

# Kashmir Convener



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## J&K Facing Severe Threat From Climate Change: CM Omar

●Stresses on climate change awareness



KC News Network

**JAMMU:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir is facing a severe threat from climate change, particularly in the form of a water crisis, stressing the need for greater awareness and action.

"We are not doing enough to educate our people about what is happening with climate change and the dangers it poses. A lot of that responsibility lies with us as political leaders,"

the Chief Minister stated while addressing the inaugural session of a three-day workshop on 'Capacity Building in

Innovation Pedagogy for the Implementation of NEP-2020' at Brig Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

The workshop is being organized by the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Center (MMTTC) in collaboration with the Skill Incubation, Innovation, Entrepreneurship Development Center (SIIEDC), University of Jammu.

The event was attended by Vice-Chancellor of Jammu University Professor Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellors of SMVD University, BGSBS University, and Cluster University of Jammu, along with senior faculty members, Principals of various colleges and students.

Addressing the pressing issue of climate change, the Chief Minister highlighted the alarming precipitation deficit in Jammu and Kashmir.

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## Sonamarg Among Other Areas Receive Fresh Snowfall, Rains Lash Plains

● MeT predicts another wet spell from Feb 26



Umairs Gul Ganaie

**SRINAGAR:** Several areas of Kashmir including Doodpathri and Sonamarg on Thursday received fresh snowfall while the rains lashed plains, bringing down the mercury and ending the prolonged dry spell across Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Sonamarg and Doodhpathri in central Kashmir

received nearly 10 inches of snowfall in the last 2 hours while several other areas in South Kashmir also experienced light snowfall.

The plains of Jammu and Kashmir were however lashed by the rains with the details revealing that a rainfall of 8.0 mm was recorded at Sangam station while 6.0 mm rainfall was recorded in Srinagar's Ram Munshi Bagh. Khudwani and Batkoot also

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**Gol won't talk to Pakistan till it stops abetting terror: CM Omar Abdullah**

Yogesh

**SRINAGAR/JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has said that Government of India won't talk to Pakistan till it stops abetting terror.

In an interview with a wire agency, Omar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "It will be foolish for any of us to suggest that what J&K has been witnessing is purely indigenous without any outside assistance what so ever."

Asked is Pakistan still meddling in the region, the Chief Minister said, "I don't think Pakistan has ever stopped meddling in J&K."

He said that the his party National Conference has always tried to take Pakistan on board to address concerns of the Government of India (GoI) so that a friendly working relationship is established.

Asked does he see it (working relation with Pak) happening, the J&K Chief Minister said, "I don't see it happening."

Replying to a query whether anytime has he advised the Bharatiya Janata Party led government in New Delhi to hold talks with Pakistan, Omar said, "At the moment I don't see any scope of India holding talks with Pakistan."

"There is no scope when you have sort of attacks that you

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## Congress part of Omar-led J&K govt: Karra

KC News Network

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra on Thursday dismissed rumours of any rift with the National Conference and said his party is very much part of the Omar Abdullah-led government in the Union Territory.

He expected the formation of a coordination committee, comprising members of Congress and National Conference, soon.

"We are on a campaign for restoration of statehood and meeting people and workers. The Congress has its own constituency and wherever we talk to the people about our programmes on issues like statehood, they also talk about various concern and it is our duty to raise these issues with the government for redressal," he said.

"We are a part of the government. We can give advice to the government. We can raise the issues of the people and if you want that the issues of the people should not be discussed, then it will not be



fair to the people," Karra told reporters here.

He said they are expecting that a coordination committee will be formed soon to avoid unnecessary misgivings. J-K Congress has been on a 15-day campaign in Jammu region in support of its demand for immediate restoration of

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## J&K Govt Gears Up For Budget Session

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** In preparation for the upcoming budget session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly scheduled for March 3, 2025, the administration has issued directives to all departments to appoint nodal officers and establish question cells at the departmental level.

According to an official order in possession with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the heads of departments have been instructed to nominate nodal officers and set-up question cells to provide timely and accurate responses during the session. The order also mandates that all government employees remain stationed at their respective offices throughout the session to ensure smooth



proceedings.

"No officer or official shall leave their station without prior approval during the session to ensure the smooth conduct of proceedings," reads the order.

It further stated that administrative secretaries and heads of departments must ensure compliance with these directives.

Reports indicate that 82 out of 90 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) have submitted nearly 800 questions and 80 private members' bills. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly had instructed each MLA to submit 20 questions—10 in

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## CBI Books J&K IAS Officer, Family Members In DA Case

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said on Thursday that the probe agency has booked two family members of a Jammu and Kashmir IAS officer, who had earlier been booked personally in an FIR pertaining to disproportionate assets amassed by the officer.

CBI sources said that the agency has now booked two members of 2010 batch IAS officer, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan



for amassing assets beyond their legal income.

Rajeev Ranjan has already been booked by the CBI. Kumar is presently posted as secretary revenue and secretary labour and employment departments in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sleuths of the probe agency on Wednesday carried out raids at 7 locations including Rajeev Ranjan's office in Jammu and properties linked to him in Varanasi, Srinagar, and Gurugram.

He already faces charges in an arms licence racket when he was the deputy commissioner in Kashmir Valley's Kupwara district.

The arms licence racket is being probed by the CBI since 2019 after it was found that large scale bungling had occurred in arms licence issuance in which these licences were issued under financial consideration to people not belonging to J&K.

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## JKPCC files legal complaints against 4 senior SMC officers

Raja Syed Rather

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Pollution

Control Committee (JKPCC) has filed legal complaints against four senior officials of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) for their alleged failure to curb pollution in River Doodhganga.

In a compliance report submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the JKPCC highlighted ongoing violations of environmental laws, such as the discharge of untreated sewage and improper solid waste disposal, which continue to threaten

the river's health and surrounding ecosystem.

The report, submitted in response to the NGT's October 2024 directives, reveals that despite efforts to tackle pollution, untreated sewage discharge and mismanagement of solid waste remain critical issues.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the JKPCC sought updates from the Urban Environmental Engineering Department

(UEED) and SMC on the progress of sewage treatment plants (STPs), which are key to addressing these concerns.

According to the findings, although UEED has issued a tender for the construction of STPs, delays have hindered progress. These plants are essential for preventing untreated wastewater from flowing

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## CM Omar Concludes Pre-Budget Consultation With Public Representatives

KC News Network

**JAMMU:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today concluded the pre-budget consultations with public representatives, holding separate meetings with elected representatives from Kishtwar and Doda districts of Jammu division at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

Chairing the session for Kishtwar district, the Chief Minister engaged with public representatives, including Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma, who represents Padder-Nagseni in the J&K Assembly, the Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) Kishtwar and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from the district.

The representatives presented their demands and issues, with the Chief Minister assuring them that their suggestions and inputs would be duly considered in the



budget formulation.

In his comments, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah stated that the series of consultations with public representatives from all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir had concluded, providing valuable insights into the ground-level issues faced by the people.

"These interactions help us understand the priorities of the people. Since you are directly connected with the public, your inputs and suggestions are

crucial for policy-making," the Chief Minister told the elected representatives. Similarly, representatives from Doda district also discussed their development priorities and concerns with the Chief Minister.

Among key issues raised about twin districts, staff shortages in educational institutions and healthcare centers, drinking water supply, road connectivity & widening,

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## Some Hostile Elements Trying To Harm Urdu And Kashmiri: Dr. Farooq

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference President Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said that it is a pity that some hostile elements are trying to harm Urdu and Kashmiri by labelling them as regional or religious languages.

He urged people to resist such efforts and ensure that these languages are passed on to future generations so that they, too, can protect and uphold them.

Farooq in a statement on the occasion of Mother Language Day being celebrated on February 21 said that preserving one's language, culture, and heritage is a hallmark of proud and resilient nations.

He emphasized that history bears witness to the fact that nations that forgot their language, culture, and traditions eventually faded into history.

Abdullah stressed that safeguarding all languages spoken in Jammu and Kashmir is essential for preserving the region's unique identity and Kashmiriyat.



Expressing concern, he said it is unfortunate that adversarial elements are trying to harm Urdu and Kashmiri by labelling them as regional or religious languages. He urged people to resist such efforts and ensure that these languages are passed on to future generations so that they, too, can protect and uphold them. He further stated that every individual must take personal responsibility

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# Supreme Court Stays Lokpal Order To Entertain Complaints Against Sitting HC Judge, Says Its ‘Very Disturbing’

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the Lokpal order entertaining complaints against a sitting high court judge, terming it “something very, very disturbing” and concerning the independence of the judiciary.

A special bench headed by Justice B R Gavai issued notice and sought responses from the Centre, the Lokpal registrar and the person who has filed complaints against the sitting high court judge.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said a high court judge would never fall within the ambit of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.

The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Abhay S Oka, issued an injunction to prevent the complainant from disclosing the name of the judge and directed him to keep the complaint filed by him confidential.

The apex court was dealing with a suo motu proceedings initiated over the



January 27 order passed by the Lokpal. “Issue notice to the Union of India, the registrar of Lokpal and the complainant. The registrar (judicial) is directed to mask the identity of the complainant and serve him through the registrar (judicial) of the high court where the complainant resides,” it said. “In the meantime, there shall be stay to the impugned order,” the

bench said.As soon as the special bench assembled, Justice Gavai told Mehta, “We propose to issue notice to the Union of India.” Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who also appeared in the matter, said he would like to assist the bench in dealing with the matter. “Something very very disturbing,” Justice Gavai remarked.

It is fraught with danger, Sibal said

while seeking a stay on the Lokpal’s order.

He said, “I think a law should be laid down.” The bench said the matter would be heard again on March 18, subject to directions of the chief justice of India.

The bench noted that Sibal and another senior advocate had offered to assist the court “since the matter is of a great significance concerning the independence of judiciary”. “Once the finding that the Lokpal has a jurisdiction stands stayed, I think they are aware what are the ramifications of this order. If they don’t understand this, then we are here,” Justice Gavai observed. The Lokpal passed the order on two complaints filed against a sitting additional judge of the high court. The complaints alleged that he influenced an additional district judge in the state and a judge of the same high court who had to deal with the suit filed against the complainant by a private company to favour that firm.

# Rahul Gandhi Targets Modi Government Over Inflation

**RAEBARELI (UP):** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday accused the BJP government at the Centre of diverting attention from real issues and promoting capitalists.

Gandhi, who is on a two-day visit to his Parliamentary constituency, first visited the Hanuman temple at Churuva border. After spending some time at the temple, he proceeded towards Bachhrawan.

At Bachhrawan, the former Congress president addressed a party workers’ conference and urged them to maintain a stronghold at the booth level.

“Inflation has risen significantly, and the BJP government is only promoting capitalists,” he alleged.

Meanwhile, some BJP workers claimed they have been placed under house arrest during



Gandhi’s visit. BJP mandal president Pravesh Verma alleged, “Along with 25 workers, we have been confined to the nagar panchayat office. It is the MP’s responsibility to stay here, listen to the problems of the

people, and resolve them because the people of Raebareli elected him as their representative. “Rahul Gandhi is not paying attention to the public,” he charged.

However, there was no confirmation from the police about the house arrest.

# Need more professional regulation of financial markets; SEBI needs total overhaul: Congress

**NEW DELHI:** The Congress on Thursday stressed the need for professional regulation of financial markets with a “total overhaul” of SEBI and called for a relentless focus on global manufacturing ecosystems across the technology spectrum to carve out niches for India.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh shared a media report on X which quoted founder and director, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Uday Kotak, as saying that over-financialisation can hurt the Indian economy as investors move their savings into equities without understanding valuations.

He made the remarks while expressing concern on over-financialisation.



“India’s stock market capitalization currently stands at approximately 140 percent of its GDP. On September 2nd, 2024, the Chief Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance

had warned that the growing profitability of the financial sector and high levels of market capitalization require closer scrutiny,” Ramesh said on X.

“When the market becomes bigger than the economy, it is natural, but not necessarily reasonable, that the market’s considerations dominate public discourse and influence policy,” Ramesh quoted the CEAs as having said.

Now comes a similar opinion from one of the most respected names of India’s financial world, Uday Kotak, the Congress leader said.

“He (Kotak) has warned that over-financialisation can hurt the Indian economy as investors move their savings into equities without understanding valuations,” Ramesh said.

# 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots: Delhi HC Notes Sajjan Kumar Convicted, Disposes Of SIT Plea Against Bail

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi High Court on Thursday disposed of a plea against the bail granted to former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case after being informed he was convicted in it.

Justice Vikas Mahajan took note of the development and disposed of the petition as being infructuous.

“The Central government standing counsel for the petitioner (SIT) submits that during the pendency of the petition, the respondent (Kumar) has been convicted in the case and formally taken into custody. Therefore, this petition has become infructuous,” said the court.

Kumar was held guilty by a trial court on February 12 in the case related to the murder of two persons in Delhi’s Saraswati



Vihar during the riots. The trial court is yet to pass an order on the quantum of sentence. Kumar is already serving life-term imprisonment in another murder case related to the riots that took place after

the assassination of former prime minister Indira Gandhi.

The SIT challenged Kumar’s reprieve in the case while seeking the trial court’s April 27, 2022 bail order to be set aside.

The high court on July 4, 2022 stayed the order and issued notice to Kumar and sought his response.

The case is over the murders of Jaswant Singh and his son Tarun Deep Singh, both residents of Raj Nagar. Four others were injured in the incident, the SIT said.

The SIT plea said a case of rioting and murder was registered at Saraswati Vihar Police Station in 1991 based on an affidavit filed by a woman in September 1985 before Justice Ranganath Misra Commission of Inquiry.

# ‘Compulsory, unquestionable’: Delhi HC quashes arrests for want of written grounds by NIA

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi High Court on Thursday said it was “compulsory and unquestionable” to give grounds of arrest in writing irrespective of the law and quashed the arrests of self-styled army chief of the proscribed separatist organisation United National Liberation Front (UNLF) Thokchom Shyamjai Singh and others.

Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani referred to the Supreme Court’s verdicts in Pankaj Bansal, Prabir Purkayastha and Vihaan Kumar, which he said were founded on Article 22(1) of the Constitution of India. Therefore, the court said there remained “no doubt that the requirement of serving grounds of arrest in writing to an arrestee is compulsory and unquestionable regardless of whether an arrest has been made under the PMLA or the UAPA or under any other criminal statute”.

“Moreover, the burden to prove compliance with the requirements of Article 22(1) of the Constitution always rests with the investigating agency,” added the high court.

Article 22(1) prescribes that no person



who is arrested should be “detained in custody without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds for such arrest nor shall he be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by, a legal practitioner of his choice”.

While granting the relief to Singh, the court also quashed the arrests of “lieutenant colonel” Laimayum Anand Sharma, the head of the organisation’s intelligence department, and organisation’s member

Ibomcha Meite, who were picked up by the National Investigation Agency from Manipur and brought to Delhi.

“The arrest of all three petitioners on March 13, 2024 is accordingly vitiated and is hereby set-aside. Consequently, the remand order dated March 14, 2024 and all subsequent remand orders passed by the special court are also quashed,” held the court.

The trio was directed to be released

from judicial custody unless required in any other case and a copy of the judgment was ordered to be served to the jail superintendent for expeditious compliance. From the special court’s orders, the high court noted that the former did not look into whether the grounds of arrest in writing were served upon the accused persons. No transit remand or other order of a court was obtained by the NIA before bringing the petitioners to Delhi after taking them into custody in Manipur’s Imphal, it added.

The verdict therefore said it appeared that no legal representation was given to the trio at the relevant stage.

“As a sequitur to the above discussion, and notwithstanding the seriousness of the allegations made against the petitioners, there is only one inference that can be drawn, namely that in the present case the NIA has failed to comply with the mandate of serving the grounds of arrest upon the petitioners in writing, whether at the time of arrest or even later-on, whether in the arrest memos or in the remand applications,” said the court.

# Reports of attacks on minorities in Bangladesh ‘exaggerated’: BGB chief



**NEW DELHI:** The chief of Bangladesh’s border guarding force on Thursday termed the reports of attacks on minorities in his country as “exaggerated”, asserting that authorities have taken steps for their protection.

Addressing a joint press conference along with chief of India’s Border Security Force (BSF) Daljit Singh Chaudhary, Director General of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Major General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui said the Bangladeshi delegation has raised objection with regard to fencing at some places along the Indo-Bangladesh border and it was hopeful that

the issues would be resolved in the future.

Chaudhary, on his part, said infiltration along the international border has come down substantially after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, 2024.

On the issue of minorities, Siddiqui said, “Attacks on minorities in Bangladesh are exaggerated.

We got several requests from minorities as they were afraid but BGB convinced them that we will help”.

The BGB chief said issues related to fencing were discussed at length at their bi-annual

meeting with the BSF as it was the most focussed agenda.

“We have requested for joint inspection wherever there are issues,” he said.

Siddiqui also said there was no discussion on reworking the India-Bangladesh border treaty which was agreed upon in 1975.

“This was not in purview of this meeting,” he said.

This was the 55th edition of the bi-annual DG-level border talks between India and Bangladesh undertaken by their respective frontier guarding forces- BSF and the BGB.

It was the first top-level meeting between the two border guarding forces after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in August last year.

The BSF guards the 4,096 km long India-Bangladesh boundary that runs across five states – West Bengal (2,217 km), Tripura (856 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Assam (262 km) and Mizoram (318 km).

The last edition of these bi-annual talks was held in Dhaka in March last year.

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER KUPWARA**

**NOTIFICATION**

The final seniority list of following categories has been framed and finalized by this office on the basis of their service bio data provided by the concerned controlling officers (Drawing and Disbursing Officers) and circulated among all controlling officers and is available at Block Headquarters for information of all the concerned employees. Moreover the final seniority list has also been submitted to Directorate of Health Services Kashmir.

S. No.	Category
01	Junior Staff Nurse
02	Junior Theatre Technician
03	Junior X-Ray Technician
04	Junior Laboratory Technician
05	Junior Ophthalmic Technician
06	FMPHW

No.-: CMOK/Est-II/FSL/2025/1308-13  
Dated: 20-02-2025

**DIPK-12251/24**

*Sd/-*  
**Chief Medical Officer Kupwara**

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**

**Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Kulgam.**

Tel/Fax No. 01931260163  
Email ID: sheephusbandrykulgam@gmail.com.

Subject: Invitation for short term quotations for supply of Laboratory Equipments/Chemicals for the year 2024-25.

**NOTICE**

On behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir short term quotations are invited from interested/ registered Companies/dealers for supply of following laboratory equipments/chemicals items during the current financial year. The interested companies/dealers shall submit the quotations mentioning the rates/cost to this office by or before 25-02-2025 4pm. The quotations will be opened on the next working day (26/02/2025) by the constituted committee.

Rose Bengal Plate Test-Antigen/vial (10ml).  
Digital/Electric weighing balance small  
Mercuric Chloride-01 litre  
Formal Dehyde-01 litre  
Graduated Cylinders-  
100ml  
200ml  
500ml

Terms and Conditions:  
1. The quotation must be submitted in properly sealed envelope.  
2. The rates should be written legible without any cutting, overwriting The department reserves the right to reject the quotation of any company without assigning any reason thereof.

No. DSHOK/Stores/2024-25/4347-53  
Dated: 20/02/2025.

**DIPK-12237/24**

*Sd/-District*  
**Sheep Husbandry Officer Kulgam**

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR**

**Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir**

Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmids@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org

**GIST of e-Tender**

e-NIT No:	MDSK/TS /2024-25/100
Date	20 . 02.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from registered firms /contractors for the below mentioned works: -

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In rupees)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Bid security (EMD) in Rs	Position of AA	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6
Repairs/replacement of parts to Escort make Backhoe-Loader Loadmax-11 pertaining to the Executive Officer Municipal Committee Beerwah.	100/-	1,88,765.00	3800.00	Accord of administrative approval accorded by Executive Officer Municipal Committee Beerwah's order No. MC/Bru/2024-25/08 of 2025 Dt. 04-01-2025.	Sanctioned vide No. 56 of 2024-25 Dt. 18 -02 - 2025.

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

01	02	03	04	06
Publish date	Period of downloading of bidding document	Bid submission start date	Bid submission end date	Date and time of opening of bids (online)
20 -02-2025(18:00hrs)	20- 02-2025(18:30 hrs)	20-02-2025 (18:55hrs)	03 - 03-2025(18:55 hrs)	04 - 03-2025(14 hrs)

No: MDSK/ TS/6320-24  
Date: 19.02. 2025.

**DIPK-12224/24**

*Sd/- Executive Engineer,*  
**Machinery Division, Kashmir**



# Scenic Srinagar-Bandipora Road Turns into Dumping Site, Officials Remain Silent

Despite daily commutes by officials, trash continues to pile up along Srinagar-Bandipora Road

MUQEET MUBASHIR

**SRINAGAR:** The scenic Srinagar-Bandipora Road along the lush green hills and Wullar Lake, is fast turning into a dumping site, with heaps of garbage mar its beauty.

Despite daily commutes by district officers, the blatant neglect of the environment continues unchecked, raising serious concerns over the authorities' commitment to preserving the fragile ecosystem of Bandipora.

"Srinagar-Bandipora Road especially from Garora Saderkoot Bala is the most beautiful patch and picnic spot but the officers of the district administration have converted it into a dumping yard," said Shabir Ahmad, a local activist.

The 10-km stretch from Wullar Vintage Park to Saderkoot Bala has become an open-air landfill, with plastic waste, food wrappers, and overflowing garbage lining the roadside.

The situation is particularly alarming as it contradicts the recent District Development Commissioner (DDC) meeting on waste management around Wullar Lake, attended by WUCMA, ACD Bandipora, CPO Bandipora, PCB Officials, and other stakeholders.



"District Administration Bandipore and WUCMA need to look into the matter and resolve the concern on priority and to prove their commitment to the implementation of Wullar Conservation Project and ascertain the successful implementation of Wullar Conservation Project instead of failing to protect the very resource they claim to be investing in," said a Nature Conservation Activist, T M Hussain.

"Roadsides are meant to be beautiful, offering a glimpse of nature or a sense of order. Unfortunately, many places have become dumping grounds, overflowing with trash. This negligence is not only a discomfort to Visitors but also a serious threat to the biodiversity and Wullar Lake Ecology. The unchecked dumping of solid waste is contaminating the Lake water also, posing a threat to lake resources, ultimately impacting the livelihood of the local communities depending on it," Hussain added.

A former Aspirational District Fellow after visiting Bandipora last week said he was astonished to see the level of garbage dumped on the roadside amid the beautiful landscape turning it ugly. "For few lakhs, the district administration could have converted these patches into picnic spots for travelers," he said. "Like the sunset point near Saderkoot, the District administration could have planted some benches around these green patches to attract people".

The stretch of road from the Wullar Vintage Park, a popular tourist destination, to Saderkoot Bala, spanning about distressing 10 kilometers, is transformed into a sprawling, open-air dumping ground. This blatant disregard for the environment

raises serious questions. Where are the authorities, especially WUCMA?

Are they truly oblivious to the environmental crisis unfolding before their eyes, despite a meeting held by District Development Commissioner Bandipore few days back to refrain the solid waste and garbage dumping in open and to prepare waste management action plan in and around Wullar Lake.

"The sight of overflowing garbage and plastic bags strewn across the roadside is a mark of the District Administration's apathy towards the environment. It's hard to believe that those responsible for overseeing the Rs. 350 crore Wullar Project are blind to this ecological disaster unfolding right under their nose," said another concerned citizen Mohammad Umar.

The local populace appealed to the Lieutenant Governor, Chief Minister and MLA Bandipora to look into the matter and demanded a clean and sustainable future for Bandipora and hold the concerned departments especially RDD and ULB accountable for their inaction, as the RDD vehicles are always observed dumping the garbage around the periphery of the lake in Rural areas and ULB Vehicles in Urban areas.

## SLCA, NISD Train Master Volunteers to Combat Drug Abuse in Bandipora

**BANDIPORA:** The State Level Coordinating Agency (SLCA) J&K in collaboration with National Institute of Social Defence on Thursday organised



a one-day training programme on Drug De-addiction for Master Volunteers at Mini-Secretariat Bandipora under Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA).

The programme was aimed at equipping the volunteers with the knowledge and skills to combat drug addiction at the grassroot level.

The training programme sponsored by Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment, Govt. of India and District

Administration Bandipora was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Zaffar Hussan Shawl and was attended by District Social Welfare Officer Sahir Majeed, Padmashree Faisal Ali Dar-Brand Ambassador Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan for Bandipora, Youth and student Volunteer and other concerned.

In his introductory address DSWO Sahir Majeed emphasized intensive awareness under Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan to ensure its benefits reach every corner of the district.

He urged volunteers and other stakeholders to take responsibility and contribute in making the campaign a success to combat the drug menace.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC Zaffar Hussan Shawl emphasized community involvement in addressing the growing issue of substance abuse and deliberated on the devastating impact of drug abuse on addicts and their families.

Zaffar Hussan, emphasized the role of NGOs and volunteers in addition to efforts of the Government to combat drug abuse and also emphasized proper monitoring of vulnerable groups and intensive awareness.

The training imparted by Programme Director, SLCA Pallavi Sing discussed various measures aimed at equipping the volunteers with essential knowledge and skills to combat drug addiction at the grassroots level.

She deliberated on prevalence of substance abuse in India besides National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction.

She also highlighted implementation strategy and major functions under NMBA to curb drug menace besides the role of DDAC, ATF and ODIC.

Pallavi sing highlighted the role of master volunteers in identifying the hotspots and risk groups besides conducting awareness and capacity building programmes.

Brand Ambassador NMBA, Faisal Ali Dar also highlighted the harmful impact of drug abuse on society urging everyone to take a stand against the growing problem of drug menace.

He urged the participants to be proactive in their efforts, stressing that a collective approach is essential for addressing this critical issue.

## Bandipora Admin Discuss Strategies to Combat Drug Menace

**BANDIPORA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Thursday, chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination (NCORD) mechanism.

The meeting was aimed to review ongoing measures and evaluate the progress of various initiatives aimed at combating the growing menace of drug abuse.

During the meeting, ADC Bandipora who is Nodal Officer for NCORD, Zaffar Hussan Shawl, briefed the chair regarding the current efforts being implemented to address the issue of drug trafficking and abuse.

The concerned officers from Drugs Control, Excise and Taxation, and other departments presented their action-taken reports and outlined the enforcement measures in place.

Addressing the participants, DC Bandipora M.A Qadri emphasized the need for strict actions to curb drug peddling, including freezing the assets of individuals involved in drug peddling.

He also highlighted the importance of raising awareness about the harmful effects of drugs in the public particularly focusing on vulnerable groups and

areas.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to organize sports events aimed at positively chan-



nelizing the energy of the youth, providing them with healthy alternatives to drug abuse and keeping them away from drug menace.

Among others the meeting was attended by ACPIrfan Bahadur, Padmashree Faisal Ali Dar, DSWO Sahir Majeed, ARTO Anees Ahmad, DySP Latief Khan, and officers from the Excise and Taxation Department, Drugs Control, and other concerned

## DLSA B'pore organises awareness prog on World Social Justice Day

**BANDIPORA:** District Legal Services Authority, Bandipora under the Chairmanship of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman District Legal Services Authority Bandipora and under the guidance of Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Bandipora and Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee Sumbal today organized an awareness programme on World Social Justice Day at New Career Point Coaching Institute Sumbal.



Abid Hussain Malla (Penal Lawyer)

Tehsil Legal Services Committee Sumbal delivered speech on the social

justice and said that main objective of this day is to address social injustice and collectively work towards eliminating poverty, illiteracy, physical, gender, and religious discrimination to build a just and socially integrated society.

He further highlighted the efforts needed to be done on an individual level to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender equality, unemployment, human rights, and social protections and to promote the development and human dignity.

Parvaiz Ahmad Bhat, PLV, TLSC Submal delivered lecture on the social justice and highlighted that the social justice will empower the old and marginalized sections of society to live a life at par with the stronger strata of the society and will also ensure a society wherein there is no disparity among people.

The Social Justice concept is a step forward for ensuring equal social hierarchy among the socially backward and poor masses, he added.

Among others the programme was attended by, PLVs, Staff members, Students and other concerned.

## Usman Majid Condolences demise of Bashir Ahmad Bhat

**BANDIPORA:** Former Minister and Legislator Bandipora Usman Majid has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of his senior associate Bashir Ahmad Bhat, who passed away after a spell of illness today at his residence in Plan, Bandipora.



Majid termed late Bhat as a pious and kind-hearted who was known for his hospitable and generous nature. He termed the demise of Bashir Ahmad Bhat as a personal loss.

In a statement issued here, Majid paid glowing tribute to the departed soul who was actively associated with him till the time of his death. Usman Majid extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

DDC Member Firdosa Akhter, DDC Member Ab Gani Wani, Former BDC Chairpersons Hari Begum, Gh Rasool, Nazir Ahmad and other senior workers also expressed profound grief over the passing away of Bashir Ahmad Bhat.

They expressed solidarity with the bereaved family, while terming the deceased a noble soul. They prayed for eternal peace to departed souls and courage to members of the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

## RECPDCL Hands Over Bidar, Khavda Transmission Projects to PGCIL

**NEW DELHI:** REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, the Maharatna



CPSU on Thursday formally handed over two transmission projects to Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).

An official spokesperson said the two project specific SPVs (Special Purpose Vehicle) of ISTS Transmission Projects under TBCB route viz, Bidar Transco Limited and Khavda V-B1B2 Power Transmission Limited were handed over to PGCIL at Gurugram.

He said PGCIL emerged as the Transmission Service Provider (TSP) to develop both the transmission projects on Build, Own, Operate & Transfer (BOOT) basis, through Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) process conducted by RECPDCL, the Bid Process Coordinator.

The SPVs were handed over by T.S.C. Bosh, CEO, RECPDCL to Pankaj Pandey, Executive Director, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited in the presence of Senior Officials of RECPDCL, PGCIL and Central Transmission Utility of India Limited.

The implementation period for both the projects is 24 months.

The schemes are intended for augmentation of transformation capacity at Bidar Pooling Station in Karnataka State and augmentation of transformation capacity at KPS1 & KPS2 Substations in Gujarat State for evacuation of Power from RE Power Generators.

## JK Teachers Forum Thanks Education Minister for Timely ZEO Placements

**JAMMU:** The Jammu & Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) on Thursday extended heartfelt gratitude to the Education Minister of J&K, Sakeena Masood Itoo,



and the Administrative Secretary, Shantmanu, for fulfilling their commitment to ensuring the promotion and postings of Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) before the commencement of the new academic session.

While congratulating the newly promoted ZEOs, JKTF State President Sheikh Mohammad Ashraf expressed appreciation for the prompt action taken by the School Education Department (SED).

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, the State President said in their recent meeting with the Education Minister and Administrative Secretary,

they had assured that vacant ZEO and Headmaster positions would be filled.

"Today, we are pleased that 80 ZEOs have been promoted, and most vacant positions across J&K have been filled. This is a significant step towards strengthening the education system," he said.

"I extend my sincere gratitude to Hon'ble Sakeena Masood Itoo, Worthy Administrative Secretary Shantmanu, Additional Secretary Gh. Nabi Bhat, Deputy Secretary Masood Ahmad Wani, both divisional heads, section officers, and all other officials who made this possible in such a short period."

Meanwhile, General Secretary JKTF & UT Spokesperson J&K EJC, Mir Bashir Ahmad, highlighted that a dedicated team of JKTF leaders, led by President Sheikh Mohammad Ashraf, had been actively pursuing key demands in the Civil Secretariat Jammu.

Among these, the promotion of all cadres, particularly ZEOs, and the filling of vacant DDO positions across the Union Territory were of prime importance.

He expressed hope that Headmasters will also be promoted before commencement of New academic session.

UT Chief Coordinator, Rafaqat Malik, Provincial President Jammu Sanjeet Sharma and other Leaders from Kashmir Division also acknowledged the relentless efforts of the forum's leadership in advocating for this crucial demand. Leaders extended warm congratulations to the newly promoted officers and expressed gratitude to the department for ensuring timely placements.

## ...Swachh Survekshan 2024 SMC Collaborates with Social Media Influencers and Swachhata Ambassadors to Boost Cleanliness Drive

**SRINAGAR:** In a bid to enhance public participation in the Swachh Survekshan 2024 campaign, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) hosted an interactive session with social media influencers, sports personalities, RJ's, artists, actors, animators, TV presenters, YouTubers, and digital creators at its Central Office in Karan Nagar.

The event aimed to harness the power of digital advocacy and celebrity influence to spread awareness about cleanliness and sanitation. Commissioner SMC Dr. Owais Ahmed, IAS, presided over the session, recognizing the attendees for their role in promoting civic responsibility and hygiene consciousness among citizens. He also distributed certificates of participation to the influencers and ambassadors, acknowledging their contribution to the cause.

Highlighting the impact of social media in shaping public behavior, Dr. Owais stated, "Influencers have the power to reach and inspire thousands. Their involvement in Swachh Survekshan 2024 will help amplify our message, encouraging a collective effort for a cleaner and healthier Srinagar."

The session also included discussions on innovative strategies to encourage community-driven sanitation practices. Attendees shared

insights on leveraging digital platforms to instill a culture of cleanliness and drive positive behavioral change. By engaging influencers as Swachhata Ambassadors, SMC aims to mobilize



citizens and foster a sustainable, cleaner Srinagar. The corporation urged all residents to take an active role in this mission, reinforcing the belief that a greener, cleaner city is a shared responsibility.

"Together, we can transform Srinagar into a model city of cleanliness and sustainability," SMC emphasized.



# Modernity, Technology and the Evolving Society



Abid Hussain Rather

Modernity is both a philosophy of life and a way of living. Technology is one of its manifestations. Their relationship is akin to that between a mother and child. In the world of knowledge, this is not a new subject. Scholars have been discussing it since the 19th century. Now, both influence each other. Modernity has provided new ways of thinking, which gave birth to technology. When the technology matured, it developed the ability to create

the absolute authority of reason is right or wrong. It suffices to know here that humans accepted the rule of reason. Now, if religion or any other force wished to survive, it had to submit to the authority of reason; otherwise, it would be exiled from society. The most significant outcome of the authority of reason was the rejection of the divinity of natural phenomena—in simple terms, liberation from polytheism. Humans refused to believe that diseases were caused by the displeasure of a deity. They no longer regarded the sun and the moon as gods and instead focused on conquering natural phenomena. It was reason that pointed them in this direction. Reason not only transformed human thinking about the universe but also altered concepts and perceptions about humans and humanity. As the perception changed, the structure of society also began to transform. Ways of living evolved. The means of production changed as well, and humans transitioned from an agrarian society to an industrial

that while women might be physically weaker than men, they were intellectually equal. In the industrial age, women could play a valuable role in the progress of society, just like men. As a result, the social status of women began to change, and the desire for male offspring gradually diminished. Urban life completely transformed human thinking and lifestyle. The wonders of reason did not remain confined to just one area. With the help of reason, humans began solving their various political, economic, and social problems. Old social, political, and economic institutions were replaced by new ones. The world transitioned from monarchy to democracy. Knowledge, once a unified field, began moving towards specialization and divided into multiple disciplines. As the hidden secrets of the universe were uncovered, new concepts about it emerged, and the desire to conquer it became difficult to restrain. Technology created not just one but many marvels. Humans began flying in the skies and

will depend solely on men. If only men are physicians, then men will treat women as well, altering traditional concepts of gender segregation. Otherwise, women would be left to die, disrupting gender balance in society. Such an imbalance would prevent society from surviving under the laws of nature. A society that wants to accompany humanity on the journey of civilization must accept the progress made thus far and join it. It can not proceed on its own terms but must follow material advancement as a learner. In this journey, modernity and technol-



wonders which resulted in the emergence of new ways of living. Modernity took the form of a philosophy of life when humans accepted that they are essentially rational beings. Even before modernity, humans were rational, but their reasoning was constrained by various forces. One of these forces was superstition, which in Europe was presented under the guise of religion by the Church. Whenever a person sought to resolve an issue through reason, religious authorities (the church) would intervene. As a result, people could not dispel the darkness in their lives with the light of reason. Some individuals showed courage and tried to dismantle the barriers that stood between humans and reason. They paid a price for their efforts but ultimately succeeded. The result of this success was that humans accepted reason as the authority for solving social, economic, and political problems. This marked the beginning of modernity. Humanity continued to accept the rulings issued by the court of reason. There were two main sources of reason: observation and experience. To be precise, let's refrain here from addressing the question of whether

one. The change in the means of production meant a change in technology. This new technology influenced social structures and forced man to adapt new way of life. In an agrarian society, human life depended on farming. The way of life was tribal. During that era, physical strength was the most crucial factor in the means of production and for protection. Societies with stronger, more capable arms would prevail in the struggle for survival. Men, being physically stronger than women, were considered more significant, and having male offspring was highly valued. A larger number of people symbolized greater strength, which reinforced the joint family system. Humans listened to reason and began thinking about improving the means of production. They invented the steam engine, marking a transition from the agrarian age to the "industrial era." Technology transformed their way of life, replacing villages with cities—a necessary consequence of this major shift. This leap, guided by reason, led to the recognition of the mind's superiority over the body. During this time, it became evident

exploring the depths of the oceans. Technology started shaping society, and women now stood side by side with men. Just as humans have always been rational beings, they have also possessed an aesthetic nature. Additionally, they have a moral existence. Under the authority of reason, when they sought to satisfy their aesthetic sensibilities, the fine arts transformed. Technology showcased its potential, and from painting to music, the tools of every art form changed. Calligraphy, once the marvel of the human hand, is now often produced with the aid of computers. Even the treatment of physical ailments is now facilitated by technology. In this journey, modernity and technology walk hand in hand. Both men and women have contributed to human success. There is no field of life in which women lag behind men. Women make up approximately fifty percent of every society. It defies common sense to think that the journey of progress can continue while keeping half of the population away from the functioning of society. If women are not educated, every task

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ogy support each other and cannot be separated. However, there is a gap in this civilizational journey—one that is spiritual and moral. If someone has a remedy for this gap, they can make the journey more pleasant, though they cannot change the path of this caravan. Those unwilling to accept this must then continue on a separate path, embarking on a different experiment. There is no guarantee that their caravan will not reach its destination. However, the destination of both caravans will not be the same.

(The author teaches Geography at GDC Kulgam and can be reached at: rather1294@gmail.com)

# Mother Language based education is essential



Firdous Ahmad Malik

UNESCO has declared 21st February as International Mother Language Day to promote the dissemination of mother language and awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions around the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue. It believes that education based on first language or mother language must begin from the early years as Early Child Care & Education is the foundation of learning. Mother Language is usually the language which the child speaks at home with the family. Education in mother language refers to when a school integrates the child's language into classroom and school lessons. Mother Language plays vital role in the overall development of personnel, social and cultural identity of the human beings. Language may be just a way to communicate with each other, but mother language is something that helps us to stay connected with our roots and unique culture. Young children learn and grasp more quickly when they are taught in the mother language, because when they develop their mother tongue they simultaneously foster other basic skills like literacy and critical thinking. A strong mother language foundation equips the children with skills required to learn a second or additional language. Cognitive as well as intellectual development is relatively faster when a person is proficient in the mother language. The children learning in mother language feel comfortable in the school environment and learn faster. They have a better understanding of the curriculum

and do not have to re-taught the skills learned when the child transfers to second language. Parent-child interaction increases as the parent

mother language. In most of the countries, the majority of learners are taught in a language other than their mother tongue, which compromises

actively suppressed on the name of globalization. The present education system has completely ignored the mother language as the medium of



assist in home-works easily. Knowing mother language boosts one's confidence and increases self-esteem. There is a long way to go before guaranteeing all children their right to education in their

their ability to learn and understand effectively. Approximately 40% population of the world does not have access to an education in a language they speak, understand or communicate. In our country, the "Mother Language" is often neglected and

instruction in schools, especially in English medium schools. The teachers at the local level are also not so fluent in foreign languages. Neither they are able to transfer the required knowledge nor are the learners in a position to grasp it, resulting

in knowledge deficit. Children whose primary language is not the language of instruction in schools are more likely to drop out of school or fail in early grades. National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has emphasised on its mandatory use in the education system at the foundational stage. Clause 4.11 of NEP 2020 states, "Wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the mother-tongue/ home language/local language/regional language. Thereafter, the home/local language shall continue to be taught as a language wherever possible. High quality textbooks, including in science, will be made available in home language/mother tongue. The teachers will be encouraged to use a bilingual approach, including bilingual teaching-learning materials, with those students studying whose home language may be different from the medium of instruction". In Bharat, Matribhasha Diwas is celebrated every year in schools on this day to promote the use of mother tongue with the following objectives :- (1) To highlight the unity among the linguistic diversity in our country, (2) To encourage usage, not only of the respective mother tongue but other Indian languages as well, (3) To understand diverse cultures, in India and the various forms of literature, craft, performing arts, scripts and other forms of creative expression. Mother Tongue can be used as an effective tool for learning and developing holistic education and knowledge. The government should strictly implement the provision regarding use of Mother language in all government and private schools of the country to safeguard the learning skills of children.

(The Author is a technocrat and educationist)



# J&K Govt Reviews Agriculture Schemes, Calls for Efficient Fund Utilization

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar, today convened a meeting with Director Agriculture, Joint Directors, Provincial Heads, Chief Agriculture Officers, Scheme Heads and sectoral officers of the department of Agriculture, to review the physical and financial achievements under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), CAPEX and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

During the meeting, implementation of projects under HADP and different Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the department was discussed in detail.

Javed Dar highlighted the importance of expeditious and judicious expenditure of funds under different projects of HADP, CAPEX and other CSSs. He asked the officers to ensure time bound expenditure of funds allocated under HADP projects, different components of centrally sponsored schemes.

He reiterated the importance of maintaining the highest level of



transparency and accountability while incurring all the expenditures

under development schemes.

The Minister emphasized the importance of innovative initiatives in monitoring of KCC and Point of Sale (POS) machines.

He asked the concerned officers for expansion of vegetable crops to newer areas besides completing the presentations for kharif cropping season. He also unveiled the quality control manual of the department.

Javed Dar directed the officers to reach out to the farmers of every area and make them aware about HADP, latest farmer friendly technologies in agriculture and other allied sectors.

He asked the officers to work in collaboration with the farmer communities for successful implementation of different projects at grass root level.

Earlier, Director Agriculture Kashmir gave a detailed PowerPoint Presentation regarding the implementation of different flagship programmes and centrally sponsored schemes in Kashmir division.

## Div Com reviews progress on transit accommodation for Migrant Employees



**SRINAGAR:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today chaired a meeting to review progress of construction of transit accommodation for Migrant Employees, allied construction works and allotment of flats.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner, Chief Engineers KPDC, PHE, PWB R&B and Representative from Administrative Department, DMRR Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

During the meeting, Div Com reviewed development of transit accommodation towers in each district and directed concerned agency to expedite the completion of work on pending blocks.

He also directed for completion of allied works including construction of boundary wall, barricades for security, approach roads, besides provision of basic amenities like electricity & water supplies.

He enjoined on concerned to resolve the issues pertaining to requirement of additional land at some places and completion of tendering process for pending works to finish the projects within given timelines.

Earlier, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner gave a detailed powerpoint presentation regarding physical & financial progress of the transit accommodation for Migrant Employees, total number of flats constructed, flats under-construction, allotment of flats and pending allied works.

## DC B'la reviews financial progress of sponsored schemes, performance of banking sector



**BARAMULLA:** The District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting was held today under the chairmanship of DC Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, to review the financial progress of various government-sponsored schemes and banking sector performance in the district.

During the meeting, while reacting to the concerns raised by several departments regarding delays in loan disbursement by banks, particularly under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, DC directed banks to expedite the processing of cases as per guidelines to facilitate self-employment opportunities.

He also emphasized the need to strengthen priority sector lending and achieve saturation of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) under PM Kisan.

To ensure comprehensive coverage of social security schemes, DC directed the formation of a subcommittee to identify beneficiaries of all government schemes, department-wise, and target them for enrollment under various welfare initiatives.

He also instructed officials to organize awareness sessions to educate people about government welfare schemes and financial assistance programs.

Additionally, the DC launched the Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP) for the financial year 2025-26, prepared by NABARD. The PLP serves as a roadmap for boosting credit flow, particularly in agriculture, MSMEs, and rural infrastructure, to promote economic growth and self-employment.

## DC Shopian flags-off watershed yatra, launches plantation drive

**SHOPIAN:** Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta today flagged-off watershed yatra at Mini-secretariat Shopian and launches plantation drive in the campus, promoting environmental sustainable practices.

The yatra emphasises the conservation and harvesting of water sources by involving communities. The programme is funded by the Department of Land Resources and implemented by the Rural Development Department under WDC- PMKSY 2.0.

Under the scheme various projects are taken up to conserve the water sources and to implement more crop per drop slogan including water harvesting tanks, irrigation channels, dykes, soil protection bunds, ponds, soakage pits, etc.

Also livelihood projects are taken to enhance the income of farmers.

The scheme has three stages of planning, execution and evaluation and is taken in coordination and in convergence of other departments like horticulture, agriculture, etc.

In district Shopian, the scheme has been implemented in various blocks of the district covering thousands of acres of land. Currently, the scheme is being implemented in block Chitragam and Imam Sahib.

The institutions like SLNA, DWCS, PRLs are actively involved in the execution of the scheme and have benefited the agricultural and other communities to a larger extent.

ADDC, Dr Nasir Ahmad Lone; ACD, Manzoor Ahmad and other officers and officials also attended the Yatra and plantation drive events.



## Minister Javed Dar reviews development landscape of Budgam

**BUDGAM:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives, and Election departments, Javed Ahmad Dar, today chaired a review meeting in Budgam to assess the developmental landscape of the district.

The Minister reviewed progress on key ongoing and proposed projects like establishment of a 125 bedded district hospital, 100 bedded critical care hospital at Reshipora, road infrastructure, new bus terminal at Chadoora, robust mobile connectivity at tourist destinations including Yousmarg and Doodhpathri besides implementation of agriculture and allied sector schemes.

DDC Chairman, Nazir Ahmad Khan; MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Wani; MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar and MLA Khansahib, Saif-ud-Din Bhat also attended the meeting.

Emphasizing the importance of effective implementation of government schemes, the Minister underscored the need to ensure successful execution of all centrally and UT level initiatives including the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), to maximise the beneficiary coverage. He asserted the significance of raising awareness about all government schemes and

called for taking all public welfare initiatives directly to the people to ensure that benefits reach every citizen. He instructed for bringing



more vibrancy to ensure prompt services to the general public.

Reviewing the status of brick kilns in the district, the Minister directed that their operations must be streamlined and conducted strictly as per the prescribed guidelines. He issued strict instructions that no illegal brick kiln operation is allowed in the district.

Addressing the status of milk cooperatives,

## DC Kupwara reviews measures of road safety, traffic regulation

**KUPWARA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today chaired the meeting of District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) to review the implementation of road safety measures and traffic regulation in the district.



Addressing the meeting, the DC said that the road safety is a major issue which concerns to the safety of lives of the people travelling on the roads and urged upon all the stakeholders to cooperate in making the roads safer by following traffic rules and regulations religiously.

She stressed upon the officers to intensify the enforcement of traffic regulations on the ground and tighten the noose on offenders to avert the possibility of road accidents in the district which result in losing the precious lives.

ARTO and Traffic Police in coordination with CEO Kupwara were asked to intensify road safety awareness campaign in the schools during the academic session.

It was stated that children who are vulnerable to traffic accidents will be sensitized about proper behavior to be followed on road especially while boarding and deboarding the school bus or any vehicle.

Besides, awareness about wearing helmets shall be also given a special focus.

SE R&B was directed to ensure curve improvement on major roads of the district especially hilly roads to remove the black spots which are prone to accidents.

Executive Engineers were directed to make sufficient measures for proper patching and repairing of the main and inner roads across the district to ensure smooth movement of both vehicles and pedestrians.

BEACON department was directed to ensure installation of proper signages on their roads especially on blind curves to avert accidents related to vehicle collision besides Handwara-Baramulla highway which is the major inter district road of Kupwara.

Earlier, it was informed that 779 challans were imposed by the MVD Kupwara since August last year, realizing fine of Rs.12.46 lakh.

Meanwhile, 15000 challans were also imposed by the Traffic Police during last 2.5 months, since the conduct of last DRSC meeting, realizing fine of Rs.17.96 lakh.

The meeting was attended by SE R&B Department Kupwara, CMO, CEO, OC Beacon, Exns besides, officers from Police, Traffic, and other concerned officers.

## Education Minister visits examination centers in Pulwama, Anantnag

**SRINAGAR:** Minister of Education, Sakeena Itoo, today conducted a surprise inspection of several Class XII examination centers in Pulwama and Anantnag districts and reviewed the facilities being provided to the students there. At the examination centers set up at Syed Mantaqi Higher Secondary School Awantipora and Islamia Hanafia Waqf Higher Secondary School Anantnag, the Education Minister spoke to several students and enquired about the facilities being provided to them. Expressing her best wishes to the students, the Minister said that the government is serious about the welfare of every student of Jammu and Kashmir, as evidenced by the overnight solution of the issues faced by some students recently. The Minister said that we will not let even a single moment of the students be wasted, another proof of which is that the current government changed the academic session as soon as it came into existence. She added that the complaints recently raised by the children were addressed in a timely manner and today all the children are appearing in the examination centers.

Sakeena Itoo, while expressing concern over exam stress among the students, exhorted upon the examination and other staff to ensure a pleasant atmosphere in the centers under the set rules and regulations. She appreciated the efforts of the Director School Education Kashmir, Director School Education Jammu, Board of School Education and other staff for conducting the examinations on time despite the challenges in the wake of change of academic session.

## GMC Anantnag Becomes First Among New GMCs to Get Dedicated Cath Lab

**ANANTNAG:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, inaugurated Catheterization Laboratory (Cath-Lab) and newly constructed Block-A of Mirza Mohammad Afzal Beigh Memorial (MMABM) Associated Hospital, GMC Anantnag, here today.

MLAs of district Anantnag including Abdul Majeed Bhat; Peerzada Mohammad Syeed; Reyaz Ahmad Khan; Altaf Ahmad Wani and Zafar Ali Khatana besides Principal GMC Anantnag, Professor Dr Rukhsana Najeeb; Director Coordination New Medical Colleges; Director Family Welfare, MCH and Immunisation; CMO Anantnag; Medical Superintendent MMABM Associated Hospital; Heads of various departments of GMC Anantnag; officers from health and medical education and other

concerned departments were also present on the occasion.

While dedicating the Cath-Lab and Block A of GMC Anantnag to the public, the Minister remarked that this significant development marks a new era in the healthcare services across South Kashmir, as GMC Anantnag becomes first among newly established Medical Colleges to get its dedicated Cath-Lab.

"With inauguration of Cath-Lab, people of South Kashmir will get the best possible medical care services close to their doorsteps, especially in terms of cardiac care", she stated.

The Minister highlighted that Omar Abdullah led government is committed to provide world class healthcare facilities to the public near their doorsteps. "Present Government is determined to establish world class medical infrastructure in J&K besides

## NIELIT convenes its 28th All India Directors' Meet at SKICC

**SRINAGAR:** National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), J&K, successfully hosted the 28th All India Directors' Meet of NIELIT at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

The prestigious gathering brought together Directors from NIELIT centers from across India to engage in discussions on institution's future growth, academic advancements and industry collaborations.

The meeting focused on key topics including revamping of proposals and schemes, expansion strategies for NIELIT centers, advancements in research and academics, consultancy services, strengthening industry partnerships, introduction of new courses and enhanced placement initiatives for the students.

Directors from 53 NIELIT centers namely Ropar, Kolkata, Delhi, Aizawl, Aurangabad, Ajmer, Hyderabad, Guwahati,

Chennai, Gorakhpur, Patna, J&K, Ladakh, Calicut, Kurukshetra, Shimla, Haridwar, Bhubaneswar, Director General of NIELIT and Vice Chancellor of NIELIT Deemed-to-be University,



Imphal, Tirupati, Agartala and Itanagar, participated in the meet. Each center showcased its achievements and ongoing initiatives, emphasizing contributions to the field of electronics and information technology.

Tulika Pandey, Group Coordinator and Scientist-G of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Dr. M.M. Tripathi,

addressed the attendees. Their insights highlighted the need for strengthening research, broadening academic programs, fostering stronger industry linkages and ensuring skill development to enhance employability. The event underscored NIELIT's commitment towards driving innovation and excellence in the field of electronics and IT education.





# Can people be allergic to exercise?

Imagine a woman has a few drinks one night, pops some ibuprofen in the morning for her hangover, and goes for a run. She's never had an issue with alcohol, ibuprofen or exercise before. But this time, some combination of the three triggers a life-threatening allergic reaction known as anaphylaxis.

This is a real case that happened to a patient of Dr. Andrew Murphy, an allergist at Suburban Allergy Consultants in Pennsylvania. So, is it possible to be allergic to exercise?

Not technically, Murphy said. When a person is exposed to something they're allergic to, a protein from the allergen, for example peanuts, grass or cat dander, interacts with antibodies on immune cells in their body. The immune cells fire off chemicals like histamine that cause sneezing, hives, wheezing and other symptoms. There's no protein that enters the body when a person works out, so it's not possible to be allergic to running.

But, exercise can trigger the same array of symptoms in people with a rare condition called exercise-induced anaphylaxis. "It's not necessarily antibody-mediated, but exercise is a trigger and the allergy [immune] cells are still activated," Murphy told Live Science.

Exercise alone is enough to trigger an allergic reaction in

some people, but the way it does so is unknown. One theory proposes that exercise causes a release of endorphins, which triggers certain immune cells to release chemicals such as histamine, according to a 2010 review in the journal Current Allergy and Asthma Reports.

Other people, like Murphy's patient, have a condition known as food-dependent exercise-induced anaphylaxis, or FDEIA. For them, eating a certain food before working out can cause symptoms such as wheezing or hives — even if they have no reaction to that food when lounging. In the case of Murphy's patient, the "food" was either alcohol, ibuprofen, or a combination of the two. There are several theories why certain foods in combination with exercise can cause an allergic reaction, including that working out makes the gastrointestinal tract more permeable, allowing allergens to come into better contact with the immune system. Ibuprofen can further increase permeability and the body's uptake of foreign allergens, and it may directly interact with immune cells, according to the review.

Exercise-induced anaphylaxis is rare. About 2% of people in the Western world experience anaphylaxis, and 5% to 15% of cases are exercise-induced, according to the review. The food-

dependent version of the condition is less common and represents between a third and a half of all cases. Not many children come into the office with either condition, Murphy said, and it generally appears in teens and adults.

Treatment for food-dependent exercise-induced anaphylaxis is simple: Don't eat for four hours before and after working out, according to a review in the journal Expert Review of Clinical Immunology. Another option is to avoid the triggering foods entirely, if those foods are known.

When exercise is the sole trigger, managing the condition can be harder than managing FDEIA, but doctors can help patients develop specialized exercise regimens, Murphy said. The amount of exertion someone with the condition can do safely varies. A casual stroll can trigger a reaction in some people, but others can ride a bike with no issues. Each patient must work with a doctor to figure out their own limits. Murphy always prescribes an EpiPen in case of emergency, and antihistamines can help prevent episodes, according to a 2001 review in the journal American Family Physician.

Serious reactions in response to exercise are rare. In 25 years of practice, Murphy has only seen one person pass out from it.

## Do Fats Make You Fat? Nutritionist Tells What You Really Should Believe About Fats



Here are some of the most common myths about fats: eating fats will make you fat; fats are good for you; fats are bad for heart health... and so on. If you are in a complicated, confused kind of relationship with fats, then you have landed at just the right place. Celeb nutritionist Pooja Makhija recently took to Instagram to talk about all things fat, bust some of the most common myths around this macronutrient. In her IGTV, the Mumbai-based nutritionist clarifies that eating fat certainly does not make you fat.

The truth about fats you must know

Eating the wrong kind of fat or eating too much fat can make gain weight, she adds. Fats can conveniently be divided into two categories: good

fat and bad fat.

Bad fats

Processed, refined and fried foods are usually the ones which contain bad fat. These include trans fats and the inflammatory vegetable oil. "Increased intake of these fats can make you gain weight and also result in an increase in inflammation. Inflammation plays a role in nearly every chronic disease that you can think of," says Makhija.

Good fats

Natural food sources are considered to be good sources of fat. These include poly and monounsaturated fats. Eating these fats can help in increasing metabolism, stimulate fat burning, reduce hunger, optimise cholesterol levels and even reverse type 2 diabetes. "These are heart-healthy fats and can even reduce the risk of heart diseases," she

adds.

These fats can lower bad (LDL) cholesterol, increase good (HDL) cholesterol, and also lower down the level of triglycerides. "Fats are a source of fatty acids which you are body cannot manufacture itself. Our brain is largely made up of fat, and require a steady stream of fatty acids to function properly," she explains while adding that a big portion of these fats come from omega-3 fatty acids.

Almonds, walnuts, salmon, chia seeds and flaxseeds are some popular sources of omega-3 fatty acids.

Including good quality fats in your diet can boost your mood, cognitive function, learning and memory. "Deficiency of omega-3 fatty acids have also been linked to depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and even schizophrenia," she says.

Other reasons why you need sufficient fats

Vitamins A, D, E and K are four fat-soluble vitamins. This means that the body can assimilate these nutrients from food only in the presence of good and healthy sources of fat.

Eating sufficient fats can promote hormonal balance. Extremely low-fat diets can lead to hormonal issues and may increase the risk of infertility in women.

How much fat do you need?

According to Makhija, about 20 per cent of your daily calorie intake must come from fats.

## Popular breast cancer drugs don't work the way we thought they did

Some of the most commonly used drugs for treating hereditary breast and ovarian cancers may not work the way we thought they did, according to new University of Colorado Boulder research. "Despite the success of these drugs which sell in the billions of dollars per year and treat many thousands

ubiquitous family of proteins called PARPs (poly-ADP-ribose), which were discovered in the 1960s and are also instrumental in fixing broken DNA. "PARPs are the first responders," explains first author Johannes Rudolph, a senior researcher in the Department of Biochemistry who worked with graduate student



of patients, there are many unknowns about their potency and efficacy that if better understood could lead to improvements," said senior author Karolin Luger, a professor in the Department of Biochemistry. "Our paper provides a fuller picture."

The research centers around a class of drugs known as PARP-inhibitors, broadly prescribed to target cancers fueled by a mutation in the BRCA, or Breast Cancer, gene.

When functioning properly, the BRCA gene plays a key role in repairing damaged DNA inside cells. When the gene is mutated or missing, cancer risk rises.

About one in 10 of the quarter-million women diagnosed with breast cancer annually have a BRCA mutation. And BRCA-fueled cancers tend to come earlier, be more aggressive, and resist treatment.

Enter PARP inhibitors.

First unveiled clinically in 2014, the drugs target a

Genevieve Roberts on the study. "DNA damage happens, PARP goes in and finds it, and then it sends out a signal to other proteins to come in and help with repairs."

Because both PARP and BRCA also serve to repair DNA damage inside cancer cells, disabling the PARP first-responder in someone who doesn't have a functioning BRCA repair crew delivers what Rudolph describes as a lethal "double whammy" to cancer cells.

With this in mind, pharmaceutical companies have raced to develop more PARP inhibitors, with at least four in use today and others being explored to treat different forms of cancer.

But as it turns out, PARP is not acting alone.

Scientists recently discovered that another protein called HPF1 (histone PARylation Factor 1) is attached to the PARP protein at precisely the location where all the action happens, working closely with it in its role as first responder.

## DIET Recommendations for Hypothyroidism

Hypothyroidism, or underactive thyroid, occurs when the thyroid gland doesn't produce enough hormones. These hormones help your organs function and affect your energy, heart, digestion, bone strength, and more.

Without treatment, hypothyroidism can cause symptoms such as fatigue, trouble tolerating the cold, weight gain, menstruation changes, and heart symptoms. Treating hypothyroidism typically

involves taking medication that helps increase thyroid hormone levels, but a well-balanced diet is also important.

Although changing your diet won't cure hypothyroidism, you may find that eating foods that benefit thyroid health—and avoiding those that don't—can be helpful in relieving some of your symptoms.

Foods To Eat if You Have Hypothyroidism

People with hypothyroidism may benefit from eating foods that provide certain nutrients. While research is sometimes limited and mixed, some research has suggested that the following foods may help with thyroid gland function:

Foods High in Iodine

Iodine stimulates the production of thyroid hormone. When the body doesn't have enough iodine, it produces less thyroid hormone than needed, which may lead to hypothyroidism. The thyroid

also works harder to normalize hormone levels. An overworked thyroid can enlarge over time, leading to a condition called goiter.

Too much iodine can also cause goiter and hypothyroidism, so it's important to get the right amount. The recommended daily intake of iodine for most adults is 150 micrograms. This recommendation increases to 220 micrograms for people who are pregnant and 290 micrograms for people who are lactating.

Foods that are the best sources of iodine include:

- Iodized table salt
- Seafood, such as seaweed, cod, oysters, and fish sticks
- Dairy, such as Greek yogurt, non-fat yogurt, cheese, salted butter, and cream
- Beef liver
- Eggs
- Foods High in Selenium

Selenium deficiency is associated with hypothyroidism. Because of this, some researchers have hypothesized that increasing selenium intake may help ease symptoms.

Selenium may improve thyroid health by reducing antibodies that attack the thyroid gland in autoimmune-related thyroid disease. However, studies also showed no difference in levels of thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH), which helps control thyroid hormone production.

Results from studies of selenium's effects on thyroid health are mixed overall, and more evidence is needed.

The daily recommended intake of selenium is 55 micrograms for the average adult, 60 micrograms if you're pregnant, and 70 micrograms if you're lactating.

Some sources of selenium, like Brazil nuts, can offer significantly more selenium than recommended in a single serving, so it's important to be mindful of

this. While getting enough selenium may be helpful, getting too much may cause hair loss, skin rash, nausea, diarrhea, and nervous system disorders.

8 Foods that contain selenium include:

- Brazil nuts
- Seafood, such as tuna, sardines, shrimp, and cod
- Meats, such as pork, beef, turkey, chicken, and liver
- Eggs
- Grains and lentils, such as oats, brown rice, whole-wheat bread, and white bread
- Dairy, such as milk, yogurt, and cheese





# Continued From P1...

## J&K Facing

“Until this morning, when the rains finally came, we were facing an 80-85% precipitation deficit this winter, signaling a major water crisis. Our agricultural patterns rely on the assumption of sufficient water availability. But with current water levels, cultivating paddy, which is water-intensive, would be nearly impossible,” he warned.

Speaking on the ‘Design Your Degree’ (DYD) program under the National Education Policy (NEP-2020), the Chief Minister stated that the initiative empowers students to shape their education according to their interests, enhancing their skills and aligning them with evolving job market demands.

“As Jammu and Kashmir’s private sector expands—particularly in industry and tourism—and as the region integrates further into the national economy, more job opportunities will emerge. With Jammu University gaining national recognition, students equipped with relevant skills will have a competitive advantage,” he said. Reflecting on the pressure students face to secure high percentages, the Chief Minister remarked, “It’s astonishing how much pressure we put on our children. When you see the cut-off percentages for top colleges like those in Delhi University—some even at 100%—it raises the question: what is beyond 100%?”

He emphasized that the Design Your Degree program marks a transformative shift in education by allowing students to study subjects that genuinely interest them.

“This is a significant change from the traditional model, where students were told what to study. Now, they have the freedom to design their degree, enhancing both their academic experience and career prospects,” he said. Discussing future prospects in fields like artificial intelligence (AI), agriculture and tourism, the Chief Minister highlighted AI’s growing impact on education and industry.

“Artificial Intelligence is reshaping how we approach learning and work. While it presents challenges, like the ease of using tools like ChatGPT for academic tasks, it also offers immense opportunities for innovation and growth,” he observed.

He acknowledged the role of faculty members from Delhi University, pioneers of the Design Your Degree initiative, in guiding the program’s implementation.

“This shift requires a change in mindset for both students and teachers. Traditionally, teachers were told what to teach. Now, students are asked, ‘What do you want to learn?’ and teachers must adapt their approach accordingly. The expertise of these eminent professors is invaluable as we navigate this transition,” he added.

The Chief Minister expressed his commitment to supporting Jammu University in its academic endeavors, both in his individual capacity and as the Pro-Chancellor of the university.

## Sonamarg Among

recorded a rainfall of 11.0 mm each during the period. These stations have been witnessing a reduction in the water level for the last some time in wake of the prolonged dry spell and low precipitation for the last three months.

However, the fresh rainfall has not brought any changes in the water level in river Jhelum and other streams with water at majority of the stations continue to flow below zero level.

Notably, the chopper service from Katra to Sanjhi Chat for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine nestled in Trikuta Hills in Katra town of Reasi district remained suspended due to poor visibility and fog conditions after fresh rainfall.

“Due to rains, the Trikuta Hills are covered by dense fog, due to which the chopper service from Katra to Sanji Chhat has been suspended,” said an official. He said that the pilgrims were trekking either on foot or availing themselves of pithoo/palanquin (palki)/pony service due to suspended chopper service. The chopper service will resume once the weather improves, he added. He, however, said that the Shrine Board staff deployed along the track are guiding pilgrims to remain alert and watchful while performing pilgrimage.

Meanwhile, with rains and snow in upper reaches the temperature also sees drastic shifts. Jammu city recorded 11.9 degrees Celsius minimum temperature, Katra town 9 degrees Celsius, Batote 3.7 degrees Celsius, Banihal 2.4 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 4.4 degrees Celsius.

Moreover, the weather is expected to improve from tomorrow, saying that partly cloudy weather is expected from February 21 to 23 while on February 24 & 25, generally cloudy weather with possibility of light rain and snow expected at scattered places.

Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that from February 26 to 28, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at many places.

Pertinently in the first 50-days of the year 2025 Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a rainfall deficit of 83 percent thus posing a risk of severe water scarcity in the coming months.

From January 1, 2025 to February 19, 2025, J&K has recorded a rainfall of just 29.8 mm against the normal precipitation of 175.8 mm. i.e. only the 17% precipitation.

Meanwhile, all the major highways across Kashmir have been blocked following a fresh spell of snowfall and rainfall, including the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, officials said on Thursday while the authorities said that restoration work has been started to clear the roads.

Officials told KNO that traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has been halted from both ends due to slippery road conditions between Banihal and Ramsoo caused by heavy snowfall.

Commuters have been advised to avoid travel on the highway until weather conditions improve and the road is cleared.

Regarding the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) Road, officials said that it remains closed due to continuous snowfall. “A decision on resuming vehicular movement on this route will be taken tomorrow after receiving clearance from road maintenance agencies.”

Similarly, the Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag Road is closed for vehicular movement as per the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kokernag’s advisory, referenced under endstt. no. SDM/KNG/2024-25/3139-45 dated 16-01-2025.

## Gol won’t talk

have had in J&K over the past few years the way security forces and construction camps have been targeted. It becomes very difficult to tell the Gol that it has to talk.”

Meanwhile, reacting to US President Donald Trump questioning the need to spend money on voter turnout in India, Omar told reporters in Jammu that “The Election Commission should clarify its stand on reports that the US spent USD 21 million for voter turnout in India.”

Omar said that till now there was no proof of foreign inference but he was quick to add, “The Election Commission has to clarify whether foreign interference had taken place or not.”

Pertinently, Donald Trump after taking over as the United States President has been speculating that the money was spent on the voter turnout in India and the erstwhile Biden administration was attempting to “get somebody else elected” in the country

## J&K Govt Gears

the starred and 10 in the unstarred categories—along with three private member’s bills.

However, certain restrictions have been imposed on asking questions during the session. Written questions related to All India Services, including IAS, police, law and order, and security matters, will not be permitted unless the Speaker allows them under special circumstances. Additionally, debates on issues concerning All India Services will also be excluded.

The last budget session of the J&K Legislative Assembly was held in January-February 2018. The session holds particular significance as it is going to be the first budget session since the collapse of the Mehbooba Mufti-led government in June 2018, following the BJP’s withdrawal from its alliance with the PDP. Subsequently, President’s and Governor’s rule were imposed, leading to the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories—J&K and Ladakh—in August 2019

## Congress part

statehood to the Union Territory since February 13 and has organised workers’ conventions in five of the 10 districts so far.

“It (restoration of statehood) is not Congress Party’s core issue alone. It is the core issue of the people of Jammu and Kashmir as despite promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Home Minister Amit Shah within and outside the Parliament, nothing has been done so far. There are also Supreme Court guidelines that statehood should be restored as soon as possible (after the assembly elections),” he said.

Questioning the silence of BJP leaders who have got a massive mandate in Jammu, the Congress leader said the saffron party leaders should clarify their stand on the statehood and also inform the public why they are not raising the issue with central leadership if they are in support of the statehood.

Karra said despite the formation of the popular NC-led government in October, last year, several bureaucrats are still functioning in an authoritarian manner like they were doing during LG administration and referred to the conditional permission granted to the party in holding its workers convention in Kishtwar district on Wednesday.

“In Kishtwar, we saw something where we feel that democracy has not been restored even after the elections. We witnessed autocracy prevailing in the district in the name of democracy. We were not given permission to hold outdoor meetings and were also directed that you cannot speak about the situation,” he said.

Kashmir travel guide  
On one hand, he said BJP is claiming that the situation has improved in J&K but on the other hand, there is a “mindset that portrays that democracy has not

# NOTICE

I have Changed my Name (old ) Name Hashim to Hashim Habib Degloo in Future i will be Known as Hashim Habib Degloo. if any body is having any objection she/ he may contact passport office Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

**Name Hashim Habib Degloo**  
**S/o Habib ullh Degloo**  
**R/o Syed Pora Eidgah Srinagar**

# NOTICE

This is an information for general public that i want to apply for fresh Electricity Agreement in the name of Showkat Ahmad Bhat, S/O Late Abdul Ahad Bhat, House No: 03, R/O ward NO,10, Mader Bandipora. In this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Showkat Ahmad Bhat.  
S/O Late Abdul Ahad Bhat.  
R/O Ward NO:10, Mader Bandipora.

been restored”.

“We were not there to create a commotion. There was no anti-national activity,” he said.

The Congress leader and the people in general are worried about the delay in the restoration of statehood and also wanted redressal of their day-to-day issues like supply of electricity, water, tourism promotion, employment generation and regularization of daily-wage workers and SPOs who are providing their services for decades together.

Karra also demanded a special power package for the residents of Chenab valley districts where major hydro-electric power projects are under construction. He also defended his son Waleed, a medical doctor, attending an official meeting chaired by health and education minister Sakina Itoo in Srinagar recently and said he was there in the capacity of constituency-incharge of the central Shalteng seat.

“I was away in Jammu and accordingly nominated him as constituency incharge. This has been the precedent and it is not happening for the first time,” he said.

## CBI Books J&K

Rajeev Ranjan is not the only IAS officer allegedly involved in the arms licence scam.

The CBI lodged an FIR against eight IAS officers including Rajeev Ranjan in the arms licence racket.

The government of India conveyed its sanction for prosecution of Rajeev Ranjan and others in November 2024.

In addition to the arms licences racket, the sleuth of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday booked the then Managing Director of Cooperative Housing Corporation and others for illegal allotment of the state land in Jammu.

It is alleged that the housing board in Bajalta Jammu purchased 392 Kanals of land at scattered places and later, the management of the board in connivance with board officers and officials of Revenue Department illegally occupied about 584 Kanal land which includes state land.

## JKPCC files legal

into the river, especially in seven wards under the SMC’s jurisdiction.

A significant development noted in the report is the transfer of sewage treatment responsibilities from SMC to UEED. SMC officials clarified that their focus is on stormwater management, leading to the transfer. However, delays in the execution of the project have allowed untreated sewage to continue entering the river.

The report also emphasized violations of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. Despite prior warnings, untreated sewage from dewatering stations continues to flow into Doodhganga, while solid waste dumping along the riverbanks remains a persistent problem, further degrading water quality.

In response to these ongoing failures, the JKPCC has initiated legal action against key officials.

Former SMC Commissioner Athar Aamir Khan is facing action for not establishing necessary sewage treatment infrastructure, while former UEED Chief Engineer Iftikar Ahmad Kakroo is being held responsible for inadequate waste treatment mechanisms.

Additionally, former Executive Officers of the Budgam and Chadoora Municipal Committees, Mohammad Iqbal Bhat and Syed Nayeem Rizvi, are being accused of negligence in managing solid waste and sewage disposal.

The report also noted that, while UEED has initiated a tender for the STP construction, delays due to funding and execution challenges persist. It further highlighted that the four senior municipal officials are being held accountable for their failure to implement effective pollution control measures.

# NOTICE

This is an information for general public that i want to apply for fresh ' D' Class Contractor Card from Department of R&B Division Bandipora, in this regard any person having any objection he/ she may file the Objections in office of the S E R&B Division Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Riyaz Ahmad Wani.  
S/O Ali Mohammad Wani.  
R/O Ward NO, 06, Bandipora, jammu and kashmir.

# NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216020003012, which is Registered in the name of my Father Namely Gh Qadir Chopan, S/O Ab Samad Chopan. Now i want to apply for change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Mushtaq Ahmad Chopan, S/O Gh Qadir Chopan, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Kaloosa Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Mushtaq Ahmad Chopan.**  
**S/O Gh Qadir Chopan.**  
**R/O Bonakoot Bandipora jammu and kashmir.**

## Some Hostile

for preserving all languages spoken across Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, including Urdu.

“To protect our identity, we must sustain our existence, which can only be achieved by keeping our mother languages alive,” he said.

He said that the sign of living nations is that they keep trying to keep their civilization, culture, language and culture alive. (Agencies)

## CM Omar

construction of tunnels, and improving mobile connectivity in remote areas were put forth.

The Deputy Commissioners of Kishtwar and Doda,

in their presentation, provided constituency-wise breakdown of demands prioritized by the MLAs.

The DDC chairpersons and MLAs expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for involving them in the budget formulation process, noting that it was the first time such consultations had taken place. They urged that this participatory approach should continue as a regular feature.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D. Vaidya, Director General Budget M.S. Malik, Director General Expenditure Division-I Sajad Hussain Ganai and other concerned officials.

## ITCX 2025: India’s Largest Temple Convention Brings Together 1,500+ Temples, Political Leaders, and Religious Heads in Tirupati

PM Modi hailed the event as celebration of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' in special message

**SRINAGAR** :The International Temples Convention & Expo (ITCX) 2025, held in the spiritual heart of Tirupati, served as India’s largest and most influential gathering on temple management, concluded with an unprecedented congregation of 1,500+ temples, esteemed political leaders, and revered religious heads from across Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism.

Value-adding to the narrative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Viksit Bharat 2047, the event served as a transformative platform for shaping the future of temple governance, sustainability, and technological integration while reinforcing the timeless values of Sanatana Dharma. With thought-provoking discussions on temple autonomy, smart temples mission, and global best practices, ITCX 2025 has set a new benchmark in reimagining temples as centres of religious, cultural, and societal progress.

Envisioned by Giresh Kulkarni, founder of ITCX and Temple Connect, and Prasad Lad, ITCX Chairman who is also the Chief Whip of Maharashtra Legislative Council, the platform has created a ripple effect, opening new avenues for temple leaders to reinvent temples as power centres of Hindu society. With India’s temple economy valued at Rs 4-5 lakh crore, comparable to any major global industry, the discussions emphasized the need to operate temples as professional institutions where the common person’s donations directly benefit communities through medical aid, education, healthcare, and large-scale food distribution through langars. In only its second edition, ITCX has solidified its role as the driving force in reshaping temple management.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a letter of appreciation, said: “ITCX reflects the inherent unity in diversity of temples globally, and is in a way, a celebration of the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - visualisation of the entire Earth as one family. The 21st century belongs to knowledge-driven societies.

It is particularly in this context that the efforts of Temple Connect to document, digitise and share this rich heritage acquire greater significance.”

The first day saw three CMs namely Devendra



Fadnavis (Maharashtra), N Chandrababu Naidu (Andhra Pradesh) and Pramod Sawant (Goa) come together on one stage for the first time, as well as Shripad Naik - Central Minister & Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy of India. Day two saw K. Annamalai - State President, BJP Tamil Nadu and Milind Parande - General Secretary, Vishva Hindu Parishad power the cause of liberating Hindu temples from government control. The closing day continued to make an impact with Nara Lokesh, Minister for Human Resources Development, AP, who acknowledged that “the time has come for us to pull together a world class convention like ITCX to bring thought leadership, exchange ideas and best practices. We live in an era where we talk about Spiderman, Superman and Avengers, but we also have our samskriti (cultural heritage) that we need to save and that is going to be very important.”

The mega event united thought leaders, spiritual luminaries, and changemakers from different generations and regions by their commitment to exact socio-economic reform within their own temple ecosystems.

### MADRASUL BANAT DARUL ULOOM RAHEEMİYAH BANDIPORA KASHMIR

A Premier institution for girls education

Madrasatul Banat Tayyib Abad under supervision of Darul Uloom Raheemiyah



With the grace of Allah Ta’ala, Madrasatul Banat Darul Uloom Raheemiyah was established as a residential institution on 1<sup>st</sup> Rabi-ul-Awwal 1442 AH. Alhamdulillah! In just two years, it has flourished into a thriving centre of education, nurturing 90 resident students with free accommodation and meals, alongside 60+ non-resident students who attend daily. This growing institution is guided by nine dedicated teachers and supported by four administrative staff, with a monthly operational cost of approximately 3 lakh rupees.

By the mercy of Allah Ta’ala, many students have completed the recitation of the Holy Quran, while others have advanced to higher levels of Islamic learning and are now serving the cause of Deen.

Currently, the Madrassa functions in temporary tin-roofed sheds, while a four-story building is under construction. This noble endeavour requires your Zakat, Sadaqah, and donations to ensure a better future for these aspiring students. Your contribution will be a Sadaqah Jariyah (Everlasting Charity), bringing endless rewards for you and your departed loved ones.

### Support This Noble Cause



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May Allah accept your generosity and bless you abundantly.

**Your well wisher:** Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Rahmatullah Kashmiri Nazim Darul Uloom Raheemiyah, Bandipora.



# Gill ton helps India ace tricky chase after Shami five-for

India 231 for 4 (Gill 101\*, Rahul 41\*, Rishad 2-38) beat Bangladesh 228 (Hridoy 100, Jaker 68, Shami 5-53) by six wickets

Shubman Gill dug deep for his slowest ODI hundred and India's slowest in the last six years to see India through a tricky chase of 229 that must have brought back memories of their 3-0 series defeat to Sri Lanka last on similarly slow tracks. Despite a quick 69-run opening stand, India were tested by a target that was kept by Mohammed Shami, who took his sixth ODI five-for and became the quickest man to 200 ODI wickets in terms of balls bowled to get there.

Both sides will rue missed opportunities in their Champions Trophy opener. Bangladesh won a crucial toss on a tired pitch with no dew expected to make chasing easier, but they got off to such a poor start that they needed three dropped catches and a superlative fighting hundred from Towhid Hridoy to stay in the contest. India had Bangladesh down at 35 for 5, Axar Patel was on a hat-trick, and Rohit Sharma dropped a sitter followed by two lives for the record-breaking sixth-wicket stand. It allowed Bangladesh to get to a target that denied India a net-run-rate boost, which can prove crucial if they happen to lose one of their three matches. India will still consider this a banana peel survived having misread the conditions and decided to field first should they have won the toss. On a slow pitch with no assistance for the quicks, they were gifted early wickets through some indiscriminate



hitting. Bangladesh possibly felt the new ball was the best time to bat: they didn't wait for a bad ball on offer and kept losing wickets. The first three fell to ambitious shots to plain good-length bowling with little seam.

Bangladesh were 35 for 3 when Axar was introduced in the ninth over. Tanzid Hasan, the only batter who had looked comfortable, played him for the turn and paid the ultimate price with an outside edge. Mushfiqur Rahim,

arguably batting too late at No. 6 especially in the absence of the injured Mahmudullah, played the original line, and was done in by the rare one that turned. Axar slowed down the hat-trick ball even more, Jaker Ali obliged with an edge, which Rohit spilled.

Soon Hardik Pandya dropped Hridoy on 23 in Kuldeep Yadav's first over. Scoring runs was still a task on the sluggish surface, more than 10 overs went without a boundary, but also India went the middle overs without a single wicket for the first time since the 2023 World Cup final. Jaker did provide an opportunity on 24 but this time KL Rahul missed the stumping off Ravindra Jadeja.

The duo found their touch deeper into the innings, but Hridoy was hampered by cramps all over his body. Shami returned to the challenging task of bowling with a short leg-side boundary but used the slower ball wide outside off to not just deny them boundaries but also collect three more wickets. A cameo from Rishad Hossain and Hridoy's fight despite crippling cramps took Bangladesh to a fighting total.

Rohit continued his high-intent starts of recent times, and Gill matched him shot for shot as India raced away from the three Bangladesh quicks. Just before the field was about to spread, Rohit fell for 41 off 36 in a bid to make one last use of the field restrictions. Immediately, scoring became laborious. Even the master accumulator Virat Kohli struggled to manipulate the ball into gaps before falling to a legspinner again, this one with the letters of Rashid scrambled to Rishad.

**Rohit continued his high-intent starts of recent times, and Gill matched him shot for shot as India raced away from the three Bangladesh quicks.** Just before the field was about to spread, Rohit fell for 41 off 36 in a bid to make one last use of the field restrictions. Immediately, scoring became laborious. Even the master accumulator Virat Kohli struggled to manipulate the ball into gaps before falling to a legspinner again, this one with the letters of Rashid scrambled to Rishad.

## Hamdan Strikers Baramulla gears up for upcoming sports season; holds annual meeting, designates new captain

**BARAMULLA:** Ahead of the upcoming sports season in the Valley, the Hamdan Strikers Baramulla- a cricket club, on Thursday held its annual meeting to devise strategies with regard to the upcoming cricket tournaments.

The meeting was chaired by the President of the team Mansoor Ali Sherwani who briefed the players about the upcoming tournaments and their preparation to participate in the games.

Addressing the players, Mansoor Ali Sherwani asked the players to remain disciplined in and outside the field besides developing a sense of belonging towards the team.

"All the players should remain disciplined in all the tournaments and show sportsmanship in the matches. Everyone should focus on his positive sides, be it batting or bowling and try to improve the performance," he said.

During the meeting, the management designated Zubair Wani as the captain of the team for the upcoming sports season.

The meeting also deliberated on different issues which players come across during any match or the tournament and all the issues must be taken up with the management.

"This year, the management has decided to participate in the tournaments that will be organised outside district Baramulla. All the players should ensure their availability for their participation in the tournaments," Mansoor Ali Sherwani said in the meeting.

Besides the players and the captain, the meeting was attended by the coach of the team Yasir Shagoo and Manager Arshad Sadiq Bhat.



# Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

