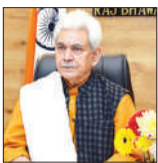


# Good Morning Kashmir

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**Office of LG J&K**  
@OfficeOfLGandK



*The outstanding performances of Sheetal, Rakesh and Sarita after admirable achievement at Asian Para Games, exemplify true spirit of sportsmanship. This is just the beginning of a new sporting era. My best wishes to all the athletes for their future endeavours.*

### Minimum Temp Continues To Settle Below Freezing Point



**SRINAGAR** A slight improvement has been recorded at multiple places in minimum temperatures here while the Meteorological department here has predicted that shallow to moderate fog would continue till November 28. The night temperature has improved at several places, but continued to settle below freezing •P-06

## 2 Terrorists Killed In Rajouri Gunfight



**YOGESH**

**JAMMU:** On the second day of the encounter at Baaji Maal area of Kalakote in Rajouri district of J&K, top Lashkar-e-Toiba commander, who was the mastermind of Dhangri attack, was killed along with his associate, officials said Thursday.

On the first day of the gun battle, army lost its two captains and three soldiers. An encounter started in the dense woods of the Baaji Maal area of Kalakote on November 21 and in the intense exchange of fire, two army captains and three soldiers were killed.

A defence source said with the first light of the day (on Thursday), contact with the hiding terrorists was established and in the heavy exchange of fire, the hiding terrorists were injured.

“Both the injured terrorists were killed in the gunfight. One of the slain was identified as Qari, a Pakistani national, tasked to revive terrorism in the region,” said the Jammu-based Defence spokesman. “He was trained on the Pak & Afghan Front. He was a highly ranked terrorist leader of Lashkar-e-Taiba.”

The spokesman said that Qari has been active in Rajouri-Poonch along with his group from the past one year. He is also believed to be the mastermind of Dangri & Kandi attacks.

The spokesman said that Qari was sent to revive terrorism in the region. “He is [an] Expert in IEDs, operating & hiding from Caves & a trained Sniper,” he added.

The army also identified their own casualties. Today, a soldier succumbed to his wounds taking the number of slain army men to five including two captains. •P-06

## 'Ensure Uninterrupted Electricity' LG Reviews Power Supply Situation In J&K

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday chaired a review meeting on the overall Power supply situation in the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh. H. Rajesh Prasad, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department; Sh Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary Finance Department; Dr Man-deep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor and other senior officials.

Detailed discussions took place on various aspects to meet the high electricity demand in both Kashmir and Jammu Division.



During the meeting, the Lt Governor asked the Principal Secretary, Department, H. Rajesh Prasad for strict •P-06

### J&K Integrates 17 Functional Mandis On eNAM

**SRINAGAR:** The Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing in collaboration with Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA), Thursday organized an outreach programme for Warehousing Registration and integration of CA stores with eNAM portal at SKICC, Srinagar. Chairman WDRA, T K Manoj Kumar was the chief guest on the occasion. Kumar informed •P-06



### Inspection, Disconnection Drives Intensified

**K**ashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has further intensified its inspection drives across all district of Kashmir Division to check incidents of hooking and power theft, which are primarily responsible •P-06

### Govt Braces Up To Procure More Electricity

**W**ith the government vowing to improve the electricity scenario in the valley, the authorities here have claimed that the demand in the non-metered areas of Kashmir have increased eight times more than •P-06

### To Cross A Million Mark ... 9 Lakh Tourists Enjoy Gondola Ride In Gulmarg This Year



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** More than nine lakh tourists have enjoyed the Gondola ride at Gulmarg this year and the figure is expected to cross more than million mark by the end of this year. Tourists describe the experience as surreal and alluring.

Managed and operated by J&K Cable Car Corporation, the Gulmarg Gondola is the flagship attraction of Kashmir tourism. It is possibly India's most popular ropeway, and at a height of 14,000 ft, it is Asia's highest operating cable car.

The Corporation, this year, improved and •P-06

## Vande Bharat To Run On Jmu-Sgr Route Early Next Year

**UMAISAR GULL GANIE**

**SRINAGAR:** To connect Kashmir valley with the rest of the country, the much-awaited Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL) project is almost completed, top railway official said on Thursday.

Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Northern Railway, Deepak Kumar said the work on Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL) project is almost completed.

“95 to 96% of the work on the 111-km-long Katra-Banihal rail line has been completed, with only a small portion of work remaining,” he said.

He said, “Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has already announced that Udhampur-Banihal track, connecting Jammu with Srinagar, will be •P-06



### 'Opioid Use On Rise In J&K'

**JAHANGEER GANAIE**

**SRINAGAR:** The prevalence of opioid use in Jammu and Kashmir is on the rise, with heroin being the most commonly abused drug, according to doctors.

Dr Aadil, a Medical Officer at the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) in District Hospital Shopian, informed that an increasing number of patients seeking treatment are opioid users, with heroin being the most commonly abused opioid in J&K.

“Approximately 90-95 percent of patients visiting the facility for treatment are opioid users,” he said, adding that heroin is the predominant opioid in use across the districts.

A psychiatrist at GMC Anantnag expressed •P-06



### Sonamarg All Set For Winter Tourism Excited Hoteliers, Traders Anticipate Increased Arrivals



**RAJA SYED RATHER**

**GANDERBAL:** With good tourist footfall during the summer season, the hoteliers and traders at the world-famous tourist destination Sonamarg anticipate increased arrivals during the winter months. The locals as well as tourism stakeholders have also hailed the government's decision to keep the place accessible during winter for tourists who are currently enjoying the scenic beauty of the resort.

In previous years, Sonamarg would be closed for traffic movement during the winter season due to heavy snowfall and avalanches, particularly in the Hung area along the road from Gagangeer. However, with the completion of the Z-Morh tunnel, which bypasses the avalanche-prone area, the administration is making efforts to make Sonamarg a winter tourist destination in Kashmir.

An official of the district administration said that all concerned departments are actively engaged in providing the basic infrastructure needed during winter, including electricity and water supply.

“This initiative of administration has brought cheers to the faces of hoteliers, traders and even tourists from various parts of the country who •P-06

**Dr. S. Jaishankar**  
@DrSJaishankar



**Welcomed FM Sylvestre Radegonde of Seychelles in New Delhi. Had a wide ranging conversation on our bilateral relations. Also exchanged views on regional concerns. Witnessed exchange of MoUs on Indian Grant Assistance For Implementation of Small Development Projects & Cooperation in the field of Youth and Sports. Confident that our conversations today will further strengthen our cordial bilateral ties.**



**Friday 24 NOV MOVIES SCHEDULE**

<b>FARREY</b> 03:00PM (HINDI) (U/A)	<b>TIGER 3</b> 02:45PM, 06:00PM (HINDI ATMOS) 03:45PM, 06:45PM (HINDI) (U/A)	<b>NAPOLEON</b> 05:30PM (ENG WITH SUBTITLES) (A)
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Get tickets for Farrey at flat ₹99.

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**VIKSIT BHARAT SANKALP YATRA**

# DPO visits Pulwama, reviews preparations of programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** A comprehensive review of the preparations of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) was held at the Circuit House in Pulwama by Binay Kumar Jha, Director SBM (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, GoI) and District Prabhari Officer VBSY to District Pulwama.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom, ADDC Pulwama, SSP Pulwama, SSP Awantipora, ADC Awantipora, ACD, ACR, ACP and various District and Sectoral officers.

The program commenced with a warm welcome extended by Deputy Commissioner Pulwama to the District Prabhari Officer VBSY.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama underscored the tangible progress made within the district, emphasizing the successful saturation of various schemes. He expounded on the work accomplished and the preparations that have



been carried out within the District.

Further, the Deputy Commissioner assured that the objectives and the vision that the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra programme encompasses will be fulfilled in the District. Earlier, The Assistant Commissioner Development provided a succinct

overview of the meticulous preparations made by District Pulwama for the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. He outlined a series of planned activities in Gram Panchayats, encompassing mobilization, awareness campaigns, community engagement, and cultural performances.

Additionally, he highlighted the successful execution of activities conducted thus far within the district.

In his address, the District Prabhari Officer VBSY commended the District Administration for their exemplary work and stressed the dual objectives of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Programme - reaching the unreached and transparently communicating the undertaken initiatives are fulfilled during this programme.

He emphasized the importance of leaving no one behind and outlined plans for widespread dissemination of information, ensuring awareness across both rural and urban areas.

# Khyber Industries hosts civil engineering students, teachers of GPC Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Khyber Cement, a prominent cement brand in Jammu & Kashmir Thursday hosted the diploma students and teachers of Government Polytechnic College Budgam as part of their industrial visit curriculum.

An official spokesperson of the Khyber Industries Private Limited said 21 students were accompanied by three faculty members Shah Suehail, Mushkooor Bashir, and Tasheen.

He said the young minds had the privilege of exploring the operations and facilities at Khyber Cement Industries Private Limited. This visit was a valuable opportunity for the students to gain practical insights into the real-world application of their academic knowledge, he added.

Throughout the visit, the students were provided with a comprehensive overview of the cement manufacturing process, safety protocols, and the latest



technologies employed in the industry.

"The interaction with the experts at Khyber Cement allowed the engineering students to broaden their understanding and witness the firsthand challenges and innovations within the cement manufacturing sector," spokesperson said.

During the visit the students were greatly impressed by the proactive measures taken by Khyber Industries Private Limited to mitigate the impact of its operations on the surrounding environment.

"The noteworthy

observations made by the students were the impressive pollution preventive measures implemented at the factory," spokesperson said in the statement.

The students unanimously acclaimed this trip as the best among all. During this session Prof. Dr. Shafquat said "It is initiatives like these that empower students to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios, preparing them for the challenges of their future careers."

Spokesperson said at Khyber Cement, education holds the key to unlocking

a brighter future for our beloved community.

Riaz Tramboo the director of operation - Khyber Cement, said, "At Khyber Cement, we are dedicated towards the betterment of our region and people in all ways possible. It was a heart-warming experience for all of us to welcome the faculty members and the students of Government Polytechnic College, Budgam, who are our future. Our small contribution in shaping their career has been a true honor and is one of the many initiatives at Khyber Cement to enrich the lives from our region."

# DC Kupwara reviews District Export Plan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** With a vision to enhance the Export of Goods from frontier district Kupwara and make it an export hub to boost the local Economy, a meeting of Export Promotion Committee was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, here to discuss the modalities for formulating a detailed Export Action Plan for the Kupwara district.

The DC took a detailed appraisal about the measures undertaken for boosting exports of various products that are being produced or manufactured in the district.

A comprehensive discussion on the subject was held wherein various issues pertaining to the finalization of the District Export Action Plan were discussed. The consultants to J&K Trade Promotion Organization (Industries & Commerce), Syed Mujtaba and Asif Rashid shared a blueprint regarding the District Export Plan and it was given out that Walnut and Red Rice have been identified under ODOP (One District One Product) (a government of India initiative) in Kupwara District.

Consultants said that construction of CFCs, Organic certification and

laser based grading, hi-tech packing etc. have been proposed in the District Export Plan.

They further said that 72 farmers have been identified and are registered for organic certification.

The DC asked all the concerned to undertake concerted efforts to finalize a comprehensive District Export Plan to initiate exports with adequate market linkage.

She emphasized that the district has huge potential for Export business, especially in Horticulture products and there is no dearth of entrepreneurship spirit. However, the need of the hour is to take measures for providing support and hand holding. She stressed that target groups - local aggregators and progressive farmers of walnut be focused for kick-starting Export activities in the district.

The DC directed the concerned officers to identify two Resource persons from DIC and Handicrafts who can be trained to deal with all issues related to Export business and can create awareness among local entrepreneurs of the district. DC asked JKTPO to organise a mega workshop in Kupwara in the Month of December for awareness of e-marketing platforms, packaging technology and organic certification etc.

# ADDC Shopian inaugurates Orientation programme under Yuva Vani

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** To sensitize the youth about agri-business, the Department of Horticulture, Shopian Thursday kick-started a series of 'Yuva Vani' programmes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in three blocks of the district.

The Yuva Vani programme is specially designed for youngsters, to lure them towards the agriculture sector.

The programme was inaugurated by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone at Block Shopian with the aim to empower youth of the district about the scope of entrepreneurship in the Agriculture sector.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC said that unemployed youth of the district Shopian should come forward and avail benefits of various

schemes of agri-allied departments.

He said that the programme is committed to reaching every corner of the district starting at the block levels.

ADDC added that once the youth are informed about the schemes of the department, they would be encouraged to take part in entrepreneurship to create job opportunities.

Chief Horticulture Officer, Shopian, Mohd Ramazan War who is also Nodal Officer HADP in the district, sensitized the participants about the 'Yuva Vani' programme and Daksh Kissan during an interaction session. He said that there are ample business opportunities available in agriculture and allied sectors for the youth.

The participants showed keen interest in opting for Agricultural entrepreneurship which has been designed exclusively for the youth within the age group of 18-35 years.

## UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR, SRINAGAR

### NOTICE

The candidate whose particulars are given below had reported to the University that she has lost her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate Certificate/s:

Name: Mehfooza Akhter  
Parentage: Mohammad Maqbool Bhat  
Residence: Mehmood Pora Kunzer  
Registration No: 5326-PTN-2016  
Certificate/s lost: Marks Card (All semesters)  
Roll No: 19810026  
Programme: Bachelor of Arts  
Session/year: 2016  
Mode: Regular  
College: Govt. Degree College, Pattan  
Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original Certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled.  
Bo: F(Duplicate/ ) Ku Assistant Controller Of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof)



## THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passes/appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th/11th/12th) under roll no 119005096 Session: Annual Regular, Year: 2023 through The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error committed by the school against my mother's name as Mehbooba instead of Mymoona.

Now I have applied for correction / rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar. Before the case will be proceed under rules, if somebody has any kind of objection in this regard, he/she shall approach the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiring date, no objection shall be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public. The correct particulars be recorded as under:-

Name: Irshad Ahmad Sofi  
Father's Name: Abdul Salam Sofi  
Mother's Name: Mymoona Bano  
Date of Birth: 21/07/2008  
Residence: Hapatnar, Charari-Sharief  
No. F(Certs-I-Doc)B/KD/20  
Dated: 23-11-2023



Sd/-  
Deputy Secretary  
Certificates , KD

# Advanced Laparoscopic procedure performed at DH Shopian



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** A first of its kind, Laparoscopic, Trans-abdominal Preperitoneal (TAPP) Meshplasty for inguinal indirect hernia was Thursday performed at District Hospital, Shopian.

The procedure was done by a team consisting of Consultant Surgeons, Dr.Mohamad Shafi, Dr. Taj-din assisted by OT technicians. The Anaesthesia team consisted of Dr. Atif, Dr. Irfan and D.

Shabir. Based on clinical examination and relevant investigations, TAPP was planned and successfully done and the patient was discharged on the 2nd post operative day, informed the MS DH.

All logistic support was provided by MS District Hospital Shopian, Dr Rubena Maqbool.

The procedure including medicine was done free of cost under the scheme of AB- PMJAY.

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

### RE-ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications on prescribed proforma (Annexure-I) are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch wards/Municipal Wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqas/Municipal Wards, for the engagement of Sahayikas (AWHs) "only married" for the Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Singhpora on "Honarium basis". As No 10<sup>th</sup> Pass forms were received from the below mentioned Panch wards 8<sup>th</sup> Pass qualification will be considered. The applications along with required documents shall be deposited in the Office of the undersigned i.e Child Development Project Officer Singhpora by or before 30th of November, 2023 against proper receipt.

S.NO	NAME OF THE DISTRICT	NAME OF THE PROJECT	NAME OF PANCHAYAT/ MUNICIPALITY WARD	VACANCY OF SAHAYIKAS (ANGANWADI HELPERS)	
				NO. OF PANCH WARD/ MC WARD	NAME OF AWC
01	BARAMULLA	SINGHPORA	Budibugh	01	Bunpora
02	BARAMULLA	SINGHPORA	Chainabal A	03	Kacher Mohalla
03	BARAMULLA	SINGHPORA	Goom Ahmedpora	07	Bunpora Ahmedpora
04	BARAMULLA	SINGHPORA	Hanjwera Payeen A	04	Rather Mohalla
05	BARAMULLA	SINGHPORA	GOOM AHMEDPORA	09	Muntazirabad

Criteria for Selection of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) shall remain as envisaged in the Govt. Order No: 103 JK (SWD) OF 2023 Dated 28.4.2023 i.e.

- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be considered for the post.
  - The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
  - The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
  - Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be Matriculation.
  - candidates with qualification not less than 8<sup>th</sup> standard shall be considered.
  - The committee shall select the most destitute/ needy married women of the Panch ward/MC Ward as helper from amongst those who fulfill the qualification criteria.
  - In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.
- Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form: -
- Panch Ward /MC Ward Certificate/Electoral Card/ Present /continuous, Ward residence certificate issued by BDO/ Executive Officer.
  - Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
  - Date of Birth Certificate.
  - Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10th.
  - Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
  - Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.
  - Affidavit from first class magistrate stating following facts.
  - All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
  - Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Anganwadi worker and Class X for Sahayikas (AWHs) and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
  - The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Sahayika (AWH)

Note: Prescribed Application Proforma can also be had from the undersigned office "Free of Cost".

No:-CDPO/POSHAN/Adv/2023/502-17

Dated: 22-11-2023

Child Dev. Project Officer  
POSHAN Singhpora

### (ANNEXURE-I)

#### APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SAHAYIKA (ANGANWADI HELPER)

S.NO: \_\_\_\_\_

- Name of the District: - Baramulla
- Name of the ICDS Project: - POSHAN SINGHPORA
- Name of the Anganwadi Centre for which engagement sought.....
- Panch Ward/MC Ward..... Panchayat Halqa.....
- Name of the Candidate (In Block Letters) .....  
Fathers Name (In Block Letters) .....
- Marital Status: - Married / Un Married
- Husbands Name (if married) .....
- Place of Permanent Residence.....
- a. Mohalla..... Village.....
- b. Panch Ward Constituency.....
- c. Name of the Panchayat Halqa.....
- d. House No..... (As per latest Panchayat Ward Electoral)
- e. Block.....
- Address for Correspondence..... Mobile No:.....
10. Date of Birth.....

Photograph of the applicant duly attested by Gazetted Officer

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Age as on 01-01-2023.....

11. Academic Qualification

S.No	Examination passed	Board/School	Year of passing	Marks Obt.	Max. Marks	%age
1	Matric					
2	Middle					

Do candidate belong to family of retired AWH (Yes/No).

- Documents attached.
- Panch Ward Certificate/ Present /continuous, Ward residence certificate issued by BDO duly countersigned by ACR/SDM.
- Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10th.
- If candidate belong to family of retired AWH then copy of the e-ration card/ any other proof.
- Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
- Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.

Signature of Candidate

#### UNDERTAKING

I,.....D/o,W/o.....R/o..... do hereby certify that the contents of the application given above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge. In case any of the above contents is found incorrect, the selection committee shall have the right to reject my application and similarly revoke my engagement order.

DIPK-12721-23  
DT: 23/11/2023

Signature of Candidate



# First FDI 'Mall of Srinagar' to create jobs for 7500 persons

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

**SRINAGAR:** The 'Mall of Srinagar', which is the first Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Jammu and Kashmir is going to create employment opportunities for more than 7000 persons, documents reveal.

Earlier in March this year, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha laid the foundation stone for a ₹250-crore mega shopping mall at Srinagar's Sempora area "Mall of Srinagar".

The Mall is being constructed by Dubai-based Emaar Group, which built the world famous Burj Khalifa in the United Arab Emirates.

The foundation stone of the state-of-the-art mall was laid almost a year after CEOs from several Gulf countries visited the Valley to explore investment opportunities.

As per the document



Available, "Mall of Srinagar" will create jobs for 7500 people, thereby becoming the first single mega job creating asset of Jammu and Kashmir.

Documents said that "Mall of Srinagar", is likely to be a state-of-the-art shopping and entertainment destination, with an investment of Rs 250 Cr.

"This will contribute to the region's economic growth by creating employment opportunities of 7500 for the local population," it said.

Launched by Emaar in

collaboration with Magna Waves Buildtech, the mall is set to become operational by 2026.

Officials said the "Mall of Srinagar" will become one of the prime attractions for people and tourists visiting the valley from different corners of the world.

"It will be like the Dubai mall, which is the largest mall in the world and equally famous for offering a unique experience to the visitors. The mall will be a one-stop shop for the people. It will be equipped

with avenues of entertainment. It will be one of the largest malls in the region with over 500 shops," they said.

Officials said the "Mall of Srinagar", which is coming up in the outskirts of Srinagar, will get due promotion by the government throughout its promotional programmes.

"Given that the mall is being constructed on 10 lakh square feet of area, it will have a direct relevance with the tourism sector of Jammu and Kashmir. While there are many investments coming in Kashmir, this particular mall will be a mega investment," they said.

Pertinently at the time of laying of foundation stone, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said Mall of Srinagar will have a transformative impact on UT and boost infrastructure, employment generation and ease of living—(KNO)

# Vinay Kumar reviews preparedness for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Director (SBM), Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (Central Prabhari Officer for Srinagar District), Vinay Kumar Jha Thursday chaired a comprehensive meeting here at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review the action plan and preparations for ensuring the seamless and successful conduct of "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" in Srinagar District.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad and SSP Srinagar Ashish Mishra were present on the occasion.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar briefed the Central Prabhari Officer about the Department wise Action Plan prepared by the District Administration Srinagar for smooth conduct of the proceedings under forthcoming "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" in the District.

He highlighted the fundamental objectives of the Viksit Bharat Yatra, encompassing critical aspects such as reaching out to the vulnerable sections eligible under various welfare schemes not yet covered, disseminating information and fostering awareness about the schemes.

The DC apprised the Prabhari Officer that the District Administration Srinagar is fully geared up to conduct the Yatra in a hassle free and seamless



manner in all 21 Panchayats, 35 Municipal Wards and 7 Cantonment Wards of the District.

On the occasion, Prabhari Officer, underlined the main objectives of Viksit Bharat Yatra and stressed to reach the unreached and cover them under the Government welfare and flagship schemes to achieve saturation. He said the nationwide campaign seeks to raise awareness through outreach activities

covering all Panchayats and Municipal/Cantonment Wards of the District in order to benefit citizens from the Government schemes.

While interacting with the Officers present in the meeting, Vinay Kumar got detailed feedback from the concerned District Officers about their role and plan for VBS Yatra. He impressed upon all the concerned Officers to ensure utmost coordination at dif-

ferent levels for the smooth and successful conduct of the activities under Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in the District. He asked them to ensure effective implementation of the activities planned to be conducted during the Yatra.

He also laid emphasis on enhancing provisions of sanitation facilities on Aspirational toilets model to provide modern facilities to the citizens. He also stressed the need to implement a comprehensive waste to energy mechanism system in Srinagar District to manage the issue of waste.

Vinay Kumar expressed satisfaction with the preparations made by District Administration Srinagar and emphasized the importance of reaching the last uncovered beneficiary with effective projection to the schemes to maximize their impact on the ground.

Earlier, Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, who is the District Nodal Officer for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, presented a comprehensive outline through a PowerPoint Presentation (PPT), discussing the District Profile, action plan, formulation of Committees, establishment of Control Rooms, and Training on operating the designated Portal. During the meeting, the route plan for the Yatra Van, deployment of staff for capturing video testimonials and other aspects were also discussed.

## Chairperson DDC Poonch calls on LG

GMK NEWS NETWORK

Reasi. The Lt Governor assured

**J A M M U :** Tazeem Akhter, Chairperson District Development Council Poonch Thursday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan. Sh Babu Jaggiwan Lal, former Minister and Member District Development Council Reasi, also called on the Lt Governor and apprised him on various development issues of District



the public representatives of appropriate action on the issues and demands projected by them during the interactions.

## LG releases Book 'Ramayana The Eternal Journey' by Jawahar Pandit

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha released a Book 'Ramayana The Eternal Journey'

authored by Sh. Jawahar Pandit, at Raj Bhawan today. The Lt Governor conveyed his best wishes to the author Sh. Jawahar Pandit.

## APA CHAMPIONSHIPS LG congratulates para achievers for bagging medals



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha congratulated the Para Archers from the UT of J&K for their incredible achievement at Asian Para Archery Championships 2023, Bangkok.

The Lt Governor tweeted: "What an incredible achievement! Para archers from J&K scripted history & brought glory to India by winning 6 Medals including 4 gold, 1 silver & 1 bronze at Para Asian Archery Championship, Thailand. The consistent performances of our Archers reflect hard work & perseverance.

The outstanding performances of Sheetal, Rakesh and Sarita after admirable achievement at Asian Para Games, exemplify true spirit of sportsmanship. This is just the beginning of a new sporting era. My best wishes to all the athletes for their future endeavours".

The Para Archers - Ms Sheetal Devi, Sh Rakesh Kumar and Ms Sarita are trained at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Sports Complex, Katra.

# Knowledge Series Film Bazaar holds focus session on J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GOA:** On day three Jammu and Kashmir was the focus at the Film Bazaar Knowledge series sessions being held at the prestigious International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

The session was presided over by officers from J&K DIPR and J&K Tourism Department and was moderated by Sanjay Suri, actor and Film Producer, who happens to be originally from J&K himself. The panel of officers who spoke on the occasion included Amarjeet Singh, Special Secretary J&K Tourism Department; Vivek Puri, Joint Director



Department of I&PR and Afaq Gadda Nodal Officer Film Policy DIPR.

During the session, the officers explained different facets of the film policy and unique features of it besides the financial and Non-Financial incentives being offered by the J&K Government. They also

spoke extensively about the film tourism destinations that J&K has to offer. Few videos about 'the Film Policy' and 'Bollywood in Jammu & Kashmir' were also played, which were liked and appreciated by the audience. The session concluded with an open discussion where a lot of

questions were asked by the audience.

Pertinent to mention that a team of officers from J&K including Special Secretary Tourism, Amarjeet Singh, Joint Director DIPR, Vivek Puri, Nodal Officer J&K Film Policy, Afaq Gadda, Accounts Officer I&PR, Hitesh Choudary, Tourist Officer Hyderabad, M Sajid Kirmani and Film Librarian, Abid Hussain are stationed in Goa and are meeting with National as well as International film makers for pitching the Film Policy and Film Tourism destinations, with a view to give a fillip to Filmography and Tourism in J&K.

## Border villages first priority villages for development: Div Com Reviews availability of basic facilities inside fenced areas along LOC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Thursday convened a meeting, here to review availability of basic amenities and services to the people living in the habitations ahead of the fenced line along the LOC in border districts of Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Baramulla, Kupwara and

Bandipora along with district officers of PMGSY, Health, Education, PDD and PHE besides officers of BEACON.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed officers to ensure that border villages are provided all the basic facilities viz. roads, electricity, mobile connectivity and internet services besides educational institutions and health centres so that these areas are not left behind on the developmental front.

He enjoined concerned

PHE officers to connect every household through JJM Schemes to provide potable water to residents of fenced areas.

Bidhuri maintained that border villages should not be treated as last habitations but these are our first priority and are considered first villages.

The Div Com impressed the officers to conduct frequent field visits to these villages to address the developmental requirements so the

residents of these areas do not face hardships.

The Deputy Commissioners on the occasion informed the meeting about the number of villages of their respective districts falling in this zone and the current scenario of basic amenities available to the people there.

To execute all the developmental works ahead of the fencing line, Div Com instructed HoDs to work in close synergy with the security agencies.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA**  
 Fax No: 01952-234426 | e-mail, id, xenmhdbla@gmail.com  
**CORRIGENDUM-IV**  
 Subject: - Extension of Critical Dates of e-NITS No. 05/2, 05/3 & 05/4 of 2023-24 Dated: - 17-10-2023.  
 Reference: - Tender IDs: - 2023\_PWDJK\_233857\_2  
 2023\_PWDJK\_233857\_3  
 2023\_PWDJK\_233857\_4  
 Due to inadequate response in reference to above cited e-NITS, the Critical Dates are extended as under:

S. No	Description	Re- Scheduled date
1	Date of Downloading	17-10-2023 (06:15 PM) to 01-12-2023 (06:00 PM)
2	Date of uploading	17-10-2023 (06:15 PM) to 01-12-2023 (06:55 PM)
3	Due date of opening of tender	02-12-2023 (01:00 PM)

No: - M&HDB/TS/1397-99  
 Dated: - 23-11-2023  
 DPK-12728-23  
 DT: 23/11/2023  
 Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer  
 Mechanical & Hospitals Division  
 Baramulla

**THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)**  
 Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)  
 website: http://www.jkbopee.gov.in, email: helpdesk@jkbopee@gmail.com/coejakbopee@gmail.com

Subject:- Conduction of Special Stray Vacancy Round for admission to MD/MS/PGD Courses -2023 in Government/Private Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K.  
 Reference: - 1. Notice No. U-12021/02/2023-MEC (Pt.II) Dated: 15-11-2023 2. Notification No. 095-BOPEE of 2023 dated 15.10.2023.

**NOTIFICATION NO. 121-BOPEE OF 2023 DATED: 23-11-2023**

Consequent upon issuance of counselling schedule for conduct of Special Stray Vacancy Round for admission to MD/MS/PGD courses - 2023 by the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) Government of India vide Notice No. U-12021/02/2023-MEC (Pt.II) Dated: 15-11-2023 and in pursuance of Notification No. 095-BOPEE of 2023 dated 15.10.2023, it is hereby notified for information of all the concerned candidates that the Board shall conduct Special Stray Vacancy Round on 25.11.2023 for admission to MD/MS/PGD Courses - 2023 in Government/Private Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K for the seats which have remained unfilled or received as shortfall/resignations after conclusion of Mop Up Round of counselling for admission to MD/MS/PGD courses - 2023 conducted by the Board on 14.10.2023 as per the following schedule:-

S.No.	Updated UT Rank	Date / Day of Counselling	Remarks
01.	From 01 To 1035	25.11.2023 (Saturday)	All candidates

The eligible and willing candidates have to report at BOPEE offices Jammu/Srinagar for Registration/Attendance and fulfillment of other formalities, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on 25.11.2023.  
 The details of seats available for Special Stray Vacancy Round is given below:

Name of the College	Discipline	Number of Seats Available
Government Medical College, Srinagar	MD Anesthesiology	02
Government Medical College, Srinagar	MD Anatomy	03
Government Medical College, Jammu	MD Anatomy	02

**Note-I:**  
 The following procedure shall be followed during conduct of Special Stray Vacancy Round of physical counselling.  
 1. It is enjoined upon all the eligible candidates that they shall visit/attend counselling only after checking the Seat Matrix available on the official website of the Board.  
 2. As notified by MCC in the notice dated 15.11.2023, the candidates who are not holding any seat either in All India Quota (AIQ) or State Quota are eligible to participate in Special Stray Vacancy Round. However, candidates who did not join their seats allotted through MCC Round - 3 on wards are "Not Eligible" to participate.  
 3. It has also been notified by the MCC that the Special Stray Vacancy Round is not an upgradation round. Joined candidates of earlier rounds will not be given chance of upgradation.  
 4. The candidates who have not been allotted any seat or remained absent during 1st, 2n / Mop up Round of counselling shall be eligible to participate in this round of counselling.  
 5. The candidates who are participating for the first time in the counselling shall have to pay non-refundable counselling fee of Rs. 2000/- physically, through POS machines kept available at BOPEE offices Jammu/Srinagar on the day of counselling.  
 6. The Board reserves the right to notify such changes as may become necessary in view of any technical difficulty or the reason beyond its control.  
 7. The seat matrix for Special Stray Vacancy Round shall be uploaded on the website of the Board before the date/day of counselling. The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified by the MCC/JKBOPEE from time to time in this regard.

E & O  
 BOPEE-EXAM/14/2023 (7314313)  
 Dated: 23-11-2023  
 DPK-NB-4406-23  
 DT: 23/11/2023  
 Sd/-  
 Controller of Examinations  
 J&K BOPEE



Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

# Foggy Mornings

The valley of Kashmir has been witnessing foggy mornings since last one week. Even though the intensity of the fog has reduced a little bit, during winter months one can easily speculate that intensity and density of fog may again go up. Foggy mornings in a densely populated central city like Srinagar is a recipe for disaster. The frequency of accidents increases during low visibility which is a direct consequence of the foggy conditions.

Some of the photographs taken by photographers at various locations in Srinagar city look like an unedited horror movie set location. One can only imagine how people in the logistics industry who have for example made a parcel delivered on time manage to do so while negotiating such low visibility. The challenges of modern life entail that deadlines have to be met, commitments fulfilled in the work sector and targets achieved. Imagine a resident of Lolab valley who has some documentation work in the city of Srinagar. Under such foggy conditions it will take that person a minimum of four to five hours to reach Srinagar and then navigate through serpentine queues outside hospitals, educational institutes or other government offices. It is amazing that in this digital age our universities still require a candidate to reach their fee counters to deposit fees.

Having said that winter is tough for common people all over the world, fog just adds another level of hardships. One cannot blame the administration as well. Administration has on its part declared winter vacation for primary and secondary schools in a phased manner depending upon age-dependent criterion of vulnerability to cold. People need to take utmost caution while driving in such foggy conditions. One needs to slow down while driving and allow extra time to reach one's destination. Making your vehicle visible to others is of great help as is ensuring that one does not park one's vehicle where fog is densest like banks of a river or lake. Fog lights must be turned on in vehicles which have them. By using low beam headlights, we would ensure being seen by the vehicles driving from behind as well as those driving in opposite directions. One should avoid using high beam lights as they have a tendency to cause glare making it difficult to see what is ahead of you. All these instructions need to be repeatedly broadcast through various media to the general public. We must have a public broadcast system in vehicles like in gulf where a driver driving on a highway gets an automatic audio message in the vehicle about what weather anomaly lies ahead. We hope to have an accident-free winter. We should hope for the spring days.

# Navigating The Turbulent Waters Of Adolescence



DR. GORAV GUPTA

Adolescence is a period of immense growth and transformation, often marked by rebellion and defiance. As a psychiatrist, I understand the challenges parents face when dealing with rebellious teenagers, and it's essential to approach these situations from a psychological perspective. This article offers ten strategies to help parents better understand and navigate the complex terrain of teenage rebellion.

**Empathetic Communication:** Adolescents often rebel because they feel unheard or misunderstood. Start by listening without judgment and acknowledging their feelings. Validate their emotions, even if you disagree with their actions. This empathetic communication fosters trust and opens the door for more meaningful conversations.

**Set Clear Boundaries:** While granting autonomy is crucial, teenagers still need structure. Establish clear and reasonable boundaries that promote their safety and well-being. When boundaries are crossed, enforce consequences that are fair and consistent.

**Teach Problem-Solving Skills:** Adolescents are on a quest for independence. Help them develop essential life skills by involving them in decision-making processes. Encourage them to think critically, weigh consequences, and make responsible choices.

**Positive Reinforcement:** Reinforce positive behavior with praise and rewards. This encourages teenagers to continue making good choices. Celebrate their achievements, no matter how small, to boost their self-esteem.

**Model Healthy Conflict Resolution:** Adolescents learn by observing. Display healthy conflict resolution strategies at home. Avoid aggressive or passive-aggressive behavior and instead demonstrate effective communication, compromise, and negotiation.



**Education and Awareness:** Educate yourself about the challenges teenagers face today, from social media pressure to academic stress. Awareness of these issues will enable you to offer better guidance and support.

**Peer Relationships:** Adolescents often prioritize their friendships over family. Encourage them to build healthy peer relationships by offering opportunities for social interaction. Stay involved in their social life, and be aware of their friends and activities.

**Understanding the Underlying Issues:** Rebellion is often a manifestation of deeper emotional or psychological issues. Pay attention to sudden and extreme changes in behavior. If you suspect underlying problems, seek professional help from a therapist or psychiatrist.

**Respect Privacy:** While it's essential to stay informed about your child's life, respecting their privacy is equally crucial. Teens need a safe space to express themselves without the fear of constant scrutiny.

**Education and Awareness:** Educate yourself about the challenges teenagers face today, from social media pressure to academic stress. Awareness of these issues will enable you to offer better guidance and support.

**Cultivate a Strong Parent-Child Relationship:** Above all, maintain a strong and nurturing parent-child relationship. Even during periods of rebellion, remind your teenager that you love and care for them unconditionally. Spend quality time together to build trust and connection.

Understanding the psychology behind adolescent rebellion is essential for effectively tackling these challenging situations. Adolescents are at a stage of development where they seek autonomy, experiment with identity, and test boundaries. By following these strategies, you can promote healthy growth and guide your teenager toward responsible adulthood.

Rebellion is a natural part of the adolescent journey, but it doesn't have to be a constant source of conflict. As a parent, your role is to provide support, guidance, and a safe environment for your teenager to explore and learn. With patience, empathy, and a psychological perspective, you can help your rebellious teenager navigate this tumultuous phase and emerge as a confident, responsible adult.

*Author is Founder & Director - Tulasi Healthcare*

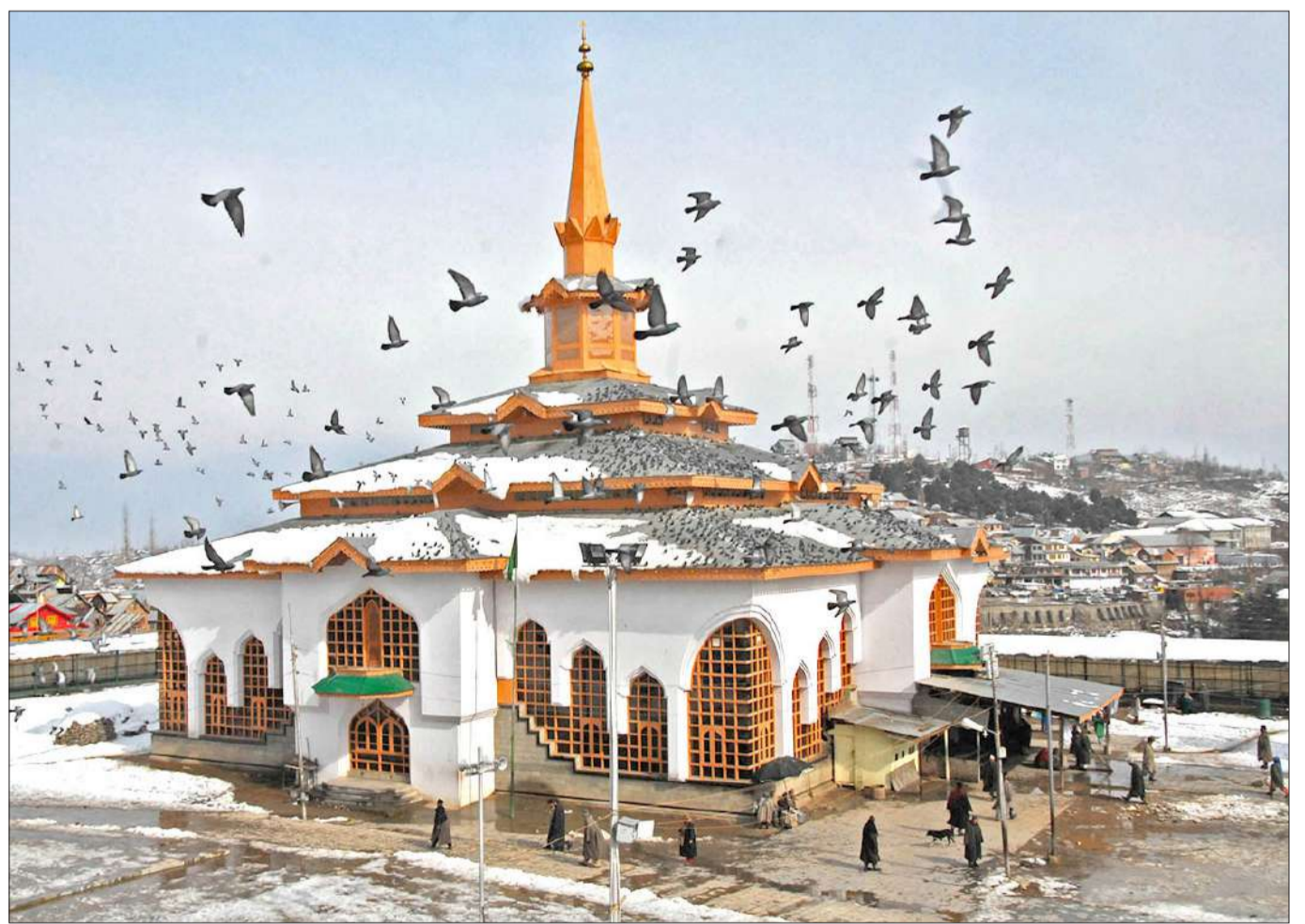
# The Enduring Legacy Of Sheikh Ul Alam



ER AAUSF IBN FAROOQ

The eminent legacy of Alamdar-e-Kashmir, also known as Sheikh ul Alam (RA), resonates through the rich tapestry of Kashmir's history, spirituality, and culture. A revered Kashmiri Sufi Saint, mystic, poet, and Islamic preacher, his profound influence continues to echo through time, deeply ingrained in the lore of Ladhoo, Pampore. It is said that Sheikh ul Alam spent a significant portion of His life, precisely 12 years, in seclusion within a cave nestled in Ladhoo, a place that remains a sacred pilgrimage site today. This mystical abode bears witness to the saint's spiritual journey, fostering historical and spiritual significance entwined with his profound teachings and life experiences.

Every year, the air in Ladhoo becomes imbued with a spirit of commemoration during the Urs of Sheikh ul Alam. This annual celebration serves as a testament to his enduring legacy, drawing devotees and pilgrims to pay homage to the revered saint. Among the remarkable relics housed within the cave, one of the wonders is the sign of his hand engraved on stone, an indelible symbol of divine grace.



What adds a unique charm to this celebration is its alignment with the culmination of the saffron season, infusing a distinctive cultural and seasonal harmony into the occasion. This convergence of spirituality and nature's bounty enhances the allure of the Urs, creating a vibrant tapestry of traditions, spirituality, and cultural fervour.

In the upcoming commemoration, from November 26 to November 28, 2023, a series of ceremonies and rituals will be slated to honour the revered Alamdar-e-Kashmir. This year's Urs will hold a series of sacred ceremonies and events. From the Maghrib prayer on November 25 until the Isha prayer, the atmosphere will be adorned with Khatmat-Al-Mu'azimat, Naat Khawani,

and Manqabat, offering devotees moments of reflection and spiritual connection. The Shrine Admin Committee extends a heartfelt invitation to the public to partake in these sacred festivities. The program, set amidst the serene beauty of Ladhoo, promises an immersive experience, inviting all to join in and witness the spiritual sanctity and cul-

tural richness woven into the legacy of Sheikh ul Alam. The Urs of Sheikh ul Alam stands not just as a celebration but as a gateway to a spiritual odyssey, inviting believers and seekers alike to immerse themselves in the timeless teachings and divine grace of this Sufi saint.

*The author can be mailed at aasifhussain14@gmail.com*

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR



## Shooting Our Own Foot

# Misuse Of Medicines Is Making Infections Difficult To Treat



SHOBHA SHUKLA  
BOBBY RAMAKANT

**A**ntimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and become resistant to (or no longer respond to) medicines, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death. As a result of drug resistance, medicines become ineffective, and infections become increasingly difficult or impossible to treat. That is why AMR ranks among the top ten global health threats worldwide.

“Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a problem driven by misuse and overuse of antimicrobial medicines, including antibiotics and antivirals, and results in critical medicines losing effectiveness to treat infections,” said Thomas Joseph, Head, AMR Awareness, Advocacy and Campaigns, World Health Organization (WHO), at a recent pre-conference meet of 22nd International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA).

“AMR is associated with 5 million deaths a year. Besides this, there is the huge burden of morbidity and healthcare expenditure that can affect household welfare severely. The World Bank estimates that Global GDP could fall by \$1 to \$3.4 trillion annually after 2030 due to AMR,” he added. The World Bank estimates that an additional 24 million people would be forced into extreme poverty by 2030 if no action is taken on AMR today.

Drawing attention to World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) which is celebrated between 18-24 November every year, Thomas cautioned that “All stakeholders should realize that if we do not act now, we could go back to a pre-antibiotic era, when even simple infections become untreatable”.

### Antimicrobials should be regarded as global public goods

There are several issues of access and equity affecting AMR. “Research and development of new treatment options, including new antibiotics, is not prioritized due to a sector-wide market failure. As a result, we are running out of treatment options and new drugs are not coming into the market. Even when new medicines finally reach the market, low- and middle-income countries are not able to access these due to intellectual property and pricing constraints. Antimicrobials should be regarded as global public goods. Governments should strengthen their health systems and push for universal health coverage, so that all have access to the needed antimicrobials prescribed by registered healthcare providers,” said Thomas.

### Be the change: Sharing personal experience of surviving AMR

Vanessa Carter, an AMR patient survivor, One Health advocate, Chairperson of the WHO Taskforce of AMR Survivors, and founder of The AMR Narrative was one of the speakers at the 3rd Annual Global Media Forum on AMR, hosted by Global AMR Media Alliance in lead up to WAAW 2023. She shared her eye-opening personal experience of her battle with AMR.

“In 2004, I was 25 years old. I had a severe car accident in Johannesburg, South Africa, and ended up in a hospital with a lot of massive injuries. I had been resuscitated on the side of the road, I was put on life



support, I had multiple fractures in my face- a broken jaw and a broken nose- and also lost one eye. I also had a head injury, major abdominal injury, fractured pelvis, neck, and back injury. But the most complicated injuries were to my face, and it took me 10 years to recover from them, during which time I have had 4 different facial prosthetic implants,” said Vanessa.

But the worst was yet to come. Six years into the accident and after her fourth implant, one day, while getting into her car, Vanessa saw moisture seeping all over her face. It was pus oozing out from her 4th implanted prosthetic. She underwent emergency surgery, and the doctors did “debridement” and reconstructive surgery to fix up the damaged tissue. Two weeks later, the infection returned. She got more of tissue reconstruction done. But the infection kept on returning and it worsened over time. This went on for the next 11 months during which she was kept under the care of several specialist surgeons.

Vanessa was eventually diagnosed

with highly antibiotic resistant form of MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) infection. She could not undergo any more surgeries for one year, as the doctors had to wait for tissue to recover.

“I had to cover my face as I looked terrible. My face was very red, full of fluid and swollen. I could not wear my artificial eye. I could not go to fetch my child from school because the kids would get scared looking at me”, she recalls.

### Political commitment on AMR

World leaders at next year’s UN General Assembly will be convening a United Nations High Level Meeting on AMR. “We are at a critical point in time to act against AMR. The attention to AMR is growing and it is rightly so. The UN High Level Meeting on AMR next

year is a critical opportunity to further accelerate the response to AMR,” said Beatrice Atim Odwong Anywar, Uganda’s Minister of State for Environment, and Member of Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

“The drivers of AMR are in several sectors. Misuse or overuse of antimicrobials happen in human health, animal health, food and agriculture, and several other sectors”, adds Dr Philip Mathew, Technical Officer, World Health Organisation (WHO).

As per WHO, One Health is an integrated unifying approach to sus-

tainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and our environment. By linking humans, animals and the environment, One Health can help to address the full spectrum of disease control and contribute to global health security.

### Information, knowledge, action gap?

“When it comes to addressing AMR, mere information is not enough. Information has to be translated into knowledge and action. We need to bridge that knowledge-action gap. In context of sustainability, we often say - think global, act local. What we do at the local level or what we do in our house, community, school, or organisation, also makes a huge difference. Key message is grounded in promoting appropriate use of antimicrobials, and to stop inappropriate or inappropriate use of antimicrobials in human health, animal health and livestock, food and agriculture, and environment. That is why quadripartite agencies of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) have united to advance progress on One Health approach in addressing challenges such as AMR,” said Wondwosen Asnake Kibret, Policy and Partnerships Coordinator, UNEP.

“Calling AMR a ‘silent pandemic’ might convey a wrong message that ‘it is a very distant issue which may affect us sometime in the future’. AMR is not a distant issue as it is killing millions right now – even one death is a death too many when it comes to preventable threats like AMR. AMR can happen to anybody at any time”, cautions Philip.

That is why all sectors across the One Health spectrum spanning human, animal, plant, and the environment must work together to ensure the responsible use of antimicrobials while taking preventive measures to decrease the incidence of infections. The medicines which we have today to combat diseases have to be handled with care and used responsibly.

Shobha Shukla and Bobby Ramakant lead the editorial team of Citizen News Service and are on the Board of Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA) and Asia Pacific Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media). Follow them on Twitter: @shobha1shukla, @bobbyramakant



with highly antibiotic resistant form of MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) infection. She could not undergo any more surgeries for one year, as the doctors had to wait for tissue to recover.

“Out of the 5 million AMR related human deaths that occur every year, most of them are happening in low- and middle-income countries. These

ly in humans, and in animal and plant production”.



# DC Shopian Visits Keller, Reviews Functioning Of Departments

GMK EWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb Thursday visited Keller block of the district and reviewed the functioning of departments besides taking stock of healthcare services.

On the occasion, the DC chaired a review meeting with district and tehsil officers and officials of departments and reviewed the pro-

vision of services and winter preparedness besides reviewing the functioning of tehsil level offices.

The DC called upon frontline officers and officials to remain fully prepared in tackling the public welfare issues during the winter season while reviewing the provision of electricity, water, healthcare, snow clearance, etc.

He also met PRIs, contractors and the public, and interacted with

them on various issues and heard their issues patiently.

The DC on the occasion, asked for better cooperation from them in timely execution of developmental works being executed by the departments.

He assured them that the District Administration is always at the forefront to expedite resolution of any problem faced by them.

Later, DC also made a surprise

inspection of Sub District Hospital, Keller and took stock of the functioning of the hospital, provision of health care facilities there besides inspecting Pharma stores.

He interacted with staff and instructed healthcare functionaries to provide better healthcare facilities to the patients.

Various district and tehsil level officers and officials accompanied the DC during the visit.

# ADDC B'pora Takes Stock Of Grievance Redressal Mechanism

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak Thursday chaired a meeting of concerned officers to take stock of current status and position of public grievances, received by various departments.

On the occasion, a com-

prehensive discussion on the subject was held wherein it was informed that grievances pertaining to various departments were registered and have been addressed well within the stipulated time frame whereas the remaining are in different phases of execution.

After taking a thorough review, ADDC stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure timely and prompt redressal of all the grievances. He said that an effec-

tive and proper grievance redressal mechanism is the cornerstone of a welfare administration.

He further added that administration is working with utmost zeal and dedication towards addressing the issues of people in a convenient and hassle free manner.

The ADDC stressed upon the quality disposal of the grievances so that issues pertaining to common people are redressed timely and effectively.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

### 2 Terrorists Killed

The brave hearts were identified as Captain MV Pranjali of Mangalore, Karnataka, Captitan Shubham Gupta of Agra, Uttar Pradesh, Havaldar Abdul Majid of Ajote, Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir Lance Naik Sanjay Bisht of Halli Padli, Nainital, Uttrakhand and Paratrooper Sachin Laur, Nagaliya Giuroola, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi among other senior civil and police officers laid a wreath at Mintery hospital Jammu.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu, Anand Jain in statement said that a top Lashkar-e-Toiba commander along with associate was killed in Baajim-Kalakote, Rajouri Jammu.

"Apropos to our earlier information regarding encounter between terrorists and Army & JK Police in Bajimaal area of Dharmal-Kalakote in Rajouri District, a top Commander identified as code name Qari of Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit has been gunned down in a fierce gun battle in Bajimaal area of Dharmal in Rajouri District. He was active in Rajouri-Poonch along with his group from past one year," the police statement quoting IGP Jammu, said, adding that "The slain terrorist is believed to be mastermind of Dangri and Kandi attacks. The slain terrorist was sent to revive terrorism in the region and IEDs handling expert, operating & hiding from Caves & a trained Sniper."

Incriminating materials including arms and ammunition were recovered from his possession. In the encounter, police said Qari's associate was also killed. "The bodies of both the terrorists have been retrieved and taken for further medico-legal formalities by the Police. The area is being thoroughly searched to check for any other suspicious article, support structure etc," the statement said.

It may be recalled that in January this year, terrorists killed four civilians and injured nine others at Dhangri area of Rajouri district. On the second day of the incident, an IED exploded near the incident site, resulting in the death of a child at the scene injuring five others. Second child injured in that blast died later, raising the overall death toll to six—(KNO)

### LG Reviews Power

compliance of curtailment plans, uninterrupted and quality power in 100% smart metered feeders and timely replacement of damaged transformers to avoid any inconvenience to the people. He said the team on the ground must closely monitor the situation and take proactive actions to meet the peak electricity demand.

The Lt Governor also took appraisal of the status of the installation of smart meters, manpower and power infrastructure.

### Inspection,

for power outages and distress cuts.

As many as 566 drives were conducted across all 19 Electric Divisions and a penalty of Rs.7.84 lakh was imposed on those found hooking wires on bare conductor and bypassing the meters. Meanwhile, 64 Domestic Transformers (DTs) were also reported damaged on Wednesday due to overloading.

Giving details about the inspections conducted, a KPDCCL spokesperson today stated that 183 drives were conducted in Circle II Srinagar, 60 in Circle I Srinagar, 123 in Circle Ganderbal, 71 in Circle Pulwama, 35 in Circle Bijbehara and 94 in Circle Sopore.

The spokesperson further stated that 1082 domestic, commercial and industrial connections were also disconnected for non-payment of energy dues for more than three months. This includes 371 domestic, 549 commercial and 157 industrial consumers.

Exhorting consumers to treat DTs as their own assets, the KPDCCL spokesman said 64 DTs were reported damaged across all Electric Divisions. "While those fully damaged are being transported to Central Workshop at Pampore, the rest are being repaired at divisional-level workshops," he said, adding that KPDCCL is committed to replace the damaged transformers within the stipulated timelines.

KPDCCL has also urged all domestic, commercial and industrial consumers to pay their long-pending energy dues or face disconnection. "The Corporation is actively pursuing recovery of pending arrears and Rs.8.00 crore were collected on Wednesday alone from the consumers," he said, adding that KPDCCL will make all out efforts to achieve the target

of revenue realization fixed by the Government.

### Govt Braces Up

the areas where smart meters have been introduced.

The officials while divulging the details said that there has been an abrupt increase in the demand of electricity in wake of the early winter conditions.

"The demand at present has increased to 1900 Megawatts, but at the same time, the in-house power generation is too low," the officials said.

At this juncture, the public response is quite contrary as the overloading has turned out a major reason behind the unscheduled power cuts here, which is a cause of concern for one and all, the officials said, adding that the consumers who have been connected with the smart meters have been acting responsibly as the demand amidst the prevailing winter conditions has increased by just over one per cent.

The officials, however, stated that in the non-metered areas where the flat rate continues, the demand has increased 8 times more than the metered areas, which shows how the public in these areas are resorting to the excessive use of electricity, which needs to be curbed.

When asked about the accelerating night inspections, the official said that the complaints of illegal hooking in the metered areas was being received from different areas, thus the department has decided to act tough against the power theft to combat hooking.

Pertinently, Kashmir has been grappling with worst-ever power crisis while the government had claimed that the situation will be improved as a panel has already been constituted by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta with regard to the procurement of additional electricity to meet the power demand—(KNO)

### Minimum Temp

point. In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, the mercury settled at minus 0.8 degree Celsius. Weak winter disturbances have helped reduce the fog cover.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather would remain partly to generally cloudy today while from November 24-26, generally dry weather is expected in J&K. On November 27-28, the weather would remain generally cloudy while 29-30, there is a possibility of light rain, snow at isolated higher places. The weatherman also predicted cloudy weather conditions on December 01-03—(KNO)

### J&K Integrates 17

that WDRA was constituted in 2010 under the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007 with a mission to regulate and ensure implementation of provisions of the Act for development and regulation of warehouses, regulations of negotiability of warehouse receipts and promote orderly growth of warehousing business in the country.

He explained the advantages of registration of warehouses and emphasized that the e-NWR issued by WDRA registered warehouse shall act as a prime tool of trade and loan. He also elaborated the process of generation of e-NWR which is a potent instrument for securing credit. He announced waiver of registration fee till 25th Oct 2025, besides emphasizing that PACS in J&K can take due benefit for registration from WDRA.

Sharing the perspective, Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing, Vikas Sharma, in his address, informed that the meet was organized with the twin objective of raising awareness on registration of warehouses under Warehousing (Development & Regulation) Act and bringing CA Stores in the fold of eNAM for giving maximum returns to the farmers for their produce.

National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. He shared that a similar event was organized in August in Jammu.

It was informed on the occasion that J&K has now integrated all 17 functional mandis on eNAM. The Department is keen to facilitate registration of CA stores in J&K with WDRA, paving way for their integration on e-NAM Portal. The Department has recently provided for declaration of CA stores as sub-yards of Mandis for carrying out e-NAM Trade to facilitate the farmers to reap maximum

returns for their produce. From only 89 lakh eNAM trade till 2021-22, J&K up scaled it to 32 crore last year and during this year, it has raised manifolds to over 300 crore.

H.K. Dabas, Under Secretary, WDRA and B.P. Yadav, AD, WDRA made presentations on Warehousing Act/Rules and detailed the Registration Process, e-NWR, scientific storage practices, assaying procedures etc. The eNAM and SFAC teams made the participants aware about the procedure for integration of warehouses and CA stores on eNAM and welcomed the initiative of the Horticulture (P&M) Department and WDRA in this regard.

The event was participated, among others by, G.R. Mir, Director Horticulture Kashmir, R.A. Wani, Special Secretary, Imam Din MD, JKHPMC, Khalid Majeed, Director I&C Kashmir, Mohammad Iqbal Choudhary, Director Agriculture Kashmir, CGM NABARD, Shahid Kamili, President, FCIK, Vicky Shah, Chairman, PHDCCI, representatives of KCCI, various stakeholders including officers of Horticulture (P&M) Department, DMI, NABARD, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, FCI, Industries and Commerce, SIDCO, SICOP, Cooperatives, SKUAST, banks. Besides, CA stores owners, owners of warehouses, farmers, and Presidents of major fruit Mandis also attended the event.

### 9 Lakh Tourists

enhanced the service delivery by improving the ticket issuing mechanism, undertaking several safety tests and overhauled the second phase of the Gandola with latest technology.

Managing Director, J&K Cable Car Corporation, Raja Yaqoob said the Corporation is sensitized to its role as a prominent stakeholder of J&K tourism. He said the corporation is committed to improve tourist experience by giving them easy, hassle free and safe ride. He assured Tourists of even better facilities in the upcoming winter season and appealed to Tourists to book tickets through online mode only and adhere to timings mentioned in the ticket to avoid any inconvenience.

It may be mentioned here that the Gulmarg Cable Car comprises two phases; one from Gulmarg resort to Kongdori valley and the second from Kongdori to Apharwath Peak. The ropeway has in total 108 cabins and 18 towers.

The first stage transfers from the Gulmarg resort at 2,650 m (8,694 ft) to Kongdori Station in the bowl-shaped Kongdori valley. The second stage of the ropeway takes to a height of 3,980 m (13,058 ft) on Kongdori Mountain, a shoulder of nearby Afarwat Peak (4,200 m (13,780 ft)).

### Vande Bharat

completed by December this year, or early next year."

Meanwhile, another top official, wishing not to be named, said that the work on the topographically challenging 111 km section between Katra and Banihal is ongoing.

He said once completed, the direct train service will directly run from Jammu and other parts of the country.

The project will probably take a month or two, which means train service is likely to start from January or February, he said.

"The USBRL project comprises 38 tunnels covering 119 km, with T-49 being the longest at 12.75 km, making it the country's lengthiest transportation tunnel. Additionally, 927 bridges, the iconic 359-meter-high Chenab Bridge and only cable-stayed rail bridge in the country were constructed across the steep slope of Anji Khad River," he said.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav earlier in March this year (2023) has announced that a Vande Bharat Metro train will run between Jammu and Srinagar once the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project (USBRL) becomes fully operational. He also had said that a Vande Bharat maintenance facility will be set up at Budgam once the railway line gets completed by December this year or January 2024.

"Yes, in all probability, Vande Bharat will run on the track in the first go," he had said.

Chief Area Manager, (CAM) Kashmir, Northern Railways Sakib Yousuf said they are expecting the trains to run very soon from all parts of the country towards Kashmir valley as most of the work on USBRL project almost is completed.

To facilitate the passengers from outside the state, he said, several works are being executed in Kashmir valley and some works are in pipeline.

"Budgam station is an Amit station,

for passengers waiting halls and others facilities are being developed there, similarly in Anantnag station, work for goods terminal (goods shed) is currently going on," he added—(KNO)

### 'Opioid Use On

similar concerns, saying that 90 percent of drug abusers attending the ATF facility in the district are heroin users. "About 65 percent of these heroin abusers engage in Intravenous Drug Abuse (IVDA), putting them at a higher risk of contracting HIV and hepatitis," he said.

"One notable challenge in addressing the issue is the social stigma associated with drug abuse, which prevents many individuals from seeking treatment," the psychiatrist said, adding that due to financial constraints and other societal factors, around 40 percent of drug abusers discontinue treatment after the initial visit to ATF.

Medical professionals stressed the need for increased vigilance among parents, urging them to provide comprehensive support to their children and raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse.

In Jammu and Kashmir, opioid preference differs from the rest of India, where alcohol is more commonly used by individuals with mental health issues, doctors said, adding that the consequences of opioid abuse include a heightened risk of overdose, which leads to severe health issues such as liver damage, sudden heart attacks, kidney damage, and mental health disorders.

Doctors reveal that heroin, a prevalent opioid, costs around Rs 5,000 per gram, and addicts spend an average of 90,000 rupees per month to sustain their opioid use. They said opioid addicts face an increased risk of sudden death, heart attacks, and other health-related complications.

Medical professionals said the possible signs of opioid use include changes in social behaviour, isolation from friends and family, altered hygiene habits, changes in eating patterns, mood swings, and financial difficulties.

They said needle sharing among heroin users has led to a substantial number of cases of severe hepatitis C, and there is also a looming risk of HIV/AIDS.

A recent report by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment highlights the gravity of the situation, stating that over 5 lakh addicts in Jammu and Kashmir use opioids, with 95,000 of them falling within the 10-17 age group. The report reveals a detailed breakdown of drug abuse statistics, encompassing various substances among different age groups.

As per the report, among 1,68,700 minor drug abusers; 8,000 are using cannabis, 95,000 opioids, 19,000 sedatives, 100 cocaine, 400 amphetamine stimulants, 46,000 inhalants and 200 hallucinogens.

The report reveals that 11,80,000 adults of the 18-75 age group are drug abusers and among them, 3,54,000 are using alcohol, 1,36,000 cannabis, 4,47,000 opioids, 1,51,000 sedatives, 89,000 inhalants and 1000 each of cocaine, stimulant and hallucinogens—(KNO)

### Excited Hoteliers,

are keen to enjoy the picturesque beauty of 'Meadow of Gold'.

Tourists are praising the hospitality of the local people and the cooperation of traders and hoteliers. Some returning visitors, who hadn't been to Kashmir in the last three years, have noticed significant changes on the ground, including the development of infrastructure and roads.

"Once the destination will be thrown open during winter, it will not only boost the economy but also provide relief to the people of various villages who used to migrate for long periods during these months," the official said.

District Commissioner Ganderbal and Director of Tourism, during their recent visit to Sonamarg, called for providing all necessary facilities to tourists, including heating arrangements in hotels, water, and electricity. They directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) to devise a proper mechanism for its wide publicity as a winter tourist destination.

CEO SDA Ilyas Ahmed said that they are ready from all aspects. He said winter games are also scheduled to attract tourists, which will further enhance the overall experience.

"The opening of Sonamarg during winter is anticipated to not only boost the local economy but also provide relief to villagers who used to migrate for extended periods during the winter months," Ahmed said—(KNO)



# UP ATS to strengthen human intelligence network to check trafficking

**LUCKNOW:** The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) plans to strengthen its human intelligence network at halt points and route charts of the human trafficking networks to track the traffickers, illegal immigrants, and their facilitators through the porous India-Bangladesh border.

Illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and Myanmar easily get settled in different areas of Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country after entering the country through these points.

"The ATS team has zeroed in on some districts like Mathura, Aligarh, Deoband in Saharanpur, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Hapur, and other areas of the National Capital Region slums which are the halt points of these traffickers to safely keep the illegal immigrants hiding in heavily populated areas before preparing their forged identities, local addresses and sending them to different cities including Delhi and Ahmedabad for employment," a senior police official said.

"We are going to deploy our human intelligence

network at such places, to tip us off about any illegal immigrant or a person working for the human trafficking racket."

The official said it was easy to arrest human traffickers and illegal immigrants when they were in Uttar Pradesh as trafficking operated from here and also used it as transit route and halt points.

He said it was tougher to track them once they shifted to other locations or other parts of the country.

He said the ATS team had even prepared different route charts used by human traffickers to bring illegal immigrants via West Bengal and Assam to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and then spread them across the country.

"These route charts were prepared according to the information extracted from Ibrahim Khan and Tanya Mandal, both Bangladesh nationals, arrested from Bengaluru on November 9 earlier this month. Khan was produced before the ATS court on November 10 and his custody remand was procured for



probe," he stated.

The official informed that Tanya Mandal herself was illegally trafficked from Bangladesh to India by Adil-ur-Rehman, a key figure in the human trafficking racket.

Adil-ur-Rehman, along with two other accused, Abu Huraira Gazi and Sheikh Najib-ul-Haq, was arrested on October 11.

He said Adil-ur-Rehman sold Tanya Mandal to Ibrahim Khan for Rs 25,000 in Indian currency.

Adil-ur-Rehman was arrested for human trafficking, while Tanya Mandal faced charges of violating the Foreigners Act by illegally crossing over into Indian territory.

Earlier on November 7,

the ATS also apprehended Mohd Hussain, a Myanmar national wanted in connection with the international human trafficking racket, from Kargil colony in Jammu's Narwal.

The racket is implicated in smuggling women and children from Bangladesh and Myanmar into India using forged identities.

The ATS revealed that Hussain's name emerged after the arrest of three individuals - Bangladesh resident Mohammad Noor alias Noorul Islam and two Burmese men, Rahmatullah and Shabiullah, on July 26, 2021.

During that operation, the ATS also rescued two girls and a boy and arrested eight members of the syndicate, of which Hussain is allegedly a part.

The investigation is going on into the network of the syndicate, which utilized fake address proofs to bring victims into India, subsequently selling them to gangs involved in various illicit activities such as flesh trade, slavery, and beggary, among others.

# Atiq's aide arrested in police encounter in Prayagraj

**PRAYAGRAJ:** An aide of slain mafia-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed was arrested after an encounter with police in Nawabganj area of Prayagraj district here in Uttar Pradesh, a police officer said here on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Ganga Nagar, Abhishek Bharati said the encounter took place in the Anapur area where two criminals opened fire on the police team after being intercepted during vehicle checking late on Wednesday night. "In retaliatory firing one of the criminals sustained bullet injury and was arrested," he said.

He said that the arrested criminal was identified as Mohammad Naseem alias Naseem Biryani. "The police recovered a pistol, cartridges, and a motorcycle. The injured criminal has been admitted to Swarup Rani Nehru Hos-

pital," he said.

It may be noted that on November 18 the Prayagraj Commissionerate police had announced a reward of

announced a reward of Rs 50,000 on his arrest.

Nafees, who ran a Biryani restaurant, was a friend of Khalid Azim



Rs 50,000 on the arrest of Nafees Biryani, who is one of the accused in advocate Umesh Pal's murder case.

The police were looking for Nafees after his name was added in the Umesh Pal murder case lodged at Dhoomanganj police station on February 24 after which Police Commissioner Ramit Sharma

It was revealed that the SUV was used by Atiq's son Asad and his henchmen to carry out the murder in Sulem Sarai locality under Dhoomanganj police station.

It may be mentioned that a case was lodged against nine persons after the murder of Umesh Pal, the main witness in Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLA Raju Pal's murder on January 25, 2005. The main accused included Atiq Ahmed, his brother Ashraf, wife Shaista Parvin, two sons, Guddu Muslim, Arman, Ghulam and Sabir.

Atiq and Ashraf were shot dead by three shooters while they were being taken to the Colvin hospital for medical checkup in police custody on April 15 night. The police had already announced a reward of Rs 50,000 of Atiq's wife Shaista and Rs 5 lakh each on his son Asad, accomplices Guddu Muslim, Arman, Ghulam and Sabir.

# Will announce future decision after Dec 6: K'taka senior BJP leader Somanna

**MYSURU:** Raising a banner of revolt against BJP, prominent party leader and former minister V. Somanna has announced to disclose his future plan of action after December 6.

Somanna is maintaining a distance from the saffron party following his defeat in the Assembly elections earlier this year.

He had staked a claim for the post of state president which was given away to B.Y. Vijayendra, son of former chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa.

Ahead of the Assembly polls, DyCM D.K. Shivakumar had offered Somanna a plum post in Congress. However, Somanna decided to stay back in BJP, sources stated.

Somanna and Shivakumar hail from the same region and share a good bond hence the offer still stands, they added.

While interacting with media persons here, Somanna maintained that he agrees with the statement of former minister and senior Dalit leader Arvind Limbavali that senior leaders are taken for a ride by the party.

"After December 6, I will explain everything in detail. I will share how I am battered by the BJP. Politics is not confined to a family," he stated indirectly attacking Yediyurappa.

Politics is not a drama company. It is not confined to internal adjustments. "I have not been contacted by anyone and likewise I had also not contacted anyone," he stated.

Somanna was made to contest from two constituencies in Chamaraajanagar district.

He was pitted against Siddaramaiah in one of the seats. He suffered defeat in both the seats.

Earlier, he represented the Govindaraj Nagar constituency in Bengaluru.

Later, he maintained that he was trapped by insiders.

Notably, Somanna is one of the few politicians who registered victories without caste support.

Govindarajanagar constituency is dominated by the Vokkaliga community. BJP lost the seat to Congress. Somanna is preparing to display his show of strength soon in Tumakur by organizing a massive convention, the sources said.

# New 5-judge bench to hear contempt case against Bengal Chief Secy

**KOLKATA:** Calcutta High Court has constituted a new five-judge bench to hear a case of contempt of court against West Bengal Chief Secretary H.K. Dwivedi in relation to violence in the state after the 2021 Assembly elections.

The five-judge bench to hear the matter will be of Justice Indra Prasanna Mukerji, Justice Chittaranjan Dash, Justice Harish Tandon, Justice Soumen Sen and Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty.

The original five-judge bench hearing the matter had to be reconstituted as one of the two judges of the original bench, Justice Subrata Talukdar retired and Justice Rajesh Bindal was elevated as a Supreme Court judge. Justice Mukerji, Justice Tandon and Justice Sen were constituents of the original five-judge bench.

Justice Dash and Justice Chakraborty are the new inclusions in the five-judge bench as per the latest notification from the office of the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam.

To recall, a number of public interest litigations (PIL) were filed at the Calcutta High Court after the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections. A five-judge bench was constituted to hear that.

On August 19, 2021, the five-judge bench ordered a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe in the matter and also directed the West Bengal government to compensate the families of the victims.

In November last year, a fresh case was filed at the Calcutta High Court accusing the state government of not adhering to the compensation order. A contempt of court petition was also filed against the chief secretary.

# 40% rise in eye related problems due to pollution, say Delhi docs

**NEW DELHI:** Ophthalmologists in Delhi are observing a sharp rise in the number of patients suffering from eye problems like allergy, burning of eyes, and itching due to high levels of pollution in the capital.

Air quality across Delhi continued to be in the 'very poor' category with AQI at 324. "With severe air quality and high level of pollution in Delhi-NCR, we are observing an increase in number of patients coming to us with complaints of redness, itching, and watering in the eyes," said Dr Ikeda Lal, Cornea and Refractory Surgery Specialist, at Delhi Eye Centre and Sir Ganga Ram Hospital New Delhi.

"Patients with pre-existing dry eyes are experiencing exacerbation due to high pollution. We are observing almost increase of 40 rise in number of patients coming to us with eye related problems," he added.

Dr Lal explained that pollutants and dust in the air is one of the major reasons for causing eye allergy and eye related prob-

lem. Delhi has been witnessing a steep increase in AQI levels after a marginal improvement on Sunday.

The city's AQI stood at 348 at 4 pm on Monday, deteriorating from 301 on Sunday. The increase in AQI levels comes after the Centre on Saturday had removed stringent curbs, including a ban on construction work related to linear projects and the entry of polluting trucks, in Delhi following a drop in pollution levels due to favourable wind speed and direction.

"The increase in the incidence of dry eye and ocular allergy is causing discomfort even in normal eyes. It aggravates the eye complaints in eyes that are prone to dryness and allergies. If care is not taken immediately, some of these eyes can have reduced vision due to this problem as well," said Dr Rajesh Sinha, Professor of Ophthalmology at RP Centre AIIMS New Delhi.

While lubricating eye drops and the use of sunglasses are helpful options, contact lenses and eye makeup should be avoided until the eyes are healed completely, Dr Lal said.

# PM to celebrate Navy Day at Sindhudurg Fort on Dec 4

**SINDHUDURG:** Indian Navy Day is all set to be celebrated in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Sindhudurg Fort in Maharashtra on December 4.

Navy Day will be celebrated in a grand and divine manner at the historic fort in Sindhudurg district, with PM Modi taking part in the programme as the chief guest. Sindhudurg fort was built by Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji in the second half of the 17th century.

On this occasion, a grand statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji erected at Malvan-Rajkot will be unveiled by Prime Minister Modi.

Modi has directed that the day be celebrated at Sindhudurg fort keeping in mind the contribution of Chhatrapati Shivaji in building the Indian Navy.



A 43 feet statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji has been erected at Malvan-Rajkot sea shore of Sindhudurg. Also an art gallery depicting Shivaji's life and achievements has been created.

Various warships of the Navy will participate in the programme. Events celebrating the day will also be organised at Tarkarli and Makvan Beach. Senior officers of foreign navies and dignitaries from abroad will be present as special guests.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**

**NIT No. 33/RnB/Tang/e-tender of 2023-24** **DATED: 23/11/2023.**

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Tangmarg on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, invites percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

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

S. No	Name of Work	Tendered Cost including GST (Rs in Lacs.)			Cost of Tender Documents (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs in Lacs.)	Time of completion For Construction work	Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid)	Class of contractor	AA-Status	TS-Status
		Construction Part	Maintenance Part	Total cost work								
1	Up-gradation of Mulgam Matipora via Malpora and Malpora Hayatpora incl. Shah Mohalla Rambail (under NABARD) RIDF-XXVIX	278.564	27.856	306.42	0.055	6.1284	1.5 Years	23-11-2023	12-12-2023	"AA"	CE(R&B) K-AA/70 of 2023-24 Dated: 06-10-2023.	Under process

M.H Account= NABARD RIDX XXVIX Position of AAA = Accorded Position of funds =Approved

Sl. No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-11-2023
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-11-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	28-11-2023 from 10.00 AM.
3	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	25-11-2023 from 11.00 AM.
4	Bid submission Start Date	28-11-2023 from 10.00 AM.
5	Bid Submission End Date	11-12-2023 upto 4.00 PM.
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	12-12-2023 11:00 AM in the office of Superintending Engineer PWD RnB Circle Baramulla

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority) and Earnest Money as per NIT in favour of Superintending Engineer PWD R and B Circle Baramulla . The performance security has to be submitted by the lowest bidder L1 (5% of quoted cost) within the period as specified in SBD.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD R and B Circle Baramulla (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-
  - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
  - Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg and Earnest Money in favour of Superintending Engineer PWD R and B Circle Baramulla must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), CDR/FDR/BG (earnest money/bid security) and relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.
- Bidders should quote in percentage below/the percentage above or at par at the bottom of the BOQ Percentage Template for the Work.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and Taxes:- Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- For the NABARD project, the NABARD guidelines shall be strictly followed.
- Instructions to Bidder (ITB)
- All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:-
  - Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.
  - Treasury Challan &/CDR/FDR/BG/Bid Security Declaration Form
  - Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.
  - Scanned Copy of GST registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GST - 3B i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GST - 3B of the preceding month i.e. Oct. 2023 / preceding quarter Jul-Sep. 2023.
  - All bidders shall mandatorily upload Verification Certificate from Concerned Chief Engineer/Superintending Engineer of Enlistment registration card. Non submission of the same shall render the bid Non-Responsive.
- The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
- Non attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.
- All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.
- Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
- The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT and SBD.
- All key construction material (i.e. cement, steel, bitumen, pipes etc) shall have to be arranged by the contractor strictly as per specifications with the approval of Engineer-in-charge.
- Class "A" Civil Contractor can Participate in E-tendering for macadamization works subject to condition that they will upload an agreement deed with any HPMO from whom the materials/ Machinery shall be procured.
- Bitumen to be used as per circular of MORTH vide No: RE/NH-35072/05/2018-S&R(R&B) dated 24 August 2018
- All other terms and conditions shall be strictly as per SBD

No. R&B / Tangmarg/1857-67 **DIPK-12742-23** **DT: 23/11/2023** **Sd/-**  
 Dated: 23-11-2023 **Executive Engineer**  
 R&B Division Tangmarg



**COLLEGE ON WHEELS-DAY-5**

# J&K students visit Mumbai Naval Base, witness maritime wonders

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**MUMBAI:** A pioneering move, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched the "College on Wheels" initiative, an extraordinary educational odyssey aimed at uplifting and empowering young minds hailing from various parts of the Union Territory. This innovative program, inspired by the transformative spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, has garnered praise for its commitment to fostering holistic education and experiential learning.

A contingent of enthusiastic students from the Varsitys and Colleges of Jammu and Kashmir, on Day 5 of their College on Wheels odyssey today visited the Mumbai Naval Base and Naval Dockyard and got a briefing on India's naval prowess.

The expedition provided the enthusiastic students an extraordinary opportunity to delve into the maritime world, with highlights including a visit to the heritage hall and up-close encounters with INS Vikrant, INS Deepak, and INS Visakhapatnam.

The students were privileged to receive detailed briefings about the intricacies of the naval vessels, gaining insight into the cutting-edge technology and historical significance that these ships embody. The immersive experience extended to exploring a submarine, adding an extra layer of fascination to the educational sojourn.



One of the standout moments was the contingent's visit to the heritage hall, where they absorbed the rich naval history and its glorious ethos. The Naval Base and Dockyard, usually off-limits to the public, opened their gates to the aspiring minds, allowing them to witness firsthand the operations and infrastructure that safeguard the country's maritime interests.

The hallmark of the day was the first hand encounter with cutting-edge technology as the contingent toured a submarine. This experience left an indelible mark on the participants, fostering a deeper appreciation for the significance of the nation's naval forces.

Following this enriching experience, the contingent transitioned to the historic Gateway of India in the heart of Mumbai. Against the backdrop of this architectural marvel, students had the chance to absorb the city's cultural and historical significance, further enhancing their holistic learning experience.

The Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu Prof Umesh Rai, who is constantly monitoring the journey of students from Jammu, conveyed in a message, "I am sure that this trip was truly an amazing experience for our students to step into the usually restricted domains of the naval forces.

The insights gained and memories created during this visit will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on their academic and personal journeys."

The contingent that visited the Naval Base, Naval Dockyard and Gateway of India comprised 780 students along with their mentors and the administrative staff from the University of Jammu, University of Kashmir, Cluster University of Jammu, Cluster University of Kashmir, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Katra, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Rajouri, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Kashmir, affiliated

colleges of JU and KU and Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC), New Delhi. The trip to Naval Base and Naval Dockyard was organized under the supervision of Sh. Guneet Sudan, Nodal Officer III.

The College on Wheels initiative aims to broaden the horizons of students by providing unique and hands-on learning experiences beyond the confines of traditional classrooms. This visit to the Naval Base and Dockyard exemplifies the program's commitment to fostering a curiosity-driven approach to education.

Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha flagged off "Gyanodaya Express- College on Wheels", the first-of-its-kind mobile educational endeavor, from Vaishno Devi Railway Station, Katra on November 19. The train will travel through different states, and it will be an educational pilgrimage for the students.

This first-of-its-kind mobile educational endeavor is specifically designed to empower approximately 700 girl students, breaking down traditional boundaries of classrooms and streams. The journey, spanning various states, is crafted to provide immersive, collaborative, and project-based learning experiences, reflecting the government's commitment to a progressive and inclusive education system.

Drawing inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's historic train journey across the country, the "College on Wheels" initiative seeks to instill universal values such as Satya (Truth) and Ahimsa (Non-Violence). This endeavor is not just about academic exploration but also a journey of self-discovery for the students, offering them a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to immerse themselves in diverse cultures and gain profound insights into different aspects of life and wisdom.

In a world where transformative educational initiatives are the need of the hour, the "College on Wheels" program stands out as a shining example of the government's dedication to fostering a culture of learning and innovation. As the Gyanodaya Express continues its journey, it is expected to leave an indelible mark on the educational landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, shaping the future of young minds and inspiring similar initiatives nationwide. The government's visionary approach to education is setting a precedent for positive change and progress.

# Zalwan dumping site to Wullar eased, Govt approves Rs 6 Cr Project



SAJID RAINA

**BANDIPORA:** The prolonged issue of the Zalwan dumping site, situated on the shore of Wullar Lake in North Kashmir's Bandipora district, has finally come to a resolution as the administration has initiated the land filling and protection work, providing substantial relief to residents from solid waste.

Acknowledging the significant challenge of solid waste management, an official said that the administration is actively addressing rural waste through initiated house collection, marking successful progress.

"In the urban waste management project, a 6 crore project has been sanctioned for the Zalwan filling site, ensuring the collection and environmentally friendly disposal of waste through a scientific process," he said.

"Simultaneously, ongoing land filling and protection work at the Nasoo existing dumping site is providing considerable relief to residents of the main town," the official added.

He said that a stream near the Zalwan dumping site was directly flowing into Wullar Lake, posing a significant threat to the lake's ecosystem.

The Zalwan Dumping site had been in use since 1964, and over time, the volume of solid waste grew, adversely impacting Wullar Lake.

Last year, the Supreme Court criticized the Jammu and Kashmir administration for the unscientific dumping and disposal of solid waste, emphasizing that such practices endanger people's lives.

A bench comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi and C T Ravikumar dismissed the plea filed by the Municipal Committee of Bandipora challenging the imposition of a Rs 64.21 lakh environmental compensation for unscientific waste handling.

Expressing concern, the bench had stated, "Is this how you handle matters? Is this the awareness in your state? You cannot jeopardize people's lives. Pay the fine."

The civic body's lawyer argued that the fine was imposed despite having

a new dumping ground ready and highlighted the municipal council's remedial actions for the scientific management of solid waste.

The Supreme Court was addressing a plea by the Chief Executive Officer of the Municipal Council, Bandipora, Kashmir, against the National Green Tribunal's decision not to quash the environmental compensation imposed by the J-K State Pollution Control Committee.

The pollution control committee had identified haphazard and unscientific dumping of solid waste at Zalwan Nassu site near the district headquarters of Bandipora and in the catchment area of Wullar lake near Zalwan Nallah by the municipal committee.

As previously highlighted numerous times, the Zalwan has transformed entirely into a dumping site. The sanitation staff employed by the Bandipora municipality collect refuse from various town areas and deposit it near the Zalwan area during the night or early morning—(KNO)

## Winter Preparedness Meeting

# DC B'la calls for Operational & Accessible of all Essential Services

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** Directing all departments to gear up for winter preparedness and ensure uninterrupted essentials during the winter season, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar Thursday exhorted upon the functionaries of all concerned departments to adopt a coordinated approach while tackling any undesirable situations.

These directions were passed by the DC during a meeting held at DC Office Complex regarding review of arrangements for winter preparedness.

Discussing preparedness measures threadbare, Dr Sehrish assigned every department a responsibility to ensure the safety and well being of the residents in the district during the winter season.

Dr Sehrish reviewed availability of snow clearance machines, stock position of essentials, action plans prepared by the concerned departments framed to prevent interruption to services during this winter season.

Asking Mechanical & Engineering Department (M&ED) to prepare a com-

prehensive and meticulous snow clearance and winter plan, the DC instructed the concerned functionaries to avoid any inconvenience to people by extending a prompt response besides ensuring snow clearance on highways and other major and inner link roads. She also asked R&B



Department to properly handle the parking issues in the prominent and tourist destinations including Gulmarg by creating additional parking sites and using the existing parking places judiciously.

Similarly, officers of PDD, Jal Shakti, and FCS&CA were directed to make sure the smooth supply of water, power, ration and other essential supplies during the winter season. Power Development Department was particularly directed to notify schedule of curtailment in Power supply

in the district and avoid unscheduled power cuts besides keeping buffer stock of transformers for the winter season. It was also given out that the sale of crude heating devices shall be banned and such devices will be seized on the sale counters.

Regarding Health Ser-

vices, Dr. Sehrish enjoined upon the concerned authorities to ensure that health services are fully operational and accessible during the winter season, with a particular focus on addressing cold-related illnesses and keeping medicines available in far flung areas.

Moreover, DC also instructed for activation of control rooms at District, Sub Division and Tehsil headquarters besides PDD, PHE, Mechanical departments were also instructed to establish their control rooms to ensure prompt response to people in winters.

# DC Sgr chairs meeting to review Recovery of outstanding GST



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In order to review the status regarding recovery of outstanding GST(2017) as Arrears of Land Revenue, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad at the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex, here on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Recovery, Farooq Ahmad Baba, Superintendent of Police, Arif Shah, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, Special Tehsildar Recovery Dr Irtiza, Tehsildar South, Moean Azahar Kakroo,

Tehsildar Chanpora, Saqib Saleem, Tehsildar Shalteng, Kaiser Ahmad and other concerned were present in the meeting.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar reviewed the status of each case related to recovery of outstanding GST as Arrears of Land Revenue from all concerned Tehsildars. He also discussed the further course of action to be taken against the defaulters in order to recover the outstanding GST Arrears under Land Revenue Act.

The DC stressed upon the officers to further strengthen the recovery mechanism so that financial resources are not mis-utilised and are available for equitable distribution

among the genuine stakeholders.

He also instructed all Tehsildars to provide details of immovable property of all defaulters so that subsequent action under the law could be ordered.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Recovery apprised the DC that an amount of Rs 39.45 crore is outstanding with the wilful defaulters and sought support from District Administration for its timely recovery. He also requested for initiating Legal proceedings against the defaulters for recovery of outstanding amount of Rs 39.45 crores in order to ensure equitable distribution of financial resources for development of the public at large.

# Decade on, vital bridge in Handwara awaits completion

TASADUQ HUSSAIN

**HANDWARA:** Residents of Tulwara have expressed strong resentment against the authorities for failing to complete the construction of a bridge over Mawer Nallah, which is awaiting completion for around a decade.

The aggrieved residents said the bridge over Mawer Nallah is crucial for connecting several areas and easing the lives of the entire population.

Bilal Ahmad, a local resident, said they have been facing immense hardships due to the unfinished status of the bridge, which connects various villages in the Langate belt. "People of all ages, including men, women, the elderly, and children, have been suffering from a lack of connectivity for years, while the authorities seem unmoved despite being well aware of the public's hardships," he said.

Abdul Qareem, another local, expressed frustration over the inaction of the concerned executing agency. "While construction work resumed a few months ago, it was once again abandoned, leaving the entire population to suffer," he said.

The aggrieved residents have urged the Lieutenant Governor to intervene in the matter and direct the resumption of construction work at the earliest—(KNO)

## 'NATIONAL JUDO LEAGUE'

# Kabra Altaf only medal winner for Kashmir in senior category

NAVEED UL HAQ

**SRINAGAR:** Kabra Altaf, Kashmir's highly accomplished judoka, secured a bronze medal in the senior category of the 3rd Khelo India North India Women's Judo League Ranking Tournament.

The event, held for the first time in Kashmir at Sher-e-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex, witnessed participation from judo players across North India.

Kabra, who boasts seven national medals in judo, exhibited her skills in the below 78 kg cadre, earning accolades for Jammu and Kashmir. Winning the bronze medal in her hometown added to the significance of the achievement.

Kabra Altaf, said, "It is a great feeling to win this

medal, especially in my hometown during an event which was held for the first time in Kashmir."

She underscored the importance of constant hard work and commitment. "Not every time you win a medal. Hard work is constant. As a judoka, I have learned to be content with the results. I will keep working hard and hope for better results in the upcoming events," she added.

Kabra received the prestigious State Award in 2021 in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the sport of judo. The 3rd Khelo India North India Women's Judo League was organised by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in collaboration with the Judo Federation of India (JFI) and the J&K Judo Association.

# KU's Kupwara campus fails to attract students

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** The Kashmir University's satellite campus in remote Kupwara district has failed to attract students for three courses which were started from this academic session, rendering the facility virtually a non-starter more than a decade after its sanctioning.

According to sources privy to admissions, the MSc programme in Energy Studies has drawn just one student out of 30 seats allocated for it, while the MSc programme in Physics has drawn six students out of the 30 allocated seats.

These two courses were started by the University after plead-

ing before the University Council headed by LG that these were "futuristic" and "market-driven" as per the Varsity's assessment, the sources said.

The poor response to the two courses belies the University's argument and also reflects poorly over the quality of its homework before the launch of new courses, the sources said.

"The entrance test for two courses was held in June but since then the Campus hasn't been able to fill up the vacant seats," said an official at KU, wishing anonymity.

The University also started an integrated BA-MA programme in Arabic at the Kupwara Campus

from this academic session, but again failed to attract the students despite keeping the eligibility open for all 10+2 passouts.

On November 21, the Director of Kupwara Campus issued a fresh notification for spot admission for the BA-MA programme in Arabic, calling any 10+2 applicant who is interested in getting admitted for the course.

The notification was issued despite the Director Admissions officially announcing closure of all admissions from November 13, after keeping the admission process open for nearly seven months for the first time in the University's history.

"Making calls for spot admissions is simply lowering the academic standards. It is better to shut these courses rather than get anyone, even with a lower merit, to get admitted. This is not the way campuses are run. This is a sheer waste of resources and finances," said an academician, pleading anonymity.

He said that campuses cannot be run for two or three candidates per course. "If you can't have a student strength in a far off campus like Kupwara, it will drain the University's exchequer without yielding any dividends."

Notably, it has been more than a decade since the Kupwara Campus was sanctioned to take higher educa-

tion to the doorsteps of its aspirants.

However, despite spending crores of rupees on building infrastructure, the University hasn't succeeded in introducing courses that would draw students in large numbers.

One of the reasons for delay in the start of courses as well as for poor response to admissions is said to be the official apathy. The Kupwara Campus has never seen a full-fledged Director who could dedicatedly focus on its affairs and management. Even as on date, the Campus is manned by a Professor who is heading his own parent department at the Main Campus in Srinagar.