

# Kashmir Convener



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## J&K UT’s Maiden Budget On March 7



KC News Network

JAMMU: After a gap of seven years, Jammu & Kashmir’s annual budget will

be presented in the Legislative Assembly on March 7. According to the tentative calendar issued by the Legislative Assembly secretariat, the budget for the Union

Territory for 2025-26 will be presented in the Assembly on March 7 during the session commencing from March 3 and culminating on April 11.

The annual financial statement of expenditure for 2025-26 and the supplementary statement of expenditure for 2024-25 will be presented in the House on March 7. This will be the first time in seven years that the budget of J&K will be presented in the Assembly. Following the imposition of central rule, the budget for successive financial years was presented in the Parliament. The budget session will have a total of 22 sittings. According to the calendar, the session will commence on March 3

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## ‘Airstrikes were fitting reply to terrorists’: HM Shah

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the airstrikes were a fitting reply to Pakistan after the Pulwama attack that killed 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel on this day in 2019.

Addressing the conclusion of the 38th National Games, Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), paid tributes to the CRPF personnel. He said the airstrikes that followed the Pulwama attack were Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “clear message” to terrorists.

“The airstrikes were a fitting reply,” he said, adding that it sent a message to terrorists worldwide not to target our security forces or borders.

Shah added, “On this day in 2019, we lost 40 of our jawans in Pulwama. Their sacrifice strengthened the security of our borders. I pay my

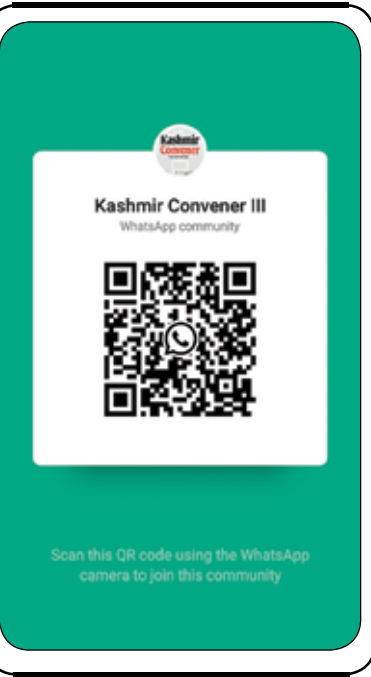
heartfelt tribute to them. The airstrikes that followed were a strong response



from Prime Minister Narendra Modi against terrorism.”

Home Minister said terrorism is the biggest enemy of humanity, and the entire world has united against it. Whether it is a surgical strike or an airstrike, the Modi government follows a

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## J&K posting of Athar Aamir, two others extended



KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) today extended deputation of three IAS officers to Jammu and Kashmir by one year.

They are Akshay Labroo, Athar Aamir and Basharat Qayoom. One year extension in tenure of these three officers in Jammu and Kashmir had been sought by the UT Government.

The extension has been granted in relaxation of rules.

The DoPT is headed by Union MoS in PMO Dr Jitendra Singh.

## Use Digital Platforms To strengthen Public Engagement: Nitish Rajora

Reviews Functioning of DIPR

KC News Network

JAMMU: Director Information J&K, Nitish Rajora, emphasized enhanced public outreach, efficient communication strategies, timely dissemination of government initiatives as well as strengthening media coordination and improving public engagement through digital platforms.

The Director made these remarks while chairing a meeting to review the performance and functioning of the Department of Information and Public Relations at the Media Complex here today. Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Viveik Puri; Joint Director Information Jammu, Atul Gupta; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Shah Nawaz Bhukhari; Deputy Director Information (PR) Deepak Dubey; Deputy Director Information (Central) Sunil Kumar;

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## Doctors Should Serve Beyond Urban Centers :CM Omar Abdullah



KC News Network

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today emphasized the need to improve handling

of emergency cases and capacity at various Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) to ease the burden on major hospitals stressed the importance of ensuring that doctors serve

beyond urban centers.

“We need to augment and improve the emergency handling capability and capacity in new GMCs so that the pressure on GMC Jammu and GMC Srinagar is automatically reduced. Similarly, we must ensure that our doctors don’t just practice in cities. I know it’s not a popular thing to say, but rural areas also deserve proper healthcare access,” he said.

The Chief Minister was addressing JK MediCon-2025, the first ever National Conference-cum-Workshop, at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu.

The event was organized by the J&K Medical Council in collaboration with the Student Research Development Council (SRDC).

The conference was attended by Minister for Health & Medical

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## Committed To Protect Rights Of Divyangjan: LG



KC News Network

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar today inaugurated the 11-day long Divya Kala Mela, a unique initiative of Government of India towards the economic

empowerment of Divyangjan, at Gulshan Ground.

On the occasion, Lieutenant Governor said the Union Territory of J&K is committed to create a conducive environment to provide equal opportunities and protect rights of Divyangjan.

Divya Kala Mela being organised by the Department

of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) (DEPWD) under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in collaboration with the National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC) showcased the extraordinary talent, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit of Divyang artisans and entrepreneurs, and artists from across J&K UT and various other States and UTs.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to Government of India and all the stakeholders associated with the noble endeavour. He said the Divya Kala Mela

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## Sajad Lone submits resolution for restoration of Article 370, Article 35A

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Setting the stage for a stormy session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Peoples Conference president Sajad



Gani Lone has submitted a resolution in the Legislative Assembly secretariat condemning the abrogation of

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## CM Omar continues pre-budget consultation with public representatives

KC News Network

priorities and aspirations of the people need to be completed on time,” the

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, as part of his ongoing pre-budget consultations, held deliberations today with public representatives from Poonch and Rajouri districts at the Civil Secretariat.

The discussions were attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary and Minister Javed Ahmad Rana, who represented their respective assembly constituencies. Chairpersons of District Development Councils and Members of the Legislative Assembly from the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch who participated, both in person and through virtual mode.

Addressing the participants, the Chief Minister reiterated that the purpose of these consultations was to gain firsthand insight into the



through their elected representatives.

“When we undertake new projects, it is our duty and responsibility to ensure that ongoing projects are completed with as much priority as new ones. Every project belongs to the people, and all ongoing works

Chief Minister said.

He assured that the issues and priorities raised by the representatives have been duly noted and would be considered for inclusion in the upcoming budget.

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## Courts Can’t Direct Legislature To Enact Law A Particular Way: SC

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday said the courts could not direct the legislature to enact a law in a particular manner.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and Augustine George Masih made the observation while hearing a plea against a February 2024 order of the Delhi High Court which disposed of a PIL on the issue.

“The Parliament, after considering every aspect, has come out with a new enactment. In a writ jurisdiction, neither the high courts nor the Supreme Court can direct the legislature to enact a law in a particular manner,” the bench said, while refusing to hear the plea.

The PIL sought directions to district courts or police to supply a copy of chargesheet to the complainant or victim free of cost.



The counsel appearing for the Centre referred to Section 230 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, saying the petition was infructuous.

The Centre’s counsel said Section

230 prescribes, in any case where a proceeding was instituted on a police report, the magistrate should furnish to the accused and victim, free of cost a copy of documents, including the police report and the first information report.

The petitioner’s counsel said Section 230 of the BNSS did not deal with the issue of the right of a complainant or victim to be heard and participate in pre-trial criminal proceedings.

The PIL also sought directions to all the district courts to issue notice to the complainants or victims at the time of

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## J&K sees 79% deficit rainfall MeT Predicts No Significant Weather Activity Till February 18



Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: With no forecast of any weather activity in Jammu and Kashmir, all the districts across the Union Territory have recorded a large

deficit of rainfall in the last one and a half months. Kathua tops the list with 97 per cent deficiency from January 01 to February 12, 2025.

According to details obtained by the news agency—

Kashmir News Observer (KNO), J&K has recorded a deficit rainfall of 79 per cent as against the normal precipitation of 140 mm, the rainfall of just 29.8 was recorded during the period.

As per the data, Jammu has recorded a deficit rainfall of 94 per cent while Udhampur and Samba districts have recorded a deficiency of 92 per cent each.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has recorded a deficit rainfall of 82 per cent during the period while seven other places including Shopian, Reasi,

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## India Rules Out Third Party Role In Its Border Row With China

WASHINGTON: India has virtually ruled out any role for a third party in its border dispute with China after US President Donald Trump suggested that he was ready to extend support if it helps in the resolution of the lingering issue between the two neighbours.

At a media briefing, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said on Thursday (Friday IST) that New Delhi has always adopted a bilateral approach in dealing with these issues.

As a matter of long-held policy, India has been maintaining that there is no role for any third party in any of its bilateral issues or disputes with any country. “Your question about the offer to mediate between India and China, I think, I suspect you know the answer to this question,” he said when asked about Trump’s offer. “Whatever issues we have

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# India’s medieval period characterised by maritime neglect, exacted huge toll: Ram Nath

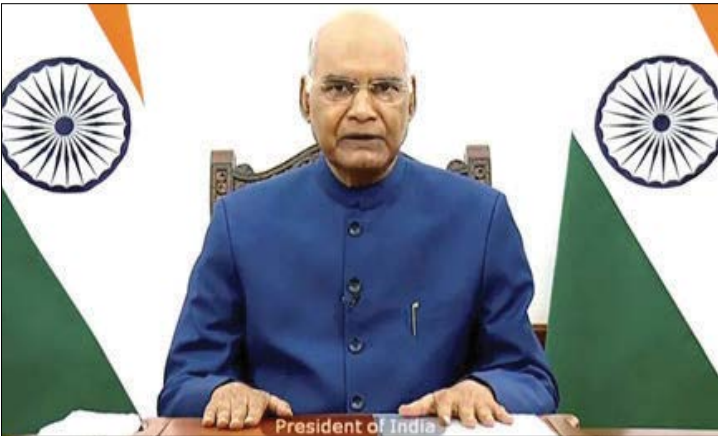
**NEW DELHI:** India’s medieval period was characterised by “maritime neglect” which happened due to historical circumstances and as a result its naval prowess began to fade, exacting a “huge toll”, former president Ram Nath Kovind said on Friday.

However, the country’s maritime heritage was not completely lost even during this “maritime dark age”, he said while delivering a lecture hosted by the think-tank National Maritime Foundation (NMF) at Manekshaw Centre here.

“India’s maritime heritage is a testament to its long-standing relationship with the sea, encompassing trade, culture and naval prowess. This rich legacy has significantly influenced our nation’s history and its interaction with the wider world,” he said.

The roots of India’s maritime activities are about 5,000 years old and trace back to the Indus Valley civilisation, Kovind said.

“Our coastal heritage played such a defining role in our civilisation, social culture and economic history. In this light,



it is hard to believe that our medieval period was characterised by maritime neglect,” he said.

This maritime neglect happened due to “historical circumstances”, the former president said, without naming any dynasty or rulers of this era.

“During the medieval period, various

land-based empires gained prevalence. Many of such rulers had origins in land-locked regions and were more focused on managing vast land territories. Our collective consciousness started to overlook the sea as an avenue of power and prosperity. As a result, slowly but surely our naval prowess began to fade,” Kovind lamented.

“For India, a historical maritime nation, this period... was indeed an anomaly. Nonetheless, this neglect of the maritime domain exacted a huge toll. It was one of the reasons why such huge land empires fell so easily to the European trading companies,” he added.

The Vice Admiral KK Nayyar Memorial Lecture 2025, hosted by the maritime think-tank, was attended by Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, former Navy chief and NMF’s chairman Admiral (retd) Karambir Singh, senior officials of the Navy, scholars and several college students, besides the family members of the late vice admiral.

Kovind said Vice Admiral Nayyar was an excellent maritime strategist and a visionary who planted the seeds of naval research and strategic thinking across several institutions in India.

In his address, the former president also cited archaeological sites like Lothal, located about 400 km southwest of Ahmedabad in Gujarat, where excavations have unveiled an ancient “sophisticated dockyard”.

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complainant or victim to be heard and participate in pre-trial criminal proceedings.

The PIL also sought directions to all the district courts to issue notice to the complainants or victims at the time of taking of cognisance to enable them to exercise their right to be heard and participate



in pre-trial criminal proceedings.

While referring to an apex court verdict and the Code of Criminal Procedure amendments, the high court said there were sufficient rights given to the victim or complainant to effectively participate in pre-trial and trial proceedings if they so elected.

It had also referred to the Delhi High Court rules and said it was clear that a party to a criminal case was entitled to obtain copies of the record of the case upon filing of an application.

### Maha Kumbh: Over 50 crore devotees take holy dip at Triveni Sangam, says UP govt

**MAHA KUMBH NAGAR:** Over 50 crore devotees have taken a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam till Friday evening during the ongoing Maha Kumbh, the Uttar Pradesh government said. The participation marks the “largest congregation” in human history for any religious, cultural, or social event, the state government, which is hosting the mega fair in Prayagraj, it said.

The footfall at the Hindu pilgrimage has surpassed the population count of all countries in the world except India and China, it added. Being held after 12 years, the Maha Kumbh started on January 13 and will continue till February 26 on the banks of the Triveni Sangam — the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati rivers, considered holy among Hindus.

Despite a deadly stampede on January 29, the fair continued to draw millions of pilgrims from India and the world daily.

According to the government, over 92 lakh devotees had taken a dip till 6 pm on Friday alone, pushing the overall footfall at Maha Kumbh past 50 crore (till February 14).

## UPSC cheating case: SC extends protection to Puja Khedkar till March 17

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Friday extended till March 17 protection from arrest to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar, accused of cheating and wrongly availing OBC and disability quota benefits in the civil services examination.

A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma directed Khedkar to cooperate in the investigation.

During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General SV Raju sought rime to file reply in the matter.

Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for Khedkar, submitted that police were not calling her for investigation and she was willing to come.

The top court directed the ASG to file reply within three weeks.

The apex court on January 15 had

issued notice to the Delhi government and the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Khedkar’s plea seeking anticipatory bail.

Khedkar is accused of misrepresenting information in her application for the UPSC civil services examination, 2022, for availing reservation benefits.

She refuted all the allegations against her.

While dismissing her anticipatory bail plea, the high court found a strong prima facie case against Khedkar and said an investigation was needed to unearth the “larger conspiracy” to manipulate the system, and allowing the reprieve would adversely impact it.

“Anticipatory bail plea is dismissed. Interim protection from arrest is vacated,” the high court said.

Khedkar was granted an interim protection from arrest when the high court issued notice on her anticipatory bail plea on August 12, 2024, and it was extended from time to time.

The high court observed the UPSC examination is the most prestigious test and the case was a classic instance of fraud committed on a constitutional body and the society.

The anticipatory bail plea was opposed by the Delhi Police counsel and the complainant, the UPSC, in the high court.

## PM Maintains Silence In Country, Says ‘Personal Matter’ Abroad: Rahul On Adani

**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of “covering up” the alleged corruption of businessman Gautam Adani.

In a post on X, he said, the PM maintains silence

when questions are asked in the country and terms it a personal matter when asked abroad.

“If you ask questions in the country, there is silence. If you ask abroad, it is a personal matter! “Even in America, Modi Ji covered up Adani Ji’s corruption!” Gandhi charged in his post in Hindi.

To a question on whether the issue relating to Adani figured in the talks, PM Modi at a joint media briefing in Washington said: “India is a democracy and our culture is ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’. We consider the whole world as one family. I believe every Indian is mine.”

## Constitutional Crisis In Manipur Forced Imposition Of President’s Rule: Congress

**NEW DELHI:** The Congress on Friday said the imposition of President’s rule in Manipur is a direct admission of the failure of the BJP governments at the Centre and the state, and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to apologise to the people there.

In a post on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said there is a Constitutional crisis in Manipur that forced the imposition of President’s rule.

“Narendra Modi ji, it is your party which has been ruling at the Centre for 11 years. It is your party which was ruling Manipur for 8 years. It is the BJP which was responsible for maintaining Law & Order in the state.

“It is your government which is responsible for National Security and border patrol. The imposition of President’s rule by YOU, suspending YOUR own party’s government is a direct admission on how YOU failed the



people of Manipur,” Kharge said.

He said the government has imposed President’s rule not because it wanted to, but because there is a Constitutional crisis in the state, as none of the NDA MLAs are willing to accept the “baggage of your incompetence”.

“Your “Double Engine” ran over the lives of the innocent people of Manipur! High time you now step in Manipur and listen to the pain and trauma of the

deny his direct responsibility for Manipur,”

he said in a post on X.

“Has he finally made up his mind to visit the state, and explain to the people of Manipur and India his plan to restore peace and normalcy?” Gandhi asked.

President’s rule was imposed in strife-torn Manipur on Thursday and the state assembly put under suspended animation, days after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned from his post that led to political uncertainty in the northeastern state.

The Manipur assembly, which has a tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Singh, who was heading the BJP government in Manipur, resigned as chief minister after nearly 21 months of ethnic violence that has claimed over 250 lives so far.

## OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE GANDERBAL

### Advertisement Notice No.01 of 2025

Dated: 14.02.2025

Subject:-Filling up of the vacancies of Class IVth/Driver posts. (District Cadre)

Offline Applications are invited on the prescribed format, attached to this Advertisement Notice As Annexure "A" from the eligible candidates belonging to UT of Jammu and Kashmir for filling of Vacancies of Class IVth/Driver Posts in the Court of District Ganderbal. The Category wise details of vacancies for such posts are as under:

S.NO	Name of the post with pay scale	No. Of Posts	OM	SC	ST-1	ST-2	RBA	OBC
01	Process Server L-2(19900-63200)	03	02	01	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
02	Orderly SL-1(14800-47100)	03	02	01	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
03	Driver L-2(19900-63200)	02	02	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Note: The Vacancy position may increase or decrease depending upon the actual availability of vacancies at the time of making final selection.

ELIGIBILITY

I) EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:

a) For the posts of process server, the candidate must have passed 10+2(12th) examination from any recognized Board.

b) For the Posts of Orderly, the candidate must have passed 10th (Matric) examination from any recognized Board.

C) FOR THE POST OF DRIVERS:

The candidate must be Matriculate from a recognized Board of School Education and must possess a valid driving license with LMV/HMV endorsement. However the persons who are already engaged on Adhoc or Daily Wage basis in the Subordinate Courts shall be eligible to apply irrespective of the minimum and maximum standards of age and they shall be deemed to be given relaxation in the minimum and maximum standards of age.

II) DOMICILE

The candidate must be a Domicile of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and shall possess the Domicile Certificate issued by the competent authority in terms of Notification issued by the General Administration Department of UT of J&K vide SO. 166 Dated 18.05.2020.

III) AGE

The minimum and maximum age shall be the same as prescribed by the Government in terms of the Civil Service Regulations, as such the maximum age limit shall be 40 years for Open Merit and the maximum age limit shall be 43 years for other categories. The application form for the aforementioned posts can be obtained from the office of Principal District & Sessions Judge Ganderbal during the office hours from 22.02.2025 to 08.03.2025. The application form can also be downloaded from the official website of District Court Ganderbal (<https://ganderbal.dcourts.gov.in>). If a candidate intends to apply for all posts, he/she shall apply separately for each post.

1	Date of commencement for submission of offline application forms	22-02-2025
2	Last date for submission of offline application forms	08-03-2025

The duly filled up application forms shall be submitted in the office of Principal District and Sessions Judge Ganderbal (Administrative section) during office hours and no application forms shall be accepted after the cut off date i.e 08-03-2025. Application forms submitted other than the offline mode shall not be accepted.

Application forms shall be supported with the self attested copies of the following documents:

a) Qualification marks certificate

b) Date of birth certificate (matriculation)

c) Domicile certificate

d) Aadhaar card

e) Driving License for Post of Driver

f) Two passport size photographs

A candidate shall have to deposit fee of Rs, 500/- (five hundred) favouring Principal District & Sessions Judge Ganderbal, in the shape of demand draft from Jandk Bank Ltd. Which is non refundable.

In-service candidates can route their application forms through proper channel.

IV) Mode of Selection: For category of posts at S.No. 1 to 2

The candidate shall have to undergo and INTERVIEW/VIVA VOCE in order to determine the suitability and knowledge and the selection of the candidate shall be made purely on the basis of his/her performance and the merit obtained in the interview/viva voce.

V) Mode of Selection: For category of posts at S.No. 3

I) The candidate shall have to undergo a written test to determine the General Knowledge and traffic rules on the basis of merit in the written test, qualifying candidates shall be called for determining their driving skills in the ratio of 1:3.

The driving skill shall be conducted by an expert from the traffic department.

II) The candidates qualifying the written test/driving skill test shall be called for viva-voce/Interview.

III) Selection of drivers shall be made purely on the basis of marks obtained in written examination, Driving test and viva-voce.

Note I: The aspiring candidates shall be informed through print and electronic media and also through official website (<https://ganderbal.dcourts.gov.in>) about the date of interview/ Viva Voce/Driving test. Further, no claim of being unaware of the date/ schedule for interview shall be entertained and no TA/DA will be paid for participation in the interview/ Viva voce.

Note II: The Candidates who have already applied for the post of drivers vide Advertisement Notice No.77 of 2022/ PDJ/GBL Dated 07-09-2022 need not to apply afresh.

For any information, the aspiring candidate is in their own interest and impressed upon to keep track by visiting the aforementioned mentioned official website of District Court Ganderbal.

NO. 1340-45/PDJG

Dated: 14-02-25.

**Sd/- (Abdul Nasir)**

**Pr. District & Sessions Judge**

**Ganderbal**

**DIPK-11988/24**



## During Parole, MP Er Rashid Advocates for Lolab-Bandipora Road, in Meeting with Gadkari

**NEWDELHI:** Member of Parliament Er Rashid, during his two-day parole, met Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways of India, in the Parliament Chamber on Thursday and dis-



cussed some key developmental issues of North Kashmir.

An official spokesperson said the meeting focused on key infrastructure demands crucial for the development of North Kashmir. He said the parliamentarian from north Kashmir urged the minister to approve the construction of Lolab Bandipora road that shall link the Lolab Valley with Bandipora district and shorten its distance to reach Srinagar.

Spokesperson said he highlighted the need for Lolab-Bandipora road connectivity, linking the Lolab Valley with Bandipora district, as well as the Takipora Lolab-Sopore road, which would enhance regional connectivity and facilitate better trade and transport.

During the discussion, Er Rashid strongly advocated for the construction of the Karnah, Machil, and Gurez Tunnels, stressing their critical importance as these regions remain cut off from the rest of the country for nearly six months every year due to heavy snowfall. He emphasized that these tunnels would provide all-weather connectivity, improving the socio-economic conditions of the people and strengthening national integration.

Additionally, Responding to these demands, Minister Nitin Gadkari confirmed that the process for the Karnah Tunnel has already begun and assured that the other proposed tunnels and inter-district road networks would be taken up with the Defence Ministry for further consideration.

Furthermore, Er Rashid demanded Rs 200 crore for the upgradation of National Highway roads and other road infrastructure in North Kashmir, emphasizing the urgent need to modernize road connectivity in the region. Minister Nitin Gadkari assured full support for the proposed projects, reiterating the government's commitment to improving infrastructure in remote areas. (KNS)

## DDAC organises Awareness Programme on Drug De-Addiction and Rehabilitation

**Bandipora:** To combat the rising challenge of drug addiction, the District Drug De-Addiction Centre (DDAC) Bandipora, in collaboration with the Excise and Taxation Department, Range North Kashmir, organized an Awareness Programme on Drug De-Addiction and Rehabilitation at N



Academy Bandipora.

An official spokesperson said the event was attended by large gathering of youth, students and educators. The programme commenced with a welcome address, highlighting the urgency of community-driven efforts to eradicate drug abuse.

Speaking on the occasion, Danishwar Shafi, Excise and Taxation Officer emphasized that the fight against drugs is not the responsibility of institutions alone. Every individual, family, and community must act as vigilant guardians to protect youth.

Excise Inspector Mubashir Altaf followed with a presentation on the physical, psychological,

and socio-economic impacts of substance abuse.

Dr. Anjum Ara, Medical Officer, DDAC Bandipora, provided a comprehensive overview of the medical dimensions of addiction. She elaborated on withdrawal symptoms, treatment protocols, and the rehabilitation services available at DDAC, stressing, "Recovery is a journey, not a destination. With timely medical intervention and psychosocial support, reintegration into society is possible."

She said, "Drugs don't just destroy individuals—they fracture families and destabilize societies."

Adv. Mudasir Nazir, Counsellor, DDAC, detailed the DDAC's free-of-cost services, including counseling, medication, shelter, food, recreation etc. "No one struggling with addiction should hesitate to seek help. DDAC's doors are open to all, irrespective of socioeconomic status," he said.

Jawhar Ahmad, Outreach Worker (ORW) at DDAC, concluded the technical sessions with actionable advice, outlining "do's and don'ts" for families and communities to prevent relapse and support recovery.

The event concluded with an interactive Q&A, where participants raised concerns about rehabilitation accessibility and stigma. Posters and pamphlets highlighting the helpline number and service and facilities available at DDAC were also distributed among the participants besides mementos were presented to students who performed in the event.

## Certificate distribution ceremony organized by DE&CC Kupwara

**KUPWARA:** The District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Kupwara, in collaboration with Wyath Service Pvt. Limited, successfully organized a Cer-



tificate Distribution Ceremony at the Counselling Hall, DE&CC Kupwara today following the completion of a three-month skill training program on GST Assistant with Tally, benefitting 30 trainees who received their certificates.

Assistant Director Employment, Arshid

Qadir graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, handing over certificates to the successful trainees. The event was attended by Saleem Ahmad, Director Wyath, officials from JKEDI Kupwara, officers/officials from DE&CC Kupwara, highlighting the significance of skill development in empowering youth for better employment opportunities.

Speaking at the ceremony, Arshid Qadir lauded the efforts of DE&CC Kupwara and Wyath Service Pvt. Limited for their commitment to skill development.

He encouraged the trainees to utilize their newly acquired skills for professional growth and self-sufficiency.

Director Wyath, also emphasized the role of such training programs in bridging

the gap between education and employability.

Arshid Qadir emphasized the department's commitment to empowering youth with market-relevant skills, enabling them to earn a dignified livelihood.

He highlighted the department's consistent efforts in running various skill training programs, benefiting hundreds of youth across Kupwara district.

The event was moderated by Ishfaq Ahmad Wani, Employment Officer, DE&CC Kupwara, who highlighted the key objectives of the program and the impact of skill-based learning in enhancing employability among youth.

The Certificate Distribution Ceremony served as a testament to the ongoing efforts of DE&CC Kupwara in fostering skill development initiatives and creating avenues for youth employment in the region.

The trainees, who received certificates, expressed gratitude to the department for sponsoring the program and providing them with the opportunity to develop their skills in GST and Tally.

## District Hospital Admin Snoops on Patients, Staff; Massive Privacy Breach Sparks Outrage

**SUHAIL RATHER**

**BANDIPORA:** In a shocking violation of privacy, the Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Bandipora, Dr. Masrat Iqbal, has allegedly turned the hospital into a surveillance zone, spying on doctors, staff, and even patients through illegally installed audio-visual CCTV cameras.

The unauthorized surveillance has triggered widespread outrage, with many calling it an attempt to snoop on employees and eavesdrop on confidential medical discussions.

According to official sources, Dr. Iqbal directed to install audio-enabled cameras across the hospital without following due procedure to avoid getting caught. CCTVs have also been installed in highly sensitive areas such as the minor operation theatre, casualty ward, emergency doctors' room, Sick Neonatal Care Unit (SNCU), medicine ward, LSCs, post-operative ward, COPD ward, registration section, and the drug counter.

The move has raised alarm among doctors and paramedics, who argue that such surveillance compromises patient confidentiality and staff privacy.

A doctor (name withheld) recounted a disturbing incident recently where he was discussing a highly personal medical issue—the removal of an abscess from a female patient's breast—only to later discover that the entire conversation had been heard in the Medical Superintendent's office through the spy cameras. Enraged by the violation, the doctor confronted Dr. Iqbal, condemning the illegal and unethical practice.

"This is not just CCTV surveillance for security purposes. This is an outright breach of doctor-patient confidentiality. Nowhere else in the country is patient privacy compromised in such a shameful manner," said a furious doctor.

Hospital employees are equally distressed. "Every conversation we have, even about personal matters, is being recorded in the MS's office. The next day, the entire hospital is gossiping about it. How can we work under such conditions?" said an agitated staff member.

Another employee added: "Instead of focusing on patient care, the administration seems more interested in spying on doctors, patients and staff. Are we criminals?"

Adding to the scandal, sources revealed that the CCTVs were procured in violation of government norms. Instead of following the mandatory procurement process via the Government e-Marketplace

(GEM) Portal, the hospital authorities bought the cameras from the open market, allegedly to benefit a "blue-eyed" vendor.

"Apart from being a gross violation of privacy, this is a clear case of corruption. Who authorized these purchases? Who was benefited by procurement of equipment? This needs a thorough investigation," a hospital insider alleged.



With mounting anger among doctors and paramedics, hospital staff are now demanding immediate removal of these unauthorized surveillance cameras, strict action against those responsible, and an independent probe into the illegal procurement deal.

The incident has raised serious ethical and legal concerns, prompting calls for government intervention before patient trust in the healthcare system is irreparably damaged.

Medical Superintendent Dr. Masarat Iqbal stated that he aims to ensure doctors' punctuality and closely monitor them to improve healthcare services. "Some doctors are unwilling to perform their duties. I am strictly enforcing staff attendance, which is not sitting well with certain individuals," he said.

However, he could not justify the need for audio-enabled CCTVs when attendance could have been monitored through video surveillance alone.

When asked whether CCTVs could be installed in emergency and casualty wards, he evaded the question, instead stating that he plans to shift the emergency ward to another location. "I personally monitor the CCTV footage, and no one else has access to it," he added.



leading to the seizure of 668 books."

Accordingly the post reads that the legal action has been initiated under Section 126 of the BNSS. Based on credible intelligence regarding the clandestine sale and distribution of literature promoting the ideology of a banned organization, Police conducted a search in Srinagar,

## Police Seizes 668 Books For Promoting Banned Org's Ideology

**SRINAGAR:** Police today claimed to have seized 668 books promoting a banned organization's ideology during a search operation based on credible intelligence.

According to the Associated News Bureau, in an Xpost, Srinagar Police said, "Based on credible intelligence regarding the clandestine sale and distribution of literature promoting the ideology of a banned organization, Police conducted a search in Srinagar,

## DIPR condoles demise of Manzoor Ahmad Mir's Maternal Uncle

**SRINAGAR:** The officers and officials of Information Department condoled the demise of Abdul Ahad Misger, maternal uncle of Manzoor Ahmad Mir cameraman, who breathed his last today at his residence at Zindshah Mohalla Rainawari.

In this regard, a condolence meeting was held under the chairmanship of Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari at the Divisional Office at Exchange Road, Kothibagh.

Deputy Director (PR), Dr Ahsanul Haq Chishti; Cultural Officer & other officers and officials of the department attended the condolence meet.

On the occasion, Officers & Officials expressed solidarity & deepest condolences with the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

## Aero India 2025: India Strengthens Global Defence Ties, Showcases Military Innovations

**BANDIPORA:** Aero India 2025, India's premier aerospace and defence exhibition, served as a platform for high-level strategic engagements, defence technology showcases, and military cooperation. Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), under the leadership of Lt Gen JP Mathew, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC), played a pivotal role in advancing India's global defence partnerships.

Lt Gen Mathew led key bilateral discussions, including talks with Lt Gen Augustine S Malanit, Inspector General of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, to explore deeper military cooperation and defence procurement opportunities. He also reaffirmed India-Israel defence ties through interactions with Elbit Systems representatives. Reviewing cutting-edge military systems, he assessed advanced aircraft and defence technologies showcased by domestic and international firms at the event.

Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Deputy Chief (PP&FD), held crucial discussions with Maj Gen Ramanka Mokaloba (Lesotho Defence Forces) on defence exports and with Maj Gen Andrei Matsiyevich (Belarusian Armed Forces) to enhance military cooperation. His engagements with top global defence industry leaders, including MBDA (Europe), L3Harris (USA), Hensoldt (Germany), and Boeing (USA), focused on technology transfers and defence manufacturing under the 'Make in India' initiative.

Lt Gen DS Rana, Director General, Defence Intelligence Agency (DG DIA), met Brig Gen Ahmed Ghiyas (Maldives) to discuss joint training programs and Lt Gen Thorsten Michael Poshwatta (Germany), along with Ambassador Philip Ackermann, to explore defence cooperation. He also reviewed next-generation military technologies, simulators, and warfighting systems, aligning with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.

High-level bilateral meetings with defence leaders from Japan, Italy, and France reinforced India's role as an emerging defence manufacturing hub. Discussions covered technology exchanges, joint production initiatives, and deeper military ties.

Aero India 2025 showcased India's growing global defence footprint, reinforcing its commitment to self-reliance, technological innovation, and international security cooperation. These engagements solidify India's position as a key player in the global defence industry.

## SSM College Represents J&K at ISTE's 54th National Convention in Punjab

**SRINAGAR:** SSM College of Engineering on Friday celebrates 54th National Annual Convention organized by the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE) at Lamrin Tech Skill University, Punjab (LTSU).

An official spokesperson of the Institution said the theme of the two-days event was "Vision 2047: Transforming the Education System for Making India the Skill Capital of the World."

The event brought together Vice-Chancellors, faculty members, and students from across India, with over 5,000 participants, focusing on education and skill development.

On this occasion Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Punjab was the Chief Guest of the event, Harjot Singh Bains Cabinet Minister of Punjab, Technical Education and Industrial Training, Higher Education & Languages School Education was Presiding Over during the event, Dr. Vinod K. Paul member NITI AAYOG was distinguished Guest of Honour, Ved Mani Tiwari Chief Executive Officer, NSDC was special Guest of Honour, Prof. T.G. Sitharam Chairman AICTE and Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe Chairman, Executive Committee, NAAC were Guest of Honour at the event.

Being the only Institution of UT of Jammu and Kashmir having collaboration with ISTE under both its Students and Faculty Chapters, our students showcased the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir in this esteemed national platform.

Spokesperson said through traditional art, music, and cultural expressions, they beautifully depicted the vibrant diversity of the Valley. Their participation aimed to promote the essence of Kashmiri culture while fostering a spirit of unity, pride, and cultural exchange.

"This remarkable achievement underscores the talent and dedication of our students, reinforcing SSM College of Engineering's commitment to holistic development beyond academics," he added.

"The efforts on the part of students and coordinating faculty members of SSM College of Engineering have been appreciated by the Management of the Institution as it has projected the rich academic and cultural heritage of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir".





# Reimagining Future Schools: Nurturing Creativity, Solving Challenges



Shabeer Ahmad Lone

Education has always been the cornerstone of human progress, reflecting the aspirations and challenges of every era. As we stand at the crossroads of unprecedented technological advancements, social complexities, and environmental crises, the role of education must be reimagined to meet the evolving demands of the 21st century. Future schools must transcend the traditional frameworks of rote learning and rigid structures to become transformative spaces where creativity flourishes, critical thinking is nurtured, and global challenges are addressed with innovative solutions. This exploration seeks to provide an exploration of how education can adapt to serve humanity better. This discourse delves into the essence of nurturing creativity and solving systemic challenges, offering a vision for future schools that is inclusive, compelling, and rooted in authentic, timeless principles.

Future schools must address the limitations of traditional education models, which often emphasize memorization and conformity over creativity and critical thinking. The skills required in the modern world—adaptability, problem-solving, collaboration, and emotional intelligence—call for a learner-centered approach. Countries like Finland and Singapore offer glimpses of this future, where interdisciplinary learning and project-based frameworks allow students to explore real-world problems. These systems demonstrate that fostering curiosity and innovation equips students not only for academic success but for meaningful contributions to society.

Yet, creativity cannot flourish in a vacuum. Systemic barriers, such as inequitable access to resources, disparities in digital infrastructure, and socio-economic divides, must be confronted. The pandemic laid bare the extent of the digital divide, with millions of students around the world excluded from online learning due to a lack of devices or connectivity. Addressing these issues requires a concerted effort by governments, NGOs, and private enterprises to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has access to quality education. Initiatives like India's low-cost internet solutions and Africa's mobile-based learning platforms illustrate how innovative approaches can bridge these gaps.

Ethical and global citizenship education must also become integral to future schools. As artificial intelligence, automation, and climate change reshape the world, students need not only technical expertise but also the moral and ethical frameworks to navigate these challenges responsibly. For instance, schools in Japan are integrating AI ethics into their curricula, encouraging students to reflect on the societal implications of technological advancements. Similarly, programs like the International Baccalaureate emphasize cultural understanding and global responsibility, preparing students to engage with issues like inequality, sustainability, and human rights.

The mental health crisis among students presents another pressing challenge. The pressures of academic performance,

coupled with the pervasive influence of social media, have taken a significant toll on young minds. Future schools must prioritize emotional well-being alongside academic achievement. Incorporating social and emotional learning (SEL) frameworks into the curriculum can help students develop resilience, empathy, and self-awareness. Schools that have embraced SEL report not only improved mental health outcomes but also enhanced academic performance and interpersonal relationships. This holistic approach ensures that students are equipped to handle both the external challenges of the world and the internal challenges of

schools. Teachers are no longer mere disseminators of knowledge but facilitators, mentors, and co-creators of learning experiences. This transformation necessitates robust professional development programs that equip educators with the skills to harness technology, foster creativity, and address the diverse needs of their students. Finland, often cited as a leader in education, provides a compelling model, emphasizing teacher autonomy and innovation in its training programs. These principles enable educators to adapt to the unique challenges and opportunities of their classrooms, ensuring that no student is left behind.

parents, and students. It requires a commitment to inclusivity, a willingness to embrace change, and an unwavering belief in the transformative power of education.

The reimagining of future schools represents not just a response to the challenges of our time but a profound opportunity to redefine the purpose of education itself. By fostering creativity, bridging systemic inequities, and equipping students with the skills and ethical frameworks needed for an uncertain world, these schools can become beacons of hope and transformation. Drawing on rare and insightful findings from diverse traditions,



personal growth.

Infrastructure plays a pivotal role in shaping the learning experience. Future schools must move beyond traditional classrooms to create environments that inspire innovation and collaboration. Sustainable architecture, flexible learning spaces, and the integration of technology are becoming defining features of modern educational institutions. Technologies like virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) are revolutionizing the way students interact with content, offering immersive experiences that deepen understanding and engagement. Imagine students exploring ancient civilizations through VR or conducting virtual experiments in state-of-the-art science labs—these are no longer futuristic dreams but present-day realities in some pioneering schools.

The evolving role of teachers is another cornerstone of future

The concept of lifelong learning also finds a natural home in future schools. Education is no longer confined to the early years of life; instead, it becomes a continuous process, adapting to the evolving needs of individuals and societies. Future schools must embrace this shift, offering flexible learning opportunities that cater to diverse age groups and career paths. Online learning platforms and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are already paving the way, democratizing access to education and fostering a culture of perpetual learning.

At their core, future schools are more than institutions; they are transformative spaces that shape the fabric of society. By fostering creativity, addressing inequities, and preparing students for ethical and global challenges, these schools hold the potential to drive humanity forward. Yet, realizing this vision demands collaboration across all levels—educators, policymakers,

periods, and contexts, this vision integrates timeless principles with cutting-edge innovation. It emphasizes the collective responsibility of educators, policymakers, and communities to create environments where students can thrive academically, emotionally, and ethically. The journey toward this reimagined future is demanding, yet it is also deeply inspiring, offering a roadmap to a more equitable, enlightened, and sustainable world. Through the prism of education, humanity can light the path to progress, ensuring that future schools are not only hubs of creativity but also catalysts for solving the most pressing problems of our time.

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## Alcohol in Kashmir Valley and Its Effect on the Future Generation



Firdous Ahmad Malik

Alcohol consumption in Kashmir has traditionally been minimal due to restrictions. However, in recent years, its availability and use have increased, particularly with the rise in tourism and government policies allowing limited liquor sales. While official liquor shops exist in select areas of the Srinagar city, illegal sale and private consumption have also grown. This shift has sparked debates about its potential consequences, especially for the younger generation, who may be more susceptible to its influence. Despite the perception that alcohol consumption remains low compared to other regions, its increasing acceptance in certain areas raises concerns about long-term societal impacts.

Historically, Kashmir has upheld a strong stance against alcohol due to Islamic teachings, which strictly prohibit its consumption. Beyond religion, traditional Kashmiri society has viewed alcohol as a moral and social vice, often associated with corruption, violence, and family disintegration. Unlike some parts of India, where drinking is common social practice, Kashmir has largely resisted this trend. However, changing lifestyle, external influences, and economic interests are gradually challenging these long-held beliefs. If this trend continues, it may not only alter societal norms but also pose serious risks to public health, family structures, and the overall cultural

identity of Kashmir.

Alcohol consumption in Kashmir is heavily restricted due to religious and cultural beliefs. The region has a Muslim-majority population, and Islamic teachings prohibit the consumption



of alcohol. As a result, social norms discourage its use, and many locals view drinking as a taboo. Additionally, political and religious organizations often oppose the sale of alcohol, arguing that it goes against the region's values. This strong cultural resistance has led to limited availability and strict regulations on alcohol consumption.

Despite these restrictions, the government controls the sale of alcohol through licensed outlets, mainly in select areas such as Srinagar and some tourist destinations. The presence of tourism has created a demand for alcohol, particularly from non-local visitors. Some high-end hotels and restaurants catering to tourists serve alcoholic beverages, but access remains controlled. However, the debate over alcohol sales continues, balancing economic benefits from tourism with

cultural and religious sensitivities.

The increasing consumption of alcohol in Kashmir poses a serious threat to the social and moral fabric of the younger generation. Traditionally rooted in religious and ethical values, Kashmiri society has

long discouraged drinking, viewing it as a harmful vice. However, with growing external influences, some youth now associate alcohol consumption with modernity and personal freedom, leading to a gradual weakening of cultural and religious principles. This shift could result in an identity crisis, where young individuals struggle between their inherited values and emerging social trends. Moreover, the normalization of alcohol use may create a more permissive environment, reducing the stigma around drinking and encouraging its future spread among impressionable minds.

Beyond social concerns, the health risks associated with alcohol consumption are alarming. Addiction at an early age can lead to long-term dependency, causing severe physical ailments such as liver disease, heart problems, and neurological

damage. Psychological effects, including depression, anxiety, and cognitive decline, can hinder a person's overall well-being and productivity. Additionally, alcohol abuse is linked to rising crime rates, domestic violence, and reckless behavior, contributing to societal instability. The economic impact is also significant, as families struggle with financial burdens due to medical expenses and lost productivity. Furthermore, students and young professionals affected by alcohol addiction often face academic failures and career setbacks, ultimately harming the region's social and economic progress.

Raising awareness about the harmful effects of alcohol and enforcing strict regulations are essential in a society where cultural and religious values strongly discouraged its consumption. Strengthening religious and moral education can play a crucial role in preventing alcohol abuse by instilling ethical values from an early age. Schools, mosques, and community leaders can educate people about the dangers of alcohol addiction, both from a religious and health perspective. Moreover, government policies on liquor sales should be more stringent, ensuring that alcohol is not easily accessible, especially to young people. While some argue that tourism justifies controlled alcohol sales, the government must strike a balance between economic interests and social responsibility to prevent the spread of alcohol consumption.

Parents have a crucial role in protecting their children from alcohol abuse by fostering open communication and setting strong moral foundations. They should educate their children about the negative consequences of drinking and encourage them to stay away from harmful influences. Ad-

ditionally, engaging youth in positive activities such as sports, arts, and community service can serve as a health alternative to destructive habits. By creating opportunities for young people to develop their skills and passions, society can reduce the temptation of alcohol and promote a culture of productivity and responsibility.

Conclusion

The increasing prevalence of alcohol consumption in Kashmir is a growing concern, particularly for the modern Kashmiri youth. Traditionally, alcohol was widely rejected due to religious and cultural beliefs, but changing lifestyles, outside influences, and economic factors have made it more accessible. This shift threatens to weaken the strong moral and ethical foundations of Kashmiri society. The consequences are far-reaching—ranging from health risks like addiction and mental illness to social issues such as crime, family breakdowns, and economic instability. If left unchecked, this trend could erode the cultural identity of Kashmir and hinder the progress of its younger generation.

To protect the future of Kashmiri youth, stricter regulations on alcohol sales and consumption must be enforced. Society, religious leaders, and educators must work together to spread awareness about the dangers of alcohol abuse. Instead of adopting habits that harm personal and societal growth, young Kashmiri should be encouraged to focus on education, career development, and creative pursuits. Preserving the moral fabric of Kashmiri society is crucial to ensuring a prosperous and value-driven future for the next generation.

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# CM Omar Abdullah distributes appointment orders to Panchayat Secretaries at SKUAST-Jammu

**JAMMU:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today highlighted the importance of honesty, transparency and dedication in public service while addressing an event at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SKUAST) Jammu.

The event was organized to distribute appointment orders to newly appointed Panchayat Secretaries in the Rural Development Department (RDD), J&K.

Congratulating the appointees, the Chief Minister reminded them of their crucial role in bridging the gap between the government and the people.

"The appointment process was transparent, though not without its challenges. Despite difficulties, we ensured the process was completed fairly," he said.

"Today, you receive your appointment orders not as a favor from anyone, but as a result of your hard work and merit."

Recalling the historical evolution of the Panchayati Raj system in Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah acknowledged the contributions of past governments, particularly former Chief Minister Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, in strengthening grassroots governance.

"The Panchayati Raj system was first introduced under the Jammu and Kashmir Village Panchayat Act. Over time, Panchayat system has evolved, with every government playing its part in strengthening it," he noted.

Speaking about the significance of Panchayat elections, the Chief Minister pointed out the high level of public participation in local governance. "We have observed that while voter turnout in

parliamentary elections is relatively low, it increases in assembly elections. However, Panchayat elections see the highest level of engagement because these institutions are closest to the people," he said. Omar Abdullah urged the newly appointed Panchayat



Secretaries to ensure that government funds allocated for rural development are utilized effectively and without corruption. "The schemes—whether centrally sponsored or J&K-sponsored—must be implemented with honesty, ensuring maximum public benefit," he emphasized.

"You will face pressures and attempts to influence decisions, but your duty is to uphold justice and serve the poor," he said. He reminded them that while governments change, the responsibility of public servants remains constant. "Don't worry about political shifts; your focus should be on serving the people with dedication," he added.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that he would continue to interact with the appointees in the years ahead, pledging his government's support as they carry out their duties.

"This will not be our last meeting. Today, we are here, but tomorrow, we will meet in the field, working together to improve governance. I look forward to visiting your areas and seeing the impact of your work firsthand," the CM said.

20 newly appointed panchayat secretaries—10 each from Kashmir and Jammu divisions—received their appointment orders from the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister for Agricultural Production and RDD, Javed Ahmad Dar, congratulated the appointees and urged them to work with sincerity and dedication. He acknowledged the Chief Minister's commitment to ensuring a smooth and transparent appointment process and reminded the recruits of their vital role in governance.

Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, SKUAST-Jammu Vice Chancellor BN Tripathi, Secretary RDD Aijaz Asad, Directors of RDD Kashmir and Jammu, newly appointed Panchayat Secretaries, their parents and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

## CM Omar Abdullah Meets Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam, Discusses Community Issues



**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah met with Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam on Friday to discuss key community matters. The meeting, held in Jammu, focused on various social and religious issues concerning the region. Sources said the discussions covered issues of public importance, with an emphasis on maintaining communal harmony and addressing concerns raised by the religious leadership.

Both leaders reportedly exchanged views on strengthening the bond between the administration and religious institutions to ensure better coordination on matters affecting the people.

## DDC Pulwama chairs meeting on implementation of PMJVK

**Pulwama:** A comprehensive meeting was convened today under the chairmanship of the District Development Commissioner (DDC), Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, to deliberate on the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) in the district.

The meeting focused on a detailed review of sanctioned projects that remain unexecuted due to non-availability of funds as well as discussions on the augmentation and upgradation of existing initiatives with appropriate justifications. Also, new project proposals put forth by various departments, along with feasibility studies concerning land availability, office accommodations and housing requirements, were thoroughly examined.

Dr. Qayoom conducted a meticulous sector-wise review, covering education, healthcare, horticulture, handicrafts, milk processing, sports, IT infrastructure and women-centric projects, underlining their significance in fostering socio-economic development.

DDC said the imperative of proposing projects that not only serve the broader community but also mitigate the reliance on rented accommodations for schools.

He urged the concerned departments to prioritize the development of robust, long-term infrastructure that fosters sustainability, enhances the quality of education and ensures a more stable and conducive learning environment for students.

Discussions in the health sector focused on strengthening both hospital infrastructure and AYUSH facilities to improve healthcare services.

The District Development Commissioner underscored the necessity of enhancing medical facilities under PMJVK to ensure better accessibility and quality healthcare for the local population.

Regarding Handicrafts as the Nodal Department for skill development, the DDC suggested establishing integrated infrastructure that includes training centers along with dedicated selling facilities. Such initiatives would provide a platform for local artisans, creating employment opportunities and enhancing market accessibility.

The development of sports infrastructure was also a key area of discussion, with a focus on both indoor and outdoor stadium projects under PMJVK. The need for modern, well-equipped sports facilities was highlighted to encourage youth participation in physical activities and competitive sports.

Women-centric initiatives, including the construction of women's hostels at Government Degree College and working women hostels under the Social Welfare Department, were reviewed.

The chair was informed that the women's hostel at the Government Degree College is 60% complete.

The District Development Commissioner stressed the need to expedite such projects to provide safe and secure accommodation for women pursuing education and employment.

In the dairy sector, Dr. Qayoom advocated for the implementation of milk processing projects under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model within the PMJVK framework. He emphasized that such initiatives would not only bolster dairy production but also modernize processing facilities, streamline marketing channels and create sustainable economic opportunities for local farmers.

The horticulture sector was another focus area, with discussions on the development of fruit and vegetable satellite markets. The District Development Commissioner recommended that projects be proposed for upgradation, mechanization, segregation and additional infrastructure to enhance efficiency and productivity.

IT-related projects were also discussed, with an emphasis on their integration into the education sector. The District Development Commissioner suggested that IT initiatives under PMJVK could be strategically designed to enhance digital learning and technology-driven education.

At the conclusion of the meeting, all departments were directed to submit detailed proposals for new projects or extensions, including a clear rationale, a list of target beneficiaries, the facilities to be provided and the anticipated impact on the local community.



## DLC meeting under PMJVK held at Kulgam

**Kulgam:** District Level Committee (DLC) meeting under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) was today held at Kulgam with an aim to formulate a comprehensive plan under the scheme. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan.

The PMJVK scheme aims to improve the socio-economic conditions of people particularly weaker communities by providing them with basic amenities like education, health, infrastructure, skill development and employment opportunities for the youth.

The committee discussed various aspects of the scheme, including interventions required in education, health, infrastructure development and skill development sectors in the district.

During the meeting, the DDC instructed concerned to frame sector wise comprehensive plan under the scheme for holistic development of the district.

DDC emphasized the need of expediting submission of Project Proposal Reports (PPRs) and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to ensure the seamless execution of the PMJVK scheme in the district.

He also impressed for effective implementation of PMJVK in district & urged the officers to work in synergy to maximize the benefits of the scheme for the people of district.

## Science & Technology integral to progress, prosperity: Satish Sharma

**JAMMU:** Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and Technology, Satish Sharma, today attended the 3rd International Conference on "Emerging Trends in Biosciences and Chemical Technology", at SMVDU Katra.

Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Professor Pragati Kumar; Executive Director of SMVD College of Medical Excellence, Dr Yashpal Sharma; Head of the School of Biotechnology, Professor Ratna Chandra and Dr. Indu Bhushan Sharma, Convener of the conference were also present on the occasion.

During the conference, the Minister also paid tributes to the martyrs of Pulwama attack, observing two minutes silence as token of respect for the brave soldiers.

While addressing the gathering, the Minister asserted that this conference serves as a vital platform to discuss and deliberate upon groundbreaking advancements and their applications in our ever-evolving world.

Satish Sharma congratulated the SMVDU and the organising committee for bringing together some of the finest minds in the fields of biosciences and chemical technology. He emphasised that science and technology are integral to progress and prosperity of society; and in today's rapidly evolving world biosciences and chemical

technology play a pivotal role in addressing global challenges, be it healthcare, agriculture, energy or environmental sustainability.

"In the field of biosciences, we are witnessing groundbreaking innovations, from genome editing and regenerative medicine to synthetic biology



and personalized healthcare. These advancements hold immense potential for disease prevention, drug discovery and agricultural improvements, ensuring food security and better health outcomes for all", added the Minister.

The Minister exhorted that Jammu and

## Commissioner Secretary IT reviews implementation of National e-Vidhan App in J&K

**JAMMU:** Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology (IT), Saurabh Bhagat, today chaired a high level meeting to review implementation of National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in the Union Territory.

The Commissioner Secretary assessed various aspects of implementation of NeVA including conducting training programs for MLAs, Assembly staff and nodal officers from various departments, provisioning of high speed connectivity in Jammu and Srinagar Assembly complexes and procuring the necessary hardware and related items.

He underscored the commitment of J&K administration to modernise legislative processes while ensuring successful implementation of NeVA. A detailed action plan has been outlined to ensure timely execution of the project, with all necessary support and resources being made available, he added.

The meeting was apprised that NeVA is a workflow system hosted on NIC's MeghRaj Cloud, designed to facilitate the smoother conduct of legislative proceedings. It will assist the Chair of the House in managing legislative sessions efficiently,

enable members to perform their duties digitally and promote a paperless legislative ecosystem in line with the 'Go Green' initiative. Launched in March 2020 as a Mission Mode Project under the theme 'One Nation, One Application,' NeVA aims to transform all state legislatures into digital platforms.

Pertinently, the Law Department has been designated as the nodal department for NeVA implementation in J&K. Efforts are underway to ensure seamless adoption of NeVA across the Union Territory, with key developments including infrastructure upgradation, capacity building and procedural refinements for transition towards a fully digital legislative framework.

It was informed in the meeting that, so far, 25 state legislatures have signed MoUs for NeVA implementation, with funds released to 22 legislatures. Among them, 14 have successfully adopted the platform and are conducting legislative business digitally. Besides, the NeVA Cloud Infrastructure has been enhanced to ensure seamless and uninterrupted legislative sessions across the states and the UTs.

## RECPDCL Transfers Lakadia B Power Transmission Project to Reliance Industries

**New Delhi:** REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, the Maharatna CPSU under the aegis of Ministry of Power, handed over project specific SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) of ISTS Transmission Project under TBCB route viz, Lakadia B Power Transmission Limited to Reliance Industries Limited on Friday at Gurugram.

An official spokesperson of the company said Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) emerged as the Transmission Service Provider (TSP) through Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) process conducted by RECPDCL, the Bid Process Coordinator, for development



of the transmission project on Build, Own, Operate & Transfer (BOOT) basis.

The SPV was handed over by T.S.C. Bosh, CEO, RECPDCL to N. Vaidyanathan, Sr. Vice President, Reliance Industries Limited in the presence of Senior Officials of RECPDCL, Reliance Industries Limited and Central

Transmission Utility of India Limited. The implementation period of the project is 24 months. The scheme covers augmentation of transformation capacity at Lakadia Pooling Station in Gujarat State for evacuation of Power from RE Power Generators. The estimated cost of the project is around Rs. 512.58 Crore.

## DC Srinagar stresses on collaborative efforts to ensure TB-free district

**SRINAGAR:** In order to strengthen TB control measures by identifying and supporting those most susceptible to the disease, a TB screening camp under 100-days intensified TB campaign was organized today at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Srinagar, witnessing active participation from a large number of employees.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, stressed the importance of collaborative efforts from all Departments and the community, especially vulnerable individuals, to

achieve the target of TB-free Srinagar. He urged greater participation in the campaign to raise awareness and promote early detection of tuberculosis.

DC added that this intensified campaign is a crucial step in the fight against tuberculosis, ensuring early detection, timely treatment, and increased awareness across Srinagar.

During the campaign, Officials from the District TB Centre Srinagar provided on-spot TB awareness, X-ray screening, and testing for individuals at a higher risk of infection.


## Kishtwar gears up for Shri Machail Mata Ji Yatra-2025

**KISHTWAR:** To enhance facilities in the Machail area for the upcoming Shree Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2025, Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan convened a review meeting here today. During the meeting, the DC reviewed various ongoing developmental works in the subdivision for the convenience of Yatris.

Detailed discussions were held on the completion of Yatra Bhawan at Gulabgarh, floating of tenders for heli services, repairing of various Yatra facilities such as sanitary complexes, development of the area around the Bhawan, provision of proper power and water supply during the Yatra, boarding and lodging arrangements for Yatris, illumination from Darshini Dwar to Machail Bhawan, deployment of fire-fighting system at Machail, security arrangements, development of roads and bridges ahead of Gulabgarh to Machail, and telecom connectivity along the Yatra route. Array of directions were issued to

the concerned officers.

The DC said that this year, we should expect 10 lakh pilgrims, as last year the Yatra



crossed 3 lakh. He also stated that this would be possible only with proper publicity and by ensuring all necessary arrangements for the Yatris.

The PMGSY Paddar was asked to work in double shifts to complete road connectivity work. In this regard, SDM Paddar was instructed to conduct weekly monitoring and submit reports. The JPDCL authorities were

directed to arrange additional generator sets for power supply at Yatra Bhawan, Gulabgarh.

The DC also urged the concerned authorities to explore the possibility of installing a mega tent city to enhance the tourism experience during the Yatra.

The ACD was asked to furnish detailed estimates for the repair of existing and construction of new bathrooms wherever required, ensuring completion before the Yatra.

SDM Paddar was assigned the responsibility of overall monitoring of ongoing projects to ensure their completion before the commencement of the Yatra.

Earlier, the Sarv Shakti Sewak Sanstha members sought intervention of DC in rate fixation for rooms during the Yatra, making provision of additional washrooms and designating Sarkoot Mandir as the Yatra's base camp. The DC carefully listened to all grievances and assured all possible assistance from the administration.



# Fitness and health

## Exercises to do and avoid during pregnancy

Pregnancy might not be the easiest journey for most people but going through the magical period of growing and incubating a life within truly changes the body and one's perspective towards the world. Contrary to the popular misconception that pregnant women should avoid exercising, staying physically active can have health benefits for the mother and the baby. Exercising can help the body stay healthy and fit at any point in life and it is recommended to spend at least 150 minutes exercising every week. Therefore, one must not let pregnancy stand in the way of achieving fitness goals.

Exercising during pregnancy: What to do

When exercising, make sure that you make adjustments according to your body and gestation stage to ensure that you do not overexert the body. Here are some exercises that can be carried out by pregnant women safely:

Kneeling pushups

You can do this exercise in the following steps:

Get in a plank posting and put your knees on the mat.

Raise your lower leg so it is at a 45-degree angle to the mat.

Now lower your upper body using the strength of your hands and bring it back up.

Repeat the steps 20 times.

Side-lying leg raises

You can do this exercise in the following steps:

Lie down comfortably on a mat.

Now turn to your side and rest your head on your arm for support.

Put the other hand on your waist.

Lift your leg sideways and bring it down.

Repeat the exercise at least 10 times.

Then change sides and repeat the steps.

Squats

You can do this exercise in the following steps:

Stand with your legs shoulder length apart.

Bring your hands together and lower your body.

Make sure that your hips are parallel to the ground.

Raise yourself and repeat.

Do the steps at least 15 to 20 times.

Exercising during pregnancy: What to avoid

While exercising can prove to be therapeutic during pregnancy, it must only be undertaken with utmost care and caution. Here are some exercises that must be avoided:

❧

**Exercising through contact sports such as kickboxing, squash, basketball, horseback riding, and more must be avoided as it can increase the risk of injury**

❧

High-intensity exercises that can cause overheating of the body must be avoided.

Refrain from exercises that require lying flat on the back or front for too long.

Climbing and hiking to high altitudes must be avoided as it can increase the risk of altitude sickness for the mother and the baby.

One must try to steer clear of water sports and other water-related forms of exercise such as scuba diving.



Contrary to the popular misconception that pregnant women should avoid exercising, staying physically active can have health benefits for the mother and the baby. Exercising can help the body stay healthy and fit at any point in life and it is recommended to spend at least 150 minutes exercising every week. Therefore, one must not let pregnancy stand in the way of achieving fitness goals.



New Delhi: Mornings can often be a busy time of the day for working professionals. Rushing to the jobs with very little time on hand, it might not be possible for some people to grab a quick bite. Skipping breakfast can have detrimental consequences on health and therefore must be avoided. If you are looking for an easy way to fulfil your nutritional requirements while keeping up with a hectic schedule, it's time to add smoothies to your breakfast. While smoothies can be an incredible way to make up for the lost breakfast rituals, their healthiness depends majorly on the method of preparation, ingredients, and portions consumed.

Healthy breakfast smoothies

Here are some easy to prepare breakfast smoothies that can provide your body with nutrition and energy for the day:

Banana blueberry smoothie: Combine the fibre and potassium-rich goodness of bananas with the antioxidant properties of blueberries and you will have an incredibly delicious breakfast option. To prepare this smoothie, combine a banana, spinach, milk, blueberries, flaxseeds, avocado, cinnamon, and avocado in a blender. Blend the ingredients well, pour the mix into a glass, and drink.

Kale smoothie: Kale is one of the best green leafy vegetables and is rich in vitamin K, magnesium, iron, and calcium. This can offer bone, heart, and muscle benefits to the body. To prepare the smoothie, just combine chopped kale leaves, honey, non-fat Greek yoghurt, milk, peanut butter, frozen pineapples, and

frozen banana. Blend the ingredients, pour, and enjoy.

Oatmeal peach smoothie: Oatmeal is popular among weight loss diet plans. Mix it up with juicy peaches for a healthy and weight loss friendly breakfast smoothie. To prepare this smoothie, just blend Greek yoghurt, milk, frozen peaches, rolled oats, ice, and a frozen banana.

Pineapple smoothie: A good source of vitamin C and fibre, pineapples can help deal with digestive problems. You can prepare this smoothie by blending yoghurt, pineapple chunks, and ice cubes

Strawberry kiwi smoothie: Strawberries and kiwis are rich sources of vitamin C and antioxidants. Apart from boosting immunity, this smoothie can offer immense health benefits. To prepare this smoothie, all you need to do is blend kiwi, strawberry, banana, honey, and apple juice in a blender and then pour it into a glass to enjoy.

## Beat the morning blues with these healthy and yummy MOOTHIES



Oatmeal peach smoothie: Oatmeal is popular among weight loss diet plans. Mix it up with juicy peaches for a healthy and weight loss friendly breakfast smoothie. To prepare this smoothie, just blend Greek yoghurt, milk, frozen peaches, rolled oats, ice, and a frozen banana.





Continued From P1...

J&K UT's

with the LG's address to the House. There will be discussions on the LC's address on March 4, 5, and 6, concluding with the Chief Minister's reply on March 6.

As per the calendar, there will be general discussions on the budget on March 8, 10, and 11. The Finance Minister, who is also the Chief Minister, will conclude the general discussion on the budget on March 11 with his reply.

According to the timetable worked out by the LA secretariat, demands for grants will be discussed on March 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, and 24. After the demands for grants, the budget will be approved on March 25, with the passage of Appropriation Bills. The Legislative Assembly will go on recess for 12 days after the budget is approved.

The second part of the budget session will begin on March 7, which has been earmarked for private members' resolutions. The House will take up private member bills on March 8 and private member resolutions again on March 9. As per the calendar, government business will be taken up on March 11.

Airstrikes were

policy of 'zero tolerance' against terrorists and is committed to their complete elimination, he said.

On February 14, 2019, a suicide bomber attacked a CRPF convoy in Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in the deaths of 40 personnel.

The Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed claimed responsibility for the attack. In response, on February 26, 2019, the Indian Air Force said it conducted airstrikes targeting a JeM training camp in Balakot, Pakistan. This incident significantly heightened tensions between India and Pakistan

Use Digital Platforms

Deputy Director PR Kashmir Ahsan Ul Haq Chisti; Deputy Director PR Jammu Ankush Hans; Cultural Officers, Field Publicity Officers, Information Officers and other concerned officers attended the meeting, either in person or through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Director underscored the importance of proactive communication for the public good. He urged the officers to adopt innovative approaches to highlight developmental programs, welfare schemes and policy decisions of the government.

The Director laid special emphasis on leveraging social media and digital platforms for real-time updates and public feedback, ensuring transparency and accountability. He called upon the officers to adopt timely strategies for debunking fake news.

While reviewing manpower positions and other issues of the department, he called upon the officers to speed up the process for filling of vacant posts. He also called upon the officers to organise regular training courses for staff of the department to abreast them with latest trends of public relations.

The Director, on the occasion, called upon the officers to commit themselves towards strengthening the government-public interface and enhancing public trust through efficient and responsible information dissemination.

Doctors Should

Education Sakina Itoo, former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Secretary H&ME Dr. Syed Abid Rashid, Jammu West MLA Arvind Gupta, Principal & Dean of GMC Jammu Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Chairman JK Medical Council Dr. Muhammad Saleem Khan, senior professors, doctors, faculty and students.

Omar Abdullah highlighted his government's commitment to improving healthcare accessibility across Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our challenge is to make healthcare more easily accessible. Professor Gupta pointed out the excessive pressure on GMC Jammu's emergency services, which stems from the fact that healthcare in peripheral areas is not of the required standard. This forces people to flood into cities," he noted. He emphasized that the solution lies in improving healthcare infrastructure in rural areas.

"The way to reduce this pressure is not just by expanding our infrastructure in Jammu but by strengthening facilities in peripheral areas. There was a time when we only had GMC Jammu and GMC Srinagar. Now, we have GMCs at the district level," he said.

Speaking about MediCon-2025, the Chief Minister acknowledged its importance in fostering debates and discussions on key medical issues.

"There are all sorts of debates surrounding the topics that MediCon can address. The good thing is that students are involved through SRDC," he said.

He also highlighted that participants will earn 11 credits through MediCon, which will encourage greater engagement and enthusiasm.

"I hope the futuristic advancements in medical science will be part of our discussions—how much technology is beneficial, how much human contact should be replaced by machines. While some tasks may be better performed by AI, there are things that only human beings can do," he added.

Touching on the ethical dimensions of modern medical trends, Omar Abdullah raised concerns about the intersection of medicine and profit-driven healthcare.

"Where do we draw the ethical line in medicine? Is there such a thing as too much ethics? Does the pursuit of profit in medical care conflict with ethical responsibilities? Should hospitals treat patients as a means of revenue generation?" he asked.

He also noted the pressure on doctors working in corporate hospitals, where their performance is measured not by the number of patients they treat but by the revenue they generate.

Delving into the future of robotic surgery and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in medicine, the Chief Minister highlighted both the potential and concerns surrounding these advancements.

"One trend that seems to be catching on is the use of robotic surgery. Principal GMC Jammu mentioned that AI could one day take over medical procedures. Honestly, I can't imagine a scarier prospect than entrusting my life entirely to a machine. At the end of the day, there is immense value in human contact,

and that's where doctors—who literally do God's work—play an irreplaceable role," he said.

He praised doctors for their dedication and lifelong learning. "You pull people back from the jaws of death. You give hope where all hope seems lost. You stand by patients and their families at their most vulnerable moments—whether in recovery or in times of loss," he said.

"As doctors, you never stop learning. You are always adapting to new techniques, medicines, and treatment methods. But no machine can replace the human touch when a doctor delivers a diagnosis or a prognosis. Patients and their families hold on to every word a doctor says," he added.

Chief Minister also acknowledged the growth plans for GMC Jammu and expressed his intent to contribute.

"Principal GMC Jammu presented several ideas for GMC Jammu's future growth. My colleagues and I will ensure at least one of those proposals is implemented so that I, too, can have a foundation stone here and not feel left out in future presentations," he said in a lighter vein.

He also underscored the significance of MediCon-2025, noting that it is the first of its kind in J&K and possibly in the country, where a state or regional medical council has organized such an event.

"This event brings together the best minds to share ideas, best practices, and research advances while discussing emerging trends in medicine," he said.

Earlier, Principal GMC Jammu gave a detailed presentation on the college's growth and future plans.

Committed To

reflects the Hon'ble Prime Minister's commitment to make Divyangjan economically empowered and self-reliant.

Reiterating his resolve to bring qualitative change in the lives of Divyangjan, "I always believe in God's gift and doing good for others. I have made administration's primary goal to take steps that will lead to mainstreaming of Divyangjan in society.

In 2020 I had introduced a multi-faceted approach in Administration so that Divyangjan can realise their potential and become active participants in the development process", the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the dedicated efforts made by the J&K Administration to make assistive devices accessible to differently abled.

"I want to make sure every Divyangjan has access to Assistive Equipments that empowers them and minimizes the disability impact.

Devices like hearing aids, wheel chairs, limb prosthetics and motorised Scooty, which improve functional capacity and help the differently abled to live independently has been made available to them in far flung areas of Union Territory," the Lieutenant Governor further added.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the individual and social service organisations to help Divyangjan in procuring suitable devices as per their needs.

He also urged the innovators of J&K UT to invent more user-friendly aids and devices for Divyangjan with the help of modern technology.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the Social Welfare Department to work on mission mode for skilling of Divyangjans.

He further shared the dedicated measures taken by the administration to encourage the private sector to provide employment opportunities to Divyangjan and the necessary changes made in the reservation policy in government jobs based on various benchmarks.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the Union Minister for organizing mega fair for Divyangjan in Jammu division and Kashmir division.

He also thanked the Union Minister for his assurance to provide a platform for the Divyang Artisans and Entrepreneurs of J&K in fairs in other parts of the country.

The Lieutenant Governor and the Union Minister visited the stalls set up by Divyang artisans and entrepreneurs, various government institutions and civil society groups. They also handed over mobility devices and sanction letters to the beneficiaries.

The Lieutenant Governor assured all the support and necessary handholding by the administration to the participating artisans and entrepreneurs in scaling-up their business and marketing of their products.

Sakina Itoo, Minister for Social Welfare J&K; Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, J&K; Rajeev Sharma, Joint Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Gol; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; senior officials, representatives of various social organizations, artists, artisans and entrepreneurs, and people from all walks of life were present.

Sajad Lone

Article 370 and Article 35A in the strongest terms. The resolution also calls for the restoration of the pre-August 5, 2019 constitutional position of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Lone, who maintains that the resolution brought by the National Conference-led government in the first session of the House was ambiguous and did not clearly reject the August 5, 2019 decisions, has brought a fresh resolution on the issue.

"The resolution brought by Lone calls for condemning all actions of August 5, 2019 in the strongest terms and seeks the restoration of the pre-August 5, 2019 constitutional position," they said, adding that the resolution has been submitted in the Legislative Assembly secretariat.

In the last assembly session, the National Conference-led government had brought a "mild-worded" resolution on the issue of special status. "This Legislative Assembly reaffirms the importance of the special status and constitutional guarantees, which safeguarded the identity, culture, and rights of the people of J&K, and expresses concern over their unilateral removal," the NC-led resolution read.

It further stated that the assembly "emphasizes that any process for restoration must safeguard both

national unity and the legitimate aspirations of the people of J&K."

While all Kashmir-based opposition parties, including PDP and PC, had accused NC of bringing a "watered-down" resolution on the issue, the Congress had said that the resolution only seeks the restoration of statehood and doesn't call for the reinstatement of Article 370

CM Omar

"You are the primary stakeholders—you meet people daily and understand their most pressing concerns. Our aim is to involve you in planning and development so that the voices of the people find a place in our governance," he said.

The Chief Minister emphasized the crucial role of elected representatives in grassroots governance, stating that their feedback and inputs were vital in ensuring effective administration.

"Nobody understands the people and their issues better than you. We want to take Jammu and Kashmir to new heights of development and progress," he added.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioners of Rajouri and Poonch presented district-wise updates on capex works that would be prioritized in the upcoming budget session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

On the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, who represents the Nowshera assembly segment, highlighted several key issues in his constituency, including issue of shortage of doctors and paramedical staff, drinking water supply challenges, mobile network issues, bridges, road upgrades, and the four-laning of the Rajouri-Poonch Road beyond Akhnour.

He also emphasized the need for tourism development in the region.

Similarly, Minister Javed Ahmad Rana, representing the Mendhar assembly segment, raised concerns related to drinking water supply, identification of new water sources, electricity, tourism development, employment and education.

Other MLAs from the respective constituencies also presented their demands and issues, covering a broad range of sectors, including tourism, agriculture, horticulture and urban development.

India Rules

with any of our neighbours, we have always adopted a bilateral approach to dealing with these issues. It's no different between India and China," he said.

"We have been discussing any issues that we have with them on a bilateral plane, and we will continue to do so," Misri added.

After his talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the US president made the offer of support at a media briefing while responding to a question on India's frosty ties with China over the border row.

"I do see the skirmishes on the border, which are quite vicious, and I guess they continue to go on. If I could be of help, I would love to help as that should be stopped," he said.

The US president also described China as a "very important player" globally and even suggested that Beijing could play a role could play a role in ending the war in Ukraine.

Trump also underlined the importance of cooperation among India, China, Russia and the US.

"I would hope that China and India and Russia and the US and all of us can get along. It's very important," he said.

The ties between India and China came under severe strain following the deadly Galwan Valley clashes between the militaries of the two countries in June, 2020.

The two sides completed the disengagement process after firming up a pact for the withdrawal of troops from Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

Two days after finalisation of the pact, Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks in Kazan on October 23.

In the meeting, the two sides decided to revive the various dialogue mechanisms.

India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas. (Agencies)

Courts Can't

taking of cognisance to enable them to exercise their right to be heard and participate in pre-trial criminal proceedings.

While referring to an apex court verdict and the Code of Criminal Procedure amendments, the high court said there were sufficient rights given to the victim or complainant to effectively participate in pre-trial and trial proceedings if they so elected.

It had also referred to the Delhi High Court rules and said it was clear that a party to a criminal case was entitled to obtain copies of the record of the

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No:JK15 20150010121, my name and parantege has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Aamir Ali Ganie, S/O Ali Mohd Ganie, while as my Actual and correct name and parantege is Aamir Ali, S/O Ali Mohammad Ganaie. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/ she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora within a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Aamir Ali.  
S/O Ali Mohammad Ganaie.  
R/O Ward NO: 05, Bandipora.

case upon filing of an application.

The union home ministry has already issued direction to all states and union territories in October 2020 for the implementation of a standard operating procedure (SOP) over sexual offences against women and children, it added.

"In the said SOP at paragraph 23 with respect to the submission of chargesheet, police has been directed to provide a copy of chargesheet to the victim/informant without any cost," said the high court. (Agencies)

MeT Predicts

Ramban, Kulgam, Doda, Budgam and Anantnag have recorded a deficiency in between 80 to 89 per cent. Pulwama, Kupwara, Bandipora and Baramulla districts have a deficiency of between 70 to 79 per cent during the period, according to the data. Four districts including Poonch, Rajouri, Kishtwar and Ganderbal have recorded a deficiency in between

60 to 69 per cent. All the districts across the Union Territory have been categorised in large deficiency, the data reveals. Meanwhile, the weatherman here has predicted dry weather conditions till tomorrow.

Director Meteorological Department Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that on February 16, the weather would remain partly to generally cloudy with light rain and snow expected at isolated higher reaches of north & central Kashmir mainly towards evening and night.

On February 17-18, partly to generally cloudy weather is expected with the possibility of a brief spell of light rain and snow at isolated higher reaches, he said, adding that nothing significant is expected till February 18. On February 19 and 20, generally cloudy weather is expected with the possibility of light rain and snow at scattered places during the 19th night and late night to 20th afternoon, Dr Ahmad said, adding that partly cloudy with a possibility of light rain and snow is expected at isolated places on February 21 and 22.

6 Kg Heroin Seized in Rajouri

RAJOURI/JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday seized six kg of narcotics, believed to be high-grade heroin worth over Rs 30 crore in the international market, from a village near the Line of Control in Rajouri district, officials said.

The recovery from Sair Bhawani village in the Nowshera sector was made on the disclosure of the arrested kingpin of the racket Jaswinder Kumar alias Sonu, a resident of Lamberi who was arrested 10 days ago following an investigation of a case registered last year, officials said.

They said two more accused, Ashok Kumar and Sanjay Kumar of Sair Bhawani, were also arrested during the operation, taking the total number of those arrested to five and the recoveries to 11.3 kg of narcotics. Terming the operation a "significant breakthrough", a



police spokesperson said two drug peddlers, Sajan Kumar alias Vicky and Subash Chander, were arrested along with 5.3 kilograms of heroin-like narcotic substance last year. "Following sustained efforts the prime accused and kingpin Jaswinder Kumar was arrested on February 5. Kumar had been absconding for over a year in another case registered under the Narcotic Drugs and

Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act at Police Station Nowshera," he said.

During questioning, Kumar revealed that he was getting heroin smuggled into India from Pakistan-based operatives along with his associates, Ashok and Sanjay, the spokesperson said. Both were arrested and six kg of heroin was recovered from their possession, he added.

HDFC Bank Celebrates V-Day By Encouraging Couples to Talk About Money



MUMBAI: HDFC Bank has launched #FinanciallyEverAfter - a unique campaign to educate couples about financial matters.

The campaign introduces young couples to the idea of managing their money together - a crucial yet often overlooked aspect of modern-

day relationships.

It endeavours to empower Gen Z and young millennial couples with the knowledge and tools to navigate money matters together.

The Bank has created a dedicated microsite - <https://www.moneymadeeasy.org/> - that features an interactive 'Financially Ever After' quiz, which enables couples to assess their financial compatibility in a fun and informative way.

The quiz reveals their attitudes towards financial decisions, bringing to the fore areas of agreement as well as differences.

The website also features informative videos and articles, offering practical guidance on managing finances as a couple. The concepts are explained by FJ Moneysha, the Bank's Financial Jockey, who demystifies financial jargons. (KNT)

**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 Kashmiri  
Nazim, Darul Uloom Raheemiyah Bandipora, Kashmir



# Latham, Mitchell fifties take NZ to tri-series title after bowlers restrict Pak

New Zealand 243 for 5 (Mitchell 57, Latham 56, Naseem 2-43) beat Pakistan 242 (Rizwan 46, Agha 45, O'Rourke 4-43, Santner 2-20) by five wickets

Despite injuries to Lockie Ferguson, Ben Sears, Matt Henry and Rachin Ravindra, New Zealand clinched the tri-series title in Karachi and sounded out a warning to the hosts, five days before they meet again in the Champions Trophy opener at the same venue. In the absence of the senior quicks, Will O'Rourke stepped up admirably with a four-wicket haul, while the spinners, led by Mitchell Santner, straightjacketed Pakistan in the middle overs, limiting them to 242.

The batters then completed the demolition job on a two-paced surface, chasing the target with 28 balls and five wickets to spare. After Devon Conway and Kane Williamson set the platform with a 71-run partnership for the second wicket, Daryl Mitchell launched from there in the middle overs, befuddling Pakistan's spinners with his variety of sweeps - including the reverse. He struck up an 87-run stand with Tom Latham, which highlighted New Zealand's dominance in the middle overs, before Michael Bracewell and Glenn Phillips sealed the deal.

It was Phillips who had kicked off the tri-series with an unbeaten 106 off 74 balls, his maiden ODI century, against Pakistan, before Kane Williamson reminded the world of his genius with an unbeaten century of his own in New Zealand's second game of the tri-series against South Africa. Having bagged ducks in

those two games - and also against Sri Lanka in Auckland last month - Latham made a timely return to form, and re-established himself as New Zealand's first-choice wicketkeeper-batter with his 56 off 64 balls.



Latham had benefitted from multiple reprieves - he was dropped by Shaheen Shah Afridi off his own bowling on 15, and then by Saud Shakeel at square leg on 29. Earlier, when he was on 13, legspinner Abrar Ahmed pinged him on his pad and wasn't given out lbw. Pakistan missed a trick by not going for a review, with ball-tracking indicating that it had pitched in line and would have crashed into the stumps.

Abrar, Pakistan's specialist spinner, lacked penetration, and was taken for 67 in his ten overs. In stark contrast, New Zealand's premier spinner Santner was unhittable, coming away

with his most economical ten-over spell in ODI cricket. Forty of his 60 balls were dots as Santner varied his pace from the mid-70s kph range to mid-90s kph with remarkable control. Bracewell also kept things tight, finishing

with 2 for 38 in his ten overs.

The first powerplay was a portent for Pakistan's go-slow. They played out 48 dots in the powerplay, in which they managed 48 for 2, and failed to hit a high tempo through the innings. After taking a sequence of short balls away from Fakhar Zaman with his sharp angle from over the wicket, including two off-side wides, O'Rourke brought a fuller one back into the opener and had him chipping a catch to square leg for 10 off 15 balls.

Babar Azam then brought the Karachi crowd alive when he laced Jacob Duffy through the covers for four, and became the joint fastest to 6000 ODI runs in his 123rd innings, alongside Hashim Amla. Nathan Smith, the seam-bowling allrounder, though spoiled the party when he had Babar spooning a return catch for 29 off 34 balls in his first over.

6000 ODI runs in his 123rd innings, alongside Hashim Amla. Nathan Smith, the seam-bowling allrounder, though spoiled the party when he had Babar spooning a return catch for 29 off 34 balls in his first over.

Pakistan captain Mohammad Rizwan needed 13 balls to get off the mark, and then four more balls to find the boundary. Salman Agha was more fluent at the other end, wedging the ball into the gaps as the pair forged an 88-run partnership for the fourth wicket.

The stand, however, ended when O'Rourke returned to the attack and had Rizwan chopping on with a cross-seamer, which stopped on him, for 46 off 76 balls. After hitting hard lengths and the splice of batters with high pace and bounce in the early exchanges, O'Rourke proved that he could be just as effective with the older ball. Almost five overs later, Bracewell had Agha miscuing a reverse sweep to short third to leave Pakistan at 161 for 5 in the 37th over.

Tayyab Tahir then gave the innings a leg-up with his 38 off 33 balls, but his innings was cut short by Duffy in the 42nd over. In the last eight overs, New Zealand conceded just four boundaries, keeping Pakistan to 242.

The new ball did a lot more under lights, with Naseem Shah and Shaheen Shah Afridi using the swing and seam movement on offer to apply pressure on Conway and Williamson. In the first powerplay during the chase, the broadcaster put up a graphic showing the average swing achieved during the two innings. New Zealand's seamers had generated 1.5 degrees of swing, and Pakistan's 2.4 degrees.

## ICC Champions trophy: Winners to receive prize money of USD 2.24 million

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday announced a 53 per cent hike in its Champions Trophy prize money pool with a winners' share of USD 2.24 million for the upcoming edition in Pakistan and UAE.

The runners-up will receive half the amount, USD 1.12 million (INR 9.72 crore), while each losing semi-finalist will take home USD 560,000 (INR 4.86 crore). The total prize pool has increased to USD 6.9 million (Rs 60 crore approx).

"The substantial prize pot underscores the ICC's ongoing commitment to investing in the sport and maintaining the global prestige of our events," ICC chairman Jay Shah said in a statement ahead of the tournament starting February 19.

Each group stage win will be worth over USD 34,000 (INR 30 lakh) for the victorious team. Teams finishing in fifth or sixth place will receive USD 350,000 each (INR three crore), while the seventh and eighth-placed sides will take home USD 140,000 (INR 1.2 crore).

Additionally, all eight teams will receive a guaranteed USD 125,000 each (INR 1.08 crore) for participating at the event.



**Babar Azam then brought the Karachi crowd alive when he laced Jacob Duffy through the covers for four,** and became the joint fastest to 6000 ODI runs in his 123rd innings, alongside Hashim Amla. Nathan Smith, the seam-bowling allrounder, though spoiled the party when he had Babar spooning a return catch for 29 off 34 balls in his first over.



## Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

