



Srinagar
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Volume: 14

Messi mania hits Hong Kong as thousands flock to Miami training

Div Com Kashmir takes stock of arrangements for Shab-e-Meraj at Hazratbal Shrine

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Fresh Snowfall Blankets Kashmir, Gulmarg Records Minus 10.6 Deg C

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEB 3: Several parts of Kashmir, including Srinagar city, witnessed fresh snowfall on Saturday as the MeT department has forecast moderate top-heavy snowfall in the valley over the next 48 hours.

While it started snowing early in the morning in the higher reaches of Kashmir, the plains of the valley also witnessed snowfall as the day progressed, officials said.

They said the day temperatures are likely to stay between zero and three degrees Celsius at most places in Kashmir.

Authorities have issued avalanche warnings in hilly and mountainous areas of Kashmir while motorists have been advised to drive carefully in view of slippery roads, the officials said.

Meanwhile, there was respite



from intense cold conditions last night but the minimum temperature stayed several degrees below the

normal for this time of the year.

Gulmarg skiing resort in north

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Jammu-Srinagar National Highway Reopens After Two-Day Closure

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEB 3: Vehicular movement on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway resumed early Saturday after remaining suspended for two days following multiple landslides triggered by heavy rains and snowfall, officials said.

However, the traffic department advised commuters to follow lane discipline and drive cautiously as part of the arterial road near Sherbibi in Ramban district is single-lane and also slippery at a number of places.

The traffic on the 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was suspended on Thursday

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PM Modi Calls For Cooperation Among Countries In Justice Delivery

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, FEB 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted on Saturday that criminals have been using the latest technology for funding and operating across regions as he



called for rethinking, reimagining and reforming legal systems to deliver justice.

Speaking at the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) – Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC), he said countries already work with each other in the domain of air traffic control and maritime traffic, and advocated extending this to investigation and justice delivery.

“When we work together then jurisdiction becomes a tool to deliver justice and not to delay it,” he said, adding

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NEWS BRIEF

Bharat Ratna to Lal Krishan Advani : PM lauds his life long Contribution

SRINAGAR, FEB 03: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that BJP veteran L K Advani will be conferred the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.

Modi praised Advani's monumental contribution to the nation's development, saying that his decades-long service marked by transparency and integrity.

The recognition is viewed as a tribute to Advani's instrumental role in shaping the BJP's core ideology. The announcement comes in the year of the Ram temple's consecration, symbolizing a triumphant closure for the BJP on

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Army Opens Fire After Suspicious Movement Near LoC In Poonch

JAMMU, FEB 2: The Army on Saturday opened fire after observing a suspicious movement near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. They said Army troops picked up the suspicious movement in the Sabra Gali area of Mendhar and immediately responded.

The firing was at a forward village in snow-bound Mendhar in the early hours of Saturday and a massive search operation was underway when last reports were received, the officials said.

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7 Arrested In Former Village Head's Kidnapping From Kathua

JAMMU, FEB 2: Seven men were arrested on Friday for allegedly kidnapping a former Sarpanch a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, police said.

Former Sarpanch Varinder Singh alias Bantu was rescued by police in injured condition and admitted to Government Medical College hospital, they said.

According to a complaint filed by one Ram Saran Sharma of Marheen village of Kathua, Varinder Singh alias Bantu was abducted at the behest of

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Odisha: PM Modi dedicates NTPC power projects to nation

■ HT News Network

SAMBALPUR (ODISHA), FEB 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday dedicated NTPC Darlipali Super Thermal Power Station (2x800 MW) and NSPCL Rourkela PP-II Expansion Project (1x250 MW) to the nation.

He also laid the foundation stone of NTPC Talcher Thermal Power Project, Stage-III (2x660 MW).

Located in Sundargarh district of Odisha, Darlipali STPS is a pit-head Power Station with Super-critical (highly efficient) Technology, and is supplying low-cost power to its beneficiary states, such as Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Sikkim.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Maritime piracy, smuggling won't be tolerated; it is pledge of New India: Rajnath Singh

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, FEB 3: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday that those involved in maritime piracy and smuggling will not be tolerated under any circumstances, and it is the pledge of 'New India'.

While speaking at the

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J&K Born 'Aroma Mission' Among Torchbearers Of 'Viksit Bharat': Dr Jitendra

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEB 3: "Jammu and Kashmir born 'Aroma Mission' will be among the torchbearers of 'Viksit Bharat', said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh here today.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, J&K has also become a role model for the rest of India, which was exempli-



fied by the depiction of lavender farms of Bhaderwah town of district Doda, through a tableau on Kartavya Path in the national capital on the occasion of the Republic Day. He said the youth of J&K associated with the Aroma StartUp ecosystem have emerged as brand ambassadors of Purple Revolution across the country.

The Union Minister was speaking after chairing the first-of-its-kind meeting with PRIs,

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Apurva Chandra Appointed Health Secretary; Sanjay Jaju New I&B Secretary

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, FEB 3: Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra was appointed the Health Secretary as part of a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre on Saturday.

Chandra is a 1988-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Maharashtra cadre.



The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Chandra's appointment as the

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KPDCL Braces For Post Snow Power Restoration Amid Inclement Weather Forecast

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEB 03: As the latest bout of inclement weather approaches certain districts of Kashmir Division, the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) is intensifying its efforts to prepare for post-snow power sup-

ply restoration and the repair of potential faults and disruptions. With snowfall predicted in the Valley, KPDCL is issuing a clarion call to its workforce and urging citizens to cooperate in ensuring swift recovery from any disruptions. News agency KNS reported that the

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Verify Credentials Of Firms Placing Job Advertisements: Press Council To Newspapers

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, FEB 3: In a bid to protect youths



from fraudsters, the Press Council of India (PCI) has asked newspapers to cross-check the credentials

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SIU Files Chargesheet Against Six Accused In Shopian Attack Case

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEB 3: The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday filed a chargesheet against six accused in a case related to an attack on migrant labourers in Shopian district of south Kashmir last year.

On July 13, 2023 three non-local labourers from Sapul Bihar were injured in a terror attack at Gargren, Shopian when they were busy in purchasing grocery in the market.

Police said the SIU Shopian today produced a comprehensive chargesheet of the case FIR No. 126/2023 under section 7/25, 7/27 IA Act, 16, 18, 20, 23, 38, and 39 of UAPA before the Court of Special Judge (NIA Court) Kulgam.

The chargesheet was produced against six accused including two slain ultras, Hanzil Yaqoob Shah and Danish Hameed Thoker alias Muslim Bhai- and both of them were killed in

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Dr Darakhshan Andrabi Inaugurates Newly Constructed Marble Flooring On Northern Campus Area In Hazratbal Shrine

Chairs High Level Meeting Regarding Arrangements On Meraf-e-Alam Celebrations

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEB 03: Chairperson Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi along with the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today visited Hazratbal shrine Complex in Srinagar.

The Chairperson Waqf Board was also accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Director Health Kashmir, Commissioner SMC, SP Hazratbal, Magistrate Hazratbal

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A pistol found in their possession was seized, police said. (Agencies)



Div Com Kashmir takes stock of arrangements for Shab-e-Meraj at Hazratbal Shrine

Says all facilities including heating arrangements will be put in place

SRINAGAR, FEB 03: To ensure all requisite arrangements are in place for devotees to observe Shab-e-Meraj with religious fervor and devotion at Dargah Hazratbal, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today paid visit to the Shrine to take first hand appraisal of available facilities.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohid ud Din Bhat; Commissioner SMC/CEO SSCL, Dr Owais Ahmad; Director Health Services Kashmir; SSP Traffic, Tehsildar North, Tehsildar Waqf Board and other officers of civil departments.

Div Com issued a slew of



directions to concerned officers for utilizing their all resources to ensure smooth arrangements for devotees.

He was informed that to ensure uninterrupted power supply all the steps have been taken by the concerned department.

It was also given that in addition to DG sets two service lines have been connected to supply electricity.

On the request of the Imam of Shrine, Div Com instructed SSP Traffic not to allow parking of vehicles on the north side of

Shrine on the special occasion as it is causing inconvenience to the people who are visiting the Shrine in large numbers to pay obeisance.

In view of cold weather, Div Com directed Tehsildar Waqf Board to only install water-

proof tents within the premises of Hazratbal besides making heating arrangements inside tents.

Div Com instructed for making public utilities functional and sanitation of the surrounding area.

CEO, SSCL was asked to deploy smart city buses on some routes to avoid overcrowding especially at the time of dispersal of visitors.

Talking to the media, Bidhuri reiterated that the arrangements will be best compared

to the past.

Meanwhile, he greeted people on the occasion of fresh snowfall with "Nu Sheen Mubarak" as the long dry spell of the season ends and brings respite to the people from the apprehensions of drought.



Dr Muhammed Hussain Assumes Charge as Tehsildar Kreeri

Interacts with Tehsil level officers.

- [Aashiq Hussain](#)
- [Towfeeq Ahmad](#)

KREERI, FEB 03 (HT): Dr Mohammed Hussain (KAS) today formally assumed charge as Tehsildar Kreeri at tehsil complex kreeri relieving Mubashir Amin and also assumes charge as Tehsildar Wagoora.

He was warmly received by officials of the Tehsil office kreeri and Wagoora

Interacting with the officials, the incumbent



Tehsildar said that good work has been done in priority areas in the tehsil and he aims to carry the baton forward. He said the primary focus will be on ease of public service delivery to ensure that benefits of welfare measures reach the last mile.

Talking about responsive administration, he said that efforts will be made to reach out to people to identify problem areas and ensure targeted interventions.

Mir said that grievance redressal mechanisms are already in place and it is important that grievances are redressed in a time bound manner. After joined as tehsildar Kreeri Dr mohammad Hussain mir pays Obeisance at Ziyarat Shareef of Haji Mohammed Murad Bukhari (RA) at Muradabad Kreeri. Earlier, relieving Tehsildar kreeri was given a warm farewell at community hall kreeri where he thanked the Tehsil level officers for their support and cooperation in taking the district to new developmental heights.

The officers presented their vote of thanks and appreciated the dedication, honesty and Administrative skills of Munashir Amin and shared their experience being the members of a team of Tehsil administration.

Dr. Abid Rasheed reviews implementation of NHM

Advocates robust system, impact assessment to enhance healthcare services under Mission

SRINAGAR, FEB 03: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, reviewed the functioning of J&K National Health Mission (NHM) during a meeting held here today.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation was displayed by Mission Director NHM, J&K, Nazim Zai Khan, wherein he briefed about vital information and critical data with respect to all the programmes and schemes being implemented under the ambit of NHM in J&K. Besides, various achievements and milestones accomplished in delivery of healthcare services through various interventions and innovations of NHM were also highlighted.

The Secretary took stock of all the key issues and directed for various measures and improvements to be adopted in order to make implementation of the mission more vibrant and result oriented.



Dr. Abid Rasheed gave directions to the team of NHM to follow an evidence based and data driven planning and decision

making after critical data analysis and corrective actions thereof, target specific and time bound actions, timely submission of

Utilization Certificates and carry out impact assessment of all the interventions so that corrective measures are taken accordingly.

The Secretary interacted with the senior officers and programme incharges of NHM from both the divisions, seeking their feedback and inputs for further improvement of their respective programmes. He appreciated the healthcare services being rendered under the flagship scheme, while assuring full support and handholding from the Administrative Department H&ME.

Mission Director, NHM apprised regarding genuine issues and requirements of the department so as to ensure better delivery of services on grassroots level.

Rajni Charak, Director P&S NHM, Dr. Des Raj Bhagat, Additional Secretary, H&ME, Dr Mohammad Shafi Koka, State Nodal Officer NHM, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Dar, Divisional Nodal Officer Kashmir, Dr. Harjeet Rai Divisional Nodal Officer, Jammu and all the Programme Managers and officers of the department were present during the meeting.

J&K's interim budget for 2024-25 to be unveiled on Monday

This will be UT's 5th consecutive budget in Parliament

SRINAGAR, FEB 03: Jammu & Kashmir interim budget for 2024-25 would be presented in the Parliament on Monday, which will be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, according to revised list of business issued by Lok Sabha secretariat.

This would be the 5th consecutive budget of Jammu and Kashmir to be presented in the Parliament after imposition of Central rule. This is being done as J&K Assembly is currently not in place.

Jammu & Kashmir is without an elected government since June 19,

2018 after BJP withdrew support to Mehbooba Mufti-led government, citing a "deteriorating" security situation in the erstwhile state.

After the collapse of PDP-BJP government, the budget for 2019-20 was approved by then J&K Governor as head of the State Administrative Council. After downgrading of J&K to UT in 2019, all its budgets were presented in the Parliament.

According to the list of business, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Nirmala Sitharaman would

present a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of Jammu and Kashmir for 2024-25 fiscal year.

The Finance Minister would also present a statement showing the supplementary demands of grants in respect of J&K.

This would be the first time in the past five years when J&K's budget would be presented in February. All previous four budgets were presented in mid-March. In recent Union budget, J&K was allocated Rs 37277.74 crore mainly to bridge resource gap.

3 residential houses, 4 shops damaged in Batamaloo blaze

SRINAGAR, FEB 03: Three residential houses, along with one double-storey shed and shops on the ground floor, were damaged in a fire incident at Batamaloo area of Srinagar district, officials said. Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the fire broke out due to an electrical short circuit.

An official from the F&ES department informed that three residential houses with four shops on the ground floor of one of the buildings were damaged in the fire incident.

Additionally, the official stated that two firefighters received minor injuries during the firefighting operation, and their condition is stated to be stable.

893 lives lost in over 6000 road accidents in J&K last year

Nearly 14 lakh challans issued for traffic violations; experts stress increased awareness

QAZIGUND, FEB 03: Jammu & Kashmir witnessed a surge in road accidents, with a staggering 6,292 incidents claiming the lives of 893 people in 2023, according to official data.

The figures obtained from the J&K Traffic Police by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) indicate a concerning upward trend compared to the previous three years. In 2019, there were 996 fatalities, followed by 728 in 2020, 774 in 2021, and 805 in 2022. The data for 2023 revealed 730 fatal accidents

and 5,568 non-fatal accidents, resulting in 893 deaths and 8,469 injuries in the Union Territory.

The Kashmir division, particularly Srinagar district, recorded 476 accidents with 55 fatalities. In the Jammu division, the district of Jammu witnessed the highest number of accidents at 1,179, leading to 171 casualties.

The authorities issued 1,372,501 challans for traffic violations in the preceding year, covering both court and compound challans, data reveals. The breakdown of the figures indicated that Srinagar City traffic police issued 408,167 challans, Rural Kashmir issued 406,338, City Jammu traffic police recorded 332,221 challans, Rural Jammu 130,974, and the National Highway Ramban unit issued 94,801 such challans.

Several road fatalities in J&K occurred on national highways, particularly in the hilly Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban areas of Jammu. According to data, challenging road conditions between Jammu to Srinagar and Jammu to Doda-Kishtwar are contributing factors to numerous accidents.

Experts stress the need for public education, road improvements and stringent law enforcement to curb accidents.

"Accidents happen because of distracted driving, speeding, poor road maintenance and potholes. Vehicle problems, breaking traffic rules and lack of experience also contribute to fatalities," they said, adding that road safety measures and awareness campaigns are of utmost importance to protect people's lives and reduce the tragic toll of road accidents.

A senior traffic police official informed KNO that primary contributors to these accidents include excessive speed, overloading and aggressive driving.

"It is important to realise that the police cannot be omnipresent. Both passengers and drivers must exercise caution. Reckless driving should be avoided," he said.

The traffic police have initiated various awareness campaigns to educate drivers on traffic rules and imposed substantial penalties for violations, the official added.

DC Bandipora presides over event on ‘Pariksha Pe Charcha’; encourages stress-free exams

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 03: As a follow-up of the recently conducted National Program ‘Pariksha Pe Charcha’ by Hon’ble Prime Minister, and in order to promote well-being and positive exam preparation among students, the Education Department, today organized a special District Level Event on ‘Pariksh Pe Charcha’ (Discussion on Exams).

The program was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ur Rehman, who delivered a motivating message to students and parents alike.

The program was attended by ADC Umar Shafi, CEO Mohammad Amin Beigh, Subject Expert Dr Malik Roshan

Ara, DyCEO Dr. GM Pujoo and a galaxy of students, parents, teachers, and experts besides officials from education department Bandipora.

Emphasizing the importance of mental health and emotional well-being, Shakeel Ur Rehman advised students to approach exams with a positive attitude and not succumb to stress. He encouraged them to focus on understanding concepts and enjoying the learning process rather than solely aiming for high scores.

The DC also addressed the gathering of parents, highlighting the crucial role they play in supporting their children’s academic journey. He urged them to understand the dreams and aspirations of their children instead of pressuring them to conform to societal expectations or engage in



unhealthy competition. Support them in exploring their passions and encourage them to pursue their dreams, regardless of exam results, the DC added. The program also featured interactive sessions with experts and counselors who provided valuable insights on managing exam stress, developing effective study habits, and maintaining mental well-being. Students actively participated in the sessions, asking questions and sharing their experiences. Chief Education Officer Bandipora, Mohammad Amin Beigh said that the initiative is a positive step towards promoting a healthy and supportive environment for students during their academic journey and emphasized that Teachers and Parents need to proactively work on this sensitive issue of students.

Dr. Malik Roshan Ara, HoD, Department of Psychology, GDC Sopore and Dr. G M Pujoo, DyCEO, Bandipora also spoke on the occasion and underscored the importance of counseling and awareness about examination stress and various fears associated with examinations. He added that such inspections are routinely carried out as mandated under law and in compliance to the directions from the Drug Controller where strict guidelines have already been passed to all medical establishments to adhere with safe dispensing of essential medicine including Scheduled formulations. It was given out that the Drug Control Organisation has already sensitized chemists to adopt a robust system for maintenance of records and CCTV surveillance.

DC Ganderbal discusses MGNREGA Convergence Plan 2024-25

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 03: In a bid to boost developmental initiatives in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Saturday presided over a crucial meeting to deliberate on the MGNREGA convergence plan 2024-25 with various line departments. The focus of the discussion centered on creating public assets for the overall advancement of the district. Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Dr. Bashir Ahmad provided a comprehensive overview of the MGNREGA Convergence annual action plan for the fiscal year 2024-25. He highlighted that out of the



266 permissible works under MGNREGA, a substantial 182 are related to Natural Resource Management (NRM). Notably, 166 of these works are aimed at directly creating productive assets linked to agriculture and allied activities.

During the meeting, the DC underscored the significance of strategic convergence with various

departments, including Agriculture, Fisheries, NRLM, Food Supplies, Forestry, Horticulture, and Irrigation. He urged all departments to adopt innovative strategies to enhance land productivity, improve livelihoods, and build robust infrastructure for irrigation.

Furthermore, the promotion of livelihoods through horticulture, sericulture,

animal husbandry, fisheries, and other relevant line departments was emphasized. The Assistant Director FCS&CA was urged to identify suitable locations for creating Food Grain Storage Structures in the district to enhance ration storage capabilities. The Agriculture department was directed to collaborate with all Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the district to create valuable assets. Shyambir emphasized the importance of setting targets for departments under the convergence plan. He also stressed the need for creating individual assets for vulnerable sections of society and highlighted the necessity of common infrastructure for NRLM.

Drug Control Authorities close down 2 medical shops in Kulgam Town

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, FEBRUARY 03: The Drug Control Authorities Kulgam today closed down two medical shops in Kulgam town for violating conditions of licenses and other mandatory directives regarding computerized billing system and issuance of cash memos/invoices.

It was informed by the authorities that many other pharmacies were also inspected and statutory drug samples were lifted for analysis purposes to ascertain their quality parameters. The concerned officers added that intensive inspections were carried out in Kulgam, Chawalgam and other areas on the directions from the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam during the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I informed to general public that my daughter RUTBA AMIN D/O MOHAMMAD AMIN SHEIKH her Date of birth (DOB) is 30/01/2010

Now I am applying for her date of birth certificate (DOB) if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file His /her objection in the office of REGISTRAR BIRTH AND DEATH SRINAGER MUNICIPAL CORPORATION within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained .

NAME..MOHAMMAD AMIN SHEIKH
F/O....RUTIBA AMIN
R/O....BAGIYAS CHATTABAL SRINAGER

PUBLIC NOTICE

My father's name in my passport bearing U 998973 has been wrongly written as GHULAM HASSAN while his correct name is GHULAM HASSAN BHAT which needs to be corrected ..if anybody has any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional passport office Srinager within a period of seven days from the date publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

NAMENASSIR AHMAD BHAT
S/O GHULAM HASSAN BHAT
R/O ...CHECK IT TAPPER TAPPER WARIPORA

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 FATIMA JAVID D/O JAVID AHMAD BHAT R/O VIZER Tehsil Kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 13/07/2021 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 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REWDIVISION BANDIPORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No. 171 /2023-24

Dated: 01/02/2024

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost(In Lacs)	Tender Fee (InRs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	EMD(In Rs.)	Major Head	Block/Panchayat	TYPE OF TENDER
1	2	3	4	6	8	9	10	11	12
1	Renovation of Ayush Health and wellness centre at kehnulla BWO P/L of floor tiles Iron Grill etc	3.53	300/-	30 Days	DEE/	3% of Adv Cost	ISM	Block:- Aloosa Halqa: Kehnulla	open
2	Library at Rakhi Asham block Nowgam Ph 1st Halqa :- Rakhi Asham	4.00	300/-	30 Days	DEE/	3% of Adv Cost	NFB	Block:- Nowgam Halqa :- Rakhi Asham	open
3	Repairing and Renovation of BHQ bandipora	2.50	200/-	30 Days	DEE/OTHE RS	3% of Adv Cost	PRI	Block:- Bandipora	open
4	Renovation of panchayat Ghar Aragam	5.00	500/-	30 Days	DEE/CEE	3% of Adv Cost	PRI	Block:- bandipora Halqa:- Aragam	open

Position of A/A: Accorded
Position of T/S: Accorded

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-02-2024
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	03 -02-2023 from 04:00 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	09-02-2024 up to 04:00 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	10-02-2024 at 11:00 AM or any convenient day In theoffice of the Executive Engineer REW Bandipora
5.	Note: Hard copy of original Tender Document, Fee Receipt and EMD shall be deposited after the financial bid is opened. In case the original Tender Document Fee Receipt and EMD is not Deposited within 5 days after the Financial Bid is Opened for all responsive bidders Who have participated online, the Department shall serve the Notice as per Rules.	

DIPK-15997/23
Date: Feb 3 2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer REW Bandipora

Government OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION BUDGAM.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

NIT No:157/MDb/2023-24/13053-068 DATED: 03/02/2024

S. No	Stage Name	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Snow Clearance Stage - 1	Rs.200/-	Rs.5000/-	3054 Snow	All classes

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

Table 1:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-02-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	03-02-2024
3	Bid submission Start Date	03-02-2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	10-02-2024 upto 4.00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	10 -02-2024 at 4.30 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Budgam

Stage No: 01			Stage Length: 15.10 KM	
S.No	Sub Division	Name of Road	Road Length (KM) to be cleared	Stage Code
(A)	Part “A” Khansahib Sub Division			
1	Khansahib	Bati Mohallah Tangnar	1.50	
2	Khansahib	Bajad Mohalla Gujthaji	0.50	
3	Khansahib	Zala Mohalla Yarikhah	0.50	
4	Khansahib	Peer Mohalla road at Reyar	0.50	
5	Khansahib	Trajkhal link road	1.00	
6	Khanshib	Gogaldara rod	1.50	
Total			5.50 KM	
(B)	Part “B” Parniva Sub Division			
1	Parniva	Nunner to Shooru	1.50	
2	Parniva	Pir Mohalla Shooru	0.50	
3	Parniva	Ziarat Link at Drugam	0.50	
4	Parniva	Ahanger Mohalla Munipapy	0.65	
5	Parniva	Zazbugh link road	0.40	
6	Parniva	Handjik link to Bandaybagh	0.50	
7	Parniva	Ganharwadi link roads incld. Head Sukhag road, kharyaan road at Arizal.	2.95	
8	Parniva	Want Mohalla & Chan Mohalla, Imamabara link at Harpanzoo	1.67	
9	Parniva	Khospora to Dangerpora road.	0.93	
Total			9.60 KM	
Grand Total			15.10 KM	

DIPK-16010/23
Date: Feb 3 2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Budgam

DC reviews implementation of ICDS services in Doda District

■ HT News Network

DODA, FEBRUARY 03: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh today reviewed implementation of the ICDS sector services comprising nutritional support system, health services, immunization, and non formal pre-school education to children in age group 0 to 6-years here at a meeting held in the DC office complex.

The Services are provided under the umbrella of Mission POSHAN.

The review meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, DPO ICDS, and Child Development Project Officers of all 8 Poshan Projects of the district. The meeting primarily discussed the ICDS operations, including the functioning of Anganwadi Centers, and assessed the gaps in the services delivery. The Deputy Commissioner asked the CDOs of 8 ICDS projects to visit their Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) on regular intervals to assess working. He emphasised the need for seamless coordination among the



AWWs, ASHA workers, Lumberdars, Chowkidars and other fields functionaries to enhance the effectiveness of services to the targeted children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women. DPO ICDS Paramjeet Singh apprised Deputy Commissioner that 1401 sanctioned Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), and 1396 AWCs are operational in the district catering to the 30589 identified beneficiaries. To meet out the staff deficiencies,

Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers have been engaged recently he added. DC reviewed PMMVY, ADHAAR seeding, DBT, achievements under developmental deliverables by ICDS sector and other such parameters of Mission POSHAN. He emphasised the need to prioritise the welfare of the impoverished and marginalised sections residing in the remote corners of the district.

DC Rajouri visits Polling Stations to inspect ongoing Special Summary Revision

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 03: In a proactive move to uphold the integrity of the electoral process, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Om Prakash Bhagat today conducted a comprehensive inspection of multiple polling stations, including Rajal-A, Bagnoti, Lamberi Lower, and Bakhar.

The visit aimed to oversee the ongoing special summary revision, aimed at refining the electoral rolls and ensuring a fair and transparent electoral system.

During the inspection, Deputy Commissioner emphasized the paramount importance of accurate voter enrollment. He directed the officers involved to



meticulously scrutinize and verify the eligibility of individuals to ensure their inclusion in the voter list. Stressing the significance of this special summary revision, he underscored that every eligible person should be enrolled as a

voter, leaving no room for oversight or exclusion.

One of the key directives issued by Deputy Commissioner was the meticulous alignment of the panchayat and assembly electoral rolls. He emphasized that any variations should be

rectified promptly to maintain the consistency and accuracy of the electoral database. The directive is crucial in fostering a robust electoral framework that reflects the true representation of the electorate in Rajouri. Deputy Commissioner reiterated the commitment of the District Administration to uphold the democratic values of free and fair elections. He highlighted the proactive measures taken to ensure that the electoral process remains transparent, inclusive, and accessible to all eligible voters.

Among the others, Block Development Officer Lamberi, Naveel Hamdani and Block Development Officer Nowshera, Vishal Angurana accompanied the DC during his visit.

MVD Doda organises painting competition on Road Safety

■ HT News Network

DODA, JANUARY 03: Motor Vehicle Department Doda organized a painting competition on Road Safety here today for students.

The event, part of the ongoing National Road Safety Month program, was held on the direction of Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh, and supervised by ARTO, Rajesh Gupta.

The competition, held in the Green Model Higher Secondary School, witnessed enthusiastic participation of students of various schools in the region. They showcased their creativity by depicting powerful messages on safe driving and following traffic rules.

The competition aimed to engage youth in promoting road safety and instilling a sense of responsibility towards creating a safer environment for all road users.

Over 51 students participated, using vibrant colors and innovative ideas to convey messages about following traffic regulations, wearing seat belts, and avoiding distracted driving. Prizes were awarded to students based on the creativity of their paintings.

ARTO Doda, Rajesh Gupta, appreciated the students' participation and encouraged them to spread road safety awareness among their family, friends, and society.

The Painting Competition on Road Safety organized by MVD Doda served as a creative platform to educate and inspire individuals to prioritize road safety, ultimately contributing to reducing accidents and saving lives on the roads.

National Road Safety Month

MVD Kishtwar organizes series of Road Safety Awareness Camps on Thathri- Kishtwar Road

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 03: To intensify the Month-long Road Safety Month campaign, the Motor Vehicle Department Kishtwar, in collaboration with the Traffic Police, orchestrated a series of Road Safety Awareness camps at different locations on Thathri-Kishtwar Road today.

Under the visionary leadership of Chairman District Road Safety Committee, Dr. Devansh Yadav (Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar) and the able guidance of ARTO Kishtwar Mohd Saleem Manhas, the camp served as a crucial initiative towards promotion of Road Safety practices among Road Users. The awareness camp witnessed active participation of more than 50 individuals each, including drivers and general public.

The officials on-site engaged in disseminating



vital information to enhance the understanding of safe driving practices, emphasizing the importance of adherence to road safety norms. The initiative reflects the commitment of the Motor Vehicle Department and Traffic Police Kishtwar to promote a culture of safety on the roads.

The ARTO expressed appreciation for the proactive involvement of all stakeholders in making the awareness camp a success.

He reiterated the importance of such initiatives in fostering a sense of responsibility towards road safety.

Besides, awareness the team MVD afterwards initiated on road checking of vehicles in continuation of the enforcement activities which are being undertaken as routine on daily basis. Under the visionary leadership of Chairman District Road Safety Committee, Dr. Devansh Yadav (Deputy Commissioner

Kishtwar) and the able guidance of ARTO Kishtwar Mohd Saleem Manhas, the camp served as a crucial initiative towards promotion of Road Safety practices among Road Users.

The awareness camp witnessed active participation of more than 50 individuals each, including drivers and general public. The officials on-site engaged in disseminating vital information to enhance the understanding.

DIPR Cultural Unit hosts Symposium on 'Uses and Abuses of Social Media' in GHS Shrivnagar Udhampur

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 03: Cultural Unit, Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu today organised Symposium on the topic "Uses and Abuses of Social Media" at Government Girls High School Shiv Nagar, Udhampur. The symposium was organized to aware the students regarding uses and abuses of social media.

As many as 10 students participated in the competition. The students presented valuable information on the topic and were judged on parameters of Pronunciation, Modulation of Voice, Factual Representation, confidence etc. Sudha Sharma, Karuna Gupta and Seema Bharti were the Judges. The 1st position was bagged by Mehak, 2nd position was secured by Sidra, while 3rd Position was secured by Rano. Consolation prizes were given to Meenakshi and Isha. Speaking on the occasion, the Headmaster of the School, Nek Ram Sharma educated the students regarding the topic and appreciated the Department of Information & Public Relations for organising the event in the school. Among others, staff members and a large number of students witnessed the programme. The program conducted under the supervision of Cultural Officer Jammu, Nasir Ahmed Khan. Dr. Vinod Kumar anchored the program.

MVD Samba organises bike rally to spread awareness

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, FEBRUARY 03: The District Administration Samba, in collaboration with the Transport Department organized a Bike Rally as a part of ongoing National Road Safety Month. The rally was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner, Abhishek Sharma from Chichi Mata Mandir and culminated in Diani.

A large number of locals, officers and officials of District Administration, vehicle dealers and petrol pump employees who were specifically invited at the event participated in the rally. It was led by ASP Samba Surinder Choudhary and ARTO Shammi Kumar,

DC Ramban reviews implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Plan

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 03: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today chaired a meeting of officers to review the progress and achievements made under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

During the review, Deputy Commissioner Chaudhary stressed the



importance of achieving comprehensive coverage of schemes at the grassroots level. He emphasized the need for balanced development across all panchayats, urging all line departments to work towards this goal dili-

gently.

Active involvement of farmers was highlighted as essential for the successful execution of the HADP plan. Officials were directed to engage and educate farmers about the schemes to ensure their effective

implementation.

To facilitate market access to local produce, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the General Manager District Industries Centre (DIC) to facilitate the establishment of rural huts for Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO). Additionally, plans were made to organize a Kissan Mela to educate the farming community, with insights shared by progressive farmers.

District Magistrate Jammu orders nullification of land mutation

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 03: In a recent directive by District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya, a land mutation, bearing No. 42 and dated October 3, 2005, has been declared unsustainable under the law and is set to be nullified.

The order follows a representation received from applicants Sukhdev Singh, Romesh Singh and Subash Singh, who claimed ownership of land measuring 48 Kanal 07 Marla in village Paragpura, Tehsil Akhnoor. The applicants alleged discrepancies in the land records, asserting that despite their ownership since March 7, 2002, the records still show it

under the ownership and possession of the State. A detailed report from Tehsildar Pargwal, including relevant revenue records, revealed that the applicants indeed purchased the specified land in 2002. However, discrepancies were identified in the issuance of the Fard, which was dated February 11, 2002, based on the Jamabandi of the year 1966-67 instead of the latest available in 1995-96, contrary to the Land Revenue Act. Further investigation revealed that a portion of the purchased land, measuring 34 Kanal 06 Marlas, had been escheated to the State under the Agrarian Reform Act, 1976, through Mutation No. 24. The District Magistrate highlighted two key violations.

DDC Chairperson Ramban reviews progress under District Capex Plan 2023-24

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 03: Chairperson, District Development Council Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan chaired a meeting to review the developmental scenario of the district here at a joint meeting of DDC members and officers held in the Conference Hall today.

Vice Chairperson, DDC, Rabia Beig, DDC Members, Additional District Development Commissioner, Ramban, Rajinder Sharma and concerned officers were also present in the meeting. Reviewing the pace of progress on works approved under District Development Plan, Capex Budget 2023-24, the Chairperson got first hand appraisal of physical and financial progress achieved on the projects taken up under different sectors. During the deliberations,



the DDC Members also raised issues of development needs of their respective areas and sought completion of works sanctioned and taken up under Area Development Fund. They also discussed issues such as amplification of health-care infrastructure, construction of new roads, provision of electricity poles, speedy implementation of JJM schemes and augmentation of power infrastructure, besides

strengthening of receiving stations. The Chairperson passed necessary directions to the concerned officers for the early redressal of issues highlighted by the members.

The Chairperson directed the officers to enhance efforts in implementing government schemes on the ground and ensure maximum benefits for the public. Emphasizing coordination between officers and public representatives, she aimed for better results in developmental works and infrastructure creation. The Chairperson called upon the DDC members to personally monitor the progress of the works taken up in their respective areas. She also called for timely execution of works without compromising the quality of the work. She informed that more than 75 percent works have been taken up and efforts are being made to ensure 100% physical and financial achievements under the 2023-24 Plan.

EDITORIAL

Drinking Water Crisis and the Possibility of Jaundice Outbreak

The recent outbreak of jaundice in Shopian, attributed to contaminated water sources, serves as a stark reminder of the precarious state of clean drinking water in Kashmir. The contamination, believed to stem from various pollutants infiltrating the water supply, has triggered widespread concern among health authorities and residents alike.

The ramifications of this outbreak extend far beyond the boundaries of Shopian, potentially casting a shadow of adversity over the entire region. If the issue persists and clean water sources continue to dwindle, the consequences could be dire.

Firsty, the health implications are profound. Jaundice, a condition characterized by yellowing of the skin and eyes, can lead to serious complications if left untreated. The influx of jaundice cases not only strains the already burdened healthcare system but also jeopardizes the well-being of individuals, particularly the most vulnerable segments of society.

Moreover, the socio-economic fabric of Kashmir stands at risk. Communities reliant on agriculture, which forms the backbone of Kashmir's economy, could face unprecedented challenges if water scarcity persists.

Without access to clean water for irrigation purposes, crop yields may plummet, exacerbating food insecurity and economic hardship for farmers and their families.

Addressing the jaundice outbreak in Shopian demands immediate action and long-term solutions to safeguard the region's water resources. Investments in water treatment infrastructure, stringent regulations to curb pollution, and community awareness initiatives are imperative steps in mitigating the crisis.

Kashmir's future hangs in the balance, contingent upon the preservation of its most precious resource, clean drinking water. Failure to address the root causes of water contamination not only jeopardizes public health but also undermines the very foundation of Kashmir's prosperity and well-being. The time to act is now, lest Kashmir be consumed by the tidal wave of its own neglect.



■ Sahil Manzoor

Renowned and esteemed doctors suggest milk, eggs, cereals, fresh fruits and vegetables, etc. to patients who are complaining of body weakness, weight loss, dehydration, or fatigue. Milk is considered a complete food because it contains a good number of vitamins and has great and immense health benefits. One thing is unfortunate: people with lacto-intolerance issues cannot take milk. Milk is one of the best and greatest foods everyone should try, from a small amount to an adequate amount on a regular basis.

Today, there are about 8 billion people in the world. There are about 200 countries in the world. Every country has some stuff that makes it famous among other countries, earns benefits, and uses and exports its rare and unique goods to other countries. The creation of humans is quite incredible and has an amazing aspect. Humans are very accustomed to living with other living creatures. Animal rearing is one of the beauties of humans. Different animal species are being domesticated for various kinds of benefits. Today, the whole world is focusing on the large production of agricultural goods, dairy products, silk products, etc. For the last few decades, globalized trade has gripped fame and charm and has kept a lofty impact so far.

Literally, I am trying to divert your attention towards how to make our lifestyle better and healthier. Today, there are unknown and lethal diseases being noted on records. There are different causes as well, but one thing is very true and clear: we are not well aware of our daily diet plan and we are lacking education on this very important issue. Today, in this article, I am going to explore the health benefits of milk and its different products like butter, ghee, cheese, etc., and I hope it will help you all to keep your health good. There are great health benefits of milk. We have heard since we start-

Health Benefits Of Milk



Milk contains: 1) potassium, which serves as a source of energy; potassium helps in the repair of tissues in the muscle. 2). Calcium helps us keep away from a very common bone disease called osteoporosis and, at the same time, builds our bones and teeth. 3).

Protein: serves as a source of energy and builds or repairs muscle tissue. 3). Vitamin D: good for bones; vitamin D requirements are also fulfilled by the sun. 4). Vitamin B12 maintains healthy red blood cells and nerve energy. Vitamin A, also known as retinol, maintains the immune system and is beneficial for normal vision and skin.

ed growing up that milk is a complete diet, plays a great and beneficial role in developing and repairing our health, and keeps us away from various lethal chronic diseases.

Milk is a liquid food, whitish-colored, produced by the mammary glands of mammals. New Zealand, the Netherlands, and Germany are the largest countries in the world that produce milk in very bulk quantities. Milk contains essential nutrients and has been used worldwide for centuries by all age groups. The benefits are as follows:

Milk contains: 1) potassium, which serves as a source of energy; potassium helps in the repair of tissues in the muscle. 2). Calcium helps us keep away from a very common bone disease called osteoporosis and, at the same time, builds our bones and teeth. 3). Protein: serves as a source of energy and builds or repairs muscle tissue. 3). Vitamin D: good for bones; vitamin D requirements are also fulfilled by the sun. 4). Vitamin B12 maintains healthy red blood cells and nerve energy. Vitamin A, also known as retinol, maintains the immune system and is beneficial for normal vision and skin.

Niacin: metabolizes sugars and fatty acids. In other words, milk packs quite a punch when it comes to nutri-

tion, and you don't have to drink a gallon to reap the benefits, the National Dairy Council says. In fact, the council says that just one eight-ounce glass of milk provides the same amount of vitamin D. Milk and weight loss: milk helps to maintain our weight as well and is considered a complete food. All of these nutrients contribute to our overall health and wellness, and they can even play a part in weight loss.

Milk keeps us away from various lethal diseases and provides us with important nutrients. As per the various research studies done by renowned scholars, milk decreases heart disease and stroke by up to 15-20 percent. I have mentioned a few benefits of milk in this article and will try to mention more facts about it in my next article. There are uncountable foods around us that are enough to quench and minimize our starving condition, but smart is one who eats selective, hygienic, and nutrient-packed food. One thing that is very unfortunate for society is that dairy farming is not so common, which satisfies our demand for milk. Pure cow milk is very scarce and not available in a very good quantity.

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BOOKS SHARPEN THE MIND AND HEARTS OF THE STUDENTS



■ By Mool Raj

In today's digital age, where screens are everywhere and information is readily available, it is more important than ever for children to read books. While technology has undoubtedly brought significant benefits to our lives, such as improved communication, access to information, and entertainment, it has also raised concerns, particularly with regard to children's development and learning. One of the most significant worries is the possible impact of screen time on children's cognitive and language development. Numerous studies have shown that excessive screen time can cause a variety of problems, including poor attention span, decreased cognitive abilities, and delayed language development. This is particularly concerning for young children, who are still in the critical stages of developing these abilities.

In contrast, reading books has been shown to have numerous benefits for children's development. For starters, reading aids in the development of children's language and literacy abilities. It exposes them



to new words, concepts, and ideas, which helps to enhance their vocabulary and comprehension skills. Reading also assists children in developing their imagination, creativity, and critical thinking skills, as they are required to visualize and make sense of the text they are reading. Furthermore, reading books can help children develop empathy and social skills. By reading stories that feature characters from diverse backgrounds and experiences, children learn to understand and relate to others, which helps to enhance their empathy and social skills. Also, children acquire valuable lessons and values that they can use in their own life, such as kindness, compassion, and resilience. Additionally,

especially in today's fast-paced, screen-filled environment, reading aloud to children can be a wonderful way for them to rest and rejuvenate. They may unplug from technology and enter a world of their choosing thanks to it. This is crucial for children who might be experiencing stress or anxiety since reading can help them relax and provide them a much-needed break. Encouraging children to read books and providing them with the resources and support they need to develop a love of reading that will last a lifetime is critical. Parents and teachers should collaborate to ensure that children read books regularly. In doing so, they are helping to promote children's language and literacy abilities, imagination, creativity,

critical thinking, empathy, and social skills. One of the most significant advantages of reading books is that it aids in the development of language and literacy skills. Reading exposes children to a wide range of new words, concepts, and ideas that they may not encounter in everyday life. This exposure aids in the development of their vocabulary, comprehension, and other language skills, which are crucial for academic and social success. Furthermore, reading books can help children develop imagination, creativity, and critical thinking skills. When children read books, they are required to visualize and make sense of the text they are reading. This can help to improve their ability to think critically, reason, and prob-

lem-solve, as well as enhance their creativity and imagination.

Moreover, reading books can help children develop empathy and social skills. Children who read books that feature characters from different backgrounds and experiences can learn to understand and relate to others, which can help to enhance their empathy and social skills. Also, children acquire valuable lessons and values that they can use in their own life, such as kindness, compassion, and resilience. Reading books can be a great way for children to unwind and relax. In today's fast-paced, screen-filled world, it is critical that children have a chance to disconnect from technology and immerse themselves in a world of their own choosing. Reading can help to calm children's minds and provide a much-needed escape, particularly for children who may be dealing with stress or anxiety. Parents and teachers should work together to promote reading among children. Governments to recognize the importance of reading books for children's development and learning. As we move forward in the digital age, we must ensure that we are not neglecting the benefits that reading books can bring. There is an immense need to invest in resources to promote reading among children, such as public libraries, book clubs, and literacy programs. By prioritizing reading in our communities, we can help to ensure that our children are equipped with the language, literacy, and social skills they need to succeed in the future.

The author is a columnist and freelance writer

Ghani Ghayoor

The Poet Of Wisdom, Elegance, And Profound Human Experience



■ Dr Basharat Khan

**"Khayal Khaas Jo Ander Hi Ander Pakta Rehta Hai,
Ghani Ishaar Ki Oudrat Hunar Hai, Aur Hunar Kya Hai."
(Ghani Ghayoor)**

Abdul Ghani Jagil, known by the pen name Ghani Ghayoor a literary virtuoso whose words pirouette like a notes on a musical score was born in the enchanting embrace of Tehsil Mendhar, nestled amidst the scenic splendor of the Poonch region. His father, Ch. Wazir Muhammad Aasi, a versatile personality, was a poet, religious luminary, and a farmer. Ghani Ghayoor inherited not only a name but also a legacy steeped in cultural richness.

Against the backdrop of daily commutes during his formative years in Surankote, Ghani Ghayoor's academic brilliance unfolded as a guiding light. The corridors of HSS Surankote (1977-1981) paved the way for his journey into REC Srinagar, (now a NIT) commencing a BE Civil program in April 1981. These academic milestones set the stage for a seamless merger of engineering and literature.

Immersed in the intellectual embrace of REC Srinagar (NIT Srinagar) Ghani Ghayoor had the privilege of imbibing wisdom from luminaries like Professor Labru and Professor Ashfaq in the humanities. Concurrently, his post-professional training in civil engineering unfolded alongside a dedication to the written word. By the close of 2023, Ghani Ghayoor had etched his literary mark with 12 distinctive books, each a testament to his multifaceted brilliance.

**"I got injured in my youth...
and my childhood was also like a deep wound.
As I saw her face carefully;
It looked like a bonfire all around the amassed snow.
While she stayed floating in deep waters,
my heart was also like a boat in the sea."**

Ghani Ghayoor's refined literary palate finds roots in enriching periods of training, weaving through Urdu, Persian, and English literature. The year 1999 marked a milestone with his accomplishment of the Adeeb e Kamil exams at Jamia Aligarh, a testament to his commitment to continuous intellectual growth. Post-2000, Ghani Ghayoor delved into nuanced themes of vanishing values and customs through Urdu prose, poetry, and fiction, notably in works like "Der Tak" and "Qalam Qalam Roshni."

To delve into the poetic brilliance of Ghani Ghayoor, here I am sharing the translation of few ghazals inviting readers to experience the depth of emotions and discover the richness of his creative expression and literary finesse.

**I hold back tears till late
What do I see in the fog?
All windows of words have opened
And I peek at them for a long time
If quietness is a waterfall
Why am I talking for so long?
Where both sides of the road are closed
I run on this road till late
By pouring water in the ants' formacaries
Why do I watch the spectacle for so long?**

His prowess in Ghazals unveils a poetic masterpiece where each line, adorned with Matla, Magta, Qafia, and rhythmic meters, encapsulates a complete thought. Thalamic metaphors and figures of speech artfully articulate discontent and a yearning for change, preserving poetic grace in a timeless allure.

**The rebels went too far beyond the limits:
I was about to touch the Sun, but my hands burned away.
These astonished and puzzled impressions amid the statue
We're of course wonderful spectators who turned into stone
His body was red-hot due to intense emotions,
By this, the links of the iron chain around him melted down.
They were like "Baghla Bhagats" i.e. deceptive saints
They abstained from flies but swallowed the elephants.
As soon as the spring comes, the roosters are excited again
And they crossed over the borders set by mankind.**

Beyond the literary canvas, Ghani Ghayoor seamlessly intertwines threads of knowledge and literature, akin to a radiant revelation of the sea's treasures. In a world often obscured by the pursuit of material gain,



Ghani Ghayoor's dedication to illuminating the domains of knowledge and literature emerges as a distinctive guiding light.

The veteran writer, poet, and translator Shri Balraj Bakshi has rendered some of Ghayoor's Ghazals into English, offering English readers a glimpse into the profound beauty and emotions embedded in Ghayoor's poetry. This translation provides a window for readers to appreciate Ghayoor's poetic mastery, fostering a cross-cultural appreciation of his work.

**I speak in the language of silence,
Representing the world of silence,
Methinks.
There is no pallbearer, Alas!
Isn't there no devisee?
Ah! We never saw them, the lot.
The Undeified and The Holy,
From the other world.
Parched desires
And a promise of paradise
In the yonder World,
Oh! The poor yearning souls.
Now, I won't fall for the
Design of a damsel,
Ain't I gifted enough to
Move myself to tears.**

Ghani Ghayoor beautifully delves into introspection, expressing a poignant longing for guidance in the absence of a pallbearer and devisee. Themes of spirituality and existential contemplation emerge through the juxtaposition of "parched desires" and the promise of paradise. The poet's empathy for "the poor yearning souls" adds a compassionate touch, while the concluding lines affirm self-reliance, and resisting external influences.

**A feigned coin, No one would accept,
And impossible,
That it would just idle about in the purse.
My heart was ruined by your love.
Impossible,
That love would blossom
For a stranger, now.
The journey goes on,
Even in deluge.
Never would the sunrise
In west.**

In the collection "Der Tak", Ghani's verses resonate with wisdom reminiscent of Saadi. Noteworthy works

like "Der Tak," and "Sukhan Qalam Qalam", stand as tangible proof of his literary prowess. It exhibits linguistic and metaphorical richness, capturing the essence of self-expression and offering profound reflections on the intricacies of society.

Professor Gopi Chand Narang in the foreword of "Der Tak," a collection of Ghazals by Ghani Ghayoor, praises the mastery of poetic expression.

"Upon delving into the profound realm of Ghani Ghayoor's ghazals, it becomes apparent that he articulates his identity in a manner that attracts the entire universe toward it. Consequently, he portrays the societal landscape through poetry, emphasizing unity."

Ghani Ghayoor emerges as a rebel against traditions and a critic of the outdated system. Simultaneously, he actively opposes the negative facets of the contemporary era, refusing compromise or escape. Instead, he not only challenges traditions but also forges new paths, actively contributing to the ongoing struggle within the realms of his life.

In Ghani Ghayoor's verses, the term 'Parinda' or 'Bird' not only signifies an unyielding thirst for exploration but also emphasizes a unique perspective on life. Birds, unlike humans, eschew material accumulation and settled abodes in favor of the boundless sky. This recurring bird motif in Ghayoor's poetry embodies a dynamic spirit—a migratory symbol that represents both altruism and adventure, prioritizing the journey and connection with nature over a sedentary lifestyle.

**"Parinda Aab o Dana Dhoondta Hai
Udanon Ka Bahana Dhoondta Hai"**

The symbolism deepens as the bird assumes the role of a divine messenger, imparting the importance of embracing life's journey and aspiring to greater heights. Moreover, Ghayoor skillfully employs the bird as a poignant symbol for the oppressed.

**"Chali Thi Goliyan Logon Pe Lekin
Parinda Muft Mein Ghayal Hua Hai"**

When the bird is envisioned perched on a tree, it takes on a contemplative aura, inviting readers to reflect on the significance of moments of stillness within the relentless pursuit of exploration. Ghani Ghayoor's poetic landscape thus becomes a canvas where the 'Parinda' not only soars through the skies but also carries profound meanings of resilience, sacrifice, and the enduring quest for freedom.

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**"Yeh Shakh Shakh Parinde Guzar Basar Karte
Nazar Nazar Yahan Bedaar Hai Shajar Jaage"**

In the realm of Urdu research and criticism, Ghani Ghayoor's "Nei Urdu Ghazal" stands out, offering a concise exploration of contemporary Ghazal poets. With thoughtful introductions and commentary, the book becomes a gateway to the vibrant world of modern Urdu Ghazal poets, underscoring their distinctive voices.

A notable addition to his repertoire is the comprehensive "Moqalaat E Ghani Ghayoor," where he delves into the world of Gojri poets through essays, accompanied by samples of original Gojri poetry with Urdu translations and reviews. The linguistic exploration continues with "Dastoor E Zubaan E Gojri," a phonetic study of Gojri in Urdu.

Ghani Ghayoor's literary tapestry extends to captivating collections such as "Der Tak" and "Qalam Qalam Roshni," both showcasing his prowess in Urdu Ghazals. "Hikayat E Neem Shab" further reveals his narrative finesse, presenting a collection of short stories that unfold with the subtlety of a whispered night.

Ghani Ghayoor has skillfully brought the essence of Bedil and Saadi's works into Urdu through translations, showcasing his literary prowess in books like "Muheet E Be Sahil" and "Saadi Sukhon o Qalam." These volumes not only present a critical analysis of Bedil and Saadi's poetry but also engage in comparative studies, unveiling the intricate layers of their artistic expressions.

Beyond poetry and prose, Ghani Ghayoor embraces biography in "Naqsh E Degar," shedding light on the life of Dr. Masud Ahmed Choudhary, the former VC of BGSBU Rajouri. "Tan Waraq Tehreer" preserves the poetic heritage of Sain Qadir Bakhsh's Pahari-Punjabi verses.

The anthology continues with "Aazaar E Jaan," (100 Ghazals of Hakim Manzoor with Muqaddama), "Nakhl E Noor," (100 Ghazals of Rafiq Raz with Muqaddama) and "Moqalaat E Ghani Ghayoor, Collection of poetry of various notable Gojri poets, each a treasure trove of Ghazals and profound reflections. In the rich symphony of linguistic and literary exploration, Ghani Ghayoor's works resonate, celebrating the beauty of Persian and Urdu poetry, the vibrancy of the Gojri language, and the timeless art of storytelling.

In essence, Ghani Ghayoor's poetry intricately weaves intellectual depth and artistic expression, delving into philosophical contemplations while navigating the intricate tapestry of societal complexities. The opulence of language and metaphor within his verses enhances the depth of meaning, resulting in a harmonious fusion of form and substance—a testament to a literary legacy that transcends time resonates with elegance and wisdom, and invites readers to ponder into the themes of spirituality, desire a self-discovery, painting a vivid picture through its thoughtful verses.

**The author is a writer, columnist and critic. He
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Odisha: PM Modi dedicates NTPC power projects to nation

■ HT News Network

Sambalpur (Odisha), Feb 3 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday dedicated NTPC Darlipali Super Thermal Power Station (2x800 MW) and NSPCL Rourkela PP-II Expansion Project (1x250 MW) to the nation.

He also laid the foundation stone of NTPC Talcher Thermal Power Project, Stage-III (2x660 MW).

Located in Sundargarh district of Odisha, Darlipali STPS is a pit-head Power Station with Supercritical (highly efficient) Technology, and is supplying low-cost power to its beneficiary states, such as Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Sikkim.

The 250MW project of NTPC-SAIL Power Company Ltd is established in Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) to provide reliable power for the steel plant which is vital for economic growth.

Further, NTPC is developing Talcher Thermal Power Project, Stage-III within old TTPS plant premises in Angul district of Odisha, which was taken over by NTPC from Odisha State Electricity Board in the year 1995.

The old TTPS plant was decommissioned after completing more than 50 years of service to the



Nation. The upcoming plant will have highly efficient Ultra Super Critical Technology based units and approximately three times capacity of the old TTPS plant.

While 50 percent capacity from this project is dedicated to the state of Odisha, other beneficiary states such as Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Assam will also get low-cost power from this pit-head station.

This project is being constructed with all modern environmental features like efficient electrostatic

precipitator, Flue gas desulphurization, bio-mass cofiring, covered storage space for coal and will thus help in lesser Specific Coal Consumption and CO 2 emissions.

Besides creating direct and indirect employment opportunities in the region, these projects have contributed to improvement of physical infrastructure such as approach road, drainage, transportation and communication facilities.

Odisha Governor Raghuraj Das, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik,

Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Bishwesar Tudu among others graced the occasion. He also laid the foundation stone of NTPC Talcher Thermal Power Project, Stage-III (2x660 MW).

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Probe Agency Approaches Court After Arvind Kejriwal Skips 5th Summons

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: A day after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal skipped the fifth summons in the alleged liquor policy scam, the Enforcement Directorate has approached a court and filed a complaint stating that he has not appeared for questioning. The Rouse Avenue court in New Delhi will hear the case on Wednesday.

Mr Kejriwal had refused to appear before the Enforcement Directorate on Friday and has repeatedly claimed that the summonses issued were illegal and the agency's only aim is to arrest him. Speculation about the AAP chief's arrest has been rife ever since the first summons was issued by the agency on November 2. Two other AAP leaders - former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh - were taken into custody in connection with the case last year. The Enforcement Directorate's complaint before the Rouse Avenue court on Saturday has been



filed under Section 63 (4) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which deals with a person intentionally disobeying any direction issued under Section 50 - the clause that gives the agency the power to summon a person.

Section 174 of the Indian Penal Code, which pertains to non-attendance in obedience to an order from a public servant, also finds mention in the complaint.

Reacting to Friday's summons, the AAP had termed the agency's actions "politically motivated" and "unlawful".

"PM Narendra Modi's aim is to arrest Arvind Kejriwal and topple the Delhi government. We will not allow this to happen," the party had said in a statement. The Delhi chief minister has skipped five summons by the ED - on November 2,

December 21, January 3, January 19 and February 2 - and had been questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with the case in April last year, but was not made an accused by the agency. The ED is investigating the money-laundering angle in the case.

Under the liquor policy, introduced in November 2021, the government withdrew from retail sale of liquor and allowed private licensees to run stores. In July 2022, Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar flagged gross violations in the policy and alleged "undue benefits" to liquor licensees. The policy was scrapped in September that year. The CBI has alleged that liquor companies were involved in framing the excise policy, which would have brought them a 12% profit. It said a liquor lobby dubbed the "South Group" had paid kickbacks, part of which were routed to public servants. The Enforcement Directorate has alleged laundering of the kickbacks.

"Khap Our Culture, You Can't Assess It On Isolated Incidents": Vice President

■ HT News Network

Faridabad: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said khap is our culture and a symbol of the depth of our civilisation, and it cannot be evaluated on the basis of some isolated incidents. He said, "Look at our culture, khap (clan-based outfits). Go into the background of khap. You will find that khap is positive. You cannot assess it on isolated incidents," said Mr Dhankhar.

Mr Dhankhar also praised 'akharas' in Haryana, saying they have a glorious history.

Addressing a gathering in Faridabad after releasing a book '9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government: Emergence of a New and Vibrant Haryana' at Surajkund, he said India has changed in the past 10 years, from being in the news for scams, to now poised to becoming the third largest economy in the world in the next two and three years.

Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar among others were present on this occasion. In his address,



Mr Dhankhar said, "I want to state how much India has changed in the last 10 years. There are some reasons behind the change. First is that corruption was rampant in the country.

"If you look at the period 10 years ago, India used to remain in the news for two things - scams and that our economic position was quite worrying in the eyes of the world. It used to be said that India was part of the fragile five," he said.

"Today we are the fifth largest economic power in the world. We have left Canada, England and France behind and in the next two-three

years, India will be the third largest economy in the world, surpassing Japan and Germany," he added.

"It means that corruption eats into development. Corruption is antithetical to meritocracy," said Mr Dhankhar.

He said, "There used to be a time when no work was possible without liaison agents and middlemen. Power corridors were infested with corrupt elements. They leveraged decision making through extra legal means." "Today, middlemen have vanished and power corridors have been fully sanitised," said Mr Dhankhar. The vice president said the second very important thing for development was that everyone is equal before the law.

"We cannot think of democratic values surviving in a country where there is no equality before the law. But we have seen that some people used to think what law can do to them as they were above the law. Now it has changed," said Mr Dhankhar.

Referring to the Ram temple in Ayodhya, Mr Dhankhar asked whether anybody had ever thought that the temple would be built.

LK Advani To Be Honoured With Bharat Ratna, Announces PM Modi

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: BJP veteran Lal Krishna Advani will be honoured with Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India, announced Prime Minister Narendra Modi this morning, calling it an "emotional moment" for him. LK Advani is one of the most respected statesmen of our times, the Prime Minister said, adding that his contribution to the India's development was monumental. He also praised the former BJP president for settling "an exemplary standard" in



political ethics. "Advani Ji's decades-long service in public life has been marked by an unwavering commitment to transparency and

integrity, setting an exemplary standard in political ethics. He has made unparalleled efforts towards furthering national unity and

cultural resurgence," he said. The Prime Minister said it is a very emotional moment for him that the Bharat Ratna has been conferred on the stalwart leader. "The conferring of the Bharat Ratna on him is a very emotional moment for me. I will always consider it my privilege that I got countless opportunities to interact with him and learn from him," he added. Former Chief Minister of Bihar Karpoori Thakur - dubbed "Jan Nayak" by many in his state - was conferred the Bharat Ratna last month, 35 years after his death.

SP opposes Ram in Ayodhya, Dr Ambedkar in Kannauj: Yogi

■ HT News Network

Kannauj (UP), Feb 3 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday attacked Samajwadi Party (SP) and said that had they been in power the grand temple of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya would never have been built.

After launching 59 projects worth Rs 352 crore in Kannauj, the CM said SP not only opposes the consecration of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya, but also stands against the legacy of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar in Kannauj.

Addressing a gathering at the boarding ground of KK Inter College in Ashok Nagar, he emphasised the efficiency of the double-engine government in completing developmental projects while respecting faith.

Yogi also paid homage to late Shri Om Prakash Pathak, the father of Kannauj MP Subrat Pathak, on his fifth death anniversary. Commending MP Subrat Pathak for annually providing artificial limbs and tricycles to the differently abled people he highlighted



the potential achievements of Divyangjans with the support of society and government.

Paying respects to the late Shri Om Prakash Pathak and BJP leader Shri Banwari Lal Dohare, he acknowledged their dedication to the nationalist cause. Reflecting on the history of Kannauj, he remembered Maharaj Harsh Vardhan and praised his valour, emphasising his pivotal role in the grandeur of the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj and the realisation of the concept of Ram Rajya in the country from Kannauj itself. Mentioning the completion of the grand Shri Ram temple after 500 years of struggle under PM Modi's leadership, the CM invited the people of Kannauj to visit Ayodhya and witness

the temple. He urged the residents to choose a representative for Kannauj in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections who actively engages with the community and ensures the equitable distribution of government schemes.

Hitting out at the SP, Yogi mentioned the name change of the medical college in Kannauj, which was originally named after Dr B.R. Ambedkar during the SP tenure. "SP has issues with both Lord Shri Ram and Baba Saheb," he said.

He accused the SP of seeking votes in the name of caste while working for their own family's benefit. He assured the perfume traders of Kannauj of government support and highlighted the positive envi-

ronment being created for technology, packaging, marketing and export in the perfume business.

Reiterating the commitment to public service, the CM assured the development of Kannauj with excellent infrastructure, world-class ITIs and skill development centers.

On this occasion, the CM presented house keys and certificates to the beneficiaries of various schemes. Paying respects to the late Shri Om Prakash Pathak and BJP leader Shri Banwari Lal Dohare, he acknowledged their dedication to the nationalist cause. Reflecting on the history of Kannauj, he remembered Maharaj Harsh Vardhan and praised his valour, emphasising his pivotal role in the grandeur of the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj and the realisation of the concept of Ram Rajya in the country from Kannauj itself. Mentioning the completion of the grand Shri Ram temple after 500 years of struggle under PM Modi's leadership, the CM invited the people of Kannauj to visit Ayodhya and witness the temple. He urged the residents to choose a representative for Kannauj.

Manipur Chief Minister Meets Amit Shah, Says "Important Decision" Soon

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh today said the Centre is set to take "some important decisions" in the interests of the people of the state. He said this after meeting Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi. Both discussed "matters of paramount importance" concerning Manipur, Mr Singh said in a post on X.

"Today, I had the esteemed privilege of meeting with the Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Shri @AmitShahJi in New Delhi. Engaging in a profound exchange, we discussed matters of paramount importance concerning our state. Rest assured, the Government of India is set to take some important decisions in the interests of the people of Manipur," Mr Singh wrote on X.

The Chief Minister, how-



ever, did not indicate what the decisions could be. Ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, 2023 between Kuki-Zo tribes and the Meiteis over the Meiteis' demand for Scheduled Tribes status. Since then over 200 people have been killed in the continuing violence. While a section of Kuki-Zo tribes have demanded a separate administration or separa-

tion from the Manipur government, Meiteis groups are against it and have warned legislators against any such design and asked them to foil such attempts.

A series of confidence-building measures were taken, which include constitution of a judicial inquiry committee, financial aid to victims, and sending additional troops. Mr Shah had visited the state for four

days in his efforts to calm down the warring communities. However, intermittent violence continued. The government on November 13 also extended by five years the ban imposed on nine Meitei insurgent groups and their associate groups.

On November 29, a peace pact was signed by the government with valley-based insurgent group United National Liberation Front (UNLF), under which the insurgent faction agreed to renounce violence. "Today, I had the esteemed privilege of meeting with the Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Shri @AmitShahJi in New Delhi. Engaging in a profound exchange, we discussed matters of paramount importance concerning our state. Rest assured, the Government of India is set to take some important decisions in the interests of the people of Manipur," Mr Singh wrote on X.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Jammu and Kashmir government in 2021 came up with an Integrated Management Action Plan for conservation of wetlands in Kashmir with a proposed budgetary outlay of Rs 46.70 crore—(KNO)

DC inaugurates Skill Training Program under PM Vishwakarma scheme at ITI Ganderbal

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 03: In a significant step towards empowering the local workforce, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today inaugurated a skill training program in carpentry trade under the prestigious PM Vishwakarma scheme at the Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Ganderbal.



The program is set to provide 5 days of Basic Skill Training for the first batch of 30 trainees, marking the commencement of a valuable initiative aimed at enhancing vocational skills and empowering individuals in the carpentry trade.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of General Manager DIC Ganderbal, Zahid Ahmad Khan; Superintendent ITI Ganderbal, Mubashir Hafiz Jan; master trainers and all trainees.

Addressing the gathering, DC highlighted the collaborative efforts of different line departments in implementing the PM Vishwakarma scheme in the district. He underscored the scheme's potential to benefit artisans by empowering them with innovative skills to earn a livelihood, ultimately contributing to the economic growth of the district.

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, FEBRUARY 03: A District Level RSETI Advisory Committee (DLRAC) meeting for the Quarter ended 31st December 2023 was today held at Mini-Secretariat Kulgam, to review the performance of the J&K Bank Rural Self Employment Training Institute Kulgam. At the outset, Director, RSETI, through a PowerPoint presentation presented the progress of RSETI Kulgam during the 3rd quarter of FY 2023-24. He informed the meeting



that RSETI Kulgam has imparted training to 289 candidates during the last 3 quarters of FY, 2023-24

and the settlement ratio is 90 percent and credit linkage 45%. Addressing the occasion, District Develop-

ment Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan who is also Chairman DLRAC stressed upon banks as well as sponsoring agencies to play an active role for achieving the set targets and ensure proper follow up and settlement of trained candidates. Besides the review of performance, an Annual Action Plan of 550 candidates in 22 different programmes and trades for FY, 2024-25 was approved for training to be imparted to unemployed youth of the District for setting up self-employment ventures.

DC Kupwara reviews arrangements for Shab-e-Meraj, following Friday

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 03: In connection with observance of upcoming Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW), the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Saturday chaired a review meeting of Officers at DC Office Complex here to finalize the arrangements being made by all line departments for smooth conduct of the auspicious religious occasion.



On the occasion, Ayushi sought feedback from concerned Officers regarding the arrangements of electricity, water supply, cleanliness, fire service, transport, parking and medical facilities etc. being put in place for celebration of Shab-e-Meraj.

The DC directed the Officers of all line departments to ensure special arrangements for smooth observance of the pious day at the shrine of Muqam Shahwali and other prominent religious places for the

uninterrupted power supply during the auspicious occasion.

The DC directed the MC officials to ensure proper cleanliness at important sites. Concerned DFOs were directed to arrange sufficient firewood for heating requirements. She directed concerned departments to ensure clearance of snow on roads. She also directed Officers to intensify market checking at all the main towns of the district to ensure no hoardings and overcharging. The CMO Kupwara was asked to keep ambulances standby at main sites where large congregations are expected as per past practice. With regard to Traffic and Parking facilities, the DC directed the ARTO Kupwara and Traffic Police authorities for ensuring hassle-free traffic movement of the devotees, besides making adequate facilities at the designated place for parking of the vehicles.

Dr Gautam elected President of Dental Association

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, Feb.2: Dr. Gautam Sharma, has again been elected as the President of Indian Dental Association (IDA), Jammu. This is the third time that Dr. Gautam has taken over as President of IDA.



Dr Nipun Gupta was elected as President for the year 2025. The executive body of IDA Jammu will comprise of Dr Himja Mengi and Dr Nimrat Kaur as vice-presidents, Dr Vibha Raina (branch secretary), Dr Rajiv Mengi, consultant dentistry, J&K Government (representative to Govt.), Dr Premalata (editor), Dr Aayush Sharma (treasurer), Dr. Burhan (joint secretary), Dr Manik Gupta (convener CDE), Dr Arshia (convener CDH), Sunaina (student's representative). Executive committee will include Dr Parul, Dr Abhimanyu Rohmetra, Dr Ankur Salada, Dr Himani Angurana, Dr Anshu Gupta, Dr Nippun Vaid, Dr Iram.

2nd phase of Training held for District level Master Trainers at Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA, FEBRUARY 03: In a significant development aimed at ensuring smooth conduct of the upcoming elections in Doda district, a specialized 2nd training program for District level Master Trainers (DLMTs) by SLMTs was conducted in District Election Office, here. The training session focused on equipping the DLMTs with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively oversee the electoral process and ensure transparency and efficiency in the conduct of elections.

The 2nd training of District Level Master Trainers aimed to enhance the capabilities of the DLMTs in areas such as Nominations, Scrutiny, Withdrawal, MCC, MCMC, EVM/VVPAT, SVEEP activities, Polling procedures, security protocols, Result tabulation, etc. The sessions also covered important topics such as electoral laws, ethical conduct, postal ballot, TTBP, and the use of technology in election management.

During the training, district election management plan, vulnerability mapping and polling parties and poll day arrangements were also discussed.

DLMTs participated in interactive workshops, simulation exercises, and practical demonstrations to familiarize themselves with the intricacies of election administration. They were provided with insights into best practices for conducting free and fair elections, maintaining electoral integrity, and handling potential challenges during the electoral process.

SLMTs Mohd Ashraf Wani, Shalinder Singh, Gohar Hafeez Fani, and DLMTs Akhtar Hussain, Nazir Ahmed, Mohd Irfan, Rizwan Ahmed, Tahir Ashraf wani were present on the occasion.

Awareness/ Registration workshop on setting up MFPE under CSS-PMFME scheme held at Anantnag

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 03: The Department of Fisheries Anantnag, led by the District Nodal Officer Anantnag PMFME (ODOP) scheme, today organized one-day awareness cum registration workshop on setting up Micro Food Processing Enterprises (MFPE) under the centrally sponsored scheme 'PM-Formalization of Micro food Processing Entrepreneur (PMFME) scheme at Municipal Committee Hall Achabal.

The workshop witnessed the participation of the Lead Bank Manager, representatives from various line departments viz. Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep, DIC, and the Bank Manager of Achabal. A huge gathering of shopkeepers and locals from the Block Achabal area also attended the program.

During the programme, the District Nod-



al Officer PMFME (ODOP) scheme provided an overview of the Micro Food Processing sector's current scenario and prospects in the Union Territory. He encouraged youth to establish their individual MFPE and take advantage of the credit-linked subsidy available under the scheme. The

participants were urged to register on the spot or visit the PMFME Home Page for the application submission process.

The Lead Bank Manager during his address emphasized the importance of setting up Employment Generating Units under the scheme and

encouraged the youth to focus on value addition.

Resource persons from various line departments discussed the schemes offered by their departments that can be integrated into the PMFME Scheme. Representatives from various banks in Block Achabal informed the participants about the available financial assistance.

The DNO urged the interested youth to contact the District Resource Person for assistance in the application submission process, support in DPR preparation, and obtaining a bank loan. The officers present at the workshop emphasized the potential in Fish Processing, Bakery products, Canning of any food product, pickle making, vegetable and fruit processing, and assured support to start ventures in the food processing sector.

Stalls for on-spot registration were set up at the camp to facilitate immediate participation.

DC Kupwara reviews functioning of Shelter Homes for stranded passengers

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 03: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the functioning of designated Shelter Homes to facilitate the stranded passengers of border areas of Karnah, Keran and Machil during the closure of roads in wake of extreme weather conditions. DC took a detailed review of the facilities being provided in the designated Shelter Homes established at GHSS Panzgam, GHS Meelyal and GHSS Kalaroose.



She directed ACR Kupwara and concerned Tehsildars to visit the Shelter Homes and check the facilities being provided there especially functioning of kitchens, beddings, heating arrangements etc.

ADFC&CA was directed to provide basic dry ration for the stranded passengers at Shelter Homes. Concerned DFOs were directed to provide firewood for the designated Shelter homes. Nodal Officer, Heli

Service was directed to arrange the helicopter sorties for the patients and stranded passengers as the weather clears.

On the occasion, DC said that for distress calls, concerned Tehsildars will be the contact persons who will coordinate with other line departments.

DC asked the R&B, PMGSY and MC Kupwara to keep ready all men and machinery for clearing of snow from roads.

DC further directed PDD to ensure uninterrupted power supply for DH, SDHs and other hotlines.

Director Agriculture reviews Physical/ Financial achievements, CAPEX, CSS & HADP

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 03: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today convened a meeting of officers of the department at agriculture complex Lalmandi Srinagar to take stock of the physical/ financial achievements under different centrally sponsored schemes viz. CAPEX and HADP. During the meeting different centrally sponsored schemes being implemented by the department including RKVY, MIDH, ATMA, NFSM, PM KISAN, Soil Health Card Scheme, KCC scheme etc were discussed in detail. The implementation of projects under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) was discussed threadbare. Addressing the meeting, Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of expeditious and judicious expenditure of funds under different centrally sponsored schemes, projects under HADP and CAPEX. He asked the officers that funds allocated under different components of



centrally sponsored schemes must be expended in a time bound manner. He reiterated the importance of maintaining the highest level of transparency and accountability during all the expenditures. Director Agriculture asked the concerned officers to work in close coordination with district administration during the implementation of different initiatives at district level. He directed the officers to reach out to the farmers of every area and make them aware vis-a-vis latest farmer friendly technologies in the agriculture sector.

Director Horticulture visits Pulwama; presides over mega Awareness Camp

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 03: The Director Horticulture Kashmir, G. R. Mir today spearheaded a comprehensive tour of Pulwama district, focusing on enhancing awareness and knowledge among orchardists and stakeholders in the horticulture sector. The highlight of the tour was a mega awareness camp held at Litter Pulwama, which saw enthusiastic participation from various dignitaries, officers, officials, representatives of Farmers' Producer Organizations (FPOs) and a large number of orchardists. The event served as a platform to disseminate crucial information about several Union Territory and centrally sponsored schemes, with special emphasis on key initiatives such as the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), High-Density Plantation Scheme, and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). These schemes are aimed at boosting the horticulture sector and ensuring sustainable growth. The mega awareness camp included a technical guidance session led by experts from the department, addressing essential aspects of successful and profitable fruit cultivation. The session incorporated the latest technical interventions, providing farmers with valuable insights to enhance their horticultural practices.

Eating Vegan, Keto Diets May Help Improve Your Immune System In 2 Weeks

Scientists observed rapid and divergent changes in immune system response in individuals who ate a strict vegan or ketogenic diet. The findings are from a small trial conducted by the National Institutes of Health. Researchers believe the study could eventually lead to a better understanding of how diet could be used therapeutically to treat disease, but it is too early to tell. Scientists are making strides in investigating the biological underpinnings behind that old adage, "You are what you eat."

In a small study conducted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), researchers observed rapid changes to the immune system in individuals who adopted vegan and ketogenic diets.

The results of the study were published in the journal Nature Medicine Trusted Source.

In the trial, participants ate either a controlled vegan or ketogenic diet for two weeks and then had to switch to the other diet for two weeks, a type of trial known as a "crossover."

During this month-long period, researchers kept close tabs on participants' biomarkers, metabolic changes, and microbiota, as well as the bacteria in the gut, and metabolic changes to monitor potential effects on the immune system.

What researchers found was that these diets affected the immune system response in uniquely different ways.

The ketogenic diet was associated with responses from the adaptive immune system, which targets specific pathogens, while a vegan diet elicited a response from the innate immune system, the body's "first line" defense against germs.

"It was surprising to us to see how differently both diets impact the immune system. We expected the diets to impact the immune system but didn't expect such



a strong and divergent signal," Dr. Verena Link Trusted Source, PhD, a Bioinformatic Specialist at the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and co-author of the research, told Healthline.

"This research article delivers an important message to both the scientific community and the public audience that a selective diet can impact our body's physiological condition," Dr. Ji Wei Tan, PhD, a Professor of Immunopharmacology at Monash University in Malaysia, told Healthline. Tan wasn't affiliated with the NIH research but has investigated Trusted Source the role of plant-based diets in the prevention of infectious disease.

While more research is needed, the authors of the study believe that the discovery will help to better understand and utilize dietary interventions for the treatment of various diseases and chronic conditions.

Understanding the divergent immune responses from the two diets

Both diets had significant effects on the microbiome and the immune system response, but the responses differed based on the diet.

So, while both affected the immune system, what is important to note from the study is that they acted on it in apparently contrary ways.

The immune system consists of two parts Trusted Source: the innate immune system and the adaptive immune system. Both have an essential role in keeping the body safe from pathogens, viruses, bacteria, and germs that can make you sick.

"We found that the vegan diet prompted responses linked to innate immunity (the body's non-specific first line of defense against pathogens) while the keto diet prompted responses associated with adaptive immunity (pathogen-specific immunity built through exposures in daily life and vaccination)," said Link.

The innate immune system includes things like skin, mucous membranes, and

anti-bacterial cells. This is the "first line of defense" against harmful pathogens and provides a base layer of protection.

However, this system can only do so much. If germs penetrate this first line of defense, the body utilizes the adaptive immune system, which is made of T cells, B cells (which are known as lymphocytes Trusted Source), and other antibodies.

The adaptive immune system is responsible for immunity to certain diseases. Once a particular germ has been encountered, the adaptive immune system learns to identify it and can respond immediately in the future.

"This research has provided us with clear scientific evidence that our diet of choice could play a role in modulating our body's physiological condition. That is why more and more people are starting to incorporate nutrition's role in combating certain chronic diseases such as cancer," said Tan.

Benefits of a vegan versus ketogenic diet Investigators recruited 20 individuals for the study, which included both men and women, individuals of different ethnicities and body size based on BMI calculation Trusted Source. During the first two weeks, the participants would eat only one type of diet, either vegan or ketogenic, and then switch to the other diet for an additional two weeks.

Both diets included non-starchy vegetables and minimum amounts of highly processed food.

A vegan diet is entirely plant-based, excluding all animal products, including meat, fish, milk, and eggs. It includes staples like legumes, rice, root vegetables, whole grains, soy products, fruits, and vegetables. On the other hand, the ketogenic or "keto" diet, as it is popularly known, embraces meat and fat, generally derived from animal products.

NEWS

Skin SOS: 7 reasons why you should visit a dermatologist



Our skin is the largest and often the most neglected organ of our body but while the cuts, nicks and bruises are often treated quickly either at home or by the physician, when it comes to listening to skin health most of us lag. The fact is that visiting an expert dermatologist or seeking professional help for all skin-related issues should be at the top of the list.

Faster diagnosis: The longer you procrastinate about going to the dermatologist the more severe the problem might become. Skin issues like mild rashes can be a pattern that the skin expert can identify immediately and treat before it can become serious. Serious skin conditions can even cause organ damage and respiratory distress when not treated in time.

Customised treatment plans: Dermatologists know the skin types and have the medical knowledge on how to treat different skin types. They will offer skin-specific tailored treatment plans to ensure that you get the most effective care for your skin issues.

Early skin cancer detection: Skin cancer cases are rapidly growing and it is mostly because people don't pay attention to the skin issues. Even a minor skin issue can indicate cancer symptoms which your dermatologist can identify. Identifying the early signs of skin cancer, such as melanoma, basal cell carcinoma, and squamous cell carcinoma helps in curing cancer. Regular checkups and talking to the skin specialist about changes in the skin are necessary for better outcomes in such cases especially if you are in the high-risk group.

Scar prevention and treatment: Scarring treatments for all types of scars such as acne and keloid are in the purview of a dermatologist's expertise. Dermatologists will treat issues like lupus, severe acne, and scalp issues in such a way that there is no scarring. Also, if there is a scar then the dermatologist can suggest management for reducing its appearance.

Acne management: Dermatologists know acne very well and can provide effective treatments for acne, including prescription medications, topical treatments, and procedures like chemical peels and laser therapy.

Eczema and Psoriasis management: Chronic skin conditions like eczema and psoriasis can be challenging to manage. Dermatologists can offer a range of treatment options to help control symptoms, reduce inflammation, and improve your quality of life.

Cosmetic procedures: If the signs of aging on the skin are bothering you or you are worried about the fine lines and wrinkles on the face then the dermatologist is the best person to help you. Many dermatologists offer cosmetic procedures, such as Botox injections, dermal fillers, chemical peels, and laser treatments, to enhance your skin's appearance and address signs of aging by restoring the youthful.

Winter Wellness: 4 Effective Natural Remedies To Combat Common Seasonal Ailments

Winter ailments can wreak havoc on our well-being. Although the flu and a common cold may only be a minor inconvenience for many, individuals with a weakened constitution face more serious challenges. If you have a compromised immune system, or have any lifestyle disease, you likely understand that even a seemingly small cold can escalate into a serious medical condition. While isolating yourself in a hypoallergenic bubble may keep illness at bay, it won't

miraculously enhance your immunity. Here are a few home remedies shared Srikanth H.S, Assistant Chief Medical Officer, Jindal Naturecure Institute for a healthy winter season. Given below are a few natural remedies for everyday ailments in winters:

1. Garlic's potent antioxidant properties, prevents and reduce cold. Going beyond its effectiveness against cold, garlic provides added health benefits, such as lowering blood pressure, improving cholesterol levels, and playing a role in the prevention of



Alzheimer's and dementia.

2. Welcome the nutritional benefits of citrus fruits such as oranges, grapefruits, lemons, or limes to strengthen your immune

system with this crucial vitamin C. For those who may not fancy the tangy pleasures of citrus, there's no need to worry. Numerous other foods like Kiwi, Strawberries, Broccoli, Red bell pepper, Cauliflower, Tomatoes stand ready to deliver a robust dose of vitamin C.

3. Pumpkin seeds serve as an abundant source of zinc, a vital mineral that supports the functionality of white blood cells crucial in defending the body against pathogens like the flu virus. Whether enjoyed by the

handful or sprinkled on salads, incorporating pumpkin seeds into your diet adds a delightful crunch.

4. In India, turmeric milk has gained popularity as a household remedy for various ailments, particularly for its effectiveness in alleviating sore throats and coughs. Turmeric possesses immune-boosting properties and stimulates antibody responses against infections. For faster relief, add black pepper into the turmeric mixture.

Eating Vegan, Keto Diets May Help Improve Your Immune System In 2 Weeks

Scientists observed rapid and divergent changes in immune system response in individuals who ate a strict vegan or ketogenic diet.

The findings are from a small trial conducted by the National Institutes of Health.

Researchers believe the study could eventually lead to a better understanding of how diet could be used therapeutically to treat disease, but it is too early to tell.

Scientists are making strides in investigating the biological underpinnings behind that old adage, "You are what you eat."

In a small study conducted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), researchers observed rapid changes to the immune system in individuals who adopted vegan and ketogenic diets.

The results of the study were published in the journal Nature Medicine Trusted Source.

In the trial, participants ate either a controlled



vegan or ketogenic diet for two weeks and then had to switch to the other diet for two weeks, a type of trial known as a "crossover."

During this month-long period, researchers kept close tabs on participants' biomarkers, metabolic changes, and microbiota, as well as the bacteria in the gut, and metabolic changes to monitor potential effects on the immune system.

What researchers found was that these diets affected the immune system response in uniquely different ways.

The ketogenic diet was

associated with responses from the adaptive immune system, which targets specific pathogens, while a vegan diet elicited a response from the innate immune system, the body's "first line" defense against germs.

"It was surprising to us to see how differently both diets impact the immune system. We expected the diets to impact the immune system but didn't expect such a strong and divergent signal," Dr. Verena Link Trusted Source, PhD, a Bioinformatic Specialist at the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Dis-

eases, and co-author of the research, told Healthline.

"This research article delivers an important message to both the scientific community and the public audience that a selective diet can impact our body's physiological condition," Dr. Ji Wei Tan, PhD, a Professor of Immunopharmacology at Monash University in Malaysia, told Healthline.

Tan wasn't affiliated with the NIH research but has investigated Trusted Source the role of plant-based diets in the prevention of infectious disease.

While more research is needed, the authors of the study believe that the discovery will help to better understand and utilize dietary interventions for the treatment of various diseases and chronic conditions.

Understanding the divergent immune responses from the two diets

Both diets had significant effects on the microbiome and the immune system response, but the responses differed based on the diet.

HPV Vaccination: How Getting A Shot Can Protect You From Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer occurring in the women of our country, which results in high mortality rates, especially when detected late. Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is a primary cause. Regular screenings and vaccinations are pivotal for early detection and prevention. Prioritizing women's health, awareness campaigns and accessible healthcare contribute to combating this insidious disease effectively.

Dr Alka Dahiya, Associate Consultant, Surgical Gynae Oncology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Shalimar Bagh says, "There are multiple risk factors, for example, beginning of sexual activity at an early age. Multiple sexual partners, low socioeconomic status with poor personal hygiene and sexual hygiene and also prolonged use of oral contraceptive pills, but thankfully today we have many techniques which can help us either detect this cancer in time or prevent it together. We now have the HPV vaccine which, when taken between 9 to 14 years of age by the girls or even up to 26 years of age offers." "Protection against this virus we have screening techniques like the Pap smear which when done every 3 years and HPV testing which is done every 5 years can help protect against this problem at an early stage or in the pre-invasive phase when it is still treatable and very much curable. So, maintain a good sexual hygiene," highlights Dr Alka.



Need for HPV Vaccine and Where is it available Dr N Sapna Lulla, Lead Consultant, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Aster CMI Hospital, Bangalore adds, "HPV Vaccine offers remarkable protection, reducing the cancer risk by 99%. The earlier the vaccination (ages 9-26) is administered, the higher the impact. Women up to the age of 45 may also get an advantage from vaccination, especially if they haven't been previously vaccinated, genetic risk, or are at risk due to certain sexual practices."

Who is Eligible for HPV Vaccine?

Though all women can

take the vaccination, pregnant women, women with lower immunity, and those with select medicine allergies need to consult their physician before taking the vaccination. There are no obvious side effects associated with the vaccinations, however, there could be pain or redness in the injection site, headache or dizziness, or muscle pain, which will reduce over some time.

"Early detection is vital, as symptoms are not evident till stage 3, which often appears later. Unfortunately, many women in India seek help in later stages, lowering the recovery rate to 50%. Thus, early detection significantly increases recovery chances," adds Dr N Sapna.

Why Women Lack In Immunization Against Cervical Cancer In India

Dr Sameena H, Consultant- OBG, KMC Hospital, Mangalore explains, "In India, accessing vaccines, like the HPV vaccine that guards against the leading cause of cervical cancer, is a challenge."



Bartlett makes a massive impact on 'almost not real' Australia debut

No one predicted Xavier Bartlett would be playing for Australia this summer. Not even Xavier Bartlett.

The fact that he made his debut in an ODI, having not played a 50-over List A game for Queensland since September 2022, makes it even more remarkable. Before the BBL, where he dominated the tournament taking 20 wickets in Brisbane Heat's title win, Bartlett did not play a single game for Queensland in any format as he was coming off a back injury.

But, at the MCG on Friday, he looked like he had been playing international cricket for years as he scythed through West Indies' top order to claim 4 for 17, the second-best

figures by an Australian man on ODI debut.

"It almost feels like it's not real," Bartlett said after the match.

He admitted he had no thought at the start of the summer, or even during the early part of the BBL, that he was even close to Australia selection.

"Oh, definitely not," Bartlett said. "We've got so many great fast bowlers at the moment. Obviously, [Mitchell] Starc, [Josh] Hazlewood and [Pat] Cummins are probably the top three to ever do it for Australia or in that conversation. And then I only really got my chance through Jhye Richardson's injury and Nathan Ellis was injured as well."

"There's definitely a long list of people in front of me. But I've just got to keep trying

to do my best for Queensland, and if I get an opportunity at the higher level, just try and take it and just sort of almost learn as much as I can as well along the way."

Despite his BBL success, the thought had dawned on him that he had not played any 50-over cricket since September 2022, which added to his pre-game nerves.

"Yeah it did," Bartlett said. "I spoke to someone on the phone and I was like 'I haven't played a 50-over game in like 15 or 16 months'. Yeah, I mean ... I don't know. It just sort of happened so fast."

"I was injured at the start of this year and didn't have a chance to play any domestic cricket, which was a frustrating time. But you can kind of see the light at the end of the

W Oh, definitely not," Bartlett said. "We've got so many great fast bowlers at the moment. Obviously, [Mitchell] Starc, [Josh] Hazlewood and [Pat] Cummins are probably the top three to ever do it for Australia or in that conversation. And then I only really got my chance through Jhye Richardson's injury and Nathan Ellis was injured as well."

tunnel and you've just got to keep trying to work hard because these days don't happen very often in the game of cricket."

It was serendipitous that Australia's selector on duty, Tony Dodemaide, had been the one to tell Bartlett he would make his international debut. Dodemaide's 5 for 21 against Sri Lanka in 1988 remains the best figures on ODI debut by an Australian, but Bartlett was happy to slot in behind him in second spot.

"We were sitting in there watching the boys bat and it floated up on the screen," Bartlett said. "Some of those names, to just be alongside them, it's pretty cool. [Dodemaide] didn't say anything. I just had a little picture with him just then."

Messi mania hits Hong Kong as thousands flock to Miami training

HONG KONG: Tens of thousands of football fans turned out to see Lionel Messi train with his Inter Miami teammates in Hong Kong on Saturday, as "Messi mania" took hold of the city.

Police closed off streets around the Hong Kong Stadium as fans flocked to catch sight of the Argentina superstar, the greatest player of his generation, ahead of a match on Sunday. Hours before Inter Miami strode onto the pitch for an open training session, expectant fans were forming long queues outside the 40,000-capacity venue, chanting the World Cup-winning captain's name.

The Major League Soccer club is co-owned by David Beckham, who also put in an appearance to huge roars from an almost full house. But the roof was nearly blown off a few minutes later by the ovation the 36-year-old Messi received as he emerged to join his teammates on the pitch for a gentle workout.

The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner spent much of the hour-long session doing stretches as he protected a niggling hamstring



injury, though he did join 80 lucky Hong Kong schoolchildren for a kickabout during a coaching clinic that followed.

Soon after, Beckham took charge of teaching the kids some skills. But it was Messi that the thousands of fans had mainly come to see, ahead of a friendly against a Hong Kong Select XI on Sunday. "It's the first time in my life I see Messi," said 17-year-old Chinese student Li Weiyi, who had travelled from Shenzhen, across the border in mainland China.

"I am feeling very excited. He means a lot to me. He brought me to the football world, he made me love football." Most fans wore blue-and-white-striped Argentina or pink Inter Miami shirts.

Inter Miami's Argentine forward training for the friendly football match between Hong Kong Team and US Inter Miami CF at the Hong Kong Stadium in Hong Kong on February 3, 2024.

"He is very skilful, very enjoyable to watch him play," said

Sally Liu, a 28-year-old student from Hong Kong who was sporting a T-shirt commemorating Messi and Argentina's 2022 World Cup win in Qatar.

"He is playing now in Miami so I will not have many chances to watch him in the future. This is my last chance."

"He is the best ever. I cried when they became world champions."

On Friday, hundreds had gathered outside the team hotel in the south of the city hoping to catch a glimpse of their hero.

A traditional junk boat was cruising around the harbour with Messi's face plastered across sails in the pink colours of Inter Miami.

Tickets for Sunday's match sold out in an hour when they went on sale in December, and sports retailers reported that Messi shirts had been flying off the shelves.

Fans cheer for Inter Miami's Argentine forward Lionel Messi during training for the friendly football match between Hong Kong Team and US Inter Miami CF at the Hong Kong Stadium.

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