

# Kashmir Convener



1984 Anti-Sikh Riots:  
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World At Harvard University's  
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## Supporters & terror financiers will pay heavy price: LG

● Chairs high-level security meeting in Srinagar

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha directed the security agencies to follow zero tolerance policy to tackle terrorism.

"I have given J&K Police and Security Forces free hand to neutralise terror ecosystem operating in the shadows. Those supporting and financing terrorism will have to pay a very heavy price," the Lieutenant Governor said while chairing a high-level meeting in Srinagar to review the security scenario in Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by DGP J&K, Nalin Prabhat; ADGP Hqrs, MK Sinha; ADGP CID, Nitish Kumar; Principal Secretary to



Lieutenant Governor, Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari; IGP Kashmir, Vidhi Kumar Birdi; IGP Crime, Dr Sunil Gupta; IGP Security, Sujit Kumar;

IGP Railways, Vivek Gupta; Range DIGs, SSPs, Commandants

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## Discussed Sopore, Kathua incidents with HM: CM Omar

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that the deaths of two persons in Kathua and Sopore were discussed during his recent meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Abdullah's statement comes a day after opposition PDP president Mehbooba Mufti criticized the chief minister saying she had expected him to raise the two incidents during his meeting with Shah.

"It was a good meeting. Several issues were discussed including the Sopore killing and death in Kathua. It was emphasised that there should be a transparent probe and anyone found guilty should be punished," Abdullah, who

met Shah in Delhi on Monday, told reporters in Ganderbal. In Billawar area of Kathua district on February 4, a 26-year-old man, accused of being involved in militancy, allegedly committed suicide following



alleged harassment by police. In Sopore of Baramulla district, a truck driver was killed in Army firing on February 5 when he allegedly

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**Soldier Killed In Jammu led Attack 2 Months Before Marriage**

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SAMBA:** Naik Mukesh Singh Manhas had returned to his Army unit in Jammu's Akhnor sector on January 28 after a two-week holiday for his ring ceremony and giving final touches to his newly-constructed house to welcome his wife in April.

However, the joy of the family proved to be shortlived as the 29-year-old soldier from Jammu and Kashmir's Samba, along with Captain Karamjit Singh Bakshi from Jharkhand's Ranchi, were killed in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast by terrorists near the Line of Control (LoC) on Tuesday. A pall of gloom descended on his Bri Kamila village in the border district of Samba, with

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**Passport can't be denied over kin's militancy links**

Sajid Raina

**SRINAGAR:** Political parties on Wednesday welcomed the decision of Jammu and Kashmir High Court that passport cannot be denied to an individual over kin's militancy links.

National Conference spokesperson and MLA Zaidi, Tanvir Sadiq, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), termed the High Court ruling as a vital affirmation of individual rights. "Every citizen must be judged on their own conduct," he said, emphasizing that justice must be rooted in fairness.

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## CM holds pre-budget consultation with public representatives

● MLAs seek liberal funding for development works



KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Continuing with extensive pre-budget consultations, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today held a series of meetings with public representatives from various districts of Kashmir at the Civil

Secretariat, Srinagar.

The Chief Minister chaired pre-budget consultations with the chairpersons of District Development Councils (DDCs) and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from the districts of Srinagar, Ganderbal and Bandipora, who participated

both in person and virtually.

The meeting was also attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya, Director General Budget M.S. Malik, Director General Expenditure Sajad Hussain and the Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Ganderbal and Bandipora with participants joining the meeting either personally or virtually through video conference. During the

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## Aligning Technologies With Future Warfare Is Not The Only Answer: General Anil Chauhan



KC News Network

**BENGALURU:** Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Wednesday said that aligning technologies with future warfare is not the sole solution to achieving victory in war.

He emphasised the need to develop new concepts and doctrines to complement technological

advancements.

He was speaking at a seminar on aligning technologies with future conflicts at Aero India here.

"Aligning technologies with future warfare is only part of the solution to achieving victory. You must evolve new concepts, create new doctrines, establish new organizations for such combat, and build a new culture and processes if you want to win," Chauhan said.

He added, "Technology will only provide a part of the answer." Noting that warfare initially evolved on land before expanding into the maritime and air domains, the CDS said, "With each new domain, there has been an influence on the preceding one. Even within these domains, significant changes continue to occur." In the land domain warfare has evolved to

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## SoPs for movement of ambulances on NHW issued

KC NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN: The Traffic Police National

Highway (NHW) has issued a detailed Standard Operating Procedure for hassle free movement of Ambulances on the NHW in light of the Section 194-E of Motor Vehicle Act-1988.

The circular issued today stated that the Act clearly envisages that whoever while driving Motor Vehicle fails to draw to the side of the road, on the approach of a Fire Service Vehicle or of an Ambulance

or other Emergency Vehicles as may be specified by the State Government shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with a fine of ten thousand.

"As such, in order to ensure hassle free movement of Ambulances on NHW Ramban without any Traffic chaos, following SOP is hereby issued to be implemented by the concerned Traffic Supervisory of-

ficers strictly in their respective AOR" it stated further.

"The Traffic Officers/Officials shall ensure free movement of ambulances on priority basis, as soon as, receipt of any information regarding movement of emergency Service Vehicles, carrying critical, trauma patients and other dead bodies if any in their respective AORs.

The color codes shall be Red for critical

patients, Blue for Non-critical patients and black for dead bodies during movement of Ambulances.

They shall frequently coordinate with each other about Traffic Pressure Points and availability of alternate routes (if any) for safe and convenient movement of Ambulances. There should be close coordination with the concerned

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## Statehood Won't End Terrorism In J&K: Farooq Abdullah

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said that even if statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is restored, terrorism will still not end and that it needs peoples support.

Speaking with reporters, Farooq Abdullah, said that the issue of statehood has been there for many years. "Even if statehood is restored and we will get everything, but do people think it will end terrorism here. Those who have been making tall claims that terrorism has ended here, ask them if it is still there or not," he said.



He added that yesterday only two soldiers got martyred in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast. "Where did that come from. We need people's help to restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. It is high time we should have peace. Only peace can do something here. Our children are unemployed.

How can these issues be addressed when there is no peace," he remarked.

He also said that pre-poll alliance between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress could have brought different results in the Delhi Assembly elections.

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## J&K Statehood restoration Cong To Launch 15-Day Long Campaign



KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra on Wednesday announced a 15-day long campaign to press for restoration of statehood to the Union Territory.

He said the campaign will be launched from Udhampur district on February 13 as the "BJP has so far failed to keep its statehood restoration promise and we have doubts on their intentions".

Karra, who is also an MLA, said there is a strange

dilemma prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir where people are gradually developing cynicism after participating in the democratic exercise in large numbers with a hope to get their day-to-day issues addressed.

"The demand for restoration of statehood is a key issue before and after the assembly elections. We reminded the prime minister (Narendra Modi) and home minister (Amit Shah) of the promises and commitments made within and outside Parliament and on the soil of J&K about it," said Karra.

"We want our right to

statehood to be restored as soon as possible. There is a cold attitude on the part of the government which has failed to explain the 'appropriate time' it is using for delaying this right to the people of J&K... we have doubts on their intentions," he told reporters here.

Accusing the ruling party at the Centre of 'betraying the people' of Jammu and Kashmir, he said the BJP leadership is answerable for the delay in restoration of the statehood.

"We will accelerate our campaign for the restoration of statehood, which is a 175-year-old heritage of the Dogra legacy which is being made fun of by the BJP. We are starting a 15-day 'restore our statehood' campaign from tomorrow (Thursday) under the title 'our state, our right' from Udhampur," he said.

The Congress leader also paid rich tributes to the two army personnel, including a captain,

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## Ahead of J&K Assembly Session legislators post questions on social media

Sajid Raina

**SRINAGAR:** As the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly prepares to host its full-fledged Budget Session on March 3 after a gap of more than six years, legislators are posting questions on social media to test waters.

"Even before stepping into the Assembly, legislators are trying to trigger a debate in the virtual world. The battle for attention has already begun," a politician told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

According to the details available with KNO the Assembly Secretariat had set a February 10 deadline for MLAs to submit their questions, private members' bills, and resolutions.

Each of the 90 legislators was allowed to file 20 questions—10 starred (requiring oral answers) and 10 unstarred (written responses)—along with

three private members' bills and four resolutions.

After submitting their questions and bills the lawmakers are shaping the narrative in real time, using digital platforms to generate public response around their

Prohibition of Alcohol Bill, 2025, calling for a complete ban on alcohol sales across the UT, arguing that alcohol addiction is tearing apart families and damaging social harmony.

National Conference MLA Ahsan Pardesi has gone further,



proposals. The push for visibility has seen a flood of online campaigns, spearheaded by lawmakers.

PDP leader and Kupwara MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz has introduced

The Jammu and Kashmir

demanding a region-specific ban, tabling The Lal Chowk Constituency Alcohol Sale Ban (Prohibition) Bill, 2025, seeking prohibition in Kashmir and other Muslim-majority districts.

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Judicial Officers' Pension:  
Unified Pension Scheme  
Notified, Centre Tells SC



**NEW DELHI:** The Centre on Wednesday informed the Supreme Court that it recently notified the Unified Pension Scheme which might address the concerns of judicial officers.

A bench of Justices B R Gavi and Augustine George Masih heard the submission made by the Centre's counsel. Attorney general R Venkataramani and solicitor general Tushar Mehta appeared for the Centre and

apprised the bench about the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS). The matter relates to the applicability of the New Pension Scheme to the officers of the district judiciary. "It is the submission of the attorney general as well as the solicitor general that the Unified Pension Scheme may address concerns of all the employees, including the judicial officers," observed the bench.

The court therefore found it appropriate to defer

the matter for some time to experience how the Unified Pension Scheme worked and then take a call on the issues at hand.

The matter would be heard after 12 weeks.

The case raises concerns over the disbursement of pension to officers of the district judiciary and retired high court judges.

The top court is dealing with salaries, arrears and allowances of the officers of district judiciary.

The finance ministry notified the UPS on January 25 and it promises an assured pension of 50 per cent of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior to superannuation.

UPS would be applicable to Central government employees who were covered under the National Pension System and chose the option under the system, according to a gazette notification issued by the finance ministry.

UPS or assured payout would not be available in case of removal or dismissal from service or resignation of the employee, as per the notification published on January 25.

The notification, issued on January 24, says the rate of full assured payout will be 50 per cent of 12 monthly average basic pay, immediately prior to superannuation subject to a minimum qualifying service of 25 years against a market returns linked payout under the NPS.

The notification offers the option to 23 lakh government employees to choose between UPS and NPS, which came into effect on January 1, 2004.

1984 Anti-Sikh Riots:  
Second Conviction Of Ex-Congress  
MP Sajjan Kumar, Faces 2 More Cases

**NEW DELHI:** With a Delhi Court finding former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar guilty, it is his second conviction with respect to 1984 anti-Sikh riots and he faces two more cases.

Kumar's conviction came in a case over the murders of two persons, namely, Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh during the violence in Delhi's Saraswati Vihar on November 1, 1984.

The judge would hear on February 18 the arguments on the quantum of punishment. The case attracts a maximum punishment of death penalty and life-term imprisonment as the minimum sentence.

Kumar was awarded life imprisonment by the high court in a case over the killings of five Sikhs in Raj Nagar Part-I area in Palam Colony of southwest



Delhi on November 1-2, 1984 and burning down of a Gurudwara in Raj Nagar Part-II.

His appeal against the conviction is pending in the Supreme Court.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
Office Of the Executive Engineer JS-PHE Deptt.  
Rural Water Supply Division, Ganderbal/Sgr.

**H.Q: Duderhama Ganderbal.**  
e – mail: pherwsd@gmail.com, Phone/Fax: 0194 – 2416292,  
Reference: This Office E – NIT No. 38/JS/PHE/RWSD/LT of 2024 – 25 Issued Under No. JS/10298 – 10323 dated: 29.01.2025 Work Figuring at S.No:01 bearing TenderId: 2025\_PHE\_271566\_1

CANCELLATION

Owing to technical issues, the work (IEC activities) advertised/ published vide this office above referred e-NIT No.& date bearing tender ID mentioned above is hereby CANCELLED and shall be re-tendered very soon.  
No. JS-PHE/ RWSD/ Corrs. /10693 – 10717  
Date of :- 11.02.2025.3.12

DIPK-11911/24

**Sd/-**  
**Executive Engineer JS-PHE,**  
**RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr.**

Nita Ambani To Showcase  
India's Contribution To The  
World At Harvard University's  
Annual India Conference

**MUMBAI:** Founder and chairperson of Reliance Foundation, Nita Ambani, will deliver the keynote session at Harvard University's prestigious Annual India Conference on Indian business, policy, and culture. She will engage in a fireside chat with Nitin Nohria, a noted



academic and former Dean of Harvard Business School, to discuss various aspects of India's art and culture and how they can play a strong role in positioning India in the modern world.

The conference will be held at Harvard University, USA, from February 15 to February

16 and is expected to be attended by more than 1,000 delegates.

Her discussion will be the keynote contribution to this year's conference theme: From India to the World – aimed at celebrating India's journey as a global contributor and exploring how Indian innovations, ideas, and voices are shaping pathways for shared peace and prosperity worldwide.

Nita Ambani has emerged as one of the most influential voices of India on the world stage, playing a vital role in showcasing India's soft power and bringing the best of India to the world and the best of the world to India in the fields of arts, crafts, culture, sports, education, and healthcare. She has helped present an India that is confident and increasingly relevant to the world, not just with its modernity and growth, but also by being anchored in deep values and traditions, with the central message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' – the world is one big family.

The India Conference will bring together visionary leaders and prominent voices to discuss India's distinctive perspectives on critical issues that affect the world: technology,

No Discrimination  
In Education: SC On  
Plea For Schools To  
Rohingya Refugees

**NEW DELHI:** No child will be discriminated against in education, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday while fixing for next week a plea seeking a direction to the Centre and the Delhi governments to grant Rohingya refugees in the city access to public schools and hospitals.

The court just wants to know where these Rohingya families are living, in whose house and what are their particulars, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh said while making the the no discrimination in education point.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the NGO Rohingya Human Rights Initiative, said he has filed an affidavit giving the details and pointed out that the Rohingya refugees have UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) cards.

It will be easier for the NGO to give the particulars if these Rohingya families have these cards, Justice Surya Kant said.

Gonsalves then sought some time to furnish more details to the court.

The top court posted the matter for further hearing after 10 days. On January 31, the top court asked the NGO to apprise the court where the Rohingya refugees have settled in the city and the facilities accessible to them.

Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir  
Office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Anantnag

Subject: Provisional Selection list of Krishi Udyamis (KU) (Agricultural entrepreneurs) district Anantnag

Whereas, the Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir launched Holistic Agriculture Development Programme with 29 projects for Agriculture and Allied sectors in the year 2023 aimed at revolutionizing agricultural practices in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Whereas, under this visionary programme, the establishment of Kisan Khidmat Ghar represents a crucial step towards enhancing agricultural outreach and providing comprehensive services to farmers at grassroots level.

Whereas, one project "Innovative Extension Approaches for revitalizing Agriculture in J&K" (Project No.20) has been dedicated for establishing Kisan Khidmat Ghars in each district serving as a one-stop service centers strategically located at the panchayat level.

Whereas, during Phase - I establishment of KKGs at 500 locations (250 Jammu & 250 Kashmir) have been proposed by the Directors of K/J vide their letters: Agri/Dev-KKG/2023-24/5294-95 dated: 22.01.2024 and Agri/Dev-92/KKG/23-24/7405-06 Dated 23.01.2024 respectively.

Whereas, Mission Director Holistic Agriculture Development Programme vide letter No. E-7358056/Plan-2/2/2023 dated: 07.02.2024 approved engagement of 2000 Krishi Udyamis (KU) (Agricultural entrepreneurs) in the UT of J&K to operate the KKGs through deputy Commissioners of the respective district.

Whereas, re-advertisement was issued vide notification No. 23 of 2024 dated 30.11.2024 for engagement of (05) krishi Udyamis phase I & 38 krishi Udyamis phase II that remained unfilled under notification No. 13 of 2024 dated: 05.08.2024 and notification No. 15 of 2024 dated 08.08.2024.

Whereas, after scrutinizing the applications for notification No. 23 of 2024 dated 30.11.2024, all 07 applicants were found eligible for phase I, while out of 28 applicants 27 were found eligible and 17 KKG locations of Phase II remain unfilled.

Whereas, the selection committee after careful scrutiny prepared the tentative merit list for engagement of 05 Krishi Udyamis of Phase I and 21 Krishi Udyamis of Phase II in accordance with the eligibility of candidates. The selection committee approved the merit list unanimously during the meeting held on 08.02.2024. Now, therefore, provisional selection list of Krishi Udyamis is advertised vide this notification as per annexure A along with waiting list as Annexure B. It is further notified that:

I. The selection list shall be subject to outcome of writ petitions if any, pending in the court of law.

II. The list shall be subject to the outcome of any objection against the candidates as figuring in this list. Objection if any shall reach to the office of Chief Agriculture Officer Anantnag within week's time.

III. The selection of the candidates has been made on the qualification certificates /documents submitted by them and if at any stage, it comes to the light that the candidate has submitted false information or has secured selection on submitting fake documents/certificates, the selection shall be liable for cancellation at any stage.

Annexure-A (Selection List)												
Merit List of Applications received for 38 readvertised Vacant Panchayat locations of KKG's of 2nd Phase under HADP in District Anantnag												
S.No	Name of Applicant	Parentage	Gender	Residence	Panchayat Applied for	Block	Point Wise Status					Mark Obtained out of 100 Points
							Points for Basic Qualification (05 Points)	Points for General Qualification (05 Points) (05 Points) (05 Points)	PG in Science / Agri. (05 Points)	Points for Certificate of Local Panchayat (05 Points)	Points for Diploma in Computer (05 points)	
1	Firdos Ahmad Bhat	Wali Mohammad Bhat	Male	Zawalgaon vering	Dudgaud B	Vering	0	15	0	25	15	55
2	Zahid Manzoor	Manzoor Ahmad Dar	Male	Sundoo	Sundoo	Achabal	0	25	10	25	15	75
3	Akhilbhai U/H Hassan	Gh. Hassan Dar	Male	Shamajpora Bijn.	Shamajpora	Anantnag	0	25	10	25	15	75
4	Manash Youngs Ganis	Mohd Youngs Ganis	Female	Babbar Panchpora	Panchpora A	Shabal	5	25	0	25	15	70
5	Aamir Iqbal Bhat	Mohd Iqbal Bhat	Male	Kanganhall Magraypora	Magray Pora	Achabal	0	15	0	25	15	55
6	Hareem Kaur	Satinder Kaur	Female	Singpora Panchpora	Badigan	Khorjpora	5	25	0	25	0	55
7	Feroze U/H Hassan	Ahmad Hassan Joo	Male	Khal Chahal	Dehra A	Chitralga	0	25	10	0	15	50
8	Shahid Khushid Wari	Khushid Ahmad Wari	Male	Pachaligan	Chargan	Chitralga	0	25	0	0	15	40
9	Waseem Nade	Nade Ahmad Sheikh	Male	Chitragan	Khandiyari	Anantnag	0	25	0	0	15	40
10	Khadid Khushid	Khushid Ahmad Shah	Male	Briny Bhatpora	Briny A	Achabal	0	25	10	25	0	60
11	Javed Mushtaq Dar	Mushtaq Ahmad Dar	Male	Gure Bijn.	Gure	Bijbehara	0	25	0	25	15	65
12	Naveed Ahmad Sheikh	Ab. Hameed Sheikh	Male	Dudgaud Bijn.	Dudgaud	Bijbehara	0	15	0	25	0	40
13	Ajmer Ahmad Bhat	Mohd Khalid Parray	Female	Sansoo Shampora	Chargan B	Achabal	0	25	0	0	15	40
14	Piriz Khali	Mohd Khalid Parray	Female	Sansoo Shampora	YK Pora	Qazigund	5	25	10	0	15	55
15	Vikas Feroze	Feroze Ahmad Zafar	Male	Chandipora Bijn.	Chandipora	Dudgaud	0	25	10	0	0	35
16	Mir Baiz Ali	Abd. Mohammad Mir	Male	Sala Panchal Pora	Vall Naghal A	Khorjpora	0	25	10	0	0	35
17	Intayaz Ahmad Kanger	Ab. Rashid Kanger	Male	Feroze Kolmarg	Feroze	Bing	0	25	0	25	15	65
18	Umer Manzoor Mir	Manzoor Ahmad Mir	Male	Bagadur wadivilgan	Talika Magan B	Bing	0	25	10	0	0	35
19	Zubair Ahmad Nargono	Nade Ahmad Nargono	Male	Silwana	Mahind	Dudgaud	0	45	0	0	15	60
20	Tajamul Nade Bhat	Nade Ahmad Bhat	Male	Herdia Dheran	Manjpora	Shabal	0	25	0	25	15	65
21	Shahid Ahmad Dar	Gh. Hassan Dar	Male	Tajwara Bijn.	Veri	Bijbehara	0	45	0	0	0	45

Merit List of Applications received for 31st para for 05 readvertised vacant Panchayat locations of KKG's under HADP in District Anantnag												
S.No	Name of Applicant	Parentage	Gender	Residence	Panchayat Applied for	Block	Point Wise Status					Mark Obtained out of 100 Points
							Points for Basic Qualification (05 Points)	Points for General Qualification (05 Points) (05 Points) (05 Points)	PG in Science / Agri. Allied (05 Points)	Points for Certificate of Local Panchayat (05 Points)	Points for Diploma in Computer (05 points)	
1	Abul Ahsan Shah	Abul wale Shah	Male	Lethadganj	Lethadganj	Dodderpora	0	25	0	25	15	65
2	Omair / Hussan Shah	Omairan Hussan Shah	Male	Bachoo Kalamarg	Nargopora	D	25	10	0	15	50	
3	Abul Ahsan Rashed	Bachoo Ahsan Rashed	Male	Azadgah / Jung	A-Jung	Anantnag	0	25	0	25	65	
4	Mohammad Yousaf Shah	Qasim Ahsan Ibrahim	Male	Deopora	Khorjopora	D	25	10	25	15	75	
5	Mohammad Ishaq Poonche	Qasim Ahsan Ibrahim	Male	Talukha Bishwan	ICB Khali	Bishwan	0	45	10	0	15	70

Annexure-B (Waiting List)

Merit List of Applications received for 38 readvertised Vacant Panchayat locations of KKG's of 2nd Phase under HADP in District Anantnag												
S.No	Name of Applicant	Parentage	Gender	Residence	p	Block	Point Wise Status					Mark Obtained out of 100 Points
							Points for Basic Qualification (05 Points)	Points for General Qualification (05 Points) (05 Points) (05 Points)	PG in Science / Agri. Allied (05 Points)	Points for Certificate of Local Panchayat (05 Points)	Points for Diploma in Computer (05 points)	
1	Manzoor Ahmad Mir	Abd. Majid Mir	Male	Bumthan Ang.	Shamajpora	Anantnag	0	25	0	0	15	40
2	Mithab Gular Mir	Gular Ahmad Mir	Male	Kanganhall Achabal	Magray Pora	Achabal	0	15	0	25	15	55
3	Mubashir Ahmad Ganis	Gh. Mohd Ganis	Male	Sansoo Achabal	Magray Pora	Achabal	0	25	10	0	0	35
4	Javediya Rasool	Gh. Rasool Mir	Female	Dehra Nagarigan	Dehra A	Chitralga	5	25	0	0	15	45
5	Rasid Shafi	Peer Mohd Shafi	Female	YK Pora	YK Pora	Qazigund	5	25	0	0	0	30
6	Shahid Manzoor Shaikh	Manzoor Ahmad Shaikh	Male	Salu Panchal Pora	Vall Naghal A	Khorjopora	0	25	10	0	0	25

Merit List of Applications received of 1st Phase for 05 readvertised vacant Panchayat locations of KKG's under HADP in District Anantnag												
S.No	Name of Applicant	Parentage	Gender	Residence	Panchayat Applied for	Block	Point Wise Status					Merit Obtained out of 100 Points
							Points for Basic Qualification (05 Points)	Points for General Qualification (05 Points) (05 Points) (05 Points)	PG in Science / Agri. Allied (05 Points)	Points for Certificate of Local Panchayat (05 Points)	Points for Diploma in Computer (05 Points)	
1	Sajad Ahmad Isha	Ab.Salam Isha	Male	Narapora	Narapora D	Sagan	0	25	0	25	0	50
2	Khurshed Ahmad Naloo	Ab. Rashid Naloo	Male	Rampora	Narapora D	Sagan	0	25	0	0	15	40

DIPK-11862/24

**Sd/-**  
**Chief Agriculture Officer Anantnag**  
**Member Secretary**

Maha Kumbh | Over 2 Crore Devotees  
Take Holy Dip On Maghi Purnima

**PRAYAGRAJ:** Amid heightened security measures, more than two crore devotees took dip in the Sangam till 6 pm on Wednesday on the occasion of Maghi Purnima during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela here.

According to an official statement, special arrangements have been made for the sacred bath that began early Wednesday. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has been monitoring the event since 4 am at the war room in his official residence in Lucknow, the statement said.

With the 'snan' on Maghi Purnima, another auspicious day for holy bath, the month-long 'Kalpavas' will be ending and around 10 lakh 'Kalpavasis' will start leaving the Maha Kumbh. The administration has requested them to follow traffic rules and use only authorised parking spaces.

While lakhs of devotees are headed to the Sangam area, the government in the statement said that by 6 pm, over two crore people had taken the ritual dip at the Triveni Sangam and other ghats.

Overall since the start of the Maha Kumbh, over 47 crore people have taken a dip in the Sangam, it said.

Flower petals were also showered on devotees from helicopter.

Cricketer legend Anil Kumble took a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam along with his wife Chaitna Ramtirtha.

After arriving in Prayagraj on Tuesday, Kumble chose to perform the bathing ritual on Maghi Purnima, a day when



no VIP protocols are observed. He joined the devotees as a regular pilgrim, taking a boat to the confluence with his wife for the ritual.

Director General of Police Prashant Kumar, Principal Secretary (Home) Sanjay Prasad and officials of CM Secretariat are also present at the war room, the statement said.

Maha Kumbh Mela DIG Vaibhav Krishna said, "Our arrangements are quite good and police deployment is there at all places. Crowd is moving comfortably. Our SOPs are being followed." Maha Kumbh SSP Rajesh Dwivedi said the movement of devotees was going on smoothly and that security personnel were taking care of all (crowd) pressure points.

"We made elaborate arrangements during the previous 'snan' on Basant

Panchami too. Our arrangements have been further augmented this time," he said.

Talking about security

greeted everyone on the holy bathing festival.

"Heartiest greetings to all the revered saints, religious leaders, Kalpavasis and devotees who have come for the holy bath at the sacred Triveni in Maha Kumbh-2025, Prayagraj. May everyone's life be filled with happiness, prosperity and good fortune by the grace of Lord Shri Hari. May Maa Ganga, Maa Yamuna and Maa Saraswati fulfill everyone's wishes," he said in a post on X.

According to officials, the fair area was declared a 'no vehicle zone' from 4 am on Tuesday, while the entire city became a no-vehicle zone from 5 pm onwards, with an exemption for emergency and essential services.

To avoid traffic chaos, designated parking lots have been marked for public and private vehicles.

Prayagraj ADG Bhanu Bhaskar said special police forces have been deployed at all places where crowd management becomes challenging.

The special traffic plan will remain in force till the completion of the ritual to ensure safe evacuation of devotees from the fair area in case of any emergency, the officials said. Bhaskar said real time data is being collected from toll plazas and officials of neighbouring districts so that the number of vehicles coming and the routes can be monitored and regulated.

Mahakumbh Nagar SSP Rajesh Dwivedi said aerial surveillance and strict anti-drone measures have been put in place to ensure safety.

Meanwhile, Adityanath







# How An Ear Infection Led To A Comic On Fungi For This lit Student

BY SHUCHITA JHA

It was the summer of 2024 when Pratyasha, a fifth year undergraduate student pursuing the dual B.Tech- Bio Tech degree from IIT Kharagpur, got a severe fungal infection in her ear, leading to temporary hearing loss in one ear.

Pratyasha who had pursued a remote internship under Dr Pedro Gonçalves — then a visiting assistant professor at the National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan — had begun reading on pathogenic fungi, and how fungal infections were becoming more common due to climate change as warmer climates allowed them to thrive.

With the mind of a scientist and heart of an artist, Pratyasha, facing a creative block while working on the comic, used the illness to her advantage, converting the ear infection caused due to Aspergillus fungus into a 15-page comic on fungi, with a fungal spore as the protagonist.

“The storyline is based on my own experience. The main character — the spore of the Aspergillus fungus — starts like an ear infection and takes over my brain and then the story unfolds,” she said, adding, “I wanted to tell the story from the point-of-view of the fungus because I believe that humans are no one to decide what species deserve to be saved and conserved,” she said in an interview with In Old News.

Sharing her art-work on Instagram she wrote, “The second best way of listening to metal is blasting it straight inside your ears. My lovely earphones do the trick perfectly but some Aspergillus sp [species] fellows enjoyed headbanging to CODE MISTAKE and Kingslayer on repeat as much as me and set up a moshpit inside my left ear. As a warm and accommodating host I stayed deaf in one ear for a good part of this summer. But they overstayed their welcome so I had to yeet them out with antifungals.

Moral of the story: Ear infections are common in our climate so mom is wrong, you don't need to give up on earphones. Also, clean them sometimes until you save up enough for headphones :)”

“Fungi are the perfect symbolism of how much we do not know. They are omnipresent but highly overlooked,” she said to ION.

Pratyasha, who wants to take her work on fungi further, says that while this 15-page comic was not enough to delve into all the topics she had explored during her research — including the impact of climate change on fungi — the first attempt is something that has gotten the ball rolling for her, laying the groundwork for her future works.

Talking about her research and the importance of fungi for the whole ecosystem and the negative connotations that keep them devoid of attention she says, “I want to make fungi cool again.”

Fungi as a kingdom of classification are still understudied with the State of the World's Plant and Fungi 2023 report highlighting that of the 250 thousand to 19 million species of fungi found across the world, only 155 thousand have been identified.

The report confirms that although fungi are crucial to nearly all life on Earth — playing a vital role in supporting land plants, shaping ecosystem functions, and sustaining humanity as a whole — they often go unnoticed.

“More than 90% of fungal species remain unknown to science”, the report states, adding, “At the current rate that scientists are naming species, it would take 750–1,000 years to fully describe the world's fungi.”

Pedro, now a principal scientist at VTI-Technical Research Centre of Finland, affirms that Mycology (the science of studying fungi) is perhaps a sort of underground or outsider subject in the broader realm of Biology. He says that even from his interactions with students of microbiology, he could observe that fungi weren't

the hottest topic of choice among them.

Fungi in want of media limelight

Fungi have typically been devoid of media attention, maybe because of their negative perception of being associated with decay, or maybe because they have been understudied in comparison to other microbes.



But these negative connotations are fairly new, say Pedro and Pratyasha who have researched the subject to find how fungi were considered sacred in many ancient cultures, often regarded as serving the bridge between humans and a higher power.

But Pedro feels that different mediums of entertainment, like movies, documentaries, TV shows etc are getting on the fungus bandwagon. He says that fungi becoming mainstream can be proven.

“Turn on a streaming platform and you will find documentaries on fungi and their indispensable role in carbon cycling and as sources of antibiotics; there is even a blockbuster show on a fungal pandemic,” he said, referring to the famous OTT series The Last of Us.

Pratyasha added, “The Last of Us did make some ripples but again it showed fungi in a negative light. We need more creative ways to talk about fungi in a manner that allows the public to understand their importance.”

Fungi play a vital role in the ecosystem but since they are understudied, the impact of climate change and rising temperatures on various fungi is also being overlooked.

Sharing his concerns, Pedro said that climate change has been leading to an alteration of the geographical distribution of some fungi, which may disrupt the whole One Health balance, that proposes that the health of people is closely related to the health

of our environment, which includes all plants, animals and fungi.

“There is some evidence that previously non-pathogenic fungi may have switched to an infectious lifestyle in recent years because climate change has led to environmental conditions that allowed them to adapt to higher temperatures, hence driving the ability to grow at human body temperatures,” he shared.

With Pratyasha showing an inclination towards studying fungi, he said that their conversations delved into the subject of fungal conservation, and the utilization and overexploitation of fungi in folk medicine, subsequently leading to an article on the subject carried by The Microbiologist in December 2024.

Studies show that global trade in fungi (mostly macroscopic fungi), has increased by 15% annually in the last decade.

Some examples of overexploited fungi include the caterpillar fungus (Ophiocordyceps sinensis) - used in traditional medicine as an aphrodisiac - that has declined 30% in the Himalayas over 15 years due to overharvesting for trade. Even matsutake mushrooms in China (Tricholoma matsutake) — known for their anti-aging properties and unique taste — have suffered due to destructive collection practices and overharvesting.

The study on the state of the world's plants and fungi states that of all the fungi present, only 625 fungi have been assessed for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Of this, 352 (56%) are considered to be globally threatened or near threatened.

“This means that only 0.4% of the fungi described to date have had their global conservation status assessed – equating to 0.02% of those estimated to exist,” the report reads, underscoring the scale of the challenge in conserving fungi.

In the meanwhile, having read up on various kinds of fungi while undergoing treatment, Pratyasha realised that unlike other life forms, fungi were generally seen in a negative light. This inspired her to make art that could help start a dialogue about fungi and their ecological role.

“Pratyasha had already unveiled her talent for the arts and, in my memory, combining her artistic creativity and her interests in environmental justice was almost instinctive,” said Pedro, speaking about the coming together of the idea.

While comics based on science, like Manga Guide to the Universe, Science Comics etc are very popular, fungi as a subject are still left behind many-a-times because they are “not necessarily attractive enough to deserve their own comic books,” Pratyasha says.

To help her explore the age-old medium of storytelling, she approached Argha Manna, a noted researcher and comic artist who walked her through the art of storytelling through comics and lent her several classics like Maus, Meta Maus and Watchmen to get her started.

“Pratyasha came from IIT Kharagpur to IIT Gandhinagar to do an internship. But I found she already had a good skill of

drawings and an innate nature of storytelling. So, I just asked her to go through a couple of good comics to acclimatize in this media along with whatever she has done on her own,” said Argha.

Argha says he approaches comics as a researcher first, until the story comes to his mind and he starts seeing visuals that he wants to sketch, and only then does he begin drawing.

“I do a lot of research before I draw comics already, I dig out unknown facts, I explore unexplored possibilities - the final material appears to be a very engaging one to a larger audience,” he added.

Pratyasha, who was new to the medium of comics, added that along with her research on fungi, she also had to study the medium before starting out. She dove into the classics lent to her by Manna.

“It was then that I discovered how sophisticated the medium of comics was,” she said.

Pratyasha has also drawn references from Rock Music and various studies, articles and reports on fungi and climate change to weave the storyline of her comic.

“The personal significance of this infection is that it interfered with my favourite pastime - listening to music, especially Rock, so I decided to turn that into an artistic motif. Rock as a genre has a fair bit of activism including climate conscious lyrics by greats like Paul McCartney; early on in the story there is a reference to his song Despite Repeated Warnings. Once the comic was made, I continued working on the article that had been in limbo all this while because I realised that fungi deserve to have their story told in as many ways as possible.”

The comic will be published in the third edition of Longform Anthology with Penguin in 2025.

Engaging citizen scientists in a love for mycology

Many institutes like The Microbe Institute's initiative called The Global Lichen Hunt and The University of Taru's FunLeaf project are encouraging citizens worldwide to document microbial biodiversity in their neighbourhood.

Pedro further told ION that a recent article by a group of authors in a journal from The Society for Conservation Biology has highlighted the importance of citizen science-based projects in filling this knowledge gap about fungi and developed a dichotomous key for mycologists to decide how their projects can benefit from the contribution of the public community at large.

“The scarcity of sufficiently trained field personnel is still an issue that cannot be fully compensated by citizen science alone. Perhaps this is where organisations like the Society for the Protection of Underground Networks (SPUN) can pitch in with a dedicated global network of field specialists supplemented by youth awareness programs,” he added.

He further said that IUCN has been maintaining a list of “Amazing Species” as an initiative “to increase awareness of the enormous variety of life on our planet and raise the profile of the threatened species” since 2011.

Out of the 561 species currently listed by IUCN as “Amazing Species”, 459 are animals, 99 are plants and a mere three are fungi.

The list includes plants like Café marron, Dragon blood tree, Arnica des montagnes to name a few, animals like Turtle head seasnake, Grand Cayman Blue iguana, Takin, etc and three fungi - Chinese Caterpillar Fungus and Nail Fungus and Erioderma pedicellatum, the fungal partner in Boreal felt lichen. A lichen (a symbiotic combination of fungus and algae or cyanobacteria), but they are traditionally named after their primary fungal partner.

“This is good, but still only a start,” Pedro said.

The article was first published by InOldNews

## Skills for the Future: How Vocational Education Shapes Careers



Zahoor Ahmad Lone

In today's rapidly evolving global economy, vocational education has become a crucial pillar in building a skilled workforce. Unlike traditional academic education, which emphasizes theoretical knowledge, vocational education focuses on practical skills and hands-on training. It prepares individuals for specific careers in industries such as healthcare, engineering, information technology, hospitality, and more. As technological advancements and economic shifts redefine job markets, vocational education plays a vital role in bridging the skill gap, promoting employment, and driving economic growth.

One of the most significant challenges industries face today is the mismatch between employer demands and job seekers' skills. Traditional education often lacks job-oriented training, leaving graduates unprepared for real-world work. Vocational education fills this gap by offering specialized training, ensuring that students are equipped with the necessary skills to meet industry requirements.

Unemployment, especially among youth, is a pressing concern in many countries. A major factor contributing to this issue is the lack of practical skills. Vocational education provides individuals with industry-specific training and certifications, making them more employable. Many employers prefer vocationally trained candidates as they require minimal on-the-job training and can contribute immediately to productivity.

Vocational education not only prepares in-

dividuals for jobs but also empowers them to become entrepreneurs. With specialized skills, individuals can start their own businesses in

settings. Many prefer hands-on learning experiences over theoretical instruction. Vocational education provides an alternative to conventional

by equipping them with employable skills. This helps bridge social and economic inequalities, providing everyone with a fair chance to secure



areas such as plumbing, carpentry, automotive repair, beauty services, and catering. This fosters economic self-sufficiency and generates employment opportunities within communities.

A skilled workforce is essential for economic development. Countries that emphasize vocational education tend to have lower unemployment rates and higher productivity. By supplying trained professionals across various sectors, vocational training contributes significantly to a nation's economic stability and growth.

Not all students excel in traditional academic

schooling, reducing dropout rates and enabling students to pursue careers aligned with their interests and strengths.

With rapid advancements in artificial intelligence, automation, and digital technologies, industries require workers who can adapt to new tools and processes. Vocational education ensures students receive training in the latest technologies and methodologies relevant to their fields, making them more competitive in the job market.

Vocational education creates opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds

stable employment and improve their quality of life.

Despite its importance, vocational education faces several challenges:

- **Social Stigma:** Many perceive vocational education as inferior to traditional university degrees, discouraging students from pursuing it.
- **Limited Awareness:** In some regions, there is a lack of awareness about the benefits and career opportunities offered by vocational training.
- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Many vocational institutes lack modern equipment and experienced trainers, affecting the quality of education.

- **Industry Collaboration:** Strong partnerships between vocational institutions and industries are needed to ensure training programs remain relevant and up-to-date.

Ways to Strengthen Vocational Education To enhance the impact of vocational education, governments, educational institutions, and industries must work together to:

- **Promote Awareness:** Campaigns should be conducted to change societal perceptions and highlight vocational education's benefits.
- **Modernize Curricula:** Training programs should be regularly updated to incorporate 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 enhance the quality of vocational education.
- **Encourage Government Support:** Policies promoting vocational education, such as funding programs, tax benefits for training providers, and scholarships, should be implemented.

Vocational education is an essential component of modern education systems. It equips individuals with practical skills, fosters economic growth, and adapts to changing industry demands. In an era where job-ready 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 the education department and can be reached at zahoorlone1979@gmail.com.



# Govt working on a structured policy to address employment concerns of dentists: JK Health Minister

**JAMMU:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Wednesday remarked that the Omar Abdullah led government is actively working on a structured policy to address employment concerns of dentists and expand job prospects for them in government and allied sectors.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing the Annual Day celebrations at Indira Gandhi Government Dental College (IGGDC), Jammu. Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasised on the critical significance of medical education on society and role of dental professionals in strengthening public health services. "Medical is a very noble profession as it directly impacts the public welfare", she stated. She added that the medical professionals have a very active role in shaping the well-being of the society.

The Minister further said that new technologies are coming every other day in medical field and

medical professionals need to upgrade themselves as per these evolving technologies. "Medical and

role of dentists in public health saying that the government is actively working on a structured

to pursue knowledge with dedication and serve society with compassion. She also applauded the institution's role in fostering research and innovation in dentistry.

On the occasion, the Minister felicitated the Alumni of college who are serving the society under various capacities in different government departments. The Minister also felicitated the meritorious students of various batches.

Notably, the Minister also released the first edition of college magazine 'UMEED' which serves as a platform for students to express their ideas.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated Dental Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) at the hospital. Later, she conducted a detailed tour of the hospital to assess the functioning of the dental services being provided to the patients.

She also interacted with the patients and had feedback about the services being provided at the facility.



dental field is an ever-evolving field requiring introduction of newer advancements to promote patient care", She maintained.

The Minister emphasized on the critical

policy to address employment concerns and create new job opportunities for dentists.

Commending the academic and clinical excellence of IGGDC, she encouraged the students

## Forest Minister conducts public outreach camp in Kathua

Reiterates Govt.'s commitment towards resolving people's issues

**KATHUA:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today conducted an exhaustive public outreach camp at Barnoti in Kathua, to assess local issues besides taking stock of development scenario of the area.

The Minister had exclusive interactive sessions with the local populace which apprised him of their grievances and demands seeking speedy redress of the same.

Several delegations comprising industrialists, farmers, youth and community representatives called on the Minister and projected their issues and concerns. They highlighted various issues which inter alia included water supply, forest rights, tribal welfare, enhanced road connectivity, environment preservation and other vital matters concerning welfare of their respective areas.

The Minister was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Superintendent of Police and other senior officers from the district administration.

During the tour, the Minister also met people in Samba and Vijaypur and listened to their grievances and development issues.

The Minister instructed the concerned departments to address the grievances raised by the locals of Samba and Vijaypur on priority basis.

He assured the delegations of government's commitment towards resolving their concerns in a time bound manner while emphasising inclusive and sustainable development.

"Our government under the leadership of Omar Abdullah is duty bound to resolve all the issues faced by the people. We are taking administration to people's doorsteps to ensure rapid development of every nook and corner of the region," Rana said in his address to the people of Kathua.

Rana said that with the recently inaugurated 7 water supply schemes in Kathua, many issues related to water scarcity have been resolved.

"I assure the people that all other issues related to Jal Shakti or any other department will be resolved on priority. We will take every step to enhance the living standards of the locals," maintained the Minister. He appreciated the district administration for its relentless efforts towards improving the living condition of the people. He said that all the departments should work in unison for further improvement of service delivery in the district.

## Dy CM Appeals youth to follow teachings of Saints, Seers to live contended life

**JAMMU:** Highlighting the visionary contribution of Shree Guru Ravi Dass ji in socio-economic transformation, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that the need of the time is to follow his teachings for creating an egalitarian and humane world to live in.

The deputy Chief minister was speaking at a function organised in connection with the celebration of 648th Prakash Utsav of Shree Guru Ravi Dass ji at Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Krishna Nagar, here today.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that in present times, when the materialistic pursuits have played a havoc on the fabric of our society, there is dire need to follow the teachings of our Saints and Seers for living a contended and Spiritual life. "We need to follow the teachings of our saints and sufis for making our lives more spiritual and which would lead to a contended and blissful

life", he added. "The people of the subcontinent are aware of the contribution of Guru Ravi Dass



ji in ensuring a society based on humane values and we need to propagate theses for betterment of mankind", stated the deputy Chief minister adding that this will form the basis of making our world more inclusive.

## DC Kupwara chairs weekly Block Diwas at Lalpora

**KUPWARA:** Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today chaired the weekly Block Diwas programme at Lalpora in Lolab sub division. The programme is aimed to listen to the people at their doorsteps to address their developmental issues.

In her address, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted various Government schemes and appealed the people to take opportunity of these schemes for their own benefit.

Regarding the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna which provides solar plant to the households at a subsidized cost, she appealed to the people to register themselves under the scheme to take benefit of free electricity which will reduce their electricity bills.

Regarding JK Samadhan portal, the DC said that the portal provides opportunity to the citizens to raise their grievances through online mode and appealed to the people to register on the Samadhan portal to redress their grievances which will save their time and efforts from physically visiting the government offices.

She appreciated the people for taking keen interest in HADP scheme which provides them opportunity to earn their livelihood in

Agriculture and allied sectors adding that more than 5000 applications under the scheme have been received from Lalpora area alone.

She asked the beneficiaries to register for the PMFME scheme which provides technical



and market access support to the beneficiary in addition to financial support.

Replying the major issue of water supply, DC said major schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission are under progress which on completion will address the water supply issues of the people living in the Lolab sub division.

After giving patient hearing to the issues raised by the public, the Deputy Commissioner assured them that all their genuine concerns would be addressed in a phased manner with active coordination from relevant departments.

## DSEK organises workshop 'Investing in leadership' for evaluated Principals

**SRINAGAR:** The key to successful leadership today is hard work and influence not authority. This was stated by Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Dr. G.N. Itoo today in Girls Higher Secondary Schools Kothibagh while presiding over the one day workshop themed 'Investing in leadership' for newly evaluated Principals in Kashmir division.

Such efforts will be continued to make the upcoming academic session effective, DSEK said and added that school heads should act as role models.

He assured DSEK would take all possible measures for an effective teaching & learning process in the valley.

He urged the participants to embrace innovation and adopt best practices to create a conducive learning environment for students.

Senior officers of SED, Principals, Educational Experts and former Chief Education Officers participated in the training program emphasizing the importance of proper planning for effective administration and teaching learning process.

Joint Director School Education Kashmir Muhammad Mushtaq, Personnel Officer Engineer, Hilal Ahmad Butt and Chief Accounts Officer Syed Mubashira Hussain were also present in the training program.

## DC Baramulla visits Tribal villages in Tangmarg, assesses dev needs



**Baramulla:** In a significant outreach initiative, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, accompanied by SDM Gulmarg, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi and other senior officers, visited the remote tribal villages of Baderkoot, Darakasi and Gugaldara in Subdivision Tangmarg.

The visit aimed to assess local issues, inspect infrastructure, and ensure the effective implementation of government schemes in these far-flung areas.

During the visit, DC Baramulla inspected school buildings, roads, and other essential infrastructure, taking stock of their condition and identifying areas that need urgent attention.

He interacted with the local population, listened to their concerns, and assured them that the administration is committed to addressing their developmental needs, particularly in education, road connectivity, and public services.

DC emphasized the importance of ensuring that government schemes and welfare initiatives reach tribal communities, urging the concerned departments to expedite necessary improvements. He reiterated the administration's focus on inclusive development, ensuring that even the most remote areas benefit from essential services and infrastructure projects.

This outreach visit reflects the district administration's proactive approach to governance and citizen engagement. By directly interacting with people in remote areas, the administration aims to bridge development gaps, strengthen grassroots governance, and improve the quality of life for all communities in Baramulla.

## J&K Waqf board orders audit of Mehboob-ul-Aalam shrine in Bandipora



**Srinagar:** The Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board has constituted an Audit Committee to review the accounts and properties of the Shrine of Mehboob ul Alam (RA) at Gundpora village of north Kashmir's Bandipora district, covering the period from 2010-11 onwards.

The decision comes in response to public representations submitted to the Chairperson (MoS) of the J&K Waqf Board, followed by subsequent instructions for a thorough financial and administrative review of the shrine's assets.

As per an order, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the committee comprises Nazir Ahmad Wani, I/c Auqaf Section – Committee Head, Sajad Hussain Bhat, Administrator, Sub Unit Ahemi Shareef Bandipora, Member Manzoor Shah, Accounts Assistant, Accounts Section, Member Reyaz Ahmad Wani, Teacher, Sheikh Hamza Waqf Middle School Ahemi Shareef Bandipora.

The committee has been tasked with reviewing financial records, inspecting properties, and submitting a comprehensive report with recommendations within 21 days.

The committee has been directed to ensure transparency and accountability in managing shrine affairs—(KNO)

...PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

## Kishtwar responds well with around 2K applications, 85 loan clearances

**KISHTWAR:** A meeting to review the progress of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan.

The JPDCI engineers informed the meeting that 5000 consumers have registered for the scheme, with 1,940 applications already submitted.

It was further informed that as per J&K Bank 85 applicants have successfully availed bank loan amounting to 1.20 crore. The DC directed the vendors to start the installation of Solar Rooftop Systems (SRTs) for sanctioned applicants in three days.

Additionally, the vendors were instructed to increase installation teams to clear all pending cases.

To ensure the smooth implementation of the scheme, the DC advised the JPDCI to coordinate with vendors and address any minor operational challenges in a time-bound manner.

The initiative aims to facilitate consumers in availing the benefits of the government's solar energy scheme, promoting clean and sustainable energy solutions in the region.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), along with registered empaneled vendors, including,

## DDC Pulwama reviews Irrigation System augmentation for upcoming agricultural season

**Pulwama:** A comprehensive meeting was held today under the chairmanship of the District Development Commissioner (DDC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom to review the augmentation of the irrigation system and assess advance preparations for the upcoming agricultural season.

The discussions centered on enhancing water use efficiency through desilting, track lining to plug pilferages, restoring the lift irrigation system and ensuring sustainable agricultural productivity. The significant role of the Rural Development and Revenue Departments was emphasized in planning and executing irrigation-related initiatives at the grassroots level.

Dr. Qayoom directed the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department to coordinate with all BDOs to identify irrigation channels that require intervention for its incorporation in annual plan.

To facilitate a structured approach, the District Development Commissioner proposed the formation of a three-member team, led by an engineer of at least AE rank, to submit detailed reports to the District Mineral Officer (DMO), prioritizing critical irrigation schemes.

In addition, the District Development Commissioner directed all Tehsildars to compile and submit a Tehsil-wise data report to identify and address encroachments or other issues that could hinder irrigation infrastructure and related projects. The RDD was tasked with preparation and approval of identified works by mobilizing field

functionaries to conduct field visits and contribute to the development of detailed irrigation plans.

These plans will be submitted to the Assistant Commissioner for Development (ACD) for review



and subsequent implementation.

As the nodal officer, the ACD will coordinate with all relevant officers to develop the plan, obtain the necessary approvals and oversee its execution.

Furthermore, the Rural Development Department (RDD) was instructed to also focus on micro distributaries to develop an efficient plan.

The District Development Commissioner emphasised the importance of proactive measures and inter-departmental coordination for strengthening irrigation infrastructure and supporting the farming community. The meeting concluded with clear directives for timely execution, ensuring efficient irrigation management and sustainable agricultural growth in the district.

## Deputy Commissioner Shopian holds Public Darbar at Narapora, Keller

**Shopian:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a public darbar at BDO's office Narapora in the Keller block of district to assess and address public issues and concerns.

On the occasion, scores of delegations and citizens projected various development issues and demands of their respective areas, requiring attention and redressal by the authorities, spanning across departments.

The major developmental issues flagged included augmentation of play grounds, widening of roads, car parking at Keller Hospital, water

supply issues, establishment of veterinary centre, J&K Bank Branch, Fire Service station, functioning of bus services on all routes besides irrigation facilities.

DDC Vice-Chairperson, Irfan Manhas and DDC, member, Fazul-ul-Din also highlighted the issues of public importance which included heating system for Keller Hospital, Naserpora Zrakon bridge, lift irrigation Moshwara, road widening of Shadab Karewa, speeding up of work on Chanchmarag to Dabjan road, & other issues for early redressal.

DC assured appropriate

action for redressal of all public issues in a phased manner while directing the concerned departments to ensure vigorous follow up on genuine public grievances and issues.

He also called for timely resolution of local issues, particularly those requiring inter-departmental coordination at the district and block level.

DC also cautioned people to keep close watch on drug abuse and coordination with authorities.

He also called upon people for maintaining cleanliness in their surroundings through adhering to safe disposal of waste in dustbins.

## DC Kulgam chairs meeting on Wetland demarcation

**KULGAM:** Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, who is also Chairman of District Wetland Management Units, on Wednesday convened a comprehensive meeting to discuss the demarcation of wetland sites across the district.

Revenue, Forest, and Wildlife departments were tasked with the demarcation of identified wetlands and ground truthing of the digital boundaries.

Jal Shakti, Flood Control and Fisheries departments were asked to work out of the conservation plans



for the wetlands. The meeting was attended by

concerned officials from various departments.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kulgam, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, District Officer Pollution Control Committee Firdous Ahmad, all Tehsildars, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, DFO Kulgam, AD Fisheries, and other



# CAN A HIGH PROTEIN DIET HARM YOUR HEALTH? KNOW THE DAMAGES IT



In the world of weight loss, high protein diets have gained immense popularity. Nutritionist Tapasya Mundhra is of the belief that high protein diet isn't necessarily harmful, particularly if it is followed for a short period of time. High protein and low carb diets can help in reducing your calorie intake and make you feel full for longer. This in turn helps in aiding weight loss. When following a high protein diet, it is important that you choose your protein wisely. Some of the healthiest sources of protein includes nuts, beans, fish, skinless poultry, pulses, lentils, legumes and dairy products.

Weight loss: How can high protein diets harm your health? High protein diets may cause some adverse effects on your health if you follow them for a long period of time. "Diets high in protein create a load on your kidneys and liver. These two organs cannot mobilise excess protein in one go. What's more is that you suffer from external problems such as bad breath, excessive sweat and mood swings," explains Tapasya. She goes on to add that the body needs a certain amount of carbs to function properly. Lack of carbs because of following low-carb

diets can make you have irritable nature, mood swings, distractions, difficulty to concentrate, etc. "Also, following a high protein diet can lead to formation of kidney stones if it is followed for too long," adds Tapasya. How to follow a high protein diet? Firstly, make sure you do it only for a short period of time. For living healthy and maintaining a healthy weight, your diet needs to be a balance of all nutrients like fibre, carbs, protein, omega-3 fatty acids, fats and carbs. Starving yourself to lose weight or following calorie-restrictive diets can lead

to nutritional deficiencies. When on a high protein diet, make sure you consume water and include green vegetables in your diet, recommends Tapasya. Fibre in green veggies and water can together help in reducing ill effects of high protein diet on your health. Speaking of healthy protein foods sources for vegetarians, Tapasya says that soya and tofu are good options. "But check your thyroid levels as too much of soy foods can be harmful," she suggests. Other healthy sources include black chanas, chickpeas, paneer, peas, lentils, legumes, nuts and seeds.

# Autistic, ADHD children at higher risk for anxiety

**WASHINGTON:** Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are more than twice at risk of anxiety and mood disorders, say researchers. For the study's findings, researchers from Kennedy Krieger Institute examined the data of a cross-sectional, network-based survey of children ages 6 to 17 years with ASD, who were enrolled in the Interactive Autism Network, between 2006 and 2013. Of the 3,319 children in the study, 1,503 (45.3 percent) had ADHD. The survey data were analyzed for parent-reported diagnosis and/or treatment of ADHD, anxiety disorder, and mood disorders. Children with ASD and ADHD had more than twice (or 2.2 times) the risk of anxiety disorder and 2.7 times the risk of other mood disorders. Researchers also found that these psychiatric conditions were more prevalent in older children. "We have known that anxiety and mood disorders are highly prevalent in those with ASD," says Eliza Gordon-Lipkin, MD, [lead] study author.



"This study, however, takes it another step further, providing insights on the differences between children with just ASD versus those with ASD and ADHD. What exactly happens in the human brain that causes children with ASD to have other mental health conditions is not fully understood, but we hope this study inspires other researchers to pursue the answer to this question." "The takeaway from the study's findings, and one that both parents of children with ASD and doctors need to keep in mind, is that managing these psychiatric disorders is a dual effort. That by working closely together in monitoring a child for anxiety and mood symptoms, we can ensure early diagnosis and treatment, which is key to preserving a child's quality of life," said Paul H. Lipkin of Kennedy Krieger Institute. The research has been published in the journal Pediatrics.

# HOW TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN MENTAL DISORDERS



When it comes to mental health, differentiating mental disorders from mental illnesses has always been a tricky task. Notions of whether a certain phenomenon should be classified as an illness or disorder, or something falling within the category of normal emotional fluctuations or personality traits, have changed significantly over the years, and continue to do so. As part of a recent study, a team of researchers tried to draw a line between mental health and illness for a better understanding of the two phenomena. "It's difficult to draw a definite line between normal and abnormal behaviour or to know when mental symptoms should be called a disease. For instance, grief and anxiety can be normal reactions to a difficult stage in life, but they may also underlie severe depression or an anxiety disorder," said Kari Tikkinen, the principal author of the research. In a study carried out with a Finnish dataset, an international group of researchers looked into which mental conditions from a group of 20 were considered illnesses and which were not

by five different groups of people. The questionnaire was distributed to 6,200 individuals, of whom 3,000 were Finns chosen randomly from the Population Register. The rest included 1,500 physicians – a number of psychiatrists and other specialists – 1,500 nurses and, in addition, all of the 200 members of the Finnish Parliament. The researchers received 3,259 responses (53 per cent). The findings were published in the Journal of BMJ Open. The respondents were asked whether they would define the following conditions as diseases: ADHD, alcoholism, anorexia, autism, bulimia, premature ejaculation, homosexuality, drug addiction, depression, panic disorder, gambling addiction, personality disorder, absence of sexual desire, schizophrenia, social anxiety disorder, grief, transsexualism, work exhaustion, insomnia and generalised anxiety disorder. At least 75 per cent of respondents in all groups considered schizophrenia and autism illnesses, while a corresponding share did not consider homosexuality and grief illnesses.

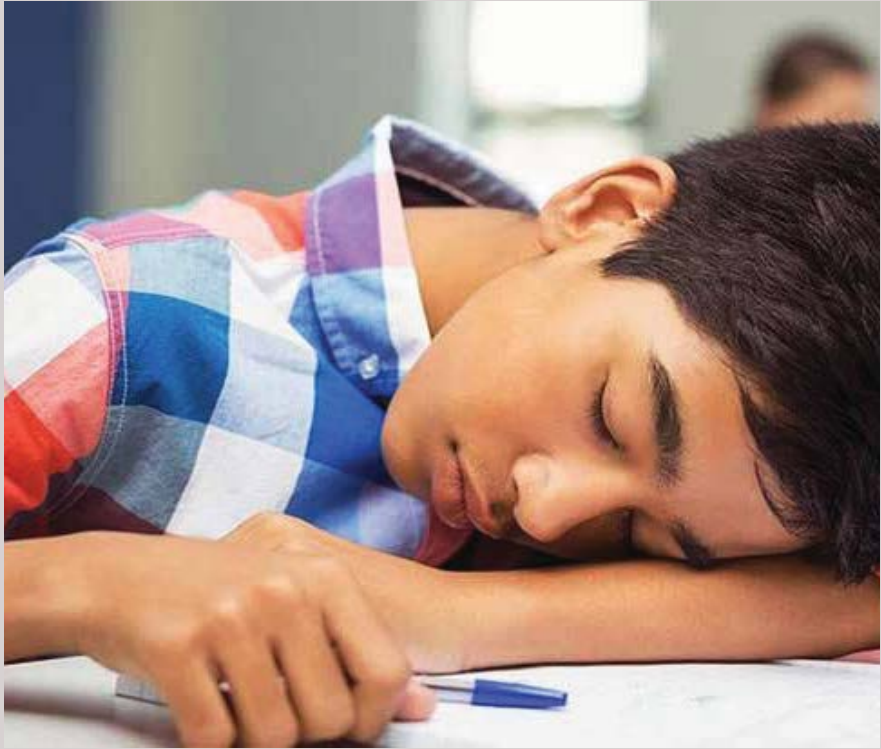
In all groups, ADHD, anorexia, bulimia, depression, panic disorder, personality disorder, and generalised anxiety disorder were classified as diseases by 50-75 per cent of respondents. The same number of respondents did not classify premature ejaculation, absence of sexual desire and transsexualism as diseases. The widest range of views concerned alcoholism, drug and gambling addiction, social anxiety disorder, insomnia, and work exhaustion. Psychiatrists were most inclined to classify the conditions included in the questionnaire as diseases, followed by other physicians, nurses, members of parliament and laypeople. People's notions of what is and is not a disease are very important in the discourse on mental health and human behaviour. These notions also influence the allocation of society's resources and the stigmatisation of various groups of people, researchers suggested. "Society's attitude towards alcoholics and drug addicts largely depends on whether substance abuse is considered an illness or a life choice," Tikkinen points out.

# Poor sleep linked to mental health issues

Insufficient sleep is associated with a wide range of mental health issues such as anxiety, self-harm and suicide ideation among students and athletes, according to a study. Published in the journal Sleep, the study analysis involved 110,496 students, out of which 8,462 were athletes. "It was really surprising to see how strongly insufficient sleep was associated with a wide variety of mental health symptoms among college students," said lead author Thea Ramsey from the University of Arizona in the US. With every additional night of insufficient

sleep, the risk of experiencing mental health symptoms increased on average by more than 20%. The risk also increased by 21% for depressed mood, 24% for hopelessness, 24% for anger, 25% for anxiety, 25% for desire to self-harm, 28% for functional problems and 28% for suicide ideation.

"The fact that sleep health was so strongly related to mental health is important since the majority of college students don't get the recommended amount of sleep needed for optimal health and functioning," said Michael Grandner from the varsity.



# ISPL SEASON 2 BREAKS FRESH GROUND ON JIOSTAR NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) Season 2 is off to a strong start with JioStar Network as its new broadcast partner. Across platforms, the league has reached over 15 million viewers for the first 11 matches (as of January 31) and TV reach has jumped 32% from the last season for the Live Matches. Building on its instant growth and widespread recognition, the ISPL is proud to announce the addition of two new teams for Season 3, further expanding the tournament's scale and grandeur.

The first two weeks in Season 2 delivered thrilling action at Dadoji Kondadev Stadium in Thane. Amitabh Bachchan-owned Majhi Mumbai became the first team to secure a playoff spot with a dominant run of eight consecutive wins. Meanwhile, Ram Charan's Falcon Risers Hyderabad, Akshay Kumar-owned Srinagar Ke Veer and Hrithik Roshan's Bangalore Strikers join Mumbai as the top four teams that made it to the playoffs starting February 12th with the finals on February 15th. Beyond the on-field action, ISPL has also been a star-studded entertainment spectacle, with Bollywood star Jacqueline Fernandez starring in the opening ceremony and electrifying performances each night from top artists like Mika Singh, Sonu Nigam, Jubin Nautiyal, Meet Bros among a host of others. Suraj Samat, League Commissioner and Core Committee Member, ISPL, said: "The viewership results are a testament to our commitment to establishing ISPL as a premier platform where players not only hone their skills but also gain nationwide recognition. Our partnership with JioStar reinforces this vision,



as we continue to unearth exceptional talent from the streets and provide them with a professional stage in stadiums. Season 2 has delivered an immersive broadcast experience, captivating fans with thrilling performances and high-octane action. With the

introduction of DRS, speed cameras, and other innovations, we are setting new benchmarks, positioning ISPL as the next feeder line for emerging Indian talent." Mallika Petkar, Head of Strategy and Business Development – JioStar – Sports, said: "ISPL celebrates the groundswell of support for cricket, expressed in the form of gali (street) Cricket. With this partnership, JioStar is committed to powering the overall cricket ecosystem by showcasing the democratised access to the game and building excitement for a wider universe of players. The talent pool for the tournament has been sourced from a nation-wide scouting program which allows brands to be activated across the thriving circuit of amateur participation and we hope to continue growing the pockets of passion every year." The ISPL has revolutionized the sports entertainment landscape in India, and its success story is only just beginning. With the addition of two new teams and an expanded format, the ISPL presents an exciting opportunity for new owners to join the league and be a part of its remarkable growth story.



# Continued From P1...

## Supporters &

of AP/IR Battalions and various other senior officers of J&K Police, in person and through virtual mode. The DGP briefed the chair regarding the present security scenario of the valley and the roadmap put in place to counter the various security challenges like counter insurgency, law & order, protection of minorities, terrorist recruitment etc. at zonal, range and district level. IGP Kashmir also gave a detailed presentation highlighting the challenges and the achievements of the Kashmir Zone and strategic foresight for the future. The Lieutenant Governor took appraisal of the working of various wings of J&K Police and expressed his satisfaction with regard to the crime related performance indices especially related to UAPA and NDPS. The Lieutenant Governor directed the senior police officials and head of its various wings to work in close synergy with each other and intensify the efforts to crush terrorism and those aiding and abetting terrorists.

"Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir is witnessing an era of peace, progress and prosperity. I have full faith in your valour, effective, focused measures and better institutional arrangements to make Jammu Kashmir terror-free. Improved intelligence generation, coordination and precision in anti-terror operations are vital to meet the future security challenges," the Lieutenant Governor said.

## Discussed Sopore,

refused to stop his vehicle at a checkpoint. After the two deaths, the chief minister had said that incidents like these "risk alienating the very people who we need to carry with us on the road to complete normalcy".

"I have taken up these incidents with the Union Government & insisted that both incidents are inquired into in a time bound, transparent manner. The Government in J&K will also order its own inquiries," Abdullah had said in a post on X on February 6.

On Wednesday, Abdullah also said restoration of statehood to J&K was also discussed in the meeting with Shah.

"We also discussed the forthcoming budget session. We are currently in a Union Territory setup and the Centre has a role to play in the budget," he added. (Agencies)

## Soldier Killed In

villagers remembering him as an enthusiastic cricketer, extrovert and always ready to extend a helping hand to the needy.

"He served the Army for more than nine years and a half, performing his duties in (Siachen) glacier (in Ladakh), Kashmir and Punjab, before moving to Jammu's Akhnoor recently. He returned to his unit on January 28 after a two-week leave from duty for his ring ceremony," his father Chagatar Singh, a retired police personnel, told reporters.

Manhas, whose younger brother is also serving in the Army, was supposed to get married around April 20-21, the grieving father said, as his relatives and neighbours made a beeline in front of the house to convey their condolences.

Chagatar Singh said his son joined the Army at a very young age to fulfil his desire to serve the country. "His two sisters, one elder to him and another younger, are married. He was a cricket lover and made extraordinary efforts during his recent stay in the village to prepare a cricket pitch for youngsters," Mahesh, a childhood friend of the slain soldier, said. Chuni Lal, another resident of the village, said Manhas was full of energy and was always motivating youngsters to get involved in sporting activities.

"We have lost a true gem in a cowardly terror attack. The enemy has no courage to face our brave soldiers and is undertaking such types of actions. We believe our forces will take appropriate action to ensure justice for the martyrs," he said.

Men and women who assembled at the house were seen in tears as they waited for the mortal remains of the deceased.

Officials said the body of Manhas will be taken to his village and his funeral will be held with full military hours later in the day.

## Passport can't

"The NC is committed to protect constitutional rights and dignity for all," he added.

J&K Peoples Conference President and MLA Handwara, Sajad Lone, welcomed the High Court's ruling and called the judgment a significant step against discrimination, stating that his party had already challenged the misuse of police verification as a tool for "collective punishment" through a petition

filed by advocate Syed Sajad Geelani.

He expressed optimism that a broader ruling would follow, ensuring uniform application across J&K. "This should have happened much earlier, but better late than never. Our petition seeks a Pan-J&K extension of this verdict to help thousands facing similar restrictions," he said.

Lone emphasized that their petition specifically demands strict implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Validation of Character and Antecedents) Instructions, 1997, and amendments in the Government Order of 2021 and Circular of 2024, which mandate clear timelines for police verifications.

He stressed that the ruling would rectify systemic flaws and provide relief, particularly to J&K's youth. "This will ensure they are not unfairly penalized and receive equal opportunities as others in the country," he stated.

J&K PDP chief, Mehbooba Mufti in a post on X, said that the honourable High Court's decision of not denying a passport to an individual for merely being related to a militant is certainly a step in the right direction.

Pertinently, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Tuesday ruled that an individual cannot be denied a passport solely because of a family member's past involvement in the militancy.

The verdict came in the case of Mohammad Amir Malik, a 29-year-old graduate from Shagan village in Ramban, who was denied a passport due to his brother's militant background and his father's alleged role as an overground worker (OGW) for a terror outfit. "Merely because the petitioner's brother was a terrorist and his father is an OGW, he cannot be deprived of his fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution," Justice M.A. Chowdhary had stated, while delivering the judgment.

## Aligning Technologies

include terrain-based and urban combat, he said. "In the maritime domain, apart from surface warfare, battles are now extending underwater—almost to the seabed. In the airspace we are witnessing an expansion into near space." "We need to align technologies to fight in these increasingly complex domains, and that is where technology will assist us," he added.

Speaking on how combat is evolving due to technological advancements, Chauhan said, "For generations warfare has been between human beings but today we are on the verge of redefining this. In the future combat may be between humans and machines and later it could be entirely between autonomous machines." He also highlighted that warfare is becoming multi-domain, meaning that battles will be fought simultaneously across multiple domains.

As warfare grows more complex the need to develop technologies for cross-domain operations and cross-domain command emerge, Chauhan stressed.

"Warfare is also becoming more intelligent due to battlefield digitisation, the networking of terrestrial, aerial, and satellite systems, and the shift toward data-centric warfare," he added

## CM holds

# NOTICE

The Traders Federation Bandipora is set to conduct the Presidency Elections in the coming days. In this regard, all traders are hereby informed that:

1. Any trader who has not yet obtained membership or has not received their voter slip must contact Aijaz Khalid Baba Sb (Baba Textiles Bandipora) within three (3) days from the date of this notice.
  2. After the expiry of this period, no objections, or claims regarding membership or voter slips will be entertained under any circumstances.
  3. Any trader failing to comply within the stipulated time shall forfeit their right to challenge the election process on these grounds at any stage.
- This notice serves as the final intimation in this regard.

**Election Commissioner  
Traders Federation Bandipora**

# NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216010003613, which is Registered in the name of my Father Namely Habibulla Malik. Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Nazir Ahmad Malik, S/O Habibulla Malik, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Nazir Ahmad Malik.  
S/O Habibulla Malik.  
R/O Ward NO: 01, Nowpora  
Bandipora.**

discussions, the MLAs of Srinagar sought liberal funding for priority developmental projects and key public welfare initiatives in their respective constituencies, keeping in view the significance of the capital city. MLAs Ali Muhammad Sagar, Mubarak Gul, Shamim Firdous, Tanvir Sadiq, Ahsan Pardesi, Salman Ali Sagar discussed their plans in the meeting. The consultation covered a wide range of issues, including traffic decongestion by exploring alternate routes, parking lots in downtown Srinagar, reducing vehicular pressure on roads, constructing flyovers, community halls. The restoration of water bodies, improvement of sports infrastructure, vertical housing projects, dredging of Dal interiors and the development of an efficient drainage system were also discussed.

MLAs highlighted the need for better drinking water quality, upgraded sewage treatment plants, improved electricity supply, and an effective solid waste management system. They further stressed the importance of scientific disposal of waste at Achan landfill site, identifying new dumping sites, introducing water ambulances in Dal Lake, dredging its canals, enhancing relief for fire victims, widening of interior roads & boulevard road and removing existing bottlenecks. A demand for creating employment avenues for the youth of Srinagar was also emphasized and making some provisions in the annual budget.

## SoPs for movement

Traffic Control Units, PCRs, APCRs and other contact numbers of Hospital and Emergency Services, as well as, District Administration and other NGOs/ stakeholders for proper coordination and safety / security of patients during their enroute movement.

The TCU/Ramban/Udhampur shall remain in close coordination and liaison with Hospital authorities regarding the status of road congestion/conditions/ weather vagaries, as well as, other alternate emergency routes, so that the patients could feel ease while movement.

The following Contact numbers are as under for Traffic assistance/query if any for the safe movement of ambulances in NHW Ramban: TCU Ramban: 9419993745 & 9906023617. Toll Free Number: 18001807043: TCU Udhampur: 8491928625," the circular added.

## Statehood Won't

"The spirit of INDIA bloc is still same. But some mistakes have been done in the Delhi. Had there been proper understanding between the AAP and Congress, the results could have been different. We have to meet and these issues need to be discussed," he said.

## Cong To Launch

who lost their lives in an IED attack near the LoC in Akhnoor sector of Jammu on Tuesday and said "such incidents expose the tall claims of the government that everything is fine and hunky-dory." "There are killings of security forces and civilians every now and then. We strongly condemn the dastardly act in (Akhnoor) but condemnation alone will not fix the situation," he said, adding the security forces are directly working under the command of the Centre, which needs to come clean on the growing terror incidents.

Karra also demanded a judicial probe into the recent suicide of a young man after alleged police harassment in Kathua district and also sought an end to alleged rise in criminal activities in Jammu.

The Congress leader said people have lost hope due to failure of the government to address their issues due to the dual power centre in the Union

# NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the Birth certificate of my Son issued by Municipal Council Bandipora, his Name, parantege and Mothers Name has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Mohmmad Umaan khan, S/O Mohammad Rafeeq khan, Mother's name Nasreena Bano, Now i want to apply for Change his name, parantege and Mothers Name as Momin Gojar, S/O Mohammad Rafeeq Gojar, and Mothers Name as Nasreena Begum. In this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Municipal council Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Mohammad Rafeeq Gojar  
F/O Momin Gojar.  
R/O Sumlar Shok baba Bandipora .**

# NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the DOB of my Daughter has been Mistakenly Mentioned in her School Records as 01-10-2010, while as her actual and correct DOB is 10-10-2012. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the principal Faiz Aam Secondary school Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Mushtaq Ahmad Rather.  
F/O Hadiya Mushtaq.  
R/O Ward NO: 10, Mader Bandipora.**

Territory.

"People are saying that they voted for resolution of their daily issues whether related to electricity, ration, roads and water. They are feeling that the vote has not benefited them as the administration is facing confusion on business rules which have not been cleared so far. The statehood restoration is also pending, adding to the people's concern," he said.

## Ahead of J&K

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Doda MLA Mehraj Malik, on the other hand, has shifted the

spotlight to governance failures in his constituency.

Through a series of pointed questions, Malik has raised the alarm over the dire conditions of daily wage workers, the environmental impact of power projects in Chenab Valley, and the lack of basic infrastructure.

Senior Congress leader and Bandipora MLA, Nizamuddin Bhat, stated that the party views liquor as a social evil and will thoroughly assess the proposed prohibition bill once it is formally introduced in the Assembly.

## HDFC Bank Launches 'Anmol Salary Account'—India's First PSU Salary Account with Cyber Fraud Cover

**SRINAGAR:** HDFC Bank has launched the Anmol Salary Account, the first-of-its-kind salary account designed exclusively for Public Sector Undertaking employees. This new offering comes with an integrated cyber fraud protection cover, making it a significant addition to the bank's evolving portfolio of savings accounts tailored to specific customer needs.

As part of its Speciale suite of savings accounts, HDFC Bank has been providing a range of benefits to different customer segments, including cyber fraud protection of up to 1.5 lakh for senior citizens and between 25,000 to 50,000 for professionals. The bank also offers a Speciale Gold Women account, which includes a cancer insurance cover of up to 5 lakh. With the introduction of the Anmol Salary Account, the bank aims to extend similar specialized financial protection to PSU employees while also providing a host of additional benefits.

The Anmol Salary Account includes cyber fraud coverage of up to 25,000, ensuring greater security for customers as digital banking becomes increasingly prevalent. In addition, the account allows PSU employees to extend its benefits to their families, offering a zero-balance salary account facility for up to five family members, along with locker privileges. It also provides a comprehensive health insurance cover that includes OPD coverage, top-up plans of up to 30 lakh, and an accident insurance cover worth over 15 lakh at no additional cost.

HDFC Bank is also offering exclusive perks to account holders, including a complimentary

Platinum Debit Card with special offers and up to eight free domestic airport lounge accesses per year. Moreover, Maharatna PSU employees will



have the advantage of supplementary home loan limits beyond their company's standard caps.

Commenting on the launch, Parag Rao, Country Head – Payments, Liability Products, Consumer Finance & Marketing at HDFC Bank, said, "We are pleased to introduce India's first cyber cover-integrated salary account for PSU employees. As digital transactions become more commonplace, ensuring security for our customers is a top priority. With the Anmol Salary Account, we are not only offering traditional banking benefits but also an added layer of protection and financial privileges for PSU employees and their families."

Through this launch, HDFC Bank continues to reinforce its commitment to customer-centric innovations. The Anmol Salary Account goes beyond conventional savings account benefits by providing added security, flexibility, and exclusive privileges, making it a well-rounded financial solution for PSU employees.(KNT)

## اہلیہ حاجی عبدالاحد پتور رحمت حق

### 14 فروری بروز جمعہ اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی

شاہی کشمیر کے بڑی پورہ حیدر بیگ پٹن کے حاجی عبدالاحد پتو کی اہلیہ حاجی انصاف بیگم 10 فروری کی شام اس دار فانی سے رخصت ہوئیں، اناللہ وانا الیہ راجعون۔ مرحومہ میڈیا سے وابستہ اشفاق ملک کی قرعہ رشتہ دار تھیں۔

مرحومہ و معظورہ کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 14 فروری بروز جمعہ المبارک کو آبائی مقبرہ واقع بڑی پورہ حیدر بیگ پٹن میں انجام دی جائیگی جبکہ دن بھر گھر میں مرحومہ کے ایصال ثواب کیلئے قرآن خوانی کا اہتمام بھی کیا جائے گا۔

غفرلگان، نہر منظور احمد ریتو، اشفاق ملک

## 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



# Starc withdraws from Champions Trophy, Smith to captain Australia

Mitchell Starc has withdrawn from the Champions Trophy for personal reasons with Australia confirming a different looking

a number of changes to their provisional squad due to the injuries to Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Marsh alongside the retirement of Marcus Stoinis. Starc's absence means they are without their entire

Starc, who has asked for privacy around his decision, had looked in some discomfort in the latter stages of the second Test in Galle. "We understand and respect Mitch's decision," chair of selectors George Bailey said.

"Mitch is deeply respected for his commitment to international cricket and the priority he places on performing for Australia."

"His well documented ability to play through pain and adversity, as well as forgoing opportunities in other parts of his career to put his country first should be applauded. His loss is of course a blow for the Champions Trophy campaign but does provide an opportunity to someone else to make a mark on the tournament."

Smith will take on the captaincy in place of Cummins and Marsh having led Australia to a 2-0 victory the Test series against Sri Lanka.

Sean Abbott, Ben Dwarshuis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Spencer Johnson and Tanveer Sangha have been brought in from outside the original 15-player group that was announced. Cooper Connolly will be a traveling reserve.

Fraser-McGurk, who averages 17.40 from five ODIs but finished the BBL with 95 off 46 balls for Melbourne Renegades, provides another

top-order option in the absence of Marsh while left-arm quick Johnson is as close as possible to a like-for-like of Starc although is wicketless from two ODIs. Legspinner Sangha, who was already in Sri Lanka with the Test squad as a development player, joins Adam Zampa as a second frontline spinner.

"The squad has changed significantly over the past month on the back of some untimely injuries and the retirement of Marcus Stoinis," Bailey said. "The upside of that is that we have been able to call on players who have had international exposure and success over the past 12 months."

"A strong core of some of our most experienced players will provide a strong foundation in our attempt to win this edition of the Champions Trophy. We have a range of options to shape the playing XI within the tournament depending on the opposition and conditions we face."

Australia will prepare for the Champions Trophy with two ODIs against Sri Lanka in Colombo on Wednesday and Friday. Their first match of the tournament is against England on February 22 followed by South Africa (February 25) and Afghanistan (February 28).

**Australia Champions Trophy squad**  
Steve Smith (capt), Sean Abbott, Alex Carey, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Matthew Short, Adam Zampa



15-player squad that will be captained by Steven Smith. Australia had already been forced into

World Cup winning frontline pace attack for the tournament in Pakistan and the UAE which starts on February 19.

"The squad has changed significantly over the past month on the back of some untimely injuries and the retirement of Marcus Stoinis," Bailey said. "The upside of that is that we have been able to call on players who have had international exposure and success over the past 12 months."

## Agha, Rizwan smash tons in Pakistan's highest ODI chase

Pakistan 355 for 4 (Salman 134, Rizwan 122\*, Fakhar 41, Mulder 2-79) beat South Africa 352 for 5 (Klaasen 87, Breetzke 83, Bavuma 82, Verreynne 44\*, Afridi 2-66) by six wickets

Salman Agha's first ODI century and Mohammad Rizwan's fourth combined as Pakistan completed their highest successful chase in ODIs and secured a spot in the tri-series final against New Zealand on Saturday. Rizwan and Salman, Pakistan's captain and vice-captain, shared in a record fourth-wicket stand of 260, the highest-ever against South Africa, and the fourth-highest by any pair while chasing. South Africa have never had a bigger score chased against them.

On a pitch perfect for batting, Pakistan's efforts trumped Temba Bavuma's highest ODI score since September 2023, Matthew Breetzke becoming the player with the most runs after two matches (233) and Heinrich Klaasen's scored his fourth successive 80-plus score in the highest-scoring encounter between these two sides.

It goes without saying that it was a difficult day for bowlers, and seamers in particular. Pakistan's quicks conceded 206 runs in 28 overs, of which Mohammad Hasnain's eight cost 72, and South Africa's pace attack gave away 223 runs in 27 overs. South Africa have now lost six successive ODIs.

Ultimately, South Africa will be more concerned about the loss of Klaasen to a thumb injury than the match. Klaasen left the field in the 32nd when 31 needed off the Pakistan chase and handed the wicket-keeping gloves to Kyle Verreynne, after a ball that kept low from Corbin Bosch struck him on the right thumb. There was no immediate update on Klaasen's condition.



## Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

