

# Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

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

Under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Sh Narendra Modi, Institutions & access to quality education is making valuable contributions to concerned sectors. Colleges under Cluster University must harness the opportunities & improve, reorient & prepare market-ready skilled workforce.

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**Kupwara Terror Module Key Conspirator**

**Arrested in Delhi**  
SRINAGAR: The key conspirator of a recently busted terror module in J&K's Kupwara district was arrested in New Delhi.  
Police said that the staff of Police Station New Delhi Railway Station have arrested the key conspirator of the terror module recently busted in Kupwara.  
"The staff of the police station New Delhi Railway Station has arrested one of the key conspirators of the recently busted terror module in Kupwara by Jammu & Kashmir Police," police said.  
Police said that the arrested person has been identified as Riyaz Ahmed. On February 4, 2024 he was arrested by the staff of police station New Delhi Railway Station.  
"He was involved" **P-06**

**Narendra Modi**  
@narendramodi

At the @IndiaEnergyWeek, interacted with top energy sector CEOs. Highlighted the wide range of opportunities India offers in the sector and reiterated our commitment to boosting reforms which will further growth.

## HISTORIC Lok Sabha Clears Historic Bill To Grant ST Status To Paharis

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**  
SRINAGAR: In a significant development, the Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023 to grant scheduled tribe status to Paharis Ethnic Group and other communities in Jammu & Kashmir.  
According to details available, the Lok Sabha also passed the Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023 that seeks to include Valmiki community in the Scheduled Caste list of Jammu & Kashmir.  
The ST Bill also includes Gadda Brahman, Koli and Paddari communities to the ST list of Jammu and Kashmir. The house was adjourned for the day soon after the two Bills were passed.  
The Bills will now be taken up in the Rajya Sabha for consideration and passage. These Bills were passed nearly seven months after they were introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha on July 26 last year.  
The announcement to grant ST status to Pahari



Ethnic Group was made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during public rallies in Baramulla and Rajouri in October 2022.  
The grant of ST status would make Paharis eligible for all benefits available to ST category in Jammu and Kashmir. The Paharis are in majority in Nowshera, Kalakote-Sunderbani, Rajouri, Thanmandi, Surankote, Poonch-Haveli, Mendhar, Uri and Karnah assembly segments of J&K.  
Notably, Paharis have been fighting for more than three decades for their inclusion in the Schedule Tribe (ST) category.  
Replying to a debate on the Bill, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar said there is equality in Jammu and

**LG Expresses Gratitude To PM**



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**  
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday lauded the historic occasion of passing of Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled **P-06**

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Under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Sh Narendra Modi Ji, govt has ensured inclusion of these communities in Scheduled Tribes list will have no impact on current level of reservations available to Gujjars, Bakarwals & other tribe & they will continue to get reservation like before.

**Abolished 370, Without Using A Single Bullet: Amit Shah**



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**  
NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Tuesday said that the Modi government successfully abolished Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir without resorting to a single bullet.  
Addressing the "Security Beyond Tomorrow: Forging India's Resilient Future" Summit, Union Home Minister asserted that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, cases of terrorism had decreased by 72% in comparison to the previous UPA rule. He highlighted the historic move of abolishing Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, stressing that it was accomplished without firing a single bullet.  
HM Shah noted the positive changes in the region, including the opening of theaters, establishment of higher education institutes, and the ability for people to celebrate Moharram. **P-06**

**Cold Wave Returns To Kashmir With Freeze, Frost**



**AGENCIES**  
SRINAGAR: Cold wave blowing from snow-clad mountains into Kashmir on Tuesday resulted in freeze and frost affecting normal life activities.  
The Meteorological (MeT) Department has forecast mainly dry weather till February 14 with a drop in night temperature during the coming days.  
Srinagar had minus 2.5, Gulmarg minus 10.5 and Pahalgam minus 11 as the minimum temperature.  
Leh and Kargil towns of Ladakh region both had minus 13 as the **P-06**

**J&K Witnessing Phenomenal Expansion Of Education Sector: LG**

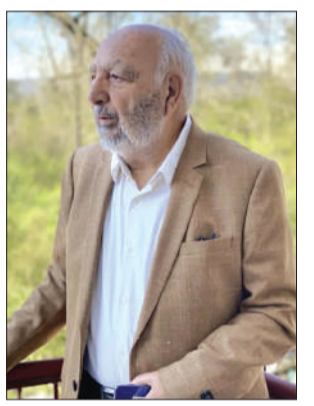
**GMK NEWS NETWORK**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir UT is witnessing phenomenal expansion of education sector.  
"The Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir is witnessing phenomenal expansion of education sector, which in turn is addressing the vital need of development, enhancing human capital and strengthening larger vision of nation-building," the Lt Governor said while laying the foundation stone of a new campus of Cluster University, Jammu.



On the occasion, the Lt Governor congratulated the Vice Chancellor, HoDs, faculty members and students of the associated colleges of cluster university.  
He highlighted the significant role of universities and educational institutions in realizing the growing aspirations of the society and the nation.  
"Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Institutions and access to quality **P-06**

**Renowned Broadcaster Farooq Nazki Passes Away**

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**  
SRINAGAR: Renowned Kashmiri poet and broadcaster, Farooq Nazki, passed away on Tuesday at the age of 83.  
Nazki started his career as a broadcaster and writer for Radio Kashmir and he was renowned for his romantic poetry and deep understanding of Kashmiri literature.  
His choice of words, wit and humour endeared him to all those who met him.  
Farooq Nazki was the son of an illustrious father, Mir Ghulam Rasool Nazki, who is counted among the best known Kashmiri poets even today.  
Farooq Nazki received



many awards during his lifetime.  
He served as Director of Radio Kashmir, Deputy Director General Doordarshan and Director of Doordarshan Kendra **P-06**

**'Marginal Increase Last Year' J&K Witnesses 67% Decline In Saffron Production From 2010-24: Centre**



**JAHANGEER GANAIE**  
SRINAGAR: The Centre on Tuesday revealed that saffron production has declined by over 67 percent from 2010 to 2024. However, there was a marginal increase of 4 percent in the last year.  
In response to a question by National Conference Member Parliament, Hasnain Masoodi, the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Arjun Munda stated that as per estimates from the Office of Financial Commissioner (Revenue) of Jammu & Kashmir, saffron production in the region decreased from 8.0 MT in 2010-11 to 2.6 MT in 2023-24 (provisional), marking an overall decline of about 67.5% over the period. He added that during the last year, from 2022-23 to 2023-24, saffron production marginally increased by 4%.  
Munda further informed that out of the 128 deep bore wells sanctioned under the Mission, 123 have been constructed by the Horticulture Department and handed over to the Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir, for further linkage with the Sprinkler Irrigation Systems.  
"The Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir has successfully connected 73 deep bore wells with the Sprinkler Irrigation Systems having a command of 2187.08 hectares. However, the irrigation facilities are not being utilized fully as the User Groups for management and upkeep of these bore wells have not been created as per the Mission Guidelines and have not been handed over to the farmer user groups," he said.  
Regarding adverse effects on saffron **P-06**

**GDA Fails To Utilise Full Budget Funds Since 2019**

**RIYAZ BHAT**  
SRINAGAR: In the past five years, Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA) has never utilized a fully allocated budget and funds—raising a question on the functioning of the tourism development authority.  
The official figures reveal that the expenditure of the budget of every fiscal of those five years from 2019-23 was never accomplished.  
In the year 2019 the government has allocated a budget of Rs 607.73 lakhs and Rs 609.38 lakhs respectively.  
However, the Public Information Officer (PIO) of GDA in a reply to Right to Information (RTI) application filed by the activist M M Shuja has said that the expenditure in the fiscal year was only Rs 166.73 lakhs and Rs 276.88 lakhs respectively.  
Similarly, the official figures reveal that in the year 2020, a total budget of Rs 603 lakhs were allocated to GDA out of which the total expenditure was Rs 377.64 lakhs.  
Likewise, in the year 2021, the concerned authorities have allocated a total budget of Rs 627.68 lakhs out of which the GDA has utilized lakhs. **P-06**

JIO STUDIOS & DINESH VIJAN present

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# Pr Secy reviews functioning of Libraries, Research Deptt



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, Tuesday chaired a meeting here at Civil Secretariat to assess the functioning of Libraries and Research Department.

Director, Libraries and Research, Mohammad Rafi, Director Finance, Culture, S. Satnam Singh, Special Secretary, Culture, Trishala Kumari, Deputy Director Planning, Dr Mohammad Maqbool, Deputy Director L&R Jammu, Parveen Kumari, Deputy Director L&R Kashmir, Sheikh Zahoor-ul-Haq and other concerned attended the meeting both in person and online mode.

During the meeting, the Director L&R gave a presentation highlighting department's structure,

achievements, human resources including staff position and existing vacancies.

He emphasized the historical significance of libraries such as Shri Ranbir Singh Library, Jammu and Shri Pratap Singh Library, Srinagar, which stand as some of the oldest public libraries in the country.

Regarding library infrastructure, it was informed that out of the total 131 libraries under the department's purview, there are 27 existing buildings, 85 rented facilities, 19 rent-free premises and seven upcoming departmental infrastructures.

In terms of intellectual resources, the department boasts an impressive repository comprising 14 lakh books and 5580 manuscripts spread across vari-

ous libraries.

The meeting also delved into visitor statistics, with over 5.86 lakh individuals patronizing the libraries across Jammu and Kashmir over the past two years. During this period, a total of 84,305 books were issued to the visitors. Furthermore, in January 2024 alone, 35,562 individuals visited different libraries, borrowing 3,515 books, the meeting was informed.

The meeting had detailed discussion on recent initiatives including implementation of E-Granthalaya 4.0 cloud software in 26 libraries, identification and establishment of libraries in various locations and ongoing process of upgrading the department's website to enhance user-friendliness, among other measures.

The meeting also

addressed future strategies, pertinent issues and funding allocations under the capital expenditure budget.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary remarked that the Libraries & Research Department plays a pivotal role in fostering knowledge dissemination and scholarly pursuits in our region. He said that the department is committed towards enhancing its capabilities and reach to serve the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir in an enhanced manner.

He emphasized that the libraries stand as beacon of enlightenment, preserving our cultural heritage and facilitating lifelong learning. "It is imperative that we continue to invest in their development and modernization, he added.

# DM Srinagar chairs DLSCC meeting

Sanctions Rs 10.39 lakh in favour of victims of terror-related incidents

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** A meeting of the District Level Screening cum Coordination Committee (DLSCC) was held under the Chairmanship of District Magistrate (DM)/Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to discuss the cases of terror-related incidents.



Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Superintendent of Police, Umer Shah, District Social Welfare Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Deputy CMO, Dr Nighat, District Health Officer, Dr Asifa, besides officers of BSF, Army and other concerned were

present in the meeting. During the meeting, as many as 06 cases of victims of militancy-related incidents came up for

discussion. The Committee held a detailed deliberations and after thorough screening an amount of Rs.10,39,359/= was sanctioned in favour of the 06 cases including cases of death/missing/injured/property damage and SRO-43 cases of the District Srinagar. The Committee also recommended one case related to SRO-43 for re-verification. On the occasion, the DM/DC stressed upon the Officers to ensure time-bound clearance of the cases to provide relief to the affected families.

# Excise Deptt invites bidders for pre-bid meeting of JKEL-2 vends

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** The Excise Department has invited the prospective bidders for pre-bid meeting of JKEL-2 vends to be held at Excise and Taxation Training Institute (ETTI), Nagrota on 7th February, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

An official communiqué received in this regard reads, "In consonance with J&K Excise Policy 2024-25, bid document for e-auction of 305 JKEL-2 vends has been issued by the Excise Department J&K. The allotment of JKEL-2 vends commonly known as Wine Shops is being conducted in a completely transparent and secure mode through J&K Bank using https://jkexcisedept.auctiontiger.net portal".

The Excise Department requests all the prospective bidders to attend the pre-bid meeting on scheduled date, time and venue. Further, for the convenience

of bidders, not stationed at Jammu, online facility is available at https://meet.google.com/drt-judj-ygy for their participation in the meeting. The expert teams from Excise Department and J&K Bank will be available at the venue for clearing the doubts of the prospective bidders.

The department in close coordination with J&K Bank has also conducted training programme at the Excise and Taxation Training Institute, Nagrota from 5th to 6th February 2024 with an aim to familiarise and sensitize the prospective bidders with procedure and criteria for bidding and to clear their queries about e-auction procedure, eligibility, mode of allotment, requisite documents, participation/EMD and Minimum Reserve Bid Price etc. Additionally, a departmental helpline number has also been set up (0191-4064440) to resolve the doubts of the prospective bidders.

# P K Bhat e-inaugurates New Office of DC Enforcement in North Kashmir



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** Commissioner State Taxes J&K, P.K. Bhat Tuesday e-inaugurated the new office complex of Deputy Commissioner Enforcement (North) Kashmir located at Lallad Sopore.

The inauguration function witnessed an impressive gathering of various officers including Additional Commissioner State Taxes Kashmir, Shakeel Maqbool Yattoo; Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina; RTO Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari; Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Enforcement (Central & North) Kashmir, Parveez Ahmad Raina; DC Appeals II, Alyas Nasir; Assistant Commissioner Technical Kashmir, State Taxes Officer Enforcement North, STOs of Baramulla, Srinagar, Sopore and Kupwara, Inspectors, sub-inspectors and other officials of the department.

The inauguration of the office complex for the Enforcement Wing of the Department for North Kashmir marks a significant milestone in enhancing enforcement capabilities of the department towards revenue augmentation of the State exchequer and enhancing compliance of GST, said CST J&K in his address.

On the occasion, ADC

Sopore expressed support for the initiative and commitment to fostering collaboration for the betterment of the region. The newly inaugurated office, situated at a strategically advantageous location, offers enhanced accessibility for enforcement activities across all districts of North Kashmir. Boasting six spacious rooms and an equally spacious lawn, the office is equipped to facilitate seamless operations and efficient coordination between department and stakeholders. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Additional Commissioner State Taxes Kashmir emphasized the pivotal role of the new office in strengthening enforcement efforts and ensuring compliance with tax regulations across the region. He highlighted the strategic significance of the location, underscoring its convenience for stakeholders and its potential to streamline enforcement activities. The establishment of the new office of DC Enforcement North Kashmir marks a significant step forward in bolstering enforcement capabilities and advancing the agenda of compliance and governance in the region, remarked Parveez Ahmad Raina, DC Enforcement (Central & North) Kashmir.

# DC Shopian reviews functioning of Agri, allied departments

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb Tuesday convened a meeting to review the working of Agriculture and other allied departments in a meeting with concerned district officers of these departments in the district.

On the occasion, the DC reviewed the implementation status and progress of various flagship schemes and development works being undertaken in Agriculture and allied sectors. The chair was apprised by the officers of concerned departments about the ongoing activities and progress thereof.

While reviewing the sector-wise performance of agriculture, horticulture, Animal, Sheep, Fisheries, etc the DC called upon officers to create

more awareness among the masses about the different income generating schemes and modernization initiatives by organizing camps.

He emphasised for quick and time bound registration of farmers and families so that all schemes are saturated and benefits designed for the farming community are extended to them.

He also impressed upon the officers to improve the outreach in the field and achieve set outcomes under all schemes so that benefits of development reach to the masses.

The DC stressed on promotion of organic, integrated farming and popularisation of animal, sheep and fish rearing for diversifying the economy, adding that the need of the hour is to increase farmers income by such interventions.

# Road connectivity to Marbal Village restored after Snowfall

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** In a display of swift action and community service, road connectivity was successfully restored to the remote village Marbal in the Sopore Sub-division of Baramulla District after being cut-off from the region due to heavy snowfall.

Under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina, a team of dedicated officers mobilized resources and snow cutters to ensure the timely restoration of road access to Marbal village.

The proactive response from the local administration was met with gratitude



and appreciation from the villagers, who lauded the swift intervention that facilitated their connectivity to the broader subdivision in a record time.

During the visit to Marbal village, community members voiced their concerns to the ADC and the visiting officers and presented a series of

demands to them including the urgent need for road connectivity to Yembarzalwari, upgradation of the power network, robust provision for water supply and establishment of a middle school within the village premises to address the educational needs of the local students, who currently endure long com-

muties to access schooling facilities. The ADC assured the villagers that their demands had been duly acknowledged and would be prioritised for action in coordination with the concerned government departments.

Furthermore, Raina directed the Food and Supplies department to ensure ample ration supplies in Marbal village to handle the demands of the community during adverse weather conditions.

Meanwhile, the ADC highlighted the importance of installation of crash barriers on the sides of the road leading into the remote village to prevent accidents.

# DC Budgam inaugurates Health & Wellness Centre

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo Tuesday inaugurated Health & Wellness Centre, Kralpora and dedicated this new health facility to the general public.

On the occasion, the DC inspected various wards and facilities including NCD screening, dispensary, testing laboratory etc and took stock of availability of medicine and machinery.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the Health and Wellness Centre, Kralpora is the 6th such health facility completed in the last few months and dedicated to the general public within the same period.

He said that under the directions from Hon'ble LG Administration, the District Administration Budgam is committed to ensure speedy completion of all pending infrastructure projects.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## JAMMU & KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

CPO Chowk Panjtirthi, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar. www.jkssb.nic.in

**Subject: Result/Score-sheet of Written Test for the post of Assistant Scientific Officer (Narcotics), Home Department - regarding**

### NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the Written Examination for the post of Assistant Scientific Officer (Narcotics), Home Department, UT Cadre, advertised Vide Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2022, under Item No. 42 on 06.01.2024; and

Whereas, the objections were examined and the revised/final answer key in respect of written examination held for the said posts have been notified vide No. JKSSB-COE0E XAM(UT)/100/2023-03(7362014) dated: 05.02.2024; and

Now therefore, in view of the above, the result/score-sheet, based on the performance of candidates who appeared in the Written Test for the post of Assistant Scientific Officer (Narcotics), Home Department, UT Cadre, advertised Vide Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2022, under Item No. 42 conducted on 06.01.2024, is hereby notified as Annexure "A".

**It is further notified that:**

- Mere figuring in the result/score sheet shall not entitle a candidate to be called for document verification or figure in the select list and that he/she has to fulfil other eligibility conditions, as laid down and decision of the Board in this regard shall be final.
- The Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) will call candidates falling in the consideration zone, based on the merit obtained by them for document verification. The schedule for document Verification shall be notified separately.

No. JKSSB-COE0E XAM(UT)/100/2023-03(7362014) (Reyaz Ahmad Malik) JKAS  
Dated: 05.02.2024 DPK-16093-23 Contoller of Examinations  
DT: 06/02/2024 J&K Services Selection Board

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## JAMMU & KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

CPO Chowk Panjtirthi, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar. www.jkssb.nic.in

**Subject: Written Examination for the posts of Assistant Scientific Officer (Narcotics), Home Department, held on 06-01-2024 - Final Answer key regarding.**

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the Written Examination for the posts of Assistant Scientific Officer (Narcotics), Home Department, UT Cadre advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2022, under item no. 42 on 06th January, 2024.

Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB), notified Provisional Answer Key vide No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/100/2023-03 (7362014) dated: 06-01-2024 in respect of the aforesaid posts and the same was uploaded on the official website of JKSSB (www.jkssb.nic.in) for information and seeking of objections/representations on the prescribed proforma, if any, from the candidates; and

Whereas, in response to aforesaid notice, 03 objections were received in respect of 03 unique questions within the stipulated time; and

Whereas, in view of the above, the revised/final answer key in respect of written examination held for the posts of Assistant Scientific Officer (Narcotics) has been finalized.

Now, therefore, the Revised/Final Answer Key in respect of aforesaid post, for which written examination was conducted on 06-01-2024, is hereby notified as under in respect of question(s) which have been challenged.

Post Name	Text Booklet Series Question ID				Changes in Answer Key	
	A	B	C	D	Previous Correct Option ID	New Correct Option ID
Assistant Scientific Officer (Narcotics)	34	4	94	64	C	B&C
	58	28	118	88	B	A & B
	117	87	57	27	A	NO CHANGE

Further, such candidate(s) who deposited amount @ Rs 200/- per question and whose objection(s) is found genuine/correct as per revised/final answer key, will get the refund in their bank accounts provided to the Board.

Note: No further claims in respect of final answer key shall be entertained by JKSSB through any mode.

No.: JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/100/2023-03 (7362014) Reyaz Ahmad Malik (JKAS)  
Dated: 05.02.2024 DPK-16075-23 Contoller of Examinations  
DT: 06/02/2024 J&K Services Selection Board

**INSPIRES LOCAL BOYS**

# Pulwama youth becomes first Air India pilot from district

**SRINAGAR:** Known once for its young boys joining terrorist groups in large numbers, south Kashmir's Tral town in Pulwama district is now hitting news headlines for the right reasons.

A young man from Tral town, Raja Shahzaib Raza, is the first local to become a pilot for Air India.

Shahzaib did his schooling from the reputed Tynedale Biscoe Memorial School in Srinagar. Family sources said he later obtained his B.Tech degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Kashmir.

He got himself enrolled in Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Udaan Academy in Amethi (Uttar Pradesh).

Shahzaib applied for the pilot's position in Air India after completing his training. After undergoing all



the tests and procedures, he was appointed as a pilot by the airlines.

Locals in Tral town said that Shahzaib has made them proud because till the recent past, youth of the town were looked upon with suspicion for alleged militant links.

"Shahzaib has proved that the youth of our area have finally chosen the right path.

"He is a great inspiration for hundreds of our youth who want to excel in various fields to serve the country and make an honourable living", said Sajad Ahmad Ganai, 56.

The path-breaking career choice made by Shahzaib has come as an enviable alternative to those locals trying to join the civil services. It carries the hopeful message to hundreds, who look forward to joining challenging careers in the country.

## 4th Khelo India Winter Games conclude in Ladakh



TASADUQ HUSSAIN

**LEH:** The 4th edition of the annual Khelo India Winter Games concluded in Ladakh on Tuesday. Maharashtra emerged as the leader in the medal tally with 20 medals in the event that kicked off on February 02.

This year, Ladakh Union Territory played host to the Khelo India Games for the first time, organizing events across three different venues in the region. The hosts won a combined total of 13 medals and landed in the top three in the overall tally.

According to an official statement issued, Maharashtra clinched 20 medals, including 6 golds, leading the medal count. Karnataka followed closely with a total of 8 medals and 6 golds, while the hosts secured 13 medals, including 2 golds, securing the third position.

The winter games in Ladakh featured two

sports: ice hockey and speed skating. The finals of the ice hockey tournament took place on Tuesday afternoon, with the Army emerging victorious in the men's category and ITBP claiming victory in the women's category.

Speaking on the successful conclusion of the event, Deputy Director, Youth Services and Sports, Moses Kunzang, appreciated all those involved in organizing the Khelo India Winter Games for the first time in the region.

"It has given us confidence and would further boost us to do much better in the future," he said.

"Local participants have also performed well and it is very encouraging. All the participating states have praised the arrangements and facilities put in place. Their feedback has been very positive. No complaints were received throughout the event," Moses added—(KNO)

## Enforcement drive against traffic violations launched in B'pora



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** In an effort to promote safer road practices and reduce traffic violations, a joint team of Motor Vehicle department Bandipora, Municipal Council, and Traffic Police Bandipora Tuesday launched enforcement drive in main market Bandipora to curb the problems of traffic Jam, wrong parking and ensure free flow of traffic.

The enforcement drive was carried out to encourage active engagement from the community, including pedestrians, and public transport users in promoting a culture of responsibility and adherence to traffic laws.

During the drive, the team checked hundreds of

vehicles and also imposed fines on many offenders for wrong parking and other traffic violations.

ARTO Bandipora, Bilal Ahmad Mir informed that today's enforcement drive was part of measures to address issues such as illegal parking, traffic flow management, and pedestrian safety enhancements.

In his message, ARTO Bandipora appealed to road users to refrain from illegal parking and violation of traffic laws that disrupt traffic flow and pose safety hazards.

He said illegal parking not only obstructs the smooth movement of vehicles but also creates inconvenience for pedestrians and emergency services besides it also leads to traffic congestion.

## Kashmir's last staple artisan preserves tradition amid automation threat

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

**SRINAGAR:** Ghulam Rasool Sofi, aged 60, stands as the final bastion of a dying craft.

Born into a lineage of artisans, he has dedicated his life to this handiwork that defines Kashmir's cultural heritage. However, as machines encroach upon tradition, Sofi's artistry faces an uncertain future.

Sofi explained the decline of his beloved crafts saying, "I challenge there will be no one like me in the whole of Kashmir skilled in this art."

"My work lands in many countries like Spain and America," says Sofi, adding that the essence of his handiwork cannot be replicated



by mechanized processes.

Sofi's journey as an artisan has been marked by collaboration with esteemed personalities like Jamal Siraj. Together, they once reaped the rewards of their labor,

earning a handsome income for their exceptional craftsmanship. However, the advent of mass-produced goods has eroded the demand for handmade artifacts, taking Sofi's livelihood

into uncertainty. "I appeal to the government to stop the onslaught of machine work, which is the main cause of our art's demise. I fear that without intervention, the rich legacy of Kashmir's artisanal traditions will fade into obscurity, leaving behind a cultural art to decline," he added.

Through imparting his knowledge to eager learners, he endeavors to keep the flame of tradition ablaze for generations to come. As the last stable worker in his trade.

Sofi's plea for the preservation of handcrafted traditions echoes across the valleys, urging stakeholders to heed the call before it's too late—(KNO)

## JKEDI Director conducts in-depth evaluation of institute operations

Reviews status of recovery and repayment process across J&K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Director, Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Rajinder Kumar Sharma on Tuesday chaired a review meeting held at the Institute's Bari Brahmana, Jammu campus.

During the review meeting, the functioning of the Institute was discussed threadbare and progress made under repayment and recovery of funds under different schemes and other related issues were also discussed.

The meeting was attended by all District Nodal Officers of JKEDI and in-charge officers of the concerned sections through virtual mode across J&K.

During the meeting the Director JKEDI exhorted upon all the District Nodal Officers to enhance their efforts and complete all targets in designated time.

The Director gave a thorough analysis of recovery data, highlighting the progress achieved in all the districts of J&K. The holistic review of the recovery and repayment status underscores the

Institute's dedication to transparency, accountability, and sustainable growth.

Earlier in the day, the Director also had an introductory meeting with the faculty members and other officials of the Institute posted at Regional Campus Jammu. This interaction was aimed to strengthen internal communication channels, ensuring a cohesive approach towards achieving the Institute's goals.

The Director highlighted the critical role of teamwork in realizing the Institute's commitment to providing effective guidance and mentorship. He stressed the importance of a collaborative spirit among JKEDI employees to meet and exceed the expectations set forth in guiding the youth towards successful entrepreneurial endeavors.

This collaborative approach, as envisioned by the Director, not only fosters a conducive working environment but also strengthens the institute's capacity to positively impact the lives of young entrepreneurs.

## Arrangements made for celebration of Meraj-ul-Alam in Budgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo convened a meeting to finalize arrangements for the ensuing auspicious Meraj-ul-Alam festival in district Budgam.

SSP Budgam, Al Tahir Gillani; SDMs, CMO, other officers and representatives from the waqf of Peth-Makhama shrine and Charar-I-Sharief were also present.

At the outset, the DC directed KPDC Budgam for an uninterrupted electricity supply to the Shrine of Peth Makhama and Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani shrine Charar-i-Sharief.

He instructed EOs of concerned Municipal Committees to carry out special cleanliness drives and initiate proactive measures for disposal of garbage and other waste and maintain proper sanitation in all areas.

Health authorities were instructed to ensure the availability of Medical teams along with ambulances at all designated

places.

With regard to the availability of ration, the DC directed AD Food to ensure timely supply and distribution of food grains, besides ensuring availability of essential commodities to the general public.

The DC also directed the ARTO to ensure hassle-free availability of transport facility on the auspicious days and directed him to coordinate with the traffic department so that various bottlenecks to smooth flow of traffic are removed.

During the meeting, the DC directed the Department of PHE to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply. They were directed to provide water tankers at identified locations.

To check illegal profiteering and hoarding in the markets, the DC directed concerned to constitute squads who will monitor and conduct market checking drives to ensure sale of quality food items.

Arrangements regarding availability of fire tenders, fire wood and other related items were also reviewed during the meeting.

## Snow Football Takes Center Stage in Baramulla's Uri

NOOR UL HAQ

**URI:** As temperatures rise during the day and tourists flock to destinations like Gulmarg for skiing and sledge rides, a group of young enthusiasts from Uri subdivision in Baramulla district have chosen a unique winter pursuit — snow football.

Under the banner of "Pir Panjal Football Club," led by 21-year-old Farhan Lone, these passionate boys are reshaping soccer in Kashmir, where traditional winter sports like skiing dominate.

Farhan, a resident of Bijnama in Uri, is not only a football enthusiast but also a dedicated vlogger. "We had a dream to play soccer in the snow, and every Kashmiri shares that dream. We organized

a friendly match, and it was pure fun," Farhan told news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The snow-covered playground featured one-foot-deep snow and two goal posts manned by boys



adorned in jerseys. The friendly match was not only recorded but also provided spectators with a picturesque scene against

the snow-filled backdrop. Farhan expressed that the boys are deeply passionate about soccer, and playing in the snow was a dream come true. The Pir Panjal Football Club has already participated in approxi-

mately 15 soccer matches in various locations last year and plans to organize more matches on snow-fields in the coming days.

"When we started playing soccer last year, we didn't have goal posts," Farhan recalled. "We used stones around one foot high on both sides as goal posts. With the passion and support, we managed to acquire proper goal posts and even leveled the ground with the assistance of the government. Today, we organized our first soccer match in the snow," he further said. Farhan said that the initiative by Pir Panjal Football Club will increase the passion of soccer lovers around the valley. "We appeal to the government to hold soccer matches in snow on the pattern of skiing and ice hockey in the valley," he added. He said that such initiatives will attract foreign tourists and athletes towards Kashmir—(KNO)

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR UT**

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BUDGAM

**ENGINEERING COMPLEX BUDGAM PIN NO.191111**

E-mail:- xenrnbdivbud@gmail.com, Phone-FAX:- 01951-255208

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**TENDER NOTICE**

E-tendering NIT No:- 158-MDB of 2023-24/14000-15 DATED:-05-02-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost	Cost of T/ Doc.	Earnest money CDR/ FDR / BG	Time of Completion (days)	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account	Project Authority
1	Construction of 02 No cement concrete culvert near Unani Hospital Alnoor Colony Narkara	Rs.11.29 Lacs	Rs.600/-	Rs.22580/-	40 days	DEE CEE BEE	3054-M&R	Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) Kashmir

Position of AAA = Accorded Project Authority: Position of TS = Accorded Position of funds:- Available/Committed,

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, 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](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05/02/2024
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	05/02/2024
3.	Bid submission Start Date	05/02/2024
4.	Bid Submission End Date	14/02-2024 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	15/02-2024 at 11.00A.M in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Budgam
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7days of receipt of LOI. (The bidder has to provide 5% of allotted Cost as Performance Security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG which shall subsequently release 2% CDR

No: EE/MDB/NIT/14000-15 DATED:- 05-02-2024

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
(R&B) Division Budgam,

DIPK-16084-23  
DT: 06/02/2024

# Urgent Need For Better, Safer, Shorter Treatment For Drug-Resistant TB

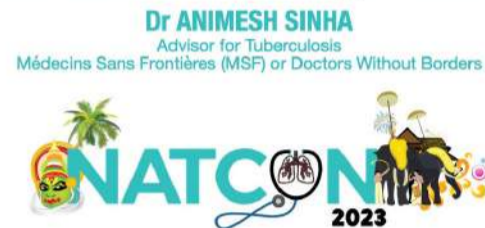


SHOBHA SHUKLA



“Patients in India and other countries are falling ill with drug-resistant TB every day. And they are still being treated for it with older, more toxic and less effective drugs. These patients should not have to wait, they need better treatments today – not 1 or few years down the line.

**We have the data and strong scientific evidence to show why shorter, safer, more effective regimens to treat drug-resistant TB be scaled up programmatically. So why not use the newer, less toxic & more effective drugs instead?”**



## Accidents On Rise

### Accidents On Rise

The news of losing more than ten people in a single accident in northern Kashmir has left everyone in a sad mood. It is a human tragedy that occurred partly due to an avoidable human error. New details of the accident are emerging leaving everyone surprised. Some sections of the media are reporting that the driver of this vehicle already had been booked for ten violations in the past. Ideally, this is a picture-perfect case of permanently canceling the license of the driver or even putting him behind bars. In many Western countries serial offenders like these are put behind bars without a second thought and a heavy fine imposed - this way the driver thinks more than twice before violating any traffic rule.

Hill driving is a serious business. Driving a commercial vehicle, overloaded with passengers, through those hairpin bends is no child's play. It requires a certain skill set to be able to drive on these roads. A serial offender on hilly roads is a criminally inclined person who is not fit to drive a commercial vehicle on these roads. How was this person allowed to drive a commercial vehicle despite such a terrible record? The current establishment needs to take this matter seriously. In the case of a charlatan masquerading as a doctor, it was only after a social activist highlighted the fake doctor's lack of requisite degree that the government sprung into action. Why is the establishment so late in taking action against these perpetrators? The government must lay out software to verify the degrees of all professionals working in different spheres of life. In the case of hill drivers who are serial offenders, their licenses need to be canceled permanently or in extreme cases be put behind bars. One's heart weeps at the accident that hit north Kashmir. The system must ensure that no human life is lost due to a careless driver's recklessness.

Is it not a paradox that a preventable, diagnosable, treatable, and curable bacterial infection disease is still 1.30 million people every year? Yes, we are talking of TB. Today we have all the solutions to #EndTB - point-of-care molecular tests to diagnose drug-sensitive and drug-resistant TB upfront within an hour or so, and begin patient-friendly shorter treatment regimens ("same day test and treat") to get rid of this dreaded disease. And yet in 2022, an estimated 10.6 million people developed TB globally, out of which 410,000 cases were of drug-resistant TB. Moreover, only less than half of those with drug-resistant TB (43%) were able to access treatment.

The treatment of drug-resistant TB has undergone a rapid change. Today we have the six-month all oral treatment regimens, like BPaL and BPaLM.

BPaLM (Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid, and Moxifloxacin) regimen has an efficacy of 89% (regardless of person's HIV status) to treat rifampicin-resistant TB of the lungs, as compared to less than 60% efficacy of the almost 24-month long standard of care regimen.

BPaL (Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, and Linezolid) regimen too has 89% treatment efficacy for treating people with extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) and treatment-intolerant or non-responsive drug-resistant TB of the lungs.

Those who do not have fluoroquinolone resistance can receive a BPaLM regimen and those who are later found to have fluoroquinolone resistance can be given a BPaL regimen.

"Patients in India and other countries are falling ill with drug-resistant TB every day. And they are still being treated for it with older, more toxic, and less effective drugs. These patients should not have to wait, they need better treatments today – not one or a few years down the line. We have the data and strong scientific evidence to show why shorter, safer, more effective regimens to treat drug-resistant TB be scaled up programmatically. So why not use the newer, less toxic, and more effective drugs instead?" says Dr

Animesh Sinha, Advisor for Tuberculosis at Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) or Doctors Without Borders.

These shorter regimens also make economic sense for the people in need as well as for the service providers. They cost less because of the reduction in costs of both: drugs cost and associated care "Patients could get back to their normal lives much quicker than those who were on standard-of-care regimens. There is no reason why they should not be made available at the earliest to all those who suffering from drug-resistant TB," he adds.

Speaking at the 78th National Conference of Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases (NATCON) held in Thrissur, India, Dr Sinha shared the results of implementing BPaL based regimens, outside clinical trials by many countries with a high incidence of drug-resistant TB. Organized by the Tuberculosis Association of India, Tuberculosis Association of Kerala, Association of Pulmonologists Thrissur, Academy of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and Southeast Asia regional office of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), the conference theme is "Robert Koch to Robotics."

He gave the examples of Uzbekistan and Belarus which rolled out the BPaLM regimen in 2022. "Till date, they have enrolled more than 800 patients

on these new regimens, of which over 500 patients have completed their treatment. They have seen a huge success rate of over 92% in these patients treated with the innovative all-oral, 6-month long regimen for drug-resistant TB. The treatment has been safer than the previously used longer regimen and patients have witnessed lesser side effects."

"However, India has not rolled out these regimens as yet. I hear concerns about high levels of resistance to fluoroquinolones in India as a reason for caution. However other countries with even higher levels of fluoroquinolone resistance have rolled out these regimens with great success. Both Uzbekistan and Belarus are countries with high rates of drug-resistant TB and over 20% to 30% of drug-resistant TB patients in these countries have fluoroquinolone resistance. This is in comparison to India where the proportion of drug-resistant TB patients with fluoroquinolone resistance is less than 20%. Therefore these new regimens should work as well in India as they do elsewhere," explained Dr Animesh Sinha.

India has set ambitious targets to end TB. Now, we need to match this optimism with actions on the ground, so that these targets are reachable. Shorter regimens will help not just India but all countries in ending TB and delivering on SDGs, says Sinha.

In its updated guidelines on drug-resistant TB treatment, the World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended programmatic use of the shorter, safer, and more effective all oral BPaLM and BPaL regimens in place of the existing longer regimens. But Indian guidelines in sync with the global ones are yet to go public as far as we know.

The shorter duration, lower cost, lower pill burden, and high efficacy of these novel regimens should enable much better treatment and treatment outcomes for people with drug-resistant TB, while also helping health systems to provide care for more people. It has a strong Call to Action for rapid expansion in access to the BPaLM/BPaL regimens.

Shobha Shukla is the award-winning founding Managing Editor and Executive Director of Citizen News Service and is a feminist, health and development justice advocate. She is a former senior Physics faculty of prestigious Loreto Convent College and current Coordinator of Asia Pacific Regional Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media) and Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA). Follow her on Twitter @shobha1shukla or read her writings here www.bit.ly/ShobhaShukla

## Soldiering Through Time

# Babuji's Unforgettable Reminiscence



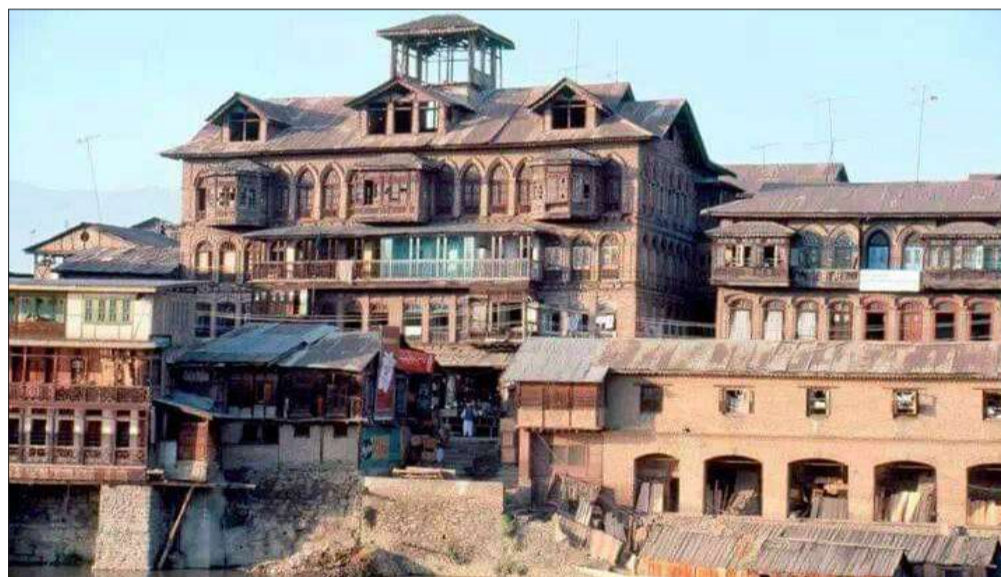
DR. SHIBEN KRISHEN RAINA

In our tranquil neighborhood lived an elderly gentleman, likely around Eighty years old. Despite his advanced age, he remained in remarkably good health. The depth of his life's experiences reflected onto his face, portraying the images of hope, despair, happiness, and sorrow that usually accompanies a person through the various stages of life.

This respected figure, whom my family members affectionately referred to as 'Babuji', commenced his journey into the military at the tender age of twenty. As he probes into the retreats of his past, captivating tales of world wars, and encounters with tribals in Kashmir, Nagaland, Junagadh, and other locales emerge like treasures from a trove. Babuji takes immense pleasure in recounting these stories, offering a glimpse into a life rich with diverse 'Fauji' experiences.

One morning, I received an invitation from Babuji, an indication that he was eager to share yet another chapter from his military journey. Initially contemplating the idea of declining, I reconsidered when Babuji, with a heartfelt gesture, called me again. Resolving to make a swift return, I changed into suitable attire and headed towards his residence, just next door.

Upon entering his room, I was greeted warmly by Babuji. Tea was ordered, and he settled into a chair in front of me. Displaying an unusual vitality, he wore a long-necked undershirt that reached his knees. The room is adorned with pictures of deities,



displaying his military life and a big picture featuring prominently the image of his late wife. A rifle hung on one wall, appearing as a historical relic.

Babuji, assuming a posture that conveyed the significance of the moment, appeared poised to share something extraordinary this time. His eyes had searched me out since morning. My gaze wandered to a table adorned with various badges, medals, certificates, and plaques. While Babuji had elaborated on these awards in our previous conversations several times, this was the first opportunity to witness them.

With pride evident in his expression, Babuji recounted the history behind each badge, medal, and certificate. Some were earned in wars, while others were bestowed by British officers for their acts of valor. As he flipped through the pages of

his memory, joy illuminated on his face. Placing his right hand on my shoulder, he remarked, "There are many more badges and medals, but the old lady loved these the most." Intrigued, I inquired, "Which old lady?"

Babuji's response unveiled a poignant layer of his narrative. "Oh, my wife, who departed to the divine abode last year. A kind-hearted soul, she used to insist, 'Nikke's Babu, these badges are not for you; I have earned them. Despite being in the village while I traversed different fronts and cities, she tirelessly polished them to a shine.'"

I looked up at Babuji, finding his eyes glistening with moisture. Attempting to control his emotions, he continued, "The old lady mostly stayed in the village, and I would sometimes be on this front and sometimes on that front, sometimes in this city and sometimes in that city. What discipline it was! What a spectacle it was! Working with British officers had its own charm."

As the minutes ticked by, Babuji dug deeper into the recesses of his memories. It became apparent to me that today, Babuji was wrapped in a wave of sentimentality. Our interactions had traditionally revolved around neighborly inquiries, occasionally sprinkled with tales from his military days that I always absorbed with keen interest.

My knowledge of Babuji painted a portrait of a man hailing from

Garhwal, spending his formative years there before embarking on a military career that eventually led to retirement. Following the passing of his wife, he found solace in residing in the city near me, alongside his eldest son. For the past five to seven years, he primarily stayed with his eldest son, occasionally venturing to visit his other children for short periods. However, since the loss of his wife, he had predominantly made his home with his eldest son.

Before I could inquire if his intention in calling me was to share stories behind the array of badges and medals, Babuji began to speak. "These badges and medals were more than mere decorations to my old lady; they were precious beyond measure. Once a week, she would lovingly polish them. As the years advanced, it became a bi-monthly ritual, then a yearly one—specifically on the anniversary of our wedding."

I softly asked, "Why on the anniversary?" Babuji lapsed into contemplation at my inquiry. His gaze fixed on the medals before him, and he began, "I cannot say why precise-

ly on the anniversary. What I do know is that my old lady, despite being unable to read or write, had mastered the book of life. During my absences, she cared for my parents, brought up the children, and managed the household with unwavering dedication. Reflecting now, I am astounded by the profound devotion and self-assurance that woman possessed."

As Babuji continued to meticulously polish the medals, his eyes alternated between me and the gleaming decorations. It became evident that he had something more to share, an unspoken sentiment. Taking one of the medals into my hands, I offered, "Here, Babu Ji, let me polish this one." His eyes lit up with appreciation, perhaps longing to hear such an offer. As he attended to some other medals, I took charge of the rest.

In a momentary pause, Babuji shifted his gaze to a picture of his late wife hanging on the wall. Inhaling deeply, he disclosed, "Today marks our wedding anniversary. If my old lady were still with me, she would have started polishing these medals since morning. These medals meant more to her than life itself. In her fading moments, she whispered to me, 'Dear Babu, these medals are not for you, they are for me. Yes, they are for me. Take care of them and polish them every year on our wedding anniversary.'"

Babuji's voice wavered with emotion. After a brief silence, he erupted into a laughter reminiscent of a soldier's discipline, saying, "I've held onto her words in my heart. Every year on this day, I retrieve these medals, dust them off, and polish them. At that moment, I hear the echo of my old lady's voice—'Dear Babu! These medals are not for you, they are for me—they are not for you, they are for me!'"

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LK Advani

# A Bharat Ratna Who Shaped India's Politics And History



PROF. JASIM MOHAMMAD

**L**al Krishna Advani, a veteran politician and a stalwart leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, has been conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 3, 2024.

Born in Karachi, present-day Pakistan, on November 8, 1927, Advani experienced the trauma of the partition of India and dedicated his life to the cause of nation-building. He joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) as a pracharak (full-time worker) and later became one of the founding members of the BJP, along with Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Advani served as the president of the BJP for the longest period, from 1986 to 1991, and again from 1993 to 1998. He transformed the party from a marginal player with only two Lok Sabha seats in 1984 to a formidable force with 120 seats in 1991 and 182 seats in 1998. He also served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha from 1998 to 2004 and from 2009 to 2014.

He is widely regarded as an individual of great intellectual ability, strong principles, and unwavering support for the idea of a strong and prosperous India. As confirmed by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Advani has "never compromised on his core belief in nationalism, and yet has displayed flexibility in political responses whenever it was demanded by the situation."

He is widely regarded as one of the most influential and respected leaders of the BJP, who mentored and groomed many of its prominent members. He is also credited with expanding the party's base and appeal across the country, especially among the urban middle class and the youth. He coined the slogan "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" (Together with all, development for all, trust of all), which became the guiding principle of the Modi government.

The Bharat Ratna, which literally means "Jewel of India", was instituted in 1954 to honour the highest degree of national service rendered by any individual in any field of human endeavour. The award comprises a peepal leaf-shaped medalion with a platinum emblem of the sun and the words "Bharat Ratna" inscribed on it. The award is conferred by the President of India on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. Some of the previous recipients of the award include Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad, C. Rajagopalachari, Bhagwan Das, M. Visvesvaraya, Vallabhbhai Patel, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, C.V. Raman, Rajiv Gandhi, Abdul Kalam, Sachin Tendulkar, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

L.K. Advani was chosen for this honour in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the nation as a parliamentarian, a minister, a party leader, and a statesman. His political journey spans over seven decades, and his contributions have been instrumental in the nation's progress and development. Advani's early years were marked by a fervent dedication to the ideals of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a nationalist organization that he joined at the age of 14. He was deeply influenced by the RSS leaders such as M.S. Golwalkar and Deendayal Upadhyaya, who instilled in him a sense of patriotism, discipline, and service.

Advani's association with the Janata Party and the BJP was significant in establishing a strong conservative presence in Indian politics. He was one of the founding members of the BJP in 1980, along with Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who became his lifelong friend and mentor. He served as



the president of the BJP for six terms and led the party to several electoral victories. He was also the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha for three terms.

He also played a vital role in expanding the BJP's alliance base and forming the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) with regional parties. He served as the deputy prime minister and home minister in the Vajpayee-led NDA government from 1998 to 2004 and made several notable achievements, such as conducting the Pokhran-II nuclear tests, launching the Lahore bus service, initiating the peace process with Pakistan, overseeing the Kargil war victory, implementing the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), and initiating the Bharat Nirman programme for rural development.

As the Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India, Advani played a pivotal role in strengthening national security and law enforcement. His tenure saw significant strides in modernizing the police force and addressing critical issues such as terrorism and insurgency. He was instrumental in launching the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) in 2002, which gave the authorities more powers to combat terrorism. He also established the National Security Council, the National Investigation Agency, and the National Disaster Management Authority to enhance the country's preparedness and response to various threats and emergencies.

His pragmatic approach and decisive actions during this period contributed to the nation's stability and security. He was widely praised for his handling of the Kargil War in 1999, where he coordinated the successful military operation to evict the Pakistani intruders from the Indian territory. He was also lauded for his role in the Pokhran nuclear tests in 1998, where he supported the decision to conduct the nuclear explosions that demonstrated India's scientific and strategic prowess.

Beyond politics, Advani is known for his commitment to parliamentary democracy and his advocacy for constructive debates. As a parliamentarian, he consistently emphasized the importance of democratic values and the need for meaningful dialogue to address the challenges facing the

nation. He is widely respected for his oratory skills, his ideological convictions, his strategic vision, his mentorship, and his integrity. He has influenced and inspired many political leaders and activists, such as Narendra Modi, Pramod Mahajan, Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj, and Amit Shah.

Advani has received several

awards and honours for his public service, such as the Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian award of India, in 2015, the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award in 1999, and the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to Indian politics in 2016. He has also authored several books, such as My Country My Life, A Prisoner's Scrap-Book, and The BJP: A Political

Biography. The Bharat Ratna is not merely an acknowledgment of Advani's political career but also a recognition of his statesmanship and dedication to the service of the nation.

In conferring the Bharat Ratna upon L.K. Advani, the government honours not just an individual, but a symbol of steadfast leadership, con-

party into national politics. For the unversed, L.K. Advani is the second BJP stalwart to be conferred with Bharat Ratna. Prior to him, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was also honored with Bharat Ratna in 2015.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that BJP's veteran leader L.K. Advani will be conferred with the prestigious Bharat Ratna award, his family expressed happiness and thanked PM Modi for honouring the latter with the country's highest honour.

Pratibha Advani, L.K. Advani's daughter, was seen sitting with Advani at his residence in Delhi as she congratulated her father offering him a laddu.

"The entire family is very happy that 'Dada' (L.K. Advani) has received the country's highest honour. Today I miss my mother the most because her contribution to his life, be it personal or political life is huge. When I told Dada, he was very happy and said that he spent his entire life in the service of his country. He thanked PM Modi and the people of the country for honouring him with such a big award," Pratibha Advani said.

"He is very overwhelmed. He is a man of few words. But he had tears in his eyes. He was very happy even at the time of Pran Pratishtha of Ram temple. This was such a dream of his life for which he struggled and worked for a long time. His personality is such that when someone praises him, tears come to his eyes," she added.

Jayant Advani, veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani's son said that it is wonderful to note that at this stage in his life, his efforts are being recognised in this magnificent way.

"My family and I are extremely delighted with this new development. I would like to thank PM Narendra Modi for conferring this award on my father. My father's contribution to public life has been immense and it is wonderful to note that at this stage in his life, his efforts are being recognised in this magnificent way," he said.

*Author is Professor and the Chairman, Centre for Narendra Modi Studies (CNMS). He can be mailed at profjasimmd@gmail.com*



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In conferring the Bharat Ratna upon L.K. Advani, the government honours not just an individual, but a symbol of steadfast leadership, con-

After securing 60 Cr funding

# Qul Fruitwall Confident Of Major Transformation In Horticulture Sector

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: Qul Fruitwall (Qul), the Kashmir-based horticultural start-up, which became the union territory's first private sector enterprise to receive global institutional capital, is confident of major transformation in the horticulture sector with such investments.

Qul Fruitwall Farm Installations has received funding of 60 crore for operations and research to modernise the sector, paving the way for more foreign institutional investment in the region.

Eighty percent of the funding is coming from Incofin Investment Management and a portion from Fiedlin Ventures.

Irtik Shamim, Chief Financial officer of the start-up said that Rs 60 crore funding will open the door for more foreign investments into Kashmir's horticulture industry.

"We are dealing with pre and post-harvest management and our firm has helped the growers to enhance their income. We led the foundation of the CA store and introduced the concept of high-density plantation. With these achievements, we went to invest



and secured a funding of Rs 60 crore," he said.

With this funding, the company's valuation has raised close to Rs 400 crores. "This is the kind of First Global investment in the UT with one of Europe's Large Impact Fund as the lead investor. This will open a whole new opportunity for the budding entrepreneurs who are doing meaningful work but are not able to take their business forward beyond a certain point," Irtik said.

He said the start-up is working

on various models to transform the horticulture sector of the valley.

"We are witnessing that every year diseases like scab infest our orchards and affect the quality of our apples. We are currently working on a project, through which we will be able to predict diseases in apple orchards," Irtik said.

Irtik also said that they have been actively working to enhance the production through introduction of modern and scientific farming in the valley.

"In Kashmir, we produce only

12-13 tonnes of apples per hectare. While as in Europe it is around 70-90 tonnes apple per hectare. We are raising awareness among the farmers and convincing them to follow the European model of farming to enhance production," he said.

"Our soil is way more fertile than that of Europe and we have a scope of getting an enhanced production and quality apple. By adopting modern and scientific farming, the income of our farmers can grow by more than five times," Irtik added—(KNO)

## Study Uncovers Key Genes Behind Parkinson's In Young Indians

IANS

BENGALURU: A team of scientists has identified key genes that raise the risk of Parkinson's disease in young Indians.

The team, led by Parkinson's Research Alliance of India (PRAI) and MedGenome, a global genomics company in South Asia, made a comprehensive analysis of rare and common genetic variations in young Indian population which can enhance the understanding of the genetic basis of Parkinson's disease.

This also opens door for a first ever genetic screening in India for the disease in high-risk individuals and affected families, said the team of scientists in the paper published in the prestigious journal, Movement Disorders.

"Parkinson's is not a single gene disease. It can occur due to multiple genetic mutations and multiple gene causes. Knowing what patients with Indian patients will have it

will have more impact in understanding and treatment of that," Dr Prashanth L.K., a specialist in movement disorders from PRAI, told IANS.

Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disorder in adults in the age bracket of 60 years and above.

According to the Global Burden of Disease Study (2018), Parkinson's has doubled across the globe over the past two decades, while India accounts for approximately 10 per cent of the global burden. This translates to nearly 0.58 million patients living with the disease in the country.

The first of its kind study conducted in India aimed included 1,000 patients through a network of 10 specialty Movement Disorder Centers/Neurology clinics across India.

Dr Prashanth told IANS that the team found high probability of non-mutation and Parkinson's mutations are quite common in

Indian patient.

"We also found a lot of what we call it is variants of unknown significance. These are all important genes which have not been reported in literature and have been found here."

"We need to work on these genes further to see how these genes can be important for occurrence of parkinson disease in in patients," he said.

Further, the expert noted that Indian patients carry lot of BSN gene mutations. BSN gene primarily affects gait and balance for people and is normally not reported in Parkinson's.

Dr. Prashanth also noted that currently there is single answer as to how to prevent the disease, because Parkinson disease is an ageing related disorder.

"However, very important is good quality of life, proper food, timing, food timings, regular exercises."

He also emphasised the need for a "stress-free life"

### FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

## Lok Sabha Clears

passed the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which seeks to add four communities -- Gadda Brahmin, Koli, Pad-dari Tribe, and Pahari Ethnic Group -- to the list of Scheduled Tribes in Jammu and Kashmir.

Responding to a debate on the Bill, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said that with the scrapping of Article 370, the BJP government has sent out a message that India is one, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

On the demand of an opposition member for the inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, he said that the BJP is concerned about the people of the Union territory.

The Bill seeks to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order of 1989 to create separate lists for Scheduled Tribes for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Prominent Pahari leaders Syed Mushtaq Bukhari (former minister), Raja Aijaz Ali, Vibodh Gupta and other leaders have been at the forefront of the battle to get ST status for Paharis—(KNO Inputs)

## LG Expresses

Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in Lok Sabha and expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"A historic day for Jammu Kashmir! Lok Sabha has cleared the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to grant scheduled tribe status to Paharis, Padari Tribes, Koli & Gadda Brahmin, fulfilling the long pending demand of these communities," LG Sinha said.

LG said that under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi Ji, govt has ensured inclusion of these communities in Scheduled Tribes list will have no impact on current level of reservations available to Gujjars, Bakarwals & other tribe & they will continue to get reservation like before. "After the bill is cleared in Rajya Sabha, the UT administration will issue necessary notifications ensuring that the people included in the existing list of Scheduled Tribes continue to get the same level of reservation," he said, adding that he UT administration is committed to build a J&K which focuses on balanced development and benefits all sections of society with the Mantra of inclusive development.

"I also appeal to the people and community elders to discharge their responsibilities well and counter any misinformation being spread by miscreants on level of reservation to the communities," he said.

LG reiterated that the inclusion of new communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes will not impact current level of reservations available to the existing Scheduled Tribe communities such as Gujjars and Bakarwals".

## Abolished 370,

Addressing the issue of stone-pelting incidents, Shah revealed a drastic shift from the past, stating that there is now not a single reported incident in Jammu and Kashmir. He attributed this change to the government's efforts, emphasizing that those once engaged in stone-pelting are now embracing technology, with laptops replacing stones.

Amit Shah also touched upon the broader success in handling internal security hotspots, including Jammu and Kashmir, North-East, and left-wing extrem-

ism-affected areas. He claimed that these regions have been successfully brought under control during the Modi government's tenure, contributing to India's overall development journey.

Regarding foreign and domestic policies, Shah emphasized a commitment to friendly relations with other countries but firmly stated that there would be no compromise on border security and the safety of the nation's citizens. He credited the government's clear policies for garnering respect from other nations.

The Home Minister concluded by praising the government's approach in not only addressing terrorism but also dismantling its ecosystem. He highlighted the implementation of modern criminal justice laws and the transformative impact on the youth in Jammu and Kashmir, with laptops symbolizing progress in the region.

## Key Conspirator

in hatching conspiracy along with Khurshid Ahmad Rather and Ghulam Sarwar Rather in receiving arms and ammunition from across the LoC by the terrorist handlers," police said.

Police said that on February 4, 2024 following specific information received from investigation agencies in Jammu & Kashmir that one Riyaz Ahmad Rather S/o Gh Rasool Rather R/o Village New Gabra Tehsil Karnah District Kupwara, J&K is wanted in the recent terror module case busted by them, wherein five persons were arrested and incriminating material including 5 AK rifles (short), 5 AK Magazines, 16 short AK rounds were recovered.

"In this regard, a Case FIR No: 07/2024 US 120B IPC, 7/25 Indian Arms Act, 13, 18, 20, 23, 38, 39 of UA (P) Act, Police Station-Karnah, Kupwara (J&K) was registered and under investigation," police said.

Police said that these weapons and ammunition were sent by Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) based LeT Terrorist handlers namely Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh @ Shakoor S/o Wali Mohammad Seikh R/o Gabra Karnah and Qazi Mohammad Khushal S/o Qazi Syed Yaseen R/o Dhanni Karnah.

"Both were operating from across the border. Further, it was informed that Riyaz Ahmad is absconding and would shortly reach New Delhi Railway Station in the wee hours," police said.

Police said that sensing the gravity of the matter, a team of New Delhi police was constituted and immediately deployed at all the entry/exits and strategic points of New Delhi Railway Station.

"The alert staff acted promptly and identified Riyaz Ahmad in the crowd and apprehended him, when he was trying to flee from Exit Gate no 1, of New Delhi Railway Station in the early morning hours," police said.

Police said that Riyaz Ahmad was subjected to intensive interrogation, and it was revealed that he along with his friend Altaf had boarded Mahakaushal Express from Jabalpur and reached Hazarat Nizamuddin railway station at about 3 p.m. on February 3, 2024.

"From there they took an auto and reached NDRS. Riyaz Ahmad Rather was about to go to some other hideout," police said.

Police said that Riyaz Ahmad and his friend Altaf retired from the Indian Army on January 31, 2023.

"One mobile phone and one SIM card has been recovered from his possession. Accused Riyaz Ahmad has been arrested under appropriate sections of law and Police Officials of concerned Police Station

of J&K have been informed for further necessary action at their end," the police said.

## Cold Wave Returns

minimum temperature. Jammu city had 6, Katra 4.6, Batote minus 0.3, Bhaderwah and Banihal both had minus 1.8 as the minimum temperature.

## J&K Witnessing

education is making valuable contributions to concerned sectors," he said. The Lt Governor also talked about the reforms introduced in higher education sector in J&K over last few years.

He impressed upon the Colleges under Cluster University to harness the opportunities and improve, reorient and prepare market-ready skilled workforce.

The Lt Governor also congratulated the Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, Prof Bechan Lal on successful completion of his tenure as VC and wished him good health and all the success in future.

Sh Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary Higher Education; Sh Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; senior officials, Principals of Associated Colleges, Heads of Departments and Faculty members of Cluster University of Jammu were present on the occasion at Raj Bhawan.

## Renowned Broadcaster

Srinagar. He headed the local Doordarshan Kendra during trying times when working for the state-owned TV centre was a tough call because of militant violence.

He died in a hospital in Jammu and his family members said he would be buried in Kashmir.

Farooq Nazki is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.—(IANS)

## GDA Fails To

The official figures further reveal that in the year 2022, a total budget of lakhs were allocated to the GDA. However, the concerned authorities had utilized only Rs 503.13 lakhs.

According to the PIO, in the year 2023, a total budget of Rs 325.03 lakhs was allocated for the GDA out of which the expenditure was Rs 198.29 lakhs.

Stating the revenue generated by the GDA in the past five years, the PIO said that in the year 2019, it has generated a total of Rs 63,90,000.

It reveals that in 2020, a total revenue of Rs 8,47,100 was generated by the GDA followed by Rs 97,30,000 in 2021, Rs 21,12,4000 in fiscal 2022 and Rs 18,73,38,000 in 2023 respectively—(KNO)

## J&K Witnesses 67%

flowers, the minister said no adverse effects have been reported due to factors such as cement dust from industrial establishments.

"The Agriculture Production Department along with the revenue authorities, UT of J&K are implementing the Saffron Act, Saffron rules and other revenue laws which safeguard the saffron land from being diverted for any other purposes," he added.

The growers stressed the need to focus on finding solutions to rejuvenate the saffron industry and increase production. They said a large number of farmers have converted their saffron fields to cultivate

apple trees, mustard, and other crops due to declining interest in saffron.

The growers alleged that the officials at the UT level had claimed an increase in production and other aspects, which they found to be untrue and not reflect the ground reality.

"Even the National Saffron Mission has failed as it fell short of providing the promised relief to the growers, particularly in terms of irrigation facilities," they said.

Officials informed that since the year 2012-13, the land under saffron in Kashmir has remained constant at 3,665 hectares as no assessment has been carried out since then. Meanwhile, the production in the year 2012-13 was 12.45 metric tons with a yield of 3.45 quintals per hectare. In 2013-14, the production increased to 14.01 metric tons with a yield of 3.82 quintals per hectare. However, in 2014-15, the production dropped to 5.57 metric tons with a yield of 1.52 quintals per hectare.

In 2015-16, the production of saffron rose to 16.17 metric tons with a yield of 4.41 quintals per hectare, and in 2016-17, it further increased to 16.45 metric tons with a yield of 4.49 quintals per hectare. However, the production declined significantly in 2017-18 to 5.20 metric tons with a yield of 1.42 quintals per hectare. In 2018-19, it slightly increased to 5.65 metric tons with a yield of 1.54 quintals per hectare.

In the year 2019-20, the production drastically dropped to 0.02 metric tons with a yield of 4.44 quintals per hectare. The saffron production remained stagnant at 0.02 metric tons in both 2020-21 and 2021-22, with a yield of 4.92 quintals per hectare each year—(KNO)

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# PM inaugurates integrated Sea Survival Training Centre in Goa



**IANAS**  
**PANAJI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated the integrated Sea Survival Training Centre at ONGC Institute in Goa.

the nation the Sea Survival Centre of ONGC in Goa. This state-of-the-art Centre is a watershed moment for India in making a mark in the sea survival training ecosystem. Offering rigorous and intense emergency response training, it will ensure many lives are saved in a timely manner," PM Modi said.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, and Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri were present on the occasion.

Indian sea survival training ecosystem to global standards. It is expected to train 10,000-15,000 personnel annually. Exercises in simulated and controlled harsh weather conditions enhance the Sea Survival skills of trainees and thus potentially increase the chances of safe escape from real-life disasters.

# India setting direction for the world's development: PM Modi

**IANAS**  
**PANAJI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that India was among the few nations where 100 per cent electricity coverage was achieved by electrifying crores of houses thus deciding the direction of the world's development.

prices have come down and 100 per cent electricity coverage was achieved by electrifying crores of houses. India is not only meeting its needs, but is also deciding the direction of development of the world," Modi said.

International Monetary Fund's (IMF) prediction of similar growth trends in the future. "Economic experts around the world believe that India will soon become the 3rd largest economy in the world," PM Modi said.

efforts to take the percentage of gas in the primary energy mix from 6 to 15 per cent. "This will see an investment of about 67 billion dollars in the next 5-6 years," he said.

# BJP begins shortlisting candidates for RS polls

**IANAS**  
**LUCKNOW:** The BJP is all set to shortlist candidates for the upcoming biennial elections, due on February 27, keeping in mind the caste factors relevant in the Lok Sabha elections and also the organisational importance of candidates.

three seats. The BJP will be backed by its three allies, the Apna Dal-S, Nishad Party and SBSP. The BJP will also receive the support of Raja Bhayia led Jansatta Dal (Loktantrik) which has been leaning in favour of the ruling party.

# Five BJP leaders in race for Speaker's post in Bihar

**IANAS**  
**PATNA:** After the formation of the NDA government in Bihar, JD(U) and BJP leaders have a challenge to remove the current Speaker, Awadh Bihari Choudhary of the RJD and select a new one.

BJP top leadership may discuss. He is an aggressive leader and highly qualified. He has been winning elections for the last two decades. He comes from traders (Bania) community which is the core vote bank of BJP.

# Prosperous, flourishing K'taka has been PM's priority: Vijayendra

**IANAS**  
**BENGALURU:** BJP Karnataka unit President B.Y. Vijayendra on Tuesday said that a prosperous and flourishing Karnataka has been Prime Minister Narendra Modi's priority.

Prosperous, flourishing Karnataka has been PM's priority, Congress instead of having a 'Chalo Delhi' should have initiated 'Chalo Halli' (go to villages) program to wipe the tears of farmers who are in great distress due to the severe drought. We would have then joined the Congress programme as well," he said.

# PM Modi inaugurates permanent campus of NIT Goa

**IANAS**  
**PANAJI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, during his Goa visit, virtually inaugurated the permanent campus of National Institute of Technology (NIT).

permanent campus, the Government of Goa transferred land admeasuring 4,56,767 Sqm (113 acres) in the village of Cuncolim in July 2017. The campus has a total built-up area of 70,750 sqm, with construction cost of Rs 390.83 crore and can accommodate 1,260 students.

# Yogi govt to equip 'EV Upyog' portal with multiple features

**IANAS**  
**LUCKNOW:** The Yogi Adityanath government is focusing on the enhancement of the 'EV Upyog' portal.



Cloud servers prove to be better from a cybersecurity point of view, including cost-effectiveness, scalability, integration, API convenience, and reliability. This is the reason that Uttar Pradesh Development Systems Corporation Ltd. has started the process to equip the EV Upyog portal with these facilities.

# Two women Maoists surrender in Odisha's Boudh

**IANAS**  
**BHUBANESWAR:** Two hardcore women Maoist cadres of the banned CPI-Maoist surrendered before police in Odisha's Boudh district on Tuesday, police said.

The surrendered militants were identified as Manisha Thati, 21, member of 8th company and Champa Koram alias Sajanti, 22, member of Mahanadi Area Committee of Kalahandi-Kandhamal-Boudh-Nayagarh (KKBN) division of the CPI-Maoist.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB - TRANSMISSION DIVISION PULWAMA.**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
NIT No.- 26 OF 2023-24 (e-Tendering) Dated:- 05/02/2024

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-Tender is hereby invited from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. for the following work.

S. No.	Name of work	Advertised Amount in Lacs	Earnest Money in Rs.	Tender fee in Rs.	Class of Contract
1	PROVIDING SEPARATE (NEW) FEEDER AT 33/11 KV RECEIVING STATIONS of STD Pulwama under Segregation of Feeders UT Capex 2023-24	28.17	56340.00	1000.00 (In the form of Treasury Receipt only)	A-Class Electrical Contractors enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGBPO and Inspection Agency of J&K PDD

- The scanned copies of documents in original which proves the eligibility of bidders follows as under:
  - Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&K/Relevant issuing authority.
  - Average Annual Financial Turn Over of not less than 30% of the estimated tender value during the last three (03) years.
  - Updated/Filed GSTR 3B of last month.
  - ITR of previous 3 Years.
  - Performance and Past experience of similar type of work. Work Completion/Satisfactory Performance Certificates of similar/electrical works issued by the officer-in-charge not below the rank of Executive Engineer.
- The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility Set of terms and conditions can be seen/downloaded from the official website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-
 

01	Date of issue of Tender Notice	06.02.2024
02	Date of start of downloading.	06.02.2024 14.00
03	e-Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial.	07.02.2024 14.00
04	Bid submission end date.	16.02.2024 15.00
05	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bids.	17.02.2024 14.00
06	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bid	Office of the Executive Engineer STD Pulwama.
- There is no need of furnishing of hard copies of bids after submission of e-tenders. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bid as per the instructions of Finance Department issued vide O.M No. A/24(2017)-651; Dated: 07-06-2018.
- Bids must be accompanied with proof of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/receipt/ E- Challan under (MH-0801 PDD Remittance) in favour of Executive Engineer Sub - Transmission Division Pulwama (tender inviting authority).
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee only valid for a period of at least one year from the date of issuance of this tender notice from any scheduled or nationalized bank pledged to the Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Pulwama (tender receiving authority). No interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department. However the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bid has to submit the original EMD to the office of the Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Pulwama through speed post, Courier or by hand. No Bidder, unless or otherwise specified in the terms and conditions, shall be exempted from depositing of Earnest Money. Tenders not accompanied with the requisite amount of earnest money shall be rejected.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's/OEM representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III(b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- The Employer or its representative shall have a right to test any material or any part thereof before or during the execution of works as specified in the technical specifications at any reputed testing laboratory, the expenses of which shall be borne by the concerned executing agency/contractor. In case of the failure of the Test the Lot shall be rejected. Same shall be replaced by the Contractor without affecting the delivery period.
- All other terms and conditions are laid down in the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) which is uploaded separately with this tender.

No.- STD/Pul/3684-90  
Dated:-05/02/2024  
DIPK-NB-5562-23  
DT: 06/02/2024

Sd/= Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Pulwama

# LG inaugurates Atomic North Private Ltd's Complex in Kathua



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BILLAWAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday inaugurated the new office Complex of the Atomic North Private Limited at Durang Village, Billawar, Kathua.

The Lt Governor congratulated the IT Services Company, the youth and residents of Billawar and adjoining areas on the momentous occasion. He commended the Atomic North for its commitment to creating large job opportunities and fostering technological innovation in the region.

"Atomic North is a leading IT services company with offices in India, Canada, USA, United Kingdom and its expansion in rural J&K is a testimony of government's commitment to revive the economy of villages," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor suggested the Atomic North management to skill and reskill the youth of Billawar and nearby areas and give them preference in recruitment so that the local talents can be utilised and this venture gives new impetus to rural transformation.

In 1st Phase, Atomic North will start BPO operation with 100 executives. More than 90% are local youth. In the next phase, the Company will build a data center, a Network Operations Center and a Security Operations Center which will provide employment to 1500 youth and further drive economic growth.

The Lt Governor said the State-of-the-Art facility, equipped with cutting-edge technology and innovative facilities, is poised to give new momentum to the capacity building of young talent pool of Jammu

Kashmir.

The initiative aligns with the vision of J&K Administration to empower local communities and promoting sustainable growth in the IT-enabled services sector, he further added.

I am confident that Atomic North's venture will put customer service at the heart of the company, and reduce the physical distance in today's globalised world. It will inspire the other IT companies to set up their businesses in hinterland to create rural technology hubs in J&K, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also reiterated the resolve of the J&K Administration to facilitate the on-ground implementation of industrial investments in the UT.

He assured every support from the administration for the setting up of new ventures of IT and

IT-enabled services sector companies in the Union Territory.

Sh Sanjeev Sapolia, Managing Director, and Sh Arun Prakash CEO, Atomic North Private Limited, reaffirmed the commitment of Atomic North to supporting economic growth in rural areas and contributing to the overall development of the region. They also expressed gratitude to the UT Administration for the support and cooperation.

Col. Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua; Sh Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu; Sh Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Sh Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Sh Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Kathua and senior officers, prominent citizens and youth in large number were present.

## Hygiene, quality standards FSD conducts inspections in Ganderbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** In a concerted effort to safeguard public health, the Food Safety Department, under the vigilant supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Gulzar Ahmad undertook comprehensive inspections of various food establishments across Ganderbal town.

The inspections carried out as part of routine regulatory measures, involved a meticulous examination of food handling, storage, and preparation practices in restaurants, eateries, and other food-related establishments. The goal is to guarantee that residents and visitors alike can enjoy meals that meet the highest standards of safety and quality.

The Food Safety team, equipped with expertise and the latest monitoring tools, assessed the compliance of establishments with established hygiene

protocols, including proper sanitation, safe food storage, etc. The team also scrutinized the sourcing and quality of ingredients used in food preparation.

ADC overseeing the inspections expressed the importance of maintaining robust food safety measures. He emphasized that these inspections play a pivotal role in upholding the well-being of the community by ensuring that food establishments meet or exceed the required standards.

The Food Safety Department is committed to fostering a culture of awareness and compliance within the food industry. Establishments found not meeting the stipulated standards will be required to implement corrective measures promptly.

The public is encouraged to remain vigilant and report any concerns regarding food safety to the Food Safety Department.

## Man arrested for allegedly murdering younger brother in Sopore

WARIS FAYAZ

**SOPORE:** Authorities on Tuesday arrested a man for the alleged murder of his younger brother in Wadoora Payeen village of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

A police official said the arrest was made in connection with FIR No 02/2024 under Section 307 IPC, pertaining to the killing of a person at Wadoora village. He said investigations into the incident are currently underway.

The incident happened on Monday when a scuffle between two brothers, Abid Rashid Bhat and his brother Touseef Rashid,

sons of Abdul Rashid Bhat, resulted in Abid sustaining severe injuries. Subsequently, a case was registered at the Boma Police Station, a senior police official said.

He said Abid was initially taken to SDH Sopore for medical treatment and was later referred to SKIMS for further care. Tragically, he succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday during treatment, the official said.

"The accused, identified as Touseef, the deceased's brother, has been taken into custody. Section 302 IPC has been applied in the case, and investigations remain ongoing," the official added—(KNO)

## Rajiv Omprakash Pande posted as DIG Central Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on posted senior IPS officer Rajiv Omprakash Pande as DIG central Kashmir upon repatriation to the Union Territory.

According to an order, Rajiv Omprakash Pande,

IPS (AGMUT:2010), upon repatriation to the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, is posted as DIG, Central Kashmir Range.

The order stated that he was posted against an available vacancy, relieving Altaf Ahmad Khan of the additional charge of the post.

## Kupwara Markets Get Dubai Touch

NUZHAT MASOUDI

**KUPWARA:** In a remarkable transformation, the markets of North Kashmir's Kupwara district have received a Dubai-inspired facelift. The traditional bazaars, known for their unique blend of local culture and commerce have now got a touch of modernity that echoes the opulence of the Middle East.

The initiative, driven by local entrepreneurs and supported by people, aims to enhance the aesthetic appeal and infrastructure of Kupwara's commercial hubs.

Bilal Ahmad, 43, a resident of Tarathpora Kupwara said that "Oxiwave" is a Dubai based brand introduced in Kashmir, entirely owned, managed and operated by locals.

"Our goal is to become the first million dollar brand that originated from the remote regions of Kashmir. We want to achieve this by harnessing technology and local talent, demonstrating that success can be achieved even operating from the most remote areas. Additionally, we aspire for the youth of Kashmir by sending a powerful message,



you can operate and attain success from remote areas while making a significant impact with small investments," Ahmad said.

Shahid Iqbal, a guiding force behind Oxiwave, emphasized the distinctiveness of their products. Despite the quality disparity from local Kashmiri brands, the rates remain a testament to Oxiwave's commitment to accessibility. Offering a generous discount, thermals, towels, and ladies' leggings are available at prices significantly lower than their original market value.

Tahira, wife of Shahid, proudly proclaimed the headquarters of Oxiwave to be nestled in the scenic Tikkar Kupwara. With franchises adorning Hand-

wara main market, Bemina Srinagar, Ganjwara Janglat Anantnag, and Baramulla main market, Oxiwave stands as a beacon of quality and variety.

The treasure trove of brands under Oxiwave's umbrella includes an array of offerings—from bedroom sets to a diverse range of comforters, blankets, bed sheets, towels, and the unique touch of pillows crafted from duck and rabbit feathers. Not stopping there, Oxiwave is set to introduce Abayas of the Nukka brand, Kameez Shalwar for men, and exclusive marriage packages. They even extend their embrace to spiritual journeys with meticulously curated Hajj and Umrah packages.

Adding a touch of generosity, Ishfaq Iqbal, the brother of Shahid Iqbal, unveiled an Aawuniqu initiative. Anyone installing the Oxiwave application on their phone will receive a delightful reward—a 500 rupees voucher, a gesture echoing Oxiwave's commitment to its customers.

Beyond the realm of commerce, Oxiwave transcends into a larger vision. As Ishfaq Iqbal aptly stated, Oxiwave is not just a brand; it is an innovation tailored for diverse individuals. The organization embodies a spirit of perseverance and serves as a platform for those aspiring to contribute, especially from remote areas. Profits, while acknowledged, take a backseat to the broader message—an inspiration for the youth to dream and achieve, no matter their origin.

In essence, Oxiwave unfolds as more than a business venture; it is a narrative of ingenuity, inclusivity, and empowerment, echoing across the landscapes of Kashmir and beyond.

As Kupwara's markets embrace a touch of Dubai, the initiative serves as a testament to the power of blending tradition with modernity—(KNO)

## Creative content creation can help in spreading road safety awareness: RTO Kashmir



WARIS FAYAZ

**SOPORE:** Regional Transport Officer Kashmir Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari said that road safety is not a singular challenge but requires a collective and holistic approach involving various stakeholders.

During his visit to Sopore, he said that people should recognize the gravity of their responsibilities on the road.

"Until and unless individuals conscientiously adhere to preventive measures, road accidents will persist," Bukhari said. "Everyone has to play a crucial role in ensuring road safety through responsible behavior and compliance with traffic rules. Non-compliance with traffic norms leads to accidents."

He said that a holistic and collective approach is imperative for tackling road safety challenges effectively. "We must involve all stakeholders, including politicians, educational institutions, journalists and the community at large to have significant results — reduce traffic accidents," he added.

"Journalists have a crucial role in promoting road safety. Through creative and emotional storytelling you can spread awareness and encourage everyone to follow road rules," he added.

He said that they have made significant strides in digitizing services since September but some procedures still require physical presence. "Our commitment to a faceless approach is reflected in the fact that 93% of our services, such as permit issuance and vehicle transfers can be availed online," said the RTO.

Bukhari also said that the recent accident in Boniyar resulting in the loss of 10 lives is tragic, insisting people should prioritize their safety over convenience.

"We encourage individuals, especially village Panchs and sarpanchs to report any violations or unsafe practices to the police or our department to avoid Boniyar like accident," he said, adding that people need to adopt a culture of voluntary compliance with traffic rules for creating a safer road environment for everyone—(KNO)

## MVD organises Interactive session on Road Safety Management

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Anantnag in collaboration with Human Welfare Organisation (HWO) Bijbehara and Zaiba Appa Educational Institute organised awareness cum interactive session on Road Safety Management for persons with disability and students enrolled here to sensitize them about the importance of obeying traffic rules and laws while being on roads.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Anantnag, Dr Mohammad Zubair Lattoo was the chief guest on the occasion. DySP Traffic Rural Anantnag, Dr Mohammad Idrees was guest of

follow the golden principles of road safety.

In his Power Point presentation, ARTO Anantnag stated that during 2023, 6298 accidents took place in Jammu and Kashmir. Out of which 730 were fatal and 5568 accidents were non fatal. During the same period 893 persons were killed and 8469 were injured in road traffic crashes in India.

This is a disturbing statistic and calls for a serious intervention by policy-planners, media and civil society to create continued awareness on road safety norms and regulations, he said.

He said that the purpose of organizing such programmes is to disseminate a message of saving life of their own and others while



honour.

Addressing the gathering, ARTO Anantnag highlighted the importance of road safety management in the lives of common people. He threw light on underlying causes of road accidents and the need to

being on roads and to make them law-abiding citizens of the society and to save precious lives of the people which are being lost due to traffic accidents.

Later a painting competition and Tricycle rally was also organised.

## MCB launches cleanliness drive in vital streams

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** As part of comprehensive cleanliness and to ensure cleaner and healthier environment, the Municipal Council (MC) Bandipora Tuesday launched a significant sanitation campaign for cleaning the 'Jinder Koul' and other streams that traverse through Bandipora town.

This ongoing endeavor underscores the commitment of MC Bandipora to preserve the cleanliness and environmental integrity of these vital streams.

Executive Officer (EO) MC Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Khan said that the municipal council has embarked on this initiative to address sanitation challenges



and promote a culture of hygiene within the town.

EO emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in achieving sustainable sanitation goals and urged the public to actively participate in the initiatives taken up by MC Bandipora.

He also urged the public to avail door to door collection services of segregated waste by our hoppers and desist from polluting surroundings especially streams.

### Turning Trash into Treasure

## Hiller Block in Anantnag set to launch Door-to-Door Waste Collection

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** Hiller Block takes a giant leap towards a cleaner environment with the initiation of mass awareness regarding Door-to-Door waste collection. Under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, an authorized agency has been entrusted to collect, segregate, and treat waste.

The innovative approach involves a robust mechanism, including more than 70 community compost pits and over 10 Segregation Sheds and Rural Plastic Waste management units strategically positioned for



efficient waste management. Compost pits play a crucial role in proper composting, and at the individual level, additional pits have been constructed through MGNREGA.

Liquid waste management facilities, kitchen gardens, and soak pits, constructed through SBM



(G) and MGNREGA, complement the waste management initiative. Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, S F Hamid has been actively overseeing the progress, ensuring timely support and review.

Forward linkage is established with a network connecting compost pits

and Segregation Sheds. Waste, once properly segregated, will be directed to Compost units or Plastic Waste Management Centers for further processing. State-of-the-art machinery is in place to shred and bail plastic waste, contributing to both processing efficiency and revenue generation.

To ensure complete saturation of the block, ongoing efforts include the addition of compost pits, soakage pits, machinery, and vehicles. Specific user charges, approved through special Gram Sabhas, will be collected to sustain this environmentally conscious initiative.

## CRC Srinagar organizes distribution Camp for beneficiaries

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Composite Regional Centre, (CRC), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MSJ&E), Government of India, Bemina, Srinagar Tuesday conducted rehabilitation cum Distribution Camp under ADIP scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India in collaboration with ALIMCO, Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra (PMDK) at CRC campus Srinagar.

The Rehabilitation camp was attended by more than 140 beneficiaries and their attendants and concerned Rehabilitation Professionals of CRC Srinagar.

During the said rehabilitation camp, more than 230 Assistive and Mobility Aids, and Appliances viz. JoyStick Wheel Chairs (05), Battery Operated Tricycles (24), Hearing Aids (200) etc. were distributed among the registered beneficiaries on the spot. The beneficiaries were oriented and trained to use the Mobility Aids and Assistive Devices.

Awareness about Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme, Disability Certification and UDID Card issuance, KIRAN Mental Health Helpline was also briefed to the participants.

After availing these Assistive and Mobility devices, and preliminary training, the beneficiaries (PwDs) showed their pleasure for hassle-free rehabilitation services/distribution being provided by this institution.