of valid prescriptions on Wednesday at the Auditorium Hall in Kaloosa. The event was chaired by Assistant Drug Controller Bandipora, Dr. Shabir Ahmad. Other dignitaries in attendance included DCO Bandipora Bilal Ahmad, DDAC Dr. Anjum Reshi, CDAB President Mazharul Haq, CDAB General Secretary Aseer Ali, CDAB Hajin representative Shahbaz Ahmad, CDAB Alooosa representative Nazir Ahmad, and CDAB Tehsil Bandipora representative Irfan Ahmad Haji.

Dr. Shabir Ahmad emphasized the collective responsibility of society in tackling the menace of drug addiction. He urged individuals and institutions to work together to address this growing challenge.

Speakers at the event highlighted the dangers of substance abuse, particularly for the youth, who

represent the largest and most vulnerable population segment in the country. "Substance abuse has

initiatives in empowering youth to make informed decisions and resist negative peer influences.



emerged as a pressing issue, threatening the well-being and prosperity of our nation. Adopting a disciplined lifestyle can play a key role in combating this menace," one of the speakers remarked. The organizers stressed that the primary aim of the programme was to educate young people about the dangers of drug abuse and the importance of using valid medical prescriptions. They highlighted the role of such

Representatives of the Chemists and Druggists Association were advised to ensure that drugs are sold responsibly to customers in adherence to regulatory guidelines, as this is crucial in combating drug abuse in society. The event was attended by representatives from the Chemists and Druggists Association of Bandipora, Hajin, and Alooosa, along with students from various schools across the district.

## Arrangements for celebration of Republic Day finalized at Lolab

**KUPWARA:** A meeting of all concerned officers was today convened by Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Lolab, Javid Masoodi in his office chamber to finalize the arrangements for conduct of the Republic Day 2025 in Lolab Sub Division.



The SDM directed all the departments to ensure fool proof arrangements in place so that the national event is celebrated seamlessly in the sub division. He also emphasized the need for maintaining protocol in seating arrangement and also issued directions to the police department for taking proper protocol of the National Flag and security arrangements.

Arrangements including Power supply, water, sanitation, seating arrangements were also finalized and the concerned departments were directed to ensure these arrangements at the venue.

Other arrangements including refreshment, deployment of magistrates, arrangement of cultural programmes, barricading, facility of commentators and availability of fire-tenders were also reviewed and finalized.

Executive Engineer R&B Lolab and other sub division/block officers attended the meeting.

## Tanvir Sadiq calls for regional cooperation to address substance abuse in Sri Lanka conference

Emphasises importance of inclusive policies for preservation of cultural heritage, natural ecosystems

**COLUMBO:** The Chief Spokesperson of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and MLA for Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq, emphasized Srinagar's resilience in the face of floods, pandemics, and crises, underscoring the importance of striking a balance between urban growth and sustainable development.

Addressing the Strong Cities Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Tanvir called for regional cooperation to address substance abuse among youth. He emphasised the importance of inclusive policies for migration, equitable resource distribution, and the preservation of cultural heritage and natural ecosystems. Tanvir shared inspiring stories of community-driven solutions in Srinagar as a model for building strong cities.

In his address Tanvir said that he was in Colombo not only to share his experiences but to learn from other's successes, decisions, and innovative approaches that have transformed their cities into models of resilience and inclusivity. "I come from Jammu and Kashmir, the northernmost region of India, a place nestled in the lap of the Himalayas. My city, Srinagar, often referred to as the "Paradise on Earth," is a blend of breathtaking landscapes and profound cul-

tural heritage. Flanked by mountains on one side and the iconic Dal Lake on the other, Srinagar is home to historic landmarks including shrines, mosques, temples, and many other edifices of profound historical importance. This city,



with its ancient history of cultural harmony, has stood as a testament to unity amidst diversity."

Srinagar, he said, has witnessed both its share of beauty and profound challenges. "Be it the floods of 2014 or the COVID-19 pandemic, the resilience of its people has been remarkable. During the devastating floods, the then Chief Minister Omar Abdullah set up a makeshift office, holding two daily meetings—one in the morning to strategize and the other in the evening to review progress. Thousands of citizens volunteered to help rescue operations, provide food, and support those in need. It was a moment that

truly showcased the unbreakable spirit of our community."

Similarly, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the people of Srinagar he said came together once again. "Communities organized relief efforts, distributed essential supplies, and supported frontline workers. This collective resilience has always been a hallmark of our city—a city that believes in the power of humanity and solidarity."

"Yet, amidst our resilience, some stories continue to haunt us. The exodus of Kashmiri Pandits remains one of the most tragic chapters in our history, a wound that has yet to heal. Decades later, the pain of migration still lingers, reminding us of the need for reconciliation, understanding, and policies that ensure such tragedies are never repeated."

"Today, Srinagar faces a different kind of migration—rural populations moving into the city, seeking opportunities and a better quality of life. While this shift is inevitable, it also places immense pressure on the city's infrastructure, housing, and public services. Balancing urban growth with equitable access to resources is a challenge that cities across the world are grappling with, and Srinagar is no exception," he added.

## Typing test for Data entry operator/ Data manager post at GMC on January, 25

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 22: All candidates provisionally shortlisted for typing test vide GS-MC/WT/Sch/136-49 dated 10-01-2025, for selection/engagement against the positions of Data Entry Operator/ Data Manager under different schemes in GMC Srinagar are informed that their Typing Test will be conducted on 25, January, 2025.

The short listed candidates have been asked to reach Administrative block GMC Srinagar by 9:30 A.M on the said date for the test.

## Progress of Mission YUVA survey reviewed at Kupwara

**KUPWARA:** A meeting to review the progress achieved on Mission Yuva Udhayami Vikas Abhiyan (YUVA) survey, going on across the district was today held at Kupwara.

On the occasion, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, M Rouf Rehman emphasized the objectives of the Mission YUVA, a government initiative aimed at fostering sustainable employment opportunities in J&K by supporting the creation of new micro-enterprises, expanding existing businesses and encouraging innovative entrepreneurial ventures.

The ADC directed all the line departments to focus on the key action points to ensure the Mission's objectives are achieved effectively and efficiently.

The meeting was informed that 81% progress under the Survey has been made in the district so far. To ensure the accuracy of the data and timely completion of the Survey, the District Administration had deployed 60 Supervisors and 1250 Investigators to complete the month-long baseline survey which started on 01.01.2025.

Meanwhile, the Tehsildars, Block Development Officers, Child Development Officers, besides, Lumberdars and Chowkidars have been directed to extend full cooperation and coordination with the investigators of Mission YUVA to ensure hassle free conduct of the baseline survey.

On the occasion, the ADC appreciated the efforts of the officers and field functionaries deployed for conduct of the survey and impressed upon all the concerned to ensure the completion of the Survey within the stipulated time frame.

Dy. Director E&S Kupwara, AD DE&CC, besides, Supervisors and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

## DC Kupwara provides uniforms to sanitation workers of MC Handwara

**KUPWARA:** In a gesture to acknowledge and support the dedicated sanitation workers, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara Ayushi Sudan today distributed uniforms to 45 field staff workers including sweepers and drivers of the Municipal Committee Handwara.

The initiative aims to enhance the morale and working conditions of the sanitation staff that play a crucial role in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in the area.

The distribution ceremony was held in the meeting hall of D.C Office Complex Kupwara, in the presence of EO MC Handwara, Arshid Qadir Bhat. The uniforms, provided by the District Administration, are designed to ensure the safety and comfort of the workers while they carry out their essential duties.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC commended the tireless efforts of the sweepers and emphasized the importance of sanitation workers in the development of a clean and healthy environment. She interacted with the municipality staff and assured that the district administration would continue to prioritize the welfare of the staff engaged in sanitation and other essential services.

## Vacant Post of ZEO Hampers Daily Affairs in Sogam Zone

MEER IQBAL

**KUPWARA:** Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) position has remained vacant for the last 22 days in the Sogam education zone of Kupwara district, which has caused the office to function inefficiently, thus, resulting in inconvenience to the entire teaching and non-teaching staff.

Subsequently, the current ZEO position has been kept under unoccupancy after the retirement of the predecessor leaving workers with the admin and financial hurdles.

"The transfer delay of December has made the staff go through a lot of financial strain," mentioned one of the employees, besides adding that the approval files are also gathering at the same time.

Syed Lateef Nazki, Zonal President of JKReTTF, gave his views on the administrative blockade which he stated his worry about. "As per our information, this delay is not just affecting wages but also it is a stumbling block in the whole overall educational administration in the area," he stated.

MLA Lolab Qaiser Jamsheed Lone said the matter would soon be solved. "The ZEO will be appointed within a few days," he voiced with hope.

This assurance from the MLA brought some relief to the employees who long for the appointment to allow them a smooth-run operation of the zone. (ANB)





# English rendering of PM’s address in the 118th Episode of 'Mann ki Baat'

My dear countrymen, Namaskar. Today is the first 'Mann Ki Baat' of 2025. You surely must have noticed something. Every time 'Mann Ki Baat' takes place on the last Sunday of the month, but this time, we are meeting a week earlier on the third Sunday instead of the fourth Sunday. As next week, 'Republic Day' is on a Sunday. I wish all countrymen a very happy 'Republic Day' in advance.

Friends, this year's 'Republic Day' is very special. It is the 75th anniversary of the Indian Republic. This year marks 75 years of the Constitution coming into force. I salute all those great personalities of the Constituent Assembly, who gave us our sacred Constitution. During the Constituent Assembly, long deliberations were held on many subjects. Those discussions, the thoughts of the members of the Constituent Assembly, their words, are our great heritage. Today in 'Mann Ki Baat' it is my endeavour to make you listen to the original voices of some great leaders.

Friends, when the Constituent Assembly embarked upon the task, Baba Saheb Ambedkar had said something very significant with regard to mutual cooperation. This Address of his is in English. I will make you listen to an excerpt of it -

“So far as the ultimate goal is concerned, I think none of us need have any apprehensions. None of us need have any doubt, but my fear which I must express clearly is this, our difficulty as I said is not about the ultimate future. Our difficulty is how to make the heterogeneous mass that we have today, take a decision in common and march in a cooperative way on that road which is bound to lead us to unity. Our difficulty is not with regard to the ultimate; our difficulty is with regard to the beginning.”

Friends, Baba Saheb had been emphasizing on the fact that the Constituent Assembly should be united, have one opinion and work together for the common good. I will make you listen to another audio clip of the Constituent Assembly. This audio is of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ji, who was the President of our Constituent Assembly. Let us listen to Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ji -

“Our history shows us and our culture teaches us that we are and have always been peace loving. Our empire and our conquests have been of a different kind. We have never tried to shackle others in chains, be they of iron or gold. We have bound others with us by a silk thread that is stronger than iron chains but more beautiful and pleasant and that bond is of religion, culture and knowledge. We will continue to tread the same path and we have only one desire and wish; that wish is... we can help in establishing happiness and peace in the world and give the world the infallible weapons of truth and non-violence which have brought us freedom today. There is something in our life and culture that has given us the strength to survive despite the blows of time. If we keep our ideals before us, we will be able to offer a great service to the world.”

Friends, Rajendra Prasad Ji had spoken about the country's commitment towards human values. I now make you listen to the voice of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. He raised the issue of equality of opportunities. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee had said -

“I hope that we shall go ahead with our work in spite of all difficulties and thereby help to create that great India which will be the motherland of not this community or that, not this class or that, but of every person, man, woman and child inhabiting in this great land irrespective of race, caste, creed or community. Everyone should have an equal opportunity so that he or she can develop himself or herself according to best talent and serve the great common motherland of India.”

Friends, I hope you too would have liked listening to this original audio from the debates of the Constituent Assembly.

We, the citizens of the country, taking inspiration from these thoughts, have to work towards building such an India that even the makers of our Constitution would be proud of.

Friends, a day before Republic Day, the 25th of January is National Voters' Day. This day is important because on this day the Election Commission of India was established. Our constitution makers have accorded a very important place to our Election Commission in the Constitution and equally to people's participation in democracy. When the first elections were held in



the country in 1951-52, some people were doubtful whether the country's democracy would survive. But our democracy proved all the apprehensions wrong - after all, India is the Mother of Democracy. In the past decades as well, the country's democracy has strengthened and prospered.

I would also like to thank the Election Commission, which has modernized and strengthened our voting process from time to time. The Commission has used the power of technology to give more power to the power of the people. I congratulate the Election Commission for its commitment to fair elections. I would like to urge the countrymen to use their right to vote, always, in maximum numbers and also become a part of the country's democratic process and strengthen this process.

My dear countrymen, the Maha Kumbh has commenced in Prayagraj. An Unforgettable sea of humanity, incredible visuals and an extraordinary confluence of equality and harmony! This time, many a divine alignment is also converging at the Kumbh. This festival of Kumbh celebrates the festival of unity in diversity. People from all over India and the world congregate on the sands of the Sangam. There is no discrimination, no casteism anywhere in this tradition which has been going on for thousands of years... People from the south of India, from the east and west of India arrive here. In the Kumbh, the rich and the poor come together as one. All of them take a dip at the Sangam, dine together in the bhandaras, receive prasad - that is why the Kumbh is the Maha Kumbh of unity. The Kumbh event also tells us how our traditions bind the whole of India together. The ways of adhering to the beliefs are the same from north to south. On the one hand, the Kumbh is organized at Prayagraj, Ujjain, Nasik and Haridwar; on the other, in the southern part, Pushkaram is organized on the banks of Godavari, Krishna, Narmada and Kaveri rivers. Both these festivals are connected with our holy rivers and their beliefs. Similarly, from Kumbakonam to Tirukkad-Yur, from Kood-Vasal to Tiruchennai, there are many such temples whose traditions are

connected with the Kumbh.

Friends, this time you must have seen that the participation of youth in the Kumbh is very extensive, and it is also true that when the young generation connects with its civilization with pride, its roots become stronger, and then its golden future is also ensured. This time we are also witnessing the digital footprints of the Kumbh on such a large scale. This global popularity of the Kumbh is a matter of pride for every Indian.

Friends, just a few days ago, the 'Ganga Sagar Mela' was also organized on a grand scale in West Bengal. On the auspicious occasion of Sankranti, lakhs of devotees from all over the world took a dip at this fair. 'Kumbh', 'Pushkaram' and 'Ganga Sagar Mela' - these festivals of ours are festivals that enhance our social coalescence, harmony, unity. These festivals connect the people of India with the Indian traditions and just as our scriptures have emphasized on Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha in the world. Our festivals and traditions also empower every aspect - spiritual, social, cultural and economic.

Friends, this month we celebrated the first anniversary of the Pran Pratishtha Parv of Ram Lalla on the day of 'Paush Shukla Dwadashi'. This year 'Paush Shukla Dwadashi' fell on the 11th of January. On this day, lakhs of Ram devotees had a darshan of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya and received his blessings. This Dwadashi of Pran Pratishtha is the Dwadashi of the re-establishment of the cultural consciousness of India. Therefore, this day of Paush Shukla Dwadashi has also become the day of Pratishtha Dwadashi in a way. While walking on the path of development, we have to preserve our heritage and move forward taking inspiration from that.

My dear countrymen, in the beginning of 2025 itself, India has attained many historic achievements in the field of Space. Today, I am proud to convey that an Indian Space-Tech start-up, Bengaluru based Pixxel has successfully launched India's first private satellite constellation - 'Firefly'. This satellite constellation is the world's topmost high-resolution hyperspectral satellite constellation. This achievement has not only made India a leader in modern space technology, but is also a big step towards a Self-reliant India i.e. Aatm Nirbhar Bharat. This success is a symbol of the growing strength and innovation of our private Space Sector. On behalf of the entire country, I congratulate the team of Pixxel, ISRO and IN-SPACE for this achievement.

Friends, a few days ago, our scientists marked another major achievement in the Space Sector. Our scientists have undertaken space docking of satellites. When two Space crafts are connected in Space, this process is called Space Docking. This technology is important for sending supplies to Space Stations and crew missions in Space. India has become the fourth country to have achieved this success. Friends, our scientists are also making efforts to grow plants in Space and make them survive. For this, ISRO scientists chose seeds of cow pea. These seeds, sent on the 30th of December, germinated in Space itself. This is a very inspiring experiment which will pave the way for growing vegetables in Space in future. This shows how far-sightedly our scientists are working.

Friends, I want to tell you about another inspiring initiative. IIT Madras's ExTeM Centre is working on new technologies for manufacturing in Space. This Centre is conducting research on technologies like 3D-printed buildings, metal foams and optical fibres in Space. This Centre is also developing revolutionary methods like concrete construction without water.

This research of ExTeM will strengthen India's Gaganyaan

mission and the future Space Station. This will also open new avenues of modern technology in manufacturing. Friends, all these achievements are proof of how visionary India's scientists and innovators are, in providing solutions to future challenges. Today, our country is setting new benchmarks in Space technology. I extend my best wishes to India's scientists, innovators and young entrepreneurs on behalf of the entire nation.

My dear countrymen many a time, you must have seen pictures of amazing bonding between humans and animals; you must have heard stories of animals' loyalty as well. Whether it is a pet or a wild animal, their relationship with humans sometimes amazes us. Animals may not be able to speak, but humans can understand their feelings and their gestures very well. Animals also understand the language of love and live by it too. I want to share an example from Assam with you. There is a place in Assam called Naugaon. Naugaon is the birthplace of our country's great luminary Srimanta Shankardev Ji. This place is very beautiful. It is also the habitat to a large number of elephants. Many incidents were being noticed in this area where herds of elephants used to destroy crops, farmers used to get upset, on account of which people of about 100 villages in the vicinity were facing hardships. But the villagers also understood the elephants' helplessness. They knew that elephants were intruding the fields to satiate their hunger, so the villagers thought of finding a solution to this. A team of villagers was formed, which was named 'Haathi Bandhu'. Haathi Bandhu displaying their wisdom, made a unique effort on about 800 bighas of barren land. Here the villagers together planted Napier grass. Elephants like this grass very much. The result was that the elephants lessened straying towards the fields. This is a matter of great relief for thousands of villagers. This effort of theirs has been liked by the elephants as well.

Friends, our culture and heritage teaches us to live with love with the surrounding animals and birds. It is a matter of great joy for all of us that in the last two months, two new Tiger Reserves have been added in our country. One of these is Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh and the other is Ratapani Tiger Reserve in MP.

My dear countrymen, Swami Vivekananda ji had said that only the person who is passionate about one's idea is able to achieve one's goal. Our passion and dedication are of utmost importance to make an idea successful. The path to innovation, creativity and success is certain to come up through complete dedication and enthusiasm. Just a few days ago, on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda ji, I got the privilege of being a part of the 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue'. There I spent my whole day with young friends who had come from every corner of the country. The youth shared their ideas on various sectors like startups, culture, women, youth and infrastructure. This program was very memorable for me.

Friends, just a few days ago, Start-Up India has completed 9 years. More than half of the startups that have been formed in our country in these 9 years are from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, and when we hear that, every Indian's heart is delighted with the fact that our StartUp culture is not limited to just big cities. And you will be surprised to know that more than half of the startups in smaller cities are being led by our daughters. When we hear that cities like Ambala, Hisar, Kangra, Chengalpattu, Bilaspur, Gwalior and Washim are becoming centers of StartUps, the heart is filled with joy. In a State like Nagaland, the registration of StartUps has increased by more than 200% last year. Waste Management, Non-Renewable Energy, Biotechnology and Logistics are the sectors in which the most number of Start-Ups are being noticed.

# The Indispensable Need For Business Education In Schools



Nitish Tikoo

In today's fast-paced global economy, traditional academic curricula often fail to equip students with the essential skills they need to thrive. While subjects like mathematics, science, and languages form the foundation of education, they largely overlook business and entrepreneurship—critical areas that shape financial independence, career success, and informed decision-making. This gap leaves students unprepared for real-world challenges, limiting their ability to navigate both personal and professional life effectively.

Introducing Business Administration subjects at the higher secondary level is not just a beneficial addition—it is a necessity. In an interconnected world, understanding fundamental business principles is crucial for everyone, not just those pursuing commerce. Whether it's managing personal finances, making informed consumer choices, identifying entrepreneurial opportunities, or adapting to the evolving workplace, business education provides practical skills that are indispensable in daily life.

Early exposure to business concepts sharpens critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Students learn to analyze market trends, assess business strategies, and develop innovative solutions. These skills extend beyond business, enhancing their ability to evaluate historical events, interpret literature, and tackle scientific challenges. Business education encourages analytical thinking, creativity, and a structured approach to complex problems, preparing students for diverse career paths.



Moreover, financial literacy—a core component of business education—empowers students to make sound financial decisions. Understanding concepts like budgeting, investment, and opportunity cost helps them assess risks and rewards, skills that are crucial in both business and personal life. Without this knowledge, young adults often struggle with managing expenses, avoiding debt traps, and making informed career choices.

Beyond technical skills, business education nurtures essential soft skills such as teamwork, communication, and leadership. Group projects, case studies, and real-world simulations teach students to collaborate effectively, resolve conflicts, and present ideas persuasively—qualities that are highly valued in any profession. Employers increasingly seek individuals with a well-rounded skill set, making business-savvy candidates more competitive in the job market.

Introducing business education in schools can also inspire entrepreneurship among students. By learning about different business models and the principles of innovation, young minds can develop their own ventures, fostering self-reliance, economic growth, and job creation. A culture that encourages entrepreneurship benefits not just individuals but society as a whole, driving progress and innovation.

The absence of business education has significant drawbacks. It narrows career options, leaving students unaware of opportunities in business and related fields. Those who choose business studies later in life often face a steep learning curve, struggling with fundamental concepts that should have been introduced earlier. This knowledge gap can impact their academic performance and career success.

In an era where adaptability and financial literacy are key to success, business education is more than just an academic subject—it's a life skill. Schools must integrate it into the curriculum, ensuring students graduate with the knowledge to manage their finances, understand economic trends, and make informed career choices. This change requires collaboration among educators, policymakers, and industry professionals to create engaging curricula, provide teacher training, and offer real-world learning experiences.

Business education is not an option; it is a necessity. By equipping students with essential skills, we empower them to navigate life's challenges, contribute meaningfully to society, and shape a future driven by innovation and informed decision-making. It's time to bridge the gap between academics and real-world preparedness, ensuring that the next generation enters adulthood with confidence, competence, and the ability to succeed in a dynamic world.



# Sakeena Itoo reviews power scenario of Kulgam district

JAMMU, JANUARY 22: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a virtual meeting to review the power sector scenario of Kulgam district.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan; Chief Engineer distribution KPDC, Aaqib Sultana; Superintending Engineer KPDC, Kulgam; Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, Sakeena Itoo emphasised the need for maintaining efficient power supply to address the concerns of public, especially during the ongoing harsh winter season. She directed the concerned officials to ensure power supply as per the schedule so that the people's needs are met.

The Minister further asked the officers to maintain transparency in power schedules and ensure timely communication to public regarding outages or disruptions. "Power supply is a basic necessity, especially during winters and we need to address issues related to it promptly," Sakeena asserted.

Taking note of frequent breakdown of transformers during peak load hours, Sakeena Itoo instructed the officers to maintain adequate buffer stock of transformers and other essential equipments to handle exigencies. "Establish a swift replacement and repair mechanism for transformers to minimise disruptions and mitigate impact of

power failures, particularly in rural and remote areas", Sakeena maintained.

While reviewing progress on Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the district, the Minister asked the officers to expedite pending maintenance and upgradation works on the power infrastructure across the district. She highlighted the

need for long-term planning and a robust strategy to address recurring issues in the power sector.

Sakeena Itoo further asked the officers for augmentation of receiving stations in the district as the existing receiving stations are overloaded. She directed the officers to upgrade and increase number of receiving stations in the district under RDSS scheme.

While reviewing several issues raised by general public of the district, the Minister called upon the officers for reduction of sanctioned load to people living in far off areas as they face frequent electricity cuts due to adverse weather conditions. She further advised the officers to register their power connections as per the electricity utilised so that the burden of electricity bills on them is reduced.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam briefed the Minister about the overall power scenario of the district.



## DC Srinagar visits Children Hospital Bemina, inspects facilities

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Wednesday undertook a visit to Paediatrics (Children) Hospital, Bemina to take stock of its functioning and the healthcare facilities being provided to the new born babies at the Hospital. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the development works being executed under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJK) for infrastructure upgradation of the only Paediatrics (Children) Hospital for the convenience of the patients and their attendants. The DC also took appraisal about operationalization of 2nd Hotline services at the Hospital to cater emergencies etc.

On the occasion, the DC was informed that a proposal of Rs. 4.15 crore project for construction of Attendant Sarai at the hospital under PMJK has been submitted to the Government to facilitate the attendants accompanying the patients from far flung areas. The DC also took stock of the measures being taken for rehabilitation of vendors/hawkers and establishment of a Police Post outside the Hospital. Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the Sub Divisional Magistrate Office (West) at Bemina and Nayabat Office at Zainakote. During the visit, the DC inspected the Offices and took stock of the revenue related services being provided to the public. At Nayabat Office Zainakote, the DC directed the Officers to prepare an estimate for development of the land adjacent to the Office besides for its fencing.

## Rs.36k fine imposed, 204 kg rotten vegetables, food items destroyed at Kupwara

**KUPWARA:** Acting tough against erring traders, the market checking teams across all tehsils of district Kupwara today visited various markets in their respective jurisdictions during which fine to the tune of Rs.36400 was realized from erring traders, and 204 kg rotten vegetables and food stuff was destroyed on the spot. Market inspection was carried out on second consecutive day today across all 16 tehsils of Kupwara to ensure fair trade practices and maintain the quality of goods sold in the markets.

The initiative aims to curb profiteering, hoarding, and sale of substandard goods, while safeguarding the interests of consumers.

Market checking teams are closely monitoring retail shops, wholesale markets, and other commercial establishments to ensure adherence to price regulations, weight and measure standards, and quality control norms. Specific focus is being given to essential commodities, including food items, medicines, and daily-use products.

Meanwhile, the ADC urged all traders and shopkeepers to comply with the applicable market regulations, highlighting the penalties for non-compliance. Consumers are also encouraged to report any instances of overcharging, substandard goods, or other violations through designated helplines.

The intensified market checking is expected to continue in the coming weeks with regular monitoring and enforcement efforts.

## MD KPDC kick-starts safety trainings in electricity construction, O&M

**SRINAGAR:** Managing Director (MD) Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), Mahmood Ahmad Shah, today kick-started a series of Trainings on Safety related to Electricity Construction, Operation and Maintenance.

In the first instance, the two-day Electrical Safety Workshop was organised at the KPDC Data Centre, Bemina. The workshop was aimed at enhancing the safety knowledge of field staff and linemen working within the jurisdiction of O&M Circles I st and II nd, Srinagar. The opening session was held in the presence of Chief Engineer (Distribution), Superintending Engineers from Circle I st & II nd, and CEO of IT&C KPDC. The audio visual sessions were held through specifically designed modules aimed to promote workplace safety and best practices among KPDC field employees. A batch of 60 field officials attended the program. During the opening session, MD KPDC underscored the critical importance of adhering to safety protocols on work sites, urging the field staff to prioritize safety above all else.

The trainers provided valuable insights into the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be followed during construction works, routine maintenance works, breakdown maintenance and rectification of faults emphasizing the need and role of field staff in ensuring safe operations. Live demonstration regarding the use of safety gear was also held. The trainers were drawn from various wings of KPDC and Electrical Inspectorate. A guest lecture was delivered by Er. Bashir Ahmed Dar, former Secretary Technical JKPD and MD of KPDC, who shared his experience and expertise on precautionary measures during construction works and the critical role of SOPs in safeguarding both personnel and public safety.

The workshop reflects KPDC's unwavering commitment to ensure the safety and well-being of its field staff, fostering a culture of safety excellence within the organization.



## Ensure foolproof arrangements on Shab-e-Meraj (SAW) & Friday Following Div Com Kashmir directs officers

**SRINAGAR:** To ensure availability of essential services at shrines and prominent Mosques across the valley on the auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Meraj (SAW) & Friday Following, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri convened a meeting on Wednesday and instructed officers to make adequate arrangements to facilitate devotees.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, SSP Srinagar, SSP Traffic Srinagar, SSP Traffic Rural, and officers from the Waqf Board, Legal Metrology, Information, Roads and Buildings, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Food Safety, FCS&CA, Fire and Emergency Services, Health, SRTC, SSCL, KPDC, PHE, ULB, and other concerned departments.

The meeting deliberated over various facilities including uninterrupted power and water supply, illumination, medical facility camps, availability of essential items, transportation and parking, traffic management, security deployment,

sanitation, fire safety, stray dog control and mobile toilet vans.



Addressing the meeting, Div Com issued instructions to Deputy Commissioners to make foolproof arrangements to facilitate devotees in their respective districts, particularly at Assar-e-Sharief Hazratbal, Aasari-e-Sharief Kalashpora, Jenab Sahib Soura, Ziayarat Sharief Kabamarg,

Ziayarat Sharief Khirram (Anantnag), Ziayarat Sharief Makhama (Budgam), and Ziayarat Aham-e-Sharief (Bandipora).

On this occasion, the Div Com instructed KPDC to ensure uninterrupted power supply across the valley on the eve of Shab-e-Meraj and the Friday Following.

SRTC and SSCL were directed to arrange transportation services on designated routes to transport devotees to Hazratbal Shrine.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation was asked to conduct a sanitation drive at important Shrines & Mosques in the City and ensure stray dog-free surroundings at the Hazratbal shrine.

Div Com directed officers of Waqf Board to install waterproof tents within the premises of Hazratbal Shrine.

Jal Shakti Department was asked to ensure uninterrupted supply of drinking water at all the religious places besides to keep water tankers available at Hazratbal Shrine.

## Principal Secretary Culture releases O P Vidyarthi's book at JKAACL

**JAMMU:** Principal Secretary, Culture and School Education, Suresh Kumar Gupta, today released a Hindi book titled "PushpitPulkit Path Pe" authored by Dr. O.P. Vidyarthi at an event held at K.L. Saigal Hall.

The function was organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), bringing together a galaxy of eminent writers, thinkers and literary enthusiasts.

The event was presided over by Dr. Ashok Bhan, former Director General of Police and graced by Deepika Sharma, Secretary in Culture Department; prominent Dogri writer, Professor Lalit Mangotra; author Dr. O.P. Vidyarthi besides Dr. Javaid Rahi, Chief Editor, Gojri and Head of Jammu Division, JKAACL.

In his keynote address, Suresh Kumar Gupta lauded Dr. O.P. Vidyarthi's deep connection with the biodiversity of Jammu & Kashmir.

He praised the author for his prolific contribution, having penned 51 books dedicated to the themes of environmental conservation and the beauty of Mother Earth. Calling him a "living encyclopedia

of forests and forest products," Gupta emphasized the importance of such literary works in raising awareness about environmental issues.

connect with and conserve the environment. Dr. Ashok Bhan, in his presidential address, described the book as a poetic representation of the forests'

reflecting on the life experiences that inspired him to write and dedicate himself to environmental conservation.

Eminent art historian Lalit Gupta commended Dr. Vidyarthi's unparalleled contributions, advocating for his recognition on a national scale.

Professor Lalit Mangotra also spoke about the author's remarkable literary contributions, particularly in Dogri literature, and shared his personal association with him.

Earlier, Dr. Javaid Rahi, said that the objective of the event was to honor Dr. O.P. Vidyarthi's significant contributions to Dogri and Hindi literature, as well as his efforts in promoting environmental awareness.

The program featured scholarly presentations by Maharaj Krishan Santoshi and Pooja Kapoor Suri, who shared critical analyses of the book and the author's literary journey.

The proceedings were conducted by Rajkumar Behrupia, while S. Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Punjabi, JKAACL, delivered the vote of thanks.



Deepika Sharma highlighted the need to disseminate Dr. Vidyarthi's knowledge among the younger generations.

She advocated for organizing similar programs in educational institutions to inspire students to

beauty, the anguish of nature during disasters and the healing touch of environmental balance. He read select excerpts from the book, sharing their profound impact with the audience.

Dr. O.P. Vidyarthi shared insights from his journey,

## Crime Branch Books 6 Including Bank Employee For 1.34 Cr Jobs Fraud In Army, J&K Bank

**Jammu:** Crime Branch (CB) has booked six accused persons including a J&K Bank employee for duping 15 candidates of Rs. 1.34 crores on the pretext of providing jobs in Territorial Army and J&K Bank.

Two written complaints with same contents were received in Crime Branch wherein the complainants namely Jugal Kumar S/o Sain Dass R/o Village Shahzad Pur Ramgarh Samba and Gopal Chand S/o Amir Chand R/o Village Rajpur Jatan Tehsil Ramgarh District Samba and others alleged that (1) Tarsem Singh S/o Balbir Singh & (2) Balbir Singh S/o Khazan Singh both residents of Dhyansar W.No. 02, Bari Brahmana, District Samba fraudulently told the complainants about the vacancies in sports category in Territorial Army and also demanded money from them and the complainants transferred the amount through cheques, online and cash modes in their favour as per their demand.

Thereafter, the above-mentioned persons prepared fake call letters for those purported to be related with the joining of the complainants in the Territorial Army and also put the fake signatures and stamps of senior officers.

When the complainants went for their joining as per the joining letters, they were not allowed to join and then they realised that fraud was committed with them. The original qualification certificates as well as the other documents are still lying in the possession of accused persons and they refused to return the same.

The accused have received Rs. 09 lakhs per head from candidates by fraudulent means.

Another written complaint lodged by Sahil Choudhary S/o Sultan Hussain R/o Dabber Potha, Tehsil Nowshera,

District Rajouri with Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu which was got enquired by ACB through SSP Srinagar and SSP Rajouri was received in Crime Branch (EOW) Jammu through PHQ & CHQ in which the complainant alleged that Sunny Sharma S/o Om Parkash R/o village



Laroka Tehsil Qila Darhal at present Ward No.4 Near Tehsil Office Nowshera, Rajouri and Bisharat Hussain Mirza S/o Faquir Mohd. R/o Jamola, Manjakot, Rajouri came to Nowshera and met the complainant accompanied by his grandmother Shah Begum. Both accused persons brought the complainant and his grandmother under their influence and assured that they would provide permanent appointment of the complainant in the J&K Bank as Class IV employee for which the complainant would have to pay Rs. 8.00 Lakhs.

The accused persons further assured that they would receive the said money from the complainant only after they would handover the appointment order to the complainant.

The complainant and his grandmother were convinced

by the accused persons.

The accused persons after sometime introduced the complainant and his grandmother to two other persons namely Majid Ali R/o Srinagar (employee in J&K Bank Ltd. Hari Singh High Street Branch Batmaloo, Kashmir) and Imran Tantray R/o Srinagar who asked the complainant to come to Srinagar for his appointment. Thereafter the complainant along with his grandmother went to Srinagar where the complainant met with both accused persons Majid Ali and Imran Tantray.

During the stay of complainant and his grandmother in Srinagar, the accused persons compelled the complainant to make payment as agreed between them in the accounts provided by accused persons.

The complainant made bank transactions of the amount of Rs. 7.90 Lacs in the accounts provided by the accused persons. On receipt of the said whole payment, accused Majid Ali called the complainant and handed over the copy of appointment order for the post of Banking Attendant at The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited, Business Unit: Dalhori Rajouri to the complainant. Thereafter, the complainant went to J&K Bank Ltd.

Branch Dalhori, Rajouri for his joining where the complainant informed by the said Bank Branch Head that the said appointment order is fake and frivolous and no such appointment order was issued.

Senior Superintendent of Police Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh confirmed that two cases viz. Case FIR No. 07/2025 and FIR No. 08/2025 have been registered at P/S EOW, Crime Branch Jammu and investigation is underway. (ANB)

## DC Srinagar reviews progress on establishment of District Export Hub

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a comprehensive meeting at DC Office here to review the progress on 'District Export Hub' under the ODOP- DEH initiative being established at Kashmir Haat. The District Export Hub is coming up with an aim to boost the export of goods from Srinagar District with adequate market linkage to the industry, provide guidance regarding exports, consultancy, etc under one roof.

At the outset, DC held an extensive discussion with all the stakeholders present in the meeting in order to ensure that the District Export Hub is operationalized with the vision to enable holistic socio-economic growth of the local Artisans and Exporters, besides institutionalizing the Export

Ecosystem in the District. The DC said the objectives of the initiative is to give a fillip to the export volume and to boost the local economy, particularly focusing on promoting specific products or industries within the District that have good export potential, thereby likely enhance production, improve quality, and facilitate marketing and export of these products with adequate market linkage.

During the meeting, DC instructed the concerned Officers to take up necessary measures for setting up of Art Gallery & Display Stalls, development of Website, Staff for gallery and other requisite provision for making District Export Hub functional in effective manner. The DC also called for engaging all stakeholders and artisans in the process to enhance exports and the market linkage.

## DDC Ganderbal reviews progress under District Capex 2024-25

**GANDERBAL:** District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today convened a meeting to take stock of the physical and financial achievements made under District Capex 2024-25 here in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

During the meeting, it was informed that out of 1635 works, 1475 have been tendered, out of which 1331 are also allotted. DDC took a detailed review of progress achieved in each department including RDD, Health, Education, R&B, PDD, Jal Shakti & Agriculture allied departments.

While reviewing sector-wise position of allotment and completion of works, 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. He stressed to utilize the remaining months of the financial year properly to complete projects well in time by spending all the released money.

Officers were stressed to put in best efforts for maximum and optimum utilization of funds under different schemes so that no released expenditure would be surrendered.



Contours of a Visionary Mind: The Legacy and Challenges

# Dr. Muhammad Maroof Shah’s Works and Ideas

PART-II



Shabeer Ahmad Lone

2. Perennial Philosophy in the Postmodern World: Enigma of Osho

This study situates Osho’s teachings within the framework of perennial philosophy, exploring their relevance in addressing the fragmentation of postmodern consciousness. Dr. Shah critically analyzes Osho’s version of post-metaphysical thought and new age spirituality and alerts us to the dangers in this libertine spirituality and fuzzy philosophy. While highlighting limitations of all is ok spirituality of New Age Guru Osho, he underscores the enduring relevance of perennial wisdom in tackling existential crises, calling for an integrated approach that bridges ancient insights with contemporary sensibilities. He concludes that “His philosophy of ego though informed by traditional Islamic thought is

uniquely his and approaching the problem of evil from such a perspective is unprecedented in Islamic history.”

3. Muslim Modernism and the Problem of Modern Science

Dr. Shah navigates the complex relationship between Muslim modernist thought and the paradigms of modern science in this thought-provoking work. He critiques the uncritical adoption of scientific positivism while emphasizing the compatibility of Islamic epistemology with authentic scientific inquiry. Advocating for a dialogical engagement between faith and reason, he envisions a synthesis that not only respects religious convictions but also enriches scientific understanding. It is an important contribution in application of the perennialist approach to Muslim modernism and its appropriation of modern science. It reorients the debate on Islamization of knowledge by juxtaposing otherwise divergent approaches of [post-modernism and perennialism]. Certain popular modern works on Islam and Science have been scrutinized from the perennialist viewpoint. Engaging with works of Harun Yaha, Zakir Naik, Fatehullah Khan, Wahidudin Khan, Abdul Bari Nadvi, Ziauddin Sardar, Maurice Bucaille, I.R. Faruqi and postmodern philosophers of science, it criticizes Muslim modernist approach to the question of modern science which assumes overall compatibility of Islam and modern scientific worldview. The author



critiques demythologizing, rationalist (as distinguished from intellectualist), reductionist, evolutionist, secularist orientation of modern scientific thought.

4.Revisiting Sufism

Dr. Shah’s exploration of Sufism is both a scholarly and spiritual journey into the heart of Islamic mysticism. Amidst debates on orthodoxy, late origins, and alien influences on Sufism and charges from ethico-legal and political standpoints, the author points out self understanding of Sufism as a path to reclaim wonder and beauty calls for attention. The author argues that Sufism should interest everyone though for salvation it is not a requirement. He presents it as universally treasured aspirations of mankind involving “openness to the other, doing everything as it should be ideally done/ with an eye on beauty, sincerity of purpose, science of stations/virtues, freedom, propriety, giving everything its due. The book clarifies key charges – “deviation from the Revealed Norm and alien origins/ influences, indulgence in moral/spiritual transgressions, ecstasies or airy abstractions - against it. The key debates surrounding Kashmir’s Reshi-Sufi legacy are sought to be addressed as well.

5. Revisiting God Debate

This book frames God debate in terms that should concern everyone - “longing for beauty, commitment to truth, call of conscience, joy of contemplation, obligation to sacrifice for the other, grandeur of nature, the mystery and wonder of life, the pull for the numinous and the poetry or ecstasy of being, reverence for the saint and the discontent with the given” and presents God as a Question. It seeks to show that “major philosophers including Heraclitus, Plato Hegel, Spinoza, Bradley, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Wittgenstein, Heidegger, Whitehead, Derrida, Levinas, great Judeo-Christian-Muslim and other religious or traditional philosophers, major artists and writers, Eastern and Western, all fundamentally share something of what has been called as mystical view of God or transcendence.” Putting religious and secular approaches to God in dialogue, the book constitutes “an invitation to enjoy fellowship of God for all and sundry and so-called believers and non-believers.

Challenges and Critiques of Dr. Shah’s Vision

1)Shah’s works pose challenges for contemporary readers. The profound interdisciplinary nature of his thought demands a familiarity with a wide range of intellectual traditions, which can make his writings appear inaccessible. Moreover, his integration of Western existentialism and Islamic mysticism, while enriching, invites critical engagement with the tensions and contradictions that arise from this synthesis. These challenges, however, are not shortcomings but invitations for deeper engagement, encouraging readers to grapple with the complexities of his thought and uncover its transformative potential.

2)His emphasis on shared spiritual values across religions, drawing parallels between Islamic thought and other spiritual traditions, raises concerns about the potential dilution of the unique aspects of individual faiths. Focusing too much on universal values, Shah risks reducing the richness of distinct religious identities to generalized spiritual truths. While his work advocates for interfaith dialogue and the recognition of common spiritual concerns, there is a tension between the desire for unity and the preservation of religious particularities.

3)Shah’s integration of Sufi and philosophical elements within Islamic thought highlights the depth and diversity of Islamic spirituality. By focusing on spiritual transformation rather than literal legalistic interpretations, he draws attention to the mystical dimensions often overlooked in modern Islamic scholarship. However, his approach leans too heavily on the esoteric, potentially underrepresenting the pragmatic and legalistic aspects of Islam. Nonetheless, Shah’s approach to integrating mysticism within mainstream Islamic discourse is a substantial contribution that broadens the interpretive possibilities within Islamic studies.

4)While Dr. Shah’s thought is intellectually and spiritually compelling, it also faces several challenges. One of the main issues lies in the fundamental differences between Islamic and Western philosophical frameworks. Western existentialism, for example, is often grounded in individualism and autonomy, while Islamic philosophy traditionally emphasizes community, submission to God, and the primacy of Divine will. This divergence creates a tension within Shah’s work, as he attempts to integrate the individualistic focus of existentialism with the collective and theocentric worldview of Islam.

5)Shah’s universalist stance provides a refreshing alternative to exclusivist religious perspectives, offering a bridge between Islamic thought and global spirituality. By highlighting shared values across religions, Shah’s work resonates with the ideas of perennial philosophy, which sees a common thread of truth across spiritual traditions. However, It may be argued that this view may risk diluting unique aspects of individual faiths, potentially reducing distinct religious identities to generalized values. His universalism invites readers to reconsider boundaries but also faces the challenge of balancing universal values with particular religious identities.

6)This synthesis also raises questions about the extent to which existentialist themes like self-realization and personal freedom align with Islamic teachings. Critics may argue that while existentialism emphasizes the self as the ultimate arbiter of meaning, Islamic thought requires a balance between personal agency and submission to God. Shah’s attempt to blend these perspectives can be seen as an intellectual challenge that requires careful navigation to avoid misrepresenting either tradition.

7)Dr. Shah’s engagement with Western thought is significant, as he bridges Islamic and modern intellectual traditions, making Islamic philosophy relevant to contemporary audiences. By positioning Islamic mysticism as a response to existential concerns, he effectively presents it as a timeless spiritual system. However, his reliance on Western philosophy might overshadow distinctively Islamic concepts, potentially reshaping Islamic thought in ways that align with Western frameworks. Despite these critiques, Shah’s synthesis is innovative, showing that Islamic spirituality has much to contribute to global philosophical discourse.

8)Another limitation of Dr. Shah’s work is its accessibility. His writing is often dense and requires a familiarity with both Islamic and Western philosophical thought. As a result, his work appeals primarily to a niche audience of scholars, seekers and readers with a strong intellectual background. This complexity can make his ideas difficult to understand for the average reader, limiting the potential impact of his thought on broader audiences. For his legacy to endure and reach wider circles, there arises a need to be efforts to simplify and disseminate his ideas in more accessible formats. This complexity may limit his appeal to a broader audience, making his vision more accessible primarily to readers with a background in philosophy, mysticism, religion/ theology, or Sufism.

9)While Dr. Shah’s works are largely celebrated, some challenges he may face in reconciling traditional Islamic values with the demands of contemporary society. Some may argue that his idealistic vision may overlook the practical realities faced by individuals navigating modern life. Additionally, there is a call for a more nuanced engagement with the diversity within Islamic thought, as some feel that his works may at times present a monolithic view of Islamic teachings.

10)Shah’s critique of modernity aligns with broader critiques from other contemporary philosophers and religious scholars. His call to revive classical Islamic philosophy positions Islam as not only relevant but essential in addressing modern challenges. Critics, however, might view his critique as too idealized, perhaps underestimating the need for adaptability in modern contexts. Nonetheless,

Shah’s focus on reviving Islamic philosophical traditions invites a reconsideration of Islam’s role in addressing contemporary issues, affirming its place as a complete worldview capable of meeting the needs of both the individual and society.

11)Shah’s emphasis on self-realization aligns well with Sufi teachings, which view self-knowledge and moral refinement as pathways to God. By highlighting this ethical aspect, Shah underscores Islam’s holistic approach to human development. However, it may be suggested that his emphasis on self-realization could be interpreted as too individualistic or introspective, potentially neglecting the social and communal responsibilities emphasized in Islam. Nevertheless, Shah’s focus on ethics and self-realization



is a valuable contribution, presenting Islamic spirituality as a deeply transformative and personal journey. However now-days his philanthropic and social commitment through initiatives such as ZIST trust and other associated trusts/foundations like Lekhudamah, Rahmat and Yateem Foundation etc. also reveal a deep commitment to addressing communal and social issues.

12) While Dr. Shah’s attempt to bridge traditional Islamic thought with modern philosophy is commendable, it can sometimes create tensions. Some readers may find that his blending of traditional and modern perspectives does not always resolve the inherent conflicts between these worldviews. For instance, reconciling the metaphysical dimensions of Sufism with the existentialism of thinkers like Nietzsche, Sartre, Camus, Heidegger etc. can be seen as philosophically ambitious but difficult to sustain in practice.

13) Due to his unique approach, Shah’s work may be misinterpreted by those seeking to validate selective aspects of either tradition or modernity. His nuanced stance may attract individuals who get befuddled, oversimplify his ideas, using them to justify polarized views instead of the integrative understanding he promotes. This potential for misinterpretation presents a challenge for readers to engage deeply and avoid cherry-picking ideas that fit preconceived notions.

14) Shah’s vision often calls for an elevated state of consciousness, self-awareness, and interfaith harmony that, while inspiring, may feel idealistic or difficult to realize practically. His aspirations for human unity and transcendence are noble, yet they require an enormous commitment to self-transformation that many may find daunting or unattainable in day-to-day life. This idealism, though uplifting, may seem detached from the practical complexities and conflicts of modern life.

15)Another challenge lies in the tensions between the individualistic focus of Western existentialism and the communal, theocentric nature of Islamic philosophy. Dr. Shah’s integration of existential themes such as personal freedom, self-realization, and individual autonomy with Islamic teachings on submission to God and community obligations is a delicate balancing act. This blending of perspectives may not always fully reconcile the divergent assumptions of the two traditions, potentially undermining the coherence of his vision. The challenge of navigating these tensions is an ongoing theme in Shah’s work, and it highlights the inherent difficulties in reconciling diverse intellectual traditions.

Nevertheless, these critiques do not diminish the impact of Dr. Shah’s contributions. Instead, they invite further dialogue and exploration of the complexities inherent in Islamic thought and its engagement with modernity. As scholars may examine his works, there remains a significant opportunity for constructive discourse that builds on his profound insights while addressing the evolving challenges of contemporary life.

The Legacy of Dr. Muhammad Maroof Shah

Despite these challenges Dr. Muhammad Maroof Shah’s works, thoughts stand out for their intellectual depth and their synthesis of diverse traditions. His universalist perspective, critique of exclusivism, and integration of mysticism with philosophy challenge traditional approaches to Islamic thought, inviting readers to explore a broader vision of spirituality. By bridging Islamic, Western, and mystical thought, Shah has made Islamic philosophy accessible and relevant to a modern audience, fostering dialogue between diverse philosophical and religious perspectives. In addition, Dr. Shah’s work has the potential to foster greater cross-cultural understanding, as it emphasizes the universality of certain philosophical and spiritual concerns. By drawing parallels between Islamic

and Western thought, he highlights the common ground that exists between these seemingly disparate traditions. This aspect of his work can serve as a foundation for dialogue between cultures, encouraging mutual respect and appreciation.

By engaging with existentialist themes, Shah addresses the spiritual and psychological concerns of modern individuals, making his work relevant to those who seek deeper answers within the Islamic framework. Shah’s legacy lies in his ability to engage with complex ideas and offer nuanced perspectives that are rooted in tradition yet open to reinterpretation. His thought challenges readers to question conventional beliefs, inspiring a more introspective and personal approach to faith. This aspect

of his work is particularly important in today’s world, where many people struggle to reconcile their spiritual beliefs with the demands of modern life.

His contributions inspire readers to see Islamic spirituality as an inclusive, ethical, and transformative force. However, his approach may face criticisms by arguing that it risks diluting Islam’s distinct traditions or over-emphasizes certain mystical interpretations. Despite these critiques, Dr. Shah’s works remain influential and thought-provoking, encouraging both scholars and seekers to engage with Islamic philosophy in ways that are open-minded, critical, and spiritually meaningful. His legacy continues to inspire discussions on the relevance of Islamic thought in today’s world, as he presents it as a living tradition capable of addressing modern existential and ethical concerns.

Shah’s thought represents a unique approach to Islamic philosophy, blending classical teachings with modern existential insights to address the challenges of contemporary life. His work is marked by a commitment to intellectual rigor, spiritual depth, and a holistic understanding of faith. However, his vision also faces limits, as it requires the careful reconciliation of divergent philosophical traditions and presents challenges in accessibility. Despite these issues, Dr. Shah’s legacy remains valuable, offering a pathway for those who seek a deeper and more personal engagement with Islam. Through his works, Dr. Shah inspires readers to explore the transformative potential of faith, urging them to move beyond ritualistic practices and engage with the deeper enduring questions of existence. His thought serves as a bridge between tradition and modernity, encouraging a balanced approach that respects the past while embracing the future. For those willing to engage with his ideas, Dr. Shah’s work offers a profound exploration of the spiritual and philosophical dimensions of Islam, providing insights that are both timeless and relevant to the modern world.

Dr. Muhammad Maroof Shah’s works and thoughts embody a timeless vision of human existence that transcends the superficial dichotomies of tradition and progress, faith and reason, spirituality and materialism. His intellectual journey invites us to rediscover the sacred dimension of life as the cornerstone for navigating the complexities of a rapidly changing world. By integrating the metaphysical insights of Islamic spirituality with the existential and ethical concerns of modernity, Shah’s legacy serves as a compass for those seeking meaning, harmony, and transcendence. His call for a holistic and inclusive understanding of existence challenges us to rise above the fragmentation and alienation of contemporary life, fostering a world rooted in justice, compassion, and spiritual awareness. Engaging with Shah’s thought is not merely an intellectual pursuit but a transformative experience that compels us to rediscover and reexamine our priorities, choices, relationships, values, and purpose/meaning. In a world unsteady on the edge of moral and existential crises, Shah’s unified vision stands as a beacon of hope, guiding humanity toward a future where the sacred and the human converge in a profound and harmonious embrace with greater flourishing awareness, empathy, freedom, and purpose/ meaning in a world that is increasingly fragmented, alienated, absurd, inauthentic, gripped by uncertainty, violence/turmoil/disorder, anxiety, exclusivism/sectarianism/instability etc. Here is a unified visionary and transformative call with antecedent reasons in quest for profound evolution, fulfillment and flourishing grounded in authenticity.

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Continued From P1...

Centre To Establish

qualities are also seen in many great leaders, such as Swami Vivekananda, Adi Shankaracharya, and Raja Ravi Varma, whose battlefields were social, cultural, political, or religious reforms, he said. (Agencies)

**Will curb growth**

of illegal colonies in the district was discussed in detail.

The Deputy Commissioner apprised the Chairperson of the actions being taken by the district administration against unauthorised constructions.

“Notices will be issued to the defaulters and strict action will be taken against those who fail to comply with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 and the rules and regulations made thereunder,” said the Chairperson JKREERA.

He added that this move is aimed at ensuring planned development, protecting homebuyer's interests and preventing unauthorised constructions in Jammu district.

**Security heightened**

stadium in the north and the south side.

Police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed in the city and other district headquarters while checkpoints have been established at various places in Srinagar, especially at the entry points

of the city and other districts, the officials said.

Security forces were conducting random checking of vehicles and frisking of people to thwart the movement of subversive elements, they said.

The security around the venues of Republic Day functions in the valley, including the stadium here, has been beefed up, and a multi-layer security apparatus has been put in place around the venues, the officials said.

Security agencies have been asked to remain alert and not allow anyone to disturb law and order, and vitiate peace, the officials added.

“The security preparations for January 26 are in full swing. Multi-tier security arrangements will be in place so that the people will enjoy the function and parade,” Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, V K Birdi said.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir VK Bhidhuri said the arrangements for this year's functions will be better than previous years.

Bhidhuri said in view of the enthusiastic participation of people in the Republic Day function last year, the administration has decided to install better quality LED screens at the venue. He said the entry to the function will be free as was the case last year. (Agencies)

**Promote idea**

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the basic foundation of cultural-spiritual institutions should be based on 3 Es - Education, Experience and Enlightenment.

By empowering the society through a system based on education, experience and enlightenment, we can uplift every section, without any discrimination. This system will lay emphasis on character building which will build a strong society with the vision of equality and social justice and create a sense of self-respect and self-pride in the citizens, the Lieutenant Governor further added.

He also called upon the devotees visiting Mahakumbh from across the globe to become

ambassadors of the glorious Indian culture.

**CM Omar**

They also brought attention to the need for improved public infrastructure, including better roads, reliable drinking water facilities and the establishment of banking services in remote areas.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the deputation and assured that all genuine demands would be addressed on priority emphasizing the government's commitment to ensuring equitable development in remote areas for upliftment of marginalized communities.

**Minister Itoo**

Pertinently, the cabinet Sub-committee was constituted by the government last month to look into grievances projected by several section of aspirants against the existing reservation rules.

The sub-committee will submit its report to the council of ministers headed by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

**Mirwaiz led**

time to meet the JPC chief to convey its concerns about the proposed amendments to the Waqf Bill.

Reham said that the delegation, will comprise of representatives from Kashmir, Jammu, Leh, and Kargil. "It aims to highlight reservations regarding certain provisions of the bill that will have far-reaching implications for the management and autonomy of Waqf properties and the welfare of Muslim community, especially the underprivileged," he said.

The contentious Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, was referred to the joint Parliamentary committee led by BJP MP Jagdambika Pal in August last year after criticism and concerns raised by various stakeholders, including the Opposition.

The panel is conducting extensive consultations with government officials, legal experts, Waqf Board members, and community representatives from various states and Union Territories to ensure a comprehensive overhaul of the legislation. The panel is likely to submit its final report to the Parliament in the upcoming Budget Session.

**Health Crisis**

fell ill and were shifted to GMC Rajouri before being airlifted to PGI Chandigarh for further treatment.

MLA Budhal, Javed Iqbal Choudhary said the situation is of serious concern and that the government is making all-out efforts to manage the crisis. "The seriousness of the government is evident, as Aijaz was airlifted to Chandigarh, and arrangements are underway to shift other patients as well," he said.

Principal, GMC Rajouri, Dr Amarjeet Singh Bhatia said all fatalities exhibited brain involvement and nervous system damage. "Among nine admitted patients, five have recovered, but recovery becomes challenging once the brain is affected," Dr Singh said, adding that preventive measures and public awareness campaigns are being prioritised to curb further risks.

The inter-ministerial team, constituted by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and led by a director-level officer from the Ministry of Home Affairs, continued its investigation for the third consecutive day. Experts from the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Chemicals, and Water Resources, as well as forensic departments from Chandigarh and Lucknow, are actively involved.

The District Magistrate of Rajouri has declared Badhaal as a containment zone. He has issued orders to prohibit all public and private gatherings.

The affected families have been categorised into three containment zones to ensure continuous monitoring and prevent further spread:

Containment Zone 1: Homes of families where deaths have occurred will be sealed, with no entry allowed unless authorised.

Containment Zone 2: Close contacts of affected persons will be shifted to GMC Rajouri for health monitoring.

Containment Zone 3: All households in Badhaal village, with staff deployed to monitor food consumption.

Designated officials have been tasked with overseeing food distribution to families in containment zones. Logbooks will document every instance of food consumption, with police personnel monitoring compliance.

**Comprehensive surveillance**

with safe food and water to the households in the affected localities.

Designated officers are tasked with maintaining a log book with three daily entries documenting food distribution and consumption to safeguard public health and contain the spread of the situation.

The area has already been declared as the containment zone with implementation of comprehensive surveillance measures and imposition of Section 163 of the BNS for immediate compliance.

To contain the situation and prevent further escalation, the area has been divided into 3 containment zones which include the locality of families which suffered deaths.

The affected houses have been sealed and entry is strictly prohibited without permission from the designated officer.

The other two Zones are families identified as having contacts with the affected families.

Further, on the direction of Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma ordered immediate relocation of close contacts and high-risk contacts of affected families from Badhaal Village to Nursing College and Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri.

The decision forms part of a proactive approach to ensure the safety and well-being of the community amid prevailing concerns.

The Animal and sheep Husbandry Department has been tasked with deploying officials to manage and take care of domestic animals left behind in the village, ensuring their safety and proper upkeep.

The district administration is working round the clock to provide all necessary assistance and appeals to the public to cooperate fully with the containment measures.

**Div Com, ADGP**

Officers (CDPOs), Block Development Officers (BDOs), and their subordinate staff to facilitate the seamless movement of the identified individuals

to the designated facilities.

Further, the Animal and sheep Husbandry Department has been tasked with deploying officials to manage and care for domestic animals left behind in the village, ensuring their safety and proper upkeep.

Designated officers and their teams will oversee the well-being of the relocated residents upon their arrival in Rajouri, providing essential support and other necessities during their stay.

**Address pending**

Addressing the officers, Javed Rana sought details of sanctioned, in-position and vacant posts in the department and the steps taken by the HoDs to address the issues on this account.

He urged upon all the HoDs to maintain accountability and transparency, ensuring administrative efficiency and timely resolution of employee related matters.

Emphasising the need for time bound promotion in the department to ensure career progression for the deserving employees, the Minister sought actionable solutions from the officers. He said there should be no unnecessary delay in appointment by promotion and filling of vacancies. He said that vacant posts should be immediately referred to the recruitment agencies for efficient running of the forest department. He said that there is a need to pursue court cases rigorously and end litigation which is hampering HR management.

During the meeting, physical and financial progress of key flagship schemes was also reviewed. Besides, detailed review of Greening Jammu and Kashmir initiative was held and its impact on increasing forest cover as per the National Forest Policy was also deliberated upon.

The Minister also emphasised long term strategy for reducing dependence on external wood supplies and enhancing self-sufficiency. He also reviewed the enforcement actions including closure orders, environment compensations and compliance improvements. He said that significant focus should be given towards achieving Clean Air Action Plans in major urban centres.

While reviewing the forest protection measures, Rana said that forest fire prevention and management mechanisms have gained added significance due to the adverse climatic conditions and mitigation measures need to be taken beforehand.

He also directed the officers for optimum utilisation of available resources for revenue generation and sustainable livelihoods created through eco-tourism and forest recreation.

Discussions were also held on progress in developing high quality planting material through advanced research and capacity building programs for forest officers and frontline staff.

Rana said that saplings of important species should be raised every year for supply to the forest department and other user agencies for coverage of forest area.

During the meeting, detailed presentation was given highlighting the achievements of various wings of the department.

**India Faces**

This narrative is meant to create fear among people. It is everyone's duty to break this falsehood," he said.

Reflecting on historical narratives, he recalled misinformation during his tenure as chief minister in 1996 regarding the settlement of people from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

"It was falsely propagated that they would come and take over your lands. I repeatedly clarified that no one could settle here without the Union Home Ministry's approval, yet no one listened," he added.

Commenting on the abrogation of Article 370, Dr Abdullah argued that the special provision was not solely for Kashmiris but was introduced by Maharaja Hari Singh in 1927 to protect Dogras from economic domination by wealthy Punjabis.

"You celebrated the abrogation, but now even domestic jobs are going to outsiders. Servants are being brought in from outside. Think about what you have gained," he remarked.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No:0216020001434, which is Registered in the name of my Father Namely Mohd Akbar Rather, S/O Ab Khaliq Rather, Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Bilal Ahmad Rather, S/O Mohd Akbar Rather, 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.

**Bilal Ahmad Rather.**  
**S/O Mohd Akbar Rather.**  
**R/O Rather Mohalla, Near Mashid Sharif Pazilpora Bandipora.**

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK-05 20130039707, my name and parantege has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Mohammad Iqbal Pandith, S/O Ghulam Hassan Pandith, while as my Actual and correct name and parantege as per my Aadhaar card is Muhammad Iqbal Pandith, S/O Gh Hassan Pandith. 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.

**Muhammad Iqbal Pandith.**  
**S/O Gh Hassan Pandith.**  
**R/O Arin Bandipora.**

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that i want to apply for On line DOB, of my Children Namely [1. Momin Manzoor Gojar Turk, DOB 07-04-2014. [2. Momina Manzoor (Daughter), DOB 15-06-2016. [3. Mozin Manzoor Gojar Turk, DOB 03-08-2017. [4. Manan Manzoor Gojar Turk, DOB 06-05-2021. Hence their Birth is at home and in Hospital their is not any Birth Record, and also there is No Birth Record in Municipal council office, Now i want to apply for Online DOB of my Children, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Concern Authorities with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Manzoor Ahmad Gojar Turk.**  
**F/O**  
**1) Momin Manzoor Gojar Turk**  
**2) Momina Manzoor (daughter)**  
**3) Mozin Manzoor Gojar Turk**  
**4) Manan Manzoor Gojar Turk**  
**R/O Quilmuqam**  
**Tehsil Aloosa District Bandipora.**

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Bank account No:006104100000482, my name and parantege has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Rubeena Bano, D/O Mohd Afzal Bhat, while as my Actual and correct name and parantege as per my Aadhaar card is Rubina Bano, D/O Mohammad Afzal Bhat. 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 Main Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice.

**Rubina Bano.**  
**D/O Mohammad Afzal Bhat.**  
**R/O Kudara Bandipora.**

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15 20120005005, my parantege has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Ghulam Nabi, while as my Actual and correct parantege as per my Aadhaar card is Ghulam Nabi Lone. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Bilal Ahmad Lone.**  
**S/O Ghulam Nabi Lone.**  
**R/O Mantrigam Bandipora.**

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the name of my daughter has been mistakenly mentioned as AISHA SHABIR on her School Records, while as her actual and correct name is AISHA BINTI SHABEER. Now i want to apply for its correction. In this regard, if anybody has any objection, he/she may file objections in office of the Principal Iqra International School, Baghi Mehtab, Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Shabeer Ahmad Hakeem.**  
**F/O : Aisha Binti Shabeer.**  
**R/O: Ward No 5, Tehsil Bandipora,**  
**District Bandipora.**  
**Present Residential Address:**  
**Monchowa Baghi Mehtab, Srinagar.**



NOTICE

This is an information for general public that i have lost Number plate of my Scoty bearing Registration No JK15 A- 2405, Some where Now i want to apply for its duplicate and also want to Submit missing report in police station, 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.

**Showkat Ahmad Khan.**  
**S/O Mohd Sadiq Khan.**  
**R/O Tanghat Bonakoot Bandipora.**

NOTICE

The name of my son has been inadvertently mentioned as Sheikh Ibrahim in Date of Birth Certificate while his actual name is Sheikh Mohammad Ibrahim. Now I want to rectify the same. Anybody having objection in this regard may file the same before the office of Registrar Birth & death within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

**Sheikh Saleem Bin Ahmad**  
**F/O Sheikh Mohammad Ibrahim**  
**R/O Ward-6 Bandipora**

NOTICE

I have lost the Date of Birth Certificate of my son somewhere. Now i am applying for its duplicate. If anybody has any objection in this regard may contact Registrar Birth and Death SMC Karan Nagar Sringar within a weeks time.

**Name - Mohammad Talha**  
**S/o Atta Mohammad ganai**  
**DOB-26-09-2020**  
**A/d Hyderpora srinagar**

Care Health Insurance Launches Ultimate Care

Policyholders can avail benefits like MoneyBack, Loyalty Boost, Wellness Discount, Infinity Bonus and more

**SRINAGAR:** Care Health Insurance, one of the leading Health Insurers of India, has announced the launch of Ultimate Care, a ground-breaking health insurance designed to set new benchmarks in health coverage. Ultimate Care combines extensive benefits tailored to address unforeseen medical emergencies and rewards you for staying healthy. Ultimate Care offers extensive health coverage, including the MoneyBack feature, where policyholders will get rewarded for staying healthy. The company will refund first year's base premium after every 5 claim free years. It's Loyalty Boost provides additional Sum Insured (SI) which is equivalent to first policy year's SI after 7 claim free years, while Infinity Bonus benefit doesn't limit the cumulative bonus, providing a 100% bonus of SI every year, irrespective of claims made – unlimited times with continuous policy renewal. Additionally, the plan provides Wellness Discount which enables policyholders to enjoy up to 30% discount on renewal premium with the healthy days program. Commenting on the launch, Ajay Shah, Head – Distribution, Care Health Insurance, said, "In the healthcare landscape of today, it is essential to provide customers with a comprehensive and robust financial security



enabling customers to prioritize their health and well-being first, thereby providing them the peace of mind they deserve." The policy introduces additional benefits designed to provide maximum value to policyholders. Welcome Discount that gives up to 30% discount on premium for new policyholders; Tenure Multiplier that combines annual Sum Insured of multi-year policy for a single claim in a policy tenure; MediVouchers for ease of out-of-pocket expenses with two pharmacy vouchers worth Rs 250 each, provided upon the first policy renewal.



# Rahane backs Rohit to 'get a big one' on Ranji return

Mumbai captain Ajinkya Rahane has backed his team-mate Rohit Sharma to "get a big one" as the India Test captain returns to the Ranji Trophy after low returns in his last eight Tests this season. In the three Tests in Australia and five at home before that, Rohit managed only 164 runs from 15 innings to average a dismal 10.93.

Rohit now returns to the domestic cricket -although likely for one round before the ODIs against England - along with many other India Test players such as Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja, Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal and possibly Virat Kohli.

"What is important is he is hungry, he is determined to do well," Rahane said of Rohit on the eve of Mumbai's next fixture starting on Thursday. "I am sure once he gets in, he will get a big one."

"He batted really well yesterday [in] a couple of [net] sessions, so it's part and parcel of a player's career. I am really confident about Rohit."

"Rohit has always been relaxed. Even playing at the international level, his character is similar. His attitude is pretty much relaxed. He knows his game really well so, no one has to tell him what he needs to do."

"Once he gets in, I'm sure he will do well. He has never changed, which is a very good thing."

After the coming round in which Mumbai host Jammu & Kashmir at home, Rohit will captain India against England in a three-match ODI series starting on February 6 followed by



the Champions Trophy.

"I think he's only playing this game; not sure about the next game," Rahane said of Rohit's availability. "His inputs in the next four days will be really important."

Mumbai also have Jaiswal for the upcoming round, although he was among India's better batters on the tour of Australia, with a knock of 161 in Perth at the start of the series and twin half-centuries in Melbourne. Rahane said the return of Rohit and Jaiswal would add a lot of value in the dressing room too.

"As a team, [and] individually, players are going up to them [and] asking questions, learning from them," Rahane said. "Once they are on the field, I am sure the players will watch them and they'll learn a lot of things from them."

Rohit and Jaiswal are expected to open together for a star-studded Mumbai line-up that will also see Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube and Shardul Thakur along with other domestic stars such as Shams Mulani, Siddhesh Lad and Tanush Kotian.

**"Rohit has always been relaxed. Even playing at the international level, his character is similar.** His attitude is pretty much relaxed. He knows his game really well so, no one has to tell him what he needs to do.

## U-19 Women's T20 World Cup: Bangladesh, NZ and USA qualify for Super Six

Left spinner Anisa Akter Soba picked up 4 for 25 as Bangladesh beat Scotland by 17 runs in Bangi to become the second team after Australia to reach Super Six from Group D. Scotland can also qualify if Australia beat Nepal later in the day.

After being sent in, Bangladesh found themselves on 50 for 5 after ten overs. Afia Ashima and captain Sumaiya Akter then added 38 in 33 balls to give the innings some stability. Ashima fell for 21 but Sumaiya stayed unbeaten till the end, scoring 28 off 36 balls to take the side to 120 for 9.

In response, Scotland were 19 for no loss in four overs before Soba bowled Emma Walsingham for 11. In the same over, Pippa Kelly was run-out. Wicketkeeper Pippa Sproul and captain Niamh Muir put the chase back on track by adding 50 in 60 balls, but after Muir fell for 22, none of the incoming batters could cross even 5.

Sproul tried to keep Scotland in the contest with her 43 off 41. But Soba ended her resistance and then went on to take two more wickets as Scotland could manage only 103 for 8.

After defeats to South Africa and Nigeria, New Zealand secured a spot in the Super Six stage with a drubbing of Samoa in Kuching.

In a rain-affected 17-over game, New Zealand were in trouble with the bat at 12 for 3. But Eve Wolland and Anika Todd added 55 for the fourth wicket to steady the ship.

After Todd fell for a 19-ball 27, it was on Wolland to hold New Zealand's innings together. She hit two fours and two sixes before she fell for 48 off 43 in the final over, helping New Zealand get to 107 for 9. For Samoa, seamer Olive Lefaga took three wickets and Verra Farane took two.

The total proved to be more than enough, as New Zealand skittled Samoa out for just 40, with no batter reaching the double digits. Rishika Jaswal and Tash Wakelin claimed three wickets each while Sophie Court picked up two.



# Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

