

# Kashmir Convener



Kapil Sibal asks govt to spell out vision for AI, steps to tackle US tariff war

P/02



'45 Cr Devotees Took Dip In Sangam In 29 Days', Adityanath Rubbishes Opposition's 'VIP Bathing' Jab

P/02



India will become developed country in 2047: Praful Patel in RS

P/02

## PM Modi To Flag Off Vande Bharat Train To Kashmir On Feb 17

● Final preparations underway for the grand inauguration of the train service



Umair Gull Ganaie

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to inaugurate a train to

Kashmir on February 1 marking a significant milestone in the completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project. Reports said that the

Prime Minister will flag off the specially designed Vande Bharat Express from the Jammu division while the arrangements are being made for the historic inauguration event.

"After years of hard work, dedication, and engineering marvels, the dream of Kashmir's rail connectivity has finally come true with the Vande Bharat Express set to run on this route," they said.

Railway officials have been directed to make necessary preparations for the grand launch of the rail service on February 17. Authorities have decided that no leave will be sanctioned for the employees in the coming week to ensure the smooth execution of the event. As part of the USBRL project, Indian Railways conducted multiple successful trial runs

>>SEE ON P-7

## Army Captain Among 2 Soldiers Killed In IED Blast Near LoC



Yogesh

JAMMU: An Army Captain was among two soldiers killed in an IED blast near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Akhnoor sector here on Tuesday, officials said.

"Suspected Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast reported in #Laleali in Akhnoor Sector during a fence patrol, resulting in two fatalities. Own

troops are dominating the area and search operations are underway," the White Knight Corps, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) wrote on X.

"The White Knight Corps salutes and pays tribute to the supreme sacrifice of two gallant soldiers," it said. "Lt Gen M V Suchindra Kumar Army

>>SEE ON P-7



No Question of Alliance with NC: BJP Rules Out Ties with Omar Govt

Mubashir Aalam Wani

Srinagar, Feb 11: Leader of the opposition in the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Kumar Sharma, on Tuesday said there are no chances of the BJP allying with the National Conference (NC) to form a government in J&K. Sharma emphasized that the party would seek answers from the government over issues faced by the common masses in the Union Territory.

In an exclusive chat with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Sharma asserted that there is no question of forming a government with the NC. "We are in opposition, and we will play a role of constructive opposition and seek answers from the Omar Abdullah-led government over issues faced by the general public," said Sharma, who is considered close to top BJP leadership.

Sharma, who played a key role in the BJP's best-ever performance in the J&K polls in 2024 and campaigned for the party in the Delhi polls, accused Omar Abdullah of being non-serious about governance issues. "The common masses are suffering due to the apathetic attitude of the NC-led government. There is nobody on the ground to listen to the woes and sufferings of common people in Jammu, Doda-Kishtwar, or even in Kashmir. CM Omar Abdullah is always in picnicking mode. Hosting lunches and dinners in five-star hotels of Delhi will not ease the sufferings of common masses of Jammu & Kashmir," he said, adding that corruption has started to take roots in government departments.

Sharma said that the BJP will leave no stone unturned to raise the issues of common masses within and outside the Assembly. "We will hold the government accountable over

>>SEE ON P-7

## Wular Lake Provides 60Pc Of Kashmir's Fish Supply, Lifeline To 12,000 Fishermen

● Illegal fishing in lake to face strict action: Assistant Director Fisheries

Waris Fayaz

SRINAGAR: Wular Lake, located between the towns of Sopore and Bandipora in north Kashmir, plays a crucial role in meeting the valley's fish consumption needs, supplying nearly 60% of the fish while supporting over 12,000 registered fishermen,

fishing community as Wular Lake continues to supply the majority of the valley's fish, he added.

The officer revealed that nearly 60% of the fish consumed in the valley comes from Wular Lake. He said over 12,000 registered fishermen depend on the lake for their livelihoods.

To support these fishermen, the



officials said.

Assistant Director of Fisheries Showkat Ahmad Bhat, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that though the fishermen generally experience a stable catch, this year's natural disaster caused a decline in the lake's water level. However, this has not impacted the

department has introduced various government schemes, including a financial aid programme providing Rs 3,000 per year, Bhat said, adding that further assistance is also available through other initiatives for registered fishermen. The Assistant Director said the government

>>SEE ON P-7

Terror-Free J&K a Priority

## Amit Shah Directs Paramilitary Forces to Intensify Operations

● Orders 'Zero Terror Plan' for J&K, Chairs security review meeting with BSF, CRPF top brass

Convener News Desk

NEW DELHI: Reiterating that dismantling the entire terror ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir is the priority of PM Modi led government, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday directed the paramilitary forces to take strong steps for 'zero terror plan' and 'zero infiltration' in the Union Territory.

In continuation of the high level meetings with Indian Army and J&K Police held on February 4 and 5, the Union Home Minister today chaired another security review meeting vis-à-vis J&K.

The meeting, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), was attended by the Union Home Secretary, Director (IB), Director Generals of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Border Security Force (BSF) and other senior officers.

While addressing the meeting Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Central

Government is committed to 'Terror free Jammu & Kashmir'.

He emphasized the role of paramilitary to achieve the target of terror free J&K.

Shah directed all security agencies

vigil, strengthening the border grid and use of advanced technologies for surveillance and border guarding.

He directed CRPF to continue with the synergy with Indian Army and J&K



to remain alert and continue work in a synergies mode to eliminate terrorism in J&K. He assured that all the resources will be made available in this endeavor.

The Home Minister directed the BSF to ensure zero infiltration from the international borders by adopting strong

Police. He reviewed the winter action plan of CRPF and directed to ensure there are no gaps in area domination.

Shah also instructed the paramilitary forces to focus on the Jammu region and dominate the heights.

## J&K gets Rs 350 cr for Panchayat infra, digital push in 3 years: Gol

Raja Syed Rather

SRINAGAR: The Government of India has approved Rs 350.56 crore for strengthen-

ing Panchayat infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh over the past three years, reveals the official data.

The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) has allocated significant funds to J&K for rural governance and digital infrastructure development.

According to the data a total of Rs 290.23 crore has been sanctioned for the construc-

tion of Panchayat Bhawans, while Rs 164.9 crore has been allocated for Common Service Centres (CSCs). "Additionally, Rs 6.31 crore has been earmarked for providing computers to enhance digital governance in the region," it states.

"In the fiscal year 2022-23, Rs 104.6 crore was sanctioned for Gram Panchayat buildings in J&K. This was followed by allocations of Rs 100 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 85.63 crore

in 2024-25. For CSC the allocation remained consistent at Rs 55.3 crore in both 2022-23 and 2023-24, with a slight reduction to Rs 54.3 crore in 2024-25," the data reveals.

In comparison, Ladakh received a smaller allocation of Rs 0.6 crore in 2024-25 for the construction of Gram Panchayat Bhawans. Over the last three years, the region has been allocated

>>SEE ON P-7

## Higher Reaches Receive Fresh Snowfall, Light Rains Lash Plains

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: For the second straight day, the higher reaches in north and central Kashmir areas received fresh snowfall while the plains witnessed light rainfall on Tuesday.

The fresh snowfall occurred at multiple places today including Sonamarg and other areas. The light rains lashed the plains

>>SEE ON P-7



## REC Limited Sanctions ₹2,147 Crore Loan for Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project in J&K

KC News Network

JAMMU: REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) and a leading non-banking financial company (NBFC) under the Ministry of Power, has signed an agreement with Chenab Valley Power Project Limited (CVPL) to provide a term loan of ₹2147.51 crore for the development and construction of the Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project in Jammu & Kashmir.

An official spokesperson of REC told Kashmir Convener



that the loan will be utilized for the development and construction of the greenfield Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project, a 1000MW capacity hydroelectric project with a total estimated

cost of ₹12,669.67 crore. The project is being developed on the Marusadar River, located in the Kishtwar District of Jammu & Kashmir.

>>SEE ON P-7

## CM Omar Abdullah Visits Sonamarg, Assesses Fire Damage

● Expresses solidarity with affected shopkeepers, sanctions assistance under CMRF

KC News Network

SONAMARG (GANDERBAL): In the wake of the devastating fire incident that struck the old market Sonamarg recently, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the affected site to take stock of the damage and express solidarity with the affected shopkeepers.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Kangan Mian Mehar Ali and Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Jatin Kishore. During his visit, the Chief



Minister interacted with members of the Sonamarg Market Association, extending his sympathies and assuring them of the government's full support.

He reiterated his government's commitment to assisting the affected traders and

>>SEE ON P-7



# Kapil Sibal asks govt to spell out vision for AI, steps to tackle US tariff war

**NEW DELHI:** Independent Rajya Sabha member Kapil Sibal on Tuesday asked the government to spell out its vision for artificial intelligence considering the impact that it can have on jobs in India while criticising the lack of an overall vision for the future in Union Budget 2025-26.

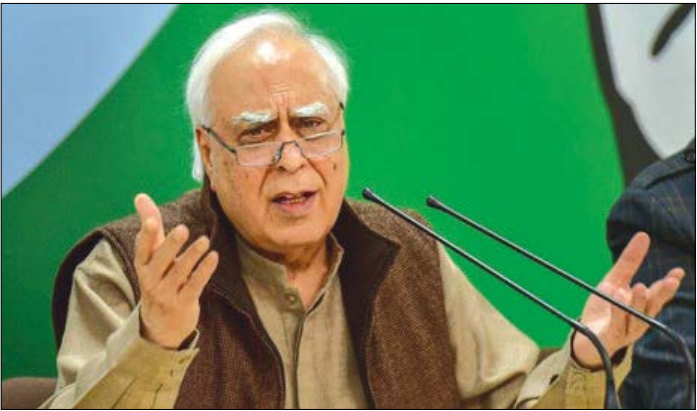
Participating in the discussion on the Budget, Sibal also asked about the preparedness of the government to meet external challenges in the wake of US President Donald Trump's tariff war.

"Today ChatGPT and DeepSeek are new technological revolution that are taking place in the world. Where are we? What plans do we have for the future? We expected the finance minister to tell us what we intend to do to deal with these challenges," he noted.

Sibal further said, "We can't afford to apply AI (artificial intelligence) to our systems because if we do we will lose jobs that we already have.

The result will be, where we have jobs we will lose jobs but at the same time we need AI because we can't be competitive in the world (without AI)." So, he asked, "What is the vision of this government for AI.

All that the finance minister said was that we are going to set up 100 centres of AI but first understand what artificial intelligence is and what it



can do." Citing the Economic Survey, Sibal said, "The Economic Advisor has said that as far as AI is concerned it can only work in certain sectors in the economy. It won't work in rural India. That is his suggestion. Nothing about it (in the Budget)." Referring to Trump announcing tariffs on steel imports in the US, Sibal said, "We have certain external challenges that we have to face."

He further said, "While the Prime Minister, who is going to America and will certainly have a dialogue with Trump, there are some imponderables that may happen over time and as a country, we have to be prepared for it." Giving a hypothetical example of the US imposing a 5-10 per cent tariff on

software exports from India, he said, "What is the consequence on our software industry? Phenomenal.

We will be non-competitive. How do we deal with that problem? These are the issues I expected the finance minister to deal with in the course of the Budget presentation."

Lamenting the lack of vision for the future in the Budget, Sibal said, "When a new government comes to power naturally people of India expect that government to give us a vision of what it intends to do in the next five years.

This government has already had ten years and the delivery mechanism has been both slow and inconsistent." He further said, "We were hoping that

after the eighth (Budget) presentation of the Finance Minister, we will get some vision as to what the government intends to do.

Before you do that you have to identify what are the challenges in front of us then only we will know what will we do going forward." Sibal said the biggest challenges ahead for India are educating its children and giving them quality education while making them healthy.

The country cannot achieve its 'Viksit Bharat' goal without educated children "entering the mainstream", he said adding till the child is healthy and educated he can't empower himself.

Hitting out at the government for not easing regulations, Sibal said, "What did the Economic Advisor say in the Economic Survey?

He said rollback regulations, do you see a bit of that in this Budget? No, no rollback of regulations." Sibal further noted that the Economic Advisor also said "Get out of the way, but you are coming in the way, you are always in the way." Referring to the Economic Advisor's statement to change "operating procedures", Sibal said, "What are these operating procedures? In India 'operating procedure is that a person is guilty till he is proven innocent', that's what the Economic Survey says.

He (Economic Advisor) said the change that to a person is innocent till he is proved guilty." Explaining why the Economic Advisor said this to the government, Sibal said, "Because he knows that (with) the kind of principle that you are following, our big industry is running away.

Our high-net-worth individuals are leaving this country because when you proceed against them you proceed on the basis that you are guilty till you are proved innocent.

That is a very dangerous trend that's happening in this country." Participating in the discussion, Sanjay Yadav (BJD) said the Budget is not a blueprint for economic growth but to fool people and it is "not progressive but regressive" which has ignored youth, farmer, unemployed and students of the country.

He also said there is a misconception that Bihar has been preferred in the Budget but the reality is that the state got nothing and the same announcements have been made since 2015.

Meda Raghunatha Reddy (YSRCP) said the shifting of the tax burden from corporates to individuals needs to be looked at and individual income tax rate must be reduced from 30 per cent to 23 per cent. He lamented that while corporate profits reached 15-year high, wage growth has lagged.

## India will become developed country in 2047: Praful Patel in RS

**NEW DELHI:** Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MP Praful Patel on Tuesday said while earlier to give 'roti, kapda and makan' was the essence of political and economic discourse, people are today talking about a confident, self-reliant and a developed India.



Participating in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the president's address in the Rajya Sabha, Patel said India is no longer a third world country but a developing nation and it will become a developed country by 2047.

Complementing Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for delivering a historic budget, Patel said that India has become the fifth largest economy and it will become the third largest economy in a very short span. Referring to the US president's 'Make America Great Again' slogan, Patel said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been saying since 2014 that India is on a new trajectory with programmes like 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

## Copies Of Constitution Signed By Its Framers With 22 Miniatures, Amendments Authentic: Dhankhar

**NEW DELHI:** Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday said the signed copy of the Constitution by its framers carrying 22 miniatures is the only authentic copy

and severe action taken," Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said in the House. The Chairman was responding to the issue raised by BJP MP Radha Mohan Das Agrawal during the Zero

that the publishers should publish the Constitution keeping in view the spirit of the framers.

Nadda said the copies of Constitution being published by publishers do not have the illustrations.

He further said the government will ensure publishers publish copies depicting spirit of Constitution and only those are available in the market.

The Chairman later said this was an extremely serious issue as the 22 illustrations carry the depiction of India's 5,000 year old tradition and heritage.

"A very valid issue has come to the attention of the Council of States. Dr Radha Mohan Das Agarwal has rightly pointed out that the act of omission or commission, either on our iPads or any book, without carrying the 22 miniatures of the Constitution of which Dr B R Ambedkar is the architect and signed by our founding fathers.

"And the only variation. The only change that can take place in the Indian Constitution can emanate only from the Indian Parliament and any change emanating from the Indian Parliament duly signed by the President must invariably find mention in the Indian Constitution, irrespective of any intervention from the judiciary or otherwise," he said.

Raising the issue, Agarwal had pointed out that the 22 illustrations included pictures of Ram, Krishna, Buddha, Mahavir, Samrat Vikramaditya, Lakshmi Bai, Shivaji and Mahatma Gandhi, but they have been removed. (Agencies)

## RG Kar case: Cal HC says corruption in high places has serious impact on public confidence

**KOLKATA:** Hearing an appeal by R G Kar Medical College's former principal Sandip Ghosh seeking postponement of framing of charges in a financial irregularities case, the Calcutta High Court on Tuesday observed that corruption



in high places has serious impact on public confidence in the affairs of the state.

The division bench presided by Justice Joymalaya Bagchi said that the special court, before which the trial in the case is to be heard, may fix a date prior to the next hearing of the matter at the high court.

Ghosh and four others were arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in a case of alleged financial irregularities at the medical establishment during his tenure as the principal of R G Kar Medical College and Hospital.

Holding that the allegations are very serious, the division bench, also comprising Justice Gaurang Kanth, said that it was informed that the respondent accused persons are in judicial remand at present.

"Corruption in high places has serious impact on public confidence in the affairs of the state," the bench observed.



and can only include amendments by Parliament, and the same should be promulgated in the country.

Any violation should be taken seriously by the government and severe action taken, he added.

"I have no doubt and I am categorical, the Constitution signed by the founding fathers of the Constitution, carrying 22 miniatures, is the only authentic one and it can include amendments by the Parliament. If there is any change effected by judiciary or any institution, it is not acceptable to this House.

"I will appeal to the leader of the House to ensure that in the country, only the authentic version of the Indian Constitution be promulgated. Any violation of this should be taken quite seriously by the government

Hour in the House that 22 illustrations are missing in most copies of the Constitution sold in the country today.

Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge sought to raise an issue, but was not allowed to speak further. He alleged that the BJP was unnecessarily raising the issue to create a controversy to defame B R Ambedkar.

Later, the Congress members staged a walkout from the House.

Leader of the House J P Nadda wondered what objection does the Congress have on the issue and they should have supported it.

"It is unfortunate that the Congress leader is trying to seek advantage of the issue by making it political by alleging that attempts are being made to defame Ambedkar and this should be expunged," he said, adding

## '45 Cr Devotees Took Dip In Sangam In 29 Days', Adityanath Rubbishes Opposition's 'VIP Bathing' Jab

**LUCKNOW:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said that some people are trying to spread confusion by linking the Maha Kumbh to VIP bathing, but the truth is that it is a confluence of harmony and faith where devotees join hands by removing the barriers of caste, religion, language and region.

Addressing an event to mark the 57th death anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyay, Adityanath said, "Who are these people spreading negativity? These are the same people who took VIP treatment from the government throughout their lives and tried to pave a path for their future generations. These are people who stand against India and Sanatan Dharma by creating negativity and spreading false propaganda." The chief minister's remarks came amid opposition leaders accusing the Uttar Pradesh government of "mismanagement" and "VIP culture" after at least 30 devotees were killed in a pre-dawn stampede in Prayagraj on January 29.

To mark the occasion, Adityanath paid floral tributes to Upadhyay and underlined the relevance of his thoughts, the Uttar Pradesh government said in a statement.



"In Prayagraj, 45 crore devotees have taken the dip of faith in the Sangam in 29 days, which is historic. Other than India and China, no country in the world has a population of 45 crore. What can be bigger than 45 crore devotees coming to take a dip in a temporary city? Some people are trying to spread confusion by linking it to VIP bathing, but the truth is that Maha Kumbh is a confluence of harmony and faith, where all devotees join together by eliminating the discriminations of

caste, religion, language and region." Upadhyay was the founder-member of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh — the forerunner of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) — and pioneer of Antyodaya and the integral humanism philosophy, the statement said.

Recalling his ideals, Adityanath said the welfare and development of the person sitting on the last rung of the society was the dream of Upadhyay.

"Today, the double-engine government of the BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi is fulfilling Pandit Upadhyay's dreams," Adityanath said.


"Pandit Upadhyay was of the opinion that the progress of any country should not be measured by the prosperity of the person standing on the top rung, but by the standard of living of the person standing on the last row," he said.

The chief minister also said that the previous governments gave big slogans to eradicate poverty but the number of poor continued to increase.

The Modi government, on the other hand, worked to empower the poor in the last 11 years, Adityanath said, mentioning schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission, and Ayushman Bharat.

He also said that whenever a new scheme is launched, some people make it a habit to find faults.

"When we give houses to four crore people, they say there are still many left. I want to tell them that three crore more houses have been approved. Those who enjoyed VIP facilities earlier are the ones questioning the facilities being provided to the common people today," the chief minister said.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U.T.)  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**Machinery Division Kashmir, Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir.**  
| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | email: xenmds@gmail.com | website: www.medkashmir.org |

**Corrigendum 07**  
**For Date Extension.**

**Name of work: -** SITC & ITC of sprinkler irrigation System including HDPE pipe/LLDPE pipeline /DG Set/Horizontal pumping Unit including allied fittings for Saffron Crop cultivated area at Bore well No. 79 under implementation of National Mission on Saffron

**Reference:** This office e-NIT No: - MDSK/TS /2024-25/89 Date:24-12-2024  
(Tender ID: 2024\_PWDJK\_268833\_1)

Due to no response, the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT are hereby extended as under: -

| S.No. | Description                                  | Previous Dates        | Extended Dates        |
|-------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 01.   | Last date of downloading/ submission of bids | 10-02-2025 upto 06:55 | 17-02-2025 upto 06:55 |
| 02.   | Date of opening of bids online               | 11-02-2025 at 02:00PM | 18-02-2025 at 02:00PM |

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

**DIPK-11839/24**

Sd/  
Technical officer with Executive Engineer  
Machinery Division, Kashmir.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

**Office Of The Executive Engineer**  
**Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.**  
**Ground Water Division Srinagar**  
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.  
E-mail:- phgwd@yahoo.com, Tel./Fax No:- 0194-2411285

**Extension Notice 2nd**


Subject: Construction of 200mm dia Production Well by ODEX Method at Kasnard Pannard Sangnard Well No. 2 District Anantnag.  
Reference: This office e-NIT No.51-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./10291-303, dated: 08-01-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025\_PHE\_269914\_2.  
Due to "No Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 11-02-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

| S.No. | Item                         | Fresh Date                |
|-------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.    | Period of submission of bids | 25-02-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM |
| 2.    | Date of opening of tenders   | 26-02-2025 11:00 AM       |

NOTE:  
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endst: nos.  
No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./11927-39  
Dated: 11-02-2025

**DIPK-11840/24**

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**  
**Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.**  
**Ground Water Division Srinagar.**



Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U.T.)  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**Machinery Division Kashmir, Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir.**  
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**Corrigendum 07**  
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**Name of work: -** SITC & ITC of sprinkler irrigation System including HDPE pipe/LLDPE pipeline /DG Set/Horizontal pumping Unit including allied fittings for Saffron Crop cultivated area at Bore well No. 79 under implementation of National Mission on Saffron

**Reference:** This office e-NIT No: - MDSK/TS /2024-25/89 Date:24-12-2024  
(Tender ID: 2024\_PWDJK\_268833\_1)

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| S.No. | Description                                  | Previous Dates        | Extended Dates        |
|-------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 01.   | Last date of downloading/ submission of bids | 10-02-2025 upto 06:55 | 17-02-2025 upto 06:55 |
| 02.   | Date of opening of bids online               | 11-02-2025 at 02:00PM | 18-02-2025 at 02:00PM |

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

**DIPK-11844/24**

Sd/  
Technical officer with Executive Engineer  
Machinery Division, Kashmir.



## 102 Wetlands Identified in Bandipora, Demarcation to Proceed for 98 Sites

**BANDIPORA:**Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri who is also Chairman District Wetland Management Units, on Tuesday convened a comprehensive meeting to discuss the strategy for demarcating wetland sites across the district.

On the occasion, the DC stressed on the verification of wetland sites, addressing challenges, and ensuring the effective implementation of the demarcation process.

During the meeting, it was revealed that there are 102 wetlands in the district, out of which four sites have an area of less than 2.5 hectares and will be removed from the list. The remaining 98 sites, with areas above 2.5 hectares, will proceed with the demarcation process.

During the meeting, it was finalized that demarcation of wetlands under forest land will be managed by the Forest Department under the



supervision of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Bandipora. He will verify these sites, compare them with satellite images, and submit a report.

During the meeting, it was also highlighted that some wetland sites fall under other districts, which requires revision and rectification.

While reviewing the list of wetland sites, the DC directed the Pollution Control Board to send a list of wetland sites to the concerned Tehsildars, who will verify the sites based on satellite data.

Further, four teams, including representatives from Irriga-

tion, Fisheries, Agriculture, and Water Conservation departments, will be formed to carry out the demarcation in areas outside the forest and will be led by Tehsildars from Bandipora, Sumbal, Ajas, Hajin, and Gurez.

It was decided that for forest sites, a dedicated forest team will be constituted to manage the demarcation process.

Deputy Commissioner urged all concerned officers to work diligently towards the demarcation of wetland sites and achieve the set targets.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad wani ; SDM Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad; District Officer Pollution Control Committee Irshad Ahmad; Tehsildar Bandipora Firdous Ahmad Qadri, and other concerned officials from various departments.

## DC Bandipora Flags Off Silkworm Farmers for an Exposure Tour

**BANDIPORA:**The Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Tuesday flagged off a group of 40 silkworm rearers (farmers) for an exposure tour.

The exposure tour is aimed at providing participants with hands-on experience and practical insights into the latest advancements in sericulture.

District Sericulture Officer Bandipora apprised the Deputy Commissioner that during the exposure tour the farmers will visit key sericulture centers, including the Temperate Sericulture Research Institute Mirgund, Basic Seed Station Mirgund, and the P4 Basic Seed Station Manasbal.

He informed that the participating farmers had previously attended a 03-day skill Development Programme under HADP.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner M.A.Qadri said that the exposure tour will offer an opportunity to witness modern sericulture practices and technologies that could be applied to enhance productivity and equip farmers with essential skills to improve their silkworm rearing practices.

He emphasized the importance of exposure tours, stating that such visits provide valuable first-hand experience and practical knowledge to the farmers besides highlighting the role of these initiatives in empowering the farmers particularly youth to improve their livelihoods and contribute to the growth of the sericulture sector.



## National Tobacco Control Programme: DHSK organises awareness workshop at Bandipora

**BANDIPORA:** In an effort to promote public health and raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco consumption, the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, in collaboration with the District

and promoting a healthier environment.

On the occasion, Dr. Mohammad Naser, State Programme Coordinator for NTCP, spoke about the prohibition of electronic cigarettes under the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA) and emphasized the role of various stakeholders in curbing tobacco use.

Dr. Syma Siddiq, Divisional Coordinator Kashmir, discussed the provisions of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) 2003, which regulates the sale, use, and advertisement of tobacco products while as District Epidemiologist Dr. Nabeel, Nodal Officer NTCP, provided valuable insights into the health risks associated with tobacco use.

Er. Zakir Hussain, State Programme Associate NTCP, deliberated on TOFIE and Tobacco Monitor App, innovative tool designed to track tobacco consumption patterns and promote cessation.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Umair, Medical Officer ATF Bandipora, focused on tobacco cessation strategies, encouraging participants to take proactive steps towards leading healthier lives.

Among others the workshop was attended by Block Medical Officer (BMO) Bandipora, Designated Officer for Food Safety, District Officers, Naib Tehsildars, Police Officers, officials from various departments, and other concerned stakeholders.

## Together for a better internet: Bandipora Admin Organizes Awareness Workshop on Safer Internet Day

**BANDIPORA:** The District Administration Bandipora on Tuesday organised an awareness workshop on the occasion of Safer Internet Day to promote safe and responsible internet usage.



on various internet safety practices and raise awareness about the importance of cyber hygiene.

Addressing the participants Additional Deputy Commissioner Zaffar Husson Shawl, emphasized the importance of careful and conscious internet usage. He encouraged the participants to stay informed and adopt best practices to safeguard their personal information and online activities besides also highlighting the various aspects of responsible digital behavior. He emphasized that the digital age presents both opportunities and risks, and it is essential for everyone to understand how to navigate the online world securely and responsibly.

On the occasion, Network Engineer NIC Bandipora Faisal Manzoor provided an insightful presentation, focusing on the essential aspects of internet safety, common cyber threats, and practical steps to avoid them.

He highlighted key issues such as financial fraud, lottery scams, and investment fraud besides emphasizing the importance of being vigilant when using social media platforms.

Network Engineer Faisal Manzoor also explained effective mechanisms to report cybercrimes and stressed the need for proper cybersecurity measures to protect individuals and organizations from online risks.

The event was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, and was attended by PO ICDS Yaar Ali Khan, ACD Irfan Bahadur, DTO Sheikh Aabid Manzoor, Network Engineer NIC Aaqib Bashir Mir, Network Engineer NIC Sheikh Ubaid ur Rehman besides officers and officials from various departments. The workshop was aimed to educate participants

## Khyber Cement Honored as ‘Most Impactful Cement Brand of Kashmir’ at Big Impact Awards 2025

**SRINAGAR:** Khyber Cement has once again reinforced its position as a leader in Jammu & Kashmir's in-

tion, reinforcing its reputation as a brand that not only constructs buildings but also fosters progress in

initiatives, community development, or maintaining the highest quality standards, we remain dedicated to



dustrial sector by securing the prestigious 'Most Impactful Cement Brand of Kashmir' award at the Big Impact Awards 2025. The grand ceremony, hosted by BIG FM on February 7 at Hotel Radisson Blu in Jammu, was graced by several distinguished guests, including J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, alongside prominent industry figures and changemakers from diverse sectors.

The award acknowledges Khyber Cement's remarkable contributions since its establishment in 1983, recognizing its consistent delivery of high-quality cement and its unwavering dedication to the socio-economic development of the region. Over the years, the company has emerged as a pioneer in sustainability, community welfare, and innova-

Jammu & Kashmir.

Umar Trambo, Director of Corporate & Strategy at Khyber Cement, expressed his gratitude upon receiving the accolade. "This award is a testament to the relentless efforts and commitment of the entire Khyber Cement team. We don't just build structures; we shape dreams and communities. This recognition motivates us to continue pushing boundaries and contributing to the region's development," he stated.

Echoing these sentiments, Wasim Ahmed Khan, Chief of Sales & Customer Relations, emphasized the company's commitment to creating a meaningful impact. "Khyber Cement has always focused on delivering value beyond just cement. Whether through sustainability

building a better future for Kashmir," he remarked.

This latest honor adds another milestone to Khyber Cement's legacy, reaffirming its role as a driving force behind Kashmir's progress. From championing road safety campaigns to spearheading environmental conservation efforts, the company continues to stand as a symbol of resilience, responsibility, and innovation.

The Big Impact Awards 2025 celebrated excellence across multiple industries, including automotive, real estate, healthcare, education, and hospitality, further cementing Khyber Cement's stature as a key player in Jammu & Kashmir's industrial and economic landscape. [KNT]

## Kashmiri Shawl Seller Attacked, Looted in Punjab

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association on Tuesday said that a Kashmiri shawl seller was attacked in Kapurthala district in Punjab, by a group of miscreants. The victim has been identified as Fareed Ahmad Bajad, a Kashmiri shawl seller from Karpora, Kupwara. He was brutally thrashed, punched, slapped, and dragged. In addition to the physical assault, his belongings—including shawls worth lakhs of rupees and cash—were looted in this horrifying incident.

Following the attack, the National Spokesperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association, Farhat Riyaz, said that the association's National Convenor, Nasir Khuehami, had taken up the matter with the Punjab Government, urging strict action against the perpetrators. Khuehami spoke with Punjab Chief Secretary K.A.P. Sinha and SSP Kapurthala Gaurav Toora, pressing for immediate intervention in the case.

In response, the Chief Secretary assured Khuehami that necessary instructions had been issued to ensure swift action. He emphasized that the culprits would face appropriate legal consequences. "The safety and security of Kashmiri students and shawl sellers remain a top priority," Khuehami quoted the Chief Secretary as saying.

Khuehami highlighted that Kashmiri shawl sellers, who have long contributed to the local economy and become an integral part of the social fabric, are now living in fear and insecurity. This marks the seventh such incident in the past 45 days, forming a disturbing pattern of violence and intimidation across Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Punjab.

"The alarming trend of targeting Kashmiri traders continues unabated, fostering an atmosphere of hatred and intimidation that threatens their businesses and livelihoods," Khuehami said. "This atmosphere of hostility has the potential to destroy their means of sustenance. He stressed the urgent need to address the growing hostility faced by Kashmiri traders outside the region. This recurring violence must be stopped to restore trust and safeguard the livelihoods of these traders," he added.

Responding to the concerns raised by Khuehami, SSP Kapurthala Gaurav Toora informed him that action is being taken against the miscreants involved. We have registered an FIR against the accused, and efforts are underway to bring them to justice, SSP Informed.

Through a phone call with Khuehami, SSP Kapurthala confirmed that an FIR (No. 0042 dated 11-02-2025) had been formally registered at City Police Station, Kapurthala, under various sections, including 304 of the BNS. He reassured Khuehami that "Kashmiris are our own people. Punjab is their second home, and they should always feel safe here. The culprits will be apprehended soon, as multiple teams are actively working on the case."

Khuehami expressed gratitude for the swift response of Punjab Chief Secretary K.A.P. Sinha and SSP Kapurthala Gaurav Toora in ensuring that a strong message is sent against such intolerable acts. The Association reiterated that Kashmiri shawl sellers have long been contributors to the local economy and an essential part of Punjab's social fabric.



## Sagar asks admin to facilitate Shab-e Baraat observance

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir National Conference General Secretary and MLA Khanyar Ali Muhammad Sagar Tuesday urged the divisional administration to ensure smooth observance of Shab-e-Baraat at all major shrines across Kashmir, especially at Asar-e-Sharif Hazratbal.

In a statement released from the party headquarters, Sagar emphasized the significance of Shab-e-Baraat and the surge in the number of devotees visiting shrines and mosques across Kashmir. He urged the administration to wake up to the situation and provide seamless facilities for the devotees. Sagar stressed the need for civil administration wings to collaborate with shrine and mosque managements to enhance the experience for devotees.

He called for adequate transport facilities to major shrines and Jamia Masjid, as well as ensuring proper electricity and water supply throughout the holy night. It is imperative that the administration takes immediate action to ensure a smooth and hassle-free experience for all devotees.

## Mehbooba Mufti Questions Omar Abdullah's Silence on Security Issues, Seeks Justice for Civilian Deaths

**SRINAGAR:** PDP President Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday questioned Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's reluctance to challenge the Home Minister on security-related concerns despite his party's political strength.

She emphasized that with 50 MLAs and MPs, Abdullah should be using his position to strongly raise issues affecting the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are political parties, not militants. It is our duty to stand with the people against injustice," Mehbooba said, asserting that political leaders must not shy away from holding the government accountable.

Expressing anguish over recent civilian deaths, she demanded strict punishment for those responsible for the killings of Waseem Mir of Boma Sopore and Makhaan Din of Billawar Kathua. Calling for swift action, she said such incidents deepen public distrust and must not be brushed aside.

Mehbooba also expressed surprise over the suspension of two Special Police Officers (SPOs) allegedly for refusing to spy on Itija Mufti, her daughter. She termed the action unjustified and demanded an immediate revocation of their suspension orders.



# Role of Vocational Education in Present Times

Ahmad Ayaz

In the rapidly evolving global economy, vocational education has emerged as a crucial pillar in the development of a skilled workforce. Unlike traditional academic education, which emphasizes theoretical knowledge, vocational education focuses on practical skills and hands-on training. This system prepares individuals for specific careers in industries such as healthcare, engineering, information technology, hospitality, and many more. In the present times, where technological advancements and economic shifts are redefining job markets, vocational education plays a significant role in bridging the skill gap, promoting employment, and driving economic growth.

### Importance of Vocational Education in the Modern World

**Addressing the Skill Gap:** One of the most pressing challenges faced by industries today is the mismatch between the skills required by employers and those possessed by job seekers. Traditional education often fails to equip students with job-ready skills. Vocational education fills this gap by offering specialized training in various fields, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared to meet industry demands.

**Enhancing Employment Opportunities:** Unemployment is a major concern in many countries, particularly among youth. A lack of practical skills is a key factor contributing to this issue. Vocational education provides individuals with the necessary expertise and certifications that make them employable. Many industries actively seek candidates with vocational training, as they require less on-the-job training and can contribute immediately to productivity.

**Promoting Entrepreneurship:** Vocational education not only prepares individuals for jobs but also empowers them to become entrepreneurs. With the right skills, individuals can start their own businesses in areas such as plumbing, carpentry, automotive repair, beauty services, and catering. This fosters economic self-sufficiency and creates additional employment opportunities within communities.

**Supporting Economic Growth:** A skilled workforce is the backbone of any economy. Vocational education contributes to economic growth by ensuring a steady supply of trained professionals in various sectors. Countries that emphasize vocational training often experience lower unemployment rates and higher productivity levels. Additionally, industries benefit from a workforce that can adapt to changing technological trends.

### Reducing Dropout Rates and Offering Alternative Career Paths

Not all students excel in traditional academic settings. Many find theoretical learning challenging and prefer practical, hands-on experiences. Vocational education provides an alternative to conventional schooling, reducing dropout rates and giving students the opportunity to pursue careers that align with their interests and strengths.

### Keeping Up with Technological Advancements

With rapid advancements in artificial intelligence, automation, and digital technology, industries require workers who can adapt to new tools and processes. Vocational education programs are designed to keep up with these changes, ensuring that students are trained in the latest technologies and methodologies relevant to their fields.



**Improving Social Mobility and Inclusion:** Vocational education provides opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to acquire skills and secure stable employment. This helps in bridging social and economic inequalities by giving

everyone, regardless of their financial or academic background, a chance to succeed.

**Inadequate Infrastructure:** Some vocational training institutes lack modern equipment and experienced trainers, leading to

educational institutions, and industries must work together to:

**Promote Awareness:** Campaigns should be conducted to change societal perceptions and highlight the benefits of vocational education.

**Modernize Curricula:** Vocational training should be updated regularly to include the latest industry trends and technological advancements.

**Increase Industry Collaboration:** Stronger ties between vocational institutions and industries can lead to internships, apprenticeships, and job placements.

**Improve Infrastructure:** Investment in modern training facilities and skilled trainers can improve the quality of vocational education.

**Encourage Government Support:** Policies that promote vocational education, such as funding programs, tax benefits for vocational training providers, and scholarship opportunities, should be implemented.

**Conclusion:** Vocational education is a vital component of modern education systems. It equips individuals with the necessary skills to secure employment, fosters economic growth, and adapts to the ever-changing demands of industries. In an era where practical skills are highly valued, vocational training provides a viable alternative to traditional academic paths. To maximize its potential, efforts must be made to change societal perceptions, modernize training programs, and strengthen collaborations between industries and educational institutions. By doing so, vocational education can continue to play a pivotal role in shaping a skilled and prosperous global workforce.

Author is a teacher in education department and can be mailed at [zahoorlone1979@gmail.com](mailto:zahoorlone1979@gmail.com)

Improving Social Mobility and Inclusion: Vocational education provides opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to acquire skills and secure stable employment. This helps in bridging social and economic inequalities by giving everyone, regardless of their financial or academic background, a chance to succeed.

everyone, regardless of their financial or academic background, a chance to succeed.

**Challenges Facing Vocational Education:** Despite its importance, vocational education faces several challenges, including: **Social Stigma:** Many people still perceive vocational education as inferior to traditional university degrees. This mindset discourages students from pursuing vocational training. **Limited Awareness:** In some regions, there is a lack of aware-

ness about the benefits and career opportunities offered by vocational education. **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Some vocational training institutes lack modern equipment and experienced trainers, leading to subpar education and training. **Industry Collaboration:** Strong partnerships between vocational institutions and industries are needed to ensure relevant and up-to-date training programs.

### Ways to Strengthen Vocational Education

To enhance the role of vocational education, governments,

# Alexander the Great and the Spread of Greek Culture



Yamin Mohammad Munshi

The Hellenistic period began with the death of Alexander the Great in 323 and ended in 30 BCE, when the Romans finally conquered Egypt. After Philip II was assassinated, Alexander led his army into Asia, and as a result, the world changed: It became Hellenistic, meaning "under the influence of Hellenic or Greek culture." In other words, thanks to Alexander the Great of Macedonia, the whole former Persian empire and territory far beyond it came under the influence of Greek civilization for the first time.

The Persian empire covered at least a million square miles, and estimates of its population are anywhere between 17 and 35 million. Fortunately, these figures were unknown to Alexander, or he might have thought twice before setting out—or not, being Alexander the Great. But he certainly wouldn't have revealed the size of the task ahead to his army.

And what was the objective? We don't know. To defeat the Persian king Darius III and leave things at that? No, because Alexander endeavored to reach "the ends of the world and the outer sea," hence his campaign into India, which almost broke the back of his army. Alexander had an incredible and inexhaustible appetite for the world and exotic, faraway places, and that in part seems to have been what motivated him to conquer the Persian empire.

More than half a century ago, interpretations of Alexander the Great were still largely based on the highly idealistic interpretation of the Scottish

ancient historian Sir William Woodthorpe Tarn, more popularly known as W. W. Tarn, who wrote a two-volume biography of Alexander and an influential chapter in the magisterial Cambridge Ancient History. He presents Alexander as "one of the supreme fertilizing forces of history" who had a vision of the unity of humankind.

The ancient historian Jeanne Reames, who has also written extensively on Alexander, amusingly accused Tarn of turning him into "a proper Scottish gentleman," just like himself. Tarn was particularly troubled by what he saw as false charges of homoeroticism laid against Alexander in ancient sources, which he characterized as "defamations."

What we can agree about, unequivocally, is that Alexander was a highly cultivated man who contributed like no one before or after him to the spread of a certain set of values rooted in Hellenic culture throughout the ancient world. Deliberately or unintentionally—consciously or unconsciously—therefore, Alexander did indeed change the world.

However, it's fanciful to suggest that he made it his mission to introduce Greek culture to those benighted people out East, as Tarn saw them, who had never set eyes on a Greek sculpture and had never heard any Greek spoken. It's true that Alexander was highly educated—Aristotle was his tutor—but it's doubtful that he saw himself as an emissary of Hellenic culture. He was a warrior first and foremost, and a rather good one at that. The Hellenization part seems to have taken place almost of its own accord. It's convention for ancient historians to tell the story of Alexander's conquests through Greek eyes because the only sources we have for his reign are Greek. But we need to give credit to the people he conquered, who embraced, without any imposition, the culture that he and his Panhellenic army represented. The people Alexander conquered, apart from the

Persians, were the inhabitants of modern-day Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Azerbaijan, Israel, Egypt, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kuwait, and India. Alexander didn't bring the total landmass of all of these countries under his control, but he impacted a fairly large slice of each.



When Alexander died in Babylon at the age of 32, after a reign that had lasted 12 years and eight months, he left an empire stretching from the Adriatic Sea in the west to the Punjab in the east. Much of it was held together very loosely, and parts of it had never come under Macedonian control at all. There were undoubtedly numerous pockets in this vast tract of land that had never heard of his name, as news, even important news, would not have penetrated the most rural districts.

Alexander is often faulted for not taking steps to solidify and unify his conquests. His most important initiative was to establish new cities, or at least settlements, organized on Greek lines in parts of the world that had never known Greek

culture before, of which the most important was Alexandria in Egypt.

People talk rather loosely of the "empire" of Alexander the Great, but it wasn't an empire in the traditionally accepted sense of the word, and it fragmented on his demise, when his "successors" took over and carved up his empire. The term successors describes Alexander's generals, who struggled among themselves to grab as much of his empire as each could.

Alexander did not appoint an heir, so when he died, a council was held at Babylon supposedly to solve the situation. It was decided to appoint his half brother, Philip Arrhidaeus, who was simple-minded, and his son Alexander, who was an infant, as coheirs to the empire as Philip III and Alexander IV. They were an unlikely pair, to put it mildly, and from the start, they were mere pawns in the struggle for power. The struggle for possession of Alexander's erstwhile empire lasted for nearly half a century to 275 BCE, when three stable kingdoms finally took root,

each with its own royal family: Macedonia under the Antigonids, southern Turkey and Syria under the Seleucids, and Egypt under the Ptolemies. All three were named for Alexander's generals: Antigonos, Seleucus, and Ptolemy. As a result, kingship became the system of government under which all Greeks and all peoples subject to the Greeks live in the Hellenistic world. However, kingship at root didn't mean ruling over a demarcated region or land; rather, it was a distinct honor accorded to an individual who controlled—often in some vague way but by virtue of military achievement—peoples or cities. In other words, kings imposed themselves on their subjects from above, apart from the Ptolemies, who inserted themselves

into the political and religious structures of Egypt that already supported kingship. The inception of the Hellenistic world sounded the political death knell of the Greek city-state. The polis continued to exist, but it was no longer self-governing in the way that it had been. In 314, Antigonos issued an edict declaring that the Greeks were to be "free, without garrisons, and self-governing," according to the historian Diodorus Siculus. But that was a lie. The Greek states were never to be free again. They would be ruled first by the Macedonians, then by the Romans, then by the Byzantines, and then by the Ottoman Turks, up until the 19th century. But no one ever told them that they had lost their freedom for good, and they continued to squabble among themselves—at least until the Romans arrived. And though the polis wasn't what it had been as an independent political entity, it took root from the mid-3rd century onward in places where it had never existed before.

The spread of Greek culture throughout the eastern Mediterranean was for the most part a peaceful infiltration. It did not obliterate local traditions but peacefully coexisted with them. The one culture it did clash with was Judaism, largely because of the incompatibility of a monotheistic system of belief with a polytheistic system of belief. It was also the case that Hellenism made more inroads into the urbanized centers than it did into rural areas. One of the principal ways in which Hellenization took root was through the spread of the Greek language. The dialect wasn't Athenian or Ionic or Doric or Aeolic. It was a unified dialect called Koine, which is short for koinē dialektos, meaning "common language." In other words, it became the lingua franca of the Hellenistic world.

Author is student of History at Kashmir University . He can be mailed at [munshiyamin5@gmail.com](mailto:munshiyamin5@gmail.com)



# Div Com reviews physical, financial status of works under SMRDA

**Srinagar:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri who is also Additional Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Metropolitan Regional Development Authority, (SMRDA), convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the physical & financial status of the works under SMRDA.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner, SMC; Additional Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Kulgam, Budgam & Bandipora; Vice Chairman, SDA, Chief Engineer PW (R&B), senior officers of I&FC, Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority, Town Planning, Soil & Water Conservation, SDM west, Srinagar, Sindh Forest



Division, Executive Engineers of R&B.

Div Com reviewed the status of developmental works at different sites in Srinagar, Kulgam, Bandipora & Budgam.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed all the executing agencies to speed up the pace of on going works on projects of public importance including community halls, parks, pathways, besides upgradation of Parimpora Bus Stand & Transport Nagar.

He also urged departments to process the bills for the release of funds to complete projects within stipulated time.

## Cyber security awareness prog organised at Shopian

**Shopian:** Cybersecurity awareness programmes under the theme "Together for a Better Internet" was organised today under the Chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner, Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone here at Mini-Secretariat.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC said that the event aimed to educate people about safe online practices, cyber threats and preventive measures to ensure a secure digital environment. ADDC further highlighted & emphasized the importance of creating a safer online environment through collaboration and awareness. "Together for a better internet" is associated with Safer Internet Day, observed globally on the second Tuesday of February each year.

On this occasion, Power-Point presentation was given by District Informatics Officers, Ishfaq Ahmed and his team focussing on the nature of cyber threats, cybercrime and cybersecurity and also promoting cybersecurity awareness.

Besides, various Cybersecurity awareness programmes were held at Town Hall Shopian and blocks of the district. The programmes were attended by officers and officials of various departments and SHGs.

## Comm Secy Tourism reviews wayside amenities along major highways in J&K

**JAMMU:** Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Yasha Mudgal, chaired a high level meeting at Civil Secretariat, Jammu, to review the status of wayside amenities and toilet facilities along major highways and roads across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was aimed to address the growing needs of both local commuters and the increasing number of tourists visiting the Union Territory.

Secretary, R&B, senior officers from NHAI, BRO, NHIDCL, R&B and the Tourism Department attended the meeting.

The meeting had detailed discussions on enhancing infrastructure to improve travel experiences and ensure seamless access to essential facilities along major routes.

The Commissioner Secretary asked the officers to expedite work progress on infrastructure improvements. She directed the

Beacon authorities to submit a location plan for wayside amenities within one month besides asking the NHAI to ensure that all non-starter amenities become functional by June 2026.

She tasked the NHIDCL with



developing a wayside amenity complex between Sonmarg Tunnel and Zojila Tunnel, with a priority project for a toilet complex in Sonmarg. She also asked for making the public conveniences at Qazigund, Marhama and Jhajar Kotli operational by April 2025. She directed to install new

signboards marking toilet facilities and indicating distances along highways to enhance visibility and accessibility.

The Commissioner Secretary laid special emphasis on improving amenities in key tourist destinations including Gulmarg, Sonmarg, Pahalgam, Patnitop, Sanasar, Bhaderwah and Doodpathri, where high quality wayside facilities are essential to accommodate increasing tourist footfall.

To facilitate this, the Chief Engineers of R&B have been assigned the responsibility of

preparing concept plans for toilet complexes and parking spaces at strategic locations.

Additionally, the R&B and Tourism Departments were asked to conduct a gap analysis to identify location specific requirements for new wayside amenities along major highways.

This will ensure a well-rounded infrastructure development plan that meets the evolving needs of both residents and visitors.

Emphasizing the importance of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir's economy, Yasha Mudgal reaffirmed the government's commitment towards enhancing travel experiences through modern and well-maintained facilities.

She asked the CEOs of Tourism Development Agencies to propose amenities only on encumbrance-free land, where all necessary approvals from the Forest Department can be availed well in time.

## SSP Traffic (Rural) Launch Special Drive on NH44, 60 Vehicles Challaned

**Bilal Habib**

**PAMPORE:** SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir Ravenderpal Singh along with DySP Idrees Ahmad launched a singh down against the violators, especially two-wheelers riding without helmets, overloading, rash driving, without driving license, stunt biking along Srinagar-Jammu highway near Chandhara Pampore area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district



on Monday. During the drive, Traffic Police officials executed 60 traffic challans against offenders driving in violation of the Motor Vehicles Act and seized several vehicles.

SSP Traffic Rural appealed to the masses to adhere to traffic laws, emphasizing the importance of addressing offenses related to excess passengers, over speeding, failure to wear helmets, and lack of proper documentation.

The drivers were counselled on the spot and advised to follow proper SOPs for safe and accident-free driving. Vehicle operators were also briefed to ply their respective vehicles within the prescribed speed limit and avoid overloading, rash and negligent, stunt-driving to ensure the safety of precious human lives.

Talking to Kashmir Convener, SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir, Ravenderpal Singh, said that today they conducted a drive in the NH44 Chandhara area of Pampore. During this operation, around 60 vehicles were challaned, and some were seized as per the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

He further mentioned that this is part of their outreach programme, and all DySP's, DTI's, and SO's have been instructed to conduct maximum drives in their jurisdictions. The aim is to create awareness among commuters and drivers, educating them about traffic laws and the correct way to follow them.

Singh emphasized that these awareness programmes yield positive results, and over the past two years, significant improvements have been observed. He believes that around 80% of people are now following the Motor Vehicles Act, although 20% still need to comply. Efforts will continue to ensure complete adherence to traffic laws.

Our efforts will continue to curb over-speeding and overloading, as these are the main factors that lead to accidents. We are working hard because only by controlling these issues can we succeed in ensuring road safety.

Additionally, we aim to utilize our team and public cooperation to achieve this goal. When these issues are effectively managed, families will be saved from tragic accidents that result in loss of life or serious injuries.

Our focus remains on reaching maximum townships where traffic is heavy, ensuring better regulation and awareness to prevent accidents.

He further told Kashmir Convener that in the coming days, schools will be reopening, and he strongly advises all drivers and school owners to keep their documentation complete as per the provisions and guidelines set by the Supreme Court.

He emphasized the importance of carrying all necessary documents and urged everyone to cooperate with the law. He stressed that students from KG to 12th grade are the future of society and should be taken care of properly. This can only happen if everyone follows traffic rules and regulations.

Additionally, he requested parents and drivers to ensure they carry their documents, including a valid driving license. He made it clear that no one will be allowed to drive without a driving license, and strict action will be taken against those found

## Commissioner Secretary HUDD reviews Swachhta Survekshan 2025 preparations

**JAMMU:** Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, chaired a high level meeting to review the preparations for Swachhta Survekshan 2025 here today.

Speaking about the Swachh Survekshan- a cleanliness survey among the Urban Local Bodies across the country, the Commissioner Secretary emphasised the importance of improving sanitation, waste management and citizen participation to achieve better rankings in the upcoming survey. She directed the concerned to implement innovative solutions for maintaining cleanliness and ensuring active involvement of local communities.

Dr. Devansh Yadav highlighted the steps already taken by JMC and other urban bodies to enhance sanitation infrastructure and public awareness. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to achieve cleaner and more sustainable urban environments across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Commissioner Secretary also reviewed the activities undertaken by the ULBs during the 'Swachhanttra' a pre-Republic Day Swachhata campaign campaign that was initiated by the Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD).

The campaign had

galvanized people from all walks of life to work towards cleaner and healthier urban

2.0 from Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Jammu/Kashmir & JMC/SMC.



environment.

During the campaign, over 1032 different sanitation and cleanliness activities were carried out in which the citizens participated with great enthusiasm and more than 3,50,00 people participated in different sanitation activities undertaken by the ULBs. Besides, more than 2,21,000 citizens took pledge for sustained sanitation & cleanliness. 188 Garbage Points were cleared and 52 water bodies were cleaned.

During the 'Swachhanttra', a painting competition on the theme "Importance of Waste Segregation", was organised for all 80 ULBs of J&K. 1040 people had participated in the painting competition reflecting the enthusiasm of people especially youth towards a Swachhata initiative.

26 best paintings were received by the Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban,

The Mission Director framed a panel of Judges which evaluated the 26 best painting received.

Aqsa from Doda, Sana Firdous from Shopian and Raksha Gurung from Jammu secured 1st, 2nd & 3rd positions respectively. The 1st, 2nd & 3rd prize winners will be given a cash prize of Rs. 50,000/-, Rs. 25,000/- & Rs. 10,000/- respectively.

Three consolation prizes were also given to Arjuman Zamin from Shopian, Sunaina Kapoor from Jammu & Mahi Manhas from Udhampur respectively.

The Commissioner Secretary stressed the need to engage more citizens in all such Swachhata initiatives to bring about measurable impact, fostering greater awareness and action within the community paving the way for a cleaner and healthier future.

## J&K GLTF Delegation Meets Dy CM, Highlights Key Issues



**Jammu:** A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir General Line Teachers' Forum (JKGLTF), jointly led by Provincial President Anver H. Wani and Neeraj Sharma, called on Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary at the Civil Secretariat on Tuesday.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener on Tuesday, Forum Spokesperson said the delegation apprised the Deputy CM of the pressing issues concerning General Line teachers across the Union Territory.

He said during the meeting, the Deputy CM gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them of his maximum possible support in addressing their concerns.

The issues listed in the charter of demands were discussed in detail, with the Deputy CM promising to take up the genuine concerns at the appropriate levels for redressal.

The delegation raised several key demands, including: Expedited promotions of teachers to Masters and Lecturers to curb stagnation, Reforms in the transfer policy and resolution of Annual Transfer Drive (ATD) loopholes, Rationalization of teaching posts based on Cluster Resource Planning (CRP) rather than the existing Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) system, Creation of additional Lecturer posts in subjects that were previously uncovered, Revocation of Government Order 469 of 2014, Resolution of pay anomalies related to 2009 and increment issues from 2019, Establishment of a Teachers' Welfare Fund to support educator and Granting of gazetted status to teachers who hold Postgraduate degrees or higher qualifications.

Spokesperson said Scores of teachers from across Jammu and Kashmir were part of the delegation, reflecting the widespread concerns of the teaching community.

The Publicity Wing of Jammu and Kashmir General Line Teachers' Forum expressed optimism that the government would take necessary steps to resolve these long-pending issues.

## DC Budgam reviews implementation of AMRUT 2.0 Water Supply projects for towns

**Budgam:** District Development Commissioner Budgam, (DDC) Akshay Labroo, today conducted review of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 water supply projects in the district.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were made on the progress of various approved schemes under AMRUT 2.0, highlighting key developments and challenges.

DDC assessed the status of projects across all urban areas of the district and emphasized the need for timely and efficient execution to ensure that every household receives safe and adequate drinking water.

It was noted that tenders for AMRUT 2.0 water supply projects have been evaluated for the towns of Budgam, Beerwah & Khansahib towns.

While tender is under technical evaluation for Magam town & DPRs are under preparation for Chadoora, and Charari-Sharief towns.

DC stressed the importance of expediting the implementation process while adhering to the prescribed guidelines. He urged all stakeholders to resolve any bottlenecks and ensure seamless execution of the projects.

DC also focused on strategies to address challenges faced during the implementation phase, with a focus on enhancing coordination among departments for smooth project completion.

He reaffirmed commitment to providing clean and safe drinking water to all urban households in Budgam district and directed officials to ensure swift execution of the projects under AMRUT 2.0.

## Police Crackdown on illegal Mining in Khrew, Seized 10 Vehicles, Arrest 10 Persons

**Bilal Habib**

**PAMPORE:** In a major operation against illegal mining, the Jammu and Kashmir Police seized ten vehicles including six heavy L&T machines and four tippers and arrested ten persons involved in illegal mining and transportation of minerals in the Khrew Pampore area of Police District Awantipora, police said on Tuesday.

The operation was carried out by a team of Police Station Khrew led by SHO Khrew Inspector Syed Mubarak under the supervision of SDPO Pampore Krishan Rattan against the illegal mining, extraction and transportation of minerals at Wuyan area of Khrew Pampore.

During the operation Police officials seized six heavy L&T machines bearing registration numbers 22SY2100000896, LG 922EZVRN 902686, 048104L122115, KMTPCO 48C9 4L1C 675, HYNDN633PE004646 and LNT 91N6-14180 and four tippers bearing registration numbers JK03-5327, JK04-7194, JK01L-9588 and JK 04- 0810.

Following the crackdown, case have been registered under FIR Numbers 08/2025, 09/2025 and 10/2025 under relevant sections of law in Police Station Khrew and further investigations are underway.

In recent months, Police District Awantipora has intensified its actions against illegal mining, seizing numerous vehicles, heavy machines and sand boats used for illegal mining, extraction, and transportation of raw materials illegally.

Officials said this proactive approach to curb illegal mining has been actively taken up by all Police Stations of the Police District Awantipora.



## Safer Internet Day awareness workshop held at Anantnag

**Anantnag:** A workshop on Safer Internet Day was successfully organized in Anantnag, aimed at raising awareness about digital safety and cyber threats. The event, held at the Town Hall, saw active participation from representatives of various district offices and Common Service Centers (CSCs).

The workshop featured a detailed session led by the District Informatics Officer (DIO) from NIC, who shared valuable insights into combating cyber threats and the importance of safeguarding sensitive data. The session covered topics such as online privacy, the dangers of cybercrime, and best practices for securing personal

and organizational data in the digital age. The initiative, part of ongoing efforts to promote Cyber Security and Digital Awareness, emphasized the need for a collaborative approach to ensure safer online experiences for all. It also highlighted how crucial it is for both government employees and citizens to stay informed and vigilant against the ever-evolving threats in the digital space. The event concluded with discussions on future steps to enhance cybersecurity measures at local levels, ultimately contributing to a Better Internet for everyone. Participants left the workshop with a renewed commitment to fostering a secure and responsible digital environment.

**Srinagar:** In connection with observance of Safer Internet Day 2025, District administration Srinagar organized a day long workshop on Cybersecurity Awareness here today.

Themed around "Together for a Better Internet" the workshop aimed to promote safe and responsible internet usage, particularly among children and young people, while addressing the growing challenges of cyber security.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while addressing the participants underscored the importance of digital safety and responsible online behaviour & also highlighted the increasing risks posed by cyber threats. He urged officials to maintain cyber hygiene and to adopt secure digital practices and remain vigilant against cybercrime. Dr Bilal stressed on the role of

government institutions and individuals in fostering a secure online environment.

He emphasized on promoting cyber security awareness to ensure a safer and more responsible digital future for citizens.



While commending NIC Srinagar and guest speakers for organizing the event to foster digital awareness among citizens, the DC reaffirmed the administration's commitment to strengthening cyber security measures and educating the public on responsible internet usage. He also emphasized the

need for regular cyber security awareness initiatives in the future.

On the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria highlighted the need for proactive cyber security awareness in today's digital landscape.

Cybercrime experts from the Police Department during the programme provided insights into emerging cyber threats, law enforcement strategies, and best practices for online security. Discussions covered key topics such as data protection, cyber hygiene and fraud prevention. The workshop included interactive discussions and real-life case studies, helping participants understand the evolving nature of cyber threats and effective ways to mitigate them. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the District Informatics Officer, NIC Srinagar, Syed Mujadid who acknowledged the contributions of guest speakers, and participants



# Cycling may improve mobility in patients with muscle degeneration: Study

A new study led by McMaster University has found that regular cycling can greatly improve mobility in patients with myotonic dystrophy (MD), which is a genetic disease that causes muscle degeneration.

The results of the study were published in the journal, 'Journal of Clinical Investigation'.

Senior author Mark Tarnopolsky said that cycling for 35 minutes three times a week for 12 weeks led to a 32 per cent increase in overall fitness in people with MD.

Patients who took part in the study also saw a 1.6-kilogram increase in their muscle mass and a two per cent reduction in body fat. They were also able to walk an extra 47 metres in six minutes when tested by researchers at the end of the 12-week trial.

Tarnopolsky's team recruited 11 patients with MD to examine how effective cycling was in restoring and maintaining their physical health. Researchers also studied the underlying molecular mechanisms through which exercise strengthens the skeletal muscles, which can be severely weakened by MD.

"Exercise really is medicine - we just need to get the message out," said Tarnopolsky, a professor of the departments of paediatrics and medicine at McMaster.

"Myotonic dystrophy is a progressive condition that will impair your mobility

“MD’s main symptoms include severe skeletal muscle atrophy, general muscle weakness, reduced lung capacity and impaired heart function. Other symptoms may include cataracts, endocrine disorders including diabetes and gastrointestinal disorders. Roughly 19,000 Canadians live with either MD or another type of muscular dystrophy, Tarnopolsky said

and can put you in a wheelchair. There is no cure for it and only regular exercise helps you achieve better function,” he added.

He also said that some patients with MD are even advised by their doctors not to exercise, for fear of making their condition worse, but that is now proven false.

The study authors said previous research on mouse models showed a range of similar physiological benefits from regular exercise.

Tarnopolsky said that MD is the most commonly diagnosed type of muscular

dystrophy in adults and the second most prevalent of all muscular dystrophies.

MD's main symptoms include severe skeletal muscle atrophy, general muscle weakness, reduced lung capacity and impaired heart function. Other symptoms may include cataracts, endocrine disorders including diabetes and gastrointestinal disorders. Roughly 19,000 Canadians live with either MD or another type of muscular dystrophy, Tarnopolsky said.

"MD itself is really a form of accelerated ageing," concluded Tarnopolsky.



Patients who took part in the study also saw a 1.6-kilogram increase in their muscle mass and a two per cent reduction in body fat. They were also able to walk an extra 47 metres in six minutes when tested by researchers at the end of the 12-week trial.



Despite being a crucial step of a haircare routine, people are often found omitting the conditioner application process. But can you really afford to skip a hair conditioner? Well, if you want healthy, soft, and smooth hair, you can't. Contrary to popular misconception, hair conditioners can work wonders on the hair if applied the right way. But carrying out an appropriate conditioning routine might not be as easy as it seems. Read on to know about some hair conditioning tips to maximize its effect.

**Hair conditioning tips**

Here are some effective hair conditioning tips to ensure smooth hair:

**Comb it out:** When applying a hair conditioner, comb your hair before and after applying the hair conditioner to separate the strands and detangle your hair. This can help ensure the seeping of the conditioner into the hair and maximise its benefits.

**Be mindful of your hair type:** Picking a hair conditioner that suits your hair type is extremely important if you want to bring out the best of your hair. For instance, if you have curly hair, choosing the right

conditioner can not only make your hair soft and smooth but can also help define your curls.

**Keep the hair damp:** Being a step that succeeds in shampooing, people often end up applying hair conditioners on dripping wet hair. No, we aren't asking you to sun-dry your hair before conditioning it but we are recommending keeping it damp. This will allow maximum absorption of the conditioner into the hair and prevent it from slipping away, as it would in dripping wet hair.

**Rinse thoroughly, but don't do it immediately:** After applying the hair conditioner, let it sit for a few minutes before rinsing it off. Make sure that you rinse it thoroughly to avoid sticky, oily hair. Also, as much as it's important to ensure that the conditioner stays in the hair long enough for the hair to absorb the goodness of it, it's equally important to not let it over-sit as it can result in oily, greasy hair.

**Avoid applying conditioner to your scalp:** Your conditioner is meant for your hair, not your scalp. Avoid applying conditioner to your scalp to prevent the hair from getting greasy and oily. This can also affect the volume of your hair.

## Hair conditioner: Conditioning tips to add to your haircare routine

“Be mindful of your hair type: Picking a hair conditioner that suits your hair type is extremely important if you want to bring out the best of your hair. For instance, if you have curly hair, choosing the right conditioner can not only make your hair soft and smooth but can also help define your curls.



8 convicts sentenced to capital punishment lodged in J&K: Govt tells LS

Sajid Raina

SRINAGAR: As many as eight convicts sentenced to capital punishment were lodged in Jammu and Kashmir's jails as of December 31, 2022, the Union government informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.



Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, while replying to a question in the House, provided data on death row prisoners across

the country but noted that the number of executions pending and mercy petitions filed are not centrally maintained.

Among Union Territories, Delhi has the highest number of capital punishment convicts at nine, followed closely by Jammu and Kashmir with eight.

The data places J&K among the lower end of the list compared to larger states like Uttar Pradesh, which tops with 95 convicts, and Gujarat, which has 49.

While J&K's numbers remain relatively low, the legal experts emphasize the complexity and delays in capital punishment cases due to prolonged legal battles and the appeal process—(KNO)

Director MeT also said that on February 17, the weather would remain generally dry while generally cloudy with possibility of light rain and snow is expected at isolated places on February 18 & 19—(KNO)

REC Limited

The formal signing ceremony took place on Tuesday at CVPPL's Corporate Office in Jammu (J&K) in the presence of Ramesh Mukhiya, Managing Director, CVPPL and Bhupesh Chandolia, Chief Project Manager (CPM), REC Limited, Regional Office Jammu along with other senior officials from both organizations.

Spokesperson said this strategic collaboration marks a significant milestone in the pursuit of sustainable energy development in the Jammu & Kashmir region. The Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project is expected to play a pivotal role in harnessing renewable energy resources, contributing to the region's energy security, and supporting India's clean energy transition. Previously, REC has signed an agreement in April 2024 with CVPPPL for financial assistance of ₹1869.265 Crore as Term Loan. The loan was for Development, Construction and Operation of Greenfield Kiru Hydro Electric Project (4 x 156 MW) on River Chenab located in Kishtwar District of Jammu & Kashmir.

CM Omar

ensuring swift measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

The CM later chaired a high-level meeting with the Sonamarg Market Association, attended by senior officials, including the DC, SSP, SDM Kangan, CEO Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) and other district officers.

The meeting focused on addressing the concerns of the traders, who put forth key demands such as immediate financial assistance, permission for building reconstruction and the establishment of a fire service station in Sonamarg.

Responding to these concerns, the Chief Minister emphasized that the reconstruction of shops must follow a well-

planned design, developed in consultation with all stakeholders, including the Tourism Department, District Administration, and SDA.

He assured that this approach would enhance safety and prevent such incidents in future. Highlighting the growing tourism influx in Sonamarg, especially after the opening of the tunnel,

the CM underscored the urgent need for a permanent fire service station in the area. He assured the traders that a permanent fire station would be established, with its location to be finalized in consultation with relevant stakeholders to ensure quick emergency response.

Furthermore, the Chief Minister announced that financial assistance under Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for the affected shops has been approved that would provide some succor to the affected persons during this difficult time.

INDIAWOOD 2025: 25 Years of Driving Innovation in Woodworking & Furniture Manufacturing

SRINAGAR : Marking a quarter-century of industry advancements & growth, INDIAWOOD 2025, the leading trade fair for woodworking and furniture manufacturing, will take place from March 6-9, 2025, at India Expo Mart & Centre (IEML), Greater Noida, Delhi NCR. As part of NuernbergMesse global woodworking portfolio, this milestone edition reflects India's emergence as a manufacturing powerhouse and a key global player in the furniture and woodworking industry.

INDIAWOOD's 25-Year Legacy: From Local Showcase to Global Influence

Since its inception, INDIAWOOD has shaped the industry's growth, bringing together manufacturers, suppliers, technology leaders, and professionals on a single platform. Over the past two and a half decades, it has played a pivotal role in fostering technological advancements, sustainable practices, and global collaborations. Today, as India ranks among the top five global furniture producers and is set to grow its furniture exports by 20% annually, INDIAWOOD continues to be a catalyst for industry progress.

"Valued at USD 25.75 billion in 2025, the Indian furniture market is projected to reach USD 37.18 billion by 2030. With wood accounting for 62% of furniture production, the industry is undergoing a transformation driven by innovation and sustainability - much of which has been fuelled by

opportunities at INDIAWOOD," says Sonia Prashar, Managing Director, NuernbergMesse India.

Speaking on the occasion, Frederik Meyer, President of Eumabois (the European Federation of Woodworking Machinery Manufacturers), expressed his excitement about the event and the thriving growth of India's woodworking and furniture

their high standards of quality, efficiency, and sustainability. Our companies are eager to contribute to India's growth in this dynamic sector."

Key Highlights at INDIAWOOD 2025

This landmark edition will feature a dynamic mix of technology, product launches, and knowledge-sharing forums,



industry.

"India is rapidly establishing itself as a significant global player in the woodworking and furniture sector, driven by strong domestic demand and a long-standing tradition of craftsmanship," said Meyer. "INDIAWOOD 2025 is an important platform for knowledge sharing, showcasing cutting-edge technologies, and fostering strategic partnerships. Eumabois is proud to support this initiative, facilitating collaboration between European and Indian companies."

Meyer also highlighted the event's role in bridging international expertise with local innovation: "We invite all visitors to explore European woodworking technologies that are known for

including:

INDIAWOOD 2025 will feature a range of specialized industry events designed to engage professionals across the woodworking and furniture manufacturing spectrum. Surface in Motion, scheduled for March 5, will offer a comprehensive exploration of surface technology and design trends, spotlighting innovations that are reshaping the aesthetics and functionality of wood-based materials. The India Mattresstech Expo, co-located with INDIAWOOD, will delve into the latest advancements in mattress manufacturing and upholstery, providing insights into emerging technologies and innovative materials that are driving growth and demand.

Rules of Assembly House Panel Gave Its Go-Ahead To Speaker To Carry Out Bare Minimum Modifications

Mubashir Alam Wani

SRINAGAR: The Legislative Assembly's Committee on Rules on Tuesday gave its go-ahead to the Speaker to carry out bare minimum modifications in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

The House panel comprises legislators of the ruling NC-led alliance and BJP met today morning in the Legislative Assembly complex, Jammu to discuss amendments/modifications in the Rules governing functioning of the House.

Sources told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that there was unanimity among members against major changes in the rules and converged on making bare minimum modifications

in the Rules.

A legislator, who is part of the committee, wishing anonymity, said that all panel members agreed upon replacing Governor, State, both Houses of Legislature and Joint Select Committee respectively with Lieutenant Governor,

Union Territory, Legislative Assembly and Select Committee.

"The committee gave its go-ahead to the Speaker to carry out these minimal modifications," he said.

Talking to KNO, MLA Rajouri and member of the committee Muzaffar Iqbal Khan said there was unanimity among the committee members that there should be no amendments in the existing rules except slight modifications required for transaction of business in the House.

NOTICE

This is for the information of all the concerned that I want to make a correction to my son's name from Musaib Ahmad Ganie to Musaib Ahmad Ganaie S/o Altaf Hussain Ganaie, Mother's name - Asiya Begum on Birth Certificate with D.O.B 20-02-2012. I have applied for the same at Municipal Council Bandipora. If anybody has any objection, he/she may contact the office concerned within 7 days from the publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that.

**Applicant: Altaf Hussain Ganaie**  
**R/o: Muslim Abad, Bandipora**

NOTICE

Inadvertently the name of my ward in Adhaar has been mentioned as Irsa Anjum while her actual name is Ritaaj Anjum. Now I want to rectify the same. Anybody having objection in this regard may file the same before the concerned office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

**Irhan Anjum**  
**F/O Ritaaj Anjum**  
**R/O Dadsara Tral**

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15 20110003134, My name and parantege has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Shabir Ahmad Gojer, S/O Mohmad Samander Gojer, While as my Actual and correct name and parantege is Shabir Ahmad Khan, S/O Mohammad Samander khan. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Shabir Ahmad Khan.**  
**S/O Mohammad Samander khan.**  
**R/O Onagam Bandipora.**

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15-20200000102, My name has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Ishfaq khan, While as my Actual and correct name as per my Aadhaar Card is Ishfaq Ahmad Khan. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/ she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Ishfaq Ahmad Khan.**  
**S/O Mohd Munwar khan.**  
**R/O Barnayee Tulail Gurez, District Bandipora.**

NOTICE

This is for the information of all the concerned that I want to make a correction to my son's name from Sohaib Ahmad Ganie to Suhaib Ahmad Ganaie S/o Altaf Hussain Ganaie, Mother's name - Asiya Begum on Birth Certificate with D.O.B 20-06-2017. I have applied for the same at Municipal Council Bandipora. If anybody has any objection, he/she may contact the office concerned within 7 days from the publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that.

**Applicant: Altaf Hussain Ganaie**  
**R/o: Muslim Abad, Bandipora**

# Madrasatul-Banat

## Darul-Uloom Raheemiyah 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: JAKAONIPARK**

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 Keshmiri  
Nazim, Darul Uloom Raheemiyah Bandipora, Kashmir



# Kohli's form in focus as India eye ODI clean-sweep over England

A big knock from Virat Kohli's currently silent bat along with a series clean-sweep over England will be on Team India's wish-list when the two teams square off in the third and final ODI here on Wednesday, marking the end of their Champions Trophy build-up.

While India hold an unassailable 2-0 lead with identical four-wicket wins in each of the first two ODIs, Rohit Sharma's men will be extra motivated to get a win here at the Narendra Modi Stadium where they had suffered a crushing ODI World Cup final loss in 2023.

Needless to say, having their batting mainstay Kohli among runs and a win would be perfect culmination to the home side's Champions Trophy preparations. The eight-team competition gets underway from February 19 in Karachi with India starting against Bangladesh the next day in Dubai as per a hybrid model of hosting.

The team has already got a shot in the arm by Rohit's return to form. His 90-ball 119 in the second ODI was a source of relief to both the side and to him after a prolonged run of poor scores.

Kohli hasn't looked completely out of touch but hasn't stayed at the crease for long enough to give himself a chance for a big knock either.

If he manages to click, Kohli is in with a chance create another record. He is 89 runs short of becoming only the third batter in history to score 14,000 runs in the format which arguably has been the run-machine's favourite.

India don't seem to have put a foot wrong in this series as they continue to make the most of their rich reservoir of talent.

The addition of Varun Chakravathy has given additional ammunition to their lethal spin attack which will be vital for the Champions Trophy and Mohammed Shami's return after



lengthy injury layoff has been seamless too.

Shami's successful comeback has certainly been assuring given that the Indian team management will spend an anxious day on Tuesday awaiting news on their premier fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah, whose availability for the Champions Trophy is still under doubt.

As per the original time-line, Bumrah was slated for a comeback in the Ahmedabad ODI, but the ace pacer is currently toiling at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru under the watchful eyes of specialists aiming to make the final squad that is set to be unveiled on Wednesday.

Bumrah's guile on varied pitches and con-

ditions is something that no team across the world possesses and India would be desperate to have their trump card back in the mix as they chase another ICC trophy.

Both India and England will enjoy an off day on Tuesday as they have skipped training and other pre-match routines to rest and recuperate.

Having ended his troubled run with the bat with a characteristic hundred in Cuttack, Rohit's confidence will certainly rub off on the rest of the side.

While Yashasvi Jaiswal could continue to warm the bench, India will expect better application and results from wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul, who is going through a lean patch himself.

But it would not be a surprise if India give the flamboyant Rishabh Pant a crack to get some game time and have another left-handed batter in the mix to try out additional combinations.

India will need Shreyas Iyer's presence in the middle-order which has been bolstered by robust batting performances from Axar Patel. The 31-year-old all-rounder has shown immense maturity at No.5 in pressure situations of both the ODIs so far with knocks of 52 and 41 not out.

Patel's exploits with the bat have taken some pressure off Ravindra Jadeja, who has chipped away at England with six wickets so far, exploiting the spin-friendly conditions

perfectly to warm-up for similar set-ups in the Champions Trophy.

But for Jos Butter's England, this tour has raised more questions than they would have expected.

England have suffered repeated implosions in their core batting line-up across the T20Is and ODIs which has undone the impressive work that the opening pair of Phil Salt and Ben Duckett has been putting up.

Buttler maintains his team remains a work in progress but exit of the talented Jacob Bethell due to injury hampers them further.

Harry Brook has blown hot and cold in ideal conditions for batting and Joe Root's impressive returns haven't got the adequate support from others.

Among bowlers, Adil Rashid has exploited the conditions perfectly but the onus will be on England batters to produce a unified show.

**Teams (from):**

India: Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohd. Shami, Arshdeep Singh and Varun Chakravathy.

England: Jos Buttler (c&wk), Harry Brook, Ben Duckett, Joe Root, Philip Salt, Jamie Smith (wk), Tom Banton, Brydon Carse, Liam Livingstone, Jamie Overton, Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Saqib Mahmood, Adil Rashid and Mark Wood.

Needless to say, having their batting mainstay Kohli among runs and a win would be perfect culmination to the home side's Champions Trophy preparations. The eight-team competition gets underway from February 19 in Karachi with India starting against Bangladesh the next day in Dubai as per a hybrid model of hosting.

## J&K Minister Satish Sharma Concludes the 27th J&K UT Taekwondo Championships

Hon'ble Sports Minister of J&K, Satish Sharma, concluded the 27th J&K UT Taekwondo Championships as Chief Guest, alongside DG Youth Services and Sports J&K, Shri Rajinder Singh Tara (IAS). The two-day event was spectacular and witnessed the participation of 500 athletes from across J&K.

During the closing ceremony, Satish Sharma congratulated all the medalists and assured full support for the development of Taekwondo in J&K. The championship was led by Advocate Neelofar Masood (Competition Chairman) and Shri Ashok Kumar (Competition Director). The entire event utilized the latest sensor scoring system (PSS) to ensure fair play in the sport.

Noteworthy guests included Dr. S.M. Bali (Chairman Development Committee), Shri Ramesh Chander Sharma (General Secretary, JKTA), Shri Subhash Shashtri (President MSU), Shri Atul Pangotra (Chief Coach, J&K Taekwondo), Shri Anuj Sharma (Organizing Secretary, JKTA), Mr. Burhan ud din Khan (Coordinator JKTA), Shri Vinod Grewal (Office Secretary, JKTA), and Mr. Ashiq Hussain (Chairman BTA).

The results of the 27th J&K Taekwondo Championships 2024-25 are forthcoming, and the organizing committee expresses gratitude to all participants, officials, and supporters who made this event a success.



## Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

