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DC Srinagar Hands over  
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# Private Educational Institutions Must Ensure Education To All: LG Sinha

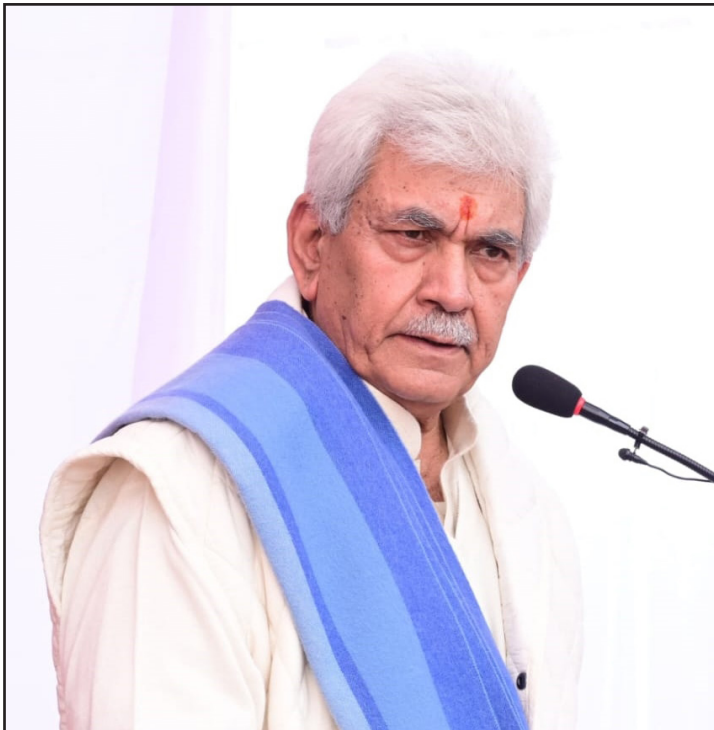
■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JAN 29: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated the new campus of Asian School at Miran Sahib, Jammu today. Sadhvi Ritambhara, Founder Vatsalyagram Vrindavan also graced the occasion.

The Lt Governor extended his felicitations and best wishes to the management of the premier co-education Boarding School of Dehradun, Uttarakhand for starting its branch in Jammu. He said the reputed institution is making an immense contribution in imparting value-based quality education to the students.

The Lt Governor called upon the private educational institutions to come forward and discharge their responsibility towards the society "Transformation of

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## Lt Governor lays foundation stone for Innovation Tower at University of Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JAN 29: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha laid the foundation stone for the Innovation Tower at University of Jammu. The facility will be completed in two phases under the Capex budget of 2023-24.

He said the cutting-edge facility will serve as a Central Hub for transformational Innovation, Incubation, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in the Union Territory.

The One-of-a-kind facility will house Atal Innovation Centre & Data Analytical Centre, Skill Development & Career Progression Centre and Innovation Council. It will have a dedicated space for Innovative Undergraduate Program "Design Your Degree" and provide

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## Pariksha Pe Charcha

### Compete With Yourself, Not Others: PM Modi Tells Students

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, JAN 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday advised parents against treating their child's report



card as their own visiting card, and suggested that students should compete with themselves and not others.

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### Parents Shouldn't Treat Their Child's Report Card As Their Visiting Card: PM Modi

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, JAN 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said it is crucial to instill resilience in children to help them cope with pressures and asserted that parents and teachers should collectively address challenges faced by students.

Interacting with students, parents and teachers during his annual Pariksha Pe Charcha programme, the prime

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## NEWS BRIEF

### J&K Govt Orders Transfers And Postings In Civil Secretariat

JAMMU, JAN 29: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday ordered transfers and postings in the 'interest of administration with immediate effect'.

According to an order, Sunil Kumar Sharma, Private Secretary, is transferred from the Department of Public Grievances and posted in the Tribal Affairs Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Zubair Mushtaq, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment

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### Property Of Militant Associate Working With LeT Attached In Budgam In Budgam

SRINAGAR, JAN 29: The property of a militant associate working with the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was on Monday attached in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district for wilful sheltering and harbouring of the terrorists, police said.

The police attached the residential house of a terrorist associate Mohammad Ramzan Mir, a resident of Rudbugh Magam area of Central Kashmir district, an official said.

Mir is a terror associate or an over ground worker (OGW) of the proscribed terrorist outfit LeT, he added.

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### Govt Extends Ban Imposed On Terror Group SIMI For 5 Years

NEW DELHI, JAN 29: The Government on Monday extended the ban imposed on terrorist group Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) for five years for its involvement in fomenting terrorism and disturbing peace and communal harmony in the country.

In a post on 'X', Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that bolstering Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of zero tolerance against terrorism, SIMI has been declared an 'Unlawful Association' for a further period of five years under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

The SIMI was first banned in 2001

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### CS Takes Stock Of Measures To Improve Air Quality In JK Cities

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, JAN 29: In the UT Apex Committee meeting of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today took stock of all the measures taken to

improve the overall quality of air in the twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar here. The meeting was attended by ACS, Forest Department; Divisional

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### CBI conducts searches at 8 locations in Kiru Hydroelectric project case

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JAN 29: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday conducted searches at around eight locations in Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir in the



on-going investigations of a case related to alleged irregularities in the award of tender for civil works of Kiru Hydroelectric Project being executed by Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Limited. (CVPPPL).

The spokesman of the Agency said the searches led to recovery of digital devices, computers, property

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## Our Operations To Counter Terrorists Along LoC Will Continue In Relentless Manner: Army Chief

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, JAN 29: Indian Army Chief General Manoj Pande on Monday said that violence levels have come down in the last year along the Line of Control (LoC), adding that the army will relentlessly pursue its operations to counter terrorists alongside the LoC and hinterland.

In an exclusive interview with



news agency, the Army Chief informed that "a total of 71 terrorists were eliminated in Jammu and Kashmir, of which 35 were in the hinterland and another 36 as a result of successful counter-infiltration operations" in 2023.

When asked about the measures and the overall security situation along the Line of Control, the Army Chief said,

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### PM's Interaction With Students Insightful Lesson On Tackling Challenges: Amit Shah

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, JAN 29: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interaction with students during the "Pariksha Pe Charcha" programme was an insightful lesson on tackling the challenges faced by the younger generation during exams.

Interacting with students, parents and teachers during his annual "Pariksha Pe Charcha" programme, Modi cautioned parents against treating their

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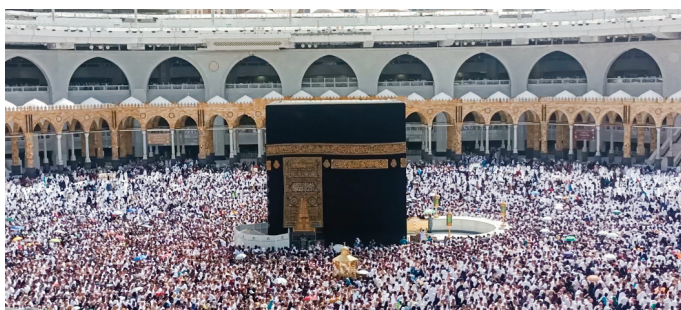
## Over 8000 Aspirants To Perform Hajj This Year From J&K

'Number Of Applications Received Were Less Than Allocated Quota, No Draw Of Lots To Take Place This Year'

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JAN 29: The authorities on Monday said that over 8000 aspirants from across Jammu & Kashmir will be leaving for performing Hajj 2024 soon, saying that the applications of few aspirants having expired passports have

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## Fresh Snowfall In Higher Reaches Of Kashmir, Attracts Tourists



■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JAN 29: The higher reaches of the Kashmir valley, including tourist destinations, received fresh snowfall while plains were lashed by rains, resulting in the closure of several crucial roads, officials said on Monday.

The forecasters have predicted more snow in the coming days.

The historical Mughal road con-

necting Kashmir Valley's Shopian district with the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu division and the strategic Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road connecting Ladakh were closed as a precautionary measure due to the accumulation of snow, traffic officials said.

Tourist resorts in Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Doodhpathri, Tangmarg, Gurez Valley, Tragal in Bandipora,

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## CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

### Private Educational.....

education sector should be our commitment. Private educational institutions must adopt some measures to ensure that education is accessible, affordable to all so that marginalised section of society is benefitted and education sector is truly inclusive," he said.

At the inaugural ceremony, the Lt Governor talked about the educational reforms introduced, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, to establish India as a knowledge economy.

"Our education sector had witnessed stagnation for more than three decades. It had adversely impacted the society's morale and the country's confidence was shaken. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi instilled new confidence in the society. He has restored the ancient glory of Bharat," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor urged the teaching community to encourage hands-on, experiential and collaborative learning and develop an enabling environment for the all-round development of students.

One of the most important resources for our nation's growth is youth. The education must strengthen the contribution of youth in India's march towards Viksit Bharat, the Lt Governor further added.

Sh Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu; Sh Madan-jeet Singh, Chairman, Asian School, Dehradun; Sh Rajeev Gupta, Managing Director RDI India; Sh Ankush Mahajan, Chairman, New Gandhi Memorial Educational Society; members of the School management, teachers and students were present.

### Lt Governor.....

a collaborative space for startups, the Lt Governor observed.

The Innovation Tower will provide space for ideation and collaboration. It will encourage youth to discuss new concepts and utilise the testing facility for future projects to reduce the duration of the incubation period, he added.

The Lt Governor directed the planning team to ensure space is flexible with in-built capability and multiple spaces for future technology. He further emphasized on creating a space for intellectual collision and experience sharing by students and mentors.

Presently, the building is approved for construction with G+3 floors in Phase-I. There is a provision to raise the structure to G+7 floors in Phase-II.

Sh Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor Jammu University; senior officials, faculty members and students of the University were present.

### Compete With.....

Interacting with students, parents and teachers during his annual "Pariksha Pe Charcha" programme, the prime minister said competition and challenges act as inspirations in life but competition must be healthy.

"You must not compare one child with another as that can be detrimental to their future. Some parents treat their children's report card as their visiting card, this is not good," he said.

The prime minister explained that the stress on students is of three types—induced by peer pressure, by parents and self induced.

"At times children take pressure on themselves that they are not performing up to the mark. I suggest that you should set small goals during preparation and gradually improve your performance, this way you will be completely ready before the exams," he said.

Describing students as the shapers of India's future, Modi said the Pariksha Pe Charcha programme is like an examination for him too.

Speaking at the seventh episode of his outreach programme with students ahead of examinations, he said students have become more innovative than ever.

"Our students will shape our future," Modi said. Organised by the Ministry of Education, Pariksha Pe Charcha has been engaging students, parents and teachers for the past six years.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fourth edition was held online, while the fifth and sixth editions returned to the town hall format. A total of 31.24 lakh students, 5.60 lakh teachers and 1.95 lakh parents participated in the previous year's edition. This year, an estimated 2.26 crore registrations have taken place on the MyGov portal, highlighting the widespread enthusiasm among students. This year's event has been held in a town hall format at the Bharat Mandapam here. Two students and a teacher from each state and Union Territory, along with winners of the Kala Utsav, have been invited. (Agencies)

### Parents Shouldn't.....

minister advised parents against treating their child's report card as their own visiting card and suggested that students should compete with themselves and not others.

Compete with yourself, not others; parents should stop pressurising children: PM at 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

"It is crucial to instill resilience in our children and help them cope with pressures... We cannot do switch off, pressure is gone. One must become capable of bearing any kind of pressure. They should believe that pressure keeps on building, and one has to prepare oneself," he said.

Prime Minister Modi also suggested students to "always make friends who are more intelligent and work harder". "You must be inspired by such friends. Don't let the pressure of studies and examinations overpower you," he said.

Modi said that even though competition and challenges act as inspirations but competition must be healthy.

"Lot of parents keep on giving examples of other children to their children. Parents should avoid doing these things..." he said.

The prime minister said, "We have also seen that those parents who have not been very successful in their lives have nothing to say or want to tell the world about their successes and achievements, make the report card of their children as their visiting card. Whenever they meet someone, they will tell them the story of their children."

"You must not compare one child with another as that can be detrimental to their future. Some parents treat their children's report card as their visiting card, this is not good," he said at the seventh episode of his outreach programme with students ahead of examinations.

The prime minister explained that the stress faced by students is of three types—induced by peer pressure, by parents and self induced.

"At times, children take pressure on themselves that they are not performing up to the mark. I suggest that you should set small goals during preparation and gradually improve your performance, this way you will be completely ready before exams," he said.

"We have to make ourselves capable of facing any sort of pressure. Students need to make themselves ready to go through any condition. If we visit any cold place, we make up our minds, and accordingly, we keep ourselves ready...(in the) same way you have to be ready for exams," Modi said.

The prime minister said that challenges of students must be addressed collectively by parents and teachers. He also encouraged teachers to forge strong connections with their students.

### CS Takes.....

Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu; PCFC; Secretary Transport; Commissioner SMC/JMC besides other concerned officers.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary impressed upon the concerned city administrations to take all the measures to improve the air quality in our cities as envisaged under this national programme. He asked them to show more commitment toward this significant matter and ensure that the targets set for the two cities are met without fail.

Dulloo further took note of the expenditure made till date under this national programme and the works carried out to make quality of air better here. He stressed on making strenuous efforts to complete all the ongoing works within this financial year. He also directed for accelerating the pace of tendering and other preliminary processes to execute other projects taken up under this programme.

The Chief Secretary maintained that the clean air is one of the basic parameters of determining quality lifestyle in urban areas. He observed that the measures like enhancing of green spaces, reduction of pollutants by resorting to eco-friendly ways are going to have a great impact on our health and prosperity. He called for coordinated efforts to implement this programme here in letter and spirit.

It was given out by the ACS, Forests, Dheeraj Gupta that the National Clean Air Programme is a comprehensive time bound action programme launched by MoEFCC, Govt of India in January 2019 with an objective to improve air quality especially for Non-attainment Cities.

He said that a baseline has been given for each identified city and Target set to be achieved for the concerned city administration to improve the air quality there. He further made out that 124 NACs (132 NACs as on now) have been identified in country for the coverage in this program on the basis of non-conforming to National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for 5 consecutive years.

The meeting was also apprised that funds to the tune of Rs 94.60 Cr have been received by the Municipal bodies of twin cities for making meaningful intervention in this regard. It was said that 19 Air Quality Monitoring-Manual Air Quality Monitoring Stations have been set up in Jammu and Srinagar for providing the real time updates.

Moreover the data for the air quality of 19 different parameters monitored by the CAAQMS installed at Rajbagh Srinagar is

displayed on the screen for information of the general public. Similarly, Air Quality of 10 locations of Jammu City is being monitored and displayed through towers installed under Jammu Smart City Project at main chowks of Jammu city for information of general public.

In addition the State Action Plan has been submitted to CPCB by Government of J&K, which stands approved by the CPCB. This approved Action Plan has details of all the major actions / activities required to be undertaken, departments responsible for its implementation, besides setting timelines for implementation of each of them, the meeting was informed.

### CBI conducts.....

documents, incriminating documents in addition to cash of over Rs 21 lakhs approximately.

The instant case was registered on the basis of a reference received from J&K government against then Chairman Navin Kumar Chaudhary (a 1994 IAS officer); then Managing Director; then Directors of CVPPPL; a private company and unknown others.

It was alleged that in the award of civil works relating to Kiru Hydroelectric Project, guidelines regarding e-tendering were not followed. It was also alleged that though a decision was taken in the 47th board meeting of CVPPPL for re-tender through e-tendering with reverse auction, after cancellation of ongoing tendering process, the same was not implemented and the decision of 47th board meeting, was reversed in the 48th board meeting.

The graft charges were flagged by former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik, who alleged that he was offered a Rs 300-crore bribe for clearing two files, including the one pertaining to the project. (UNI)

### Our Operations.....

"Violence levels have come down. However, you mentioned the recent spurt in activities in Rajouri and Poonch. We have strengthened and reoriented our deployment both along the Line of Control and anti-infiltration obstacle systems as well as in the hinterland."

"We are further improving our intelligence gathering in concert with the police and other agencies. The synergy between all agencies is being paid attention. Our operations to counter terrorists both along the Line of Control and hinterland will continue in a relentless manner," he added.

On promoting Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in the Indian Army, General Pande said, "One of the important lessons from the pandemic and Russia-Ukraine conflict is the need for us to become self-reliant and reduce our import dependency to near zero. Added to this, we want to leverage innovation potential as well as a vibrant startup ecosystem in the country."

He further informed that nearly 100 per cent of army procurements are going to be through the indigenous route in the future.

"As of date, the Army Design Bureau is looking at close to 350 design and development as well as research and development projects in which they are engaging with about 450 industries, including the DRDO. In terms of the cost, it comes to about Rs 1.8 lakh crore. This is what the Army Design Bureau is doing. So, in a way, for the Army, nearly 100 pc of our procurements in the last year and in the future are going to be through the indigenous route," he said.

On the 'Made-in-India' weapon system deployed in the forward areas, Indian Army Chief General Manoj Pande said, "I mentioned infantry protected mobility vehicles or protected wheeled vehicles, which give you both protection as well as high mobility to deal with any such situation. We also have drones and UAVs of different types."

"We are in the final stages of Quantum Computing trials and once that happens, we will have better secure communication through the Quantum Computing encryption and technology," he added.

Meanwhile, While maintaining that the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) remains stable 'but sensitive', Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande on Monday said that in the last one year there haven't had any more friction areas between India and China.

In an interview with news agency, the Chief of Army Staff said that a total of 20 senior higher military commander meetings and 14 meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on China-India Border Affairs have taken place since April 2020.

"Situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) remains stable but is sensitive. In the last one year or thereabouts, we haven't had any more friction areas in this. In terms of our efforts at resolution, our talks and dialogue both at the military level as well as the diplomatic level continue with the adversary," General Pande said. He said, "We have had total of 20 senior higher military commander level meetings and 14 WMCC meetings since April 2020. So the means of these talks, we're hopeful that we'll find a resolution." (Agencies)

### PM's Interaction.....

children's report cards as their own visiting cards, and asserted that it is crucial to instil resilience in children to help them cope with pressures and parents and teachers should collectively address the challenges faced by them.

"PM Shri Narendra Modi ji's interaction with students at the event 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' was an insightful lesson on tackling the challenges faced by our younger generation during the

exams," Shah said in a post on X.

"Modi ji's words were not only motivating for them to progress on their path but also helpful in managing stress. It can be a guide for teachers and parents as well to teach and raise our future generations better," he added.

The prime minister also suggested that the students should compete with themselves and not others and parents should never sow the seeds of competition and rivalry between siblings. (Agencies)

### Fresh Snowfall.....

and Kernah in Kupwara received snowfall. It was raining and snowing at various places until this report was filed.

The tourists at the ski resort of Gulmarg were jubilant, watching the snowfall and clicking memorable pictures. The tourists were seen frolicking with the snow, expressing their joy.

Srinagar and its adjoining areas experience light rains, ending a long dry spell of weather much to the delight of the residents.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has predicted the possibility of light to moderate rain or snow at many places in J&K with heavy snowfall over isolated higher reaches of Kashmir Division, including Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandedipora, Ganderbal, Shopian, Anantnag, and Kulgam districts, during late afternoon on Monday.

The wet weather system may continue until February 4 in Kashmir Valley, the MeT office said.

It has also issued an advisory that the weather system may lead to temporary closure of roads of higher reaches and important passes, including Sinthan pass, Mughal Road, Sadhna & Razdan pass, Zojila etc. particularly during January 28 to 31. Travellers are advised to plan their trip accordingly, the MeT office warned.

Farmers have been advised to withhold irrigation and fertilizer applications and drain out excess water from orchards and fields during the wet weather period. There would be a significant drop in daytime temperature during the period, it said.

Due to the wet weather, the nighttime temperature recorded a significant increase.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of 3.6°C on Monday against the normal of -1.0°C, and it was 4.6°C above normal during this period of the season. The day temperature witnessed a drop across the valley, and Srinagar recorded 8.9°C the previous day, which was 1.4°C above normal during this period of the season.

The other stations in the valley recorded a minimum of Qazigund 2.0°C, Pahalgam 0.7°C, Kupwara 1.7°C, Kokernag 0.5°C, and Gulmarg -3.2°C, respectively, the MeT office said. (UNI)

### Over 8000.....

been rejected. Sharing details about this year's annual Hajj pilgrimage, the executive officer of J&K Haj committee, Dr. Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, speaking to the media in Haj House Bemina, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said around 8,017 Hajj pilgrims have been selected from Jammu and Kashmir.

He said some of the pilgrims had provided expired passports and were consequently rejected, while only 8,017 applications were accepted, who secured a spot for the annual Hajj-2024.

Regarding the Hajj quota, Dr. Qureshi said that there is a specific quota of 6,838 for Jammu and Kashmir, with an additional 2,000 as a special quota given, comprising a total of quota of 8,838. He added that this year, they received less applications than the quota.

"Now, the next step is the publication of the selection list and the message generation for pilgrims whose names have been added to the provisional selection list, after which they will have to submit the first instalment," said Dr. Qureshi.

He said that, "this year, a total of 155,000 Hajj pilgrims are scheduled to leave from India." He added that the notification about the first instalment will be out in two to three days, and pilgrims have to prepare themselves for Hajj 2024.

### J&K Govt.....

in the General Administration Department is posted in the Tribal Affairs Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Shubam Gupta, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Tourism Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Aakash Kumar, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Hospitality & Protocol Department to work with Special Secretary.

Shavana Akhter, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Tribal Affairs Department to work with Special Secretary.

Zubair Nazir, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Agriculture Production Department to work with Special Secretary.

Bhavish Bamotra, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Office of Chief Secretary, J&K to work with Special Secretary.

Reecha Sharma, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the School Education Department to work with Special Secretary.

Surbhi Sharma, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Youth, Services & Sports Department to work with Special Secretary.

Smt. Rajni Sharma, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction to work with Special Secretary

Touseef Nabi Mir, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Agriculture Production Department to work with Special Secretary.

Dheeraj Sharma, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs to work with Special Secretary.

Vishali Devi, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Labour & Employment Department to work with Special Secretary.

Shivani Kalsi, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Youth, Services & Sports Department to work with Special Secretary.

Sakshi Dogra, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Labour & Employment Department to work with Special Secretary.

Rama Chowdhary, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Housing & Urban Development Department to work with Special Secretary.

Megha Jandial, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the School Education Department to work with Special Secretary.

Mriga Sharma, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Tourism Department to work with Special Secretary.

Younis Rashid, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the School Education Department to work with Special Secretary.

Rasmeet Singh, Junior Stenographer, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Jal Shakti Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Gajraj Singh, Junior Stenographer, is transferred from the Social Welfare Department and posted in the J&K Special Tribunal to work in the personal section of Chairperson.

Rayaz Mohd., Junior Assistant, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Tribal Affairs Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Mushtaq Ahmad Ahanger, Jamadar-I, Os transferred from the Finance Department and posted in the Office of Commissioner of Enquiries, J&K.

Shakuntala Devi, Jamadar-I, is transferred from the General Administration Department and posted in the Finance Department.

Rahul Kumar MTS (Orderly) is transferred from the General Administration Department and posted in the Industries & Commerce Department.

Farman Ali, MTS (Orderly) is transferred from the Cooperative Department and posted in the Information Technology Department.

Ankit Parihar, MTS (Orderly), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Tribal Affairs Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

### Property Of.....

The official said it came to the fore during the investigation of this case registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Arms Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act that the property had been acquired as proceeds of terrorism in terms of 2(g) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

It was also willfully used for harbouring of the terrorists, he added.

### Govt Extends.....

when the Atal Bihar Vajpayee Government was in power and since then the ban has been extended every five years.

"The SIMI has been found involved in fomenting terrorism, disturbing peace and communal harmony to threaten the sovereignty, security and integrity of Bharat," Shah said.

In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said the SIMI has been continuing its subversive activities and re-organising its activists who are still absconding;

The group is disrupting the secular fabric of the country by polluting the minds of the people by creating communal, disharmony, propagating anti-national sentiments and escalating secessionism by supporting militancy and undertaking activities which are prejudicial to the integrity and security of the country, the notification said. (Agencies)







# DC Kupwara reviews power supply scenario, Directs engineers to supply power strictly according to schedule

■ HT News Network

Kupwara, Jan 29: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan on Monday convened a meeting of engineers of Power Development Department (PDD) to review the power supply scenario in the district.

Addressing the meeting, Ayushi Sudan stressed upon the engineers to ensure power supply according to the schedule to avoid any inconvenience to the people.

The DC directed the officers to be more proactive on the ground to address the grievances and issues of the people regarding power supply.

DC directed EXens and AEEs to personally reach out to the people and respond to their grievances. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed grid wise Power supply and asked the officers to provide power supply as per schedule.

She directed officers to constitute a committee which will cross check the log book data of different grids of the district and relate it with the feedback from the ground.

DC also directed the concerned officers to constitute the teams which will verify and report the authenticity of the revision of electricity bills.

On the occasion, Dc asked the



officers to investigate the objectivity of the line men and MRS (Meter Readers) viz-a-viz revision of bills.

"AEEs and JEs have to check the load and shoulder the responsibilities of revision of electricity bills strictly according to the load instead of revision of bills instead of MRS and Line men" DC said.

She also impressed upon the officers to intensify the field inspections to curb the issue of power theft and ensure that crude gadgets are completely banned. The DC reviewed progress of Creation of 33/11 KV Receiving Station at Dever (Lolab) and the concerned engineers on the occasion apprised that the 90% of work of the

receiving station is complete and within 15 days the receiving station will start functioning.

The meeting was attended by Superintendent Engineer, PDD North Circle, Habib Choudhary, Executive Engineers of PDD Division Kupwara/Handwara, AEEs and JEs. She also impressed upon the officers to intensify the field inspections to curb the issue of power theft and ensure that crude gadgets are completely banned. The DC reviewed progress of Creation of 33/11 KV Receiving Station at Dever (Lolab) and the concerned engineers on the occasion apprised that the 90% of work of the receiving station is complete and within 15 days the receiving station will start functioning.

## Students, teachers across Kupwara watch PM's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, JANUARY 29: The much-awaited interaction 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' by PM Narendra Modi was watched by thousands of students across various schools of frontier Kupwara district on Monday. To encourage and inspire the students, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan also joined them at Government Higher Secondary School Kupwara and watched the live telecast of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' along with students, parents, teachers and officers of District Administration Kupwara. For the telecast of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' today at different government schools in frontier Kupwara district, the Education department in collaboration with district administration had made elaborate arrangements.

Telecast was shown to the students through TV screens installed in the schools, e-class rooms and computer labs where thousands of students and other participants watched the live telecast. Students on the occasion said that the discussion and references by the PM during the program proved helpful and meaningful.

## Distt Admin Gbl hosts 7th edition of PM's Pariksha Pe Charcha

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JANUARY 29: The District Administration Ganderbal in collaboration with Education Department Ganderbal today facilitated the Live in program of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Narendra Modi in context with 7th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha at Boys Higher Secondary School Ganderbal.

In a remarkable display of enthusiasm and engagement, an overwhelming number of teachers, students, and parents of District Ganderbal gathered at the BHSS Ganderbal auditorium to witness the 7th live session of Honorable



Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, during the Pariksha Pey Charcha 2024 event.

The event drew a distinguished audience, including Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Gulzar Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer, Irfan Giri, Chief Education Officer, Muzamil Akhter, Dy Chief Education

teachers, and society in fostering an environment that celebrates the unique individuality of each child. The event serves as a platform for open dialogue and encouragement, allowing students to freely express themselves.

Special arrangements were made in advance by schools with ICT Labs/CAL Centres by Chief Education Officer Ganderbal to ensure that all participants could seamlessly witness the program.

This event marks a significant step in the ongoing efforts to create an educational environment that prioritizes the holistic development of every child.

## DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for upcoming Aharbal Winter Carnival 2024

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, JANUARY 29: To review arrangements for mega Aharbal Winter Carnival, a meeting of officers was today held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan at the mini-secretariat, here. During the meeting, arrangements for different activities including cultural programmes, transportation, trekking, snow games, installation of stalls and other activities were reviewed. The DC directed all the concerned officers for fool-proof arrangements to make the said event attractive and successful. He added that the event aims for tourism promotion and visitors shall get an enriching experience during this two day winter carnival. The meeting was attended by ADDC Showkat Ahmad Rather; ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; CEO ADA, Ghalib Mohi-Ud-Din; JD-Planning, Zahid Sajad; SDM-Noorabad, ACR, DFO, Exens and other officers.

## Pariksha Pe Charcha: Massive participation of students, teachers & parents marked at Shopian

Need for creating a stress free environment for students emphasised for upcoming exams

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, JANUARY 29: A mega programme was today organised by Chief Education Officer Shopian at DIET Shopian in view of the screening of the Hon'ble PM's annual 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme.

Students, teachers and parents watched the said programme with full enthusiasm and fervour.

The said programme was organised in all the schools of District Shopian where in Headmasters, Principals along with students and staff watched the programme.

The seventh edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' was live telecasted on Doordarshan, You tube channel of



MoE, Facebook Live and on TV in all Govt as well as Private Schools across the District Shopian in which Prime Minister, Narendra

Modi held interaction with students, teachers and parents.

He discussed how to beat examination stress and

shared the tips to do better in exams as well as in life.

The Prime Minister also spoke about the significance of the new National Education Policy-2020, among other important issues related to academics.

'Pariksha Pe Charcha' is part of the larger movement - 'Exam Warriors' to create a stress-free atmosphere for youngsters.

During the pre-programme talk, Addl. Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Dr Zakir Hussain addressed the students, teachers and parents and highlighted the importance of the event and essence of adopting the advice, an experience of elders for a successful life.

The programme received an overwhelming response from the students.

## DC Baramulla inspects Transit Accommodation for Migrants

Emphasizes on Essential Amenities & Infrastructure Upgrades

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 29: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today undertook a comprehensive inspection of the transit accommodation in Fatehpura, Baramulla to assess and ensure availability of essential amenities for Migrant employees under the PM Package residing at the facility.

During the visit, the DC assessed all facilities, including water and power



supply, sanitation, and other essential arrangements crucial for maintaining a high quality of life.

The DC issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers, urging them to uphold proper

sanitation and cleanliness standards within and around the residential blocks. Inspecting the condition of the roads inside the residence premises, Minga Sherpa issued clear instructions to the officers

for the upgradation, highlighting the importance of enhancing the roads to ensure better accessibility and safety for the residents.

The DC also directed the concerned officers to prioritize the leveling of grounds within the premises for creating safe and functional outdoor spaces to enhance the overall environment of the residence premises. Minga Sherpa was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Superintending Engineer R&B, Reyaz Ahmad Parry.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Registration of Non-Institutional Birth Event  
This is for information to the general public that I want to register the Birth Event of my Child namely KHULAIFA Raouf Malik S/O AB Raouf Malik R/O Batkote District Anantnag with date of birth as 1-2-2022 at Block Development Office Pahalgam (Registrar Birth & Death). The said Birth event has occurred at my home and not in any Hospital. Anybody having any objection in this regard, can file his/her objection in the office of BDO Pahalgam within 07 days from the publication of this notice.

NAME: AB, RAOUF MALIK  
S/O: MOHD. RAMZAN MALIK R/O BATKOTE

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The REGISTRAR BIRTHS AND DEATHS (BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER WAGOORA)/ CHOKEDAR HAS SUBMITTED CASE FILE PERTAINING TO BIRTH OF AIZA JAN D/O SHABAN AHMAD SHAH R/O BUCHOO TEHSIL KREERI DISTT. BARAMULLA HAVING VERIFIED THE DATE OF BIRTH, AS 02/01/2021 AND EVENT HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE OCCURED AT S.D.H KREERI FOR ISSUANCE OF DELAY ORDER .IN THIS CONNECTION .

IF ANYONE HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO THE ISSUANCE OF DELAY ORDER OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE SHALL PRESENT HIS/HER CLAIM THIS OFFICE WITHIN 07 DAYS, AFTER THAT NO OBJECTION SHALL BE ENTERTAINED

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS  
KREERI

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I informed to general public that mother namely HAJA BEGEM W/O MOHAMMAD RAMZAN R/O WALRAMAN has died on 15/08/2002.. Now I am applying for his death certificate. If anybody have any objection in this regard He/she may file his /her objection in the BDO office WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

NAME.....HAJA BEGEM  
M/O.....ALI MOHAMMAD  
W/O.....MOHAMMAD RAMZAN  
R/O.....WALRAMAN  
BLOCK...WAGOORA  
DISTT....BARAMULLA

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I HILAL AHMAD R/O DOLIPORA ..applied for the license of fertilization under style (HA). If anybody have any objection in this regard He /She may Contact with Chief Agriculture officer Baramulla within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

HILAL AHMAD BEIGH  
S/O GH MOHD BEIGH  
R/O DOLIPORA KREERI  
CONTACT NO. 9149410502

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The REGISTRAR BIRTHS AND DEATHS (BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER WAGOORA)/ CHOKEDAR has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of AMIR ALI S/O MANZOOR AHMAD DEADER R/O BANDI BALA Tehsil Kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 02/01/2019 and event has been shown to be occurred at S.D.H Kreeri for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS  
KREERI

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The REGISTRAR BIRTHS AND DEATHS (BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER WAGOORA)/ CHOKEDAR has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of IMRAJAN D/O MANZOOR AHMAD DEADER R/O BANDI BALA Tehsil Kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 11/11/2011 and event has been shown to be occurred at S.D.H Kreeri for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS  
KREERI



## Chief Justice administers oath of office to 2 Judges as HC’s permanent judges

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, today administered the oath of office to Justice Rahul Bharti and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, as permanent Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

The swearing-in ceremony was held in the Court Room of the Chief Justice at Jammu Wing of the High Court and was attended physically by Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani and Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary while Justice Atul Sreedharan, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal and Justice Rajesh Sekhri joined the event virtually from Srinagar Wing of the High Court.

The proceedings of the oath ceremony were conducted by Shahzad



Azeem, Registrar General of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, who read the notification issued by the Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India, the Warrant of Appointment issued by the President of India, as well as authorization issued by Lieutenant Governor, J&K, authorising the Chief Justice to administer the Oath of office to the respective Judges. Among others the ceremony was attended by the former Judges of the

High Court, Advocate General, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Secretary, Department of Law & Justice, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, Principal District Judge Jammu, officers of the Registry, Judicial Officers, Senior Advocates, President Bar Association, Jammu along with other Bar Members and other officers from civil and Police administration.

The programme was telecasted live on YouTube Channel.

## DC Rajouri approves 180 cases under PMVKSY, empowering Artisans across multiple trades

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, JANUARY 29: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat on Monday presided over a meeting to review the implementation of the flagship “PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana” in the district, a visionary scheme designed to uplift and empower traditional artisans. The PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana holds immense significance in preserving and nurturing India’s rich cultural heritage of traditional craftsmanship, providing crucial financial support to artisans and enabling them to pass on their age-old skills to future generations. Under this transformative initiative, eligible artisans are granted financial assistance, technical training, and exposure to modern markets, thus ensuring the preservation of their livelihoods and our cultural heritage. After a thorough scrutiny of the applications presented in the meeting, the DC



approved 180 cases under the PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana. These cases represent a diverse range of trades. The selection of beneficiaries has been meticulously carried out to ensure that deserving artisans from different backgrounds and trades receive the support they need to thrive. The approval of these 180 cases is a testament to the commitment and dedication of District Administration towards empowering artisans in the Rajouri district. By providing financial support and technical training, the PMVKSY scheme aims to uplift arti-

sans, enhance their skills, and create opportunities for them to explore modern markets, thereby securing not only their livelihoods but also preserving our cultural heritage. Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Om Prakash Bhagat emphasized the importance of a streamlined application process, transparent fund distribution, and robust monitoring mechanisms. By ensuring effective implementation and monitoring, the district administration aims to ensure that the benefits of the Vishwakarma Yojana reach every eligible artisan in the Rajouri district.

## MGNREGA: MIS operators terminated for poor performance

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: During a critical review of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, MGNREGA works in the district, District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya initiated termination of three Management Information System (MIS) Operators for lackadaisical approach towards their duties.

The MIS operators in question are from the blocks Akhnoor, Mathwar and Nagrota. MIS Operators are responsible for maintaining the records and data of the MGNREGA works and beneficiaries.

The DM has directed the MIS Operators, and others concerned, to improve their performance and efficiency or face strict action. He has also directed the MIS Operators to submit their explanations within a period of time.

He reaffirmed that the district administration is committed to ensure the effective implementation of MGNREGA and other welfare schemes in the district. The MIS operators in question are from the blocks Akhnoor, Mathwar and Nagrota. MIS Operators are responsible for maintaining the records and data of the MGNREGA works and beneficiaries.

The DM has directed the MIS Operators, and others concerned, to improve their performance and efficiency or face strict action. He has also directed the MIS Operators to submit their explanations within a period of time.

He reaffirmed that the district administration is committed to ensure the effective implementation of MGNREGA and other welfare schemes in the district.

## Declaration of Nasha Mukht Panchayats discussed at Kishtwar SDLC on NCORD deliberates on criteria

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, JANUARY 29: A significant meeting of the Sub Divisional Level Committee (SDLC) on NCORD was convened today in District Kishtwar to deliberate upon the declaration of Nasha Mukht Panchayats.

The meeting was chaired by Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Varunjeet Singh Charak, who is also the Chairman of SDLC.

The meeting was attended by District Panchayat Officer (DPO) Kishtwar, Sunil Bhutyal; Tehsildar HQ DC Office Kishtwar, Chandar Shakhar Sharma; Tehsildar Kishtwar, Muneeb Umar; Tehsildar Drabshalla, Irshad Ahmed; Tehsildar Bunjwah, Tejinder Sharma; BDO Trigam, Sonia Parihar; BDO HQ Chahat Bharat; BDO Nagseni Abhilash Sharma; and representatives of various blocks. The discussion revolved



around key agenda items such as the criteria for declaring Panchayats as Nasha Mukht (Drug-Free), strategic approaches, and the implementation of a periodic review mechanism.

Speaking at the meeting, the ACR directed the concerned Tehsildars and Block Development Officers (BDOs) to expedite the process of declaring Nasha Mukht Panchayats. He emphasized the importance of submitting proposals in this regard at the

earliest. Furthermore, he urged participants to conduct regular Gram Sabha, Bal Sabha, Youth Club, Mahila Sabha, and Senior Citizens Club meetings to address the issue of drug menace in the community. He stressed the need for a comprehensive mass awareness and sensitization campaign, highlighting the importance of utilizing a broad-based media strategy with a special focus on social media platforms. In an effort to engage the

youth and deter them from drug addiction and other social vices, ACR Kishtwar encouraged officers to involve youngsters from the panchayats and urban local body (ULB) wards in sports activities.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to concerted efforts towards creating drug-free communities and fostering a healthier and safer environment for all residents of District Kishtwar. Furthermore, he urged participants to conduct regular Gram Sabha, Bal Sabha, Youth Club, Mahila Sabha, and Senior Citizens Club meetings to address the issue of drug menace in the community. He stressed the need for a comprehensive mass awareness and sensitization campaign, highlighting the importance of utilizing a broad-based media strategy with a special focus on social media platforms.

## National Road Safety Month 2024 awareness program held at Kahara-Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA, JANUARY 29: To promote road safety, an awareness programme was conducted for vehicle operators here in Kahara area. The event held as part of the National Road Safety Month 2024 and under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh and guidance of ARTO Doda Rajesh Gupta. The programme featured informative sessions on safe driving practices, the significance of wearing seat belts and helmets, and the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Additionally, the participants were briefed on the need for regular vehicle maintenance and the significance of proper documentation while operating vehicles. During the campaign, Inspector MVD Doda Robin Parihar emphasized the importance of this Road Safety Month and aware the drivers, public about road safety measures, appealed to follow the road safety norms. Officials from MVD Doda led the initiative, emphasizing the critical role of vehicle operators in ensuring road safety. They urged the participants to become ambassadors for responsible driving and to prioritize the safety of themselves and others on the road.

## DChandover SRO-43 Appointment Orders to beneficiaries at Doda

■ Amir Iqbal Khan

DODA, JANUARY 29: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, today handed over appointment orders to eligible candidates under SRO-43/1994 here at his office chamber.

The orders have been issued by the General Administrative Department (GAD) on January 25, 2024, in death harness cases.

In the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Doda, Dr. Ravi Kumar Bharti, the appointments of candidates have been predominantly ordered across three departments viz Health and Medical Education, Sheep Husbandry and Animal Husbandry. Thirteen appointees hailing from different parts of the district received their appointment orders directly from the Deputy Commissioner.

After presenting the appointment orders, the Deputy Commissioner urged the recipients to carry out their duties with honesty and dedication towards society. This initiative aims to empower eligible candidates and contribute to the welfare of the district.

## Deputy Commissioner inspects pace of road construction works in Block Bafliaz

■ HT News Network

POONCH, JANUARY 29: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary inspected progress of work on ongoing road projects in Block Bafliaz. He was accompanied by SDM Surankote Rizwan Asgar and XEN PWD Division Surankote Shokat Choudhary and Concerned JE. The purpose of the inspection was to assess the progress of the projects, assess the adherence to quality standards, and address any challenges that may hinder the timely completion of the vital infrastructure development. The Deputy Commissioner inspected pace of progress on four roads in Bafliaz Sub-Division viz; Donar to Sawnee under NABARD RIDF XXVIII, Drogian to Mal Kholianwali gali, Km 9th to Mohalla Dandi Mal.

## PM Vishwakarma: Ist batch of 30 trainees in Tailor (Darzi) trade begins at Women ITI Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: As a strategic step towards implementation of the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, the first batch of 30 trainees of Tailor (Darzi) was inaugurated at Government Women Industrial Training Institute Jammu by Director Skill Development, J&K Sudershan Kumar.

The J&K UT administration has become the first UT in the country to implement the PM



Vishwakarma Yojna (PMVY) as the same was launched in January 2024.

The Director interacted with the PM Vishwakarma trainees and laid emphasis on their commitment to impart quality skill to the youth

and focus on the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi “HUNARSE HOGA DESH KA NAVNIRMAAN”.

Addressing the trainees, he said that the scheme will be highly beneficial as it will honour and empower the

artisans who immensely contribute towards the economy. “The scheme aims to create strong entrepreneurs to run small enterprises and business units,” the Director said and further highlighted that the Central Govt & LG Administration is committed towards forecasting a culture of skill environment across the UT. He lauded the District Administration for identification of the beneficiaries with encouraging participation of female Vishwakarmas.

## Vikas Kundal reviews Power Scenario, Revenue Realization, status of Smart Metering in Jammu Division

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC), Vikas Kundal today convened a meeting here in his office at Panama Chowk to assess the latest Power Scenario, Revenue Realization and status of Smart Metering. Chief Engineer Distribution JPDC, Superintending Engineers of O&M Circles-Jammu, Kathua, Rajouri, Batote and Kishtwar and Executive Engineers of concerned Electric Divisions of JPDC attended the meeting. Vikas Kundal directed the officers to



ensure smooth power supply to the public of Jammu province during the ongoing winter season. He also instructed for putting in extra efforts to improve upon revenue realization after assessment of the achievements of assigned targets.

The Executive Engineers of different Electric Divisions were directed to go for disconnection drives in respect of consumers.

## People’s miseries increased manifold in absence of popular Govt in J&K: Sadhotra BJP delaying Panchayat & ULB elections due to fear of defeat: Rattan Lal

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, January, 29th : Jammu and Kashmir National Conference today convened a crucial meeting of Jammu Central Zone at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu to discuss the prevailing political scenario of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was convened and Presided over by Babu Rampal, Central Zone President of JKNC and former minister in which Ajay Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary and former minister, and Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of JKNC. In the meeting, District Presidents, Block Presidents and office bearers of Jammu Zone were present.

The primary focus of the meeting was to deliberate upon the challenges faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the absence of popular government in Jammu and Kashmir and the delegate session of JKNC Central Zone to be scheduled on 8th of February, 2024.

Addressing the meeting, Ajay Sadhotra observed that



in the absence of a popular government, the authorities in different departments had adopted a non-serious approach with nobody ready to listen to the woes of the people. He emphasized that the prolonged absence of Assembly elections has exacerbated the difficulties faced by the residents of Jammu and Kashmir. He underlined the dire need for democratic processes to be reinstated

in the Union Territory to address the concerns and aspirations of the people effectively.

In view of prevailing circumstances, Ajay Sadhotra urged party workers to intensify their efforts and prepare for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. Emphasizing the importance of active participation, he called upon party members to engage with the electorate and work tirelessly to garner support for the party.

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, JKNC, raised serious concern over the postponement of ULB (Urban Local Bodies) and Panchayat elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He observed that Panchayat Raj system has collapsed today due to expiring of term of Panchayats in J&K and said that BJP has deliberately delayed the Panchayat and ULB elections due to fear of defeat. He said that BJP wanted to control the powers in the lands of few bureaucrats to easily run through remote control from the Centre to carry out the propaganda of the government at the Centre through the administrative machinery, for the upcoming elections.



EDITORIAL

Snowfall Over Kashmir Hills Arrives with Relief, Challenges

Fresh snowfall across the higher reaches in Kashmir has broken the dry spell that prevailed over the region, particularly gracing the higher reaches with a blanket of snow. While this precipitation brings relief to the parched landscapes and replenishes water reservoirs, it also heralds challenges for the concerned authorities tasked with snow clearance preparedness.

The snowfall in Kashmir is not merely a scenic phenomenon but a crucial aspect of the region's ecology and economy. The snowmelt from these mountains sustains rivers, supports agriculture, and fosters biodiversity. However, it also poses significant logistical challenges, especially in terms of infrastructure maintenance and public safety.

The preparedness of concerned authorities in tackling snow clearance remains a pressing concern. While strides have been made in recent years to enhance snow management infrastructure, including snowplows, salt reserves, and road clearance crews, there's always room for improvement. The efficiency of snow removal directly impacts transportation, communication, and access to essential services for Kashmir's residents.

Moreover, as climate change alters precipitation patterns and intensifies weather extremes, the need for adaptive strategies becomes paramount. Anticipating and responding to extreme weather events, such as heavy snowfall, demands agile and proactive measures from authorities.

Investments in technology, such as advanced weather forecasting systems and remote monitoring of road conditions, can aid in preemptive planning and resource allocation. Collaborative efforts between government agencies, local communities, and private stakeholders are also essential for a coordinated response to snow-related emergencies.

As Kashmir embraces the winter season with fresh snowfall, it is important for concerned authorities to ramp up their efforts in snow clearance preparedness. By leveraging technology, fostering collaboration, and adopting adaptive strategies, Kashmir can navigate the challenges posed by snowfall while harnessing its benefits for the region's prosperity and resilience.



Bridging the Generation Gap: Connecting Across The Ages



Jaswinder Pal Sharma

Introduction:

The generation gap, a phenomenon as old as time itself, refers to the differences in perspectives, values, and communication styles between different age groups. While these gaps are natural and inevitable, finding ways to bridge them is essential for fostering understanding and harmony among generations.

Understanding the Gap: Generational differences often stem from diverse cultural, technological, and societal experiences. Baby boomers may value traditional communication methods, while millennials and Generation Z lean heavily on digital platforms. These variations can lead to misunderstandings, stereotypes, and a lack of appreciation for each generation's unique contributions.

Communication Strategies: Active Listening:

Encourage open and honest communication by actively listening to one another. This involves being present in the moment and genuinely understanding the concerns, thoughts, and ideas expressed by

Facilitate the sharing of personal experiences and stories. Elders can offer valuable insights based on their life experiences,

while younger generations can share their perspectives on modern challenges. This exchange fosters empathy and mutual respect

individuals from different generations.

Share Experiences:

Facilitate the sharing of personal experiences and stories. Elders can offer valuable insights based on their life experiences, while younger generations can share their perspectives on modern challenges. This exchange fosters empathy and mutual respect.

Embrace Technology:

Recognize the significance of technology in today's world. Older generations can benefit from learning about digital tools, while younger generations can appreciate the wisdom of pre-digital era experiences. A two-way learning process helps close the technological gap.

Collaborative Projects:

Encourage collaboration on projects that require diverse skills and perspectives. This could

be within families, workplaces, or community initiatives. Working together towards a common goal promotes teamwork and diminishes generational barriers.

Educational Initiatives:

Implement educational programs that promote intergenerational understanding. Schools and community organizations can organize workshops, seminars, and activities that encourage dialogue and interaction between different age groups.

Respect Differences:

Recognize that differences in opinions, values, and preferences are natural. Cultivate an environment where individuals respect and appreciate the diversity that each generation brings. A non-judgmental attitude fosters positive relationships.

Encourage Mentoring:

Establish mentoring relationships between younger and older individuals. This not only facilitates knowledge transfer but also creates a sense of mentorship and guidance, fostering a deeper connection between generations.

Conclusion:

Bridging the generation gap requires a conscious effort from all age groups. By actively engaging in open communication, respecting differences, and embracing the strengths of each generation, society can create a harmonious environment where everyone feels valued. It's not about erasing the gap but building bridges that connect the diverse perspectives and experiences of generations past, present, and future.

The Author is a SS Master, Gsss HAIKUWALA, Sri Muktsar Sahib

Importance Of Forests For Sustaining Lives



By Mool Raj

In order to combat climate change, it is necessary to follow the sustainable management of forests along with the judicious use of their resources which are critical to preventing climate change. This will help in the prosperity and well-being of present and future generations.

The forests influence human lives in many ways, to enumerate some of these are that Forests act as natural filters, providing clean air and water, and are havens of biological diversity. Forests not only help regulate our climate by influencing rainfall patterns, cooling urban areas and absorbing one-third of greenhouse gas emissions, they also provide many communities with livelihoods, medicines, sustenance and

refuge. Forests are home to about 80 percent of the world's terrestrial biodiversity, with more than 60,000 tree species. Almost 1.6 billion people around the world depend directly on forests for their shelter, food, energy, medicines and income. Wood acquired from the trees helps provide millions of people with safe and clean drinking water and cook bacteria-free food. Wood also helps build shelter and build countless furniture and utensils. It can also support the development and enhancement of the communities, as it can build skyscrapers and replace plastic to create new fibers for our clothes, which are more environment-friendly. It can also help us heal and find new cures through nanotechnology.

While Wood is a renewable resource, it is vital to consume and produce wood in a more sustainable and environmentally friendly way.

Forests play a crucial role in poverty alleviation and in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite these priceless environmental, economic, social, and health benefits, global deforestation continues at an alarming rate. Healthy forests are essential for people and the planet and yet the world is losing 10 million hectares of forest each



year, which is almost about the size of Iceland. The UN agency on climate change, IPCC, revealed the deadly consequences of climate change across the world in the coming decades.

It becomes acutely significant to encourage the society to save the forests and leaders should also muster the political will to address one of the most pressing challenges of our times by at least increasing the green cover at a time when the loss of agricultural land is occurring 30-35 times faster than previously estimated. The government should encourage citizens to carry out activities such as tree-planting campaigns at all levels. These activities are carried out in conjunction with governments and other organisations. United Nations Forum on Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations also plays important role for Sustainable Production of forests.

The Governments should honour such activists who promote awareness about the value of all types of forests.

Let all of us pledge for sustainable management and saving of forests along with the judicious use of their resources.

The author is a columnist and freelance writer



# The NEP's Vision Is To Make India Competitive In The Field Of Strategic Education

NEP IS FOSTERING INCLUSIVITY AND MERIT-BASED RESEARCH TO ADDRESS SECURITY CHALLENGES AND ENCOURAGING MULTIDISCIPLINARY PRACTICES



■ [Vijay GarG](#)

Nelson Mandela once commented, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Over the past few years, there has been a notable shift in the landscape of education, emphasizing its pivotal role in shaping individuals physically, intellectually, and morally. Education is seen as a liberating force, breaking the chains of darkness and bigotry. Recently, there has been a concerted effort to integrate real-life experiments of democracy, environmental awareness, globalization, and governance into the framework of the new education system.

The intellectual establishment plays a crucial role in providing theoretical rationale and strategies for educational advancements. It is imperative to explore how innovations in higher education can drive positive changes, instil confidence among the masses, and disseminate the latest global research and developments in education. This discourse aims to delve into the multifaceted aspects of the evolving higher education system, emphasizing the need for inclusivity and growth.

The strength of any higher education system lies in creating internal dynamism to ensure inclusive growth. Even a well-designed system is influenced by the individuals who make a difference. Human and financial relations are intricate matters that require constant monitoring by competent authorities. In India, universities are encouraged to improve their performance by transitioning



towards a more merit-based, peer-reviewed research approach, aligning with the goal of establishing a highly efficient and inclusive educational apparatus.

The New Education Policy (NEP) has provided a framework to analyze and address multidimensional issues in the education sector, offering opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds. These guidelines aim to meet the key demands of higher education while maintaining a synergy between various stakeholders. The constant monitoring of the education sector by authorities is crucial for growth, especially in changing circumstances.

Acknowledging the gravity of challenges faced by higher education, it is essential to address concerns related to competition, comparison, and personal greed, which may lead to manipulation and shortcuts. The right to freedom of expression in democratic societies has

been debated extensively, and recent developments in the academic world present new challenges and competition.

The efforts by the University Grants Commission (UGC) have introduced fair practices and policies consistent with present circumstances. Reforms in the examination system are aimed at ensuring that only talent prevails, fostering an environment that supports academic excellence.

The NEP's emphasis on exploring domestic underpinnings, gender sensitization, and addressing the concerns of marginalized communities through Special Education Zones is commendable. Provisions such as Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), the National Research Foundation, the National Educational Technology Forum, and the Indian Institutes of Translation and Interpretation create an environment for students to excel globally. These initiatives also highlight the

***The New Education Policy (NEP) has provided a framework to analyze and address multidimensional issues in the education sector, offering***

***opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds. These guidelines aim to meet the key demands of higher education while maintaining a synergy between various stakeholders. The constant monitoring of the education sector by authorities is crucial for growth, especially in changing circumstances.***

importance of social responsibility.

The NEP encourages a new approach that provides a clear path for students interested in Security Studies, offering opportunities to learn new techniques. The provisions under NEP ensure the collaborative creation of ideas, providing insights into even the most complex issues.

At various educational levels, the NEP's approach involves mentors fully engaging in new techniques and developing challenging strategies to meet the needs of all students. To enhance students' standards, there is an imperative need for self-academic orientation and excellence, fostering problem-solving and inquiry-based learning activities. Introducing a new syllabus can provide a deeper insight into strategic and security-related affairs, offering a roadmap for foolproof encountering strategies. This approach addresses issues such as the rise of terrorism, its causes, and the funding nexus between organised crime and terrorism.

The NEP's vision is to make India competitive in the field of Strategic education, attracting aspiring academicians and students. By providing multidisciplinary fervour, students will have wider exposure and opportunities for comparative studies, enriching analytical and theoretical rationale for crisis management in India.

As India faces myriad security challenges, there is an urgent need to address these issues on the international stage. The NEP's input will undoubtedly make each discipline richer in content and varied in ideas, providing a holistic educational experience. Even science students will be exposed to the nuances of international, national, socio-political, and economic issues through multidisciplinary practices. The ingenious display of this government's approach demonstrates a pure genius that promises to reshape the educational landscape.

**Vijay GarG Retired Principal  
Educational columnist malout**

## Note To Self: Compassion, Not Criticism

■ [Robert H. Woody](#)

I've heard it from music performers of all kinds, from highly trained classical musicians to the regular singers at my small town bar's karaoke night: "I'm my own worst critic," they'll tell me as they ignore a compliment I just paid them on their performance. They may start with "Thanks, but" before they then express their own dissatisfaction with the performance they just gave and quickly move on to explain (usually somewhat boastfully) that they are their own worst critic.

Being hypercritical of yourself—and then telling others about it—amounts to a very peculiar form of perfectionism crossed with virtue signaling. Seemingly, by using "own worst critic" language, musicians aim to convince those around them that they are, in fact, better performers than their actual performances show. There's an aspect of perfectionism wrapped up in this, which is, after all, an irrational (and psychologically harmful) perspective to take. And the virtue signaling is seen in the desire to gain credit in the eyes of others for being such a driven and exacting musician, since they cannot be credited for giving a perfect performance.

Of course, many musicians who adopt the "own worst critic" mentality do not do it only to save face with others. They truly believe that even though perfection may not be attainable, by chasing perfection, they propel themselves to excellence. As I have addressed previously on this blog, the field of psychology refutes this notion and instead has identified serious mental health dangers associated with perfectionism.

What, then, is the better alternative to self-criticism for pushing oneself forward in their quest for musical excellence? A growing body of psychological research indicates that self-compassion is a key

trait that high achievers are empowered by. This is a point made wonderfully in a back episode of my favorite podcast The Happiness Lab with Dr. Laurie Santos. In the episode "Dump Your Inner Drill Sergeant," researcher Kristin Neff shares the great power of self-compassion (Dilley, 2021). Especially in a world where so many outcomes in life are not entirely within one's own control, faulting yourself for not accomplishing enough at any given time does not help if you desire to grow and improve. To our psyche, criticizing ourselves for not accomplishing enough can feel like not being enough. It is not motivating. Self-criticism can be deflating and counterproductive in the long run. As Dr. Neff says pointedly in the podcast, "it inhibits your ability to make productive change"

Indeed, there are especially compelling findings from research that has looked at people who apply self-compassion after experiencing a failure of some kind. People who use self-compassion after a bad performance are more motivated to try again, to work harder and longer as they go forward into the future, and just generally show more determination and grit. Note this, musicians: all these things are antithetical to feeling stuck, defeated, and wanting to give up. And yes, greater motivation, persistence, and determination are products of self-compassion and not self-criticism.

It is also interesting to note that deciding to boost your self-compassion is a better option than trying to boost your self-esteem (Neff, 2011). Boasting self-esteem is no short term project. To change how you feel about yourself, you really need to change yourself substantially. Doing that is no quick trick. People who look for an immediate means of feeling better about themselves, often turn to disparaging others (to make themselves look better in



comparison), which can lead to interpersonal strife...or outright bullying. A more productive approach is to decide to boost your self-compassion, which simply means acknowledging that you are human and therefore, you can make mistakes and have setbacks, but also learn from these negative experiences, and grow and improve as a result.

Another great thing about this approach is that compassion is usually something we are already very familiar with, although perhaps not toward ourselves. Most of us intuitively know how to encourage a friend who is down and can help someone in need. Being compassionate may actually be naturally human, even more so than being competitive. Interestingly, Charles Darwin often has been associated with the idea of "survival of the fittest," a philosophy that many ultra-critical performers seem to enthusiastically adopt. In fact, though, Darwin referred to compassion/sympathy as "the almost ever-present instinct" of the human species (Darwin, 1874, p. 113).

It may be very difficult for some musicians to accept self-compassion as a

performer's strength rather than a weakness. Unfortunately, the formative years of some musicians included many learning and performance activities that were steeped in constant criticism as a driving force. Those who persisted through such circumstances may actually credit their musicianship to such negative conditions. Now as accomplished musical artists, they may have come to believe that the threat of failure and the stresses of professional expectations are "necessary evils" that produce growth. They may even rest upon folk wisdom/clichés like "diamonds are only formed under extreme pressure" or "if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen." In reality, however, psychological stressors often produce more generalized anxiety, which, in the case of musicians, make them more susceptible to debilitating stage fright while performing.

Recent research suggests that self-compassion is a promising approach for musicians trying to stave off performance anxiety. In a study of university music majors in the U.S., Farley & Kelley (2023) found a strong inverse relationship between

self-compassion use and the incidence of performance anxiety. From their findings, these researchers concluded that "an intervention focused on positive self-talk to bolster self-kindness may help reduce the negative effects of MPA in musicians" (p. 1283). This study was the first to firmly establish the relationship between music performance anxiety and self-compassion (i.e., the lack thereof), although previous research had pointed to such an association (Kelley & Farley, 2019; Sigurðardóttir, 2020).

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**Robert H. Woody, Ph.D., is a music professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and an author of the book Psychology for Musicians.**



# District Cooperative Development Committee Meet held in Reasi

## DDC calls for diversification of Business Activities

■ HT News Network

REASI, JANUARY 29: In a proactive move to enhance the vitality of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and broaden their economic scope, the District Cooperative Development Committee (DDC) meeting was convened today with Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Paul Mahajan in the chair.

The meeting commenced with a comprehensive overview by the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Reasi, highlighting the ongoing initiatives by the various Department.

Notably, under the Computerization project, 17 PACS in district Reasi have been equipped with the function of Common Service Centers.

Discussing the implementation of Large Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector, the committee discussed viability and storage gap assessments, instructing the Revenue Department to identify suitable state land. For the formation of Farmers Producers Organization (FPO), Agriculture and Allied Departments were tasked with



identifying crops in coordination with CBBOs appointed by NCDC.

In a collaborative effort, the District Project Manager NRLM will coordinate with the Cooperative Department to involve Self Help Group (SHG) members in the formulation of new M-PACS, emphasizing Tourism Cooperatives for affordable stays and food for pilgrims/tourists.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the registration of eligible

Cooperative/Society members in the PM Vishva Karma Scheme and Skill Development Courses, focusing on tailoring, knitting, handicrafts, and food crafts. The DPM NRLM was further directed to enroll SHG members in PACS, facilitating local products' forward market linkages through registration in the National Cooperative Export Society.

The meeting witnessed the participation of key officials ACR,

Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, CAO, CMO, DSHO, AD Employment, Asst. Director CAPD, AD Fisheries, DPM NRLM and representatives from JCC Bank and FCI among others. In a collaborative effort, the District Project Manager NRLM will coordinate with the Cooperative Department to involve Self Help Group (SHG) members in the formulation of new M-PACS, emphasizing Tourism Cooperatives for affordable stays and food for pilgrims/tourists.

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## Empowering Women: RESTI's Beauty Parlour Management Training Programme concludes at Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA, JANUARY 29: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh today emphasized the pivotal role of skill development and entrepreneurship in empowering women.

He was speaking at the valedictory function of the beauty parlour management training programme organised Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RESTI).

Singh commended the Rural Self Employment Training Institute for its efforts in organising valuable training programs, highlighting the significance of such initiatives in fostering economic self-reliance among women. He stressed the importance of utilizing newly acquired skills to either establish their own businesses or secure employment opportunities within the beauty and wellness industry.

During the event, Deputy Commissioner Singh personally distributed certificates to the successful graduates, applauding their dedication and hard work throughout the training



program. The ceremony served as a platform to celebrate the achievements of the participants and showcase their potential to contribute to the socio-economic development of the region.

The LDM Doda, Praveen Kumar welcomed the DDC, Doda and briefed about the RSETI and its role in generation of self employment.

The valedictory function was attended by Trainers, Programme assessment Staff, Director RSETI, Beneficiaries and trainees alongside representatives from various women's organizations and self-help groups. Their presence underscored the collective

effort towards promoting women's economic independence through skill development and entrepreneurship.

The inauguration of the valedictory function symbolized a significant step in empowering women in the Doda district and promoting their economic independence. Through skill development initiatives like this, women are equipped to pursue entrepreneurial endeavors, thereby contributing to the overall socio-economic progress of the region. The LDM Doda, Praveen Kumar welcomed the DDC, Doda and briefed about the RSETI and its role in generation of self.

## Rajouri: DLC approves 7 Development projects for Forest Clearance

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, JANUARY 29: In a proactive step towards fostering sustainable development, the District Level Committee (DLC) today cleared seven projects for forest clearances here at a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Om Prakash Bhagat.

The primary agenda of the meeting was to address and resolve issues pertaining to forest clearances, crucial for the seamless execution of the developmental projects in the region.

During the meeting, the members of the District Level Committee shared insights and updates on the status of the projects requiring forest clear-



ances. After a threadbare discussion, the District Level Committee successfully cleared seven cases related to forest clearances including two of mobile towers and five of the construction. The committee members thoroughly examined each case, considering the environmental impact,

feasibility, and community benefits associated with these projects. The clearance of these cases signifies a significant milestone in the development of the region, as it paves the way for the timely implementation of these projects, bringing tangible progress and prosperity to the people of Rajouri. Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat emphasized the significance of timely and efficient resolution of issues related to forest clearances. Recognizing the pivotal role of these clearances in the successful implementation of developmental projects, he directed the officers present to actively follow up on pending cases and expedite.

## MGNREGA Convergence Plan, AAP 2024-25 discussed at Kathua

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, JANUARY 29: T Assistant Commissioner Development, Kathua, Kishore Singh Katoch today chaired a meeting here in the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner office complex to discuss the formulation of the district convergence plan under MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and the Annual Action Plan for the Financial year 2024-25.

The meeting was attended by the Block Development Officers and officers of the Line departments.

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held on the Annual Action Plan in convergence with MGNREGA 2024-25. The



BDOs were instructed to work together in a coordinated manner with all the line departments to ensure the development of a purposeful convergence plan for the creation of durable

assets.

Furthermore, the ACD conducted a comprehensive review of various key indicators of MGNREGA with the BDOs. He emphasized the need to improve param-

eters such as timely payments, ABPS (Aadhaar-based Payment System), and work completion, among others, within a defined timeframe.

The ACD further urged the BDOs to take proactive steps and work diligently to meet these benchmarks in a time-bound manner & emphasized the need for effective coordination and collaboration among all stakeholders and line departments to ensure the successful formulation and implementation of the district convergence plan for the creation of durable assets under MGNREGA.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to work towards achieving the objectives and targets set for the financial year 2024-25.

## Director Agriculture inaugurates 02 'low cost polygreen houses' at Chadoora Budgam

Under HADP, promotion of vertical expansion in vegetable cultivation given a special focus: Iqbal

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 29: The Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today inaugurated two low cost polygreen houses at (Bugam, Batpora, Yarikalan) Chadoora Budgam, under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture marked the significance of low cost polygreen house technology and vertical expansion in vegetable cultivation. He said that polygreen houses, vertical expansion in vegetable cultivation helps the concerned farmers not only get maximum production but also provides them with the availability of round the year vegetable cultivation.

He said the polygreen houses provided to the farmers by the department are becoming the success stories. He said that by vertical expansion the off-season produce fetches high returns to the farmers for their produce.

Director Agriculture said that the good results coming out of these hi-tech poly houses help us attract young educated farmers towards this technology. He



said that department has established polygreen houses in all the districts of Kashmir division.

Iqbal said that the most important characteristic of polyhouse technology, enabling round the year vegetable production is making it popular among the farming community, agri-entrepreneurs of the region. Under HADP special attention has been given to boost this technology, he added.

Director Agriculture also underlined the importance of integrated farming and asked the farmers to diversify their agricultural activities. He asked the farmers that the department would provide all the technical guidance to the farmers in

comprehensively performing their agriculture operations.

Later, Director Agriculture flagged-off a group of farmers (Beekeepers) on an exposure visit from agriculture complex Lalmandi Srinagar, under NBHM, sponsored by National Bee Board. Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture marked the significance of low cost polygreen house technology and vertical expansion in vegetable cultivation. He said that polygreen houses, vertical expansion in vegetable cultivation helps the concerned farmers not only get maximum production but also provides them with the availability of round the year vegetable cultivation.

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## ADDC Bandipora conducts physical verification of developmental works

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 29: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, Monday conducted physical verification of various developmental works in Block Bonakoot of Bandipora.

The team undertook a thorough inspection of various developmental works. The objective of the verification was to assess the progress and quality of ongoing devel-

opmental projects, reaffirming the commitment to efficient governance and community development.

Bhat emphasized the importance of regular inspections to ensure that public funds are utilized judiciously and that the projects align with the envisioned outcomes.

During the verification process, the team evaluated infrastructure projects, public amenities, and other developmental initiatives.

The ADC was accompanied by concerned officials of the block besides the concerned of R&B department.

## Farewell Ceremony honors outgoing SSP & ASP at Circuit House Pulwama

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, JANUARY 29: A heartfelt farewell ceremony was held at Circuit House Pulwama to bid farewell to the outgoing Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Pulwama, Mohammad Yousuf Chaudhary, and Assistant Superintendent of Police (Hq.) Pulwama, Showkat Ahmad Wani.

The ceremony was attended by dignitaries including Deputy Commis-



sioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom; ADDC Pulwama, ADC Awantipora, ACR Pulwama, along with District and sectoral officers. Addressing the gather-

ing, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama expressed his congratulations to both SSP and ASP (Hq.) for completing their tenures with remarkable success and grace in

the district.

SSP Pulwama, in his remarks, expressed gratitude for the organization of such a thoughtful farewell ceremony.

The ceremony involved the felicitation of both SSP Pulwama and ASP with mementos, symbolizing appreciation for their dedicated service and leadership. Their efforts were applauded, and they were commended for their contributions to the District's security and well-being.



# DC Bandipora conducts comprehensive review of R&B Sector

Emphasizes rigorous monitoring of all ongoing projects to ensure timely completion as per quality standards

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 29: In order to streamline infrastructure development and accelerate project completion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman Rather, today conducted a comprehensive review of the working of Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the district.

The meeting focused on analyzing the status of ongoing projects, identifying bottlenecks hindering progress, and devising strategies for swift resolution.

During the review, the DC received detailed progress reports from both departments, including physical and financial status updates on all ongoing projects under their purview. Specific emphasis was placed on projects under execution, indicating their importance for the district.

Superintending Engineer R&B while sharing the status of different projects informed the meeting that under UT



road sector, out of 80 schemes, work on 75 schemes are under execution while as 5 works have so far been completed. He further informed the meeting that under district sector, out of 22 allotted schemes/projects, work on all 22 schemes stands taken up for execution, out of which 10 works have been completed as on date.

Sharing details regarding ULBs, the meeting was

informed that a total of 24 schemes/projects were allotted in Bandipora and execution of all the works have already been taken up while as 15 works have already been completed. The concerned stated that the works under other schemes including CNT, CRF, NABARD, Pot Holes etc are also under execution with most of the works near completion. The meeting examined potential bottlenecks impacting project timelines, such as land acquisition issues, resource allocation concerns, and technical challenges.

The DC, on the occasion said, timely completion of quality infrastructure projects is critical for the holistic development of Bandipora. During the meeting, the DC stressed on removing any roadblocks impeding project execution and ensuring the benefits of these initiatives reach the people at the earliest." The DC emphasized for rigorous monitoring of ongoing projects to ensure timely completion as per quality standards. He further directed for prioritized completion of all ongoing 75 projects under UT CAPEX Road Sector within this fiscal year and also underscored that NABARD Schemes be prioritized as per urgency and overall public benefit.

## ‘Parkisha Pe Charcha’ witnesses overwhelming response across J&K

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: The 7th edition of Parkisha Pe Charcha (PPC), held today at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi, where Prime Minister, Narendra Modi interacted with the students, teachers and parents, witnessed overwhelming response across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Special arrangements were made by the school education department in all the schools and prominent places to witness the historical event with special screening arrangements made in schools at district headquarters.

Member Parliament Jugal Kishore, Secretary School Education, Dr. Piyush Singla; Project Director Samagra Shiksha Deep Raj; Director School Education Jammu, Ashok Sharma; Director Finance, SED Iftikhar Hussain; CEO Jam-

mu, besides Coordinators/ ASCs and teachers at Teacher Bhawan here. The vibrant atmosphere at the Teachers Bhawan Auditorium and SCERT Auditorium at Srinagar, was also visible with jam packed gathering of enthusiastic students, teachers and parents. Interacting with media on the sidelines of the event, Member of Parliament, Jugal Kishore Sharma said that PPC is acting as catalyst in boosting the students for facing challenges of life. He said that it is kind of golden opportunity for the students that the Hon'ble Prime Minister is providing them motivation for becoming a responsible citizen. He added that Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024 stood as a testament for creating a harmonious atmosphere in the education sector.

Briefing the media, the Secretary informed that for seamless experience for viewers across all schools

of UT and educational offices, special arrangements were made. In 3600 Schools having the ICT Lab facility, the programme was screened, where the students of the neighbourhood Schools also took part, he added. He also informed that, across the UT, large Screens/LED Walls were arranged and programme was screened and watched by students at large. Two Students namely Rukhsana Bano of Reasi District and Kartayya Bhagat of Jammu District were selected for live interaction. Briefing the media, the Secretary informed that for seamless experience for viewers across all schools

## Chairperson JKRERA, Comm Secy HUDD inspect various projects of SDA, assess progress of ongoing works

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 29: Chairperson, Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA), Satish Chandra, along with Commissioner Secretary, HUDD Mandeep Kaur today conducted a comprehensive tour of various projects undertaken by the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) to assess the progress of ongoing works.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and VC, SDA, Dr. Owais Ahmed also accompanied them during the visit.

The officers, during the visit, inspected project sites like Satellite Township at Rakh-e-Gund Aksha, Shehjar apartments and HIG/MIG colonies Bemina to assess the progress of ongoing works and address any pending issues.

During the inspection, Chairperson JKRERA and Commissioner Secretary



thoroughly evaluated the works on Satellite Township and development of Shehjar apartments including HIG/MIG Colonies. The officers called upon the executing agency to ensure timely completion of projects.

On the occasion, the Chairperson and Commissioner Secretary was briefed about projects specifics, advancements, and any outstanding matters requiring attention.

It was informed that 3000 kanals of land have been taken under Satellite Township at Rakh-e-Gund Aksha, adding that in first phase 428 plots stands allotted and Master Plan Road for a distance of 1.75 kms with an R.O.W of 50 Mtrs shall be developed connecting National Highway Bypass with Rakh-e-Gund Aksha Township, Medicity and New High Court Complex.

## DC Kupwara reviews status of Panchayat Electoral Roll Revision 2024

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, JANUARY 29: The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, (District Election Officer), Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of Panchayat Electoral Roll 2024.

On the occasion, the DC impressed upon all the officers to work with added dedication and coordination to ensure achievement of the targets within the stipulated timeframe.

Regarding cent percent registration of voters, the DC directed the Panchayat-BLOs to make door to door



surveys in their respective panchayats for enrollment of the targeted voters.

The DC also directed the BDOs (AEROs) to monitor the progress of Panchayat BLOs on daily basis to ensure the achievement of the target. She asked them

to ensure punching of data submitted by the P-BLOs on regular basis.

Ayushi impressed upon the concerned officers to ensure Assured Minimum facilities (AMFs) at polling stations to facilitate the voters.

ADC Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir; ACR Kupwara, SDM Sogam, AC Panchayats, DIO, Dy.DEO, BDOs (AEROs), Officials from Election Office Kupwara and other concerned were present in the meeting. On the occasion, the DC impressed upon all the officers to work with added dedication and coordination to ensure achievement of the targets within the stipulated timeframe.

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## Distt Admin Gbl launches 24x7 Helpline Numbers to combat harassment in Public Transportation

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JANUARY 27: In response to the rising concerns over harassment targeting female students and women commuters on public transportation, the District Administration Ganderbal, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir has taken proactive steps to enhance passenger safety by launching round the clock helpline numbers for assistance to such victims. The 24x7 helpline numbers, prominently displayed on posters will be circulated throughout the district. These helpline numbers are designed to empower female victims and witnesses to report incidents promptly, especially within the realm of public transport.

The primary goal of this initiative is to create a safer environment for all public transport users. Authorities are urging the community to actively engage in reporting any such incidents, contributing to the collective effort in curbing harassment against women.

## Special Camp for e-Shram Registrants on Feb 01 at Baramulla

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 29: The Assistant Labour Commissioner's office Baramulla is going to organize a special camp for all the left out eligible e-Shram registrants on 1st of February 2024 at Assistant Labour Commissioner Office Kanispora, Baramulla.

All the eligible left-out e-Shram registrants are asked to attend the special camp, being organised by FCS&CA Department Baramulla in collaboration with Labour Department Baramulla.

Meanwhile, a similar camp will be held for e-Shram registrants on 2nd of February 2024 at FCS&CA Office, Uri, near SDM Complex.

Further, all e-Shram card holders who have any kind of correction in their ration cards are advised to avail this golden opportunity to rectify their existing ration cards by providing Photostat copies of aadhaar cards of all family members.

## DLSA Budgam organises Awareness programme on ADR Mechanism

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, JANUARY 29: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam under the aegis of NALSA and J&K State Legal Services Authority and on the directions of Khalil Ahmad Chowdhary (Chairman) DLSA Budgam today organized an awareness programme on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) at ADR Centre District Court Complex, here.

The Awareness programme commenced with the address by Shahrooq Bhat, Deputy LADC DLSA Budgam, who threw light on the Alternate Dispute Redressal Mechanism and various facilities available at ADR Centre to disputing parties for amicable settlement through Lok Adalats, Pre Institution Litigation, Mediation, Reconciliation etc.

Resource person, Syed Shafat Hussain Panel Lawyer DLSA Budgam spoke about the Pre Litigation Stage of ADR Mechanism and elaborated on the benefits of getting disputes amicably resolved through the ADR Mechanism.

Among the other speakers, M Iqbal Wani, Javid Ahmad Mir (Panel Lawyers) of DLSA Budgam and Feroz Ahmad Khan and Nisar Ahmad (PLV) also spoke on the occasion and briefed the audience about the ADR Mechanism.

The participants included Staff Members of DLSA Budgam, Staff of LADC and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA, Budgam/TLSCs Budgam.

## Distt Admin bids affectionate farewell to outgoing SSP Ganderbal

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JANUARY 29: The District Administration Ganderbal hosted a heartfelt farewell function today to honor the outgoing Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Nikhil Borkar, on his transfer.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Shyambir underscored the remarkable contributions of SSP during his tenure in the district. The Deputy Commissioner extended heartfelt best wishes for his future endeavors.

Officers at the event lauded the outgoing SSP for his dedicated efforts in combating the drug menace, maintaining peace, and offering unwavering support to civil administration in upholding law and order and eradicating social evils.

As a token of appreciation and affection, the district administration presented felicitation gifts to SSP Nikhil Borkar at the conclusion of the event.

The District Administration Ganderbal expresses sincere gratitude to SSP for his tireless service and wished him continued success in his future assignments.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Deputy Commissioner Shyambir, Additional District Development Commissioner Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani, Additional Deputy Commissioner Gulzar Ahmad, Commissioner Revenue, Chief Planning Officer, ACD, along with other senior officers from the District Administration and prominent citizens.

## Printing, distribution of Smart Card Driving Licenses started by Transport Department

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: In a big move, the Transport Department, UT of Jammu and Kashmir has started centralised printing and dispatch of Driving Licenses providing much awaited respite to the license card seekers. The printing of approx Two Lakh Driving Licenses which was pending since more than One and Half year has been resumed in collaboration with the Ministry of Road Transport, Government of India with the target to print and dispatch all the pending Driving Licenses within the next two months. According to Rajinder Singh Tara, Transport Commissioner, J&K, the Motor Vehicle Department has also introduced a major facelift in the new cards both in terms of durability and standards as the Department has decided to issue the QR code enabled Smart Cards as envisaged in the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 marking a major shift from the issuance of normal laminated cards.

## Nehru-Sheikh bonhomie responsible for POJK: Rana

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI JANUARY 30- Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today held Nehru-Sheikh bonhomie responsible for segregating the families along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir by enforcing ceasefire on January 1, 1949 when Indian Armed Forces were fast advancing towards Mirpur and Muzaffarabad in Pak occupied Kashmir.

Speaking at Shakti Vandan Workshop at the party Headquarters in Rajouri this afternoon, Mr Devender Rana said the objective behind illogical ceasefire amid India-Pakistan conflict during those most testing times by Prime Minister Pt Jawaharlal Nehru was solely to safeguard the political interests of the National Confer-



ence. He said the ceasefire decision driven by emotions and personal bonhomie cost the nation in general and the Rajouri-Poonch belt in particular the most. While the country has been paying hugely for

the Nehruvian blunders for the past 75 years in terms of three wars and a proxy war, the people on both sides of the LoC are also facing perpetual divide due to inflated ego of a single person, he said,

adding that more importantly the move was to keep the people of this region away from any role in decision making and governance.

Mr Devender Rana said the united Jammu and Kashmir would have placed the Rajouri-Poonch belt and similarly placed areas at the centre-stage of the then state's politics, ending the bonhomie of the elite, who continue to believe political power as their birth right. This self-centric elite class did no good to the people but remained confined to myopic politics as a result of which the entire population suffered, he added. Mr Rana said the matter didn't end there but the National Conference and the Congress with their political off-shoots like PDP are continuing to create wedge between different regions for their sinister political interests. While the BJP endeavoured to satiate



## DC Baramulla reviews winter arrangements in view of inclement weather conditions

Directs officers to ensure timely road clearance & smooth supply of essentials

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 29: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting of officers from various line departments to assess the arrangements for winter in view of the advisory predicting inclement weather conditions. The DC reviewed department wise arrangements in place for smooth supply of essentials including water, electricity, ration and medical care, besides time-



ly road clearance to ensure smooth movement of vehicles. Minga Sherpa directed the Superintending Engineer PHE to ensure uninterrupted water supply to all subdivisions in the district

and to compile a comprehensive list of available water tankers for public access and convenience. Additionally, the DC instructed the revenue department to identify

electric poles at risk of falling during snowfalls and directed the PDD officials for their prompt replacement to prevent any disruptions in uninterrupted power supply. Minga Sherpa further directed the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) to ensure that manpower and machinery are prepared to address any emergencies and urged them to conduct training programs for volunteers to effectively address the requirements during adverse weather conditions.

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, JANUARY, 29: Various activities under Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme were today held at Sedow and Chotipora Panchayat of Shopian to create awareness regarding voter registration of the Panchayat Electoral rolls. The team led by District Level Master Trainers, Bilal Ahmed and Ayatullah Rabani also gave demonstrations on the EVM's on the occasion. The programme on EVM demonstration has been going on in the district for the last one month. The demonstration is held



at every polling station and so far the team has covered Zainapora Assembly segment and is now operating in Shopian Assembly constituency. On the occasion, the participants were briefed about the basic knowledge related to the electoral process. The participants included a large gathering of teachers, local

voters, PEBOs, BLOs and other officers/ officials who heartedly took part in the activities to encourage and create awareness among all the eligible and prospective voters about the voter registration and electoral participation. Subsequently, all the participants were asked to take a pledge to cast their votes

in the upcoming Elections. Election NT and Booth level Officers were also present during the programme and shared their experiences among the participants. The participants were also informed about the schedule issued by the State Election Commission J&K regarding the revision of Panchayat Electoral rolls which has commenced from 15 January and shall continue till 5 February. Further the PEBOs were stressed to bridge the gaps between Panchayat and Assembly rolls and ensure that no voter shall be left behind during the ongoing SSR.

## CUKashmir faculty, students watch Hon'ble PM's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha-2024'

■ HT News Network

Ganderbal, Jan 29: The faculty members, staff, scholars and students of the Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) watched the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's "Pariksha Pe Charcha-2024," (7th edition) address to the teachers, students and parents, through webcast, at varsity's Green Campus here on Monday. Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Shahid Rasool, Dean DSW, Dr. Irfan Aalam, were present. In his address, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, said, "It is crucial to instill resilience in children and help them cope with pressures". He said the challenges of students must be addressed collectively



by parents as well as teachers", adding that "Healthy competition augurs well for students' growth. Never sow the seeds of

competition and rivalry between children, rather, siblings should be an inspiration for each other".

The Hon'ble PM said, "Teachers are not in a job role, but they shoulder the responsibility of grooming the lives of students". "The bond between students and teachers must be beyond syllabus and curriculum". The Hon'ble Prime Minister mentioned the creations by the students in the exhibition held at the venue (Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi) where they expressed aspirations and concepts like New National Education Policy in various shapes. He said these exhibits reflect what the new generations think about various topics and what solutions they have for these issues. He answered several questions posed by the students studying in different educational institutions across the country.

## DC inspects Chemist Shops in Doda Town

■ HT News Network

DODA, JANUARY 29: Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh today conducted a surprise inspection of chemist shops in Doda Town. During the inspection, the DC directed the owners of the shops to maintain records of their sales and stock of medicines.

The DC emphasized the importance of maintaining accurate records to ensure transparency and accountability in the sale and distribution of medicines. He also warned of strict action against those found violating the rules and regulations.

This move comes as part of the administration's efforts to crack down on illegal and unauthorized sale of medicines and to ensure that the public has access to safe and genuine pharmaceutical products. The DC's visit has sent a clear message to chemist shop owners to adhere to the prescribed guidelines and maintain proper records in order to avoid any legal repercussions.

## Awareness camp on Road Safety held at Narwal

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: In line with the ongoing National Road Safety Month, Team Regional Transport Jammu under the direction of RTO Pankaj today organized a Road Safety Awareness Program at Narwal Jammu.

The event aimed to sensitize the general public and drivers about the importance of safe driving and adherence to traffic rules.

During the program, more than one hundred drivers were educated about the road safety norms.

Assistant Regional Transport Hq, Rehana Tabassam emphasized the significance of different traffic rules and urged the stakeholders to acknowledge their responsibilities towards better traffic management and road safety.

MVI Surinder Kumar, highlighted that while changing driving behavior may take time, education remains the key to achieving this transformation. The event was organized by Everest Transport Company and is a part of a broader initiative to promote responsible driving practices and reduce road accidents. M.D. Rakesh Chander Gupta welcomed and appreciated the M.V.D for organizing camp for drivers at Narwal.

## J&K Oil Tankers' Union Demands Package For Transport Sector in Budget 2024

■ HT News Network

Jammu, 29/Jan/2024: Ahead of Union Budget 2024, All Jammu And Kashmir Oil & LPG Tank, Truck Drivers & Cleaners Union, one of the focal and prominent elected body of transporters in Jammu and Kashmir has urged the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to look into the problems faced by transporters across India and specially that belonging to border and hilly state of Jammu and Kashmir and announce special package for the transport sector. The union in its appeal requested the finance minister to address the basic issues of the transporters including reducing road taxes, toll taxes, Penalties, fines, late fees charges, tax on vehicle insurance and also reduce GST on purchase of new transport vehicles.

Laying importance of contribution of transporter sector in nation's economy, Ranjit Singh Raina, the president of the drivers Union said that Transport sector is one of the most important sector of Indian economy yet it is most ignored one.

Presenting the demand of the transporter, he called for strict compliance of minimum wages law for drivers, cleaners and transport labours. In his appeal, he also requested the union government to launch special schemes for the welfare of drivers and cleaners who become permanent disabled in road accidents while performing their duties. Sardar Harasis Singh, the spokesperson of the union informed that All Jammu and Kashmir Oil & LPG Tank, Truck Drivers & Cleaners Union would submit a detailed memorandum to the Chief Secretary, J & K highlighting the sufferings of the drivers and cleaner on road especially between Jammu\_ Srinagar Highway. Pertinent to mention here that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman would present Union interim budget on Thursday, 01 Feb 2024. Srinagar Highway. Pertinent to mention here that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman would present Union interim budget on Thursday, 01 Feb 2024.

## Indian Dental Association, Kashmir conducts insightful programme

■ HT News Network

Srinagar: In an effort to enhance the knowledge and awareness surrounding evolving trends in dentistry, the Indian Dental Association, Kashmir Central Branch, organized a significant Continuing Dental Education Program today at Tagore Hall.

Distinguished guests and members of the dental fraternity gathered for this informative session, with Dr. Jehanzaib Tenki graced the occasion as the chief guest. The conference commenced with an inaugural address by Dr. Ishtiyaz Geelani, who is associated with IDA Kashmir Central Branch as President set the tone for the event, emphasizing the importance of ongoing education in the field of Dentistry.

The conference attracted a diverse audience, including both seasoned professionals and emerging talents from across Kashmir. The engagement was structured into two technical sessions, each addressing crucial aspects of dental practice and education.

The first session featured Dr. Ijtiba Shafi, who delivered an insightful presentation focusing on the various guidelines issued by the government periodically. Dr. Ijtiba illuminated the audience on staying updated with the evolving rules and regulations, crucial for maintaining ethical standards in dental practice.

Following a brief lunch break, the second session commenced with Dr. Urnaib Riyaz the second presenter provided a meticulous overview of the evolution of dentistry over the past century. Additionally, she shed light on the challenges faced by new dentists in their professional journey.

## DDC Baramulla reviews progress of works under NABARD & PMGSY

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 29: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of ongoing projects being executed under PMGSY and NABARD within the district.

During the meeting, the DDC was comprehensively apprised about physical and financial progress of the projects being undertaken by R&B department under NABARD and works under PMGSY.

It was also informed that a total of 66 works under NABARD were approved across all divisions of Baramulla, with a sanctioned amount of 307 crores allocated for the construction of 365 kilometers of road. Additionally, it was noted that funds totaling Rs.48 crore had been released, of which expenditure of Rs. 19.36 crore has been realized thus far.

Similarly, it was noted that under PMGSY, there are 222 sanctioned works with a budget of Rs. 777.76 crore for 792 kilometers of road construction. By March 2023, 175 schemes were completed, with 6 more



finished in 2023, and 53 currently in progress with a cost realization of Rs. 525.72 crore. The DDC, while reviewing the physical and financial progress of the taken up works, directed the concerned executing agencies to accelerate the pace of the work and complete the projects within the stipulated time.

He also conducted a review of the roads damaged during the installation of pipelines by JJM and instructed

officials of both JJM and R&B departments to collaborate on assessing the costs associated with maintaining the roads affected by this pipeline installation.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Javid Ahmad; Superintending Engineer R&B, Reyaz Ahmad Parry; DDM NABARD, Zubair Wasil; Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE and PMGSY and other district officers.

## Progress Assessment: DC Pulwama reviews AIIMS Awantipora Projects

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, JANUARY 29: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a comprehensive review meeting aimed at evaluating the progress of ongoing projects at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Awantipora. The meeting focused on ensuring the timely completion and seamless execution of this prestigious healthcare infrastructure. The review meeting saw participation from officials representing various Government departments, including health and engineering. Additionally, key stakeholders from executing agencies responsible for the construction and development of the AIIMS infrastructure were also present. The primary objective was to address challenges and streamline progress towards the completion of the project. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Awantipora provided a detailed overview of the



project's status through a presentation.

The DC underscored the profound significance of the AIIMS project for Pulwama and emphasized its potential to elevate healthcare services in the region. He stressed the imperative to expedite construction while maintaining the highest standards of quality. Key discussions during the meeting revolved around establishing timelines for completing different phases of the project. DC urged officials to adhere strictly to the set deadlines, directing concerned departments to expedite processes.

## DC Kulgam visits Civil Services Library, Tehsil library at Kulgam

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JANUARY 29: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited Civil Services Library and Tehsil Library at Kulgam and took stock of functioning and availability of facilities for aspiring students at both the libraries.

During his visit, the DC interacted with aspiring candidates and assured them best possible support and facilities from District Administration.

Responding to the demands put forth by the students, the DC instructed concerned of Tehsil Library for increasing the functional timing of the reading



rooms and to keep reading rooms open from 7:30 am to 08 PM.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by the ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri and other concerned Officers. During his visit, the DC interacted with aspiring candidates and assured them best possible support and facilities from District Administration.

Responding to the demands put forth by the students, the DC instructed concerned of Tehsil Library for increasing the functional timing of the reading rooms and to keep reading rooms open from 7:30 am to 08 PM.



# Mandeep Kaur presides over Public Darbar at Budgam

## Inspects various developmental projects, Reviews action taken on previous demands

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, JANUARY 29: Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur today presided over a Public Darbar, at Conference Hall, DC Office Complex here.

After holding izband ceremony, Commissioner Secretary listened to the general public of Budgam, who raised their suggestions and demands for redressal.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Secretary stressed on creating awareness on all government schemes and flagship programmes among the general public.

Mandeep Kaur assured that all genuine public grievances shall be taken up with con-

cerned departments for early redressal.

She directed concerned officers to ensure prompt service delivery and early disposal of public grievances.

While taking detailed review regarding the status action taken of public demands raised in last public darbar held at Magam, the Commissioner Secretary acknowledged the efforts of District Administration Budgam for its attempt at timely action on the issues.

Mandeep Kaur stressed on making people aware on utilization of funds under different sectors for their awareness of ongoing developmental works and status of grievances redressal through a dedicated online portal.

Commissioner Secretary encouraged good public par-



ticipation in public darbar, which she said acts as a bridge between government and general public.

She instructed on expediting work on all ongoing projects including JJM, Health, Education and other sectors for speedy

work completion and that the same are dedicated to the general public at the earliest. On the occasion, Commis-

sioner Secretary also distributed sanction letters and felicitated various beneficiaries under different schemes.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Akshay Labroo deliberated upon the action taken against all genuine demands of last darbar.

He said that among other projects, a 10 kilometre road upgradation project from Rayar Doodhpathri has been approved and work on the same shall be taken up for execution in short time.

He said that the District Administration Budgam is also closely monitoring the progress in construction of Indoor Stadium at Khanshabih.

In order to improve educational facilities, a patch of 300 kanals of land has been transferred for establishment of Clus-

ter University in the district.

Later, the Commissioner Secretary, accompanied by DC Budgam also inspected work progress on Multi-Car Parking, aesthetic upgradation of Park at Old Bus Stand and Townhall Budgam.

SSP Budgam, Al Tahir Gillani, ADDC, Dr Akramullah Tak, CPO, SDMs and all district and Sectoral officers also attended the Public Darbar. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Akshay Labroo deliberated upon the action taken against all genuine demands of last darbar.

He said that among other projects, a 10 kilometre road upgradation project from Rayar Doodhpathri has been approved and work on the same shall be taken up for execution in short time.

## Secy RDD discusses MGNREGA Annual Action Plan for FY 2024-25 in Kashmir

Highlights importance of making convergence a priority in all allied works

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 29: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary on Monday conducted an extensive review of the Annual Action Plan and Labour Budget of MGNREGA for the fiscal year 2024-25, focusing on the districts of Srinagar, Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, and Shopian.

Secretary highlighted the importance of making convergence a priority in all allied works, stressing the significance of realistic planning and quality work. The meeting delved into crucial aspects, emphasizing the creation of community assets, assistance for vulnerable segments of society, and the prioritization of projects that directly contribute to community welfare. Notably, a specific focus was placed on Category B works, centering on the management of natural resources and the well-being of vulnerable sections.

Dr Shahid urged mutual communication, trust, and commitment to overcome these challenges. He urged a concerted effort to address issues hindering the effective collaboration of different departments. A roadmap for the upcoming year was presented, and the need for a mission-mode approach was dis-



cussed.

Secretary expressed appreciation for the efforts made so far but emphasized the importance of achieving better results, especially in areas facing difficulties. The issue of convergence, where funds from different departments are expected to converge for effective project execution, was a central theme. Concerns were raised about the lack of funding from certain line departments, hindering the progress of convergence plans. Additionally, challenges in the convergence process, such as the dual funding system, were addressed.

Dr Shahid stressed the need for technical convergence and expressed concern over the insufficient flow of funds, especially from key departments like agriculture. Dr Shahid emphasized the necessity of allocating 60% of expen-

ditures towards agriculture and related activities, underscoring the pivotal role this plays in advancing the agricultural sector for holistic community development.

Additionally, Secretary stressed the significance of ensuring prompt wage payments through the Aadhaar Based Payment System, aiming to enhance transparency and accountability. The discussions also delved into crucial topics such as conducting social audits and investing in training and skill development programs to promote the personal growth of the workforce involved in MGNREGA initiatives.

The formulated plan outlined strategies for enhancing land productivity, improving livelihoods through diverse agricultural activities, and reclaiming fallow or unused lands. The meet-

ings also addressed additional concerns such as Geo-tagging, National MGNREGS Management System (NMMS) usage, and the resolution of issues related to social audits. Secretary in Rural Development Department, Tariq Ahmad Zargar also suggested the measures to streamline the convergence plan with a focus on addressing funding gaps and enhancing cooperation between various departments. He encouraged innovative solutions and called for a unified approach to tackle challenges and improve performance indicators.

The meeting was also attended by Director RDD, Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat, Additional Secretary RDD, Waseem Raja and Assistant Commissioner Development (ACDs) from different districts of Kashmir Division.

## PM's Pariksha Pe Charcha inspires lakhs of students across Jammu Division

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: The 7th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024 inspired lakhs of students as live broadcast was organized in the government educational institutions across Jammu Division, here today. The Prime Minister shared invaluable tips and insights with students, teachers and parents during the virtual interaction.

AT SAMBA: The district level live streaming of the 7th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024 was hosted at Government. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Jakh in Samba district

Witnessed by 600 students, 110 teachers, 150 parents, and 25 Ex PRI members, the live session unfolded on a mega screen at GGHSS Jakh.

Deputy Commissioner, Abhishek Sharma, SDM Vijaypur, Dr. Rajesh Kumar; Chief Education Office, Kewal Krishan; Principal Shiv Rachna, District Counseling Coordinator Ramesh Sharma, and all Ex. PRI members of adjoining Panchayat Halqua graced the event with their presence.

Similar programs were held at Zonal Levels, attended by Zonal Education Officers along with a significant number of children, parents, teachers, and Ex PRI Members.

All 22 Higher Secondary, High Schools, Middle Schools, and Primary Schools in District Samba live streamed the program within their premises. Additionally, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Army Schools, and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, besides private schools, participated with the students and teachers.

In total, approximately 14,000 students, 1,500 teachers, 3,500 parents, and 450 Ex PRI members experienced this significant program throughout Samba District.

AT DODA: The seventh edition of the Pariksha Pe Charcha Programme took place today, January 29, 2024, across all Zonal Headquarters, High and Higher Secondary Schools in District Doda, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students.

Students eagerly listened to the interaction between their peers and the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. At the District Headquarters, the Education Department organized the live streaming in the Community Hall, drawing students from both government and



private schools across the district.

AT RAMBAN: Students across Ramban district expressed their delight after attending Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unique interactive program, "Pariksha Pe Charcha."

Organized by the District Administration, Ramban, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary, the live streaming of PM Modi's interaction was facilitated in various schools and educational institutions, zone and district level across Ramban.

The Chief Education Officer and Principals of Educational and Professional institutions made meticulous arrangements to ensure students comfortably participate in the program.

The students and staff members from various Government educational and professional institutions attended the virtual program.

The students shared their positive feedback, highlighting the valuable information and tips provided by PM Modi. Tips and messages such as How to deal with stress, Start the habit of writing, Read the question paper beforehand, prepare a strategy, A balanced lifestyle is important, Healthy competition is important, but not jealously, resonated with the attendees.

AT KISHTWAR: The interactive session "Pariksha Pe Charcha" Prime Minister Narendra Modi garnered enthusiastic participation from teachers, students, staff and parents of all Schools including the High Schools, Higher Sec-

ondary Schools, premier Technical Institutions, Colleges and Elementary schools across the district Kishtwar.

A mega live telecast of the interactive program was orchestrated at Model Government Higher Secondary School Boys Kishtwar.

Scores of secondary and senior secondary students and Elementary schools actively participated, absorbing valuable insights from the PM on effective Exam Stress management.

Simultaneous live sessions were meticulously organized at Govt Girls Higher Secondary School Kishtwar, as well as other Premier educational institutions, Higher and Higher Secondary Schools and Elementary schools throughout the district. Leveraging the CAL/ICT labs, Community Centers, and even mobile phones, TVs and Radios of teachers in Elementary and Middle schools, these sessions reached a diverse audience.

In addition to students, parents, local youths, and competitive exam aspirants actively engaged in the live relay of the program.

AT UDHAMPUR: The Education Department Udhampur organized the District Level Programme of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024 at Shaheed Inspector Kamal Singh Government Model Higher Secondary School Boys, Udhampur.

Kumar, and Principal HSS Boys, Manoj Kumar.

A total of 947 students, 73 teachers, and 97 parents/community members participated in the live telecast of the event through virtual mode. Pariksha Pe Charcha, an initiative by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, offers a unique interactive platform for students, parents, and teachers to discuss and alleviate the stress associated with examinations, promoting a celebratory approach to life.

The 7th Edition of PPC-2024 in District Udhampur witnessed a massive turnout with 18,354 registrations on the MyGov Portal and 44,767 students, 3746 teachers, and 1624 parents tuning in to the live telecast through various platforms such as LED screens and television.

Simultaneously, all eleven zones of District Udhampur, including 121 High Schools, 45 Higher Secondary Schools, and 354 middle schools, actively participated in the event.

The activities such as poster campaigns, street plays (Nukkad Natak), quiz competitions, etc were held, contributing to the grand success of this mega event in District Udhampur. Simultaneously, all eleven zones of District Udhampur, including 121 High Schools, 45 Higher Secondary Schools, and 354 middle schools, actively participated in the event.

The activities such as poster campaigns, street plays (Nukkad Natak), quiz competitions, etc were held, contributing to the grand success of this mega event in District Udhampur.

## District Administration goes tough against illegal mining in Reasi

■ HT News Network

REASI, JANUARY 29: To combat illegal mining, the Geology and Mining Department Reasi, under the proactive guidance of District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan has executed a series of raids targeting unauthorized excavation

and mineral dumping in the district.

During last three months the department took stringent action by challaning 31 and seizing 26 vehicles involved in illegal mining activities including seventeen tractors, eight dumper and six JCBs.

Further the demarcation of three mining sites has led to realisation of Rs. 36,94,910 fine. The demarcation

exercise is still on and the District Collector has warned the lessees to ensure adherence to the norms.

DDC Mahajan has urged the public to report any suspicious mining activities on dedicated District control Room Number 01991-245639, 94198-39557 and assured that stringent action will be taken against those found violating mining regulations.

## DC Kishtwar reviews Grievances Disposal on JKIGRAMS

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, JANUARY 29: Ensuring a responsive and accountable administration, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, conducted a comprehensive review of the disposal of public complaints registered on JKIGRAMS here at a meeting.

Addressing the meeting, DC Yadav highlighted JKIGRAMS as a pivotal platform, serving as a one-stop solution for the public to



voice grievances and marking a revolutionary step in grievance redressal. He exhorted the officers to ensure timely and thorough

resolution of grievances, cautioning against adopting a casual approach.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner

meticulously assessed the pending grievances department-wise and sub-division-wise. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the resolution of pending grievances within the stipulated time frame.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kishtwar Inderjeet Singh Parihar, ACR Kishtwar Varunjeet Singh Charak, SDM Marwah Mohd Ashraf, ACD Kishtwar Manoj Kumar, Tehsildar Kishtwar Muneeb Umar, along with other district heads.



# Jasprit Bumrah Reprimanded For Physical Contact With Pope During Hyderabad Test

**NEW DELHI:** Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has been reprimanded for breaching level one of the ICC Code of Conduct in the opening Test between India and England in Hyderabad. He was found guilty, and as a result, handed a demerit point.

Article 2.12 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, relates to "inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator during an Inter-

national Match".

It was Bumrah's first offence in 24 months, and he accepted the sanction proposed by the match referee Richie Richardson, which meant there was no need of an official hearing.

The incident occurred in the 81st over of England's second innings. Ollie Pope, who scored 196, pushed a delivery through the off side and went for a run, but Bumrah was reported to have intentionally stood in the way, a move which led to physical contact. Pope was not pleased, and was seen taking it

to the on-field umpires even as Bumrah put his hands up in apology.

Bumrah picked up six wickets in the game, including 4 for 41 in the second innings. He bamboozled Ben Stokes for 70 in the first innings, and dismissed Ben Duckett and Joe Root in successive overs in an inspired spell in the second dig.

India lost the first of five Tests against England by 28 runs despite having a first-innings lead of 190. The second Test will be played in Visakhapatnam from February 2.



## Chahar eyes T20 World Cup spot after overcoming personal setbacks

**NEW DELHI:** After putting a challenging phase on personal front behind him, which had sidelined him for a few assignments, India seamer Deepak Chahar is ready for a comeback and has set his sights on the T20 World Cup to be jointly hosted by the USA and West Indies in June.



Chahar had to miss India's tour of South Africa in December followed by the home T20Is against Afghanistan after his father suffered a brain stroke, from which he has recovered now. Since India don't play any more T20Is until the World Cup in June, Chahar's only chance to make the squad is through the IPL starting in March end.

"For me, my father comes first. I am here only because of him. Whatever I have achieved is because of my father. If I am not there for him in those situations, then obviously, what kind of son I am?" Chahar told PTI.

"If the series was in India, then I would have surely tried to play. You can come to the hospital if you need within 4-5 hours. But obviously, [from] South Africa it takes 2-3 days to come back.

"It was an easy decision to be with my father. Any son would do that."

Chahar said while he did not get a lot of time to train apart from doing fitness-related work, he went to the NCA to work on his readiness as he eyes a spot in India's T20 World Cup squad.

"I was with my father in the hospital for 25 days. He was admitted in Aligarh. We all had to stay there," he said.

"I was only able to do some exercises. I was not able to do any cricketing activities. That's why I was not ready for the Afghanistan series. I had not practised for a month or so. "After that I went to the NCA. I started my practice again and now I am fully fit. Everything is good. I trained really hard for the IPL and the World Cup."

Chahar said there is extra motivation for him to push for his case for selection, given that he has missed the last two T20 World Cups due to injuries.

"I have missed two [T20] World Cups because of my injuries," he said. "If I was fully fit, I would have been a part of the World Cup team as well. In any scenario or any team combination, there is always a requirement for a bowler who can bat at Nos. 7, 8, 9. I have done that and scored runs for the Indian team."

'Dhoni should play for another two-three years' Chahar credits MS Dhoni for harnessing his career and giving it longevity, but does not want the CSK captain's impending retirement to hit the side anytime soon.

"It took me two-three years to get comfortable around him," Chahar said of Dhoni. "I see him as an elder brother and I think he treats me as a younger brother. "I would say because of him only I got a chance to play for India because before that, he gave me a really big chance to play all the 14 games in IPL. In 2018, I played all the 14 games."

## Virat Kohli Spat At Me, Apologised After AB De Villiers Confronted Him: Dean Elgar

**CAPE TOWN:** Former South Africa skipper Dean Elgar has claimed that star India batter Virat Kohli "spat at him" during a Test match and apologised two years later after being confronted by his Royal Challengers Bangalore teammate AB de Villiers.

Elgar retired from international cricket after the conclusion of South Africa's two-Test series against India at home in December while standing-in for regular skipper Temba Bavuma.

Without mentioning the series in which the incident took place, speculated to be South Africa's tour of India in 2015, Elgar agreed on a podcast that he had show-downs with Kohli and Ravichan-

dran Ashwin.

"All the time," Elgar said on 'Banter with The Boys' podcast sitting alongside former South African all-rounder Chris Morris and rugby player Jean de Villiers.

Elgar then said, "In India. Those wickets were jokes. And I came into bat and I was actually like holding my own against Ashwin and what's his name Jajaja ja-jajajaja. ('Jadeja', said someone in the background) and Kohli, he like spat at me," Elgar said.

"I said to him, 'if you do that, I'll f\*\*\*\*\*g \*\*\* you with this bat,'" Elgar claimed.

"Did he understand that word?" asked the podcast host referring to the beeped out word.



"Yes, he did because (AB) de Villiers was his teammate at RCB so he understood. I said 'if you do that, I'll absolutely knock you

out,'" Elgar claimed.

The former South African opener said after de Villiers found out about the incident, he took

up the matter with his good friend and RCB teammate.

Elgar did not specify when exactly de Villiers discussed the incident with Kohli.

"Anyway, so, realised that de Villiers found out what he did and went up to him and said 'bud, why are you spitting at my teammate bud? That's not on' and two years later, he (Kohli) calls me aside playing (in) South Africa and said 'Can we go have a drink at the end of the series? I want to just apologise for my actions'. We had a drink, (the) punchline is we drank till 3 am in the morning. This is when he used to drink, now he is obviously converted a bit," Elgar added.

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