

Kashmir Convener



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Every Perpetrator And Supporter Of Terrorism Must Pay The Price: LG

Reviews the security scenario in Jammu Division

KC News Network

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today directed the police that "every perpetrator and supporter of terrorism must pay the price. We need to equip ourselves with credible intelligence and act more effectively to neutralise the terrorists and ensure the security of citizens. We must be prepared for conventional as well as non-conventional threats."

Lieutenant Governor made these remarks while chairing a high-level meeting and reviewed the security scenario in Jammu Division.

At the outset, the DGP J&K and IGP Jammu briefed the chair on the future action plan and the proposed measures to tackle the security challenges to ensure a safe and secure environment for the common citizen.

The IGP Railways gave a detailed presentation on the security architecture



of railways, and the roadmap put in place to strengthen the security of stations and the tracks.

The Lieutenant Governor said that our focus should be on complete wipe-out of terrorism from Jammu Division.

"We should not even have remnant of terrorism in Jammu region. Take effective steps to wipe-out terrorism and ensure complete dismantling of the infrastructure and local support of terrorism," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the J&K Police officials to take strongest possible action against those providing logistical and financial support to terrorism.

"Make sure that acts of individuals or groups trying to create fear in the society

are termed as terrorist action and they should be punished as per the law," the Lieutenant Governor directed the police officials.

The Lieutenant Governor also discussed roadmap for technology driven policing, area domination plan, inter-agency coordination, action against narco-terrorism, capacity building of police force and innovative strategies to improve cyber patrolling and monitoring capabilities.

He stressed on credible intelligence gathering, sharing of real time operational intelligence and anti-terror operations based on precise inputs.

The Lieutenant Governor directed for stronger measures to protect our borders.

"We must strengthen border security against asymmetric threats due to porous border with riverines and difficult mountain range and all the security agencies must work together

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CM Concludes Pre-Budget Consultation In Kashmir

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Concluding the pre-budget consultations in Kashmir for the forthcoming Budget (2025-26), Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today held meetings with public representatives from Shopian and Kupwara districts here at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The Chief Minister chaired pre-budget consultation with

Commissioners of Shopian and Kupwara Districts attended the meeting through video conference.

Addressing the meetings, the Chief Minister maintained that when proposing works in the district capex budget, focus should be given to projects which can be completed within a reasonable time frame of two to three years with clear deliverables that fit within the allocated funds.

He stressed on prioritizing



the chairpersons of District Development Councils (DDCs) and the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from the districts of Shopian and Kupwara, who participated both in person and through virtual mode.

The meeting was also attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta and Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya. While the Deputy

projects with achievable targets within stipulated deadlines that align with the budget cycle and fulfill public needs and their aspirations.

The CM also said that purpose of holding pre-budget consultation was to obtain useful feedback from the stakeholders and public representatives who are aware of ground realities and propose works which are important and for overall public welfare.

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Govt Discharges All Quarantined People From Badhaal



Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR: While the mystery over the deaths in Badhaal area of Rajouri continue to remain unsolved, the government has discharged all the quarantined people from the village and allowed them to proceed to their homes after remaining in isolation for nearly one month.

Since December 7, 2024, a total of 17 people—including 13 children—have died due to an unidentified illness. While no new cases have been reported in almost one month, all the previously admitted patients have recovered and no one has shown any symptoms since then, said the officials.

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Ceasefire along LoC in J&K Remains Intact, Says Army

Sajid Raina

SRINAGAR: The Indian Army Thursday confirmed that the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir remains intact and continues to be observed as per the mutual understanding with the Pakistan Army.

"While tensions have arisen due

to the Army said.

Clarifying that no recent exchange of heavy-calibre weapon fire has occurred along the LoC, the Army said that minor incidents are not unprecedented.

"Concerns have been raised with the Pakistan Army at the appropriate level," the Army said, adding that the situation remains stable and under



to stray incidents of cross-LoC firing and a suspected IED blast targeting an Indian patrol, these are being addressed through the established mechanism,"

close monitoring, with the Indian Army maintaining a high state of alertness and dominating the LoC.

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Will relook at relationship with Centre if it fails to deliver on prom- ises: CM Omar

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, has said that he would relook at the relationship with the Centre if it fails to deliver on its promises.

In an interview to the BBC, he however said that he has not given up the fight on restoration of Article 370.

To a question about being seen to be soft towards the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi-

led BJP government at the Centre, Omar said, "At least in the opening few months of my government I owe it to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to try and establish a good working relationship with the Government of India. If that fails to deliver on the promises that the Government of India has made to us, we would relook at it." The CM said that till the time Narendra Modi is Prime Minister, it was not

possible to see that Article 370 was restored.

He however said that he has not given up on restoration of Article 370 fight and if that was the case, "We would not have passed a resolution in the Assembly asking for the special status of Jammu and Kashmir to be restored and constitutional guarantees be brought back as well."

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Army recovers Anti-tank mine at LoC in Rajouri

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Army on Thursday said it has recovered war-like stores of explosives including anti-tank mine during a search operation at Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The recovery which include anti-tank mine, four anti-personnel activator mines, splinter material, shovel,

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Shab-e-Barat: Devotees Throng Hazratbal Shrine To Seek Mercy



Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR: Devotees across the valley and Muslims all over the world

will seek divine mercy on Shab-e-Barat tonight, as thousands observe this night with deep religious devotion, offering night-long prayers and seeking divine

mercy at major shrines and mosques.

The largest congregation is expected to take place at Hazratbal Shrine, where worshippers have started gathering in large numbers to mark the sacred occasion. Meanwhile, locals have also expressed disappointment over the closure of Jama Masjid Srinagar for Shab-e-Barat observance.

As per the details gathered by the news agency—

Kashmir News Observer (KNO), for many believers, Shab-e-Barat is a time when "Allah records destinies and showers His mercy upon those who seek forgiveness."

Devotees engage in Quranic recitations and supplications, praying for peace and prosperity.

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Expedite implementation of schemes: Dy CM



KC News Network

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today directed the officers for expediting implementation of various schemes meant for upgrading the basic infrastructure of Jammu district, so that the people get benefitted and it comes up as one of the most developed cities of the country replete with all basic and modern

amenities.

The Deputy Chief Minister was addressing the officers during a review meeting held for Jammu district.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, was also present in the meeting.

Chairman District Development Council, Bharat Bhushan; Vice Chairman,

>>>SEE ON P-7

Ex-CJI DY Chandrachud Defends Supreme Court Ruling On Article 370, PM Modi Puja Visit

NEW DELHI: Former Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud, has defended the Supreme Court's ruling on the revocation of Article 370, stating that its inclusion in the Constitution was always intended as a transitional measure.

In an interview with journalist Stephen Sackur on BBC's Hard Talk, Justice (Retd) Chandrachud addressed criticism of the court's decision to uphold the Centre's move to abrogate Jammu and Kashmir's special status. He said that Article 370 was initially part of a chapter titled "Transitional Arrangements", later renamed "Temporary and Transitional Arrangements", underscoring that it was never meant to be permanent.

"The assumption at the time of the Constitution's adoption was that transitional provisions would eventually integrate with the broader constitutional framework. Is over 75 years too short a time to phase out a transitional provision?" he asked.

Justice (Retd) Chandrachud also highlighted the importance of restoring democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, noting that an elected government is now in place.

"A peaceful transition of power has occurred to a government led by a political party different from the ruling party at the Centre. This demonstrates that democracy is functioning in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

On the issue of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, which remains unresolved despite the formation of a new government, he acknowledged the demand for



full statehood, a key electoral promise of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's administration.

Responding to criticism that the Supreme Court failed in its constitutional role, Justice (Retd) Chandrachud rejected the claim.

"The court has ensured democratic accountability, and a people's government is now in place. The assertion that we did not uphold our constitutional mandate is incorrect," he stated.

The former Chief Justice also addressed concerns

about diversity in the Indian judiciary, particularly regarding gender and caste representation. He asserted that the judiciary is evolving, with increasing female participation.

"If you look at the district judiciary, which forms the base of the judicial system, over 50 per cent of new recruits in many states are women, with figures reaching as high as 60 or 70 per cent in some regions," he noted.

Explaining the higher judiciary's composition, he said it reflects the legal profession as it stood a decade ago. "With greater access to legal education, particularly for women, the gender balance in law schools is now translating into increased female representation in the judiciary," he added.

Addressing suggestions of judicial dynasties, he recalled that his father, former Chief Justice YV Chandrachud, had discouraged him from entering a courtroom while he was in office. "That's why I spent three years at Harvard Law School. I only entered a court after my father retired," he said, adding that most lawyers and judges in India are first-generation legal professionals.

Justice (Retd) Chandrachud was also asked about allegations of political pressure on the judiciary, including claims that the ruling BJP has influenced court decisions. He dismissed the notion, pointing to the results of the 2024 general elections as evidence of India's multiparty democracy.

Centre Grants Z Category CRPF Security Across India To Dalai Lama

NEW DELHI: The Central government has granted Z-category Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) security cover for Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama across India, sources said.

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) took the decision to provide the security cover following a recent Intelligence Bureau's threats analysis report.

Dalai Lama was previously under the protection of the Himachal Pradesh Police and other security agencies. However, given recent intelligence inputs and potential risks, the Home Ministry has decided to assign the CRPF for his security, ensuring a more coordinated and robust protection plan.

Dalai Lama is a globally respected figure and the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism. He has been residing in India since 1959 after fleeing Tibet following the Chinese occupation.

Given Dalai Lama's status and the complex geopolitical tensions surrounding Tibet, his security has been a key concern for Indian authorities.

Under the Z-category security protocol, the Dalai Lama will be protected by a dedicated team of CRPF commandos, along with an escort and close-protection officers during his travels within the country. This decision comes amid heightened concerns over his safety, particularly considering China's long-standing opposition to his activities and influence.

Dalai Lama's presence in India has been a sensitive issue in Sino-Indian relations. While India officially considers Tibet an autonomous region of China, it has continued to provide sanctuary to the



Tibetan leader and his followers. Over the years, Chinese authorities have repeatedly criticized his global engagements, viewing them as a challenge to their control over Tibet.

The enhancement of his security suggests the Indian government is taking no chances with potential threats. It also underlines India's commitment to safeguarding the Tibetan leader, who has lived in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh, for over six decades.

Warmth Promotes Dengue Spread; Effects Of Rainfall On Its Outbreak Can Vary: Study

NEW DELHI: While rising temperatures consistently promote the spread of dengue, rainfall could either increase or decrease the spread, depending on how long a region has experienced a dry season, a study has found.

As warmer, humid conditions, driven by climate change, increase dengue outbreaks, including in countries previously unaffected, the study, published in the journal Science, detailed how temperature and rainfall interact, and affect disease spread.

Researchers, led by those from Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology and the Institute for Basic Science, stressed on the role of local climate conditions in spreading dengue, thereby warranting tailored strategies in preventing disease.

Dengue is a viral infection, caused by the bite of an infected mosquito. Climates of tropical and sub-tropical regions are

known to favour the disease's spread, mostly in urban and semi-urban areas.

Focussing on 16 regions of the Philippines, known for their

contrasting effects of how rainfall affected the spread of dengue depended on a "previously overlooked" critical factor — 'variation in dry season length',



experiencing more changes in dry season length, sporadic rainfall created new breeding sites and weakened the flushing effect, thereby driving an increase in mosquito populations and dengue cases.

"Our findings provide robust evidence for how climatic factors influence dengue transmission in diverse environments. This represents a significant step toward understanding how climate change may impact mosquito-borne diseases globally," first author Olive R. Cawiding, from Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology and the Institute for Basic Science, said.

To validate their findings, the researchers extended their analysis to Puerto Rico, another region with diverse climate patterns. Data from municipalities, including San Juan, Adjuntas, and Ponce, covering a 20-year period from 1986 to 2005 was analysed.

6 advocates, 2 judicial officers elevated as judges in 7 high courts

NEW DELHI: Six advocates and two judicial officers were on Thursday elevated as judges



in seven high courts.

In a statement, the law ministry said while two advocates were appointed as additional judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, one advocate each was appointed as a judge in the Delhi, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka high courts.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

(JalShakti)PHE,Mechanical Rural Division,Sgr.

GIST fore-Tender.

Short Term E-NIT No:-PHE/MRD/TS/102of02/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Short term e-tenders are invited in two cover system from approved and eligible Contractors having GST registration/registered with J&K Govt., Railways and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work:-

Sr.	Nature of Work	Location	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc.	Time of Completion	Programme
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Restoration of bore well and allied works to be carried out	Naroon New Budgam	0.251	50/=	05 days	M&R

Critical Dates/Information.

1.	Publishing Date	13-02-2025 (5:00 PM)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	13-02-2025 (5:00 PM) to 19-02-2025 (11:00 AM)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	13-02-2025 (5:00 PM) to 19-02-2025 (11:00 AM)
4.	Date of opening of Tender/Timing	19-02-2025 at (12:00 P.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar	
6.	Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the e-NIT No. & name of work for which applied)	
7.	Bid Validity Period: 90Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.jktenders.gov.in	
9.	Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is enclosed in the Bid Document	

Note:- The tenderer who is declared as L1 after opening of price bid will deposit 5% of the estimated cost of the work in shape of CDR/FDR before allotment is issued in his favour.

No:- PHE/MRD/TS/S305-09

DT:- 13-02-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar.

DIPK-11965/24

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

(R&B) Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering

Complex Srinagar Rajbagh.

Near Silk Factory Srinagar- 190008.

(Short Term) NOTICE INVITING TENDER

electricdivisionrnb@gmail.com

E-NIT No.F1/205/R&B/Electric Division Kashmir of 2024-25 issued under Endorsement No: ERB/10155-63

DATED:11-02-2025.

For and on behalf of The Government of J&K(U/T) e-tenders (in Double cover system) are Invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/ Central Government Departments for the following works:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	E/Cost (In. Lacs)	Cost of Tender/Doc. (In Rs.)	2% E/Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion (Calendar Days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account	Remarks
01	Construction of Court Room with attached washroom cum toilet facility at Deputy Commissioner office Budgam and K India (electric part)	Rs. 3.97/= Lacs	Rs. 200/=	Rs. 7945/=	Linked with progress of civil work	"AAY" Class Electrical	District Capex Budget (United Grants) 2024-25	Accord of Administrative Approval accorded by District Development Commissioner Budgam vide order No.100-DDCB of 2024 Dated:-29-11-202

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-02-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	12-02-2025 from 02.00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	12-02-2025 from 02.00 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date	19-02-2025 upto 12.00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	19-02-2025 at 02.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh.
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-NIT carefully before uploading soft's copy.

As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No. OM No. A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-

a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.

1. The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).

1.1. The successful Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @5% of contract value in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG after issuance of Letter of Acceptance which shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP. The EMD @ 2% of successful bidder will be released only after the submission of 5% performance Security deposit.

1.2. The bidder who so ever participate the e-tenders floated by this office will submit Additional Performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG in case the bidder has Submitted the below Percentage Bid against the Advertised Cost for the work as per below mentioned percentage Breakup in order to avoid unbalancing of e-tender and shall be released after 70% completion of work:

avoid unbalancing of e-tender and shall be released after 70% completion of work:

S. No.	% age of Unbalanced bid Viz-a-viz advertised cost on account of Low Rate.	Additional Performance security to be Deposited on quoted bid by L1
1.	Upto and including 15%	NIL
2.	Greater than 15% upto & including 20%	5%
3.	Greater than 20% upto & including 25%	10%
4.	Greater than 25% upto & including 30%	15%
5.	Greater than 30% below	20%

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority)

2. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

3. The Employer reserves the right to invite fresh tender without any Prior Notice to the Bidders.

4. The earnest money (EMD) shall be released in favour of unsuccessful bidders only after submission of Treasury Challan.

5. The earnest money may be forfeited if:-

No.ERB/10155-63

DATED:-13-02-2025

Sd/-Executive Engineer, (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh

DIPK-11937/24

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION TANGDAR

Email: eermtangdar@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 107 Enddt No: 5300-5310 OF 2024-25 DATED: 11.02.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders (IN SINGLE COVER SYSTEM) are invited on percentage rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K U.T Govt., CPWD, Railway and other U.T /Central Government works for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees) @2% of the Adv. Cost)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	SCHEME H/A
1	Renovation of Community Hall for Higher Secondary School Nachiyar, Panchayat Nachiyar.	1.94	200	3880	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF PRI
2	Construction of tile path from HO Mohd Sadiq, Mohd Arshid, Mohd Ilyas Turk and Others onwards, Panchayat Kandi Payeen	1.94	200	3880	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF PRI
3	Const Of Fencing around Grave yard at ward No 06 Panchayat Kandi Balla.	1.93	200	3860	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF PRI
4	Fencing around graveyard near upper Zayarat Shareef Surmapadi Pyt, Chanipora B.	1.45	200	2900	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF PRI
5	Construction of Fencing around NTPHC Teetwal (Balance Work).	4.84	200	9680	20 days	DEE	ADF PRI

Position of AAA = Accorded.

Position of TS = Accorded.

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11.02.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11.02.2025
3	Online Bid submission Start Date	11.02.2025
4	Online Bid Submission End Date	20.02.2025 upto 4 PM
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	21.02.2025 at (11 AM) or any other convenient day in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangdar

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of E Challan /Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Tangdar MH 0059-(tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR, APS in case of unbalanced bid pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Div. Tangdar (Tender receiving authority).The Successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% performance security deposit of the allotted cost. The same shall be released after the successful completion of the defect (liability period of the work. The EMD of 2% successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security).

2. Special Conditions: For Works Adv. Cost Up-to Rs. 3.00 lakhs, only DEE Class and DDC Registered Card holders of respective Panchayat Haqas shall take part in tendering process in light of the Govt Order No 238-F of 2021 Dated 09-07-2021. Bidder must upload any document Residential certificate/ Aadhar card/Ration card/ Electricity Bill showing Panchayat name, as residence proof that he/she is residing the particular Panchayat haqas.

3. Instruction to bidder (ITB)

14.1 All Bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualifying criteria/qualification information with the bids.

a. All Bidders shall upload Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and Earnest Money/Bid Security.

b. All Bidders shall upload Valid Registration Card with renewal Slide (Latest), Valid GSTIN registration& Valid PAN Card.

c. Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B from the previous quarter or month, whichever is applicable.

d. All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate from concerned Chief Engineer /Superintending Engineer of Enlistment Registration Card.

e. A fresh Registration card generated via JKPWDOMS is itself a verified card (Valid Document) and do not need/seek submission of offline verification Certificate.

f. All bidders should upload an affidavit mentioning there in that he/she is not blacklisting /debarred by any of the center /state /UT /Board /Co-operation /PSU as procuring entity in the India on the date of submission of tender

ii). has not been declare bankrupt by any institute or Government

j) All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

Sd/-Executive Engineer R&B Div. Tangdar

DIPK-11951/24

No Ramps, Non-Functional Lifts: Specially-Abled Face Hardships in Bandipora Offices

BANDIPORA: Government offices, banks, and public institutions in Bandipora have become inaccessible for the specially-abled persons of the district in absence of ramps and non-functional lifts exposing the government claims of providing inclusive infrastructure and subsequent inclusive governance.

Several specially-abled persons and activists told Kashmir Convener that even Mini Secretariat Bandipora has become inaccessible for the specially-abled persons as the lifts are not working since many years forcing persons with locomotor disability to crawl to reach to the second or third floor of the mini secretariat. "This is the condition of the top office of the district, not to talk about other government offices".

Like Mini Secretariat Bandipora, Grameen Bank



in Bandipora town has also become a headache for specially-abled persons. "The bank is present on the second floor of a building and even a normal

person has to take extra caution while going upstairs," said Mohammad Ashraf Khan, an octogenarian from Bandipora village.

Locals said most of the specially-abled persons get welfare pensions from Grameen Bank and visiting the bank has become a headache for specially-abled people.

The specially-abled persons appealed Commissioner Disabilities, Mr Iqbal Lone and Social Welfare Department to take up the issue with concern for prompt resolution.

While talking to Kashmir Convener, District

Social Welfare Officer Sahir Majeed stated that an accessibility audit of all government departments would be conducted soon.

She emphasized that under the Accessible India Campaign, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) guidelines, and Supreme Court directives, public buildings must ensure barrier-free access for all individuals.

"We are committed to ensuring accessibility in all government offices. Necessary steps will be taken in line with legal mandates and national guidelines," he said.

Authorities have assured that efforts will be made to implement accessibility standards, ensuring inclusive infrastructure for specially-abled persons across the district.

J&K General Line Teachers' Forum Delegation Meets Ministers, Raises Key Concerns

SRINAGAR: A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir General Line Teachers' Forum (JKGLTF), led by Provincial President Anver H. Wani and Neeraj Sharma on Thursday called on Minister for



Education Sakina Itoo and Minister for Science and Technology Satish Sharma.

General Secretary of the Forum Zahoor Ahmad Lone said the delegation called on the minister at the Civil Secretariat to discuss pressing concerns of general line teachers across the Union Territory.

He said during the meeting with Education Minister Sakina Itoo, the delegation presented a charter of demands related to teachers' career progression and administrative issues. "The minister assured full support and promised to work towards resolving the issues".

He said the key demands included expedition

of promotions for teachers to Masters and Lecturers to curb stagnation, restoration of the Divisional Cadre for the Master Grade post and addressing loopholes in the transfer policy and Annual Transfer Drive (ATD). Rationalization of teaching posts based on CTR (Classroom Teacher Ratio) instead of PTR (Pupil Teacher Ratio) to ensure every school has adequate staff, Creation of sufficient Lecturer posts in subjects previously uncovered, Revocation of Order No. 469 of 2014, Resolution of pay anomalies from 2009 and increment issues from 2019, Establishment of a Teachers' Welfare Fund, Granting Gazetted Status to trained Postgraduate (PG) teachers and above.

Later, the delegation met Minister Satish Sharma and discussed concerns related to science education, sports infrastructure, and nutrition in schools.

Lone said the delegation raised issues regarding Establishment of Science Labs in schools, Organizing Science Exposure Camps to promote scientific learning, Improvements in sports infrastructure to enhance student participation, Ensuring good quality food grains for the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme and raising GLT-specific issues in the cabinet and extending necessary support.

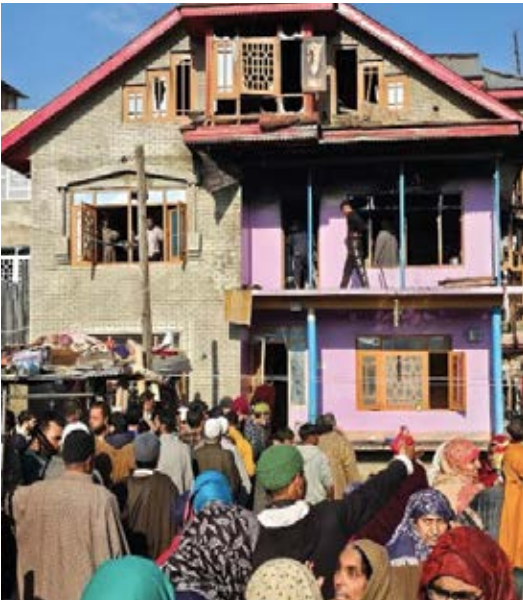
Spokesperson said the ministers gave patient hearing to the delegation and assured the issues will be looked into.

The meetings saw participation from scores of teachers across Jammu and Kashmir, who expressed optimism that their concerns would be addressed at the policy level.

Back-to-Back Fires Leave Pampore Family Homeless, Appeal for Help

BILAL HABIB

PAMPORE: A devastating fire broke out in the double-storied house of Abdul Majeed Ganie, son of Mohammad Jamal, a resident of Krunchok, Pampore. This marks the second fire incident in just two



days at the same house.

Two days ago, a fire had already damaged the third storey of the house. Unfortunately, before the family could recover, another fire erupted on Thursday, causing significant damage to the second storey. The repeated incidents have left the family in deep distress.

The house owner Abdul Majeed Ganie, has five daughters and the family in deep distress.

Eyewitnesses stated that the Fire and Emergency Services Pampore, with assistance from the Pampore police and local residents, managed to douse the flames and prevent further destruction.

Meanwhile, the affected family urgently appealed for support to help them rebuild their home and recover from their losses.

Mohammad Shafi, a local resident, informed Kashmir Convener that a fire broke out in this residential house two days ago, and today, once again, it has been engulfed in flames. In this fire incident, the second storey has been damaged, and all the belongings in the house have been completely destroyed.

"We appeal to the government to provide full support to Abdul Majeed Ganie, as he has five daughters and no son. We also request the concerned Tehsildar and MLA to ensure that he receives immediate relief".

Ali Mohammad Ganie, the brother of Abdul Majeed Ganie, said that a fire incident occurred a few days ago in the cow shed, followed by another fire on the third storey, causing a loss worth lakhs of rupees. Now, just two days later, another fire has broken out in the same house, completely damaging all household belongings.

My brother has five daughters, and I appeal to the district administration to provide him with full support so that he can rebuild his life.

Foreign Athletes Hail Gulmarg as World-Class Winter Sports Destination

SRINAGAR: The breathtaking slopes of Gulmarg came alive as foreign skiers from the United States, England, Australia, New Zealand, France, Japan, Hong Kong, Russia and Nepal participated in the first-



of-its-kind Himalayan Freeride Event, organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council.

The event was meticulously planned to provide participants with an unparalleled skiing experience on Gulmarg's world-class slopes, renowned for their pristine powder snow and challenging alpine terrain. Skiers from different nationalities explored the diverse landscape, showcasing their expertise while embracing the unique adventure and challenges that make Gulmarg a premier winter sports

destination.

In the male category, Sam (Australia), Roro (France), and François Mortier (United States) secured the first, second, and third positions, respectively. In the

female category, Virginia Michele Winstone (New Zealand), Laura (United States), and Melanie Anderson (Hong Kong) claimed the top three spots.

A key highlight of the event was an interactive session with international athletes and experts, where valuable insights were shared on Gulmarg's growing stature as a global winter sports hub. Discussions focused on infrastructure development, safety protocols, environmental sustainability, and strategies to attract more professional athletes and skiing enthusiasts to the region.

Foreign athletes were particularly captivated by Gulmarg's unmatched skiing experience. Rebecca, an American skier, remarked, "The powder snow here, combined with the breathtaking backdrop of the Himalayas, is unmatched. Nowhere else in the world offers such a unique and exhilarating experience."

Beyond the world-class skiing, international participants were deeply touched by the warm hospitality of the local people. Many athletes praised the friendliness and generosity of the local community, expressing gratitude for the way they were welcomed and hosted. "The

people of Gulmarg have been incredibly kind and hospitable. Their warmth made this experience even more special," said Vermeil Sebastian, a skier from France.

Many participants also thanked the J&K Government for organizing such a prestigious event. They pledged to act as ambassadors for Gulmarg upon returning to their home countries, hoping that next year's Himalayan Freeride Event would witness even greater international participation. Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, speaking at the felicitation ceremony, expressed pride in hearing foreign athletes speak so highly of Gulmarg. He congratulated the winners and emphasized that this event marks the first step toward hosting major international winter sports competitions in the region. He reiterated the government's commitment to transforming Gulmarg into a world-class winter sports destination.

Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, extended her gratitude to all international participants who traveled from across the globe for the event.

She highlighted Gulmarg's unique slopes as a top-tier winter sports attraction and noted that the presence of professional athletes from different countries would significantly boost Gulmarg's global reputation.

She also thanked the J&K Government for its unwavering support in strengthening the sports ecosystem in the region.

With the overwhelming success of the inaugural Himalayan Freeride Event and glowing endorsements from international skiers, Gulmarg is set to establish itself as a premier destination for winter sports on the global map.

Dr. Fatima Jalid Felicitated At NIT Srinagar For Prestigious Recognition In "She Is - 75 Women in Chemistry"

Srinagar: Dr. Fatima Jalid from the Department of Chemical Engineering, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, has achieved a remarkable milestone by being featured in the prestigious book "She Is - 75 Women in Chemistry." This publication highlights the contributions of 75 exceptional Indian women who have made significant impacts in chemistry and related fields.

In recognition of her outstanding achievement, President of the Teachers' Society, Prof. M.A. Shah, and Prof. Seemin Rubab, along with the laboratory team, felicitated Dr. Jalid in the Medicinal Garden of NIT Srinagar. Congratulating her, Prof. Shah and Prof. Rubab lauded her dedication and contributions to the field of chemistry, emphasizing the importance of such accomplishments in inspiring young minds towards science and research.

Dr. Jalid, a distinguished alumna of NIT Srinagar, graduated as a gold medalist in 2015 before earning her Ph.D. from IIT Delhi. Her research, published in leading journals, has been widely recognized, and she was honored with the Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Award in 2018. Her inclusion in "She Is - 75 Women in Chemistry" stands as a testament to her groundbreaking work in sustainable chemical processes and her role as a trailblazer for women in STEM.

The Teachers' Society affirmed its commitment to celebrating faculty members who bring laurels to the institute, reinforcing NIT Srinagar's legacy of academic excellence and innovation.



Sheikh Qawam-ud-Din Demands Phase-Wise Restoration of Jhelum Bund at Hajin

HAJIN: Senior socio-political activist Sheikh Qawam Uddin Shilvatee has expressed serious concerns over cracks in the Jhelum Bund at Hajin Sonawari, warning of potential risks to residents and shopkeepers.

Criticizing the government's 28 crore embankment restoration project, Qawam Uddin argued that awarding the entire contract through a single tender process would overburden contractors and hinder timely completion.

Instead, he advocated for phase-wise tendering, ensuring efficient execution and enhanced safety for the bund and surrounding roads.

He cautioned that inaction could lead to severe erosion, posing a significant threat to lives, businesses, and infrastructure in Hajin town. Urging authorities to act swiftly, he emphasized the urgent need for structural reinforcements to prevent future disasters.

JK Teachers' Forum Questions Selective TA Disbursement in Bandipora, Demands Equal Distribution

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Teachers' Forum (JKTF) has raised concerns over the selective disbursement of Travelling Allowance (TA) for teachers who performed Republic Day duties, demanding fair treatment for all teachers.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, JKTF spokesperson Anjum Nisar said the forum questioned why only some teachers were granted TA in particular zones while all educators actively participated in Republic Day preparations.

"Teachers across the district devoted five to ten days to the event, fulfilling various responsibilities. It is unjust to overlook their contributions," he stated.

The Forum lauded the efforts of the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Hajin for ensuring that all teachers in the zone received their rightful TA. "We are very thankful to the ZEO Hajin for setting a fair precedent by granting TA to all teachers who were involved in the Republic Day function," Spokesperson Anjum Nisar added.

He urged the concerned Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) to take necessary action and release the pending TA for all teachers across the district. He emphasized that every teacher played a crucial role in different components of the celebrations and deserved equal recognition.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Teachers' Forum has consistently advocated for the rights and welfare of educators, and this latest demand highlights the need for fair and transparent policies in the education department".

Bandipora Admin Airlifts 40 passengers amid Gurez Road Closure

BANDIPORA: Authorities in Bandipora district airlifted 40 passengers stranded in Bandipora and Gurez due to the closure of the 85 km-long Bandipora-Gurez road.

Officials stated that helicopter service was used to transport passengers between Bandipora and Gurez. The Border Roads Organization has deployed machinery to clear snow from the road.

The Bandipora-Gurez road remains closed due to heavy snowfall at Razdan Top. Officials said that BRO machinery is being used to clear the snow and restore road connectivity.

Officials said locals appreciated District administration Bandipora for the restoration of chopper services and air lifted standard passengers.

Indian Army Clears Snow on Dagan to Dasi Link Road

GUREZ: The Indian Army's Rana Battalion has successfully cleared snow from the Dagan to Dasi link road, restoring access for the local population. An official spokesperson said this effort has been met with immense gratitude from residents, who had been facing severe difficulties due to the heavy snowfall blocking the route.

The snow clearance operation, conducted in challenging weather conditions, was part of the Army's ongoing commitment to assisting remote communities in high-altitude areas. The road, which serves as a crucial link for the people of Dagan and Dasi, had been rendered impassable due to accumulated snow, affecting daily life and access to essential services. Expressing their appreciation, locals lauded the Army's swift response and tireless efforts in reopening the road. "We are extremely thankful to the Indian Army for their prompt action. Their support in such difficult times is invaluable," said one of the residents.

Spokespersons said the Indian Army continues to play a vital role in humanitarian assistance across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in extreme weather conditions. "By undertaking snow clearance and infrastructure restoration efforts, it reinforces its dedication to the well-being of the people in remote and border areas".

With the Dagan to Dasi link road now operational, residents can resume their normal activities without the hardships caused by the snowfall, further strengthening the bond between the Indian Army and the local communities.

Police attaches property in Sumbal under UAPA

SRINAGAR: Authorities have attached a property in Sumbal in connection with a case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Arms Act, and Explosive Substances Act, officials said on Tuesday.

According to an official, Police Station Sopore, in coordination with Revenue officials and Police Sumbal, attached the property of Imtiaz Ahmad Khan, son of Gh Ahmad, a resident of Barbar Shah, Srinagar.

The action was taken under FIR No. 307/23, registered under sections 13, 18, 18-B, 19, 20, 23, 38, and 39 of the UAPA, sections 7/25 of the Arms Act, and sections 4/5 of the Explosive Substances Act at PS Sopore, the official said.

Exploring Taranum Riyaz’s Literary Legacy: A Critical Study by Zahid Zafar

Rayees Ahmad Kumar

Among women litterateurs whose literary prowess has been widely hailed and who succeeded in establishing themselves amongst the noted writers on rich literary landscape, Taranum Riyaz is a well-known example among them. She not only has meticulously penned down the feminist issues but also the one's humanity at global level is facing in contemporary times, in her writings. She is an ace poetess, translator, fiction writer

an alluring look spanning 365 pages. Zahid Zafar has dedicated this arduously edited book to all the fiction writers of Jammu Kashmir. In its foreword, eminent critic and writer Dr Riyaz Tawhidi, proclaims that Taranum Riyaz through her eloquent writings has enhanced and upgraded the standard of urdu literature. Zahid Zafar in its preface, reveals that among women writers of the valley who progressed at lighting speed, Taranum Riyaz is a noteworthy example. He further states that her demise on 21-05-2021, has created a major void in literary landscape which is hard to get filled. He has expressed his gratitude to all those who

to her short story collection Ababilen Lout Ayenge. According to her, Taranum Riyaz has painted stories happening in her immediate surroundings and underscoring the oppression met by the people at the hands of repressive regimes. Describing Taranum as a powerful fiction writer, she claims that her stories mirror the pain and sufferings of women folk in male dominated societies. Dr Qaseem Akhter, while commenting on the writing skills of Taranum Riyaz, opines that she isn't an inspiring figure among the women writers only but is equally garnering praise and accolades from most critics and litterateurs for her outstanding

short story depicting selfless love of a sincere and obedient son towards her widowed mother. There are four main characters: Maan Sahab, Khuram her son, Shagofa her daughter-in-law and Kaiser her grandson. Elderly parents are considered a burden and sent to old age homes by their children, completely forgetting how they were nurtured by them in their early years. But here, Khuram despite being pressured by his wife to slash her spendings, prioritizes her needs and takes due care of her mother. Bibi, this is another short story reflecting callous and sadistic treatment our elderly especially mothers, meet at the hands of her own children and grandchildren. Once, Bibi opened the lid of the saucepan to know what had been cooked, and inadvertently her grey hair fell in the curry. She feels ashamed and begs her daughter-in-law not to expose it before her husband. Instead of respecting her pleas, she makes her husband furious by telling the truth.

This is the condition of our elderly in our homes. Baramdah, Prof Neelofer Naz Nehvi has done an impressive analytical study of this story which is manifesting how faithless and disloyal husbands ruin the marital life of their wives. They endure the prolonged loneliness for years, do household chores, cook different dishes to please their husbands but in return what they reap is nothing but disloyalty and melancholy. Shehla, Suhail's wife is bearing the pangs of pain due to his involvement in some other women, spending most of the time outside, having extramarital relationships thereby compelling his wife to have the same with Junaid, her brother in-law. 'Barf Girne Wali hai', Taranum Riyaz has meticulously and eloquently woven this story around the themes of penury and destitution. It's analytical study has been tactfully drafted by editor Zahid Zafar himself. Though government has ordered a blanket ban on child labour and from time to time many executive orders and legislations were enacted to curb this menace, but the fragile economic conditions of our impoverished and downtrodden class is consistently compelling their children to embrace working in brick kilns, factories and other industries instead of learning in schools.

This story centered around three main characters Khazir Mohd, his wife Hajira and javaid their lone son, who is desperate to work in hazardous and treacherous conditions aiming only to alleviate the sufferings of their family. Taibeer, Taranum Riyaz's fictional prowess is radiating in her many stories including this one, analytically studied by young essayist S Mashouq Ahmad.

This story ardently unveils how the women workforce is subjected to the highest level of harassment in public offices. This story, without mentioning the name of any character, is telling the sad tale of a city girl who toils hard to get an education and then a teaching job. She aspires and dreams to teach the innocent buds of a farflung locality, but to her utter surprise she is transferred immaturely. Reason behind her transfer was to quench the lustful thirst of her officers and clerics. She thinks about resigning from the job, but instantly changes her mind and gets committed to defeat their ill-intentions. Taranum Riyaz occupies a unique position in today's urdu literary landscape. Her works masterfully explore harsh realities of life, complicated human relationships, and inner conflicts in the human world. Her distinctive narrative style, woven from everyday life, has captivated readers and solidified her reputation as a literary icon. My recommendation to readers would be to go through this book and explore a vast literary world.



and a distinguished critic. Being an avid author of twenty books, her writings have enriched the landscape of urdu literature. Apart from being an eminent writer, Taranum Riyaz is a pious and noble lady. There is an urgent need to write and work on the contributions of Taranum Riyaz. Some young and energetic writers have dedicated themselves to pay a glowing tribute to her. Among them one is Zahid Zafar, hailing from the Keller village of Shopian district, Zahid is currently pursuing his doctorate on Taranum Riyaz's short stories. He has edited "Taranum Riyaz ke Afsanon ka Tajziyati Mutala" comprising fifteen short stories of Taranum Riyaz including their analytical study, four essays highlighting her literary contributions and two poems. Published by famed GNK Publications, its cover page offers

helped him in editing this book. Prof Qudus Javaid has penned a protracted essay titled Kashmir ki Dard ashna Taranum Riyaz, highlighting her literary contributions and visionary ideas. How she declined to accept a permanent position despite multitude of offers and endlessly stride to add to urdu literature has been vividly painted. She has attended many seminars and poetic symposiums round the globe alongside winning a chain of awards. According to him Taranum Riyaz's Barf Ashna Parinde novel is a masterpiece like the one's written by Quratul Ain Hyder and Lali Choudhary. Dr Riyaz Tawhidi in another article about Taranum Riyaz's fiction says her framed novel Barf Ashna Parinde is a reflection of intermingling of history and culture. She has portrayed history, culture, custom, tradition and vibrant lifestyle of Vallities in her writings. Dr Ishrat Naheed has scripted an extensive article in context

fictional writings. 'Hum Tu Dobe Hain Sanam', this is the first and opening short story in this book, it's analytical study has been written by Dr Alia Kawsar. Its story revolves around Nadia and Shahid, the two characters who are spouses to each other. Nadia's love, selfless services, kind approach and endurance has been nicely outlined in the story, on the other hand Shahid has no regard for her loyal, faithful and noble wife. He hardly treats her as his spouse and mocks and ridicules her every altruistic and self-sacrificing act. Seeing her unruly and rowdy behavior, her own daughter always remains in fear and trepidation. Not only uncivilized and lacking civic sense, he is also egocentric as is evident from his attempt to bite her lips after being diagnosed HIV positive. He blames her for being impotent despite himself being responsible to making her so previously. Maan Sahab, Another

A Life of Purpose and Grace: Remembering Ab Rashid Sheikh



(Dr. Azad Rashid Shiekh)

On the 7th of February 2025 (Friday), my world changed forever. My father, Ab Rashid Sheikh, took his final breath, leaving behind a legacy that words can scarcely capture. A retired lecturer in economics, a community leader, and a man of profound wisdom, he was not just a father to me but a guide, a mentor, and an inspiration to many. There are some people whose presence alone brings a sense of stability to a family, a community, and a generation. My father was one such man. His wisdom, discipline, and kindness shaped not only my life but the lives of many who had the privilege of knowing him. Education was my father's lifelong passion. As a lecturer in economics, he shaped the minds of countless students, not just by teaching theories and principles but by instilling in them a deep sense of curiosity and responsibility. He believed that education was not merely about acquiring degrees; it was about understanding the world, questioning the status quo, and using knowledge to uplift society. His students admired him for his clarity of thought and his ability to make even the most complex economic concepts understandable. Many of them have gone on to become successful professionals, and they still recall how his words shaped their futures. Even after his retirement,

students would visit him, seeking guidance not only on academics but on life itself. For him, teaching was never just a profession—it was a calling, a mission to empower others. He believed in the power of self-reliance and critical thinking. I remember how he would often say, "Never accept things at face value; always question, analyse, and seek the truth." He wanted his students—and his children—to be independent thinkers who could contribute meaningfully to the world. Beyond the walls of the classroom, my father was deeply involved in the welfare of our community. He never hesitated to raise his voice for justice and fairness. Whether it was mediating local disputes, helping the underprivileged, or guiding young minds toward a better future, he always led with wisdom and integrity. I have vivid memories of people coming to our home at all hours, seeking his guidance. Some came for advice on financial matters, others for help in resolving personal or social conflicts. He never turned anyone away. He believed that knowledge and experience were meant to be shared, not kept for oneself. Despite being politically aware, he never sought power for himself. Instead, he worked selflessly for the welfare of others. He believed in progress, in fairness, and in ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background, had access to education and economic opportunities. One of the most striking qualities about my father was his sense of dignity. He carried himself with an elegance that was not just about his attire but about his entire demeanour. Always well-dressed, he had a timeless sense of style that reflected his disciplined and refined nature.



But his true grace lay in his character—the way he treated people with kindness and respect, regardless of their status or background. He believed that being well-dressed was not about vanity but about self-respect and discipline. "The way you present yourself reflects the way you think," he would often say. Even in his final days, he remained meticulous in his habits, showing that true dignity is not affected by age or circumstance. The photo I have chosen to share with this tribute is deeply personal. In it, my father is seen giving me advice—just as he had done countless times before. It is a moment frozen in time, a reflection of the wisdom he imparted, the care he showed, and the bond we shared. That day, he spoke to me about patience and

members continue to speak of him with respect and admiration. His lessons live on in the people he taught, the lives he touched, and the values he instilled. And while he may no longer be with us in person, his spirit, his teachings, and his love will remain with us forever. In these difficult days, my family and I have been overwhelmed by the love, support, and prayers we have received. From close relatives to friends, neighbours, former students, and well-wishers, every kind word and every visit has given us strength. To all those who came to offer condolences, to those who shared their memories of my father, and to those who stood by us in our grief—I am deeply grateful. Your presence, your words, and your prayers have helped us navigate this painful time. My father always believed in the power of community, and in these moments, I have truly understood what he meant. May Allah bless you all for your kindness and support. Your warmth has been a source of comfort, and we will forever remember your generosity of spirit. To be continued... (This article is only a small attempt to honour the life of my father. There are still many stories left to tell, many memories to share. His legacy is too vast to be contained in a few words. In the coming days, I will continue to write and share more about the man who shaped me, our family, and our community.) (The author teaches History at Govt. College of Education Jammu)

Ensure conducive environment for students in and around exam centres: Education Minster to DCs



Finalises arrangements for Board examinations of 10th, 11th, 12th classes

JAMMU: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, and Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to finalise the arrangements for forthcoming Board examinations for 10th, 11th and 12th classes.

Additional Chief Secretary, Education, Shantamanu; Chairman JKBOSE; Directors of School Education, Kashmir/Jammu; Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of all districts; Project Director Samagra Shiksha; Special Secretary School Education department; Secretary JKBOSE, SSP Traffic

Rural/National Highway; SSP Traffic city Srinagar/Jammu; CEOs and other concerned officers attended the meeting, either in person or through video conferencing.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Minister directed all the Deputy Commissioners to ensure conducive environment for students in and around the examination centres. She asked them to establish all essential amenities like proper lighting, seating arrangements and heating facilities at the examination centres for facilitation of students.

“Our primary objective is to facilitate a smooth and fair examination process. The department, district administrations and other stakeholders need to work in tandem to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place for best interests of our young students”, the Minister maintained.

The Minister further called upon the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to ensure that strict security protocols are established in and around the examination centres to maintain the integrity of the examination process. She asked them to deploy adequate personnel at examination centers and ensure no one except students and staff are allowed inside examination centres. She also asked the SSPs for formation of mobile flying squads to ensure proper implementation of security measures for preventing any kind of malpractice.

While reviewing other measures for smooth conduct of examination process, the Minister called upon the Deputy Commissioners and CEOs to establish joint control rooms in their respective districts for proper monitoring of examination process. She directed the CEOs to remain in

constant touch with their ground staff during the entire process.

The Minister also asked the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to ensure that students are facilitated along the highways during security forces convoy movement. She advised them to coordinate with concerned security agencies and ensure that the admit cards of students are treated as passes during this convoy movement.

The Minister, during the meeting, also directed the officers of SED to form inspection squads at divisional and district levels to ensure smooth conduct of examinations.

Chairperson JKBOSE informed the Minister about the preparations in place for the examinations as well as status of material dispatched for smooth conduct of these board exams.

Srinagar Admin organizes awareness programme on New Criminal Laws

DC Srinagar emphasizes need of creating awareness among general public

SRINAGAR: In a bid to educate the masses on the new three criminal laws Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, and the Bharatiya Sakshya

of various Government Colleges, senior Police officers and other concerned were present in the awareness programme.



Adhiniyam 2023, a mass awareness programme was organized by District Administration Srinagar at Govt. College of Education, M.A. Road here today.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while Senior Superintendent of Police, Imtiyaz Hussain Mir attended the programme as Guest of Honour.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Nodal, Principal, Kashmir Division College, HoD, Department of Forensic GMC Srinagar, Arsalan Rashid, besides Principals

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need of creating awareness among the general public, so that the transformative reforms will have a positive impact on all in general and specifically on the women and children.

He spoke on the key changes to the existing laws and generated awareness about these changes. He also highlighted that the new criminal laws provide a lot of protection to women and minors through special provisions in the Act. SSP Srinagar also gave a detailed talk about the three new criminal laws and how they will protect the citizens and ensure transparent & speedy justice.

Earlier, the Principal of the host College welcomed the guests while, HoD Department of Forensic, GMC Srinagar gave a detailed lecture about the overarching goal of judiciary to bring a paradigm change from punitive to transparent and justice oriented approach.

ASP Kothibagh also gave a detailed presentation explaining each one law in detail with case studies.

DLSA Srinagar, DLSA Budgam organize awareness prog on Legal Rights at Central Jail Srinagar

Srinagar: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with DLSA Budgam, under the aegis of the J&K Legal Services Authority, conducted an awareness programme on Legal Rights at Central Jail Srinagar.

The programme aimed at educating inmates on their legal rights, including access to free legal aid, the right to a fair trial, and legal provisions under the Criminal Justice Act and the Indian Constitution.

The programme was held under the guidance of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman of the DLSA/Principal District & Sessions Judge Srinagar, & Om Prakash Baghat, Chairman DLSA Budgam/Pr. District & Sessions Judge Budgam and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary of DLSA Srinagar/Budgam.

The prog focused on raising awareness about critical legal rights such as the right to legal representation, the right to be informed about charges, and protection from inhuman or degrading treatment. These fundamental rights are enshrined in the Indian Constitution and are pivotal to ensuring a just criminal justice process for all individuals, especially vulnerable sections of society.

Tasneem Kausar, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel, and Abdul Rouf Parray, Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel, served

as the resource persons for the programme.

They engaged the inmates with informative discussions and emphasized the importance of knowing and exercising their legal rights. They highlighted practical steps to access free legal aid and underscored



the significance of seeking timely legal assistance for ensuring a fair trial.

The programme was also attended by Prison para-legal volunteers and Para Legal Volunteers from both DLSA Srinagar and Budgam, who contributed to the interactive sessions and ensured the information was effectively communicated to all attendees.

This initiative reflects the commitment of the DLSAs to promoting legal literacy and ensuring access to justice for all individuals, particularly those in custody. Through such awareness programmes, the DLSAs aim to empower inmates by equipping them with the knowledge to navigate the legal system effectively.

DDC B'la Reviews Physical, Financial Progress Under District Capex

BARAMULLA: District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a review meeting at Dak Bungalow, Baramulla, to assess the physical and financial progress of projects under the District Capex Budget 2024-25.



The meeting focused on evaluating fund utilization, project execution, and resolving bottlenecks affecting development works.

During the session, Joint Director Planning Baramulla, Javed Ahmad, delivered a sector-wise presentation detailing financial expenditures, physical targets achieved. The presentation provided key insights into fund allocations, utilization rates and the overall progress of ongoing projects.

DDC Minga Sherpa directed all departments to accelerate project implementation, ensure the optimal use of funds, and uphold quality standards. He emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination and instructed officers to promptly address issues delaying project completion.

Additionally, he directed concerned officials to expedite the clearance of pending bills to prevent financial delays in project execution.

Stressing the need for faster progress in the next two weeks, the DDC instructed all executing agencies to intensify efforts, increase workforce deployment, and ensure that pending targets are met within the stipulated timeframe.

He further directed that regular progress reports be submitted and that any persisting issues be flagged for immediate resolution.

Officers from various departments, including Roads & Buildings, Rural Development, Hydraulic, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, Jal Shakti Department, Integrated Child Development Services, Education and others, presented updates on their respective projects. The DDC instructed officers to enhance monitoring mechanisms to maintain transparency, accountability, and efficiency in developmental works.

Concluding the meeting, DDC Minga Sherpa issued clear directions to all concerned departments to ramp up execution efforts over the next two weeks, ensuring visible progress on the ground. He reiterated the administration's commitment to timely and effective development, ensuring that the benefits of various projects reach the people of Baramulla without delay.

DC Budgam Reviews Progress of 125 Bedded New District Hospital, 100 Bedded Critical Care Unit in Budgam

Budgam: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo, conducted field visit to the under-construction 125-bedded state of art District Hospital and the 100-bedded Critical Care Unit, both located in the Reshipora area of Budgam.

During the site inspection, the DC emphasised the importance of expediting the ongoing construction work to ensure the timely completion of these crucial healthcare projects.

He highlighted that these facilities will significantly enhance the district's healthcare infrastructure and provide



advanced medical services to the residents.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC stated that the work on ground is happening at a the rapid pace along with the necessary good quality of work being undertaken at these healthcare facilities. These 2 crucial healthcare projects will play a pivotal role in providing advanced medical services to the entire district."

He further said the projects are progressing on schedule and are expected to significantly enhance healthcare delivery in the region by offering advanced patient care and critical services.

The District Administration along with department of R&B and department of Health is working in a focused manner to ensure that both these key projects of the district are completed at the earliest, paving the way for their dedication to the public ahead of its scheduled timeline", he added.

The completion of the hospital and critical care unit will play a pivotal role in addressing healthcare needs in Budgam, particularly in providing specialized care and critical medical facilities to patients within the district, the DC added .

He said that regular and consistent monitoring of the projects is being conducted to ensure that any teething issues, if any, are addressed real time with Multi departmental coordination to achieve before schedule completion & seamless progress.

SHEW, Forest Department Shopian conduct Plantation Drive at Deegam

SHOPIAN: In a remarkable initiative promoting environmental conservation and the empowerment of girls, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Shopian, in collaboration with the Department of Forest, organized a Plantation Drive at KGBV School, Deegam Shopian, under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign.

This initiative aimed to raise awareness about the significance of the girl child and her invaluable role in society.

Each sapling planted symbolized a girl's growth, strength, and potential, reinforcing the message that nurturing and educating girls leads to a brighter, more prosperous future.

Speaking at the event, officials from Sankalp Hub emphasized the deep connection between environmental sustainability and gender equality. They stated, "Just as a tree flourishes with care and nourishment, every girl deserves support and opportunities to thrive.

Students and faculty were also guided on the ecological importance of trees and were



encouraged to care for the newly planted saplings.

The participants pledged to nurture the plants, symbolizing their commitment to both environmental conservation and the empowerment of young girls.

Carpet weavers to be given modified steel looms with comfort seating

‘Draw of Lots’ on Feb 18 in IICT premises at Nowshera

SRINAGAR: In order to provide comfortable seating arrangement and improve the quality of hand-knotted carpets, the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) is going to distribute Modified Modern Steel Carpet Looms to active weavers registered with the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir.

The Draw of Lots for selecting 100 carpet weavers from amongst the intended beneficiaries shall be held at IICT, Nowshera Srinagar on February 18.

Sharing details through a press statement issued here today, Director IICT, Srinagar, Zubair Ahmad, said the Central Wool Development Board, Union Ministry of Textiles, has sanctioned distribution of 100 Modified Modern Steel Looms amongst active carpet weavers at a total cost of 43.70 lakh under its ‘Wool

Processing Scheme' for the current financial year 2024-25. "The looms have been designed and modified by IICT, keeping in view the health safety of the weavers, who sit for hours together for weaving of the world-famous hand-knotted Kashmir carpets," he said, adding that the department intends to provide such modified looms to all active carpet weavers in a phased manner. The new modified looms are set to replace the traditional wooden carpet looms, which resulted in many health-related issues particularly acute back pain to weavers due to uncomfortable posturing.

Director IICT further advised all concerned beneficiaries to report in IICT premises at Nowshera for participation in the Draw of Lots, scheduled at 11.00 am on February 18, so that 100 beneficiaries are selected in a fair and transparent manner.



WEIGHT LOSS MYTHS

How To Lose Weight Properly



If you are interested in losing weight, first start with your diet. The adage, “six pack abs are made in the kitchen,” is true to some extent. Focus on proper nutrition to fuel your body and create a calorie deficit. Adjust week after week as your weight lowers.

That is double the number of states in 2018! If we zoom out, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports that worldwide, obesity has tripled since 1975. The WHO also states that obesity is preventable. So what can we do?

Let's dig into what defines the terms overweight and obesity, common myths you've heard about losing weight, and finally, how to lose weight properly.

Weight classifications

The WHO defines both overweight and obesity as “abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that may impair health”. These categories can be determined by calculating your Body Mass Index or BMI. The formula is your weight in kilograms divided by the square of your height in meters or kg/m². A BMI greater than or equal to 25 is considered overweight. A BMI greater than or equal to 30 is considered obese. So what are the consequences of a high BMI? You'll have an increased risk of high blood pressure, cholesterol and heart disease, type 2 diabetes, joint problems, and gallbladder disease. And that's just the beginning! Mentally, you can have less confidence and can be more susceptible to depression.

Five common weight loss myths

- 1. You need to make a radical change to your exercise routine**
Going from zero to one hundred is not sustainable in trying anything new. If you take this approach, you're going to be more likely to burn out. Start slow and create a schedule so that you can keep up with it. Don't forget to add adequate rest days.
Aim to build up to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' recommended guidelines for physical activity. This is 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity or 75 minutes of vigorous activity. You can also do a combination of both. In addition, you should add two or more days a week of muscle-strengthening activity.
- 2. Carbs are bad**
To put it simply, they are not. A carbohydrate is a macronutrient that supplies your body with glucose. This glucose is turned into energy for your body and your brain. Energy is important!
But keep in mind carbs come in a variety of healthy and less healthy options. Stick with whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and beans as your source. If you can, avoid white bread, processed foods, and sodas.

3. Low or reduced-fat foods are healthy.

Again, they are not. Typically these low or reduced-fat foods make up for the flavor by adding more sugar. If you are curious or are considering a low or reduced-fat food, compare the nutritional label to the full-fat version. It may not be healthier in the end.
Remember, like carbs, fat is not bad either. Fats help your body absorb certain vitamins such as A, D, and E. That means these vitamins need fat for your body to take them in. There are two types of fat: saturated and unsaturated. Aim for more of the latter.

4. Skipping meals and starving yourself will help you lose weight

Skipping meals and starving yourself is not helpful. You deny your body of energy and nutrients that it needs to operate. You'll become sluggish and mentally drained. While you know that fewer calories consumed are helpful in weight loss, cutting an entire meal is not the way to go. Instead, spread out your daily calories throughout the day to avoid the inevitable crash.

5. Crash diets and get skinny quick methods work

They are called crash diets for a reason. They are unsustainable and after you've relapsed, you're likely to gain more weight than what you've lost in the first

place.
There is no get skinny quick trick. You don't need skinny teas, magic pills, or harsh diets that you see all over social media.
Losing weight takes time, patience, and consistency.

How to lose weight properly

As you can tell, there is no magic formula to quickly lose weight. It's not easy but it is worth it.
If you are interested in losing weight, first start with your diet. The adage, “six pack abs are made in the kitchen,” is true to some extent. Focus on proper nutrition to fuel your body and create a calorie deficit. Adjust week after week as your weight lowers.
Next, add exercise to your routine. Specifically, try to follow the guidelines outlined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. To recap: you need 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity or 75 minutes of vigorous activity and two or more days a week of muscle-strengthening activity.
As you know, consult a medical professional before starting a new exercise regimen.
Ease into your new exercise routine to avoid burnout.
Lastly, and more importantly, have patience with yourself. Losing weight takes time, and that's ok! Stay consistent with your commitment to a healthier you. It'll be worth it in the long run.



Weight Maintenance: Expert Tips To Maintain Weight Loss

For most of us, losing some kilos of extra weight requires a lot of effort. One needs to take the right nutrition with a planned diet, burn calories through exercise and remain consistent throughout the journey to get rid of stubborn fat. While some give up midway, others put in hours at the gym and manage to see the reading going down on the weighing scale. What after you have finally lost weight and achieved the results you were striving for? It has been seen that many tend to regain the lost weight once they go back to their old diet and become inconsistent with their workouts.
Weight loss: How to maintain a healthy weight
If you too are facing this, then nutritionist Pooja Malhotra has some tips. In her Instagram Reel, she explains how you can maintain a healthy weight and avoid gaining weight again.
She advises against starving yourself or adopting unsustainable diet that you cannot maintain in the long run. “If you cannot do it for a couple of months, do not do it even for a day,” Pooja Malhotra adds.
She says that one should opt for a diet that can be continued for months as then it becomes a lifestyle and you longer need to push yourself harder. Besides the diet, Pooja Malhotra suggests that even after

reaching your fitness goal, you should maintain the right amount of exercise that helped you achieve the desired physique.

In addition, one should not veer off the track and keep consuming a good diet. Another factor that plays a role here is metabolism. The nutritionist says that metabolism tends to slow down as we age and thus maintaining progress is as important as losing weight.

According to her, low fat doesn't necessarily mean that the food is healthy, especially when it comes to processed and ready-to-eat items. This is because fat is often replaced by sugars and other chemicals that can be harmful to the body.

Continued From P1...

Every Perpetrator

to provide necessary back-up support," the Lieutenant Governor observed.

The Lieutenant Governor also called for strengthening the legal framework to deal with terror propagandists and strengthening of police establishment at local level for modern and efficient policing.

The meeting was attended by DGP J&K, Nalin Prabhat; ADGP Armed, Anand Jain; ADGP Hqrs, MK Sinha; ADGP CID, Nitish Kumar; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari; IGP Jammu, Bhim Sen Tuti; IGP Crime, Dr Sunil Gupta; IGP Security, Sujit Kumar; IGP Railways, Vivek Gupta; IG Traffic, M. Suleman Choudhary; Range DIGs, SSPs, and other senior officers of various wings of J&K Police.

CM Concludes

Earlier, during the discussions, the MLAs of Shopian presented various development proposals and infrastructure development plans for their respective constituencies, particularly focusing on augmentation of infrastructure under education, health, sports, R&B, PDD, PHE.

They stressed on allocation of adequate funding for irrigation purposes in the budget 2025-26. To create employment avenues they also demanded for exploring the tourism potential in the districts. Similarly, in another pre-budget consultation meeting, the Chief Minister discussed developmental priorities with the chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) and MLAs of Kupwara District.

During the consultation, the DDC Chairperson and MLAs of Karnah, Trehgam, Kupwara, Lolab and Langate Constituencies underlined the developmental priorities covering a wide range of demands of local population viz upgradation and widening of roads, up-gradation of health & education infrastructure, augmentation of PHE sector.

During the discussions, the public representatives also stressed on incorporating plans for boosting tourism in the district particularly at Bangus, Lolab and other areas of Kupwara.

Advisor to the CM, Nasir Aslam Wani endorsed the demands of MLAs from Kupwara district and said that North campus of university be made fully functional with introduction of more courses.

He called for proper garbage disposal mechanism from Kupwara town, rain water harvesting to overcome water deficit, desilting of irrigation khuls, clampdown on Kupwara becoming drug trafficking route which was also also pointed out by MLA Karnah saying that drug menace be eradicated from the area.

The finalization of site for medical college was also emphasized so that it is established without further delay and SDH is upgraded to District Hospital status.

The MLAs also emphasized on taking up Kupwara to Bandipora road, Kupwara bypass road and construction of mini-secretariat at Kupwara.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioners from Shopian and Kupwara Districts gave detailed presentations outlining the district profiles, demographics, and existing infrastructure in key sectors, including health, education, roads, drainage, public health engineering (PHE), and power sector.

The presentations also provided insights into the District Capex, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and ongoing projects under the current plan.

All MLAs expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for involving them in the pre-budget consultations and acknowledged the inclusive approach of the government with regard to ongoing preparations for the Budget 2025-26.

In the course of the in-person meetings, the Chief Minister held pre budget consultations with chairpersons of District Development Councils (DDCs), Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and representatives of stakeholder groups including, trade unions, industrialists, entrepreneurs, experts from education, agriculture, horticulture, economics and other sectors & services across the Kashmir to take appraisal of local demands to ensure budget is tailored to achieve public good.

Govt Discharges

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), an official said that experts from prestigious institutes of India had recommended keeping all close contacts and patients in proper monitoring and if they won't show any symptoms for 21 consecutive days, then they can be allowed to return to their home.

He said that following their advice and recommendations, all close contacts of the deceased were kept in proper surveillance and none among them showed any symptoms for more than 21 days following which they were discharged.

Speaking to the media, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma while sharing the details regarding the measures taken to contain the

mysterious illness, said that they followed all the recommendations of experts, especially from AIIMS Delhi and now the patients and quarantined people have been discharged.

He, however, said that the government will continue to provide them all eatables and other items till SIT constituted to probe the deaths will submit its report.

The deputy Commissioner said that the whole village will continue to remain under proper surveillance and monitoring and all the support will be provided to them.

Notably, A Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the police has questioned multiple individuals but has not uncovered any leads.

Meanwhile, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has ruled out infectious agents as the cause and is focusing on the possibility of toxic substances.

Experts from AIIMS Delhi and PGIMER Chandigarh have visited the affected village, collected samples, and are currently analysing them for possible toxins.

Moreover, the district administration continues to monitor the situation closely, and the village remains under strict surveillance to prevent any further incidents

Ceasefire along

Since the reaffirmation of the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan in February 2021, the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir has experienced a significant reduction in hostilities.

According to official reports, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), only three minor incidents of ceasefire violations were recorded along the LoC after the agreement.

Overall, the situation along the LoC has remained relatively stable, with only minor incidents reported since the 2021 agreement

VP to arrive in

During his one-day tour, the Vice-President will preside as Chief Guest at the 10th convocation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University at Matrika Auditorium SMVDU Campus, read an official handout.

The Vice-President will also visit Mata Vaishno Devi Temple and Bhairon ji Temple.

Statehood restoration

Amit Shah in Delhi earlier this week, Abdullah said the process of statehood restoration was underway and urgently needed to be taken to its logical conclusion.

When the Supreme Court upheld the Centre's decision of abrogating Article 370, it made a general mention about statehood being restored "as soon as possible", he said.

The Centre abrogated Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and reorganised the erstwhile state into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh in 2019.

"It was discussed as soon as possible and that was over a year ago. We feel that time has arrived now," Abdullah said in an exclusive interview with PTI Videos.

The chief minister also said he had a "very good conversation" with the home minister. "It's part of an ongoing conversation and I am very hopeful that statehood will be restored soon."

Asked if the distance between Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir had reduced since he took office last year, the chief minister said sometimes some incidents occurred that widened the gap, pointing to the recent killings of two individuals in north Kashmir's Sopore and in Billawar in Jammu's Kathua district.

"...both incidents were unfortunate and I feel that they could have been prevented. They shouldn't have occurred in the first place and now there is a necessity that they be investigated transparently. If someone is held guilty, the law has to take its course," Abdullah said.

In Billawar, a 26-year-old man accused of being involved in militancy allegedly committed suicide on February 4 following "police harassment". The day after, a truck driver was killed in army firing when he allegedly refused to stop at a checkpoint in Sopore in Baramulla district.

Following the two deaths, the chief minister had said that such incidents "risk alienating the very people who we need to carry with us on the road to complete normalcy".

Abdullah told PTI Videos that although security and police were not the direct responsibility of the elected Union Territory government, it was still their combined responsibility to ensure such incidents did not happen.

"As far as the people are concerned, the government is there. They are not going to say who's responsible in the government. It's our collective duty and it should be our aim that such incidents don't happen. That is

why this was a major part of my conversation with the home minister," he said.

Abdullah also brushed aside criticism of his government by the People's Democratic Party (PDP), saying it was only reacting to its recent electoral loss.

"I don't expect it to applaud us," he said, showing that he does not usually react to such remarks.

Looking back on his administration's time in office, which has now exceeded 100 days, Abdullah said, "No one voted for us for 100 days. People voted for us for five years, so let us do our work."

He admitted that it was challenging to govern Jammu and Kashmir, saying, "Ruling Jammu and Kashmir is never easy. It wasn't easy between 2009 and 2015. It's not easy now and I don't believe any chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir can say that their tenure was easy."

"Everyone faces some difficulty or the other. In this case, this is a new experience for us. We are a Union Territory. We are learning, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also learned to work in these conditions," he added.

Asked if he was facing any heat from the central government, Abdullah — who is also the National Conference vice-president — replied humorously and spoke about the challenges posed by the weather rather than political pressure, expressing concern over the potential for severe water shortages in the coming summer.

"There's too much heat; not from the Centre, not from the lieutenant governor, not from any officer but from the weather. This heat is actually worrying me. If it continues, we will have a shortage of water during the summer. It is going to be our biggest problem, bigger than any other problem," Abdullah said.

He emphasised the urgency of preparing for these shortages and said he had called a meeting with the departments concerned to address the issue, praying for much-needed rain or snow in the coming days.

"I pray it rains or snows in the coming days. But at the moment, the day temperature feels like that of March or April. I am really fearful that this heat will have a direct impact on us," he added.

Will relook at

Omar also said that maintaining good relations with the Centre should not be seen as an alliance with the BJP. "Working in a congenial relationship is not something that should be mistaken for friendship or alliance," he said.

On being asked about whether he was advising the Government of India to establish a working relationship with Pakistan, he said, "At the moment there is no scope and that is not there as the way security forces have been attacked in Jammu and Kashmir."

On the developmental front, he said that he has got the mandate from the people of Jammu and Kashmir to serve them, while noting that the Jammu and Kashmir government was working on ensuring development in the Union Territory.

Omar said that the government is working on a new industrial policy and tourism policy while referring to his visit outside the UT for promotion of tourism.

About a disquiet within the party on key issues and the divergent position of NC MP, Aga Ruhullah, Omar however said that, "I believe a political party must give space for differences of opinion," while stressing that in democracy people also have a choice to choose a better leader.

Army recovers

rope and allied material, has been made by troops of Gambhir Battalion deployed at Line of Control in Rajouri.

Army officials held that the recovered material was brought at the forward location of LoC by group of terrorists from across who tried to plant this anti-tank mine on LoC in order to target an Indian Army patrol but their attempt was foiled by alert troop.

This is for the first time that an anti-tank mine meant to be used on LoC to target patrol has been recovered, officials added.

Shab-e-Barat: Devotees

Sahil, a worshipper from Srinagar, said, "This night holds immense significance as it is believed that destinies are recorded, and Allah's mercy is at its peak. We seek forgiveness and guidance for the times ahead."

Another devotee, Jibran, said the atmosphere at Hazratbal is going to be electric and deeply spiritual. "There is something special about standing in prayer tonight, along with thousands of others, all united in devotion and hope," he said.

Meanwhile, Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar also said the closure of Jama Masjid Srinagar for Shab-e-Barat observance is very disappointing.

Sahil, a local reacting to the unavailability of Shab prayers at Jama Masjid said, "It is sad that we were not allowed to offer prayers at Jama Masjid

Srinagar. We feel disappointed. The authorities should reconsider their decision, as restrictions on prayer are very disheartening. The administration should also think about the sentiments of the locals."

Expedite implementation

District Development Council, Suraj Singh; legislators of Jammu district, Sham Lal Sharma, Vikram Randhawa, Mohan Lal Bhagat, Atul Gupta, Rajeev Kumar, Gharu Ram Bhagat, Narinder Singh Raina, Arvind Gupta and Surinder Kumar besides District Development Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Heads of Departments and sectoral officers also attended the meeting in person and virtually.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to involve the elected representatives in formulating schemes, their monitoring and implementation as well. He said that we have to ensure that the people at grassroot levels are also involved at all levels of governance. "The officers should be quick to respond to the issues and problems projected by the elected representatives as it forms the basis of a democratic set up. We have to ensure that the sanctity of the institutions is maintained", he added.

While responding to the demands projected by the legislators, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers for fast pacing the already undertaken initiatives so that they are completed within the stipulated time frame. He said that due consultation with the elected representatives should also be done so that the bottlenecks, if any, are removed and the developmental initiatives are in consonance with local demands and needs.

The Deputy Chief Minister also called for close coordination between public representatives and the executing agencies. He said that this would speed up the implementation and also make the initiatives broad based. While referring to the historical importance of Jammu, the Deputy Chief Minister said that we all should collectively work for ensuring that the area comes up as one of the most preferred destinations in the country. "We should consolidate all our efforts for furthering developmental agenda of the government so that Jammu becomes one of the most developed and sought after regions of the country and people are benefitted by the developmental schemes", he asserted.

Earlier, the District Development Commissioner, Jammu, gave a brief overview of various developmental initiatives undertaken under different sectors.

The meeting was told that Jammu district has an approved outlay of Rs 127.76 crore under CAPEX. Besides, 3891 works have been taken up, of which, 2261 stand completed under UT component. Similarly, 3646 works have been undertaken under the district CAPEX budget, of which, 2046 stand completed.

The meeting was also informed that the labour budget under MGNREGA is 32.22 crore, of which, 32.04 crore stand expended registering an expenditure of 99.44 per cent. Besides, 86 thousand job cards have been issued and 14737 works have been taken up, of which, 3931 works have been completed.

Under PMAY-G sector, the district has recorded a percentage completion of 99.59 percent wherein Rs 12.04 crore have been recorded as expenditure out of available Rs 12.09 crore.

Mehbooba Mufti's Alliance with BJP Cost Kashmir Dearly: NC leader Assad ullah Elahi

Bijbehara Rejected Iltija Mufti, she Has No Moral Right to Question NC, Elahi

Mushtaq ul Islam

SRINAGAR :

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) has been widely criticized for its role in the political and social turmoil of Jammu and Kashmir. National Conference (NC) senior leader Assad ullah Elahi strongly holding PDP responsible for the destruction and instability in the Jammu And Kashmir. He emphasized that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have placed their trust in the National Conference by giving them a strong mandate to serve and protect their rights. The failures of the PDP, particularly under the leadership of Mehbooba Mufti, have left lasting scars on the Jammu and Kashmir. Elahi reminded the people of Mehbooba Mufti's infamous "milk and toffee" remark during a press conference in 2016, which was seen as an insult to the people of Kashmir, especially the youth.

Furthermore, Assad ullah Elahi in a Statement pointed out that Mehbooba Mufti's decision to align with the Bharatiya Janata



Party (BJP) was a betrayal of the people's trust. Her party, which once positioned itself as a protector of Kashmiri aspirations, ultimately facilitated the entry of BJP into the political land of Jammu and Kashmir. This alliance paved the way for the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, leading to the disempowerment of the J & K's special status.

The consequences of this political blunder continue to haunt the people, and the PDP's role in it is undeniable. Mehbooba Mufti's failure is further reflected in the electoral rejection of her party.

Her daughter, Iltija Mufti, faced a humiliating defeat in

Bijbehara, which is their home turf. The people of her own constituency turned their backs on the mother-daughter duo, signaling their rejection of the PDP's policies and governance.

Assadullah Elahi asserted that after such a resounding defeat, Mehbooba Mufti and her daughter Iltija Mufti has no moral authority to speak against the National Conference or question its leadership.

The NC leader further highlighted that while the PDP's rule was marked by chaos, betrayals, and misgovernance, the National Conference remains committed to safeguarding the rights and dignity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the public to remain vigilant against political parties that have historically aligned with forces working against Kashmiri interests. The overwhelming mandate given to the National Conference in recent elections is a evidence to the people's trust in their leadership and their desire to see a stable, prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

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

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Disability Certificate Bearing No: JK0910219980003013, my photograph is not visible good, i want to surrender my Disability Certificate, and want to apply for new Disability Certificate, In this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Chief Medical Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Naseer Rasheed.
S/O Ab Rasheed Najar.
R/O Chanpora Nadihal Bandipora,
jammu and kashmir.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the Birth certificate of my Daughter issued by Municipal Council Bandipora, her Mother's name has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Aabida Begum, while as her actual and correct Mother's name is Abida Begum. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Municipal Council Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Abida Begum,
W/O Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir.
Mother of: Aamina Imtiyaz.
R/O Ward NO: 13, MuslimAbad
kaloosa Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the DOB of my Son has been Mistakenly Mentioned in his school records as, 05-05-2015, while as his Actual and correct DOB as per his Birth certificate is 27-04-2013, 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 Al- Noor - Public School Arin Bandipora, with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Shabir Ahmad Wani.
F/O Moomin Shabir Wani.
R/O Arin Dardpora, District
Bandipora .

Shreyas was never supposed to be benched: Gambhir

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has rubbished speculation that Shreyas Iyer was being side-lined from the ODI set-up despite his brilliant form, saying that the consistent right-hander was always in the "scheme of things" and will be an important player in this month's Champions Trophy.

Iyer displayed excellent form during the just-concluded 3-0 ODI series sweep against England, hitting a counter-attacking 36-ball 59 in the opener when India were 19/2 chasing 249 in Nagpur, and scoring 44 and 78 in the next two games.

After the opening match, he created quite a stir by stating that he got into the side only after Virat Kohli had to sit out of the game because of a sore knee. This led to speculation that he would be dropped for Kohli in the next two games.

"He wasn't supposed to be benched throughout the series. We wanted to give Yashasvi (Jaiswal) a go in the first game and see what he can bring on the table because he was in (a) really good form in Australia," Gambhir said after the third and final match here on Wednesday. Iyer was preferred over Jaiswal eventually and Gambhir described him as an

"important player" in the side.

"I know that you can't judge someone (Jaiswal) by one innings. But we always knew that Shreyas was going to be an important player for us. Sometimes when you've only got three games, you want to try and rotate your squad as well," the coach reasoned.

"(And) when you've got Champions Trophy around the corner, you want to try and maximise these three games and try and give everyone an opportunity. But Shreyas was always in the scheme of things (and it is) good that he played all the three games," Gambhir added.

The Champions Trophy gets underway on February 19 with India talking Bangladesh on February 20 in Dubai.

Harshit and Arshdeep will have to step up

Someone's missed opportunity is another person's golden chance, believes Gambhir, who expects the likes of Harshit Rana and Arshdeep Singh to step up and fill the void created by pace talisman Jasprit Bumrah's injury-forced absence from the Champions Trophy.

Bumrah, who played a decisive role in India's T20 World Cup win last year with 15 wickets including a vital spell in the final, has been ruled out of the eight-team event which begins on February 19 owing to a nagging back problem.

"Someone missing out opportunity could be a great opportunity for someone else as well, that is how sport goes. Hopefully, these guys (Rana, Arshdeep and Mohammed Shami) can deliver and put their hand up and do the job for the team," he said.

"...it's a great opportunity for them to try and deliver for the country, (it is) as simple as it can get. What we don't have, we don't have. What we have is what we have, and we're going to try and go with a very clear mind," he added.

Bumrah's replacement, Rana, has done reasonably well and was drafted into the Champions Trophy squad on Tuesday night.

"I think guys have shown some really good signs. Harshit has come along really well. Arsh (Arshdeep) was really good today (Wednesday) as well. Obviously, you would always miss a bowler like Jasprit Bumrah," Gambhir said.

"But then, it is always good to have someone like Mohammed Shami back with his experience and quality."

When asked if Bumrah's absence will give opposition teams any psychological advantage over India, Gambhir said, "We can't help it."

"If he's not available, he's not available. If he's injured, he's injured," Gambhir said.

"Whether it's me, (or) whether it's the captain, we can't do much about it. We know that he's an important factor, but as I just mentioned, people like Harshit, Arsh (and) Mohammed Shami, all these guys will put their hand up."

"I think guys have shown some really good signs. Harshit has come along really well. Arsh (Arshdeep) was really good today (Wednesday) as well. Obviously, you would always miss a bowler like Jasprit Bumrah," Gambhir said.

India's fielding has been incredibly satisfying: Coach Dilip

Fielding coach T Dilip said it was "incredibly satisfying" to watch the Indian team diving and darting to take incredible catches and stop runs during the ODI series against England.

India made a clean sweep of the three-match ODI series following a 4-1 win in the T20Is against Jos Buttler's side, with several breathtaking catches, run-outs and athletic fielding in the deep.

"Throughout we created some spectacular opportunities. I think whether it's cutting the angles on the outfield or taking those phenomenal catches, running back and also those crucial run outs at important juncture of the matches, I think fantastic effort by everyone," Dilip said in a video posted by BCCI after India's massive 142-run win here on Wednesday.

"We as a team take a lot of pride in fielding and to see us execute with composure and consistency throughout this series was incredibly satisfying," said Dilip, who took over during Rahul Dravid's tenure as India coach and continued in his role when Gautam Gambhir took charge.

He said it was a tough job putting a finger on the best fielder in the series, while praising the efforts of vice-captain Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer and Harshit Rana.

"Coming to the contenders, it was slightly tougher for me. To start with, someone being a fast bowler showing that commitment (in the field) and throughout these three (ODI) games, I think he (Harshit Rana) saved around 10-plus runs.

"And, in the second game, a very important catch is running back at mid-off and also a flat catch at mid-off, Shubman Gill," he added.

However, the 'Impact Fielder' of the series medal went to Iyer, who not only impressed with his batting but also his fielding skills. His standout moment was the brilliant run-out of England opener Phil Salt in the first ODI at Nagpur.

"It's not just about the catches we always look in, but the amount of effort you put on the boundary line by saving those crucial runs and getting those run-outs... cutting those angles on the field, and getting that important run-out in the first game when England were blazing at 75 for no loss, Shreyas Iyer," he said.



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