

Kashmir Convener



Not Personal Matter
But One Of Country:
Rahul On PM Modi's
Remarks To US Press

P/02



Narco Terror Case:
SC Calls Charges 'Serious', Junks Bail
Plea Of Accused

P/02



Literature
humanises
law: Ex-CJI D Y
Chandrachud

P/02

Like HP, J&K should have investment safeguards: CM Omar

● Attends CII J&K Annual Session-2025 at Srinagar



KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today while advocating for expanding investments in J&K, he underscored that such investments must be regulated by laws protecting the agricultural land and having land investment safeguards, like in Himachal Pradesh which has put reasonable restrictions and at the same time it would ensure jobs for local youth.

The Chief Minister noted that Himachal Pradesh has adopted a strict policy in this regard and stressed the adoption of a similar

policy in J&K.

He made these remarks while addressing the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Jammu & Kashmir Annual Session-2025 titled "AMAZING J&K: Aspiring For New Growth Goals".

The event, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) J&K Council, brought together business leaders, industrialists, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders to discuss strategic actions to boost J&K's economic growth and development, driving the region's competitiveness and business potential

through a robust and resilient industrial and sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystem. Addressing the session, the Chief Minister emphasized that such interactions are pivotal to enhancing efficiency, competitiveness, and creating business opportunities for industries through a range of specialized services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

The Chief Minister sought suggestions and valuable insights from the participating entrepreneurs and other stakeholders that can be incorporated into the upcoming budget of Jammu and Kashmir for the overall welfare and benefit of the public, as well as for industries, tourism, and other sectors.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the need for responsible entrepreneurial practices to foster an economic ecosystem that ensures sustainability across J&K. He commended the resilience of J&K's industry, acknowledging businesses that

>>>SEE ON P-7

India, Pak Armies agree to uphold Feb 2021 ceasefire agreement



Sajid Raina/ Yogesh

Jammu: Representatives of India and Pakistan Armies on Friday agreed to uphold the February 2021 ceasefire agreement and explore measures to prevent future misunderstandings.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Brigade commanders of both the countries held a flag meeting in Poonch district to ease tension after recent skirmishes and improvised explosive device (IED) incidents along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International

Border.

"Besides agreeing to uphold the ceasefire agreement renewed on February 25, 2021, commanders also agreed upon leveraging established communication channels to de-escalate tensions," he added.

"Both sides emphasised on the importance of the ceasefire agreement in maintaining stability along the border and LoC," the official said.

He said the meeting between two sides took place at the Chakkan-Da-Bagh

>>>SEE ON P-7

Cross-Border Terrorism Biggest Threat To People: MEA

● Rejects Turkey's statement on Kashmir

Sajid Raina

NEW DELHI: Reiterating that cross-border terrorism remains the biggest threat to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the Ministry of External Affairs on Friday asked Turkey not to interfere in India's internal matters.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) while addressing a news conference in the national capital said, "Pakistan's persistent policy of using terrorism as a tool against India is a matter of grave concern."

"Pakistan's policy of sponsoring terror remains the



biggest threat to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Jaiswal's remarks came in response to recent comments by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who called for a "resolution of the Kashmir issue" through dialogue between India and Pakistan, taking into

account the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Rejecting Turkey's stance, the MEA spokesperson said, "Such unwarranted statements on India's territorial integrity and sovereignty are unacceptable."

>>>SEE ON P-7

J&K's first budget will lay foundation for next 5-years: CM Omar

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Terming the first budget of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir a "good start" to lay the foundation for the next five years, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said that the government led by him will try its best to live up to the expectations of people.

Talking to reporters here the Chief Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "I know all the issues cannot be resolved in the first Budget, but it would be a good beginning to lay the foundation and move ahead."

Earlier, addressing a gathering on the 18th CII Annual Tourism Summit, in the national capital, Omar Abdullah asked the people associated with industries and other businesses to give suggestions and inputs to him for the upcoming budget.

"If there are inputs or suggestions you would like to give to make your lives easier as entrepreneurs, as industrialists, as investors and business people, then this is the time to do it."

He said, "This is the time when we are now sitting



down to actually write the budget that I will have to read out in the Assembly on March 7."

"Right now, we are operating on a blank slate. You have nothing really to judge me by. Whatever I have is what I

>>>SEE ON P-7

Private-Public Partnership essential for tourism growth: Yasha Mudgal

KC News Network

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, J&K Tourism Department, Yasha Mudgal Friday emphasised the crucial role of private-public partnerships in the growth of tourism in Jammu & Kashmir.

She noted that private players significantly contributed to the development of high-quality hotels, restaurants and infrastructure projects such as ropeways, roads etc., in the recent past.

She stated this during a high-level meeting



held in New Delhi, attended by key stakeholders in the tourism sector, including president of the Hotel Association of India and chairman, South Asia Radisson Hotels Group, KB Kachru; Director Tourism Jammu, Vikas Gupta; president, Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra, and chairman, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu region chapter, Rakesh Wazir and Under Secretary, Tourism J&K Government, Sana Khan. Mudgal further highlighted that with the upcoming launch of train services to Kashmir, J&K was

>>>SEE ON P-7

Forest Deptt to plant 1.5 cr saplings by end of upcoming plantation season

KC NEWS NETWORK

Kashmir Precipitation Brings Slight Respite

● MeT predicts 4-day wet spell from Feb 25

Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: Fresh precipitation has brought some respite as it has led to increase in the water level in river Jhelum and its tributaries. Rains and snow have also refurbished Achabal Spring in South Kashmir.

According to the data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Jhelum's level at Sangam increased from -1.05 ft at 5:00 PM on Thursday to -0.74 ft at 5:00 PM on Friday.

At Ram Munshi Bagh, the level increased from 3.44 ft from last evening to 3.54 ft till this evening, it added.

The water level of river Jhelum is below zero at multiple stations, the data states, adding that Rambiyara, Lidder and Pohro Nallas were among the streams that were flowing below zero

level on Friday evening.

The historic Achabal spring in South Kashmir's Anantnag District has come to life again



after it had dried up. The spring has rejuvenated as it has returned to its original state again.

Pertinently, the majority of places across Kashmir received rainfall during the last 24 hours.

According to the details, Batote and Bhaderwah recorded

the highest precipitation of 48 mm and 41 mm respectively.

As per the details, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu

and Kashmir, recorded a rainfall of 11.4 mm in the last 24 hours. Kokernag recorded 27.2 mm rainfall during the period while 7.8 mm rainfall and 7.0 cm of snowfall were recorded in the last 24 hours at Gulmarg.

>>>SEE ON P-7

protection of lakes and wetlands in the Union Territory.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed the officers to frame a comprehensive action plan based on scientific principles for rehabilitation of degraded forest areas within a stipulated time frame.

To enhance the efficiency of forest land management, the Chief secretary instructed the officials to expedite the

survey and demarcation of forest lands by installing boundary pillars and digitizing the records. This step aims to effectively curb encroachments and safeguard forest resources, he maintained.

He stressed that achieving this goal without any delay was imperative for environmental sustainability. He emphasized the need for ensuring maximum survival of planted saplings by adopting protective measures, including fencing

of reforested areas.

Highlighting the ecological importance of wetlands, the Chief Secretary underscored their crucial role in the ecosystem and called for rigorous conservation efforts. He directed the officials to ensure proper demarcation and protection of wetlands, along with improving water quality and other relevant parameters to enhance their sustainability.

>>>SEE ON P-7

Tulip Garden generates over Rs 14 cr revenue in 1-year

Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR: The famous Tulip Garden, located at the foothills of the Zabarwan Mountains here, is proving to be a 'goldmine' for the Jammu and Kashmir Government.

According to the official documents accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the garden generated Rs 14.35 crore revenue in the year 2024, an all-time high since it was first inaugurated in 2007 by then J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Notably, UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi was among the first to enter into the garden in 2007, buying a ticket for Rs 50 out of her own pocket.

The documents reveal that the garden's revenue has seen a steady increase over the years. In 2020-21, it generated Rs 2.49 crores, followed by Rs 6.70 crores in 2021-22. The revenue rose to

Rs 13.46 crores in 2022-23 and reached an estimated Rs 14.35 crores in the last financial year

witnessed an unprecedented 4.46 lakh visitors, comprising local, national, and international



(2023-24). This revenue was generated from entry tickets, permissions for videography, and the sale of plant material. Notably, the Tulip Garden, a visual spectacle of vibrant colors, showcased 1.7 million flowers this year, including 73 varieties of tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, and other spring blooms.

The 2023-24 season

tourists, marking an all-time high in the garden's history.

The Tulip Show has become a gateway for tourism in the Kashmir Valley, attracting visitors from across the globe. The event not only provides a glimpse of the region's natural beauty but also serves as a platform for local

>>>SEE ON P-7

Narco Terror Case: SC Calls Charges ‘Serious’, Junks Bail Plea Of Accused

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed the bail plea of an accused in an alleged narco terrorism case, relating to the seizure of 532 kilogram of heroin and 52 kilogram of mixed narcotics worth Rs 2,700 crore at Attari.

A bench comprising Justices M M Sundresh and Prashant Kumar Mishra refused to agree with the submissions of senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for one Tariq Ahmed Lone, that he should be granted bail as the contraband was not recovered from him.

“The charges are very serious,” the bench said while dismissing the bail plea.

The accused persons were booked and chargesheeted for allegedly trying to smuggle the contraband into India from Pakistan through Attari Integrated Check Post in 2019.

Lone, a resident of Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir, moved the top court against the October 4, 2024 order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court denying him bail



in the case. A special NIA court in Mohali rejected his bail plea on February 11, 2021.

Gonsalves sought bail by further arguing the truck, in which the banned substances were purportedly smuggled in, and the godown did not belong to his client.

He said four co-accused persons were granted bail in the case.

The bench, however, granted liberty to Lone to move bail plea afresh in case of change of circumstances.

The NIA alleged that a Pakistani truck entered into the Indian territory on the evening of June 26, 2019 with a declared rock salt consignment imported by one Gurbinder Singh of M/s Kanishk Enterprises

from Pakistan and exported by M/s Global Vision Impex.

On examination of consignment, 16 polypropylene bags were found to contain the whitish coloured powder/granules which was suspected to contain narcotic substance that is heroin, the NIA said.

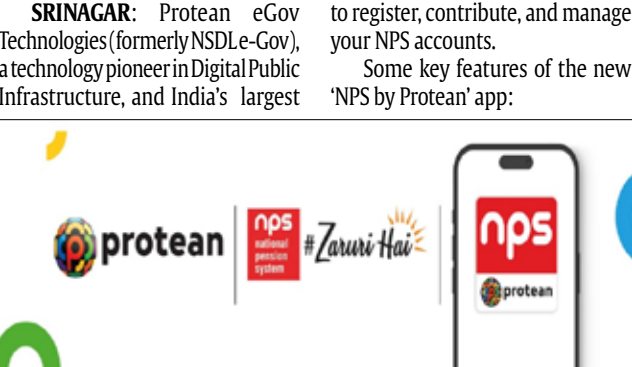
Probe revealed that the consignment contained heroin and mixed narcotics worth thousands of crore in the international market.

Initially, Gurbinder Singh and Lone were arrested by the Department of Customs and subsequently the investigation was handed over to the NIA.

The NIA said it was a case of narco terrorism having national and international ramifications. On the basis of investigation conducted by NIA, a chargesheet was filed against 11 persons with accused Gurbinder Singh having died. The probe agency said an international drug racket, based in Pakistan and Afghanistan, was busted with the seizure of the huge cache of drugs.

NPS by Protean App gets upgraded: Makes Retirement Planning easier for young investors

App will cater to both -existing and new NPS account holders



SRINAGAR: Protean eGov Technologies (formerly NSDL e-Gov), a technology pioneer in Digital Public Infrastructure, and India's largest to register, contribute, and manage your NPS accounts.

Some key features of the new 'NPS by Protean' app:

Central Recordkeeping Agency (CRA) for the National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) has scaled up their pension management app, 'NPS by Protean' with a host of new features designed specifically for today's digital savvy generation.

Whether you are already an NPS investor or are just starting your retirement planning journey with NPS, this app is your all-in-one solution. Available for both Android and iOS users, the enhanced app offers a user-friendly interface, intuitive navigation and enhanced security features. Perfect for young investors who are always on the go, this mobile-first approach makes it easier than ever

Effortless Registration: New NPS users can easily register using eKYC, Digi Locker, or KYC

Personalized Retirement Planning: Dreaming of a comfortable retirement? The app's new Retirement Goal Planner helps you map out your investment strategy based on your unique needs and goals. Start early and watch your savings grow!

Enhanced Security: MPIN and Biometric based login ensures secure access. Seamless Tier II Account Activation: Activating your Tier II account is now simpler than ever with our built-in step-by-step guide.

Greater Flexibility with Fund Transfers: The newly added "One-

Way Switch" feature allows users to easily transfer funds from their Tier II account to Tier I account

On this occasion, Suresh Sethi, MD & CEO, Protean eGov Technologies said, "Protean remains committed to fostering population-scale financial inclusion through innovation. The finance budget 2024-25 showcased the strong intent of the government in driving the pension penetration in the country. As the leading Central Recordkeeping Agency (CRA) for NPS and APY, we see this as a huge opportunity for market expansion. The improved version of our new App has come at a perfect time as India's youth become more aware of diversified investment options and actively start planning their retirement. The new app version offers a seamless experience to customers with new age digital onboarding capabilities, goal planning and effortless login along with a host of innovative features."

The "NPS by Protean" app represents a major leap forward in pension management, empowering Indians, especially young investors, to take charge of their retirement savings and participate in the National Pension System with ease.

1984 Anti-Sikh Riots: Court Reserves Order After Complainant, State Seek Death For Sajjan Kumar

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Friday reserved for February 25 the order on the quantum of sentence against Congress leader Sajjan Kumar in a murder case relating to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.



Appearing before special judge Kaveri Baweja, the complainant, whose husband and son were killed by a mob allegedly instigated by Kumar, sought the maximum punishment of death penalty for Kumar.

"The accused being the leader of the mobs instigated others to commit a genocide and crime against humanity and cold-blooded murders, and he deserves nothing less than capital punishment," submitted senior advocate H S Phoolka, representing the complainant. The prosecution had also sought capital punishment for the former Congress MP.

The court asked the counsel appearing for Kumar to file his written submissions within two days.

"Put up for order on the quantum of sentence on the next date of hearing," said the judge.

Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh were killed on November 1, 1984. The court on February 12 convicted Kumar for the offence and on Friday it sought a report from Tihar central jail on his psychiatric and psychological evaluation in view of a Supreme Court order asking for such a report in cases attracting capital punishment.

Kumar is currently lodged in Tihar jail. The minimum punishment for murder is life imprisonment whereas the maximum is death.

Though Punjabi Bagh Police Station registered the case, a special investigation team later took over the investigation.

Not Personal Matter But One Of Country: Rahul On PM Modi's Remarks To US Press

Rae Bareilly (UP): Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks to the US press on the controversy involving Adani Group, saying it was not a "personal matter" but one about the country.

Gandhi made the remarks while addressing youths at an event in the Lalgarh area during the second day of his visit to his parliamentary constituency.

ED Slaps Rs 3.44 Cr Penalty On BBC WS India Fines 3 Directors

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate has levied a penalty of more than Rs 3.44 crore on BBC World Service India for alleged contravention of foreign direct investment (FDI) regulations, agency officials said on Friday. The federal probe agency also fined three of its directors with more than Rs 1.14 crore each as it issued an adjudication order against the British broadcaster under the Foreign Exchange



Management Act (FEMA). The adjudication proceedings were initiated after a show-cause notice was issued on August 4, 2023, to BBC WS India, its three directors, and the finance head for various "contraventions" under the said law. BBC WS India, which is a 100 per cent FDI company, engaged in uploading/streaming news and current affairs through digital media but "did not" reduce their FDI to 26 per cent, and kept it at 100 per cent in "gross violation" of the regulations issued by the government of India, sources said. The press note 4 issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on September 18, 2019, stipulates a 26 per cent FDI cap for digital media under the government approval route, they said.

The total penalty levied on BBC WS India stands at Rs 3.44,48,850, along with a fine of Rs 5,000 for every day after 15.10.2021 till the date of compliance for violation of the provisions of FEMA, 1999, the sources said.

Cong fought Delhi polls as BJP's 'B' team: Mayawati hits back at Rahul Gandhi

LUCKNOW: Hitting back at Rahul Gandhi for questioning her party's present political approach, BSP president Mayawati on Friday accused the Congress of fighting the Delhi assembly polls as BJP's 'B' team.

Her remarks came a day after the former Congress president said he was disappointed that the Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) did not join the opposition Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) in the Lok Sabha elections. In a post on X, Mayawati said, "It is a common discussion that Congress fought the Delhi Assembly General Elections as BJP's B team this time, due to which BJP came to power there." "Otherwise the Congress would not have been in such a bad condition in this election that this party could not even save the deposit of most of its candidates," the former chief minister added.

She advised the Congress leader that before pointing fingers at others, he should definitely look into his own affairs.

Mayawati also noted that the new BJP government



in Delhi has the challenge of fulfilling all its poll promises. The two leaders were involved in a war of words on Thursday as well after Gandhi's utterances against Mayawati during his visit to Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha constituency. "I wanted Behenji to fight alongside us against the BJP, but for some reason, she did not. That was deeply disappointing.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Tele-Fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenmhcdk@yahoo.in)
Subject: -Repairs to 30kva servo stabilizer at GMC Srinagar.
Ref :-This office e- NIT no: M&HDS/TS/2024-25/146/e-tendering Dated 11.02.2025

CORRIGENDUM

Kindly read estimated cost of subject work as Rs 26900/- instead of Rs 29500/-
All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.
No: M&HDS/TS/8682-85
Dated: 21.02.2025

DIPK-12296/24

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
Mechanical & Hospitals Division,

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir (UT) DEPARTMENT OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES KASHMIR Office of the Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Bandipora

E-mail: eomcbandipora@gmail.com
No: MC/BPR/SBM/2025/343P Dated: 21/02/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUBJECT:- Declaration of Bandipora Town as Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF+) & Invitation for Objections

The Municipal Council Bandipora is pleased to inform the general public that Bandipora Town has successfully met the criteria for Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF+) status under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban). This achievement signifies that:

- 1- No open defecation is reported in the town.
- 2- All public and community toilets are functional, well-maintained, and accessible.
- 3- Regular sanitation, waste management, and hygiene measures are in place.
- 4- Citizens actively participate in maintaining cleanliness and sanitation.

Call for Public Objections:

Before the official declaration of Bandipora Town as ODF+, the general public is invited to submit any objections, if any, regarding this status. Any concerns related to the availability, functionality, or maintenance of sanitation facilities must be submitted in writing to the Municipal Council Bandipora within 10-days from the date of this notice.

Objections can be submitted at the Municipal Council office during working hours or via email at eomcbandipora@gmail.com. If no valid objections are received within the stipulated period, the town will be formally declared as ODF+.

Your cooperation in keeping Bandipora clean and hygienic is highly appreciated.

Issued by:
Chief Executive Officer
Municipal Council Bandipora.

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir (UT) DEPARTMENT OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES KASHMIR Office of the Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Bandipora

E-mail: eomcbandipora@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUBJECT:- Penalties & Fines for Open Defecation and Urination in Public Places

To maintain cleanliness, hygiene, and public health in Bandipora, the Municipal Council Bandipora strictly prohibits open defecation and urination in public places. Such practices pose severe health risks, pollute the environment, and violate municipal sanitation regulations.

Fines & Penalties:

Open Defecation – 2,000 fine for individuals.
Open Urination in Public Places – 500 fine for individuals.
Repeated Offenses: – Higher fines up to 5,000 and legal action under Municipal laws.

Legal Action & Enforcement:

Strict action will be taken against offenders, including spot fines, legal notices, and other penalties as per municipal laws. Enforcement teams will conduct regular inspections to ensure compliance.

Public Cooperation Required:

Citizens are urged to use public toilets and sanitation facilities provided across the city. Maintaining hygiene and cleanliness is a shared responsibility, and your cooperation is essential for a cleaner and healthier Bandipora.

This notice is effective immediately.

NO: MC/BPR/SBM/2024-25/341
Dated: 21/02/2025

Contact: 01957-225532

Issued By:
Chief Executive Officer
Municipal Council Bandipora

Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT SINGHPORA

CANCELLATION NOTICE

The Advertisement for the Post of Sahakiya (AWH) for AWC figuring at Sno.(06) namely:

Sno	District	Project	Name of Panchayat Ward/Municipal Ward	VACANCY OF SAHAKIYAS (ANGANWADI HELPERS)	
				NO. OF PANCH	NAME OF AWC
06	Baramulla	Singhpora	Malmooch	08	S o f i Mohalla Malbuchan

Advertised via communication No: CDPO/ICDS/Sing/Estt/2024/650 Dated 08-02-2025 shall be treated as cancelled ab-initio and is hereby withdrawn for all purposes. Fresh Advertisement Notice for the same shall be notified separately.

Sd/-Child Dev. Project Officer
Poshan Project Singhpora

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Srinagar.

Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-NIT Nos. MICD/60, MICD/61, MICD/62 and MICD/63 of 2024-25 all dated: 20-02-2025.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited in two cover reputed Mechanical/Electrical SSI unit holders/contractors/fabricators/firms for following works respectively. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' – Tender fee and Earnest Money details, Deposit, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to terms and conditions of the tender. Cover '2nd' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ

e NIT No.	Name/Particulars of the work	Name of Division	Quantity.	Cost of D/T fee(In Rs.)	E/Money (In Rs.)	Validity of Rates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MICD/60 of 2024-25 Dated: 20/02/25	Various electrical and plumbing works required in main wash room and in the office of Chief Engineer at Directorate Office I&FC Department, Srinagar	Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Srinagar	As per	Rs. 100/-	Rs. 420/-	90 days
MICD/61 of 2024-25 Dated: 20/02/25	Repairs to 6.6/0.44KV 500 KVA HT Auxiliary transformer at Rafiabad High Lift Irrigation Scheme			Rs. 100/-	Rs. 400/-	
MICD/62 of 2024-25 Dated: 20/02/25	Loading, unloading and stacking of material from Peerzoo park near G.P.O Srinagar to Lethpora Divisional store MICD Srinagar by mechanical transport			Rs. 200/-	Rs. 1800/-	
MICD/63 of 2024-25 Dated: 20/02/25	Repairs to electrification in Corridor of administrative Section of Directorate Office of I&FC Department Srinagar			Rs. 100/-	Rs. 400/-	

Position of funds: -Demanded ARD Approved
AAA:- Available
Key/critical Dates

Date of Hosting In Website/ Publish date	20/02/2025 (1600Hrs)
Document download/sale start date	20/02/2025 (1600Hrs).
Bid submission start date	20/02/2025. (1600Hrs)
	Bid submission end date 01/03/2025 (1500 Hrs)
Bid opening date	02/03/2025 (1600 Hrs)

Each tender should be accompanied with an Bid declaration Form/Cost of tender document in the form of as detailed above, pledged to the Executive Engineer MICD Srinagar In absence of Bid declaration form, the Tenders shall be rejected outrightly.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website http://jktenders.gov.in.

Any information regarding the tenders can be had from this office on all working days.

Dated: 21/02/2025

DIPK-12264/24

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Mech. Irri. Const. Division, Srinagar.

Javed Dar reviews functioning of Horticulture deptt; highlights sectors’ huge employment potential

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar, today convened a detailed review meeting regarding functioning of the department of Horticulture at Rajbagh, Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Minister assessed progress achieved under different programmes and schemes being undertaken by the department besides discussing challenges in smooth implementation of departmental initiatives. The Minister emphasized upon the officials to prioritize public welfare initiatives and work in a mission mode to achieve set targets and goals. He acknowledged that the Horticulture sector has huge potential to address unemployment issues and can help in uplifting the rural life with better economic prospects. “Horticulture sector has vast scope to



bring transformative changes for providing ample employment opportunities to the rural people,” said the Minister. He urged for utilization of modern Horticulture methods and high density farming. He instructed for handholding of farmers both awareness and technical guidance regarding latest and modern cultivation methods to the farmers. “Technological interventions and modern day

scientific applications have to be extended to provide all possible assistance to boost the Horticulture industry and make this sector productive, vibrant and profitable,” maintained the Minister.

He directed the concerned to ensure benefits under different centrally sponsored and UT level schemes including Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), reach to farming commu-

nity for better production and progressive farming in the region. The Minister was also apprised regarding the staff strengthening and issues related to infrastructure facilities.

Later, the Minister also released a booklet on Production of Designer Plants for Promotion of High Density Plantation and rejuvenation of Orchards under HADP and Spray Schedule 2025 for management of Apple Orchards for the farming community of Kashmir division.

Earlier, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, presented an overview and performance of the department.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Deputy Director, Assistant Director, Chief Horticulture Officers, Technical Officer and other concerned officials of the department.

JDU Holds Workers’ Meeting in Sumbal, GM Shaheen Assures Resolution of Public Grievances

BANDIPORA: Janata Dal United (JDU) held a workers’ meeting on Friday at Dak Banglow Sumbal area of North Kashmir’s Bandipora district. The meeting saw the enthusiastic participation of dozens of workers.

The meeting was presided over by JDU State President GM Shaheen, accompanied by District President Bandipora Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, District General Secretary Bandipora Ghulam Mohammad Dar, and other party members.

During the meeting locals of the area raised various grievances concerning their area. GM Shaheen assured them that all genuine issues would be resolved on a priority basis.

Speaking to the media, GM Shaheen said, “I visited Sumbal Bandipora today

as the people of the area have been inviting us for several months. We came here to address their genuine grievances and to fulfill the commitments we made before the elections. Whether they voted for us or not, it is our duty to serve the people.”

GM Shaheen strongly criticized the National Conference (NC), accusing the party of betraying the people by failing to fulfill its election promises.

He said, “The National Conference has a long history of making lofty commitments to secure votes but has consistently failed in implementation. This has left the people feeling disillusioned and betrayed. I urge the public to hold such parties accountable and support leaders who genuinely prioritize their welfare.”

Mirwaiz condemns ‘heinous crimes’ of fake faith-healer, demands stern punishment

Srinagar: Jamia Majid’s head cleric, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Friday condemned the heinous crimes by a fake faith healer, Aijaz Sheikh and demanded stern action against him.

Addressing the congregation at Jama Masjid Srinagar after two Fridays of house arrest, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq as per a statement issued to the news



agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, “We must ask ourselves: Where are we headed as a nation? Our morals and values are eroding—lies, deceit, and selfishness have taken root. The pursuit of personal gain has blinded us, leading us away from the teachings of Islam. Instead of seeking true faith, we have fallen into baseless superstitions, making it easy for frauds and criminals to exploit us.”

Mirwaiz said now the most horrifying reality—Aijaz Sheikh, man who, for decades, has destroyed the lives of thousands of young children. “His crimes are not just his alone; they were allowed to fester because we remained silent. We have become ignorant of our faith, following fake faith healers and superstitions instead of seeking true knowledge. When people lack understanding and blindly believe without questioning, criminals like him take advantage, manipulating and exploiting the weak in the name of faith. This is why true Islamic education is essential,” Mirwaiz added.

Mirwaiz said there must be no leniency for such criminals. “We demand the severest punishment so that no one dares to commit such crimes again. His actions have not only devastated innocent children but have also brought disgrace and mistrust upon the Mansab of Imamate.”

Beyond this, Mirwaiz said, “our society is drowning in drugs, scams, and online gambling. Social evils are creeping in, corrupting our youth and weakening our moral fabric. Look at the state of our land—no rain, no water, no snow. Is this not a sign of Allah’s displeasure? When a society allows corruption and injustice to thrive, divine blessings are withheld.”

With Ramadan approaching, Mirwaiz said, “we have a chance to turn back to Allah, seek His forgiveness, and purify ourselves. Let us abandon dishonesty and selfishness and embrace truth and justice.”

Mirwaiz said, throughout Ramadan, he intends to speak on these critical issues as well—the moral decay, the corruption that is eating away at our society, and the exploitation of the weak.

He urged all imams and khatibs to raise these concerns in their sermons. “We must awaken our people to the dangers that surround us and guide them back to the path of righteousness.”

Mirwaiz said, “we hope the authorities do not create obstacles in the practice of our faith. It deeply pains us that Shab-e-Baraat prayers were not allowed at Jamia Masjid, and that I was again placed under house arrest. This must stop! Worship is our fundamental right, and any undue interference in our religious affairs is unacceptable and condemnable.”

“Let us sincerely repent, seek Allah’s guidance, and pray that His mercy is restored upon us,” he said—(KNO)

Frequent Drunken Incidents Prompt Srinagar Traders to Urge Tourists Against Alcohol

Srinagar, Feb 21: Traders in Srinagar’s bustling city center, Lal Chowk, have issued an appeal to visiting tourists, welcoming them with open arms while urging them to refrain from consuming liquor and drugs. The Traders Association, Central Lal Chowk, has installed signboards and billboards carrying a message encouraging responsible tourism and respect for local culture.

The newly installed signboards read: “Welcome, Dear Tourists. The Traders Association, Central Lal Chowk, invites you to experience the beauty of our heaven on earth! For a memorable and enjoyable trip, we kindly request: Love and cherish your family. Avoid liquor, drugs, spitting on roads, and smoking. Respect our culture and traditions. Stay blessed and enjoy your time in our enchanting city.”

Speaking to the news agency Kashmir News Trust (KNT), Bilal Ahmad, President, Traders Association, said the initiative was taken after frequent incidents



of tourists consuming alcohol in the area and engaging in fighting, particularly with their families.

“Frequently, shopkeepers in Lal

Chowk witness drunk tourists quarreling with their families. Women and children are left in distress, often seen crying and traumatized. As hosts, we welcome all visitors, but we strongly urge them to avoid alcohol consumption to ensure a peaceful and pleasant environment for everyone,” Bilal Ahmad said.

The association’s General Secretary, Shirar Ahmad Mir, also endorsed the move, stating that maintaining the cultural ethos of the city while providing a safe and enjoyable experience for all tourists is a shared responsibility.

The traders hope that their message will foster responsible tourism and encourage visitors to respect the traditions of Kashmir while enjoying their stay in the Valley. [KNT]

Indian Army Organises Financial Inclusivity Drive in Border Areas of Akhnoor

AKHNOOR: Indian Army in collaboration with the Civil Administration and J&K Bank, conducted a Financial Inclusivity Drive in the border areas of

the Indian Army highlighted the importance of financial inclusion as a critical pillar of national development. They reiterated the Army’s commit-



Khaur, Akhnoor on Friday.

An official spokesperson said the initiative aims towards fostering economic empowerment and financial inclusion. “This initiative aligns with the national mission of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and aims to bring banking services to the doorstep of the local population, ensuring financial security and self-sufficiency.”

The drive, conducted in remote villages along the border, sought to educate and assist residents in accessing formal banking facilities.

Spokesperson said the initiative focused on opening zero-balance digital accounts under PMJDY, promoting digital banking awareness, and providing financial literacy to marginalized sections of society.

Special emphasis was placed on empowering women, farmers, and small business owners by facilitating access to government-backed financial schemes. Speaking at the event, officials from

ment to supporting local communities beyond security concerns and fostering socio-economic growth in border regions. Representatives from J&K Bank informed attendees about benefits such as insurance coverage, overdraft facilities and pension schemes. Civil administration officials assured continued support in bridging the financial gap and enabling seamless access to banking services for all residents.

Local residents expressed their gratitude for the initiative, acknowledging how such efforts significantly improve their economic stability and enable them to participate in mainstream financial systems. This Financial Inclusivity Drive is part of the broader outreach initiatives undertaken by the Indian Army to build trust, enhance social welfare and contribute to the overall development of border communities. By empowering locals with financial resources and knowledge, the initiative lays the foundation for long-term economic resilience

Vehicles with expired documents to be blacklisted by Feb 28: ARTO Bla

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: In a strict enforcement drive, the authorities here have announced that vehicles with expired documents will be blacklisted from February 28 and seized on the spot, if found operating on roads.

Addressing media persons, the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Baramulla, Muazzam Ali, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) warned the vehicle owners and transport operators to renew their documents within a week to avoid seizure and legal action.

He said that the department has decided to take a tough stance against those operating with expired fitness and permit certificates, stressing that such violations pose a serious risk to road safety.

Responding to growing demand from the public, ARTO said that on the directions from the higher ups, the number of driving test slots has been increased from 240 to 360 per week, allowing more applicants to undergo tests.

Additionally, the driving test schedule has been expanded from two days to three—Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday—to streamline the process and reduce waiting times.

With schools set to reopen in March, the ARTO specifically directed school authorities to update and renew their transport documents. “All school buses and transport vehicles must be fully compliant with regulations to ensure student safety and avoid legal action.”

Strict enforcement drives will be intensified to ensure strict compliance with transport regulations. The vehicle owners are urged to take immediate action to avoid penalties and ensure compliance with the latest regulations.

“No leniency will be shown to violators and those found flouting the rules will face immediate blacklisting and on the spot seizure,” transport official warned—(KNO)

Free Cleft Lip & Palate Screening Camp at DH Bandipora on Feb 27

BANDIPORA: Smile Train India, in collaboration with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora, is organizing a free awareness and screening camp for individuals suffering from cleft lip, cleft palate, nasal, facial, and cranial deformities.

The camp will be held on February 27, 2025, at District Hospital Bandipora, with the goal of identifying and assisting patients in need of corrective surgery and medical intervention.

Patients are urged to register for the camp before February 26, 2025, by contacting 7889440542 or 6005879092.

This initiative is part of Smile Train India’s ongoing efforts to provide free surgical care and rehabilitation to children and adults affected by cleft-related conditions. Cleft lip and palate are among the most common birth defects which if left untreated lead to difficulties in speech, eating, breathing, and overall facial development.

The Khyber Medical Institute, Nowpora Srinagar, will be an integral part of this initiative, providing medical expertise and post-operative care.



International Mother Language Day Celebrated in Wadipora, Handwara

Handwara: International Mother Language Day was celebrated in Wadipora, Handwara, with a focus on preserving mother tongues and promoting cultural heritage.

The event was organized in collaboration with Kashab Mir Trust Rajwar, Joy Adab Kajang Handwara Kashmir, and Mehboobul Alam Literary Society Rajwar.

Prominent literary and academic figures, including Ghulam Rasool Bande, Mir Dardpuri, Riaz Tawhidi, and Bashir Mangwalpuri, attended the event as special guests. The speakers emphasized that language is not just a means of communication but a vital part of cultural identity.

They stressed the need to protect and promote mother tongues to



ensure that future generations can stay connected to their heritage.

During the discussions, experts raised concerns over the decline of native languages due to modernization and lack of support at the educational and governmental levels. They called for stronger policies to promote mother tongues in schools and official platforms.

Poets and writers presented their works in various local languages, showcasing the rich literary traditions of Kashmir. They highlighted how folk poetry, oral traditions, and native storytelling play a crucial role in preserving linguistic diversity.

The event organizers urged the government and civil society to take effective steps to document and promote local languages. They stressed that without proper policies and public involvement, many indigenous languages could face extinction.

A cultural session was also held, featuring traditional songs and poetry performances. The session helped the audience appreciate the beauty and uniqueness of their mother tongues.

At the conclusion, organizers thanked all participants and reaffirmed their commitment to safeguarding Kashmir’s linguistic and cultural heritage. They appealed to authorities to invest in language preservation programs and encourage youth to embrace their mother tongue.

State Taxes Department organises workshop on safety of women at Workplace

SRINAGAR: State Taxes Department on Friday organised a workshop on Empowering Women and Ensuring Safety at workplaces.

The programme was held under the guidance of Commissioner State Taxes, PK Bhat.

Besides Tabasum Kamili, Deputy Commissioner Appeals who presided over the programme, the event was attended by Additional Commissioner State Taxes Kashmir Parveez Ahmad Raina, and various other officers.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Commissioner Appeals, emphasized the importance of collective efforts in combating harassment, ensuring strict enforcement of laws, and fostering a culture of respect and safety for women.

Guest speaker Dr. Aneeda, Assistant Professor at Kashmir University said that women harassment is not just an act but a deep-rooted mindset that must be challenged.

“Empowerment begins with awareness, but true change comes with action. It is our collective duty to educate, report, and stand up against all forms of harassment,” she said.

A society that protects its women, protects its future, She said and emphasized the need for stronger legal enforcement, community vigilance, and early education to dismantle the culture of harassment.

The workshop witnessed thought-provoking discussions led by esteemed Inspector Qaisar Qureshi & Inspector Monisa, along with the dedicated efforts of organizing fellow Parveez Kawoosa.

Their insights emphasized the need for strict legal enforcement, community awareness, and a proactive approach to tackling harassment in all spheres of life.

Habba Khatoon Dramatic Club: A 50-Year Legacy of Preserving Gurez’s Culture and Language



Shah Nawaz Samoon

In the heart of Gurez, a remote yet culturally rich valley in Kashmir, a unique institution has been tirelessly working for nearly five decades to preserve its linguistic and artistic heritage. The Habba Khatoon Dramatic Club holds the distinction of being the first club in Gurez dedicated to safeguarding its culture, promoting its language, and reviving its rich traditions through the medium of performing art. Founded in 1976 by the late Abdul

The club owes its foundation to Abdul Aziz Samoon, a visionary who foresaw the gradual erosion of Gurezi culture due to lack of representation in mainstream Kashmiri discourse. Realizing the power of theatre and storytelling, he established the dramatic club as a means of cultural preservation and education. His vision was not just to entertain but to create a space where Gurezi people could see their own stories, language, and traditions reflected on stage.

One of the most significant contributions of the Habba Khatoon Dramatic Club has been in the promotion of the Sheena language, which is spoken by the people of Gurez. As the world moves towards linguistic homogenization, smaller languages like Sheena are at risk of fading away. Through plays, skits, and cultural programs, the club has provided a vital platform for Sheena to thrive. Many young people, who might otherwise have shifted towards dominant languages like Kashmiri or Urdu, have been

spirit of Gurez alive.

Despite its monumental contributions, the Habba Khatoon Dramatic Club has faced several challenges over the years. Limited funding, lack of proper infrastructure, and the remoteness of Gurez have made it difficult for the club to gain mainstream recognition. However, the dedication of its members has never wavered. They continue to perform despite financial constraints, often relying on local support and the sheer passion for their cause.

Another significant challenge has been the declining interest among the younger generation, who are increasingly drawn to modern forms of entertainment. The club is now actively working on engaging the youth by incorporating contemporary themes while staying rooted in cultural traditions.

The impact of the Habba Khatoon Dramatic Club extends beyond cultural preservation. It has become a symbol of unity for the people of Gurez, bringing them together through art.

workshops, and promotional activities would greatly enhance its reach and effectiveness.

Furthermore, digital media presents a new opportunity for the club to showcase its performances to a broader audience. By documenting their plays and using platforms like YouTube and social media, the club can extend its influence beyond the valley of Gurez, ensuring that its legacy continues to flourish.

For nearly 50 years, the Habba Khatoon Dramatic Club has stood as a beacon of cultural preservation in Gurez. Through



Aziz Samoon/berocrate, this club has played a pivotal role in keeping the essence of Gurezi identity alive.

Named after the legendary Kashmiri poetess Habba Khatoon, the club embodies the spirit of artistic expression and cultural perseverance. Over the years, it has not only served as an entertainment platform but has also been instrumental in raising awareness about the history, traditions, and language of the region. Gurez, known for its breathtaking landscapes and distinct Sheena language, faces the constant challenge of modernization and external influences. The Habba Khatoon Dramatic Club has emerged as a guardian of Gurezi culture, ensuring that its language and traditions are passed down to future generations.

inspired to learn, speak, and perform in Sheena.

Theatre has always been a mirror of society, reflecting its joys, struggles, and aspirations. The Habba Khatoon Dramatic Club has used this medium to depict the folklore, traditions, and historical events of Gurez. From enacting ancient tales to portraying the challenges faced by the people of the valley, their performances serve as an educational and emotional bridge connecting the past with the present.

The club has also played a crucial role in reviving traditional Gurezi art forms, songs, and dances, ensuring that they do not disappear with the passing of generations. By incorporating folk music and poetry into their performances, they keep the

It has also opened avenues for local talent to showcase their skills, many of whom have gone on to contribute to Kashmiri theatre and television.

Moreover, the club has played an essential role in social change, addressing issues like education, women's rights, and community development through its plays. By highlighting these topics in a culturally relevant manner, it has educated and inspired many within the community.

As the club moves forward, it faces the crucial task of adapting to modern times while staying true to its roots. There is a growing need for government and institutional support to ensure its sustainability. Funding for better theatre facilities, training

One of the most significant contributions of the Habba Khatoon Dramatic Club has been in the promotion of the Sheena language, which is spoken by the people of Gurez. As the world moves towards linguistic homogenization, smaller languages like Sheena are at risk of fading away. Through plays, skits, and cultural programs, the club has provided a vital platform for Sheena to thrive. Many young people, who might otherwise have shifted towards dominant languages like Kashmiri or Urdu, have been inspired to learn, speak, and perform in Sheena.

its dedication to language, tradition, and performing arts, it has safeguarded a unique heritage that might have otherwise been lost to time. The club's unwavering commitment, despite numerous challenges, is a testament to the resilience and pride of the Gurezi people.

As we move towards a future dominated by rapid globalization, it is more important than ever to support institutions like the Habba Khatoon Dramatic Club, ensuring that the voices, stories, and traditions of Gurez continue to be heard and celebrated for generations to come.

Author can be mailed at shahnawazsamoon1999@gmail.com

Achieving Greatness Through Small Acts



Dr. Reyaz Ahmad

In a world that often measures success by grand achievements, it's easy to feel discouraged if we're not leading revolutions, inventing groundbreaking technologies, or making headlines. However, the wisdom in the saying, "If you cannot do great things, then do small things in a great way," reminds us that impact isn't always about scale—it's about dedication and excellence in every action we take. Even the smallest efforts, when performed with sincerity and commitment, can create ripples of change that extend far beyond what we can see.

The Power of Small Actions

History often celebrates monumental events, but behind every great movement are countless small, deliberate actions that build the foundation for success. Consider the story of Rosa Parks, whose seemingly small decision to remain seated on a bus in Montgomery sparked a civil rights movement. Though her action may have seemed minor at the moment, its significance grew as it inspired others to demand justice.

Similarly, Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of ahimsa (non-violence) started with small acts of defiance against injustice, like making salt from seawater during the Salt March. These small yet bold actions eventually led to India's independence.

In everyday life, small gestures also hold the power to transform lives. A simple smile, a word of encouragement, or an act of kindness can uplift someone going through a difficult time. For example, a teacher who takes time to inspire and

guide struggling students may not receive instant recognition, but their influence can shape future leaders, doctors, and scientists.

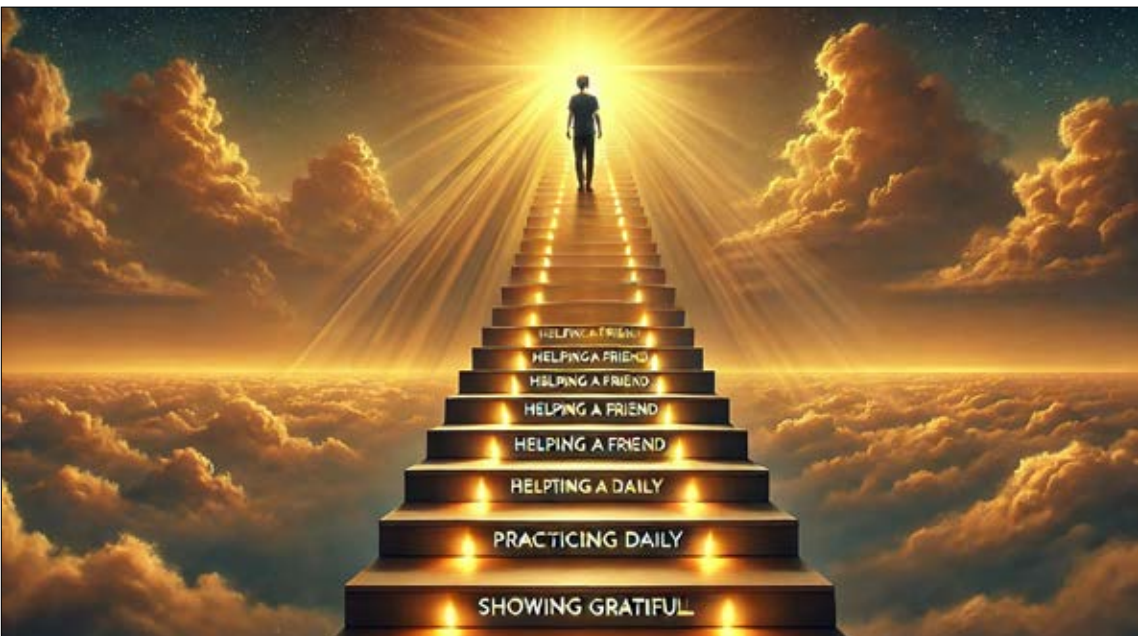
Excellence in the Everyday

True greatness is not about performing grand gestures but about doing what we can with passion,

not in the task but in the approach.

Another example is a janitor who works at a hospital. To some, cleaning may seem like an insignificant job, but by ensuring that the hospital is sterile and well-maintained, they play a critical role in preventing infections and saving

When we commit to doing small things with great care, we create a ripple effect that can influence others and inspire positive change. Consider the story of James Harrison, an Australian man known as the "Man with the Golden Arm." For over 60 years, he donated blood regularly, saving



integrity, and diligence. When we put our best effort into even the simplest tasks, we cultivate a mindset of excellence.

Consider a barista who meticulously prepares each cup of coffee with care, ensuring consistency in taste and presentation. Their customers not only enjoy the drink but also appreciate the warm experience, making them likely to return. Contrast this with someone who sees their job as unimportant and rushes through the process, producing poor-quality coffee. The difference lies

lives. Their attention to detail and commitment to excellence make a difference, even if they don't receive public recognition.

Steve Jobs, the co-founder of Apple, famously emphasized the importance of excellence even in unseen details. He insisted that the inside of a computer should be as beautifully designed as the outside, even though most users would never see it. His dedication to perfection in small details helped Apple become a globally admired brand.

The Ripple Effect of Small Acts

more than 2.4 million babies from a rare disease. His individual contributions, though small in isolation, added up to an incredible impact.

Another example is the Japanese philosophy of kaizen, meaning continuous improvement. It encourages making small, incremental changes to enhance productivity and quality. Companies like Toyota have successfully used kaizen to revolutionize their industries by focusing on small yet meaningful improvements. This principle can be applied to personal growth as well—reading just a

few pages of a book daily, exercising for ten minutes a day, or practicing gratitude regularly can lead to significant personal transformation over time.

Creating a Legacy Through Small Acts

Some of history's greatest figures didn't start with grand ambitions but instead focused on doing the little things right. Mother Teresa didn't aim to change the world in one sweeping action; she simply started by helping one sick person at a time. Over time, her acts of kindness expanded into a global humanitarian movement.

In the business world, Sam Walton, the founder of Walmart, began with a single store and a strong commitment to customer service. His emphasis on small efficiencies and customer satisfaction turned his business into one of the largest retail chains in the world.

Even in personal relationships, small actions like regularly expressing appreciation, being a good listener, and showing patience can strengthen bonds and create lasting connections.

Conclusion

True greatness isn't always about the scale of our achievements but about the dedication we bring to the smallest of actions. Whether it's a smile that brightens someone's day, a well-done task that makes a difference, or an act of kindness that inspires others, our small efforts can have a profound impact.

Instead of waiting for a grand opportunity, start today. Whether you are a student, an employee, or an entrepreneur, commit to doing the small things with care, passion, and excellence. Because in the end, greatness is not about what we do—it's about how we do it.

Author is Faculty of Mathematics, Department of General Education SUC, Sharjah, UAE. He can be mailed at reyaz56@gmail.com

JNU holds seminar on life, legacy of Masud Choudhary

Rana recalls Dr Choudhary's contribution in creation of a just, inclusive society

NEW DELHI: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today stated that the vision of Dr Masud Ahmed Choudhary transcended narrow identities and parochial politics, advocating for creation of a just and inclusive society.

He was speaking during a seminar titled "Inclusive Approach to the Tribal Identity of Jammu and Kashmir - A Tribute Honouring the Life and Legacy of Dr Masud Ahmed Choudhary", organised by the Centre of Excellence for Tribal Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi.

Rana, who was special guest on the occasion, said that Dr Choudhary was an embodiment of a fight against the narrow politics of caste and tribe. "He strived all his life to build an inclusive society free from caste, class, ethnic and religious discrimination based on equality and fraternity. He was an outstanding leader and a staunch crusader for the rights of down-trodden and backward sections of the society", maintained the Minister.

The Minister, while paying tributes to the legend, remembered Dr. Choudhary as a guiding

force and a visionary who worked with conviction and dedication all his life for the upliftment of the marginalized. "He fought for his people and his



community to make their dream of living with dignity, a reality. We are indebted to his service for shaping our understanding of the past, present and future," he said while expressing gratitude to the JNU for hosting the seminar.

Calling him an icon of social reform and education, Rana said that it would be a befitting

tribute to carry forward the legacy of a personality who played a pivotal role in founding institutions like Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU)

and Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (GDCT) that are positively impacting thousands of lives.

Highlighting the contributions of Masud Choudhary, Rana said that he founded the GDCT and published the magazine 'Awaz e Gujjar' to raise social and educational awareness. "GDCT serves as a museum and archive of the Gujjar and

Bakarwal community in Jammu and Kashmir. At a time of vehement modernisation of life and culture of traditional tribes, the trust is one of the rare private and community-led initiatives to preserve our shared and collective heritage," he said.

Rana impressed upon the audience that in contemporary times, when people are increasingly divided based on their identity, caste, region, ethnicity, it becomes incumbent upon us to collectively fight the evils and wrongs ailing our society. Rana said that the philosophy and life of Dr Choudhary is a profile of courage and conviction, whose work and commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the Gujjar and Bakarwal tribes, spanned over five decades and extended into multiple fields.

During the seminar, speakers including Member of Parliament, Ghulam Ali Khatana besides the Professors, paid rich tributes to Dr Choudhary and described him as a scholar par excellence, able administrator having high literary ability who created a sense of self respect, importance and confidence in the weaker sections of the society.

DC Srinagar finalizes arrangements for Mahashivratri festival



SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting here at DC Office to review the arrangements for Mahashivratri festival scheduled to be celebrated on February 26.

Among others the meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, SP Security, SDM East, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Officers of Food Safety Organization, PHE R&B & SMC, FCS&CA and all Tehsildars of the District.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner was apprised by the officers of concerned line departments regarding the arrangements being made to ensure smooth celebrations of the festival in the district.

The DC passed directions to all departments for ensuring adequate availability of traditional festive essentials and uninterrupted power and water supplies.

On the occasion, the DC instructed the Fisheries Department to establish sale outlets for trout fish at various prominent locations in the district ahead of the festival.

Similarly, the DC asked the concerned to ensure supply of vegetables, flowers, walnuts, Lotus stem, earthen pots, etc in the market.

FCS&CA was asked to provide advance ration to the Pandit families on the occasion.

The Health Department was told to ensure availability of medical facilities and deployment of ambulances at important locations.

The Power Department informed the meeting that it has devised a curtailment-free schedule for identified areas where pandit community reside in the district.

DC also stressed on maintaining proper sanitation at prominent temples in the city including Durganag, Sharika Devi, Zeathary, Ganpatyar, Wazir temples and at the entire pilgrimage route to Shankar Acharya temple.

Ha further asked the officers to visit prominent temples within their jurisdiction to assess the arrangements for smooth celebrations of the festival.

DC directed for ensuring the best possible facilities at the Shankaracharya temple in particular where major congregations of devotees for special payers are held during the festival.

He directed concerned departments to ensure all basic arrangements are put in place for the devotees expected to perform Darshan in the Shankaracharya Temple during the festival.

Besides, he instructed for ensuring hassle-free traffic movement for the devotees and making adequate facilities at the designated place for parking of the vehicles.

Bhat also instructed for ensuring uninterrupted supply of electricity and drinking water at the venue so that devotees do not face any problem during their visit to pay obeisance at the Temple.

The Health Department was directed to deploy a medical team at the venue with the availability of all emergency medicines and first aid facilities to handle any medical emergency.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the members of the pandit community representing different trusts and temples in the city.

DLSA Sgr, Wildlife Deptt organize Save Environment prog at Hokersar

Srinagar: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar organized an awareness program in collaboration with Forest Magistrate, Court Srinagar and Department of Wild Life Wet Land, Division Kashmir, Srinagar at Hokarsar Lake under the theme 'Save Environment'.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA Srinagar/ Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and supervision of Secretary DLSA Srinagar Nusrat Ali Hakak and DFO, Altaf Ahmed Datto.

The program aimed to raise awareness about environmental conservation and the importance of protecting natural ecosystems.

The awareness initiative was inaugurated by the Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority Srinagar, in the presence of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Srinagar, Mohammad Ishfaq Alam Baba, Forest Magistrate, District Court Srinagar, SHO, Ranbeer Singh, Nasir Ahmed, Range Officer Lakes/CCR, Hokarsar Wetland Srinagar along with staff members of the DLSA Srinagar, and officials of Hokarsar Wetland Srinagar also participated in the event. During the program, Jd, Judicial Officers emphasized the need for collective action to combat environmental issues, highlighting the role of legal services authorities in promoting environmental awareness. The participants were encouraged to adopt eco-friendly practices and support initiatives that contribute to a greener and healthier environment.

As part of the awareness program, pamphlets containing vital information about the NALSA helpline number and the availability of free legal aid were distributed on the spot. This initiative aimed to ensure that individuals, especially those from marginalized communities, are aware of their legal rights and can easily access free legal assistance when needed.

The event concluded with a pledge to continue efforts toward environmental preservation and further awareness campaigns. The District Legal Services Authority Srinagar remains committed to fostering environmental consciousness among the community through similar initiatives in the future.

DC Kulgam reviews status of Jal Shakti Assets

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan today convened a meeting to review the status of Jal Shakti Assets in the district here at the Mini-Secretariat.

The meeting had threadbare discussions with regard to various assets created by Jal Shakti Department and their subsequent verification and uploading on the revenue Department's portal Revenue Plus. The meeting was attended by ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACR Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Xen's of Jal Shakti Division Kulgam, Qazigund and all the Tehsildars of District.

DC inaugurates NCD Screening campaign in Poonch

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal inaugurated the National level Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Screening and Tuberculosis (TB) campaign here today.

The campaign aims at detecting non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and oral and cervical cancers. A medical camp has been set up at Bus Stand and the screening will continue till March 31, 2025.

At the inauguration, the Deputy Commissioner encouraged the community to participate in large numbers to take advantage of the free screenings and treatment. He emphasized the importance of early detection and urged health authorities to maximize outreach efforts to ensure comprehensive coverage.

During the camp, free medication was provided to attendees, addressing vital health concerns within the district. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan highlighted that similar camps have been organized across Poonch, reinforcing the administration's commitment to public health.

State Taxes Department organises workshop on safety of women at Workplace

SRINAGAR: State Taxes Department on Friday organised a workshop on Empowering Women and Ensuring Safety at workplaces.

The programme was held under the guidance of Commissioner State Taxes, PK Bhat.

Besides Tabasum Kamili, Deputy Commissioner Appeals who presided over the programme, the event was attended by Additional Commissioner State Taxes Kashmir Parveez Ahmad Raina, and various other officers.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Commissioner Appeals, emphasized the importance of collective efforts in combating harassment, ensuring strict enforcement of laws, and fostering a culture of respect and safety for women.

Guest speaker Dr. Aneeda, Assistant Professor at Kashmir University said that women harassment is not just an act but a deep-rooted mindset that must be challenged.

"Empowerment begins with awareness, but true change comes with action. It is our collective duty to educate, report, and stand up against all forms of harassment.", she said.

A society that protects its women, protects its future. She said and emphasized the need for stronger legal enforcement, community



vigilance, and early education to dismantle the culture of harassment.

The workshop witnessed thought-provoking discussions led by esteemed Inspector Qaisar Qureshi & Inspector Monisa, along with the dedicated efforts of organizing fellow Parveiz Kawoosa. Their insights emphasized the need for strict legal enforcement, community awareness,

and a proactive approach to tackling harassment in all spheres of life.

The session also featured poetic renditions by Nasir Ahmad, whose verses beautifully captured the struggles and resilience of women, leaving a lasting impact on the audience.

In his address, Additional Commissioner State Taxes Kashmir emphasized that women harassment is not just an individual struggle but a societal failure which demands urgent action from all corners. He highlighted that true empowerment begins when every woman feels safe, heard, and respected, not just in laws and policies but in everyday reality.

His words served as a clarion call for accountability, urging law enforcement, institutions, and communities to take collective responsibility in eradicating harassment.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Shahnawaz Shah Deputy Commissioner Enforcement Central Kashmir acknowledging the contributions of all participants and reaffirming the commitment to a safer society.

MLA Beerwah inaugurates Mobile Surgical Eye Camp, Biochemistry Analyzer at SDH Magam

Budgam: Insignificant boost to the healthcare infrastructure in Magam, MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani today inaugurated a mobile surgical eye camp and a fully automatic biochemistry analyzer at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Magam, in presence of Director Health Services Kashmir Dr Bakshi Jahangeer.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Jahangeer Ahmad Bakshi; Assistant Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Muzaffar Sharewani; Chief Medical Officer Budgam, Dr. Mohd Ayoub Fatehkhani, Dr. Asmat IC mobile eye camp and Chairman Civil Society Magam, Haji Mohammad Ibrahim Mir; besides other senior health officials.

Speaking at the event, MLA Beerwah Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani assured that he would work tirelessly to ensure the hospital receives the best facilities. He appreciated the Block Medical Officer and staff for their exceptional services

to the people of Magam and surrounding areas.

MLA Beerwah also urged the Director Health Services Kashmir to provide a laparoscope and digital X-ray machine to the hospital, in addition to



upgrading the existing hospital infrastructure and utilizing the old hospital complex as a trauma hospital. Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Jahangeer Ahmad Bakshi, assured MLA Beerwah that all issues raised during the function would be addressed on a priority basis, with efforts made to expedite the resolution of pending hospital issues.

Earlier, Dr. Mir Mushtaq, Block Medical Officer Magam, welcomed the guests and

presented a detailed overview of the hospital's functioning and challenges.

He highlighted the need for advanced healthcare facilities in the region and expressed gratitude to MLA Beerwah for

his relentless support.

Dr. Mohammad Ayoub, CMO Budgam, expressed gratitude to MLA Beerwah and Director Health Services Kashmir for the surgical eye camp and biochemistry analyzer, which will greatly benefit the local population. The mobile surgical eye camp and biochemistry analyzer will significantly enhance the healthcare facilities at SDH Magam, benefiting thousands of patients of the area.

Sakeena Itoo reviews development scenario of D H Pora Constituency

KULGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a meeting here to assess the developmental scenario of DH Pora Constituency of Kulgam district.

During the meeting, the Minister had detailed assessment regarding progress on implementation of various flagship schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and District Capex, among others.

Addressing the officers, Sakeena Itoo emphasized on completion of all developmental projects in the constituency within the stipulated time frame. She instructed the officers of Jal Shakti department to ensure smooth operation of irrigation schemes, especially during the upcoming farming season across the district. She also called on the officers of the forest department

to establish timber depots in all blocks of DH Pora constituency to meet the local needs, especially during winters.

Regarding the education

development of the region by prioritizing key infrastructure and welfare initiative programmes for the general public.

During the meeting, the



sector, Sakeena Itoo directed the concerned officers to identify land for construction of school buildings operating from rented spaces. She reiterated the commitment of the present Government towards enhancing facilities in educational institutions and ensuring quality education for the students.

The Minister affirmed that the government under Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's leadership is committed towards holistic

Chief Planning Officer delivered an extensive presentation detailing the physical and financial milestones of various ongoing projects. Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan; Additional Deputy Commissioner; DPO; Assistant Commissioner Development; Assistant Commissioner Revenue; Additional Superintendent of Police; Executive Engineers; Chief Education Officer; Chief Medical Officer and other officials attended the meeting.

DC Shopian reviews status of developmental works of departments

Shopian: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today convened a meeting of district and sectoral officers at Mini-Secretariat to take detailed review of the developmental progress in various departments.

During the meeting, several aspects pertaining to overall development were comprehensively discussed.

On the occasion, all the departments presented the status of various developmental works undertaken in different sectors like health, education, rural development, PDD, Sports, etc by the concerned agencies.

While taking sector wise review of various major developmental works, the DC emphasized for adopting a coordinated approach for achieving the desired results. He stressed to ramp up the pace of work so that all the undertaken projects are completed well within the stipulated time.

DC emphasized the importance of effective interdepartmental coordination and urged officials to proactively address any impediments in the work execution.

He called upon strengthening the public delivery services and grievance redressal system in the district.

Historic Achabal spring rejuvenates, people express relief

Umairsar Gull Ganie

Anantnag: The famous spring at the tourist spot Achabal in Anantnag, which had dried up for the first time in history, has rejuvenated and returned to its original state.

Locals, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) expressed relief that the water flow has been fully restored.

"It is heartening to see the spring replenished. I believe it is due to prayers.

Even though the temperature was high and no rain or snowfall was expected in the valley, this revival feels

miraculous," Mohammad Ashraf, a local, said.

Residents called for



preserving water bodies. "Our lives depend on water. The coming generations will never forgive us, as we have spoiled and destroyed our water

bodies," said another resident.

Achabal spring supplies

water to over 15 Jal Shakti

water supply schemes.

Assistant Executive Engineer of Jal Shakti Sub-Division Anantnag, Gowhar Hussain Ganie, told KNO that



Drink up: Fluids are important to boost the metabolism of the body and provide hydration to the same. Studies have shown the benefits of drinking cold water in supporting water-induced thermogenesis which can help lose weight. This boost in metabolism can also be facilitated through the intake of green tea and coffee.





Want to boost metabolism? 5 diet hacks that work

The chemical reaction that takes place in the body is known as metabolism. When trying to lose weight, people often opt for methods to boost their metabolic rate as it is an effective way to shed those stubborn calories. However, aiding weight loss is not the sole function of metabolism. Some other roles played by metabolism in the body include:

- It helps regulate blood sugar levels
- It aids to boost blood circulation
- It promotes the growth and repair of cells

This metabolism rate tends to slow down with the progression of age. This is due to reduced physical activity and muscle mass. Apart from exercise, there are other ways in which one can boost their metabolism.



Do not miss out on protein: Protein is considered to be the building block of the body and it also happens to be one of the most common nutrients that people miss out on. This nutrient is essential to boost metabolism without eating more. You can eat foods such as eggs, chicken, lentils, beans, nuts, etc.



Load up on quercetin: A pigment present in a variety of fruits and vegetables is known as quercetin. This flavonoid can prove to be extremely effective in boosting metabolism. Some foods that you can eat to load up on quercetin may include tomatoes, berries, apples, etc.

Get your spices: A list of ingredients in the kitchen can help boost your metabolism, these ingredients are your spices. A variety of spices such as ginger, pepper, turmeric, etc. can prove to be effective in losing weight and enhancing metabolism.

13 Foods You Should Avoid If You Have High Blood Pressure

Several people in today's world suffer from high blood pressure and hypertension. This is a condition in which the normal speed of blood in your blood vessels increases at a level that is alarming and unusual. As a result, your blood vessels walls are weakened and your heart starts to pump at a higher than usual rate too. It is this fast pumping that causes your heart to be over-exerted, something that leads to heart attacks and other heart issues.

That said, high blood pressure or hypertension can be reduced with the help of certain foods. However, others may aggravate the condition and give you a harder time. Here are 15 different foods that you should stay away from if you suffer from high blood pressure:

1. Salt

When it comes to issues of hypertension, salt is the worst culprit. Every time you increase the sodium content in your diet, you end up disturbing the ion balance of your body which is usually very sensitive. This increase in sodium content leads to the kidneys failure to properly filter your blood. When the kidneys are unable to produce sufficient urine and in a proper manner, the amount of water in the blood increases leading to a subsequent increase in blood pressure. According to food experts or nutritionists, for anybody to avoid suffering from hypertension, they need to keep their sodium intake below 1,500 milligrams.

2. Refined Oil / Margarine

Refined oils refer to a type of fat that contains additives. These additives make the oil look cleaner and clearer. While the end product after these additives looks great, the truth is that these refined oils and margarine are packed with omega-6 fats. As such, this increases your risk of developing heart illnesses especially if you are diabetic. It also makes you more susceptible to both blood clotting and also urinary retention.

3. Popcorn

Popcorn can be a healthy food just as long as you make it yourself at home. This way, you avoid soaking the popcorn in caramel, butter and sprinkling either too much sugar or salt over it. Note that the popcorn that's available in supermarkets or the type you buy in movie theatres is full of both margarine and sodium. Margarine may be an inexpensive option compared to butter, but it is certainly more dangerous. So, if you really have to eat popcorn, make it yourself. Alternatively if you like



munching on something as you watch your favorite movie, get some celery instead.

4. Cheese

Aside from the fact that cheese is bad for people who are lactose intolerant, it is also not good for your overall health. It is indeed delicious and to some extent has some health benefits like providing you with calcium and protein, however the type you find in supermarkets is packed with salt which is not good for your blood pressure. When you eat too much cheese you get an increase in cholesterol levels and subsequently, you increase your chances of getting heart disease.

5. Canned Soups

When you see canned soups displayed, it's easy to think that they are so nutritious. They actually look great in advertisements too, since the manufacturers claim that they are packed with healthy vegetables that are nutritious. However, this is not the case. In reality, these canned foods just aggravate hypertension. They contain a lot of sodium which is bad for you since it increases just how fast blood flows in your vessels. As such, when

you're picking a canned soup, ensure that you go for one that is labeled "low sodium."

6. Deli Meats

Deli meats refer to processed meats that have been made to last for a longer period without getting spoiled. A lot of people like going for these especially because you can use them to make a quick sandwich which they consider nutritious. Considering the fact that the meats are packed with sodium, this couldn't be further from the truth. Just a two-ounce serving of deli meats contains close to 600 milligrams of sodium. When you pair the deli meat with other ingredients while you make your delicious sandwich, the sodium content shoots to an even higher level.

7. Chinese Take-Out

For so many people, Chinese take-outs have become a favorite. This is undoubtedly because we live such a fast-paced life and in such a society, we barely have time to prepare healthy meals every day. As such, we quickly jump at the opportunity to get budget-friendly options and quick-foods such as Chinese take-out. Unfortunately, these Chinese take-outs contain so much oil with a lot of sodium in them. This would explain why if you looked at sautéed vegetables from a Chinese food place, you will notice that it's rather shiny. Chinese take-out is also full of canned sauces that are rich in sodium and other ingredients that put you at risk of developing hypertension.

8. Frozen Pizzas

People consider frozen pizzas a great and quick fix when they are unable to cook lunch or when they are too lazy to get something to eat. With them, all you have to do is pop them inside your oven for a few minutes and allow the cheese to start melting. Also allow the dough to turn crispy and golden in color. That said, to conserve your frozen pizza, you will need a large amount of salt. As you know, this kind of sodium content makes blood

pressure more aggressive and makes you more susceptible to different heart diseases.

9. Tomato Sauce Can

Every time you go for a pre-made sauce, keep in mind that it's a sodium bomb. They contain a lot of salt considering this salt is used in their preservation. This same salt then leads to a disturbance in your body's electrolyte balance. Once the electrolyte balance in your body is disturbed, your kidneys also get affected. The result is then an increase in blood pressure levels. This just means that your beloved pasta dish could be the cause of your unhealthy high blood pressure thanks to the sauce.

10. Pickles

In most cases, when you need to preserve anything, salt is the answer. This is the case even with pickles. These vegetables heavily rely on salt to stay fresh but the worst part is that they are often dipped in plenty of oil or vinegar so that they can ferment and maintain flavor. Pickles are often eaten by people as a side dish. Sometimes they are also put in sandwiches and burgers too in different parts of the world. These high levels of sodium aggravate your blood pressure, which you don't want.

11. Alcohol

If you're a fan of alcohol, you will be sad to know that there isn't a single health advantage of drinking alcohol. When you drink too much of it, you will experience an increase in blood pressure temporarily. However, if this becomes a trend, there will be long term effects which include hypertension, among other heart diseases. When you develop the habit of drinking alcohol, you are likely to become obese. Obesity just increases your chances of developing high blood pressure. If you really have to drink alcohol, you should limit your consumption as much as possible.

12. Baked Goods

Baked goods come with amazing smells and could appear to be healthy because some of them have been marketed as such. For some, their great taste reminds you of certain fruits. That and the idea of eating something that is freshly baked seem nutritious and sound healthy. However, keep in mind that these baked goods contain a lot of sugar which could cause a spike in your blood pressure levels. To add to that, for bread, croissants and other pastries, salt is included. It is this amount of salt that increases blood pressure levels because of the sodium increase in your bloodstream.

13. Bacon

Eating bacon is a sure way to add on calories, which is not a good thing. They are really just sticks of fats that have been fried in pools of cholesterol. The worst thing about them is that so many people prefer to have bacon for breakfast, which is the most important meal of the day. As such, when you develop the habit of eating something unhealthy in the morning, the effects are even more adverse compared to when you eat them at any other time of the day. Thanks to the amount of fat in bacon, your blood pressure will rise resulting in overexertion of your heart.



Continued From P1...

Like HP, J&K

have endured challenging times without solely relying on government subsidies. He stressed the importance of ensuring long-term business sustainability, proposing a mechanism to track businesses' viability beyond ten years.

On the ease of doing business, the Chief Minister advocated for a genuine single-window clearance system, addressing concerns over bureaucratic hurdles, particularly in obtaining clearances from forest and environment boards, which hinder manufacturing growth.

He encouraged stakeholders to provide suggestions and feedback for the upcoming budget, reinforcing the Government's commitment to an industry-friendly policy framework.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, who attended the event as Guest of Honour, also spoke at the event. He emphasized the need to address past deficiencies and underscored the importance of promoting sports tourism, health tourism, and border tourism while leveraging Kashmir's renowned hospitality through innovative marketing strategies.

Madhav Singhania, Joint Managing Director & CEO, JK Cements Limited & Chairman, Confederation of Indian Industry, Northern Region; Syed Junaid Altaf Group Executive Director, FIL Industries Pvt. Ltd. & Chairman, CII J&K; Dr. M. A. Alim Director, Package Design Industries & Vice Chairman CII J&K were also present on the occasion.

India, Pak

crossing point, a designated spot for such interactions, against the backdrop of heightened tensions in the region.

The official said the meeting, which lasted approximately 75 minutes, was conducted in a cordial atmosphere. This meeting was significant as it was the first of its kind in four years, he added.

The official said the primary focus was to address the recent surge in cross-border firing and IED attacks that have disrupted peace along the LoC. "The primary objective of the meeting was to address the recent escalation in tensions along the LoC, driven by cross-border firing, sniper attacks, and IED incidents," he said, adding, "Both sides stressed the importance of maintaining peace and stability along the border. They agreed to honour the ceasefire agreement in the larger interest of de-escalation."

On February 11, an IED attack in the Akhnoor sector of Jammu claimed the lives of two Indian Army soldiers, including a Captain. This incident was followed by multiple ceasefire violations, resulting in injuries to soldiers on both sides and reported casualties on the Pakistani side due to Indian retaliatory actions.

The flag meeting comes at a time when intelligence reports suggest that the absence of significant snowfall this winter has left traditional infiltration routes accessible, potentially contributing to the recent uptick in hostile activities.

However, the Indian Army maintains that the ceasefire remains intact as per the mutual understanding, with minor incidents being a recurring feature along the LoC.

This meeting is viewed as a constructive step toward reducing hostilities and fostering dialogue between the two nations.

Meanwhile, the residents of border villages in Poonch have expressed relief following the flag meeting between Indian and Pakistani army officers.

"We have spent sleepless nights worrying about the cross-border shelling. The meeting gives us hope that peace will hold," said Mohammad Yousuf, a resident of Poonch.

Others said that even temporary stability allows them to carry on with daily activities without fear.

A 65-year-old farmer recalled the horrors of past escalations. "In the '90s decade and a few years following 2000, we lived in bunkers for weeks. We don't want those days to return. The ceasefire has given us a chance to live a normal life," he said

Designate Raabita

interactive public sessions, and digital platforms. He assured that his government remains committed to listening to people's concerns and taking concrete steps to resolve them.

Meanwhile, Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC) delegation led by former IAS officer Khurshid Ahmad Ganai called on the Chief Minister at Raabita office and expressed their concern over the proposed amendments being contemplated in the Unified Building Bye Laws (UBBL). The GCC members requested CM to review the proposed UBBL amendments & urban planning policies which have been initiated by Housing & Urban Development Department just before the elected Government assumed office in October.

The Chief Minister listened to their objections and said that his Government would examine the objections and scrutinize other urban development policies before approving any such policy and said that all stakeholders shall be consulted before firming up such policies or bringing any legislation to that effect.

J&K's first budget

inherited four months ago. Now, it is the time when I start to put my stamp of this elected government on the policy, on the framework and on the way forward," he said.

"This is the point from which my assessment time starts. Therefore, I request the people interested to give me your suggestions and inputs," he said while assuring that none of them (suggestions) will go unread and unconsidered. "Those that we can begin with implementing immediately within the current framework that we have, I assure you we will."

Pertinently, the Chief Minister held pre-budget consultations with public representatives, traders, business community and others across Jammu and Kashmir.

The pre-budget consultations concluded in Kashmir on February 13 while in Jammu it concluded yesterday. The Chief Minister had stated that these consultations

were must too understand the priorities of public

Cross-Border Terrorism

He emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, and no country has the right to interfere in its internal affairs.

The MEA spokesperson said, "We have lodged a formal protest with the Turkish ambassador in New Delhi."

Private-Public

poised to witness a major influx of tourists, making it imperative to enhance preparations and develop new tourist destinations.

She stressed the need for additional quality accommodations in J&K and encouraged renowned hotel chains to expand their presence in the region.

Kachru revealed that the Radisson Group already operates several hotels in J&K, including five hotels in Kashmir and three in Jammu region and will expand its presence further in J&K.

As President of the Hotel Association of India (HAI), he pledged to advocate to other domestic and international hospitality companies to establish their presence in J&K.

Many HAI members like IHCI, Lalit, IHG, Marriot, Lemon Tree etc are committed to the development of state tourism and expect to add substantially to the inventory in different segments in the Union Territory, it was stated.

He commented that right from very beginning J&K remained an epicentre of tourism and there was a time when practically no film would be complete till a sequence of Kashmir was not included.

"The overall situation is improving and with the operation of a direct train up to Kashmir and further improvement of the National Highway, tourism is expected to set new benchmarks," he said.

"HAI will focus on assisting the UT government in positioning the key locations and push for infrastructure developments in luxury, midscale and religious circuits," he added.

Rakesh Wazir highlighted the rapid transformation of various tourist destinations around Katra, where visitor numbers increased exponentially.

He cited examples such as Shiv Khori, Nau Devian, Baba Dhansar, Bhaderwah and Patnitop etc.

He stressed the importance of further expanding tourism by promoting locations like Devi Pindian, Mathwar, Ambaran, Showa Mata, Raghunath temple, and Bawe Wali. He also proposed several initiatives to enhance tourism, including a light and sound show on Maa Vaishno Devi's history at Katra, beautification and infrastructure development at Mansar lake, with battery-operated cars for sightseeing, a museum showcasing Jammu's cultural heritage, integrated tour packages covering heritage, adventure, eco-tourism, and wellness tourism, a digital tourism promotion campaign and improved road signage, distribution of tourism brochures in hotels at Katra and Jammu, the promotion of Mata Ki Parikarma Yatra and the revival of the old traditional Vaishno Devi route, including Kol Kandoli-Jagti, Bamyal, Oli Mata Temple, and Deva Mai.

Vikas Gupta emphasized Jammu's vast tourism potential, spanning pilgrimage, leisure, adventure, and health tourism. He stressed the need to direct tourists' focus toward these opportunities.

Mudgal reaffirmed that the discussion marked just

the beginning and assured that follow-up meetings would be held soon to translate these ideas into concrete actions for the advancement of tourism in J&K.

Forest Dept to

Regarding Wular Lake conservation, the Chief Secretary instructed both the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and the Commissioner Secretary, Forests to personally visit the site. They were asked to review the status of the ongoing conservation works and devise a mechanism to accelerate their execution. He observed that Wular Lake, being Asia's largest freshwater lake, necessitates urgent and effective conservation measures and has a scope of attracting a large number of tourists.

Regarding the conservation of Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for increased manpower and furthering efforts to achieve tangible results. He pointed out that the scale of work required exceeds the current workforce, necessitating moving of additional resources on the ground for meeting the objectives set for its mitigation.

Additionally, the Chief Secretary stressed the early approval and implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) in coordination with other departments. He instructed for formation of an inter-departmental coordination panel responsible for ensuring smooth execution of the plan by aligning available funds with the envisioned schemes.

Commissioner Secretary, FE&E, Sheetal Nanda, presented an overview of the functioning of the department. She informed that besides protection and conservation of forests, the department carries out rehabilitation of degraded forests, urban area afforestation, maintenance of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries besides looking after the wetlands, pollution control and biodiversity conservation in J&K.

She also apprised of some of the major achievements of the department registered during the past year and the plans for years ahead regarding development of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), plantation of around 1.5 crore saplings, demarcation of forest land besides other works.

In his presentation, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Suresh Kumar Gupta, highlighted that the UT has a forest area of around 20,194 sq km (47.8 % of Geographical area) with a tree cover of 151.8 million trees as per Draft ToF Report, 2023.

Regarding the UT level BAP, he informed the meeting that it establishes a general framework as per the guidelines of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), on current and future policies regarding conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The department wise budget requirements have been worked out for eleven themes comprising 38 strategies involving a list of 161 activities. The overall budget by dovetailing of resources across different schemes implemented by various departments comes to Rs 187.8 crore per year upto 2030, he revealed.

Tulip Garden

businesses, including hotels, transport services, and handicraft vendors, to thrive.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15 2018000484, my Father's name and Address has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Mohd Sultan, and address as Qazipora Patushi, while as my Actual and correct Father's name and Address is Mohd Sultan kawa, and Address is Laharwalpora Bandipora. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Shabir Ahmad kawa.
S/O Mohd Sultan kawa.
R/O Laharwalpora Bandipora.

NOTICE

I ZEESHAN S/O ABDUL AHAD GILKAR resident of SHALLA KADAL, SRINAGAR want to address that on 19th of February 2025, while travelling from Habba Kadal to Karan Nagar, I lost my TVS Scooty's Front Number plate. So, in order to install a new one, I need to file a complaint in my nearest police station. Further, I want to tell the general public that, if anyone finds my front HSRP number plate bearing the number JK01AP7172, Kindly report this in the nearby police station. My Two Wheelers is Registered under JK01AP7172, with CHASSIS ID MD626CG56M3G18563. Anybody having objection in this regard may file the same before the concerned office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

ZEESHAN
CELL NO:- 7780846067
Concerned Police Station: Shaheed
Gunj Srinagar

Officials attribute the record-breaking footfall and revenue to improved infrastructure, better marketing strategies, and the growing reputation of the Tulip Garden as a must-visit destination.

"The garden's strategic location adds to its value. We are hopeful about attracting more visitors this season than last year," an official from the Department of Floriculture told KNO.

Precipitation Brings

Above 14 mm rainfall was recorded in Pahalgam and Qazigund in the last 24 hours, the data reads, adding that 9.8 mm rainfall was recorded in Kupwara during the period.

Jammu district recorded a precipitation of 27.4 mm during the period while Banihal recorded 38.9mm rainfall since last evening. Katra witnessed a precipitation of 27.7 mm during the period.

Furthermore, the weatherman has predicted another wet spell this week.

A four-day yellow alert has been issued by the local Meteorological Department from February 25 in Jammu and Kashmir divisions. With the forecast of dry weather conditions for next three days, Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at most places with isolated heavy rain and snow over both Kashmir division & Jammu division from February 25 to February 28.

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Announces the Global Insurance Excellence Awards (GIEA) with Asia Insurance Review as their Award Partner

SRINAGAR: Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, one of the leading private general insurers of India, is thrilled to announce the Global Insurance Excellence Awards (GIEA), which aims to celebrate and honour the outstanding contributions of general insurance and health insurance advisors across Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa. Asia Insurance Review (AIR), a trusted name in the industry, has been chosen to oversee and administer the prestigious Awards for 2025, adding further credibility and international expertise to the event.

The event, hosted by Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, will honour exceptional advisors from the insurance industry in India and internationally across eleven distinct award categories. The awards will be evaluated by an august panel of international insurance industry experts, namely: Ronak Shah, President, General Insurance Association of Singapore, Anusha Thavarajah, Regional CEO Asia Pacific, Allianz Asia Pacific, Alaa Al-Zoheiry, Chairman, Insurance Federation of Egypt, Antony Lee Fook Weng, Deputy Chairman, General Insurance Association of Malaysia, Mo'men Mukhtar, President, Federation of Afro-Asian Insurers & Reinsurers (FAIR), Chandana Aluthgama, Group CEO, Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation, R Balasundaram, Secretary General, Insurance Brokers Association of India

The winners will be announced later in the year and celebrated at a grand awards ceremony in India.

Recognising Excellence in Insurance Advisory
The GIEA Awards 2025 will recognise insurance advisors' exceptional dedication, passion, and hard work—the true backbone of the industry. For the GIEA awards, advisors from the general and health insurance sectors are invited to nominate themselves across various award categories, showcasing their achievements and inspiring others. These awards aim to celebrate the noble vocation of insurance, which plays a pivotal role in society by standing with citizens during their most challenging times. The GIEA Awards testify to the transformative impact of insurance advisors, who truly make a difference when it matters most.

Commenting on the launch of the GIEA Award for 2025, Tapan Singhel, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz General

Insurance, said, "Insurance advisors are the unsung heroes of the industry, standing by their customers in their direst hours of need, offering guidance, compassion, and unwavering support. Their contributions often go unnoticed, yet they are the backbone of the insurance sector, and it's time to celebrate their incredible




efforts. With the Global Insurance Excellence Awards (GIEA), we aim to raise the benchmark for recognising excellence by expanding our reach and impact on an international scale. We are delighted to partner with Asia Insurance Review as the Awards Partner for this edition, wherein they will bring in their credibility and expertise to the initiative. Their global expertise and reputation bring unmatched credibility to the GIEA Awards. Together, we look forward to honouring the exceptional contributions of advisors globally. This initiative reflects our unwavering commitment to fostering excellence, innovation, and leadership in the general insurance industry." To nominate yourself or an advisor you know for the GIEA Awards 2025, fill out the nomination form online, which is available on the website <https://www.asiainsurancereview.com/giea2025/>. The nomination period opens on 19th February 2025 and closes on 20th March 2025. Advisors can file nominations across multiple categories per the published eligibility criteria.

MADRASATUL BANAT DARUL ULOOM RAHEEMIAH 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 1st 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



Account No: **0727010100000200**

Account Title: Madrasa Tul Banat Darul Uloom Raheemiyah

Branch: JK Bank Nishat Park Bandipora Kashmir

IFSC Code: **JAKA0NIPARK**

May Allah accept your generosity and bless you abundantly.

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

Rickelton's maiden ODI hundred, middle order set up SA's big win over Afghanistan

South Africa 315 for 6 (Rickelton 103, Bavuma 58, Makram 52*, van der Dussen 52, Nabi 2-51) beat Afghanistan 208 (Rahmat 90, Rabada 3-36, Mulder 2-36, Ngidi 2-56) by 107 runs

Ryan Rickelton is showing the value of runs under the belt. He came into the Champions Trophy on the back of a solid SA20, where he was the fourth-highest scorer. Before that, he had smoked 259 in the New Year's Test against Pakistan. On Friday, it was time for him to leave his mark on the 50-over format as he piled on his maiden ODI century in his seventh game as South Africa began their Champions Trophy with a solid 107-run win over Afghanistan.

Batting first on a Karachi surface that had a nice layer of grass, South Africa rode on Rickelton's 103 followed by steady fifties from Temba Bavuma, Rassie van der Dussen and Aiden Markram to rack up 315 for 6. That meant for Afghanistan to win on Champions Trophy debut, they had to record their highest-ever successful chase.

But they never really got close. Rahmat Shah was the only bright spot as he scored a sprightly 90 off 92 balls, and was the last batter to fall. But with a second-highest score of 18, Afghanistan were never really in it. Kagiso Rabada picked up three wickets, while Lungi Ngidi and Wiaan Mulder got two each as Afghanistan were bundled out for 208 in 43.3 overs.

It was a largely flawless innings from Rick-



elton from start to finish. He never looked rushed; not when Tony de Zorzi fell early or when Bavuma took his time to get going. Rickelton struck boundaries whenever he got a chance. When he didn't, he quietly rotated

the strike. He started with a lovely punch past mid-off third ball before going back-to-back against Fazalhaq Farooqi in the fifth over, once with a fierce pull through midwicket and then a cut past point.

De Zorzi also struck two fours but fell to a rather nonchalant delivery from Mohammad Nabi. Introduced in the attack in the sixth over, Nabi's first ball was a drag-down on off stump. De Zorzi could have walloped that anywhere; instead, he flopped it straight to mid-on.

Bavuma walked in at No. 3 and took his time to settle in. His first 19 balls yielded only seven runs before he got a couple of fours away to get into the groove. Rickelton, meanwhile, picked Azmatullah Omarzai for two delightful fours to raise his fifty off just 48 balls.

South Africa ticked along to 83 for 1 after 15 overs, but an important passage of play was about to come: South Africa batters vs Afghanistan's spinners. That's where Rickelton really showed his wares. With both him and Rashid Khan part of MI Cape Town in the SA20, he would have faced a lot of Rashid in the nets, and that experience showed.

Between overs 11 and 20, South Africa scored 58 runs without taking much of a risk. Bavuma, too, got to his fifty, only his second away from home, as he continued his rich form. He had a solid 129-run stand for the second wicket with Rickelton, before holing out to deep midwicket as Nabi picked his second wicket.

By that time, Rickelton had moved into his 90s, and had hardly broken a sweat in doing so. Afghanistan hardly helped themselves in the field, too. There were innumerable misfields, and a run-out chance was fluffed, while Noor Ahmad was particularly off-colour. He was either too short, or too full, and often tried to dart the ball in and lost his shape.

South Africa ticked along to 83 for 1 after 15 overs, but an important passage of play was about to come: South Africa batters vs Afghanistan's spinners. That's where Rickelton really showed his wares. With both him and Rashid Khan part of MI Cape Town in the SA20, he would have faced a lot of Rashid in the nets, and that experience showed.

Pir Panjal Volleyball Tournament Concludes with Thrilling Boys' Final

The Pir Panjal Volleyball Tournament reached an electrifying conclusion as Team Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh volleyball emerged victorious in a gripping final against Habib Club B Surankote. The tournament, which commenced on February 15, witnessed intense competition, with teams displaying remarkable skill and determination.

The grand finale was a spectacle of talent, teamwork, and resilience, with both teams showcasing exceptional performances. The atmosphere was electric, with an enthusiastic crowd cheering for their favorite players. Despite a strong fight from Habib Club B Surankote, Team Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Volleyball Club boys held their ground and secured the championship title with a stellar display of skill and perseverance.

The tournament concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where the Champion Team, Runners-up, Best Player, and other outstanding performers were honoured for their contributions to the game.

As a part of the Pir Panjal Winter Festival, the volleyball tournament exemplified the spirit of youth and the Indian Army, bringing together passion, discipline, and sportsmanship on a single platform. The festival continues to reinforce the unifying power of sports, fostering teamwork, resilience, and camaraderie among young athletes.



Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

