

Kashmir Convener



India Has Robust System To Tackle Pandemics: Nadda

P/02



SC Allows Appeals Beyond 90-Day Limit Under 2008 NIA Act

P/02



Akhilesh Yadav demands all party meeting on Maha Kumbh stampede

P/02



HM cuts short J&K security review meet to attend PM's reply in Parliament



Meeting rescheduled for today



LG Sinha, CS, DGP; Army, paramilitary top brass in Delhi

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah had to cut short the J&K security review meeting on Tuesday, sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

They said that the meeting has been rescheduled and will be held on Wednesday at 10:30 am in the Parliament as many issues have to be discussed. "The Union Home Minister had to cut short the meeting to be present in the Parliament to attend the Prime Minister's reply," sources said.

The security review meeting was called after



an ex-serviceman was killed, his wife and niece injured in a terror attack in south Kashmir's

Kulgam district on Monday.

Sources told KNO that J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Atal Duloo, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat, top officers of Army, paramilitary forces and intelligence agencies had arrived in New Delhi for the meeting which remained inconclusive and would be held tomorrow.

The officers, according to the sources, were to brief the Union Home Minister about the prevailing situation in J&K and ongoing operations against the terrorists. The Ministry of Home Affairs has been reiterating that terrorists and their supporters have to be dealt with an iron fist to make J&K terror free. The MHA has maintained that the policy of zero-tolerance towards terrorism needs to be implemented firmly to make

>>>SEE ON P-7

J&K Budget 2025-26

CM Omar to Hold Consultations with MLAs Over Priority-Sector Works



Mubashir Aalam Wani

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also the Minister in-charge of the Finance Department, is holding pre-budget consultations with members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and District Development Council (DDC) chairpersons from Wednesday.

>>>SEE ON P-7

Badhaal Deaths: 2 Months On, Govt Fails To Uncover Truth

Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR: Despite the elapsing of two months, the investigations into the deaths in Badhaal area of Rajouri have failed to uncover the truth with the locals continuing to seek answers from the government.

Since December 7, 2024, 17 individuals, including 13 children, have died due to an unidentified illness. Despite extensive efforts by various health agencies, the exact cause remains undetermined.

Over the last 15 days, no new cases have been reported, and most of the previously admitted patients have recovered, which has brought some



relief to the fear-stricken community.

Locals speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that though delayed, the government's preventive measures have helped in containing the crisis. However, they demanded urgent response regarding the exact cause of the deaths so that proper safety measures can be put in place and that the residents can resume normal life without fear.

>>>SEE ON P-7

Business Rules

Speaker-Led Panel Holds Meeting In Jammu



Ishtiyak Kar

JAMMU: The Rules Committee, led by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather and constituted to draft rules of procedure for conducting business in the Legislative Assembly, held its meeting on Tuesday in Jammu.

Officials said the meeting, convened at the Legislative Assembly complex Jammu, focused on refining rules governing legislative procedures. The nine-member committee, constituted on

December 24, 2024, under Rule 363 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, aims to finalize amendments before the upcoming Budget Session in March.

BJP MLA R.S. Pathania, who attended the meeting, told news agency KINS that the panel discussed the business rules.

"There is a need for minor modifications, and the committee is actively working on refining procedural aspects. Further discussions will continue in the next meeting, scheduled for February 11," he said.

Sources revealed that the primary objective of the meeting was to review and approve proposed changes.

A committee member, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the proposed modifications aim to enhance the efficiency of Assembly proceedings.

This was the third meeting of the committee, following previous sessions on January 1 and January 7, 2025. Earlier discussions focused on updating outdated references in the existing procedural framework. While the committee can suggest changes, the

>>>SEE ON P-7

Kashmir Parts Receive Fresh Snowfall, Rains Lash South Kashmir Areas



KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The fresh snowfall was experienced at multiple places in Kashmir on Tuesday late afternoon while rains lashed plains of southern parts of the Valley, bringing down the mercury here.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the light to moderate snowfall was predicted by the local Meteorological department here from this afternoon till tomorrow (February 5) afternoon.

>>>SEE ON P-7

The fresh snowfall was experienced at multiple places including Sonamarg, Sinthan Top, Pir ki Gali, Kokernag and other places while light rains lashed Banihal, Qazigund - Kulgam axis and in Anantnag.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that an improvement is expected from February afternoon, adding that the higher reaches of Chenab Valley & Pirpanjal Range in South Kashmir may receive snow depth of 8-10 inches till tomorrow forenoon.

Over 5,000 km of roads completed in J&K under PMGSY in 3 years: Centre

Raja Syed Rather

SRINAGAR : Jammu and Kashmir has seen

significant progress in rural road development under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) over the past three years as over 5,000 km of roads have been completed.

In 2021-22, a total of 3,278 kilometers of road length was completed, enhancing connectivity in rural areas. The figures were shared by Kamlesh Paswan, the Minister of State (MoS) in the Ministry of Rural Development, in response to a query in the Lok Sabha.



In 2023, a total of 1,217 kilometers of road length was sanctioned, with 464 kilometers completed. For the year 2023-24, 535 kilometers were sanctioned, and 956 kilometers were completed, indicating a steady push toward improving infrastructure across the region, the reply reads.

The financial commitment to the scheme has been substantial. Central funds released for PMGSY stood at rupees

>>>SEE ON P-7

Cervical Cancer Cases Rise By 11.5% In J&K Over 5 Years: Centre

Sajid Raina

SRINAGAR : Jammu and Kashmir has reported a total

694 in 2021, 712 in 2022, and 732 in 2023.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO),



of 3,468 cervical cancer cases over the past five years, a data presented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the Parliament reveals.

The year-wise breakdown shows an increase in cases, with 656 in 2019, 676 in 2020,

the cases increased from 656 in 2019 to 732 in 2023, reflecting a year-on-year rise. Specifically, the number of cases grew by 3.05% from 656 in 2019 to 676 in 2020, 2.66% from 676 to 694 in 2021, 2.59% from 694 to 712 in 2022, and 2.81% from 712

to 732 in 2023.

This rise aligns with a national trend attributed to factors such as an aging population, improved life expectancy, greater awareness, and advances in diagnostic technology. In response, the government has taken measures to make cancer treatment more affordable, including price caps on scheduled cancer drugs, reduced customs duties, and discounts on anticancer medications through the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

The government also offers financial assistance through initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri

>>>SEE ON P-7

Govt Committed To Provide All Possible Help To Cancer Patients: Sakeena Itoo



KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today remarked that the present Government led by Omar Abdullah is committed to provide all possible assistance to Cancer patients with creation of best advanced facilities in both the State Cancer Institutes at Jammu and Srinagar.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing a day long conference "Mission Cancer - J&K's Fight Against Cancer in the coming

Decade" at Government Medical College here. The conference was organised by GMC Jammu in collaboration with 'BCPBF-The Cancer Foundation' and 'Friends of GMC Jammu', to commemorate the World Cancer day.

Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah; Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Director SKIMS, Dr. Ashraf Ganai; Principal GMC Jammu, Dr. Ashotush Gupta; noted Oncologist of J&K, Dr. Sameer Kaul;

>>>SEE ON P-7

After Omar Takes Potshot On INDIA Bloc, Dr Farooq Says Alliance Intact

Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) President, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday said that the INDIA bloc is intact and will remain so in the future.

The statement was made by him just a day after his son and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reiterated his call for 'strategy shift' in the INDIA bloc in a time-bound manner, failing which the purpose of the alliance will be defeated.

Dr Farooq while speaking to the media persons, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that the INDIA bloc is doing absolutely fine and will keep doing good in the future as well.

Pertinently, Omar Abdullah on Monday underscored the need for the INDIA bloc to



>>>SEE ON P-7

India Has Robust System To Tackle Pandemics: Nadda

NEWDELHI: India has a very robust system to deal with future pandemics and public health emergencies, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda asserted in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Replying to supplementary questions in the Rajya Sabha, Nadda highlighted the steps taken by the government in the last 10 years to strengthen India's health system, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

India has proven under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that we have got a very robust system to address the issue of any pandemic that comes, the minister said.

Listing out India's capabilities, Nadda said the country has the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), which oversees and keeps surveillance.

"It is the apex body which takes care of the diseases and the pathogens, and the other emerging virus mutation, which takes place," he added.

Under the NCDC, he said the country



has an integrated disease surveillance programme, a platform for disease surveillance. "We have got the RRT, which is called the rapid response team, which is there in the states. And we have got very decentralised multidisciplinary teams for health control and containment. And also, we have got an integrated health information platform where advanced data with analysis and analytical data and data modelling tools are there," the

minister said.

"We give real-time reporting for all the emerging pandemics or the there are chances of having any pandemic."

The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) has 150 labs, he said, adding that there are viral research diagnostic laboratories. India has a world-class National Institute of Virology in Pune.

"So, we have got a very robust system wherever any pandemic or any

chances of the pandemic are there, these laboratories confirm what type of mutation is taking place, what change, what type of medicine or what type of treatment is to be given," Nadda said. The minister further said the Prime Minister has taken one step forward and launched the National One Health Mission. "We get diseases because of pesticides. We get diseases because of the environment. We get diseases because of the nature of the plants, which is changing. We get diseases because of the medicines that are being given to the animals. What is the impact altogether? So for that, we have also started (a programme), which is known as the National One Health Mission," the minister said. In a written reply, Nadda said the prevention of and preparedness against the pandemic is a shared global responsibility.

In order to better prepare against future pandemics/public health emergencies in the country, the ministry provides requisite support to states/UTs to enhance their capabilities.

SC Allows Appeals Beyond 90-Day Limit Under 2008 NIA Act



NEWDELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the appeals of accused or the victims under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008, should not be dismissed solely on the ground that delays beyond 90 days couldn't be condoned.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan was hearing pleas challenging the validity of Section 21(5) of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act which deals with the time limit for filing an appeal against a judgment of the trial court.

"The appeals preferred by the accused or the victims will not be dismissed on the ground that the delay cannot be condoned beyond 90 days," the

bench said in its order which effectively overrides the statutory restrictions.

The provision mandates appeals to be filed within 30 days of the judgment, sentence, or order and the high court can accept an appeal after 30 days if the appellant has a good reason.

The provision says no appeal can be accepted after 90 days – the bone of contention in the pleas.

The bench asked the parties to file their written submissions, restricting it to three pages, before the next date of hearing.

The bench was hearing pleas filed by Sushila Devi and Osman Shareef.

A new era for Railway infrastructure, modernization, & connectivity in Odisha Vaishnaw

BHUBANESHWAR: The Rail Budget 2025 marks a new era for Odisha's railway infrastructure, ushering in unprecedented growth, modernization, and connectivity, Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Monday.



He stated that ongoing projects and future investments will strengthen Odisha's position as a key player in India's railway network while significantly contributing to regional economic growth.

Addressing a press conference on Monday, Vaishnaw unveiled key highlights of the 2025 Rail Budget for Odisha via video conferencing from New Delhi.

He announced a record budgetary allocation of Rs.10,599 crore for railway development in Odisha,

Rail Budget 2025

a 12.5-fold increase from the Rs.838 crore allocated during the 2009-2014 period.

He further highlighted that Odisha has received over Rs.10,000 crore annually for railway development over the past three years, contributing to a total investment of Rs.78,000 crore in the state's railway sector. Additionally, projects worth Rs.20,000 crore have been sanctioned during the current government's tenure.

Deliberating Key Highlights of the Rail Budget 2025 for Odisha, Vaishnaw stated that Odisha's railway electrification has increased 4.5 times, with 138 km of track electrified between 2014-2025, compared to just 29 km in the previous period.

Over 2,046 km of new tracks have been constructed since 2014, surpassing the entire rail network of Malaysia in scale.

Odisha, he said has achieved 100 percent electrification, with 1,516 km of electrified track.

Over 48 new track projects are currently underway, covering a total of 4,784 km with an investment of Rs.73,723 crore, Vaishnaw said adding that Rs.2,379 crore has been allocated for the development of 59 railway stations, including key hubs like Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Sambalpur, and Rourkela.

The Kavach safety system has been sanctioned for 1,898 km of railway tracks, with ongoing work and tendering for 645 km and a total of 1,000 locomotives will be integrated with Kavach to enhance railway safety.

He said since 2014, 522 rail flyovers and under-bridges have been constructed, 43 lifts, 18 escalators, and Wi-Fi have been installed at 234 stations to improve passenger convenience.

Akhilesh Yadav demands all party meeting on Maha Kumbh stampede

NEW DELHI: Samajwadi Party National President and Kannauj MP Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday slammed the Central government over the stampede in Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj and demanded an all party meeting to ascertain the "root cause" of the incident.



Participating in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address in the Lok Sabha, Yadav said "When the government is continuously giving the budget figures, it also should give the figures of those who died in Maha Kumbh. I demand an all-party meeting should be called to give clarification about the arrangements for Maha Kumbh." According to the figures provided by the Uttar Pradesh government, 30 people were killed and 60 injured in the stampede that occurred during the Mauni Amavasya at the Mahakumbh on January 29. The SP National President also demanded strict action against those who are behind the stampede.

He said the figures for the deaths in Maha Kumbh accident, treatment of injured, availability of medicines, doctors, food, water, transport should be presented in the Parliament. For the Maha Kumbh tragedy, there should be strict punitive action against those responsible and those who have hidden the truth should be punished.

Gujarat Govt forms committee to assess need for UCC, draft bill

GANDHINAGAR: The BJP Government in Gujarat on Tuesday formed a committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge to assess the need for the Uniform Civil Code in the state and also draft a bill for the same.

The five-member committee, to be headed by former SC judge Ranjana Desai, will submit its report within 45 days, following which a decision about implementation of the UCC will be taken, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said addressing a press conference here.

The committee will also meet religious leaders,



including from the Muslim community, to prepare the report, a senior Government official said.

"To assess the need for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and to prepare a draft bill for the same, we have decided to form a committee under the former judge of the Supreme Court," CM Patel said.

Other members of the committee include retired IAS officer CL Meena, advocate RC Kodekar, former vice chancellor of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University Dakshesh Thakar and social worker Gita Shroff.

Notably, the BJP-ruled Uttarakhand has already implemented the UCC.

CM Patel said the Gujarat government is committed to fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve of implementing the UCC across the country. The five-member committee will examine various aspects related to the UCC and take views of the people from different walks of life to prepare its report, he said.

Madrasatul-Banat

Darul-Uloom Raheemiyyah Bandipora

Offers a Timeless Opportunity for Everlasting Charity (Sadaqah Jariyah)

By the immense grace of Almighty Allah, the construction of the "Madrasatul-Banat" is advancing steadily, with the final floor nearing completion. The important stage was the construction of roof. According to the engineers, the total cost for labour and material was estimated at around 40 lakh rupees. Now, it is near completion **Alhamdulillah**.

The roof of a building acts as a cover and shade to the entire work. So, arranging cover and shade for this institution of girls will be a means of receiving mercy and shade from Allah Almighty, **Insha Allah**.

In the past, many fortunate and generous individuals have seized the opportunity to contribute to this noble cause, either by funding the construction of rooms or by sharing in the expenses.

Now, once again, Allah Ta'ala offers us this blessed opportunity to participate in this virtuous work, allowing us to secure Sadaqah Jariyah for ourselves, our parents, and our loved ones. We urge you to encourage the women in your families to contribute, as this madrasah is dedicated solely to the education of women. May Allah bless and accept our efforts. Aameen!

To take part in this righteous endeavour, donations can be made to the designated account for Madrasatul-Banat:

ACC NO.: 0727010100000200
JK BANK BRANCH NISHAT PARK BANDIPORA KASHMIR
IFSC CODE: JAKA0NPARK

Note/Request: After depositing your contribution into the bank account, kindly send a screenshot or notify us via WhatsApp message or phone call to 9419089250 or 8899101091. Please also provide your name and address to facilitate the issuance of a receipt.

Your well wisher:
Maulana Muhammad Rahmatullah Kashmiri
Nazim, Darul Uloom Raheemiyyah Bandipora, Kashmir

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF SHEEP HUSBANDRY, KASHMIR

E-mail- kashmirmerino.sheep@gmail.com
EXTENSION NOTICE.
No:-Dshk/Accts/24-25/12506
Dt:-03.02.2025

Reference:-
1. E-Procurement Notice for Transportation of Texel Sheep (Livestock) From Delhi airport to Sheep Breeding Farm Khimber vide e-Nit No:- DSHK/ACCTS/ 2024-25/11392-99, Dated: 07-01-2025
2. Extension notice No. DSHK/Accts/24-25/11842, Dated: 16.01.2025
3. Extension notice No. DSHK/Accts/24-25/12126, Dated: 24.01.2025

S.No.	Description	Date and Time
1	Bid submission end date	21-02-2025 (2.00pm)
2	Opening of Technical Bid (Online)	22-02-2025 (2.00pm)

The other terms and conditions of e-NIT will remain same.

Sd/-Director
Sheep Husbandry Department
Kashmir. (Chairman DLPC)

DIPK-11525/24

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
CIVIL WORKS
SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)
EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-Tender NIT No.1000f2024-25 issued under endorsement No.9523-28
Dated:04-02-2025

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

S. No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	E/ Money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class Of Contactor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01	Balance work of Construction of lavatory block and installation of sign boards at Sheikh Jabbar Park Lar Ganderbal. Name of Scheme:- Construction of lavatory block and installation of sign boards at Sheikh Jabbar Park Lar Ganderbal.	Rs.01.67Lacs	Rs.200/=	Rs.3340/=	15-Days	DEE

Major Head: Floriculture
Position of AA: Accorded
Project Authority: Director Floriculture
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (S.B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-02-2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	04-02-2025
3.	Bid submission Start Date	04-02-2025 from 04:00 PM.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	10-02-2025 from 04:00 PM.
5.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	11-02-2025 at 11:00 AM in the office of PW(R&B) Division Ganderbal

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal.

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

The Bidders shall upload earnest money equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bid of Responsive bidders shall be opened Online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal (tender receiving authority). The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical.

The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

5(A). Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

5.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint themselves with the bidding process.

5.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

5.3 The bidder shall submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

5.4 Bids will be opened online as per times scheduled under mentioned in Para-1.

5.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original photocopies of documents related to the bid to be submitted physically by registered post/through courier before the date specified in Para-1.

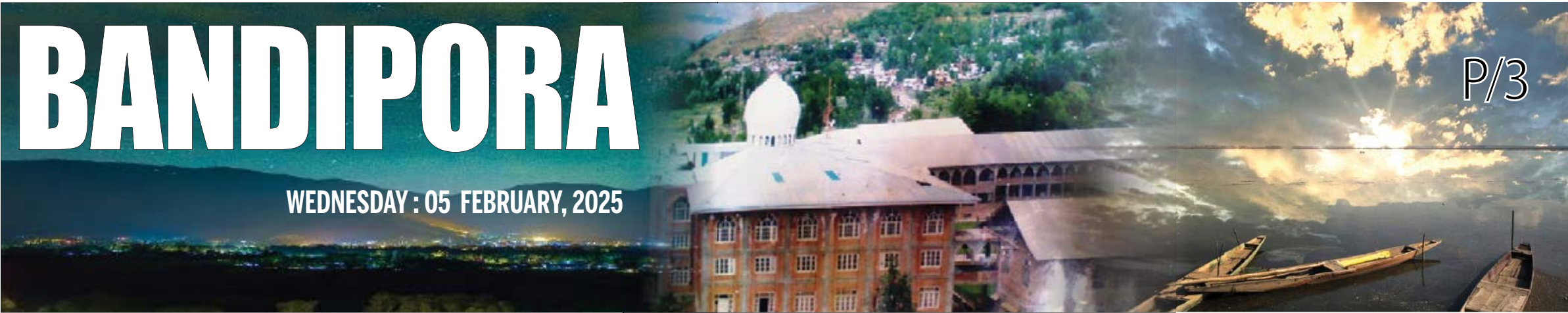
6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

All other terms and conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)
No.-9523-28
Date: 04-02-2025

Sd/-Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbal

DIPK-11533/24



BANDIPORA

WEDNESDAY : 05 FEBRUARY, 2025

P/3

J&K's NDPS arrests surge by over 70% from 2019 to 2024

Sajid Raina

SRINAGAR: About 13,186 arrests were made in Jammu and Kashmir under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act From 2019 to 2024 in Jammu and Kashmir while only four convictions were recorded during the same period.

According to the data provided by the Ministry of State (MoS) for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, in response to a question in the Lok Sabha, arrests in Ladakh were minimal, with only 11 cases reported between 2021 and 2022, and no convictions since 2019.

"The arrests in J&K saw a steady increase in the first five years, with 1,700 arrests in 2019, 1,769 in 2020, 2,217 in 2021, 2,755 in 2022, and 3,072 in 2023. However, the number of arrests dropped to 1,673 in 2024 (till date). As for convictions, J&K reported a total of 4 convictions during the same period. There was 1 conviction in 2019, no convictions in 2020, followed by 1 conviction each in 2021 and 2022. No convictions were recorded in 2023, but 1 conviction was made in 2024," the reply reads.

The data indicated that the number of arrests



in J&K increased by more than 70% from 2019 to 2024.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has established a 4-tier Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism to improve coordination between central and state drug law enforcement

agencies. An NCORD portal has been developed to provide comprehensive information on drug law enforcement, including data on narco-offenders, legal information, and state initiatives, it added.

Following the 5th Apex Level Committee

meeting of NCORD, each state and union territory has set up an Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), headed by an ADG/IG-level police officer, to act as the NCORD Secretariat and ensure compliance with decisions taken during NCORD meetings, the MoS said.

Border Guarding Forces like the BSF, Assam Rifles, and SSB, along with agencies such as the RPF and NIA, have been empowered to take action under the NDPS Act. Intelligence sharing and controlled delivery operations are being conducted regularly within India and with foreign countries. To strengthen the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), 425 new posts have been created, increasing its sanctioned strength to 1,598. The NCB is also actively conducting drug awareness programs in schools and colleges, organizing rallies and dramas in collaboration with NGOs, and sending SMS alerts through mobile service providers to spread awareness about the dangers of drug abuse.

Every year on June 26, the NCB observes the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to educate the public about the harmful effects of drug abuse and trafficking—(KNO)

IGNOU Extends Fresh Admissions and Re-Registration Deadline to 15th February 2025

SRINAGAR: The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the last date for fresh admissions and re-registration for the



ongoing academic session to 15th February 2025. This extension aims to accommodate learners who were unable to complete their admission formalities within the earlier deadline.

This year, IGNOU has introduced Four-Year Undergraduate Programmes (FYUP) in disciplines such as Commerce, Economics, History, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology, Anthropology, Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu, Social Work, Philosophy, Biochemistry, and Facilities and Service Management.

Prospective students can choose from a network of study centres across the Kashmir Valley, including government degree colleges, SKIMS, NIELIT, Composite Regional Centre Srinagar,

Kashmir University, and centres in the Union Territories of Kargil and Ladakh. The Regional Centre Srinagar also serves as a special study centre for programmes not available at other Learner Support Centres.

For students interested in information technology-based programmes like BCA, MCA, and MSCIS, NIELIT Srinagar is available as a study centre. NIELIT will also provide mentorship and training programs to support entrepreneurship among students in the IT and electronics sector.

Dr. A. H. Rizvi, Regional Director of IGNOU, stated that the extension of the admission and re-registration deadlines ensures that more learners can access educational opportunities.

In addition to fresh admissions, the last date for re-registration for January 2025 has been extended to 15th February 2025 for all programmes offered in ODL (Open and Distance Learning) and online modes. Students are encouraged to complete their re-registration for the 2nd or 3rd year of their programmes promptly, Dr. Rizvi added.

Prospective students and learners can visit the official IGNOU website at ignou.ac.in or the Regional Centre Srinagar's website at rcsrinagar.ignou.ac.in for further details. For inquiries, they may contact the Regional Centre Srinagar directly./

Tanvir Sadiq seeks thorough account of ration supply, basic utility services Noushehar, Zadibal

SRINAGAR: The Chief Spokesperson of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq, stated that the delay in starting sewage treatment plants across Srinagar,



due to years of government neglect, are a thing of the past, emphasising that the Omar Abdullah led govt is actively working to expedite these projects.

This he said at a workers' meeting in Channpora, Noushehar in Zadibal constituency. On the occasion Tanvir sought a thorough account of ration supply and basic utility services in the area. He also sought the current status of ongoing de-

velopment projects. Amidst the extensive discussions, the party's local unit functionaries voiced numerous concerns, all of which Tanvir pledged to address promptly and effectively.

Tanvir, while highlighting the poor state of affairs in Srinagar, emphasized that the city has long been plagued by the actions of non-NC governments. "However, the decade-long succession of non-NC governments and undemocratic rule has only worsened the situation. Srinagar is facing numerous issues, including a lack of infrastructure, inadequate health services, high unemployment rates, and a shortage of recreational facilities," he added.

"The party is fully aware of the challenges faced by our people and is actively working on multiple fronts to address them, with the active involvement of the community," Tanvir said while assuring party members that the government will spare no effort in fulfilling all the promises outlined in its manifesto as time goes on.

He urged party members to maintain a strong connection with the public, as they play a crucial role in bridging the gap between the people and the government.

People in Kashmir Inspired by Modi's Good Governance: Sat Sharma

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir BJP President, Sat Sharma CA, while speaking to party leaders and members of civil society of Kashmir, said that people in Valley are coming forward to further strengthen BJP in their respective areas, which is indeed a good development.

BJP senior leader Rakesh Mahajan, Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan, and Brijesh Gupta were also present on the occasion.

Sat Sharma CA said that a wave of transformation is sweeping across Kashmir as people in large numbers on daily basis are expressing confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance, which has laid a strong focus on development, security, and economic growth and as a result, the UT has witnessed unprecedented progress over the past few years.

Sat Sharma CA said that from improved infrastructure to economic revival, the central government's initiatives have reshaped Kashmir's landscape. Major projects, including enhanced road networks, new rail links, and upgraded airports, have boosted connectivity, facilitating trade and tourism.

The government's commitment to peace and security has also contributed to a significant decline in terror-related incidents. The influx of tourists, breaking all previous records, is a testament to growing stability. Various schemes of the Modi government have improved healthcare, housing, and water supply, enhancing the quality of life.

Sat Sharma CA said that the people of Kashmir envision a future filled with hope and progress. With continued support from the central government, Kashmir is rapidly emerging as a symbol of India's development story under PM Modi's visionary leadership.

"The people in Kashmir are convinced that it is the BJP and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who have real concern and pain for them", Sat said adding that return of peace and normalcy have resulted in normal functioning of educational institutions, business establishment, transport, etc and every citizen in valley want the situation remain secure, which they, think is due to the bold and historic decisions of Modi government.

Prominent among those who called on Sat Sharma CA at party headquarters included Mehbooba Akhtar, BJP Mahila Morcha district president, Kulgam, Constituency President Dr. Majid Hussain Hakeem, Civil Society prominent persons Ashiq Hussain Shah, Rayees Ahmed Halla, besides office bearers of transport and business community of Kashmir. (ANB)

India's first solar-powered car 'RAY' to hit roads soon

Its Srinagar-based developer Bilal Ahmed says major Indian company to manufacture this eco-friendly vehicle

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: In a groundbreaking development, India's first solar-powered car is set to hit the roads, boasting a new design and enhanced performance. The innovative vehicle has been developed by Bilal Ahmed, a 45-year-old mathematics teacher from Sanat Nagar, Srinagar, who dedicated over a decade to bringing his vision to life.

Bilal, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said he began working on this project in 2012, with the first prototype unveiled in 2022. Since then, he has incorporated numerous upgrades, making the car more practical and efficient. His creation has garnered widespread attention for its unique blend of innovation and style.

"I've named the car 'RAY', inspired by the mathematical concept where a ray has a starting point but no end. Similarly, this car has a starting point but no end—it runs on solar energy, not fossil fuels," he explained.

Bilal said the car has a fully automatic system with gullwing doors: The functioning of educational institutions, business establishment, transport, etc and every citizen in valley want the situation remain secure, which they, think is due to the bold and historic decisions of Modi government.

It is equipped with monocrystalline solar panels that optimise energy absorption, he said, adding that the car charges efficiently, even in minimal

sunlight.

With a dual power system, RAY combines solar energy with a rechargeable battery to ensure smooth operation even during nighttime through an integrated solar power bank.



The car includes autonomous parking sensors for added safety and convenience, and the solar panels adjust their orientation automatically to maximise sunlight capture throughout the day. It has a distinctive feature that adds a futuristic touch to the car's design, he added.

Bilal claimed that the latest version reflects meticulous improvements in aerodynamics, solar panel efficiency, and overall performance, making it suitable for real-world driving conditions.

"A major Indian company has agreed to manufacture the car, with plans to

launch it on Kashmiri roads by June 2025," Bilal said, adding that he will publicly showcase the vehicle on February 10 ahead of his participation in an international solar energy event in Turkey this April.

"From the beginning until today, I haven't received any financial assistance from anyone. I managed everything on my own, spending around 22 lakh rupees on this project. But for me, this is more than a personal achievement," he said.

To safeguard his innovation, Bilal has patented the design and registered his company, Bilal Innovations Solar Automobiles (BISA), under which RAY will be officially launched.

Designed to be affordable for the common people, RAY aims to compete with global solar car brands like Lightyear (Netherlands) and Aptera Motors (USA). Notably, Bilal's car stands out as the first of its kind in India, filling a gap in the country's eco-friendly automotive sector.

"I've conducted extensive research on luxury car designs from the 1950s onward, focusing on aerodynamics and modern technology. My research has even been published internationally," Bilal said—(KNO)

Garbage Dumping Goes Unabated on Jhelum Embankments in Hajin

GOWHAR MAQBOOL

Hajin: The embankments of the Jhelum River have turned into a dumping site, with people frequently throwing garbage into it at various locations in Hajin town of north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

Locals blame nearby residents and shopkeepers for disposing of waste directly into the river, polluting the water and damaging the ecosystem.

"The authorities have failed to prevent water bodies from getting polluted. Waste is being dumped on the riverbanks either by residents or shopkeepers, and no action is being taken," said Feroz Ahmad, a local resident.

He added that the concerned officials are not taking any action against those who continuously throw waste into the Jhelum.

Residents also complained about the foul smell emanating from the waste, especially during summer. "We urge the administration to take special measures regularly to keep the area clean," they said.

They further expressed concern over the reckless dumping of household waste into the river, calling it an act of negligence that is polluting water bodies and posing serious health hazards.

Locals have urged the administration to take immediate steps to curb pollution and ensure proper waste management in the town.



Indian Army Organizes Cancer Awareness Program in Gurez Valley

Bandipora, Feb 04: On the eve of World Cancer Day, the Indian Army's Rana Battalion organized an awareness program at Youth Centre in Bagtore, near the Line of Control (LoC) in Gurez Valley Bandipora district on Tuesday. The program witnessed huge participation from locals, including youth and children.



Army doctors provided valuable insights on cancer awareness, emphasizing the importance of early detection, prevention, and a healthy lifestyle. They also urged the youth to stay away from drugs and focus on building a better future.

Speaking to the media, local residents expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army for organizing such awareness programs in border areas like Gurez Valley. One of the locals said, "The Army doctors educated us about cancer prevention and also advised the youth to stay away from drugs and focus on their careers."

Another resident echoed similar sentiments, appreciating the Army's efforts in spreading awareness and conducting social outreach initiatives in remote areas.

The initiative by the Rana Battalion reflects the Indian Army's commitment to the welfare of border communities, promoting health awareness and a drug-free society.

J&K Sports Council organizes football coaching camp in Jammu

JAMMU: Under the supervision of well known coach Ishfaq Ahmad, the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council has been organizing a football coaching camp for young footballers in Jammu.

The camp has been ongoing for over a week at Mini Stadium, Parade Ground, Jammu. Ishfaq Ahmad is leading the coaching sessions, with senior coach Satpal Singh assisting him.

The primary objective of the camp is to promote and develop football in Jammu.

Ishfaq Ahmad stated that over 80 players participated in the trials. "We have selected 28 players, and among them, the most talented will have the opportunity to join the U-20 Jammu and Kashmir team," he said.

The Sports Minister, along with the J&K Sports Council and J&K Youth Services, has shown keen interest in developing a football culture in Jammu.



The Kumbh Mela: A Celebration Of Faith, Fraternity, And Sustainability

Dr. Vikram Bansal

The Kumbh Mela, a colossal gathering of faith and humanity, transcends the boundaries of religion and culture to become a global phenomenon. The Maha Kumbh Mela-2025 is an extraordinary event anticipated to draw an immense congregation of 40-45 crore pilgrims to the Triveni Sangam, where they will partake in sacred dips, seeking salvation and spiritual renewal.

turning towards more sustainable initiatives.

The sheer scale of the Kumbh Mela presents a significant environmental challenge. However, there's a growing emphasis on minimizing the ecological footprint. Using biodegradable materials, such as eco-friendly utensils and bags, is actively encouraged. Waste collection systems are in place throughout the Mela grounds, with dedicated teams working day and night to segregate and dispose of waste responsibly. Raising aware-

this enormous assembly.

The Kumbh Mela has a significant economic effect on the host city and its surroundings. It makes massive revenue through tourism, trade, and employment. Millions of pilgrims arrive for the Mela, and that favours the local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and transportation services. The Mela also creates employment opportunities for a substantial number of people, including those selling items, providing services, and

divisions and gaining an enhanced sense of human understanding.

The Mela is a haven for spiritual seekers and those who desire to discover higher states of consciousness. Sadhus from various orders engage in spiritual discourses, discuss philosophies, and share their wisdom with seekers. These experiences offer profound insights into various spiritual traditions and the potential for individual and spiritual development. The Mela is the forum for spiritual discourse, philosophical discussions, and encounters with enlightened masters.

Multi-faceted Challenges of the Maha Kumbh Mela:

Despite its profound spiritual and cultural significance, organizing the Maha Kumbh Mela presents a formidable set of challenges:

Managing the Unprecedented Scale: The sheer magnitude of the event, with an estimated 40-45 crore pilgrims expected to converge, poses a significant logistical and operational hurdle.

Crowd Control and Safety: Ensuring the safety and well-being of such a massive crowd requires meticulous crowd control measures to prevent stampedes, overcrowding, and other safety hazards.

Environmental Sustainability: Minimizing the environmental impact is crucial, including managing waste generation, conserving water resources, and mitigating the impact on the fragile river ecosystem.

Infrastructure Development: Providing adequate infrastructure, including sanitation facilities, medical services, drinking water, and transportation, for such a vast and diverse population is a complex undertaking.

Maintaining Law and Order: Ensuring the safety and security of pilgrims from various threats, such as theft, crime, and potential health risks, requires a robust security and law enforcement presence.

Balancing Tradition and Modernity: Reconciling the ancient traditions of the Mela with the demands of modern-day logistics, crowd management, and environmental concerns requires careful planning and a nuanced approach.

The Kumbh Mela is a testament to the enduring power of faith, a profound celebration of human connection, and a poignant reminder of the universal search for meaning and spiritual satisfaction. This glorious congregational festival transcends denominations, and the ambience is one of a kind in its spirit of communalism, cultural exchange, and shared humanity. Pilgrims from every walk of life converge to create a rich tapestry of faith, culture, and tradition.

Organizing an event of such scale, however, presents daunting challenges. Coordinating the unprecedented entry of millions of pilgrims requires careful planning and management. Crowd management, safety and security, and avoiding over-congestion are some of the major concerns. Maintaining law and order in such a vast gathering requires a robust security machinery and effective coordination between agencies.

The environmental cost of such a significant event, too, cannot be ignored. Reducing waste, conserving water sources, and minimizing the burden on the sensitive river ecosystem is necessary to ensure the sustainability of this ancient tradition.

Despite all these challenges, the Kumbh Mela has much to impart to us in terms of sustainable living, interfaith tolerance, and the enduring strength of the human spirit. By embracing innovative solutions, prioritizing environmental sustainability, and encouraging a spirit of cooperation between all concerned agencies, the Kumbh Mela can inspire and nourish millions in generations to come.

Author is Assistant Professor, at Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management and Entrepreneurship, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He can be mailed at vikrambansal@jnu.ac.in



According to ancient Hindu mythology, Lord Vishnu, carrying a pot (Kumbh) containing the divine nectar of immortality (Amrit), became embroiled in a fierce battle with demons. During the ensuing chaos, four precious drops of Amrit spilt from the Kumbh and fell to earth, landing at four sacred sites: Prayag, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain. These holy sites, revered as Tirthas, are believed to be gateways to salvation for the devout. Taking a dip in the sacred rivers at these locations during the Kumbh Mela is believed to cleanse sins and bring spiritual liberation.

However, the Kumbh Mela is not just a religious congregation. It is a rich tapestry of diverse faiths, cultures, and traditions. Sadhus, or holy men from different orders, all dressed in vibrant robes and covered with ash on their bodies, mingle with the pilgrims. The whole atmosphere is shared humanity, in which social differences disappear, and a sense of universal brotherhood prevails.

Testament to Sustainable Living:

Amid this unprecedentedly gigantic extravaganza of this holy Mela, it is worth noting that the Kumbh Mela is increasingly

ness among pilgrims about the importance of waste segregation and responsible disposal has become integral to environmental stewardship at the Kumbh Mela.

Considering the fact that Kumbh Mela relies on sacred rivers, water conservation is of key importance. Sanctity preservation over these rivers is being taken by various initiatives as well. To reduce water wasting, campaigns toward the use of reusable water bottles, and an awareness campaign teaching pilgrims that water should also be consumed judiciously along with other food items are put into action. Innovative water-treatment technologies will be implemented soon to ensure hygiene and purity levels in the rivers.

Conceding that the traditional source of energy generates a lot of environmental damage, the Kumbh Mela is gradually becoming a renewable source of energy. Solar power happens to be at the forefront, where solar panels are installed at the various locations around the Mela grounds to cater to lighting and charging stations, amongst other essential infrastructures. Additionally, exploration into different sources of renewable energy, including wind power, is ongoing in an attempt to diminish dependence on fossil fuels further and minimize the carbon footprint due to

local artisans. Moreover, the cultural exchange and economic activity developed by the Mela contribute to the comprehensive development of the region.

Cultural and Spiritual Significance:

Apart from the rituals, the Kumbh Mela is not just a religious festival. It is a lively cultural potpourri, offering unique opportunities for cultural exchange, socialization, and spiritual discussion.

The Mela is a grand exhibition of India's vibrant cultural heritage. Traditional folk arts, music, and dance from across the country are tastefully showcased, engaging pilgrims and unveiling the rich fabric of Indian culture. From the devotional music of Qawwali to the energetic Bhangra beat, the atmosphere is charged with the beat of celebration and devotion.

The sheer size of the Kumbh Mela generates an enduring sense of community and social bonding. Pilgrims from all walks of life, from all ages, irrespective of caste, creed, or social standing, converge at the Mela, generating an unparalleled atmosphere of oneness and brotherhood. Pilgrims exchange thoughts, share experiences, and form new relationships, moving beyond social

The Unspoken Challenges of Education

Education is the key to a country's destiny. A polity's citizens who receive high-quality education develop a civic sense, which leads to prosperity, technological advancements, political maturity, economic dynamism, and adherence to constitutional norms. Conversely, a majority of unemployed people who lack quality, innovative, and analytical skills are economically naïve and politically unconscious. Unfortunately, the latter type of education is popular in our region of the world.

There have been many intricate structural, institutional, and organizational issues affecting our educational system. Although these complex issues have long existed, we will only be able to handle and control them if our ruling class abandons its narrow and trivial political objectives and adopts real, politically-oriented, and problem-solving methods.

The obvious problems with public schools include inadequate facilities for training newly hired and in-service teachers, out-of-date and overburdened curricula, antiquated teaching methods, inadequate infrastructure, widespread and unchecked corruption in the hiring of teachers for public institutions, financial constraints faced by government schools, and a high child dropout rate brought on by financial strains experienced by lower-class parents. Also lack of public trust in higher education is another issue that coexists with these problems. Unproductive education has caused a sense of discontent and irritation among the populace due to the steadily rising

number of unemployed graduates.

When a father who barely makes ends meet sees a number of unemployed graduates in his immediate vicinity, how can we persuade him to

tuition but offers nothing but a depressing group of jobless youth who are ill-equipped to compete in the global professional market.

The requirement of the hour is to guarantee

and foremost, all teachers (both newly hired and in-service) should begin receiving training from the provincial education departments. Academic and extracurricular goals should be developed for teachers as incentives, and they should receive official accreditation after they meet these goals. The most tried-and-true methods to use are financial incentives and early promotions.

Second, the debate over the curricula is as old as this nation itself. The medium of instruction is the first topic that has consistently been at the forefront of syllabi. Many studies have demonstrated that mother tongue instruction should be the main focus of early childhood curricula, coupled with other supplemental languages, such as English and Urdu in our instance. The curriculum should be updated frequently to take into account the science's quick advancement.

Additionally, a democratic and accommodating syllabus is one that uses symbols on the cover pages to instill in the minds of the young people moderate tendencies, such as civic and political sense, acceptance of constitutional standards, distaste for terrorism and extremism, sex education, and gender-related concerns.

Third, robust regulatory measures should be used to depoliticize testing agencies in order

to increase transparency in the teacher hiring process. Fourth, the large percentage of out-of-school children and dropouts is evidence that public schools have the worst infrastructure. In the remote regions of the nation, the majority of schools lack adequate facilities, including electrically equipped classrooms, libraries and toilets. Furthermore, a great deal of financial strain prevents the majority of parents from sending their kids to school. Adequate budgetary allocation can improve schools infrastructure and provide financial support to parents, enabling them to send their children to school.

In addition, it is essential to establish a connection between industry and colleges in order to provide favorable job prospects. It should come as no surprise that the growing divide between the nation's industrial and higher education sectors is extremely detrimental to the nation's industrial and educational futures. Half-baked institutions produce half-baked research, which feeds the vicious cycle of economic instability that has been set off by the turbulent political past. In order to prevent this impending issue, the government should make significant investments in the research sector and establish coordination between the industrial and higher education sectors. This will ensure that university research is both economically productive and creates jobs for the researchers.

(Author is a research scholar and can be reached at: eyramkhan786@gmail.com)



save some hard-earned cash and send his child to college or university? He will, in all honesty, send his child to a technical and skill-based school rather than a university that charges exorbitant

high-quality education. This nation could no longer afford a reprehensible system of education. In fact, a paradigm shift is also necessary in learning approaches, just like our foreign policy. First

Govt committed to promotion of Horticulture, welfare of traders, growers: Javed Dar

JAMMU: Minister for Agricultural Production and Rural Development Departments, Javed Ahmad Dar, today reaffirmed government's unwavering commitment towards promotion of the horticulture sector with emphasis on welfare of fruit traders and growers in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting held with the members of Jammu Fruit Traders Association at Fruit Mandi Narwal.

The meeting had detailed discussion on key issues faced by fruit traders besides exploring measures for strengthening the horticulture sector.

The Minister said that the Horticulture sector is and will remain a priority sector for the government as it plays a pivotal role in Jammu and Kashmir's economy.

He highlighted the significance of the horticulture sector in J&K, stating that around 70 to 80 percent of the region's population is directly or indirectly associated with this sector. "Thousands of people earn their livelihood through horticulture activities and the government is highly sensitive to

the challenges faced by the growers and traders. We are committed towards implementing welfare initiatives that will ensure the sustained growth and prosperity of this vital sector," emphasised the Minister.

During the meeting, the Minister acknowledged the pressing need for additional storage space for

apple produce, especially during the peak season, to support Jammu based traders. Recognizing the genuine concerns of the traders, he directed the

comprehensive list of issues and demands to the Minister. The issues included extension of existing leases, implementation of stringent quality checks on imported fruits to safeguard the interests of local growers, proper grading facilities for dry fruits particularly walnuts and enhancement of marketing infrastructure to improve the competitiveness of local produce.

The Minister assured the association members that their concerns would be given due consideration, and necessary steps would be taken to address them in a time bound manner.

He stressed the importance of collaboration between the government and stakeholders to create an enabling environment for the horticulture sector to thrive.

During his visit to the Fruit Mandi, Narwal, the Minister took comprehensive stock of arrangements and facilities available to the traders.

The Minister assured all possible support to fruit growers and traders, ensuring their issues are resolved.



Distt admin B'la to organise orientation cum training prog for Haj pilgrims

Baramulla: District Administration Baramulla will organize an Orientation cum Training Programme for selected Haj Pilgrims of Haj-2025 to provide proper guidance and information to the pilgrims.

The first phase will be held on 15th February 2025 at 10:00 AM at Jamia Hamdania Masjid Sharief Kunzer for pilgrims from Pattan, Khoie, Wagoora, Kreeeri, Singhpora, Tangmarg, Kunzer, and Karhama tehsils. The second phase is scheduled for 17th February 2025 at 10:00 AM at Masjid-e-Baitul Mukarram, Baramulla for the pilgrims from Baramulla, Boniyar, Wagoora, Dangiwaicha, Rohama, Sopore, Watergam, Zaingeer, Dangarpore, and Uri tehsils.

The District Administration Baramulla urges selected Haj pilgrims to attend the training at their respective venues on the scheduled dates and time. The programme has been organized to provide essential guidance and ensure a smooth and well-coordinated pilgrimage.

Dir Agri Kashmir inaugurates seminar on "Scientific Beekeeping"

Srinagar: A two days seminar on "Scientific Beekeeping" being organised by Agriculture Production and Farmer's Welfare Department Kashmir was inaugurated by Director Agriculture Kashmir Mohammad Ilyas Khateeb today at Kashmir Haat Srinagar.

The two days seminar is sponsored by National Bee Board Under National Bee Keeping and Honey Mission (NBHM). The seminar was attended by Beekeepers, Farmers, Stakeholders, Students and Unemployed youth.

While addressing the event Dir said that the program is aimed to promote latest trends and technologies in the field of apiculture besides financial assistance schemes for farmers.

He highlighted the significance of beekeeping in enhancing the farm productivity and sustenance of rural livelihoods.

On the occasion, farmers were informed about financial incentives, including 80% subsidy on beekeeping units, aimed at bolstering the sector in the region.

The program will continue tomorrow with training sessions on colony management, honey harvesting and disease prevention techniques for the participants.

Deputy Director Agriculture central Waheed-U- Rehmaan, Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar Manohar Lal Sharma and other officers were also present in the programme.

DC Shopian inaugurates 2-day seminar on Bee Keeping

Shopian: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today inaugurated a two-day seminar on bee-keeping at Meeting Hall, Mini-Secretariat, which is being organised by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shopian.

The Seminar highlighted the significance of Bee-keeping in enhancing agricultural productivity through pollination besides offering additional income sources such as honey, wax and breeding stock. Speaking on the occasion, DC urged concerned officers to ensure the benefits of all the schemes for apiculture development including HADP reach to the potential farmers. He also assured full support for initiatives that encourage sustainable apiculture and rural entrepreneurship.

Experts on the occasion, emphasized on creating awareness and providing training in bee-keeping to youth & farmers for sustainable agriculture and economic development.

ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, CAO, Farooq Ahmad, KVK head, Zaffar Ahmed, concerned officers and officials besides progressive farmers attended the programme.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of key Centrally Sponsored Schemes

Kulgam: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a comprehensive meeting with officers from various departments to review the progress made under several key centrally sponsored schemes and programmes. During the meeting, he reviewed Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), Mission Indradanush, PM-JAY, PM- UJWALA, PM-Sawa-Nidhi, PM-Mutru Vandana Yojana, PM- Vishwa Karma, PM- Mudra, PM- Poshan and KCC. On the occasion, DC emphasized for achieving 100% saturation in all the schemes and programmes. He directed the officers to meet the weekly targets to reach out the left out households so that all eligible beneficiaries are covered by the end of February. While reviewing the progress of schemes, he interacted with the beneficiaries to know their on ground experience regarding the implementation of scheme in the district. The importance of inter-departmental collaboration, timely reporting, and rigorous monitoring was also underlined to ensure efficient implementation and to meet the desired outcomes. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Zahid Sajjad, Assistant Commissioner Development Syed Naseer, District Programme Officer, General Manager DIC, CEO, CHO, CAO, Executive Engineer of Jalal Shakti, AD CAPD, AD Handloom and other officers from various departments.

Animal Husbandry Deptt dispels misconceptions regarding Pet Health Management in Kashmir

Srinagar: Following concerns raised by a clipped segment from a recent local social media podcast featuring Dr. S. Altaf Gilani, Superintendent of the Central Veterinary Hospital, the Animal Husbandry Department has issued a clarification regarding pet health and management in the Kashmir Valley to dispel misconceptions and provide accurate information to pet owners.

AHD maintains that increasing trend of pet ownership in the region necessitates greater public awareness of responsible pet management including a clear understanding of the responsibilities associated with pet ownership and a commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of animals.

The department emphasizes the critical importance of mandatory deworming and vaccination for pets, the department said in a clarification issued today.

These preventative measures are essential for safeguarding animal health and preventing zoonotic diseases—those transmissible from animals to humans, the department said in clarification.

Maintaining pet hygiene through regular grooming, cleanliness, and veterinary check-ups is also crucial for both animal and public health.

"Highlighting the "One Health" concept, recognizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. Responsible pet management and proper veterinary care contribute to a healthier community.

The One Health approach encourages collaboration across sectors, including veterinary medicine, public health, and environmental science, to address health challenges comprehensively."

Dr. Anwar Hussain Nagoo, Media Liaison Officer, along with officers from the Central Veterinary Hospital, reiterated the importance of pet owners staying informed about best practices in pet care. This knowledge is vital for mitigating risks associated with zoonotic diseases and fostering a safe environment for both animals and the community. The department assures the public that pets are safe to keep when mandatory guidelines from the Animal Husbandry Department are followed.

DC Pulwama reviews progress of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission

Pulwama: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Pulwama Dr. Basharat Qayoom today conducted an extensive review of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in District Pulwama.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of borewells under various schemes linked to JJM, Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance (WQMS) and various Water Supply Schemes (WSS).

Emphasizing the importance of timely execution, the DC urged the teams to ensure the completion of all ongoing projects by or before March 2025.

The meeting focused on achieving the Har Ghar Jal certification, reinforcing provision

informed that out of the total 25 and 21 borewells in their respective areas, 18 and 17 schemes have been

coverage has a pending completion of less than 13%, reflecting significant progress in the initiative.

Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division South Awantipora also briefed regarding the status of electro-mechanical works and the installation of electric substations.

Dr. Qayoom emphasized the need to expedite the remaining work to ensure an uninterrupted water supply for the residents of Pulwama. He outlined strict timelines for compliance and highlighted the importance of interdepartmental coordination to achieve this goal.



DC Ganderbal discusses action plan for SANJY-2025



Ganderbal: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a high-level meeting in the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat to discuss the comprehensive action plan for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2025.

The meeting commenced with a review of the action plan submitted by concerned departments, with a strong emphasis on enhancing the quality of services and infrastructure.

Discussions revolved around key focus areas, including improvements in health services, sanitation, flood protection measures, parking facilities, mobile connectivity, transport services, contingency plans, and other vital

infrastructure to ensure a seamless Yatra experience for pilgrims.

Heads of Departments provided updates on their respective preparations and ongoing projects related to SANJY-2025. The DDC underscored the importance of submitting finalized work plans timely, to enable the timely execution of development works critical to the successful conduct of the Yatra.

Officers shared their insights and experiences from the previous year's Yatra, contributing valuable suggestions to further enhance the services provided to pilgrims.

The DDC assured immediate redressal of the issues raised by officers and issued specific directions to concerned departments to address them promptly.

The meeting was attended by SSP Ganderbal, Ragav S, Additional Deputy Commissioner Gulzar Ahmad, DFO Sindh Forest Division, SDM Kangan, Executive Engineers from various departments, and officers from other line departments.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian inaugurates 2-day seminar on Bee Keeping

Shopian: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today inaugurated a two-day seminar on bee-keeping at Meeting Hall, Mini-Secretariat, which is being organised by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shopian.

The Seminar highlighted the significance of Bee-keeping in enhancing agricultural productivity through pollination besides offering additional income sources such as honey, wax and breeding stock.

Speaking on the occasion, DC urged concerned officers to ensure the benefits of all the schemes for apiculture development including HADP reach to the potential farmers.

He also assured full support for initiatives that encourage sustainable apiculture and rural entrepreneurship.

Experts on the occasion, emphasized on creating awareness and providing training in bee-keeping to youth & farmers for sustainable agriculture and economic development.

ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, CAO, Farooq Ahmad, KVK head, Zaffar Ahmed, concerned officers and officials besides progressive farmers attended the programme.

DC Srinagar reviews implementation of action plan for Electronic, Biomedical, Plastic Waste Management

SRINAGAR: To review the implementation of action plan for management of E-Waste, Biomedical Waste & Plastic Waste in District, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at meeting Hall of

Officer, SMC, Divisional Forest Officer, all Tehsildars, all Block Development Officers, Field Inspector and other concerned.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner discussed the threadbare various matter including implementation of Action plan for E-Waste,

issued directions to all the members of DLC to submit the action taken report as per the guidelines of National Green Tribunal (NGT).

DC also instructed for conducting inspections of the places to ensure proper management of E-Waste, Biomedical Waste and Plastic Waste in the District.

He also stressed on ensuring no single use plastic below 120 microns is used in the District.

He instructed to intensify the enforcement activities and making earnest efforts to check and seize banned polythene, if found to be not in conformity with the existing rules.

DC also asked the officers to ensure proper monitoring of collection and disposal of single use plastic and other kind of Wastes in their respective jurisdictions.

Bhat underscored that environment protection is pivotal in the interest of our future generations, and urged upon all to contribute for better and healthy future for next generations and protect bio diversity.



the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Planning Officer, SDM West, SDM East, Secretary SMC, Chief Medical Officer, Officers of Pollution Control Committee, Deputy Controller Enforcement Legal Metrology, Chief Enforcement

Biomedical Waste & Plastic Waste Management, rules, violations, capacity building of officials, members of District Level Committee to oversee the implementation of the E-Waste, Biomedical Waste & Plastic Waste Management.

On the occasion, the DC

26 cases approved for relief under SDRF norms in Kupwara

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan who is also Chairperson, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the cases pertaining to property damage in the district.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure submission of joint assessment report of damaged infrastructure in their jurisdiction within a week's time and also ascertain the reason of the incident and duly mention it in the report so that relief is disbursed

among the affected families without any delay.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed case wise review of all the claims pertaining to property and livestock damages in the district.

During the meeting, a total of 27 cases relating to the landslide/flood, earthquake and fire incidents were put forth for discussion, out of which 26 cases were approved for grant of relief under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms and 1 case was deferred for revisit.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kupwara, ACR, Tehsildars and other concerned officers.

Kashmir University VC reviews progress of UPSC residential coaching program at CCPC

Srinagar: Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir (KU), Prof. Nilofer Khan, chaired a review meeting of the UPSC-Civil Services Examination (CSE) Residential Coaching Program at the varsity's Centre for Career Planning and Counselling (CCPC) to assess its progress since its launch in October 2024.

Currently, 61 students are enrolled at CCPC, benefiting from expert mentorship and a structured learning environment. The coaching is provided in collaboration with top-tier academies to ensure high-quality preparation.

Prof. Khan lauded the program's rapid progress, stating, "This initiative has transformed into a model ecosystem for civil services preparation. The University remains committed to equipping aspirants with the best resources, mentorship, and academic support."

The University's first-ever dedicated UPSC



residential coaching program provides free coaching,

accommodation, study materials, and mock tests to selected candidates.

The meeting was attended by Dean Research KU, Prof. Mohd. Sultan Bhat, Joint Registrar Budget and Creation KU, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed Zarri, and Chief Accounts Officer KU Mrs. Zafira Bashir.

Director CCPC KU, Prof. Nazir Ahmed Dar, along with Dr. Yahya Bakhtiyar and Ms. Fatima Ali, faculty at CCPC, presented a detailed report highlighting the program's achievements and future plans.

The review highlighted the program's structured mentorship framework, periodic mock tests, and personalized career strategies.

The initiative reflects the varsity's commitment to providing accessible and high-quality coaching to aspiring civil servants.

ADDING MILK TO COFFEE

May Offer Anti-inflammatory Benefits

Researchers from Denmark found that antioxidants in coffee bind with milk proteins which may double the drink's anti-inflammatory benefits.

Polyphenols are antioxidant compounds that help protect cells from damage. They are found in fruits, vegetables, and drinks, including coffee, tea, wine, and beer.

However, the body does not easily absorb polyphenols, and few studies have examined what occurs when these antioxidants react with other molecules, such as proteins.

Previous studies by researchers from the Department of Food Science and the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at the University of Copenhagen found that polyphenols bind to proteins in milk, meat, and beer. Still, the scientists weren't sure if this binding action impacted how polyphenols work in the body.

For this study, published on January 30 in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, the scientists investigated the anti-inflammatory effects of combining proteins with polyphenols. To conduct the study, the researchers induced artificial inflammation in immune cells. Then, they treated one group of cells with polyphenols that had reacted with an amino acid and another group with polyphenols alone. In addition, a third control group of cells did not receive either the polyphenols or polyphenol/amino acid combination.

The team discovered that immune cells treated with the amino acid/polyphenol combination were twice as effective at fighting inflammation than cells dosed with polyphenols alone.

The study authors note that they plan to explore these findings further using animal studies. Then, they hope to secure funding to continue investigating the



effects in humans.



“Previous studies by researchers from the Department of Food Science and the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at the University of Copenhagen found that polyphenols bind to proteins in milk, meat, and beer. Still, the scientists weren’t sure if this binding action impacted how polyphenols work in the body.”

Testing this effect in coffee

Because coffee beans are rich in polyphenols and milk is rich in proteins, another new study tested whether the polyphenols bind to protein molecules when milk is added to coffee.

According to Professor Marianne Nissen Lund, from the Department of Food Science at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, their results showed that reactions

between polyphenols and proteins also occurred in coffee with milk.

Because of these results, the study authors suggest that drinking coffee with milk may offer better anti-inflammatory effects than consuming coffee without milk.

“I can imagine that something similar happens in, for example, a meat dish with vegetables or a smoothie, if you make sure to add some protein like milk or yogurt,” Lund said in a news release.

She explained, “Because humans do not absorb that much polyphenol, many researchers are studying how to encapsulate polyphenols in protein structures which improve their absorption in the body. This strategy has the added advantage of enhancing the anti-inflammatory effects of polyphenols.”

ULTRA-PROCESSED ‘JUNK’ FOODS MAY INCREASE CANCER RISK

Ultra-processed foods, such as frozen dinners, processed meats, and sweetened breakfast cereals, are cheap and convenient. But, according to a new study, these inexpensive and easy-to-prepare foods might

foods was associated with an increased risk of cancer — especially ovarian and brain cancer. The scientists also found that eating a high amount of ultra-processed foods increases the risk of dying from cancer overall.

To conduct the research, scientists from the

participants completed 24-hour dietary logs recording food items they consumed. The research team then followed up on the participants until the end of January 2021 to determine how many had developed one or more of 34 types of cancer.

15,921 individuals developed cancer, and 4009 cancer-related deaths occurred during the follow-up period.

On further examination, the team found that for every 10% increase in ultra-processed food consumption, there was a 2% rise in cancer incidences, with a 19% increase in ovarian cancer specifically. In addition, every 10% increase of ultra-processed food in a person's diet was associated with a 6% increased risk of overall cancer-related mortality. It was also associated with a 16% increase in breast cancer and a 30% increase in ovarian cancer-associated deaths.

Moreover, these associations between high ultra-processed food intake and cancer remained even after the scientists adjusted the data for socioeconomic, dietary, and behavioral factors such as smoking, physical activity, and alcohol consumption.

According to the study, these findings suggest that eating a high amount of ultra-processed foods is associated with a greater risk of overall cancer — specifically ovarian and brain cancer — and a heightened risk of overall, ovarian, and breast cancer-associated mortality.

However, the scientists note that because their study was observational, the results do not prove that ultra-processed foods cause cancer.

Still, the team suggests that reducing the consumption of ultra-processed foods may help lower the risks of all types of cancer and cancer-related mortality.

Lead senior author Dr. Eszter Vamos said in a news release. Although our study cannot prove causation, other available evidence shows that reducing ultra-processed foods in our diet could provide important health benefits. Further research is needed to confirm these findings and understand the best public health strategies to reduce the widespread presence and harms of ultra-processed foods in our diet.”



In addition, every 10% increase of ultra-processed food in a person’s diet was associated with a 6% increased risk of overall cancer-related mortality. It was also associated with a 16% increase in breast cancer and a 30% increase in ovarian cancer-associated deaths.

actually come at a cost to health and wellbeing. The study, published in eClinicalMedicine, found that higher consumption of ultra-processed

Imperial College London School of Public Health recruited 197,426 participants aged 40 to 69 from the UK Biobank. Between 2009 and 2012, the

After examining the data, the team found that ultra-processed foods comprised an average of 22.9% of the participant's total diets. In addition,

PC, PDP accuse NC Govt of endorsing Aug 5 2019 changes

SRINAGAR: Peoples Conference and Peoples Democratic Party on Tuesday accused the National Conference Government in Jammu and Kashmir of endorsing August 5, 2019 (abrogation of J&K's special status) changes.

Peoples Conference chairman Sajad Gani Lone and PDP legislator, Waheed Para, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)



—now we have a shocker,” he wrote. “The same Assembly is being used to bury any such chances of legal challenges in the future. The present assembly reflecting the will of people of J and K, will now be remembered as the endorser not the rejector of August 5 2019,” he added.

“The Assembly which we thought will be the voice of people of J and K is

reacted sharply over proposed deletion of references to J&K Constitution in business rules.

PC chairman and MLA Handwara, Sajad Lone wrote on X: “Endorsement of draft proposal prepared by Assembly secretariat regarding Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House will be the most explicit and unforgivable ratification of August 5, 2019 changes.”

“It will effectively end once and for all any scope for legal challenge to 5 August changes, in the future. While we dreamt of an unambiguous resolution by the new assembly rejecting 5 August 2019, and that becoming a reference point in any future legal challenge

now a shameless rubber stamp of the perpetrators of August 5. The ruling NC led government purposely constituted a Committee which had 6 NC members and 2 BJP members. There was no one from the Kashmir based opposition parties or MLAs,” Lone wrote.

“This committee endorses all changes made on 5 August 2019. By virtue of this draft— they even take away references to J&K Constitution and bills governing permanent residents from the Rules. Such a cruel joke at the expense of people of Kashmir,” he said.

“Let me briefly summarise the NC BJP covert agreement to endorse and normalise 5 August 2019. First they

script the context. NC starts the “all are BJP” discourse. Second, the BJP mysteriously behaves in a manner which endorses that discourse. The discourse is strengthened and then elections are announced. While the people of J and K to some extent subscribe to the “all others are BJP” discourse, the agencies led by a retired old war horse in uninterrupted engagement with the NC from the last 3 years, ensures total compliance of the agencies in favour of NC,” he wrote.

“This 42 seat lottery is a gift in order to endorse. The NC is the master endorser of all the changes that Delhi had brought in. Remember the older gifts in lieu of endorsements. 1975 gift of government with no MLAs to endorse erosions from 1950 to 1975. 1996 gift of government on a platter by conducting an exercise of selection in Kashmir and calling it election. That was to endorse the killings and acts of violence committed by the state. And now 2024 gift to endorse changes made on 5 August 2019. It is a curse to be an MLA of an assembly which will be remembered for endorsing 5 August,” Lone wrote.

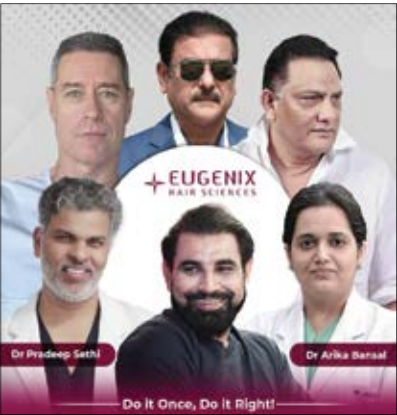
Meanwhile, PDP MLA Waheed Para posted a screenshot of a news report on X which read: “The modifications have been proposed to make the rules in sync with the constitutional changes effected on August 5, 2019,” a member of the committee wishing to remain anonymous said.

Eugenix Hair Sciences – The Premier Hair Transplant Destination for Cricket Icons & Celebrities

SRINAGAR: Eugenix Hair Sciences has cemented its position as the gold standard in hair restoration, trusted by an elite circle of cricketing legends, international athletes, and Bollywood luminaries. With state-of-the-art clinics in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bhubaneswar, Eugenix is the go-to destination for cutting-edge hair transplant solutions—seamlessly blending scientific expertise with artistic mastery.

Join the Legends – The Trusted Choice of Cricket's Elite

Cricketing icons Mohammed Shami, Ravi Shastri, Mohammed Azharuddin, and Michael Bevan have placed their trust in Eugenix, experiencing first hand the transformative power of its advanced hair transplant techniques. Renowned for delivering natural, seamless, and long-lasting results, Eugenix has become the undisputed choice for the



who's who of cricket and beyond.

Indian cricket star Mohammed Shami, who underwent a hair restoration procedure at Eugenix, shared,

“The procedure has reinvigorated my off-field life. Eugenix has exceeded my

expectations, and the results have been phenomenal.”

With 4,500+ grafts transplanted, Shami's success story underscores the clinic's ability to achieve exceptional results with minimal discomfort.

Former Indian cricketer and head coach Ravi Shastri affirms his trust in Eugenix, stating,

“When it comes to hair, all roads lead to Eugenix—nowhere else!”

His procedure resulted in an incredibly natural, age-appropriate look, reinforcing Eugenix's unrivalled expertise.

Similarly, Mohammed Azharuddin, former Indian cricket captain, lauded Eugenix for creating a flawless hairline, saying, I was initially hesitant, but Eugenix made the process incredibly smooth, and I'm thrilled with the results.”

HDFC Bank Parivartan Start-Up Grants to support over 50 start-ups with Rs 20 crore in FY25

SRINAGAR: HDFC Bank announced the launch of the eighth edition of its flagship Parivartan Start-up Grants programme. This year, 15+ incubators and accelerators have been selected and onboarded to support 50–60 start-ups working in the social impact space. The program will award grants of up to ₹50 lakh to selected start-ups, with a total programme budget of ₹20 crore.

IIT Madras, IIM Ahmedabad Ventures, Villgro, ICAR Pusa Krishi, IIT Guwahati



Bionest, ASPIRE – University of Hyderabad, IIM-Calcutta Innovation Park, i-Hub Gujarat,

Kerala Start-Up Mission, IFMR Catalyst AIC are among the incubators already shortlisted this year.

Over the next few months, these incubators will invite applications from social entrepreneurs across India. This initiative will culminate in a series of “Demo Day” events, showcasing start-ups to the Bank, investors, corporates, and media, ensuring greater visibility and opportunities for these ventures.

Continued From P1...

HM cuts

Jammu and Kashmir a terror free region.

The meeting on Wednesday, according to the sources, will also discuss the implementation of the Area Domination Plan and Zero Terror Plan.

It may be recalled that during the last security review meeting held in December last year, the Union Home Minister had directed all security agencies to continue working in a coordinated manner to eliminate terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the official data accessed by the KNO, Jammu and Kashmir in January 2025 recorded the lowest number of killings over the past two decades, with just 3 fatalities—1 security force personnel and 2 terrorists.

The authorities have been maintaining that there has been a significant decline in terrorist incidents, infiltration and recruitment of youth in terrorist organisations.

The heightened security vigilance in the Union Territory has contributed to maintaining law and order stability. “The Union Home Ministry has passed clear instructions to prevent any civilian or security forces personnel killings and has ordered large-scale operations against terrorists.”

CM Omar

Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that ahead of the Union Territory's budget, Omar Abdullah has decided to hold consultations with all MLAs, DDC chairpersons, and deputy commissioners.

To begin with, the CM will hold consultations with MLAs of four districts each on Wednesday and Thursday. “He will hold consultations with MLAs and DDC chairpersons of Anantnag, Budgam, Kathua, and Samba districts tomorrow and will hold similar meetings with legislators of Baramulla, Kulgam, Ramban, and Udhampur on Thursday,” a minister, wishing to remain anonymous, said.

He said these meetings are aimed at making the budget more inclusive and participatory. “These meetings are held to get inputs from MLAs about priority-sector works and ensure that the needs and aspirations of the people are reflected in the budget,” he said.

He added that these meetings are being held after MLAs identified priority—sector works to the tune of

Rs 40 crore in their respective constituencies. “The list of these priority-sector works has been submitted by DCs to the government,” he said.

It is worthwhile to mention that Jammu & Kashmir's budget will be presented in the Assembly next month. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also the Minister in-charge of the Finance Department, will present the budget.

2 Months

They expressed frustration over the slow pace of the investigation, saying the issue should have been treated as a health emergency and resolved on priority.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has questioned over 100 individuals but has not uncovered any new leads.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has ruled out infectious agents as the cause, shifting the focus of the investigation toward potential toxins. Experts from AIIMS Delhi and PGIMER Chandigarh have visited the affected area, collected samples, and are conducting analyses to identify possible toxic substances.

A top doctor informed KNO that all the patients at GMC Rajouri have recovered and all of them are off the atropine now.

He said that antidotes given to the affected patients have been effective, but authorities still lack conclusive evidence about the cause of the deaths and are awaiting Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) reports.

The medico said that authorities have narrowed down investigations on toxins like Aldicarb, Cadmium and other salts but official reports are yet to come.

“At least, we have found a solution in the form of antidote Atropine, which has given 100 percent results,” he said.

“Atropine is an antidote for organophosphorus poisoning, but surprisingly the typical features of organophosphorus poisoning were not there but based on treatment data analysis of those who survived in December with those who could not, atropine was given that helped to treat patients,” he added.

He said official reports are yet to come but they are expecting them this week.

Authorities continue to monitor the situation closely, and the village remains under strict surveillance to prevent further incidents.

Speaker-Led Panel

power to formulate new rules rests with Lieutenant

Governor Manoj Sinha, who must consult the Speaker before making final decisions.

The Rules Committee comprises legislators from various political parties include Mubarak Gul (NC) – Former Speaker, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami (CPI-M), Saifullah Mir (NC), Nizam-ud-Din Bhat (Congress) Pawan Kumar Gupta (BJP), Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi (NC) R.S. Pathania (BJP) Muzaffar Iqbal Khan (Independent).

The Speaker serves as the ex-officio chairman of the committee.

The committee is expected to finalize the revised Rules of Procedure before the Budget Session, beginning March 3, 2025. The session, anticipated to last until March 21, will include two days dedicated to private members' bills and resolutions, pending confirmation by the Business

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has formally summoned the J&K Legislative Assembly for its Budget Session, marking the first full-fledged budget under Omar Abdullah's government following the return of an elected administration after seven years of direct central rule.

“I, Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in the exercise of the powers conferred upon me under Section 18(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, do hereby summon the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly to meet at Jammu on Monday, the 3rd day of March 2025, at 10:00 AM.”

The LG is expected to address the Assembly on the first day, outlining the government's legislative priorities for the coming year.

If a majority of committee members approve the draft rules, they will be forwarded to LG Manoj Sinha for final approval. Once ratified, these changes will take effect in the upcoming Budget Session, shaping the future of legislative proceedings in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir Parts

Ahmad also said that the weather is expected to remain partly cloudy with generally dry from February 06 to 08 while fresh spells of light rain and snow is expected at isolated to scattered places on February 09.

From February 10-11, the weather would remain generally cloudy with the possibility of light rain and snow scattered to fairly widespread places.

Pertinently, the MeT had predicted back-to-back WDs in Jammu and Kashmir till February 05.

It is worth mentioning that Jammu and Kashmir had recorded a deficit rainfall of 87 per cent in the month of January as against the normal rainfall of 88.2 mm, the Union Territory has recorded a precipitation of just 11.5 mm only.

Moreover, the MeT has issued an advisory for tourists, travellers and transporters, asking them to follow administration and traffic advisory.

NOTICE

I, Altaf Ahmad Dar, son of Abdul Gaffar Dar, resident of Iddgh Wanganpora, S.R.Gunj, Srinagar, hereby notify that my name has been incorrectly mentioned as "Mohd Altaf" in my Aadhaar Card. I intend to correct my name to "Altaf Ahmad Dar" and request anyone who may have objections to file them in the office of the concerned department within 7 days from the publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after this period.

Over 5,000 km

1,328.34 crore in 2021-22, rupees 717 crore in 2022-23, and rupees 1,304.17 crore in 2023-24.

These funds, according to him, have contributed significantly to the progress made in rural road construction.

The total expenditure, including the state's share, reflected a consistent increase over the years. In 2021-22, the expenditure was rupees 1,485.28 crore, followed by rupees 1,114.78 crore in 2022-23, and rupees 1,256.96 crore in 2023-24.

Cervical Cancer

Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), which covers health insurance of Rs 5 lakh per family annually. Additionally, cancer treatment is available at various healthcare facilities, including district hospitals and specialized centers like AIIMS, with AMRIT Pharmacy stores providing cancer drugs at lower prices. Awareness campaigns on prevention and early detection are also being conducted nationwide.

Govt Committed

Director ASCOMS Jammu, Deans of different specialities, HoDs, doctors and researchers besides large number of medical and paramedical students were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo emphasised the urgent need for a multi-faceted approach to tackle the rising incidences of cancer in Jammu and Kashmir. She highlighted the significance of early detection, advanced treatment infrastructure and public awareness, in reducing the burden of cancer.

“Cancer is not just a medical challenge; it is a social and economic crisis that affects thousands of families across J&K. We must work collectively to enhance screening programs, promote preventive healthcare, and ensure equitable access to modern treatment facilities across urban and rural areas for all patients,” Sakeena maintained.

She also lauded the efforts of healthcare

professionals, doctors and paramedics, acknowledging their role in changing the healthcare landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. She called for greater government support, increased funding for cancer research and expansion of palliative care services.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Farooq Abdullah spoke about the role of medical professionals for the society. He highlighted that the medical is very noble profession which touches numerous lives.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Health and Medical Education, spoke in length about the affect on families going through the burden of cancer. He also called for organising maximum awareness camps in schools and colleges so that people are made abreast about the cancer disease and myths associated with it.

Noted Oncologist, Dr. Sameer Kaul, while speaking on the occasion, spoke about importance of organising such kind of conferences. He highlighted the need for research and development in medical Colleges for the greater good of society.

Principal GMC, in his welcome address, gave a brief about the evolution of GMC Jammu.

The conference saw insightful deliberations on early diagnosis, role of technology in cancer care, government initiatives and J&K's cancer policy.

After Omar

have a structured discussion on its future strategy, cautioning that internal rifts could harm its larger goal.

It's in place to mention here that in January this year when Omar had stated that the constituents of the alliance were treading different paths, Dr Farooq Abdullah had put his weight behind the INDIA bloc saying,

“The alliance is not just about contesting elections. It is about strengthening India and eliminating hatred. Those who believe this alliance exists only for parliamentary elections are mistaken. The alliance is permanent -- it is for every day and every moment.”

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216020001652, which is Registered in the name of Ab Rashid Bhat, S/O Mohd Afzal Bhat. Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Anaytullah Bhat, S/O Ab Rahim Bhat, 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.

Anaytullah Bhat.
S/O Ab Rahim Bhat.
R/O. Khospora Watapora Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the Birth certificate of my Daughter issued by Municipal Council Bandipora, her name has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Sabia Noor, while as her actual and correct name is Subiya Noor. 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 Municipal council Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Noor Mohammad Karnie.
F/O. Subiya Noor.
R/O Mader Ward NO: 10, Bandipora.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF HORTICULTURE, KASHMIR

Rajbagh-Srinagar opposite Presentation Convent School - 190008

TELE-FAX: 01943100919 website: http://hortikashmir.gov.in

Email: Kashmirhorticulture@gmail.com

Subject:- e-Tender Approval for Purchase of Chemicals.

Approval is hereby accorded to the purchase below detailed Chemical items for its use and utilization in the Soil Laboratory at Rajbagh Srinagar, through JK e-Tender Portal.

Chemicals

S.No	Name of the Chemical	Qty./No.
01	Sulphuric Acid (Essay 98%)	50 L
02	Ammonium Molybdate AR Grade	100 gm
03	Ammonium Acetate (Cryst. Pure)	05 kg
04	Orthophosphoric Acid (Essay 85%)	40 L
05	Ferrous Ammonium Sulphate (AR)	20 kg
06	Whatman Filter Paper (Rectangular Grade-1, ("460 x 570 mm")	06 Boxes (100 Sheets each)
07	Surgical Gloves	10 Box
08	Face Mask	10 Box

Terms and Conditions:

1.

All the bids/quoted rates should be inclusive of all taxes. The rates should be written in words and in figures clearly.

2.

The items should be of reputed brands only.

3.

This Directorate reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in full or part thereof, if deemed justified, without assigning any reason thereof.

4.

The successful bidder/tenderer shall have to complete the supply within the period as may be specified in the supply order as per specifications mentioned in tender documents.

5.

The material/goods supplied by the successful supplier shall be subject to verification both quantitatively and qualitatively by the Committee of officers to be nominated by this directorate

6.

Rates should be quoted FOR Rajbagh, Srinagar.

(Dispute if any, arising about the contract shall be within the jurisdiction of Hon'ble Courts of Srinagar.)

DIPK-11531/24

Sd/- (Z.A.Bhat)

DIRECTOR

If he keeps getting out like this, Samson's mind will play tricks with him: R Ashwin

Former India spinner R Ashwin has expressed concern at T20 batting star Sanju Samson's lack of form, saying his mind will start "playing tricks" with him if he does not find a way out of the current rut. The 30-year-old Samson, who will be out of action for a month due to a fracture in his right index finger, endured a terrible series against England's express pace and short balls. He managed a mere 51 runs in the five-match contest that India won 4-1. "...if Sanju keeps getting dismissed like this, as a batter, the mind will be playing tricks," Ashwin said. "(It will force you to think) the bowler is bowling a certain way and I am getting dismissed like this, is the bowler bowling well or do I have a shortcoming? Will I be able to adapt? Once so many questions arises, then it becomes difficult," he explained. Ashwin also advised out-of-form skipper Suryakumar Yadav to change his approach to come out of the form slump that he is also enduring right now. Suryakumar could only manage 28 runs in the just-concluded series against England. "I can understand it happening in one or two games, but it is quite surprising," Ashwin said on his Hindi YouTube channel. "...when you know you are being attacked in a certain way, there should be a different approach to that ball or just avoid it and force the bowler to bowl at your strengths." "Suryakumar Yadav is a very experienced guy. He has a lot of ability. One can say he brought about a change of guard in Indian

batting, showing the way. But the time has come for him to take some time out and change his approach," he added. Ashwin said Samson, who has blown hot and cold throughout his run in international cricket, should take responsive actions to ensure that doubts don't creep into his subconscious mind. "But Ashwin cited legendary Sachin Tendulkar's advice during last week's BCCI Naman Awards that players should use their subconscious mind too. "Sachin Tendulkar also said during the (BCCI) awards function that (you must) do so



many repetitions that you allow the subconscious mind to take over," he said. "But if so much confusion comes over on the subconscious mind, then batting becomes a different ball game altogether." Ashwin said failing in T20 cricket is not the problem but the manner of dismissals can be a cause of concern. "As an experienced cricketer I will not focus on someone failing in T20 cricket but on how is he getting out, what is his decision making is like, I will focus on that. They are good enough players to find solutions and they will think over it," he said. Ashwin said a player is always rated on his ability to handle pressure in the shortest formats. "T20 cricket is (all) about failures, you are bound to fail. You will not be able to play percentage cricket. As per this, I will think (about) the player who can handle pressure and can deliver wins," he said. "Those players can be given long rope because T20 cricket is not about consistency, it's about excitement, putting fear in the opposition." Ashwin also expressed surprise at England's approach across formats, saying they are losing more than they are winning due to their aggressive strategy. "...if I was England, I would be really worried, because they play Bazball, one-day and T20 cricket... all that is fine," he said. "One can talk about it as much as they want, sometimes they pull off wins too. But I think they are losing more than they are winning so it is a serious matter of concern."

"T20 cricket is (all) about failures, you are bound to fail. You will not be able to play percentage cricket. As per this, I will think (about) the player who can handle pressure and can deliver wins," he said.

I wanted to lead MI Cape Town the way I led Afghanistan in T20WC: Rashid

Rashid Khan said he wanted to lead MI Cape Town in the same manner as he led Afghanistan during the T20 World Cup and credited his improved leadership this season to his familiarity with the team, which helped secure a spot in the SA20 playoffs. After two forgettable seasons, MI Cape Town now sits at the top of the points table with 30 points from nine matches ahead of the playoffs. The 26-year-old led Afghanistan to a historic victory over Australia in the Super Eight stage of the T20 World Cup 2024, following which the team made it to the semifinals. "I wanted to lead MI Cape Town the way I led Afghanistan in the T20 World Cup. Coach Robbie Peterson also encouraged me in this direction," Rashid, who captained MI Cape Town in the first season but missed out last season due to injury, said in a media interaction ahead of the first qualifier against Paarl Royals. "I think this year I knew the players quite well and spent more time with them so I had the knowledge about which bowler to use at what point of time. "The most important thing was to have clear communication with the players. To have what is happening in the mind of the captain and to know what is going through in their minds. I think I could have done better in the first year but you just keep learning." Rashid noted that every player has taken responsibility and risen to the occasion, marking a major shift from the previous seasons. "In the last couple of years, we played good cricket, but it was just about that we haven't finished well. You know, we haven't hit those points where it was a matter of going to the result," he said. "I feel like this year we just have done that well. It's an overall team effort. Whoever got the opportunity, they have contributed for the team. Even if it's like he goes for one ball or two balls to hit there, he did it for the team." Praising the contribution from the bowlers, Rashid said: "Everyone has been contributing with the ball as well. So, I feel like this year, this is a massive difference. The biggest thing is we're enjoying ourselves. You know, we're having fun and we're not much thinking about what the result will be." Rashid emphasized the importance of having a leadership group in the team.



Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra
Dil Se Bana Hai

