

# The Kashmir Talk

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## Coming generations will never forget their sacrifice: PM Modi on Pulwama Attack Anniversary

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
NEW DELHI:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday led the nation in paying tributes to the CRPF personnel who lost their lives in a terror attack on their convoy in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama on this day in 2019.

"Homage to the courageous heroes we lost in Pulwama in 2019. The coming generations will never forget their sacrifice and their unwavering dedication to the nation," PM Modi wrote in a post on X.

Union Minister Amit Shah also paid a heartfelt tribute to the soldiers who were martyred in the 'cowardly terrorist attack in Pulwama'.

Taking this to social



media platform X, HM Shah wrote in a post (in Hindi), "On behalf of the grateful nation, I pay my heartfelt tribute to the soldiers who were martyred in the cowardly terrorist attack in Pulwama on this day in the year 2019. Terrorism is the biggest enemy of the entire human race and

the whole world has united against it. Be it a surgical strike or an air strike, the Modi government is determined to completely destroy the terrorists by running a campaign with a 'zero tolerance' policy against them." Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also paid homage to the brave

CRPF personnel who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

"On this day in 2019, India lost our brave CRPF personnel in a gruesome terrorist attack in Pulwama. Their sacrifice for the nation will never be forgotten. I pay homage to them and offer unwavering support to their families. India stands united in honouring their valor and we remain resolute in our fight against terrorism," the Defence Minister wrote in a post on X.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha also paid tributes to 40 CRPF troopers martyred in Pulwama terror attack

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## Dr Jitendra addresses Ahmedabad 'Intellectuals Meet' on Budget, highlights underlying futuristic vision



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
AHMEDABAD:

Addressing the "Intellectuals Meet' on Budget 2025-26 organised here today by the State BJP, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the underlying futuristic vision of the Budget which reflects the intent and conviction of the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Describing it as a roadmap for a technologically advanced and self-reliant nation, the Minister underscored its role in shaping the country's future. He made these remarks while addressing a press conference

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## Uplifting marginalized communities is our duty: CM Omar Abdullah

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
JAMMU:

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today emphasized that uplifting marginalized communities like Gujjar-Bakerwal is not an act of favour but a fundamental duty of his government.

The Chief Minister said that despite the limitations in ministerial appointments after last year's elections, he ensured representation for the Gujjar community by appointing Javed Ahmed



Rana as a minister in his cabinet. Minister Javed

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## Ski resort of Gulmarg, now a tobacco free zone in Kashmir

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
SRINAGAR:

In view of the forthcoming Khelo India Winter games, the authorities have declared the ski resort of Gulmarg and the tourist spot of Tangmarg as "Tobacco Free Zone and Smoke Free Tourist Areas" in north Kashmir's Baramulla

district, an official said.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla has issued an order in this regard stating that "in the interest of public health/ Khelo India at Gulmarg 2025 and with a view to keep entire Gulmarg and Tangmarg clean during the event, the entire Gulmarg and Tangmarg area is

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## Change of Guard Ceremony now in new format, Prez Murmu attends Inaugural Show

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
NEW DELHI:

The change of guard ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan will now be held in a new format, featuring an elaborate visual and musical performance against the backdrop of the presidential palace, an official statement said on Sunday.

The new format includes military drills by troops and horses of the President's Bodyguard, along with personnel from the Ceremonial Guard Battalion and the Ceremonial Military Brass Band. The display will be spread over a larger area, the statement added.

President Droupadi Murmu witnessed the inaugural ceremony in its new format on Sunday at



the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan, according to the statement issued by her office. The ceremony will be open to a larger number of visitors from February 22, the statement said.

Change of guard, a time-honoured military tradition, was introduced as a ceremonial event in 2007 at Rashtrapati Bhavan allowing a fresh

group of the President's Bodyguard to take charge.

In 2012 the ceremony was made a public event giving citizens an opportunity to attend the event, officials said.

Previously held between Jaipur Column and gate number 1, it has now been shifted to the forecourt, expanding

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## Union Minister Virender Kumar meets J&K LG; distributes PPE Kits, Ayushman cards to SSWs

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
JAMMU:

"Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virender Kumar on Friday met the Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha here," officials said. The minister was in Jammu to distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits and Ayushman health cards to Sewer

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## Over 29,500 registered drones in India: Official Data

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
NEW DELHI:

More than 29,500 drones are registered in India, with the national capital having the maximum number at 4,882, according to official data.

After the national capital, the highest numbers of registered drones are in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra at 4,588 and 4,132, respectively. The data from the



Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) updated till

January 29 showed that there were 29,501 registered drones.

Other states that have a high number of registered drones include Haryana (3,689), Karnataka (2,516), Telangana (1,928), Gujarat (1,338) and Kerala (1,318), as per the data shared by the civil aviation ministry with the Rajya Sabha this week.

So far, the regulator has issued 96 Type Certificates to different

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CONTD FROM PAGE 1...

## Over 29,500...

Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) models or drones, and out of them, 65 models are for agriculture purpose.

Each registered drone is issued a Unique Identification Number (UIN) from the Digital Sky Platform, which is operated by the DGCA. DGCA-authorized Remote Pilot Training Organisations (RPTOs) have issued 22,466 Remote Pilot Certificates (RPCs).

Sharing the data as part of a written reply, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol also said the central government has taken various steps to increase the usage of drone technology across various sectors. Among other measures, the ministry amended norms in August last year whereby the requirement of passport for the registration and de-registration/transfer of a drone was scrapped.

Since then, voter ID, ration card or driving licence can be used for registration and de-registration or transfer of drones. There is a drone airspace map, which is divided into three zones — green, yellow and red.

There is no need for prior permission to operate drones in the green zone while the Air Traffic Control (ATC) concerned has to approve operations of drones in the yellow zone.

For flying drones in the red zone, permission has to be granted by the central government.

## Ski resort of...

declared "Tabacco free Zone/ Smoke Free Tourist areas". As such the smoking and spitting of tobacco in the entire Gulmarg and Tangmarg areas are prohibited and is a punishable offence, the order reads.

It has also directed the senior Superintendent of Police, Baramulla Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA), Sub Divisional Magistrate Gulmarg and chief Medical Officer along with local administration to ensure strict implementation.

The Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025 are scheduled to take place from January 23 to February 25, 2025 in the famous ski resort of Gulmarg.

"Whereas spitting of tobacco, etc. leads to the spread of swine flu, tuberculosis and pneumonia and gastrointestinal diseases", the order further reads and states, "TB bacilli can survive in spit for an entire day, which causes health problems to the public or nuisance to the people in general".

"Whereas section 270 of the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) stipulates that a person is guilty of a public nuisance who does any act or is guilty of an illegal omission which causes any common injury, danger or annoyance to the public or to the people in general who dwell or occupy property in the vicinity, or which must necessarily cause injury, obstruction, danger or annoyance to persons who may have occasion to use a public right", the order further reads.

## Union Minister Virender...

and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) under the flagship scheme of National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE).

"The Union Minister called on Sinha at Raj Bhavan and discussed welfare measures being taken by the government with an objective to provide dignity to Safai Karamcharis and to empower them socially and economically," the officials said.

During the visit, the Minister also visited the outreach and drop-in centre (ODIC), run by the NGO, 'J&K Society for the Promotion of Youth and Masses' at Jammu, under the Scheme of National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR).

The event witnessed the reaffirmation of the government's commitment to 'Vanchiton Ko Variyata', ensuring that those who have been historically undeserved or overlooked are given the attention and support they deserve.

"This dedication to prioritising the marginalised reflects the government's broader vision of 'Viksit Bharat', where every individual has the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from India's development journey," Mr. Kumar said.

Earlier, the minister distributed Personal PPE kits and Ayushman health cards to SSWs at a separate function, highlighting that the NAMASTE scheme is to ensure safety and dignity of sanitation workers in urban India and enhancing their occupational safety through capacity building and improved access to PPE Kits, safety devices and machines.

PPE kits consist of various protective garments and accessories designed to shield individuals from potential health hazards or infections. These kits typically

include items such as masks, gloves, goggles, face shields, gowns, and shoe covers.

They are crucial for ensuring the safety of frontline workers, especially those who are exposed to hazardous environments or infectious diseases, such as sewer and septic tank workers, the minister said.

He said the Ayushman health card is a form of identification issued under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), a government-sponsored health insurance scheme in India.

It provides beneficiaries with access to cashless and paperless healthcare services at empanelled hospitals, he said, adding the card contains essential information about the beneficiary, including their unique identification number and details of covered healthcare services.

"Through collaborative efforts and concerted initiatives, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment remains steadfast in its mission to leave no one behind and build a more equitable and empowered society," the minister said.

## Coming generations...

this day in 2019.

In his tribute, Amit Shah said the Narendra Modi government is determined to completely destroy terrorists by carrying out a campaign with a "zero-tolerance" policy against them.

"On behalf of a grateful nation, I pay my heartfelt tribute to the soldiers who were martyred in the cowardly terror attack in Pulwama on this day in 2019. Terrorism is the biggest enemy of the entire humanity and the whole world has united against it. Be it through a surgical strike or an airstrike, the Modi government is determined to completely destroy terrorists by carrying out a campaign with a 'zero-tolerance' policy against them," Shah said on X post.

J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha paid tribute to the 40 CRPF troopers killed by a lone suicide bomber on February 14, 2019.

Sinha said in his X post, "Heartfelt tribute to the courageous martyrs of the heinous Pulwama attack of 2019. Their supreme sacrifice in the service of the motherland will forever be remembered. The courage & selfless commitment of our gallant heroes will continue to inspire generations".

Senior officials of the CRPF paid homage to soldiers at Lethpora Pulwama.

A CRPF spokesman said a solemn ceremony was organised at Lethpora to pay homage & respect to the martyrs.

"Officers from all forces & civil administration attended the solemn ceremony," he said.

Army's Srinagar based Chinara Corps honoured the unwavering spirit of the CRPF on the Pulwama attack anniversary.

"Chinara Warriors pay obeisance to the CRPF Bravehearts, who laid down their lives in the line of duty during the Pulwama attack. Their sacrifice will forever be etched in our hearts. Saluting the unyielding spirit of CRPF, who continue to brave the toughest challenges to safeguard our Nation and ensure peace and development in Kashmir," Army said in a post on X.

The BJP J&K unit also paid tribute to the brave 40 CRPF Jawans on Friday. They paid floral tributes to CRPF men at the site of the blast.

February 14, 2025 marks five years of the deadly Pulwama terror attack that claimed the lives of 40 CRPF personnel on duty.

In 2019, a suicide bomber targeted a convoy carrying soldiers on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

The attack claimed the lives of 40 soldiers, and more than 35 were injured, making it one of the most gruesome terror attacks in history. This tragic event shook the nation and serves as a reminder of the supreme sacrifices made by soldiers.

## Uplifting marginalized...

Ahmed Rana, who also addressed the event, was in attendance. Minister Satish Sharma, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Patron Chief GDCT Abdul Hamid Choudhary and Chairman GDCT Arshid Ali Choudhary also spoke at the event.

"After the election, we had to think about the cabinet ministers. However, there was very little scope. I requested Mr. Javed Rana to join the cabinet. Not only would he serve Jammu and Kashmir, but he will also be responsible for representing the community, being your voice, and addressing all your issues," the Chief Minister stated at a felicitation ceremony held by Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust in his honor following his election as Chief Minister of J&K.

Omar Abdullah further stated that by inducting Javed Rana into the cabinet, he aimed to ensure that the Gujjar community's concerns were heard and addressed within the government.

On the demand for a Tribal University, the Chief Minister expressed confidence that with the dedication of the trust and its people, this vision would become a reality soon.

"You should prepare a project. You should prepare a plan. I will sit with your trust when your plan is ready we will definitely do our part," he assured. Reflecting on his previous visit to Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (GDCT) as Chief Minister, he acknowledged the changes over time—some positive, some challenging.

"After a long time, I have again had the opportunity to attend a function of Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust. If my recollection is correct, perhaps when I came here for the last time, I was a Chief Minister. A lot has changed since then" he said.

Paying tribute to Dr. Masood A. Choudhary, the visionary founder of GDCT, the Chief Minister praised his legacy and contributions.

"But unfortunately, the person who planted this seed, whose dream was Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust, who laid its foundation, is no longer with us. If I begin my speech without remembering Dr. Masood A. Choudhary, it would be an injustice," he remarked.

The Chief Minister also expressed his emotional connection to the trust, recalling the close relationship his grandmother, Madr-e-Meharban, had with it.

"I want this trust to grow stronger. My grandmother had a deep bond with it. Though she is no longer with us, her name is etched here. You have honored her memory by dedicating a library in her name. I consider it my responsibility to ensure that wherever possible, the government supports this trust in fulfilling its mission," he said.

Assuring continued government support, Omar Abdullah pledged: "I assure you that on my behalf, on behalf of all ministers, advisor, and the government—wherever you need assistance, you will always find us standing with you."

Later, Chief Minister also visited the library block established by GDCT for research on the Gujjar-Bakkerwal community.

## Dr Jitendra addresses ...

at the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Dr. Jitendra Singh commended the Budget's groundbreaking initiatives, particularly its focus on technological innovation and energy independence. He highlighted the historic decision to allow private sector participation in the nuclear industry, calling it a game-changer for India's energy sector. He noted that these measures would not only help achieve energy self-sufficiency but also propel India toward global leadership in advanced nuclear technology by 2047. Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized the government's commitment to establishing nuclear power as a cornerstone of India's energy strategy. The introduction of the "Nuclear Energy Mission for Viksit Bharat" outlines a comprehensive plan to enhance domestic nuclear capabilities, foster private sector participation, and deploy advanced nuclear technologies. A significant allocation of RS 20,000 crore has been earmarked for research and development in Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), with a target to operationalize at least five indigenously designed SMRs by 2033. This initiative aligns with India's ambitious goal of achieving a 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047, a critical step toward reducing carbon emissions and ensuring sustainable energy.

Reflecting on the success of opening the space sector to private players, Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed confidence that similar reforms in the nuclear sector will accelerate growth and innovation. He noted that for decades, the nuclear industry operated under stringent regulations, but recent policy shifts aim to foster greater openness and collaboration, aligning with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The Intellectual meet, organized by the BJP State Unit of Gujarat at the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry headquarters, provided a platform to deliberate on the far-reaching implications of the Union Budget 2025-26.

## Change of Guard...

the capacity to over a thousand spectators, they said.

Conducted weekly, this ceremony marks formal handover of duties between the outgoing and incoming guards.

The ceremony attended by Murmu on Sunday showcased synchronised movements by the Ceremonial Battalion, precision drills by the President's Bodyguard (PBG) and performance by the Ceremonial Band, reflecting the discipline, heritage, and pride of the Indian armed forces.

Raised in 1773, the President's Bodyguard (PBG) is the senior-most regiment of the Indian Army, tasked with ceremonial duties for the president. PBG personnel are skilled horsemen, tank operators, and paratroopers.

# CM Omar holds pre-budget consultation with public representatives from Rajouri, Poonch



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

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

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

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

through their elected representatives. "When we undertake new projects, it is our duty and responsibility to ensure that ongoing projects are completed with as much priority as new ones. Every project belongs to the people, and all ongoing works need to be completed on time," the Chief Minister said.

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

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

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

vital in ensuring effective administration.

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

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

On the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, who represents the Nowshera assembly segment, highlighted several key issues in his constituency, including issue of shortage of doctors and paramedical staff, drinking water supply challenges, mobile network issues, bridges, road upgrades, and the four-laning of the Rajouri-Poonch Road beyond Akhnoor. He also emphasized the need for tourism development in the region. Similarly, Minister Javed Ahmad Rana, representing the Mendhar assembly segment, raised concerns related to drinking water supply, identification of new water sources, electricity, tourism development, employment and education.

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

# Kupwara Police Organizes Drug Awareness Program at Police Station Sogam



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KUPWARA:

In a continued effort to combat the growing menace of drug abuse, Police Station Sogam, today conducted a Drug Awareness Program in line with the calendar issued by District Police Headquarters, Kupwara.

The event was attended by local Imams of Masjids and respected community members, who play a crucial role in shaping public awareness and guiding the youth.

During his speech, Insp Imtiyaz Ahmad SHO PS Sogam stressed on the critical role of the community in curbing this menace and urged the Imams of the mosques to address the harmful effects of drug abuse in their Friday sermons, emphasizing its devastating impact on individuals, families, and society.

Furthermore, respected community members were encouraged to share specific information regarding drug abuse in their localities, ensuring timely intervention and action by law enforcement agencies. The participants acknowledged the seriousness of the issue and assured their full support and commitment in working alongside the police to curb drug-related activities in the region.

Kupwara Police is committed to eradicating the drug menace and will take strict action against those involved in drug trafficking and peddling.

# Safer Internet Day: DC Jammu urges responsible use of internet technologies



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

District headquarters Jammu hosted a programme today to commemorate Safer Internet Day. The event was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya and saw participation from various district officers and government officials.

District Informatics Centre Jammu, under the guidance of Director NIC and District Informatics Officer Sanjeev Kapoor, organised the event. In his address, Deputy Commissioner Vaishya emphasised the importance of judicious and mindful use of the internet. He urged officials to exercise caution when sharing official documents and communications through various channels. He also highlighted the need to remain vigilant against fake calls and scams, such as impersonation and digital fraud. Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the necessity of protecting children from unfettered internet use to prevent potential harm or abuse. The District Informatics Officer delivered a detailed presentation on the significance of Safer Internet Day. He provided insights into safeguarding personal identity and financial security online, offering daily tips for safe internet usage. He also educated attendees on identifying fake websites and advised against entering personal or banking information on such platforms.

The event featured discussions on various aspects of digital safety, including phishing, vishing and maintaining digital hygiene. These topics were addressed as part of the broader awareness activities aimed at promoting responsible internet use. Additional Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar, ACR Dr. Rajesh Kumar, ACG Vikas Dhar Bagati, Dy DEO Rajeshwar Kumar besides other district officers, along with their staff, were present on the occasion.

# 2 day District-Level Seminar cum Awareness Programme on Beekeeping concludes at Kishtwar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KISHTWAR:

The two-day District-Level Seminar cum Awareness Programme on Beekeeping concluded today here in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

More than 200 farmers, along with field officers and officials, participated in the seminar, gaining valuable insights into the latest advancements in beekeeping. To

further support the farming community, essential Organic Inputs were distributed among the participants. A series of lectures were delivered by the officers and officials from Agriculture and Allied Departments, besides Krishi Udyamis from different panchayats and progressive beekeepers of the district.

The sessions focused on modern apiculture techniques, sustainable beekeeping practices, and commer-

cial-scale honey production. Additionally, field functionaries from Agriculture and Allied Departments played a crucial role in ensuring the event's success. Officials encouraged farmers to adopt modern techniques in apiculture to enhance production levels and contribute to the sector's commercial success.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks, emphasizing the need for greater participation from the farming community to harness the full potential of beekeeping in the district. The concluding event was presided over by the Chief Agriculture Officer Amjad Hussain Malik. Among others present were DSHO, Dr. Jameel Nasir, District Manager JKEDI, Jatinder Singh Saffron Development Officer, District Agriculture Officer (DAO) and other Officers.

# ADC reviews Mahashivratri preparedness in Jammu

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KISHTWAR:

In preparation for the upcoming Mahashivratri Festival, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Anshu Jamwal convened a comprehensive meeting to assess and enhance the district's readiness for the celebrations. The festival's highlights include a procession of 'Jhankis' (tableaux) scheduled for February 25, commencing from the historic Ranbireswar Temple. Additionally, the Peer Kho Temple

will host the Mahashivratri Mela from February 25 to 28, offering devotees a series of spiritual and cultural events. The ADC emphasised the importance of inter-departmental coordination to ensure the festival's smooth execution. "The festival is an opportunity to showcase our commitment to public service and cultural heritage," she stated. Discussions encompassed various aspects of the festival preparations, such as traffic management, security arrangements, sanitation and the provision of essential services to

accommodate the influx of devotees. The ADC directed the departments to implement best practices and to remain vigilant to address any challenges promptly.

The meeting saw participation from officers, including Assistant Commissioner General Vikas Dhar Bagati, Executive Engineers Jal Shakti Rajesh Kumar and Rashpal Singh, SP North Vivek Shekhar, Dy.SP Traffic Anubhuti, along with other district officers and representatives from religious organisations and temple authorities.

## Komal Singh Manhas Receives 'Bharat Ke Anmol' National Award for Second Time

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
HYDERABAD :

Komal Singh Manhas, Bureau Chief of News18 India Network 18 Broadcast Ltd Jammu, has been honoured with the prestigious "Bharat Ke Anmol" National Award for the second time. She received the award at the third edition of Bharat Ke Anmol, held at the Taj Deccan on National Women's Day.

The event, dedicated to women, recognised unsung women achievers from diverse fields. Actress-politician Kusboo Sundar presented the awards, with dignitaries



like Mr. Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Hon'ble Speaker, and Ms. Kalvakuntla Kavitha MLC, founder-chairperson of Jagruthi Foundation and Ms. Nerella Sharada, chairperson, Telangana State Women's Commission. Chairman of

International Human Rights Association. Komal Singh Manhas had previously received the award at the 1st Session of Bharat Ke Anmol Rattan in Delhi in 2023, becoming the first woman journalist from Jammu and Kashmir to receive the 'Bharat Ke Anmol' Award. This recognition is a testament to her exceptional work in the field of journalism. What's more, Komal was also awarded the prestigious J&K UT state Award this year on Republic Day. She's known in her circle as an "encounter specialist journalist," and her work has been recognized nationally.

## Tony leads protest against Wildlife Authorities over Nallah construction in Gharana

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
RAJOURI:

The residents of Gharana, Partapkot, and Gulabgarh staged a strong protest today against the Wildlife Department over the construction of a deep drain (Nallah) in the area, which they claim is severely affecting their agricultural land. The protest was organized under the leadership of Taranjit Singh Tony, senior Congress leader and DDC Suchetgarh.

Speaking to media persons, the senior Congress leader stated that the issue had previously been raised with the Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, who had directed the construction of a small ditch to facilitate the free flow of wastewater. However, the Wildlife Department is now constructing a much larger drain, which is

obstructing the natural flow of water. This obstruction is leading to water accumulation in fields, causing severe damage to crops and posing a serious threat to the livelihood of local farmers, he said.

Tony highlighted that the problem is further aggravated due to a Baandh (embankment) created by Pakistan's Border Action Team, which is blocking the smooth discharge of water. Despite multiple representations to the authorities, no concrete action has been taken to address the concerns of the farmers.

"If the construction continues as planned, it will devastate the farmers who rely entirely on agriculture for their survival. We urge the concerned department to either divert the Naala towards the Aik Naala, which is adjacent to the site, or find an alternative solution that does not impact our irrigation land," Tony

asserted.

Following the protest, Tony submitted a memorandum of demands to the SDM RS Pura through Tehsildar Chander Shekhar, as the SDM was not present at the time. He later spoke to the SDM and apprised her of the gravity of the situation. The SDM assured that the matter would be addressed on priority and that she, along with the Tehsildar, has agreed to personally visit the site to assess the issue.

The protest saw participation from a large number of residents, including Sarwan Choudhary and people from Basti Surai, Kapoorpur, Gharana, and Gharani.

He also criticized the Wildlife Department for neglecting the hardships faced by the people of Gharana due to migratory birds destroying the fields of local farmers, without providing any compensation.

## Pulwama incident strengthened our resolve for zero tolerance towards terrorism: Arun Gupta

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
JAMMU:

Arun Gupta, Spokesperson, J&K BJP, stated that the tragic Pulwama incident in 2019, strengthened our resolve for zero tolerance towards terror related activities. He said that February 14, 2019, was black day in Indian history when 40 brave CRPF personnel were martyred at Pulwama on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

Arun Gupta, Spokesperson, J&K BJP, accompanied by Balbir Ram Rattan, Spokesperson, and Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge was addressing a Press Conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

"India has strongly carried out the zero-tolerance policy by undertaking surgical strikes, air strike along with other counter measures to send a stern message to the neighbouring country that India is capable of giving befitting reply to any attempt posing threat to the security forces and the civilians.", said Arun Gupta.

He said that after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, much progress



has been achieved in the security and peace measures in J&K. He said that Pakistan has been consistently trying desperately to destabilize peace in Jammu and Kashmir through terrorism.

Arun Gupta said that India has achieved peace through stringent measures and will do whatever is required to be done to keep it stable, as and when such need arises.

He laid stress on the streamlined strengthening of the multi-faceted security grid by India covering coastal security, narcotics, cyber-crime, or economic security.

"India has to achieve Viksit Bharat

by 2047, and a multi-faceted security strengthening will play a very significant role in stabilizing the economy and ensuring constant growth in the country. To achieve this, the security forces are performing their role very effectively, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the effective measures taken by the Union Home Minister and Defence Minister of India.", said Arun Gupta.

Arun Gupta also stressed that India is prepared for any eventuality and sacrifice of our brave martyrs will not go in vain, adding that the nation is indebted to them.

## Indian Army conducts awareness lecture on National Pulses Day

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
RAJOURI:

In a meaningful initiative to educate and engage the local community, the Indian Army organized a lecture on National Pulses Day at Government Middle School, Moriyian. The event aimed at spreading awareness about the significance of pulses in daily diets, encouraging local farmers to increase pulse cultivation, and promoting research and development in pulse production.

National Pulses Day, observed annually in India since 2016, highlights the importance of pulses as a key source of nutrition and food security. Recognizing this occasion, the Indian Army took the opportunity to interact with students, farmers, and local residents, fostering awareness about the nutritional, environmental, and economic benefits of pulse farming. During the session, experts emphasized how pulses are rich in protein, improve soil fertility, and require less water for cultivation, making them a sustainable crop option. The discussion also covered various government schemes and incentives available for farmers to boost pulse production. Special attention was given to women's participation in agriculture, encouraging them to take an active role in farming practices and self-sufficiency.

The interactive nature of the event encouraged local farmers and women to engage in open dialogues, sharing their insights and concerns regarding pulse cultivation. Their enthusiasm was warmly reciprocated by the Army representatives, who assured them of continued support in promoting agricultural best practices. The session also highlighted how increased pulse farming can benefit not just individual households but also contribute to food security and economic growth in the region.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Mukhtiar Ahmad, who expressed gratitude to the Indian Army for its efforts in educating the local population. He acknowledged the Army's continued role in fostering community development and harmony. A group photograph was taken to mark the occasion, capturing the spirit of learning and collaboration.

By organizing such initiatives, the Indian Army not only strengthens its bond with civilians but also empowers them with knowledge and resources.

## Chandel Predicts BJP's Victory in Delhi, Foresees Dalit or Sikh Chief Minister

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
RAJOURI:

Renowned Mata Kali devotee and political predictor, Guru Ji Raju Chandel, has once again made an accurate prediction regarding the Delhi Assembly elections, forecasting a BJP victory with 40 to 50 seats. His prediction, made during the Gupt Navratri Sadhna at Kalighat, Kolkata, has sparked significant discussion in political circles.

On February 1, 2025, during the first Gupt Navratri, Chandel reiterated his forecast, stating that the next Chief Minister of Delhi could be either from the Dalit or Sikh community, while the Deputy Chief Minister may belong to the Purvanchal or Jat community. He believes that such a move by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would further consolidate its support base, particularly among Sikh and Dalit voters, ahead of the crucial Punjab elections.

Highlighting the significance of Dalit representation, Chandel emphasized that despite making up 30% of Delhi's population, the Dalit community has never had a Dalit Chief Minister. He accused the Congress Party of ignoring Dalits for the last 70 years and disrespecting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, stating that it is time for BJP to honor the Dalit community by electing a Dalit CM. He further asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) have always been committed to uplifting Dalits, backward communities, and marginalized sections. He dismissed rumors about other potential candidates, stating that BJP does not follow nepotism or dynastic politics but instead focuses on empowering new and deserving leaders. Chandel expressed confidence that BJP's leadership, guided by PM Modi's vision, will prioritize equitable representation and may elect a Dalit or Sikh face as Delhi's Chief Minister. He believes this decision will align with BJP's ideology of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, ensuring inclusive growth and political empowerment for all communities.

## Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

# Poonch admin trains Master Volunteers to tackle substance abuse at grassroots level

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
POONCH:

A comprehensive training program for Master Volunteers and resource persons under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was conducted today here. This initiative aims to strengthen the district's efforts in combating substance abuse and promoting a drug-free society.

The event, held in the Auditorium Hall of the Government Degree College, was hosted in collaboration with the JKSLCA, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, and the District Administration Poonch.

Under the overall guidance of Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, and the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Wakeel Ahmed Bhat, the



program focused on equipping volunteers with essential knowledge and skills. Kimi Parihar from JKSLCA briefed the partic-

ipants on strategies and interventions to tackle substance abuse at the grassroots level. She emphasized the role of

Master Volunteers as key agents in spreading awareness, identifying vulnerable individuals, and mobilizing community support for de-addiction efforts. The training saw enthusiastic participation, empowering volunteers to engage effectively with the community.

The training program featured four comprehensive sessions, including: Information on Drugs, Drug Use and Its Consequences, District-Level Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, Intervention Spectrum in Drug Treatment and Prevention.

This initiative marks another milestone in Poonch's commitment to building a drug-free and healthier society. By training dedicated volunteers, the district aims to foster a supportive environment for those struggling with substance abuse.

# PM Vishwakarma awareness prog organized at B'la



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
SRINAGAR:

The PM Vishwakarma awareness program was today organized by the Branch MSME DFO Srinagar in collaboration with the District Industries Centre (DIC) Baramulla to create awareness about the Scheme and ensure greater enrolment in fifteen specific trades. The trades included Pottery, Basket making, Boat making, Toy making, Sculpting and other artisanal crafts that have seen fewer registrations.

The program was inaugurated by General Manager DIC Baramulla, Nighat Alam in presence of Assistant Director Branch MSME DFO Srinagar, Saheel Alaqband and was attended by a wide range of artisans and stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, Nighat Alam urged participants to spread information about the PM Vishwakarma Scheme with other eligible persons.

Alaqband in his address emphasized officials to reach out to beneficiaries of underrepresented trades. He also urged participants to share awareness about the scheme among individuals of specific trades & encourage them to register and avail the benefits.

# Labour and Employment Department Conducts Awareness and Registration Camp at Gool



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
RAMBAN:

In line with the directives of the Deputy Chief Minister during his visit to Sana Panchayat, the Labour Department, under the leadership of Assistant Labour Commissioner Ramban, Amit Kumar, organized an awareness and registration camp at GHSS Gool. The camp covered labourers from Panchayats Gool A, Gool B, Gool Jaman, Gool C, Dedha and Kalimasta, with around 150 workers participating.

To streamline the registration process on the JKBOCWWB portal,

the Labour Department is working closely with Common Service Centres (CSCs) across the district. During the camp, the ALC briefed workers on key labour laws, including the Payment of Wages Act, Workmen Compensation Act, Child Labour Act, Maternity Benefit Act, Contract Labour Act, and Payment of Gratuity Act. He also highlighted the welfare schemes of the J&K Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOCWWB).

The workers were encouraged to register on the JK Samadhan App, a dedicated grievance redressal portal, and spread awareness about PM-

Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, being implemented by JPDCU under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary. A helpline number (9419192398) was shared for further assistance.

The ALC also informed the workers about E-Shram, Mission Youth schemes like Mumkin and Tejaswini, the ESI scheme, and the Mission YUVA Survey.

During the camp, 15 on-the-spot registrations were done on the JK Samadhan App, facilitated by CSC VLE deputied by District Manager CSC, Nawaz.

Additionally, 20 labour card renewals and 7 new registrations were approved on the spot, with new labour cards distributed.

Information brochures on various Labour, Employment, and Industries Department schemes were also distributed.

Labour Inspector and Tanveer DEO elaborated on JKBOCWWB schemes and on-spot grievance redressal was carried out, addressing worker queries.

# World Unani Day 2025: AYUSH hosts community awareness event at Kishtwar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
KISHTWAR:

The Department of AYUSH observed World Unani Day 2025 in Kishtwar District great enthusiasm and community participation by organising an impressive awareness event.

This day is observed annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of the eminent Unani physician, educator, and freedom fighter Hakim Ajmal Khan and to honor India's ancient healthcare traditions.

The event was organised under the directions and guidance of the Director of AYUSH J&K, Dr. Nuzhat Bashir and Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan. Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal was the Chief Guest.

The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Vikram Singh Jamwal, Nodal Officer AYUSH.

In his address, the Additional Deputy Commissioner emphasised the role of Unani medicine in modern healthcare and encouraged participants to incorporate Unani principles into their daily lives. He highlighted the significance of Unani as an ancient science introduced to India centuries ago, which has now gained global recognition. He also stressed the importance of disease prevention through Unani, which focuses on addressing root causes and promoting a holistic approach to health and well-being.

The District Nodal Officer AYUSH elaborated on the contribution of AYUSH staff in promoting preventive healthcare, particularly in strengthening immunity and managing lifestyle diseases within the community.

# DC B'pora visits Hajin Hospital to assess Healthcare Services

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
GANDERBAL:

In an effort to ensure the delivery of quality healthcare services to the public, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Friday visited Hajin Hospital to assess the facilities, patient care, and overall management.

During the visit, M.A.Qadri vari-

ous sections of hospital besides interacted with patients to gather feedback on the quality of patient care services, availability of medicines, and other facilities.

The DC directed the staff to ensure quality patient care services and punctuality besides performing their duties with added zeal to serve the public effectively. Speaking to the media, DC M.A. Qadri also

assured the public that a thorough and impartial investigation would be conducted into the recent Markundal incident, where a pregnant woman died after childbirth.

He assured that if any negligence or lapse is found in the case, strict action would be taken. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by SDM sumbal and other concerned.

## Dir Information reviews performance, functioning of department

**Emphasis on strengthening media coordination, improving public engagement through digital platforms**



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
JAMMU:

Director Information J&K, Nitish Rajora, emphasized enhanced public outreach, efficient communication strategies, timely dissemination of government initiatives as well as strengthening media coordination and improving public engagement through digital platforms. The Director made these remarks while chairing a meeting to review the performance and functioning of the Department of

Information and Public Relations at Media Complex here today. Joint Director Information (Hq-rs), Viveik Puri; Joint Director Information Jammu, Atul Gupta; Joint Director Information Kas-hmir, Shahnawaz Bhuk-hari; Deputy Director Information (PR) Deepak Dubey; Deputy Director Information (Central) Sunil Kumar; Deputy Director PR Kashmir Ahsan Ul Haq Chisti; Deputy Director PR Jammu Ankush Hans; Cultural Officers, Field Publicity Officers, Information Officers and

other concerned officers attended the meeting, either in person or through video conferencing. During the meeting, the Director underscored the importance of proactive communication for the public good.

He urged the officers to adopt innovative approaches to highlight developmental programs, welfare schemes and policy decisions of the government.

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

While reviewing manpower position and other issues of the department, he called upon the officers to speed up the process for filling of vacant posts.

He also called upon the officers to organise regular training courses for staff of the department to abreast them with latest trends of public relations.

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

## VC BGSBU engages with Academicians to strengthen academic collaborations

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
RAJOURI:

In a significant move towards fostering academic partnerships, Vice Chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, met with a distinguished group of local academicians and educational leaders to discuss collaborative initiatives and community engagement. The meeting focused on exploring avenues to address evolving academic challenges while strengthening regional academic alliances.

A key highlight of the discussion was the creation of a regional academic network aimed at facilitating knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration.

The academicians shared valuable insights and emphasized the need for guest lectures, awareness programs, and interactive sessions to expose school students to higher education opportunities.

They also stressed the importance of career guidance and subject-specific expertise from university faculty to support students in making informed academic decisions.

The University leadership reaffirmed its commitment to fostering such partnerships, ensuring that BGSBU remains actively engaged with the local academic community.

The institution expressed readiness to provide academic mentorship, faculty visits, and resource-sharing initiatives to benefit school students and enhance their learning experiences.

Registrar BGSBU, Mr. Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza (JKAS), and Prof. M.J. Warsi, Dean Academic Affairs, reinforced the university's dedication to building strong academic ties with schools and other educational institutions.

They emphasized the importance of collaboration in strengthening the education system and preparing students for future challenges.

The meeting concluded with a shared vision for academic excellence, marking the beginning of a promising partnership between BGSBU and regional academicians.

This initiative is expected to usher in a new era of innovation, inclusivity, and educational advancement for students and institutions alike.

## 5 children forced into Labour rescued at Katra

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
REASI:

The District Administration Reasi today launched a comprehensive drive to rescue and rehabilitate children and adolescents forced into child labour in Katra town.

The drive was conducted jointly by the Departments of Social Welfare and Labour on the directions issued by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. The Rescue team carried out inspections across various business establishments in Katra, including shops, restaurants, dhabas, street stalls, and workshops. Five minors were rescued during these inspections, highlighting the urgency and necessity of such drives.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) Sachin Sharma and Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Annie Vaid in collaboration with members of different agencies. The Rescue team comprised members from multiple agencies, including the Department of Social Welfare, Labour, Health, Police, DLSA, and members of Child



Helpline and Child Welfare Committee. Key contributors to the operation included Labour Officer Shivika Sharma, Child Helpline Coordinator Mohd Saleem, Supervisor CHL Ankush Sharma, and the team from the Child Helpdesk, Katra.

The team has mandated strict action against those found violating Child Protection laws and urged the public to report any instances of child abuse, trafficking, or exploitation

to the District Child Protection Office, Reasi, by calling the Child Helpline at 1098.

The rescued children were produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Reasi for rehabilitation after their medical examination. The DCPO confirmed that similar operations would be carried out frequently to ensure a sustained effort in protecting and rehabilitating children and adolescents in street situations.

## Indian Army Organized a Lecture On Women Empowerment at Parore Gujuran Rajouri

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
RAJOURI:

The Indian Army organized a lecture on women empowerment at Senior Secondary School Parore Gujuran with the aim to educate and spread awareness about the women empowerment schemes in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir. The lecture was conducted to convey the idea that the empower-

ment of women is imperative for a better tomorrow, and when we empower women, we empower the future of society.

The Government of India has taken many initiatives to achieve that goal. Various initiatives of the Government in this direction, such as the National Policy of Education, Mahila Samakhya, National Commission for Women, Balika Samridhi

Yojana, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level, Swayam Sidha Women Empowerment Programme, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, etc., were explained to the women in attendance. During the lecture, emphasis was also placed on women's entry into the Armed Forces and CAPF through various schemes.

The female students appreciated the army's efforts to educate them about these relevant schemes and conveyed their gratitude. They added that these lectures are a source of learning for things they are mostly ignorant about.

They believe this knowledge will help them in the long term to improve their vision and standard of living.

## Private Member's Bill on prohibition of liquor to be introduced in upcoming J&K Assembly Session

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
JAMMU:

PDP MLA from Kupwara Fayaz Ahmad Mir has submitted a private member's bill to be tabled during the upcoming budget session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, seeking prohibition of liquor in the Union Territory.

Mir forwarded the three-page bill to the assembly secretariat on Monday, the last date for submitting of the bills by the members before the start of the three-week assembly session in Jammu on March 3.

This will be the first budget of the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government after assuming power in October last year, ending six-year-old central rule.

Earlier, the J&K Assembly Secretariat requested the members not to send more than 10 starred and 10 unstarred questions in relaxation of Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business and not more than three bills in relaxation of sub-rule (3) of Rule 65 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business by or before February 10.

The PDP leader forwarded the private member's bill to prohibit the advertisement, sale, purchase, consumption and manufacture of alcoholic drinks in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The rise in use of alcoholic drinks is an ascending curve and this is largely due to insensitivity to deal with the issues in a holistic manner... If this trend of using alcohol is not checked at this point of time, it will prove disastrous for the society as such strict law on the subject is inevitable," Mir said in the statement of objectives and reasons for the bill.

The bill demanded strict penalties including both imprisonment and fine against the offenders.

## Anjuman Shari Shian marked the birth anniversary of Imam Mahdi (AS) today by organizing a massive procession in Central Kashmir's Budgam district



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
BUDGAM:

A Grand ceremony was held at the Bab-ul-Ilm Seminary under the auspices of the Shia Sharia Association to mark the auspicious birth of Hazrat Imam of the Age (Aj). The gathering was held under the chairmanship of the President of the Anjuman Shia Sharia Association of Jammu and Kashmir, Hujjat-ul-Islam Wal-Muslimeen Agha Syed Hassan Al-Moosawi Al-Safavi.

Addressing the gathering, the Agha Syed Hassan congratulated the Islamic world, especially the followers of Imamate and Wilayat, on the auspicious birth of Imam of the Age. On this occasion, he prayed for the

peace and security of humanity and the prosperity of the Islamic world. Agha Syed Hassan praised the programs presented by the children and expressed satisfaction with their performance.

Children from different schools presented colorful cultural and religious programs in the Milad Mehfil, which were highly appreciated by the attendees.

Agha Syed Hassan said Imam Mehdi (A.S.) will hoist the flag of justice and fair-play subsequent to his Zahoor, as ordained by the Almighty. He will rally the oppressed, uproot the oppressors and their rule, and institute a true Islamic judicial system, which will dispel fear, harassment, and instead, bestow blessings,

peace, and contentment.

Religious scholars, seminary teachers, Friday imams and other scholars were also present on the occasion.

At the end of the ceremony, a dignified rally started from Jamia Babul-Ilm Seminary, in which thousands of children and believers participated. The rally reached the central Imambargah of Budgam where it ended. The purpose of this event was to convey a message of happiness to the Shia people on the auspicious occasion of the birth of Imam of the Time (a.t.f.) and to promote religious awareness.

I condemn the House arrest of Mirwaiz Molvi Umer Farooq on Shab-E-Barat, Aga Syed Mujtaba

Aga Syed Mujtaba said that the arrest of Mirwaiz Molvi Umer Farooq and not allowing him to offer Namaz at Jamia masjid is condemnable and said this move from administration is defining the situation of Jammu Kashmir

He further added that muslims of Jammu Kashmir are peace lovers and barring Mirwaiz Mirwaiz on special night was not justice with people of Kashmir Day After the Shab-E-Barat thousands of Shia Muslims across Budgam join celebration rallies of 15th Shaban as Shia Muslims across globe celebrate this day as the birth anniversary of twelfth Imam "Imam Mehdi"

## BJP celebrates Shree Guru Ravidas Jayanti



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
JAMMU:

J&K BJP celebrated Shree Guru Ravidas Jayanti with fervour at its party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

While paying floral tributes to Sant Shree Guru Ravidass ji Maharaj, Sat Sharma CA, President, J&K BJP, and Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization) addressed the party workers present on the occasion.

Sat Sharma said that Shri Guru Ravidas was a great Saint, philosopher, poet, and a social reformer. He said that Guru Ravidas was devoted towards the Almighty and was a great poet. Sant Ravidas tried to express himself through Bhakti and Satsang. He always worked for the betterment of society. He said that the Modi government is taking forward the teachings of Sant Ravidas Maharaj and working incessantly for the welfare of the poor, downtrodden and those who were neglected and oppressed.

Ashok Koul said that Shri Ravidas birth anniversary is celebrated by BJP activists and his followers to remember his great teachings as well as renew the establishment of peace and brotherhood all over the world. He prompted others to follow the teachings of Sant Shree Guru Ravidass Maharaj and dedicate their time to serve the needy persons.

Senior leader & former minister, Bali Bhagat, said that Guru Ravidas preached equality in communities and preached to promote social harmony in society.

Proceedings of the programme were conducted by Balbir Ram Rattan. He said that Sant Ravidas Jayanti is celebrated with a lot of zeal not only in India but in many countries. He further said that Sant Ravidas has always worked to uplift the weaker sections of society.

Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Parduman Singh, Rakesh Sangral, Seema Devi, Gulshan Bhagat, Ashok Gandhi, Rekha Mahajan, Mohinder Bhagat, K. K. Digra and G. R. Bhagat, also spoke on the occasion.

Vote of thanks was presented by Adarsh Jathiar.

## Gamblers arrested by Bakshi Nagar Police Station, Jammu. Playing cards and stake money recovered



JAHANGEER KHAN  
JAMMU:

Bakshi Nagar police received an information from reliable sources that four person namely Rahul Kular s/o Samsher Lal R/o Lower Shiv Nagar Jammu Lucky s/o Tilak Raj R/o Gurdass Pur A/p Toph Sherkhaniya Jammu ?Gurnam s/o Mukhtar R/o Bakshi Nagar Jammu Thomas S/o Sardool Massi R/o Bakshi Nagar are sitted in car and are engaged in Gambling Near Shamshad Ghat Shakti Nagar Jammu.

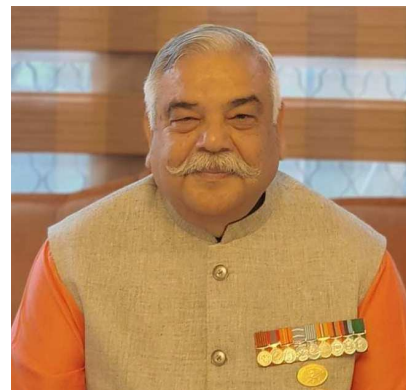
Inspector Azad Manhas along with his team from Police station Bakshi Nagar acting promptly and proactively raided the said location and caught the accused persons red handed along with the stake money of Rs 11400/- and playing cards.

## Congress has insulted and humiliated Dogras the most: Brig. Anil Gupta

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
JAMMU:

"Congress has always been insulting and humiliating the Dogras right from the time of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji. Pandit Nehru never liked the Maharaja and made it obvious with his unstinted support of Sheikh Abdullah who ultimately launched the Quit Kashmir Movement against the Dogra rule." stated Brig Anil Gupta, Spokesperson of BJP in a Press Release issued here today.

Going back in history, Brig. Gupta said that the Dogras were humiliated the most when Nehru led Congress Government declared unilateral ceasefire in 1948 when the Indian Army was on the prowl and was in hot pursuit of the retreating Pakistani Army. In the process more than 1/3rd of the territory of the



state was handed over to Pakistan on a platter. Further, Congress remained a mute spectator when Pakistan ceded the Saksham Valley to China.

It added salt to the injury by returning the Pakistani POWs in 1971 without bargaining for the

return of POJK. In fact, it ceded the Chenab region also to Pakistan.

The biggest insult to Dogras was showered by Pandit Nehru when he dubbed them as "Communal and Anti-National" when the Praja Parishad Movement was launched against the secessionist policies of the Sheikh Government. In fact, he provided full support to the Sheikh to crush the Praja Parishad Movement.

Later, the Maharaja was forced to leave the state and stay almost in exile in Mumbai paving way for the Sheikh to obtain full control of the state without caring for the sentiments of the Dogras.

"For the Congress Dogras don't matter as long as Kashmiri Muslim Leadership is kept happy. Jammu and Dogras are taken for granted by the Congress" rued Brig Gupta.

## Nation will forever remain indebted to Pulwama Martyrs: Kavinder

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
RAJOURI:

Jammu, February 14: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta today paid heartfelt tributes to the CRPF personnel who lost their lives in the cowardly terror attack in Pulwama on this day in 2019. Remembering their unparalleled valor, he said that the nation will forever remain indebted to their supreme sacrifice in safeguarding the sovereignty and integrity of India.

Speaking at the solemn event at Party Headquarters here today, Kavinder Gupta emphasized that the

sacrifices made by the brave soldiers will never be forgotten, and their courage continues to inspire generations. "The martyrdom of our jawans in Pulwama strengthens our resolve to fight terrorism in all its forms. Under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has given a befitting response to those who dare to challenge our unity and peace," he stated.

Kavinder Gupta also highlighted the commitment of the BJP government towards national security, asserting that decisive actions have been taken to dismantle terror networks and protect the lives of citizens.

He reiterated that the entire nation stands in solidarity with the families of the martyrs, who displayed extraordinary resilience in the face of adversity.

Several BJP leaders and prominent personalities joined in paying tribute to the bravehearts, including Sanjay Baru, Vinay Gupta, Parduman Singh, Veenu Khanna, Anu Gupta, Sunil Prajapati, Lucky Puri, Ashok Naidu, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, and Kulbhushan Mahotra. The gathering observed a moment of silence, offering prayers for the departed souls and reaffirming their commitment to upholding the values of patriotism and national integrity.

THE KASHMIR TALK

EDITORIAL

## Education or Exploitation

Kota city of Rajasthan is as famous for its educational institutions as it is for its coaching institutes. Now, it is getting infamous across the country due to the suicides committed by students studying in coaching institutes. Although the number of student suicides in Kota is very less as compared to the number of students taking coaching here, the tragic incidents of continuous suicides committed by students studying here cannot be denied. Last January itself, 6 students in Kota committed suicide and ended their lives. Neeraj, a student from Mahendragarh, Haryana, committed suicide on 8 January, Abhishek Lodha from Guna, Madhya Pradesh committed suicide on 9 January, Abhijeet Giri from Odisha committed suicide on 15 January, Manan Jain from Bundi district committed suicide on 18 January, Afsha Sheikh from Ahmedabad, Gujarat committed suicide on 22 January and Parag, a student from Naugaon, Assam committed suicide on 22 January. Out of these, five students were preparing for engineering and one student was preparing for NEET. The incidents of suicides committed by students studying in Kota, a major coaching centre, are tarnishing the image of the city. In Kota, 138 students have committed suicide since 2015. Here 18 students have committed suicide in 2015, 17 in 2016, 7 in 2017, 20 in 2018, 18 in 2019, 4 in 2020, 1 in 2021, 15 in 2022, 26 in 2023, 16 in 2024 and 6 students have committed suicide in 2025. In 2020 and 2021, there was a decline in the figures of suicides due to the closure of coaching institutes here due to Covid. The whole country is shocked by the continuous incidents of suicide by students studying in coaching institutes in Kota. Despite lakhs of efforts by the government and the administration, the incidents of suicide by students of Kota are not being stopped. Kota was once a big industrial city of Rajasthan. But due to labour movements, the industries here started closing down. Today, only a few industries are left in Kota. During 1990, coaching institutes started opening in Kota city. By 2005, a large number of coaching institutes were established here in which lakhs of students started studying every year. Today, the entire economy of Kota city depends on these coaching institutes. Huge hoardings filled with successful students at every square and intersection of the city tell that now coaching is everything in Kota. It is true that the success rate in Kota is above thirty percent. In the top ten competitive examinations of engineering and medical in the country, five students are from Kota. But along with that, there is also a large number of students in Kota who fail. According to an estimate, the annual turnover of Kota's coaching market is eight to ten thousand crores. Coaching centers pay more than 800 crore rupees annually to the government as tax. Kota city has become the largest center of coaching in the country. Every year lakhs of students come here for coaching. Due to which the coaching operators earn an annual income of several thousand crores of rupees. However, not all the students coming to Kota are successful in medical and engineering exams. But the number of students from Kota is quite high among the students selected in the top medical and engineering institutes of the country. This is the reason why parents send their children to Kota for coaching. The main reason for students committing suicide in Kota is believed to be the psychological pressure on students to study.

# VOLCANIC ERUPTION OF THE B'DESH VACUUM

SNIGDHENDU BHATTACHARYA

February 5, 2025, could have been a day for Bangladesh's Muhammad Yunus government to highlight its achievements in six months since taking over from Sheikh Hasina's authoritarian rule. Instead, it turned out to be a day that exposed how Bangladesh faces the risk of descending into anarchy.

The lawlessness of the government's early days reemerged—highlighting the Yunus government's literal surrender before mobs bent on taking laws into their own hands in the name of avenging Hasina's Awami League (AL) party's misdeeds.

On February 5, news broke in the afternoon that Hasina, who has been in India since flying out of her country on August 5, would address Bangladesh's students from the official Facebook page of her party's student wing, the Chhatra League. The Yunus government recently banned the Chhatra League for its involvement in the July 2024 violence against anti-government protesters.

Soon, some online activists, including some based outside Bangladesh, called on anti-Hasina activists to pull down Mujibur Rahman's residence at 32, Dhanmondi in the heart of Dhaka.

Rahman, Hasina's father and the main leader of Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War, lived in this house in the pre-Liberation War days, during his rule after Bangladesh's independence, and was killed along with other members of his family by some rogue army personnel in a coup in 1975. This building, preserved as a museum, was vandalised on August 5, 2024, within an hour of Hasina flying out. Now was time to demolish it. On August 5, there was no government and the law-enforcing authorities had completely withdrawn, fearing reprisal for their bloody attempts to suppress the protests. Peace Nobel Laureate economist Muhammad Yunus took charge of the new interim government as Chief Advisor on August 8. It took another few days for Yunus to have a panel of advisors (de facto ministers). Political observers had then mostly seen the August vandalism as an expression of public anger against Hasina, who used her father's legacy to legitimise her rule tainted by widespread allegations of violation of human rights, often brutal suppression of opponents and critics and gross electoral malpractices. However, on February 5, 2025, a mob of a few hundred people, armed with bulldozers and hammers, demolished the building in a frenzy—in full view of a contingent of the mute and immobile armed forces, television channels and social media 'live' videos for over 12 hours. The government responded with deafening silence. Worse, it was not only some online activists but also a key leader of the student agitation, Hasnat Abdullah, indirectly called for the same, when he, at 5.55 pm, wrote in a Facebook post: "Tonight, Bangladesh would be freed from fascism's pilgrimage." In their lingo, it was a reference to Mujib's house. At 6.38 PM, Asif Mahmood Sajib Bhuiyan, another student leader who now serves as the youth and sports affairs advisor in the government, wrote on his social media page, "Let's turn it into a festival." The message was clear and loud.

Action And Inaction

The demolition started shortly after 7.30 pm on February 5. Among the first senior politicians to appeal for restraint was Shafiqur Rahman, the head of the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, which—incidentally—carries the legacy of opposing the Liberation War of 1971. He wrote on social media at 10.44 pm, asking people to show patience and restraint. Protesters use heavy machinery to demolish the residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's former leader and the father of the country's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at Dhanmondi in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025. - AP

Bangladesh Govt Says Sheikh Hasina's 'Proactive' Speech Sparked Violence In Dhaka

The demolition drive was then in full swing. The Jamaat chief faced intense 'trolling' from the supporters of his own party, mostly the student wing activists. Within 40 minutes, he made another social media post, blaming Hasina's late evening speech for everything. The first response from a government authority came six hours after the demolition started. At 1.54 AM on February 6, Mahfuz Alam, one of the key leaders of the student-led movement who now serves as the special assistant to Chief Advisor Yunus, made a feeble appeal. "Do you know how to build?" he asked

and appealed to the public to focus on constructive changes. It had no impact on the vandalism. The first response from Yunus came at 4 pm on February 6, when he blamed Hasina's 'provocative' speech for the vandalism, ostensibly forgetful of the norm that protecting properties and enforcing laws are the government's duty. Alam made a Facebook post at 11.53 pm on February 6, asking people to stop vandalism and let the government do its work. By that time, the government's consent or compulsion—by whichever way one may look at their response—had become clear to those energised by the vandalism mission. The fire spread.

Houses of senior Awami League leaders were attacked, bulldozed and set on fire in at least 35 districts. Dozens of other sculptures and murals of Mujibur Rahman bore the brunt. Bayatul Aman, a building in Narayanganj associated with the Bengali language movement of the early 1950s, was razed. An office of the Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal party and Bangladesh Chhatra (student) Union in Bogura came under attack. A sculpture depicting a farmer in Sunamganj was demolished. Protesting against this chain of developments, 26 prominent members of the civil society issued a statement on February 7, saying that Mujib's 'historic residence' was destroyed with complete knowledge of the law enforcement agencies.

There was no scope for the government to avoid responsibilities, alleged the signatories, which included lawyer and human rights activist Sultana Kamal, academic and author Rasheda K Chowdhury, economist Anu Muhammad, social activist Khushi Kabir, academic and rights activist Parween Hasan, transparency activist Iftekharuzzaman and advocate Sara Hossain.

On February 10 night, Alam posted a message on Facebook, threatening strong action against those creating mobs. However, after facing a severe backlash from Islamist activists and politicians, Alam posted another message 24 hours later, diluting the essence of his previous message.

A Pattern These vandalisms and mob violence were not a period of exception. There are other signs of the rise of the Muslim fundamentalist forces that are bent on erasing things that they find un-Islamic, going by their own interpretation of Islam. In January 2025, the International Organisation of Sufism alleged that 80 shrines and darbars were attacked, damaged looted and set on fire in Bangladesh since August 5. Religiously motivated mobs have prevented a female actor from opening a showroom, stopped women's football matches and prevented baul-fakiri music events from taking place. Baul-Fakiri music is indigenous to the Bengal Delta, which includes Bangladesh and India's West Bengal state. The tradition, influenced by both Sufi Islam and Vishnavite Hinduism, preaches universal humanism and represents a syncretic culture peculiar to the Bengal Delta. On December 10, economist Anu Muhammad expressed concerns in a column that 'in certain instances, it seems that the government does not exist in the country'. He wrote that such incidents were creating questions on an international level concerning the credibility of the present government. "In which direction is Bangladesh being led? There are assaults and attacks on baul songs, mazars (shrines) and sculptures. Who are the ones launching these attacks? What is the government doing to stop them?" Muhammad asked.

Muhammad's article echoed the concerns of many civil society members—many of them critics of Hasina's rule—as what happened on February 5-8 was similar to what happened in August 2024 and thereafter. According to an August 21 report by Prothom Alo, one of Bangladesh's leading dailies, about 1,500 sculptures, relief sculptures, murals and memorials were vandalized, set on fire and uprooted all over the country in just three days — August 5-7.

Those that fell to the vandals' wrath included the 150-year-old, imported marble statue of the Roman goddess Venus and legendary artist Zainul Abedin's statue at Shashi Lodge in Mymensingh district; the Lady of Justice statue on the Supreme Court premises that had long been an eyesore to Muslim fundamentalist forces; the nearly a hundred statues at the iconic Swadhinata Sangram Bhaskarjya Chatwor (Freedom Struggle Sculpture Square) on the Dhaka University campus; almost 500 sculptures at the Mujibnagar Liberation War Memorial Complex; and even a statue of tribal 19th-century tribal heroes like Sidhu and Kanhu.



## DLC meeting under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram held at Kulgam



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KULGAM:

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

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

The committee discussed various aspects of the scheme, including interventions required in education,

health, infrastructure development and skill development sectors in the district.

During the meeting, the DDC instructed concerned to frame sector wise comprehensive plan under the scheme for holistic development of the district. DDC emphasized the need of expediting submission of Project Proposal Reports (PPRs) and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to ensure the seamless execution of the PMJVK scheme in the district.

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

The meeting was attended by Principals of GDCs of Kulgam, Kilam, DH Pora, Frisal; GM DIC, CPO, ACR, CMO, CEO, Principal Polytechnic, Superintendent ITI, DSWO, Executive Engineer R&B, AD Handicraft & Handloom, EO's of Municipal Committees of Kulgam, Yaripora & Devsar.

## DC B'pora chairs meeting on Wetland Demarcation Strategy

Approves verification plan for 98 sites



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU BANDIPORA:

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri who is also Chairman District Wetland Management Units, on Tuesday convened a comprehensive meeting to discuss the strategy for demarcating wetland sites across the district.

On the occasion, the DC stressed on the verification of wetland sites, addressing challenges, and ensuring the effective implementation of the demarcation process.

During the meeting, it was revealed that there are 102 wetlands in the district, out of which four sites have an area of less than 2.5 hectares and will be removed from the list. The remaining 98 sites, with areas above 2.5 hectares, will proceed with the demarcation process. During the meeting, it was finalized that demarcation on wetlands under forest land will be managed by the Forest Department under the supervision of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Bandipora. He will verify these sites, compare them with satellite images, and submit a report.

During the meeting, it was also highlighted that some wetland sites fall under other districts, which requires revision and rectification.

While reviewing the list of wetland sites, the DC directed the Pollution Control Board to send a list of wetland sites to the concerned Tehsildars, who will verify the sites based on satellite data.

Further, four teams, including representatives from Irrigation, Fisheries, Agriculture, and Water Conservation departments, will be formed to carry out the demarcation in areas outside the forest and will be led by Tehsildars from Bandipora, Sumbal, Ajas, Hajin, and Gurez.

## District admin B'pora organizes awareness workshop on Safer Internet Day

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU BANDIPORA:

District administration Bandipora on Tuesday organised an awareness workshop on the occasion of Safer Internet Day to promote safe and responsible internet usage.

The event was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, and was attended by PO ICDS Yaar Ali Khan, ACD Irfan Bahadur, DTO Sheikh Aabid Manzoor, Network Engineer NIC Aaqib Bashir Mir, Network Engineer NIC Sheikh Ubaid ur Rehman besides officers and officials from various departments.

The workshop was aimed to educate participants on various internet safety practices and raise awareness about the importance of cyber hygiene. Addressing the participants Additional Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of careful and conscious internet usage.

He encouraged the participants to stay informed and adopt best practices to safeguard their personal information and online activities besides also highlighted the various aspects of responsible digital behavior.

He emphasized that the digital age presents both opportunities and risks, and it is essential for everyone to understand how to navigate the online world securely and responsibly.

On the occasion, Network Engineer NIC Bandipora Faisal Manzoor provided an insightful presentation, focusing on the essential aspects of internet safety, common cyber threats, and practical steps to avoid them.

## Kashmir winter games attract global athletes to pristine slopes of Gulmarg

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU GULMARG:

Amidst the crystalline air of Gulmarg, where Himalayas jut into the heavens, an unlikely assembly is taking shape.

The 2025 Khelo India Winter Games, to be held from February 22 to 25, has drawn an interesting cross-section of international players and fans, turning this premier skiing destination into a melting pot of cultures bound together by their passion for winter sports.

"The beauty here is overwhelming," says Melania Anderson, a yoga instructor from the United Kingdom based in Hong Kong.

Anderson, who works with the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) through her charity 'Yama', is enchanted by the double appeal of Kashmir as both a sporting challenge and cultural treasure.

"The Kashmiri cuisine alone would have made the journey worthwhile," she says. Maybe nobody better illustrates this meeting's surprise demographics than Ben Hurst, an Australian commercial prawn fisherman who has swapped the spray of the Pacific for the powder of the Himalayas. "Standing in the mountains of Kashmir is safer than walking across the streets of Sydney," he says with the sort of assurance that



comes from direct knowledge.

Hurst, who is from the small village of Iluka midway between Brisbane and Sydney, waves aside travel warnings. "What we have experienced is just gorgeous and beautiful. It's unlike most skiing resorts around the world," he says and praises hospitality & friendliness of the locals.

The French team brings its own view to these games. Jean Marc Auge, who grew up in the French Alps, talks of the Himalayas with holy reverence. "This is different," he says, sweeping his hand across the expanse before him and added "Altogether different". His fellow-countryman Nabil El, who is now resident in Australia, nods assent.

The locals, the athletes, see more in the games than sport.

Firdous Ahmad Sheikh from

Tangmarg, Yasmeen Sajad from Sopore, Mehak Mushtaq from Palhalan Pattan, and Aalima Zainab from Tangmarg are in awe about meeting international ski and snowboarding experts. "It's an out of this world experience," they say, with their enthusiasm clearly evident.

Others like Virginia Winstone, a New Zealander; Laura Thonton, from Wisconsin, USA; and Australian ski guide and patroller Bill Barker, too have been attracted to the games.

Their numbers have turned Gulmarg into an instant global village, where the snow is the lingua franca. As preparations for the games enter the last leg, the air in Gulmarg is alive with expectation.

The untouched slopes look for their moment to shine, prepared to present not only athletic prowess but also Kashmir's hospitality.

## Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Day celebrated at GDC & Hospital, Sgr

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Government Dental College & Hospital Srinagar on Thursday celebrated International Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) Day under the theme "Early detection of Oral Cancer & Self-examination" by the patient themselves.

On the occasion, Principal/ Dean Prof (Dr) Ajaz Ahmad Shah, delivered a lecture on oral cancer screening methods and incorpora-

tion of AI technology into the early screening. The faculty of OMFS department Dr Irshad & Dr Altaf H Malik rolled out the campaign for OMFS day with pledge to teach common masses about self examination of their oral cavity for any potential changes & early self referral for oral cavity examination to the concerned doctors for further follow-up. The department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery praised Prof. (Dr) Ajaz Ahmad Shah, for his role in upbringing the department

to tertiary care level for treatment of Oral & Maxillofacial defects, disorders, disease and his role in starting the state of art care in this field.

The department awarded Prof. (Dr) Ajaz Ahmad Shah as celebrated 'Maxillofacial surgeon' of the state for his unparalleled and praiseworthy role in progressing the department and getting it at par with the other tertiary care institute of the country. The problem was attended by faculty members, staff & students.

## Regional Transport Authority Kishtwar issues Route permits



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KISHTWAR:

A meeting of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) was convened here today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan.

During the session, Member

Secretary RTA (ARTO) Tasleem Wani presented a total of 26 cases of Letter of Authority (LAs) and 144 cases for All J&K Route Permits.

Following the review, 11 cases for the purchase of Stage Carriage Mini Buses and 15 cases for four-wheeler Tata Magic/Maximo vehicles (including 10 under the MUMKIN Scheme)

were approved. Additionally, 144 All J&K Route Permits were sanctioned.

The meeting also deliberated upon applications for change of route, which were deferred pending verification of the demand in under-served areas. The Chairman RTA emphasized the importance of public safety and directed the Member Secretary to assess route conditions before granting Letters of Authority to applicants.

Furthermore, strict directives were issued to the RTA officials to monitor and regulate traffic congestion in Kishtwar town. The Chairman instructed the ARTO to ensure proper parking arrangements for passenger vehicles across the district and implement measures to ease traffic flow. Chairman RTA, Kishtwar, Additional Superintendent of Police, Pawan Kumar (JKPS), along with other concerned officials, attended the meeting.

## DC chairs DCDC meeting, reviews cooperatives projects in Jammu

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya chaired the sixth meeting of the District Level Cooperative Development Committee at the district headquarters to discuss cooperative sector plans.

Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Jammu, Tasbina Sheikh apprised the meeting that for the International Year of Cooperatives, the committee set out activities for the year. These include awareness camps for Multipurpose PACS (M-PACS) formation, food processing unit launches and cooperative week celebrations with farmer awareness camps. During the proceedings, the DC emphasised the critical importance of timely implementation of food processing and storage infrastructure projects, including Consumer Marketing Societies and super bazaars. These initiatives are designed to boost farmer incomes while ensuring the long-term sustainability of cooperative enterprises. The committee reviewed progress on targets from the Margdarshika document. Three PACS are in registration, with two more in process. Eight dairy and three fishery cooperatives have registered, with mapping and geo-tagging of areas in progress.

In the food processing sector, Multiple Purpose Cooperative Societies (MPCS)- Sohail MPCS Akhnoor, Nandpur MPCS Bishnah and Biaspur MPCS RS Pura - have received loans and subsidies.

DDM NABARD Sonika Rana, Chief Agricultural Officer Vinod Kundal, AD Fisheries Munish Sharma, Lead District Manager Romesh Chander, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Assistant Registrars, among others concerned was present at the meeting.

## Week-long A-MDP on digital marketing GeM concludes at NIT Srinagar

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

A weeklong Advanced Management Development Program (A-MDP) on Digital Marketing & DPR Drafting (Hands-on Training) and Govt. e-Marketplace & e-Office concluded on Friday at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The hands-on training workshop was organised by the Department of Mechanical Engineering in collaboration with the Department of HSS&M along with the Administrative Division of NIT Srinagar. It was sponsored by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India and was attended by 60 participants including 30 Government Officials, entrepreneurs, business owners and aspiring start-ups. Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rahman, was the Chief Guest at the inaugural session, while as Saheel Allaqband, Assistant Director of MSME, was Guest of Honour during the valedictory session. In his key address, Saheel Allaqband spoke about the achievements the Ministry of MSME has made over the past two decades in fostering an entrepreneurial culture in the valley. He also acknowledged Mr. Velladurai, Joint Director of MSME, who oversees the divisions of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Ladakh.

Prof. GA Harmain also highlighted the remarkable growth that Kashmir has experienced across various sectors, from tourism to technology. He said there is a need to organize more such programs in a structured manner to ensure success.

Prof. Harmain reiterated that NIT Srinagar remained committed to support and empower stakeholders by providing necessary guidance and resources to help them navigate the evolving business landscape effectively. Mubashir Ahmad Wani, AR (Accounts) and Resource Person of GeM Workshop, appreciated the active participation of government officials and entrepreneurs.

He also highlighted the importance of such sessions in helping participants understand marketing and the GeM platform. NIT Srinagar is always ready to provide support and guid-



ance to those who need it, Wani said. Earlier this week, the inaugural session was presided over by the Registrar of NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rahman, who was the Chief Guest. Prof. Yaswanth Mehta, the Dean of Planning & Development, was the Guest of Honour. In his key speech, Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rahman, underscored the importance of the Viksit Bharat 2047 initiative.

Such initiatives are crucial for economic growth, achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), improving living standards, supporting businesses, and strengthening infrastructure, he said. Prof. Rahman also affirmed that NIT will take necessary measures to reach every nook and corner of the Kashmir Valley and the Ladakh region. He emphasized the institute's responsibility to foster an entrepreneurial culture across the valley, thereby contributing to India's GDP.

He encouraged aspiring scholars and students to explore local technologies and actively engage in research in these fields. Prof. M.M. Wani, Head of Mechanical Engineering Department, expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of MSME for funding the weeklong workshop. He said there is a need for digital marketing to promote products in the market. Prof. Wani said that farmers, business owners and can could potentially increase their profits five-fold by utilizing digital marketing to sell value-added products. Dean of

Planning & Development, Dr. Yaswanth Mehta, said that NIT Srinagar currently possesses 67 acres of land but faces construction constraints within 200 meters of Dal Lake. He further mentioned the allocation of 500 acres of land by the UT administration, stating that this expansion would provide additional space to accommodate more people and train youth for the future.

Dr. Shahid Saleem, convenor of the program, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the need for such programs in the valley. He stressed the importance of enhancing accessibility to the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and the role of digital marketing in boosting exports.

Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, the Nodal Officer for the MSME ESDP Scheme, highlighted the significance of Management Development Programs in the valley and how NIT Srinagar is contributing to society through such initiatives. He described it as a comprehensive and immersive learning experience.

Dr Dinesh expressed his gratitude to Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Kanuji, Dean R&C, Prof. Roohie Naaz, as well as other Deans, Heads of Departments, and faculty members for their support during the weeklong event. "The program is designed to empower educators with essential knowledge and skills to effectively teach and inspire participants in the fields of Digital Marketing and the Government e-Marketplace (GeM)," he added.

## Workshops, awareness events held to observe Safer Internet Day across Jammu division

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

District administrations, government offices and educational institutions across Jammu Division observed Safer internet by organizing varied Information, Education and Communication events, affirming their resolve of "Together, for a better internet," - this year's theme for the Day.

At RAMBAN: The District Administration, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, organized a Cyber Security Awareness Workshop to enhance digital security awareness among government officials and institutions.

Presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, the session covered crucial aspects of cyber security, including data protection, threat identification, and preventive measures. District and Sectoral Officers, along with their technical staff, participated in the workshop to further disseminate key learning. The workshop was also attended virtually by all Higher Secondary Schools and Colleges of District Ramban, ensuring widespread awareness among students and faculty members.

Meanwhile, the Department of Computer Applications, Government Degree College (GDC) Ramban, organized a one-day awareness workshop on "Safer Internet Day 2025" under the theme "Together for a Better Internet." The event was held under the patronage of Prof. Satish Kumar, Principal of the College. Prof. Aditya Sharma, Head of the Computer Applications Department and Resource Person for the workshop, shed light on various cyber threats and human errors that often lead to cyber frauds. The workshop witnessed active participation from a large number of students and faculty members.

AT SAMBA: The District Administration Samba, in collaboration with NIC, observed Safer Internet Day 2025 to raise awareness about cyber safety and promote responsible use of the internet among the officials. Network Engineers of NIC Satish Kumar and Hatish Kumar provided detailed insights on safeguarding sensitive data, identifying potential cyber threats, and adopting best practices for cyber security. Officials from across all departments participated in the session and were encouraged to share the knowledge gained with their teams to foster a safer and more secure digital environment.

AT REASI: The District Administration Reasi observed Safer Internet Day under the Leadership of Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik by hosting a special awareness session to promote awareness about responsible and secure use of the internet.

## Certificate distribution ceremony organized by DE&CC Kupwara



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KUPWARA:

The District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Kupwara, in collaboration with Wyath Service Pvt. Limited, successfully organized a Certificate Distribution Ceremony at the Counselling Hall, DE&CC Kupwara today following the completion of a three-month skill training program on GST Assistant with Tally, benefiting 30 trainees who received their certificates.

Assistant Director Employment, Arshid Qadir graced the occasion as

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

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

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

ciency.

Director Wyath, also emphasized the role of such training programs in bridging the gap between education and employability.

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

He highlighted the department's consistent efforts in running various skill training programs, benefiting hundreds of youth across Kupwara district. The event was moderated by Ishfaq Ahmad Wani, Employment Officer, DE&CC Kupwara, who highlighted the key objectives of the program and the impact of skill-based learning in enhancing employability among youth. The Certificate Distribution Ceremony served as a testament to the ongoing efforts of DE&CC Kupwara in fostering skill development initiatives and creating avenues for youth employment in the region.

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

The ceremony was a testament to the department's dedication to enhancing employability and promoting self-sufficiency among the youth of Kupwara.

## ATM Lying Defunct in Beerwah for Last 2 Months



TANVEER HUSSAIN BUDGAM:

The State Cooperative Bank ATM in Beerwah town of Central Kashmir's Budgam, has remained defunct for the last two months, causing immense inconvenience to customers.

The machine has been non-functional due to a system failure, despite being attached to the bank's main branch and located at a prime spot in the town.

Locals complain that the ATM remains out of order most of the time, forcing them to visit other ATMs in the area, which, according to them, are also frequently dysfunctional.

"We have lodged repeated complaints with the bank authorities, but nothing has been done. The machine is still not working even after two months," a local resident told the news Reporter.

Frustrated customers have urged the authorities to take immediate action and restore ATM services at the earliest.

## Pakistan in frustration trying to derail peace in J&K: Kavinder

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:



Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta has strongly condemned the cowardly act of terrorism in which two brave Army personnel, including a Captain, lost their lives in an IED blast triggered by suspected terrorists near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Akhnoor sector on Tuesday.

Expressing profound grief over the loss of lives, the BJP stalwart asserted that such heinous acts of terrorism reflect Pakistan's growing frustration as peace and development continue to flourish in Jammu & Kashmir under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said Pakistan and its proxies are desperate to create an atmosphere of fear and instability, but their nefarious designs will never succeed.

"The sacrifice of our brave soldiers will not go in vain. The security forces will give a befitting reply to those responsible for this barbaric act. Pakistan's continuous support to terrorism is a direct challenge to India's sovereignty, and it will be dealt with firmly," he stated.

The senior BJP leader emphasized that despite repeated setbacks, Pakistan-backed terrorists are trying to disrupt normalcy in J&K. However, under the Modi government, the Union Territory has witnessed a new era of peace, development, and stability.

The enemies of the nation will never be allowed to succeed in their evil intentions.

Kavinder also lauded the armed forces for their relentless efforts in safeguarding the borders and ensuring national security. He reaffirmed that the BJP-led government is committed to eradicating terrorism and will continue to take stringent actions to crush the menace.

Extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the martyrs, Kavinder urged the people of Jammu & Kashmir to stand united against terrorism and support the forces in their mission to eliminate militancy. He reiterated that India will never bow down to terrorism and will continue its march towards progress and prosperity.

## DC Srinagar stresses on collaborative efforts to achieve target of TB-free district

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

In order to strengthen TB control measures by identifying and supporting those most susceptible to the disease, a TB screening camp under 100-days intensified TB campaign was organized today at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Srinagar, witnessing active participation from a large number of employees. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, stressed the importance of collaborative efforts from all



Departments and the community, especially

vulnerable individuals, to achieve the target of TB-free Srinagar. He urged greater participation in the campaign to raise awareness and promote early detection of tuberculosis. DC added that this intensified campaign is a crucial step in the fight against tuberculosis, ensuring early detection, timely treatment, and increased awareness across Srinagar.

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

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

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

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

The Commissioner Secretary assessed various aspects of implementation of NeVA including conducting training programs for MLAs, Assembly staff and nodal officers

from various departments, provisioning of high speed connectivity in Jammu and Srinagar Assembly complexes and procuring the necessary hardware and related items.

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

The meeting was apprised that

NeVA is a workflow system hosted on NIC's MeghRaj Cloud, designed to facilitate the smooth conduct of legislative proceedings.

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

## Kathua admin discusses action plan to reinforce Tobacco Control measures



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KATHUA:

Additional Deputy Commissioner Ranjit Singh today presided over a Training-cum-District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) meeting to review the implementation of National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) in the district.

At the outset, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vijay Raina highlighted the achievements in enforcing anti-tobacco measures. He also discussed key components of the NTCP, including the prohibition of smoking in public places, the ban on the sale of tobacco products within 100-yard radius of educational institutions, and the restriction on both direct and indirect advertising of tobacco products.

The meeting deliberated on the need for concerted efforts, incorporating a comprehensive set of activities such as conducting Information, Education, and Communication

(IEC) campaigns in schools and communities, declaring educational institutions as Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI), designating at least 50 villages as Tobacco-Free Villages by the next quarterly review, and conducting aggressive enforcement drives to ensure compliance with tobacco control regulations.

The ADC called for adopting all laid down procedures and guidelines in implementing the NTCP in the district. He directed the Chief Education Officer to ensure that all educational institutions register on the ToFEI application and update the required 10-point Tobacco-Free attributes. He also called for random inspections by the police, civil administration, and officers designated under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003.

The ADC further instructed Block Development Officers to educate all stakeholders and strengthen com-

munity-based efforts in combating tobacco use. It was also decided to designate a Nodal Officer in all offices and institutions to ensure the smooth implementation of anti-tobacco measures.

Earlier, Nodal Officer NTCP J&K Shiveta Raina informed that under the NTCP, the Health Department has recorded 129 counseling and pharmacotherapy sessions in the Jammu Division.

The session also included detailed discussions on the provisions of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, particularly sections 4, 5, 6, and 7, which focus on restrictions on smoking in public places, the sale and advertisement of tobacco products, and enforcement measures. The police and other designated authorities were directed to conduct enforcement drives at regular intervals to strengthen anti-tobacco measures across the district.

The meeting also emphasized the importance of engaging ambassadors and role models to inspire youth to refrain from tobacco use and raise awareness about its harmful effects.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to enhance coordination among the health, education, police, and civil administration to ensure the effective implementation of the National Tobacco Control Program in Kathua.

## District Level Task Force Committee approves 34 JKREGP cases at Samba

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SAMBA:

The District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) meeting was chaired by District Development Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, today to scrutinize the loan applications received online seeking loan under J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP), a scheme being implemented by J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board Samba. The committee, after scrutinizing 45 applications, approved 34 proposals, deferring the remaining for next meeting.

District Officer KVIB Vinod Kumar, representative from DIC, LDM SBI, Cluster Head J&K Bank, Regional Manager of J&K Grameen Bank, Director SBI RSETI Samba and Superintendent ITI were also present at the meeting.

## Director Agriculture Jammu conducts field visit in Marh Sub-Division

### Inspects Agri ventures established by local farmers by availing HADP



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Director Agriculture Jammu S. Arvinder Singh Reen today conducted an extensive field visit of Marh Subdivision to assess the impact of the technological interventions.

The Director Agriculture had an in depth interaction with the extension functionaries involved in the technological dissemination and implementation of various farmers' welfare programmes. He also reviewed the ongoing projects under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The Director Agriculture visited the fields of Vikrant Kaiser, a farmer from Marh Bagh village, to observe the implementation of vegetable cultivation under the Micro Irrigation Component of the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) initiative. He explained that PDMC is a Government of India scheme aimed at enhancing water-use efficiency in agriculture. By utilizing micro-irrigation systems like drip and sprinkler, farmers are able to conserve water while increasing crop productivity. Director A.S Reen stressed the importance of creating awareness regarding the judicious use of water, tapping perennial sources of irrigation, and introducing climate-resilient crop varieties.

Later, the Director inspected the newly established Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) under HADP at Marh. The KKG, which operates at the Panchayat level, serves as a one-stop center for farmers, offering a range of agricultural services including expert advice, access to quality farm inputs, and information on government schemes.

The field visit also included an inspection of a Mushroom Controlled Cropping Unit under the HADP, established by beneficiary Bal Krishan of Gurha Singhu village. Director Reen praised the initiative, stressing the importance of mushroom cultivation under controlled conditions as a sustainable and profitable venture. He emphasized the role of mushroom farming in generating entrepreneurial opportunities and providing employment in the region.

Addressing the field staff during the visit, Director Agriculture emphasized the importance of dedication and sincerity in uplifting the economic conditions of farmers.

## DDC Pulwama chairs meeting on implementation of PMJVK



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU PULWAMA:

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

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

Dr. Qayoom conducted a meticulous sector-wise review, covering education, healthcare, horticulture, handicrafts, milk processing, sports,

IT infrastructure and women-centric projects, underlining their significance in fostering socio-economic development. DDC said the imperative of proposing projects that not only serve the broader community but also mitigate the reliance on rented accommodations for schools.

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

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

The District Development Commissioner underscored the necessity of enhancing medical facilities under PMJVK to ensure better accessibility and quality healthcare for the local population. Regarding Handicrafts as the Nodal Department for skill development, the DDC suggested establishing integrated infra-

structure that includes training centers along with dedicated selling facilities. Such initiatives would provide a platform for local artisans, creating employment opportunities and enhancing market accessibility. The development of sports infrastructure was also a key area of discussion, with a focus on both indoor and outdoor stadium projects under PMJVK. The need for modern, well-equipped sports facilities was highlighted to encourage youth participation in physical activities and competitive sports.

Women-centric initiatives, including the construction of women's hostels at Government Degree College and working women hostels under the Social Welfare Department, were reviewed. The chair was informed that the women's hostel at the Government Degree College is 60% complete. The District Development Commissioner stressed the need to expedite such projects to provide safe and secure accommodation for women pursuing education and employment.

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

The horticulture sector was another focus area, with discussions on the development of fruit and vegetable satellite markets.

## Dy CM reviews progress on development projects at Shopian

Directs for expediting completion of all vital projects

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
SHOPIAN:

Highlighting the historical importance of Shopian district, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, today directed for fast pacing the work on development projects with special focus on connectivity and Horticulture sectors.

The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking during a review meeting held, to assess progress on various developmental projects and schemes being implemented in the district, here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

The meeting was attended by MLA Wachi, Showkat Hussain Ganie and MLA Shopian, Shabir Kullay besides HoDs of different departments and sectoral officers.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta, presented detailed overview of developmental scenario and undergoing works in the district.

While reviewing status of projects of Public Works Department (PWD), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Roads and Buildings (R&B) department, JJM and others, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasised the importance of maintaining high quality standards and adhering to project deadlines, expressing concern over delays in certain works. He directed the officials to prioritise the pend-



ing projects and ensure their early completion.

The Deputy Chief Minister underscored the significance of timely and quality execution of infrastructure projects. He instructed the officers to strictly adhere to technical specifications and safety standards.

He also emphasized the need for sustainable construction practices to benefit the people of the district in the long term.

He asked the officers to expedite developmental initiatives and enhance public service delivery mechanisms. He stressed the importance of being accessible to the public to ensure effective implementation of government initiatives.

"We are committed for accelerating development process and improving infrastructure across the district. The suggestions and feedback of the elected

representatives should also be taken into consideration while formulating schemes so that these could contain the local needs and demands", maintained the Deputy Chief Minister.

Assuring the officers of government's full support in addressing challenges, if any, the Deputy Chief Minister called for regular monitoring and evaluation of all ongoing works to ensure transparency and accountability.

While expressing concern over delays in certain works, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the importance of meticulous planning and execution. He stressed the need to work with added dedication ensuring speedy and quality completion of all ongoing works.

The Deputy Chief Minister had a detailed account of the works in progress, emphasising the

need for maintaining high quality standards in all phases of project execution. He directed the officials to ensure strict adherence to deadlines besides addressing any bottlenecks hindering the timely completion of projects.

During the meeting, the officials provided updates regarding the progress on various projects and highlighted challenges, including funding constraints, land acquisition issues and technical difficulties.

Legislators highlighted the issues of public importance concerning their respective areas. The issues inter alia included augmentation of roads under PMGSY and other developmental activities in Zainapora and Shopian, Cardiologist in District Hospital Shopian, beautification of Shopian Town, land compensation under Bye-Pass road constructions and other matters.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the pace of works on the Trenz Bridge being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 39.41 crore.

While interacting with the officers present on site, he directed for early completion of this vital bridge connecting two districts.

The Deputy Chief Minister also inspected the ongoing work of the Degree College at Zainapora which is being constructed with an estimated cost of Rs 18.84 crore.

## Kupwara Police Apprehends Two Drug Peddlers; Contraband Recovered



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
KUPWARA:

In a significant action against drug peddling, Police Post Bazaar apprehended two individuals and recovered contraband during a routine checking operation.

On the evening of 10-02-2025, at approximately 2045 hours, a checkpoint was established by Police Post Bazaar at Geerhati Kupwara as part of routine checking. During checking two individuals were found roaming in a suspicious manner. The checking party tactfully apprehended them, and upon questioning, they disclosed their identities as, Sameer Ahmad Zargar, son of Bashir Ahmad Zargar, resident of Tiker Kupwara and Sachin Koul, son of Suresh Koul, resident of Nagrota Jammu.

Upon conducting their personnel search, brown sugar-like substance weighing approximately 7.13 grams was recovered from their possession.

In this regard, a case FIR No. 41/2025 under Sections 8/21 and 29 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Kupwara, and further investigation has been initiated.

Kupwara Police remains committed to curbing the menace of drug abuse and urges the public to cooperate and provide information regarding any suspicious activities in their localities.

## Budgam Residents Protest Against Flood Control Department Over Waterlogging in Agricultural Lands



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
SRINAGAR:

Residents of Dharmunna in central Kashmir's Budgam district staged a protest on Tuesday against the Flood Control Department, Narbal, after water from Hokarsar Wetland overflowed into their agricultural lands, rendering them unusable.

The aggrieved residents, holding placards and shouting slogans, demanded the immediate closure of the Hokarsar Gate, blaming the department for releasing excess water that has submerged their farmlands, affecting thousands of kanals of agricultural land.

"Our fields are completely inundated, leaving us unable to grow crops or even graze our cattle. The water has turned our fertile land into a wasteland. We are on the verge of losing our livelihoods," a protester told the news Reporter.

Farmers fear long-term damage to their crops and soil fertility, adding that they are now facing an economic crisis due to the loss of their only source of income. "The authorities must act swiftly before the situation worsens. If the Hokarsar Gate is not closed, our agricultural land will become permanently damaged," another resident stated.

The protestors urged the administration to intervene immediately and take corrective measures to prevent further damage.

## Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia Pays Emotional Tribute to Pulwama Martyrs, Lights Diyas at Memorial

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
SRINAGAR:

On the solemn anniversary of the Pulwama terror attack, Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia reached the very spot where, six years ago, 40 brave CRPF soldiers laid down their lives in one of the deadliest attacks on Indian soil. With deep reverence, he lit diyas and showered flowers at the memorial, honoring the martyrs whose sacrifice changed the course of history. Standing at the site that still echoes with the memories of that fateful day, Dr. Jasrotia's words resonated with emotion. "February 14, 2019, was not just another day-it was a wound on the soul of our nation. The loss of our 40 warriors was unbearable, but their sacrifice awakened the country to the reality of terrorism and the urgent need for decisive



action. This attack was a turning point that paved the way for the abrogation of Article 370."

Recalling the challenges that plagued Jammu and Kashmir for decades, he said, "For years, Article 370 gave terrorists a free hand, allowing them to spill the blood of innocents. But under the courageous leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, this shield of terror

was dismantled. The abrogation of Article 370 was not just a political decision-it was a tribute to our fallen heroes and a promise that their sacrifice would not be in vain."

As the flickering flames of the diyas illuminated the memorial, Dr. Jasrotia emphasized how much Kashmir has changed since then. "Today, the streets of Kashmir are no longer stained with blood but shine with the light of

peace and progress. Fear has been replaced with hope, and violence with development."

With a voice filled with determination, he sent a strong message to those who still conspire against India. "Our martyrs did not die in vain. Their blood has cemented the foundation of a stronger, safer, and more united India. We will never allow the enemies of peace to succeed. Our forces are vigilant, our spirit unbreakable, and our commitment to national security unwavering." As the nation remembered the Pulwama martyrs, Dr. Jasrotia's tribute stood as a reminder that their sacrifice was not forgotten. Their memory lives on, not just in stone memorials, but in the transformed reality of a Kashmir that now walks on the path of peace, leaving the shadows of terror behind.

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

Emphasises transparency, commitment in public service



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

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

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

Congratulating the appointees, the Chief Minister reminded them of their crucial role in bridging the gap between the government and the people. "The appointment process was transparent, though not without its challenges. Despite difficulties, we ensured the process was completed fairly," he said.

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

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

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

Speaking about the significance of Panchayat elections, the Chief Minister pointed out the high level of public participation in local governance. "We have observed that while voter turnout in parliamentary elections is relatively low, it increases in assembly elections. However, Panchayat elections see the highest level of engagement because these institutions are closest to the people," he said.

Omar Abdullah urged

the newly appointed Panchayat Secretaries to ensure that government funds allocated for rural development are utilized effectively and without corruption.

"The schemes—whether centrally sponsored or J&K-sponsored—must be implemented with honesty, ensuring maximum public benefit," he emphasized.

"You will face pressures and attempts to influence decisions, but your duty is to uphold justice and serve the poor," he said.

He reminded them that while governments change, the responsibility of public servants remains constant. "Don't worry about political shifts; your focus should be on serving the people with dedication," he added.

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

"This will not be our last meeting. Today, we are here, but tomorrow, we will

meet in the field, working together to improve governance. I look forward to visiting your areas and seeing the impact of your work firsthand," the CM said.

20 newly appointed panchayat secretaries—10 each from Kashmir and Jammu divisions—received their appointment orders from the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. Speaking at the ceremony, Minister for Agricultural Production and RDD, Javed Ahmad Dar, congratulated the appointees and urged them to work with sincerity and dedication. He acknowledged the Chief Minister's commitment to ensuring a smooth and transparent appointment process and reminded the recruits of their vital role in governance.

"You are not just joining a department—you are becoming the backbone of governance. Your role carries immense responsibility, impacting countless lives," he said.

He assured them of government support in overcoming challenges while urging them to serve with integrity.

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

## BJP leaders in Srinagar hail Union Budget 2025 as a visionary step for economic growth



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

A crucial meeting of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders was held today at Church Lane, Srinagar, to discuss the recently presented Union Budget 2025. The leaders unanimously praised the budget, calling it a progressive and inclusive financial roadmap that will strengthen India's economy, boost employment, and enhance social welfare.

Senior BJP leader and Party Chief Spokesperson Advocate Sunil Sethi in Srinagar highlighted that the budget reflects the Modi government's commitment to economic empowerment, youth development, and infrastructure growth, ensuring long-term prosperity for Jammu and Kashmir and the nation as a whole.

Speaking at the meeting, he said "This budget is a landmark in India's growth story. It focuses on economic reforms, tax relief, and welfare initiatives, which will immensely benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The government's commitment to improving infrastructure, education, and healthcare will have a positive impact on the region."

The leaders further applauded the provisions for: Infrastructure Development – Increased budget allocation for roads, highways, and connectivity projects in J&K. Employment and Skill Development – Special schemes to empower the youth and create job opportunities.

Agriculture and Farmer Welfare – Enhanced support for farmers to boost rural economy.

Women Empowerment – Initiatives for financial inclusion and welfare of women.

The BJP leadership reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring the effective implementation of the budget's provisions in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing that the region will witness a new era of development, investment, and growth under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The meeting concluded with a strong endorsement of the budget's vision, with leaders vowing to take its benefits to the grassroots level and ensure that every citizen of J&K reaps the rewards of a New India's growth story.

## Jashn-e-Jammu & Kashmir enthralled audience on Day 2

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

The second day of the Jashn-e-Jammu & Kashmir festival, organized by Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL) in collaboration with the J&K Artists Association, continued to be a grand celebration of the region's rich cultural heritage here at Abhinav Theatre.

Inaugurated yesterday by Lt. Governor of J&K Manoj Sinha, the festival captivated audiences with a spectacular lineup of traditional music, dance, and folk theatre performances.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Member Legislative Assembly Yudhvir Sethi, who lauded the efforts of JKAACL and the J&K Artists Association for organizing such a vibrant cultural festival that beautifully showcases the



artistic traditions of the region. He emphasized the need for continued support to local artists and performers, highlighting how such platforms provide them with the recognition they deserve while also fostering cultural exchange and unity. Senior Journalist, Sohail Kazmi also addressed the gathering, appreciating the rich diversity of folk music, dance, and theatre presented at the festival. He underscored the importance of preserving and promoting Jammu and Kashmir's traditional art forms, which have been an integral part of its

history and identity. Their presence and words of encouragement reinforced the festival's role in keeping the region's cultural heritage alive for future generations.

The day's performances featured Neeta Adarsh & Group from Ramnagar, presenting the soulful Geetru, followed by Saqib Ahad & Party from Srinagar, mesmerizing the crowd with Chakri. Traditional Kashmiri storytelling came alive through Baba Reshi Folk Theatre and BhandPather artists from Heemal Cultural Society. The Rouf Dance by Lotus Cultural

Group and the graceful Dambali Dance by Shkooori Sha Dambali Dance Centre showcased Kashmir's deep-rooted artistic traditions. The evening also celebrated Dogri folk dances by Sanjeet Mehra & Group, the unique BhandPather by AlamdarBhagat Theatre from MohriPora, and a stirring Challant performance by GulamRaoo IBhagatyar. The energy continued with Dogri dances by Radhika Manhas & Group and a soulful GojriGeet by renowned artists Razia Ashraf and Parveena Choudhary.

## DC convenes public outreach camp at Paddar; also flags off Watershed Yatra

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KISHTWAR:

To address public grievances and foster development at grassroots, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar Rajesh Kumar Shavan today convened a public outreach at Sub-Division Paddar. He also flagged off the Watershed Yatra and attended Bhumi Pujan and Sheela Nayas for the upcoming Watershed Project at Panchayat Affani.

The yatra, which started from Affani and concluded at Karhie, saw enthusiastic participation from students of different institutions. The DC formally inaugurated the initiative in the presence of DDC Member Paddar Hari Krishan Chowhan; SDM Dr. Amit Kumar and Project Officer IWMP, Phulail Singh. At the outset, the project officer provided detailed insights into the status of IWMP Watershed Projects in Block Paddar. Speaking at the outreach camp, the DC emphasized the promotion of millet cultivation in Paddar as part of sustainable agricultural practices. Additionally, he launched month-long district-wide sports activities under Sansad Khel Spardha, aimed at promoting physical fitness and mental wellness among youth, while encouraging a drug-free lifestyle under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

The DC further highlighted the novel initiative of saturating 80 plus government schemes in 13 Model Panchayat.

## 76 Bn CRPF organises Shradhanjali Programme to observe 6th anniversary of Pulwama Martyrs

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
JAMMU:

The Sixth death anniversary of the Martyrs of Pulwama was observed today as "Shradhanjali Programme" at HQr 76 Bn Preet Nagar (Gangyal) to pay Tributes to soldiers who attained martyrdom in the Pulwama Bomb Blast.

Vezoto Tinyi, Commandant-76 Bn, CRPF, Rajesh Kumar, Second in Command, Jai Ram Prasad, Second in Command, Girish Chandra Singh Sontiyal, Second in Command, Anil Kumar, Asstt Commandant and other Subordinate Officers / Personnel of 76 Bn attended the tribute paying



program. Paying rich tributes, the officers recounted that 'On 14th February 2019, our 40 Brave soldiers laid down their lives at the altar of Duty when a Vehicle borne suicide bomber hit the CRPF vehicle carrying CRPF personnel in convoy on the Jammu-Srinagar National highway near Lethapora in Pulwama.' They further recalled that 'During this cowardly incident, the bus that was blasted was of 76 Bn CRPF, Jammu in which our five brave soldiers attained martyrdom namely

Shaheed HC/GD Naseer Ahmed, Shaheed, HC/DVR Jaimal Singh, Shaheed CT/GD Rohtash Lamba, Shaheed CT/GD Sukhjinder, Shaheed CT/BUG Tilak Raj.'

"Although the Pulwama attack was a major setback for us, it exhibited the cowardice of militants who did not have the courage to face our brave soldiers. Ever since the Pulwama incident, we have neutralized many militants in gun battles in J&K.

Our morale has never diminished and we are ever ready to neutralize the militants who shall try to harm our nation or the countrymen," the Battalion.

## Commissioner JMC launches Garbage Hotspot Challenge ahead of Swachh Survekshan 2024

Reviews sanitation measures in various wards



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
JAMMU:

Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, today undertook an extensive tour of various wards under JMC's jurisdiction to assess sanitation measures and ensure cleanliness across the city. During the visit, Dr. Yadav directed municipal officers to expedite the removal of accumulated garbage, stressing the need for prompt and efficient waste disposal. Expressing concern over improper waste disposal by certain hotels and restaurants in Greater Kailash, he instructed authorities to impose fines of up to ₹50,000 on establishments found dumping garbage into drains.

The Commissioner also visited several localities, including Gangyal, Digiana, Dashmesh Nagar, Kunjwani, Channi Himmat, Deeli, Narwal, Janipur, and Paloura Top, where he interacted with sanitation workers and officials. In view of the upcoming Swachh Survekshan 2025, he emphasized the importance of maintaining high sanitation standards and instructed staff to work in double shifts to ensure comprehensive cleanliness. Dr. Yadav urged residents to actively participate in maintaining cleanliness in their respective wards and support JMC's efforts in making Jammu a cleaner and healthier city. He also announced that citizens can report garbage hotspots in their areas, and JMC will ensure their removal within 24 hours. To facilitate this, JMC has introduced a dedicated helpline number and an online portal for easy reporting. "Citizens can lodge complaints regarding garbage hotspots in their wards on www.myjammu.in or through the My Jammu Android app," he said, adding that within 24 hours of an online complaint, JMC will clean the reported garbage hotspot and engage Swachhta volunteers to prevent further dumping at the site.

## MP Er. Gulam Ali highlights Modi Govt's inclusive approach in J&K

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
JAMMU:

Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ensured representation for all sections of society in Jammu & Kashmir, including Kashmiri Pandits and refugees, by providing them a voice in the assembly. Speaking as the chief guest at the Herath Milan-2025 event organized by the Youth All India Kashmiri Samaj in Jammu, Khatana emphasized that Dogras of Jammu and Kashmiri Muslims hold deep respect for Kashmiri Pandits. He noted that despite their painful displacement in the 1990s, Kashmiri Pandits continue to share strong ties with Kashmiri Muslims. He also praised the people of Jammu for extending immense respect and love to the displaced community.

"Our government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, has fulfilled the promise of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas by reserving seats in the assembly for Kashmiri Pandits," Khatana said. He added that the Modi government is actively working toward the dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley. "Under Modi's leadership, shutdowns, protests, and terrorism in Kashmir have become history," he stated, adding that terrorism is in its final stages and that the remaining terrorists will soon be wiped out from the land of Sufism. The event was attended by Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Sogami, Secretary Relief Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar and other dignitaries.

## 3 minors forced into child labour rescued at Poonch

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
POONCH:

A Child Labour Rescue Drive was conducted today here by District Child Protection Unit along with members of the Child Welfare Committee and staff from the Child Helpline Unit.

The drive focused on various market areas in Poonch Township. Three children forced in child labour were rescued. Strict action was initiated against the involved shop owners as they were served notices by the department. In addition to the rescue efforts, multiple shops and establishments were inspected.

Shopkeepers were firmly advised against employing minors and were instructed to maintain proper documentation to ensure compliance with labour laws. The Drive was conducted under the supervision of District Child Protection Officer, Wakeel Ahmed Bhat, in collaboration with the Department of Labour.

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

DC discusses Action Plan to fast track arrangements, development works

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
KISHTWAR:

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

Detailed discussions were held on the completion of Yatra Bhawan at Gulabgarh, floating of tenders for heli services, repairing of various Yatra facilities such as sanitary complexes, development of the area around the Bhawan, provision of proper power and water supply during the Yatra, boarding and lodging

arrangements for Yatris, illumination from Darshini Dwar to Machail Bhawan, deployment of fire-fighting system at Machail, security arrangements, development of roads and bridges ahead of Gulabgarh to Machail, and telecom connectivity along the Yatra route. Array of directions were issued to the concerned officers.

The DC said that this year, we should expect 10 lakh pilgrims, as last year the Yatra crossed 3 lakh. He also stated that this would be possible only with proper publicity and by ensuring all necessary arrangements for the Yatris. The PMGSY Paddar was asked to work in double shifts to complete road connectivity work. In this regard, SDM Paddar was instructed to conduct

weekly monitoring and submit reports.

The JPDC authorities were directed to arrange additional generator sets for power supply at Yatra Bhawan, Gulabgarh.

The DC also urged the concerned authorities to explore the possibility of installing a mega tent city to enhance the tourism experience during the Yatra. The ACD was asked to furnish detailed estimates for the repair of existing and construction of new bathrooms wherever required, ensuring completion before the Yatra.

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

## GDC Marh organises 2-day Career Counselling on Competitive exams

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
KISHTWAR:

Career Counselling Cell of Government Degree College Marh organised two day career Counselling to guide students regarding preparation for Competitive Examination.

The event was organized under the guidance of Principal of the College Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul.

The Principal highlighted the significance of career counselling in helping students to figure out their strengths and develop strategies for success.

The resource persons Shoaib

Farid-Director (Wings -EkUdaan) and Shubham Sardhalia, Centre Head (SUNYA), both registered under Mission YUVA, provided insights into different career opportunities after graduation and the scope of competitive exams.

The students were provided detailed guidance about competitive exams being conducted by JKPCS, JKSSB and SSC for government recruitments, besides the competitive exams conducted for entry into professional courses and as well as career avenues in different sectors after graduation.

They emphasized the need of time management, hard work, early go

getter techniques, subject orientation and self study.

They shared preparation strategies, techniques and study skills with students to excel in academic and professional pursuits that will motivate them to clout their efforts and allegiance to create opportunities in future.

The resource persons also distributed study material.

The session saw active participation from students followed by an interactive questions and answers segment, where students engaged with the speakers to seek clarifications on various aspects of career planning and competitive exams.

## CEPC Showcases Indian Handmade Carpets at Bharat Tex 2025

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
NEW DELHI:

The Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) proudly participated in Bharat Tex 2025, a global textile mega event held from 14-17 February 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. With more than 70 member exporters, CEPC exhibited a diverse range of carpets and floor coverings in Hall 1A, highlighting the exquisite craftsmanship of Indian artisans. Apart from CEPC's participation, several carpet exporters also showcased their products independently in the same hall, reinforcing India's leadership in the global handmade carpet industry. The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, and Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita, in the esteemed presence of senior officials, including Ms.



Neelima Shah, Secretary (Textiles), Ministry of Textiles; Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Ms. Shubhra, Trade Advisor, Ministry of Textiles; Ms. Amrit Raj, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles; and Chairmen and Executive Directors of various Textiles Export Promotion Councils. CEPC set up an exclusive Theme Pavilion in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT),

Bhadohi, showcasing a live weaving demonstration. This initiative attracted significant attention, allowing visitors to witness firsthand the intricate artistry and skill of Indian carpet weavers. On the second day of the event, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, visited the Carpet and Floor Covering Hall, engaging with exhibitors and appreciating their efforts. The Minister was particularly pleased with the exhibitors' enthusiasm

and the impressive display of handmade carpets featuring a wide range of innovative designs and new collections. Exhibitors expressed their satisfaction with the platform provided by Bharat Tex 2025, which facilitated strong networking opportunities and business prospects with international buyers. The event successfully reinforced India's position as a global hub for handmade carpets and floor coverings. A moment of pride for the entire industry, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, formally inaugurated the event on 16th February 2025, further emphasizing the Government's commitment to promoting India's textile and handicraft sectors on the global stage. CEPC remains committed to supporting its members and promoting Indian handmade carpets worldwide through such prestigious platforms.

## NDMA to conduct Disaster Management Mock Exercise at Jammu Airport in Non Aviation Domain on 18, 19 Feb

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
JAMMU:

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) will be conducting Disaster Management related Mock Exercise at Jammu Airport in Non Aviation Domain on 18 and 19 February, 2025 based on Earth quake scenario in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Disaster Management department- JKDMA and Airport Authority of India at Jammu Airport. The main objective of the Mock Exercise is to highlight the key roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in various simulated hazard situations and institutionalize adoption of the Incident Response System (IRS) in the response mechanism and generating public awareness regarding the Disaster Management. The Mock & TTE's are designed to appraise all key functionalities related to disaster management of the Jammu Airport of their roles and responsibilities on various simulated/ other natural & man made hazards, discern areas for further improvement and set the stage for the conduct of the Mock Exercise. This exercise is aimed to gauge the responses of various stake holders to a simulated hazard/emergency. Further, there will be deliberation on various facets of Disaster Management to include preparedness, mitigation, evacuation, relief procedures etc to draw important lessons for further improvement.

## Jammu GRP constitutes special teams to tighten noose against drug peddlers, criminals



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
JAMMU:

The Jammu GRP has constituted special squads for keeping close vigil in the trains and the platforms to fight against the drug peddlers and to tighten the noose against the criminals. Divulging details on the initiatives being undertaken in this regard, Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu GRP, Shailender Singh said, "we have special teams working round the clock not only on the platforms but also inside the trains with a motive to catch the criminals with a particular focus on drug peddlers." The teams in civvies are active in almost all the trains operating through the Jammu Tawi Railway Station," adding, "we have also conducted successful operations in the recent past and recovered large quantities of narcotics besides weapons." "In all means, the safety of passengers is our key motto vis-a-vis fighting against drug abuse to save the future of our youth," Singh expressed. Sharing further he revealed that in 2024-25, as many as 14 NDPS cases were registered and narcotics worth crores were recovered. He said that moreover, 12 absconders pending warrants under section 512 CrPC were arrested and 14 accused persons wanted in different criminal cases were also taken into custody out of which, four were sent to the Joint Interrogation Centre while one pistol was also seized in the said period. The Jammu GRP Chief stated that four accused persons from outside J&K were also apprehended for their involvement in the heinous crimes, adding, "Our teams are maintaining a high degree of surveillance in the trains, and action on specific inputs have also resulted in the big catches."

## VDC members in remote villages of Rajouri demand salaries and better facilities



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
RAJOURI:

In the remote villages of Rajouri district, members of the Village Defence Committees (VDCs) remain ever-vigilant, working tirelessly to safeguard their families while also playing a cru-

cial role in assisting the army and police in security operations. These committees, formed to ensure the security of critical infrastructure and prevent cross-border intrusions, have been instrumental in strengthening the region's defense against terrorist threats.

VDC members, particularly those stationed in far-flung areas such as Khwas, Mogla, Narla, and Bambal, possess extensive knowledge of the local terrain, languages, and people, which makes them invaluable in counterterrorism efforts. They actively participate in cordon and search operations alongside security forces, keeping a close watch on suspicious activities, preventing acts of sabotage, and curbing the illegal smuggling of drugs and weapons across the border. Their dedication and bravery have made them a primary target for terrorists, who seek to disrupt peace in the region. Despite their relentless commitment to national security, VDC members have expressed growing concerns over the lack of financial support and other necessary facilities from the government.

## BGSBU pays Tribute to Pulwama attack Martyrs on Shaheedi Divas

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU  
RAJOURI:

The Department of Management Studies at Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) solemnly observed Shaheedi Divas to pay heartfelt homage to the brave soldiers who lost their lives in the Pulwama attack. The event was marked by deep respect and solemn remembrance for the martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation while serving in the line of duty. The observance of Shaheedi Divas at BGSBU was a poignant occasion that highlighted the valiant spirit of the fallen heroes and reinforced the need to uphold their legacy

of patriotism, dedication, and service to the country. Dr. Aasim Mir, one of the key speakers at the event, provided profound insights into the significance of the day. He emphasized that the sacrifices made by the security forces should always be remembered and honored, serving as an inspiration for the youth to imbibe values of courage, selflessness, and national pride. The program also reflected the university's commitment to honoring the nation's heroes and its role in instilling a sense of responsibility and respect for the armed forces among students. The event served as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the security personnel to safeguard the sovereignty and integrity of the

country. Faculty members, students, and staff gathered to express their solidarity and gratitude toward the soldiers who laid down their lives for the nation. On this solemn occasion, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of BGSBU conveyed a special message, reiterating the importance of remembering and acknowledging the sacrifices of the security forces. He emphasized that educational institutions must play an active role in fostering national unity, patriotism, and respect for the armed forces. The university remains steadfast in its unwavering support for initiatives that honor the bravery and commitment of the country's protectors.