Ind vs Eng: Shreyas Iyer question looms over selection meeting P|12 **Sheetal Nanda spearheads** public darbar at Samba Fort; **Emphasizes time bound**

Lt Governor Chairs The 5th J&K **UT Wildlife Board Meeting**

Key interventions for sustainable management of rich biodiversity and integrated development of wildlife habitats discussed

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEB 09: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired the 5th meeting of Wildlife Board for the UT of J&K, at Civil Secretariat today.

The meeting was attended by Sh Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Sh Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment; . A. K. Choudhary, Special DG Crime; Sh Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Sh Roshan Jaggi, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF and Sh. Sarvesh Rai, PCCF / Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K.

The meeting discussed various key interventions for sustainable manage-



ment of rich biodiversity and integrated development of wildlife habitats. Inprinciple approval was accorded to several agenda points to further strengthen the wildlife ecosystem.

The Lt Governor directed the concerned authorities to increase the awareness for protection and conservation of valuable wildlife resources. He further instructed for organizing a series of promotional activities to increase the visibility of mega projects like Jambu Zoo at all the major public places.

The Lt Governor reviewed the proposal for expansion of Jambu Zoo. He also sought an action taken report on the directions passed in the previous Board meeting.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

Arms, Ammunition Recovered In Sopore

SRINAGAR, FEB 9: Security forces arrested two persons in Jammu and Kashmir's Sopore sub district and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from two hideouts.

Police said during the investigation of a case registered in 2023 at Police Station Sopore, some suspects were called for questioning and during which an actionable lead was

"Acting upon the said lead, Sopore Police conducted a search in the house of the suspect alongwith Army and CRPF. During the search, a secret concrete hideout was found inside the residential house of one Abdul Rashid Najar of Tarzoo, Sopore wherein

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Fake rice pulling machine scam busted in Ganderbal, 12 arrested: Police

GANDERBAL, FEB 09: On 08-02-2024 at evening Police Station Kangan $received \, information \, through \, reliable$ sources that some persons are moving in suspicious manner at Kijpara, behind Dumping Park.

On the directions of SSP Ganderbal *Shri Sandeep Gupta-IPS,* a special Police team was constituted under the supervision of SDPO Kangan *Shri Muzaffar Jan-JKPS,* led by SHO Kangan Shri Turk Zahoor. Acting swiftly Police party raided the spot & apprehended 12 persons who were roaming in TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Woman slipped to death in power canal in Ganderbal

SRINAGAR, FEB 09: A 57-year-old woman's body was recovered from a power canal in Sumbal Bala area of Gund Tehsil in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district here on Friday afternoon.

Police officials said that a woman identified as Hasseena Begum, wife of Farooq Ahmad Raina and resident of Haknar Gund, left her home for some work early in the morning today.

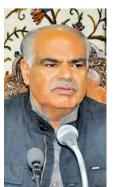
They said the woman's body was later spotted by some local people in the power canal, and they immediately informed the police, following which the police team reached the spot.

The body was retrieved from the TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Recent killing of 2 **Punjab residents conspiracy** of neighbouring country: **Ashok Koul**

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEB 9: The recent target killing of two Punjab residents in Srinagar was a conspiracy of the



neighbouring country, BJP State General Secretary Ashok Koul said on Friday.

"It was an unfortunate incident and we condemn it. Such incidents should not occur", Koul told media persons in Jammu Kashmir's Anantnag district.

"It is a conspiracy of the neighbouring country who do not want to see peace in Jammu and Kashmir and indulged in such
TURN ON.....PAGE 02

After Non Local Killings, IGP Asks **Officers To Remain Ever Vigilant**

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEB 9: In the wake of the killing of two non-locals in Srinagar, Inspector General of Police Kashmir Vidhi Kumar Birdi asked officers to remain vigilant and constantly review the arrangements.



IGP said this during a virtual conference, which he co-chaired with Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bhiduri on Thursday evening. The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners and district police chiefs in Kashmir.

The meeting reviewed the 'arrangements concerning minority clusters and other critical areas in light of recent

A police spokesman said all the participants were briefed about the elaborate security measures taken in

"They briefed me that security measures in these clusters are reviewed and beefed up to ensure a secure environment," a police spokesman said

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Rajya Sabha Passes Bill To Provide OBC Quota In **J&K Local Bodies**

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, FEB 9: The Rajya Sabha on Friday passed the Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 seeking to provide quota for other backward



classes (OBCs) in panchayats and municipalities. The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 seeks to amend certain provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the Jammu and

White Paper Is Serious Document, **Everything Is With Evidence: FM Sitharaman**

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, FEB 9: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said that the 'White Paper on Indian Economy' tabled by the government in Parliament was a "serious document" and reflects the dedicated efforts of the BJP-led government to bring the economy "back on rails" after 10



years of "economic mismanage- Everything is with evidence. I

Replying to the debate on the White Paper in Lok Sabha, Sitharaman talked of the steps taken by the Modi government to boost self-reliance in defence and expedite environmental clearances for faster economic development.

"I challenge anyone who says this document is baseless.

ment" of the UPA government. challenge anyone who says that we have kept the White Paper which has no proof," she said amid interruptions by opposition members.

"The White Paper is a serious document for documentary evidence for everything that is said in it and prepared with an

intention of informing the TURN ON.....PAGE 02

96.88 Crore People Registered To **Vote For 2024 Lok Sabha Election: EC**

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, FEB 9: The Election Commission(EC) on Friday announced that 96.88 crore people are registered to vote for the forthcoming General Elections, marking it the largest electorate. It also added over two crore youth electors in the age group of 18 to 29 years have been added in the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



Rajya Sabha Takes Up Three Bills On J&K

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, FEB 09: The Rajya Sabha on Friday took up for consideration and passage three bills on Jammu and Kashmir that seek to provide reservation to Other Backward Classes in local bodies and modify the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union territory.

The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024; the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Rajya Sabha Passes Examinations Bill, **Dr Jitendra Dedicates It To Youth Of India**

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, FEB 9: The Rajya Sabha today passed 'The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024' aimed at curbing leaks, malpractices as well as organised malpractices in recruitment examinations like UPSC, SSC etc and entrance tests such as NEET, JEE, and CUET. The Bill, which has already been passed by the Lok Sabha, will now become a law after the issue of notification.

Initiating the debate on the Bill, Union Minister Incharge DoPT, Dr Jitendra Singh said, "the Public Exams Bill, which is possibly the first of its kind in the history of India's Parliament, is dedicated to the youth of India".



"Prevention of Unfair Means Bill, 2024" will also cover entrance examinations
TURN ON.....PAGE 02

J&K Police bids farewell to Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, GOC-in-C, Northern Command

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEB 09: The Jammu Kashmir Police and army share a special relation because not only they work together but they sweat together and bleed together. This was stated by General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM, at his farewell function organised at Police Headquarters here today.

The function hosted by the Director General of Police, TURN ON.....PAGE 02

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Lt Governor.....

LATHERADLINES

Various agenda points presented during the meeting include Kandori Ski Lift in Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, Construction of Yatri Niwas and Disaster Management Centre by Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board at Bahu Conservation Reserve Jammu; Chhat Zorawar Operational Track; procurement of vehicles for Man-Animal Conflict Management, various Water Supply Schemes and road projects.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor inaugurated the Wildlife Office Complex at Raj Bagh Srinagar, and released a Coffee Table Book and a short film on Jambu Zoo.

A report on the Biodiversity Assessment of Wild Fauna (Mammals, Birds and Butterflies) and Flora in Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary Kathua, J&K and a booklet on Kashmir's Wetland Conservation Reserves titled Conservation Triumph- 2024 was also released by the Lt Governor.

Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Shiv Anant Tayal, Secretary Tribal Affairs; eminent Conservation ists, Ecologists, Environmental ists,representatives of Army, Botanical Survey of India, National Society on Water Resources, Wetlands & Forests and other board members also attended the meeting.

After Non....

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir stressed to the participants that there would be every effort by the magistrate along with the police to ensure a secure and congenial environment.

IGP Kashmir impressed the participants to remain ever vigilant along with their security force counterparts and constantly review the arrangements to refine the responses and devise in-genuine ways to prevent such attempts.

On Wednesday evening, Amritpal Singh, 31, from Amritsar, Punjab, was shot dead by militants in the Shaheed Gunjarea of Srinagar, and another of his colleagues, Rohit, 25, was wounded grievously. Rohit succumbed to his injuries at Srinagar's tertiary care hospital Thursday morning.

The killings of non-local workers have been widely condemned in Kashmir. Candlelight marches were held on Thursday at several places in the Kashmir Valley in protest against the killing of two young workers in

Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari said on Thursday that people in Kashmir must stand up against the targeted killing and expose those involved in such acts. (UNI)

Recent killing.....

incidents often", Koul said.

He said they are sending some trained people from there and lure some youth here to conduct such incidents.

"We hope that the administration will take measures to control such acts of violence",

The BJP leader, however, said the target killing can not be compared to 1990 situation.

"Don't compare the incident with the incidents of 1990 when militants were killing clusters of people," the state general secretary said, adding, "It is very unfortunate...and the targeted killings should not happen".

In reply to a question, he said that such acts of violence are always a challenge for the security agencies and will remain.

Koul said security forces are performing their duties perfectly and will continue to do so to meet the challenge.

He said the Army of Pakistan will choose the Prime Minister of that country who will be of their choice.

See their (Pakistan) plight, how the elections were held yesterday there.. and the people were claiming that they were not allowed to vote as these elections are being held under the control of that country's army. And they are trying to turn Kashmir on the same path which the BJP and the people here would never accept", he said. (UNI)

White Paper.....

House of the 10 years' dedicated effort to get the government work in such a way that the economy is back on rails and also progress in such a way that our aspirations can be met," she added.

The White Paper, comparing 10 years of economic management of the Congress-led UPA government with that of the Modi government, was tabled in Parliament on Thurs-

RSP leader NK Premachandran slammed the government, saying the government was apprehensive of the electorate in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections and had brought the White Paper to blame the UPA government for its failures.

He said the government was afraid of "exponential growth in unemployment and spiralling price rise" and urged members to disapprove the motion brought by the govern-

He urged them to approve the substitute motion brought by him.

The White Paper said that when the BJPled government formed in 2014, "the economy was in a fragile state, public finances were in bad shape, there was economic mismanagement and financial indiscipline, and there was widespread corruption'

"It was a crisis situation. The responsibility to mend the economy step by step and to

put the governance systems in order was enormous. Our government refrained from bringing out a white paper on the poor state of affairs then. That would have given a negative narrative and shaken the confidence of all, including investors. The need of the hour was to give hope to the people, to attract investments, both domestic and global and to build support for the much-needed reforms. The government believed in 'nation-first' and not in scoring political points..

"Now that we have stabilised the economy and set it on a recovery and growth path, it is necessary to place in the public domain the seemingly insurmountable challenges – left behind as a legacy by the UPA Government," the White Paper said. (Agencies)

Rajya Sabha.....

Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000 and the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation

Lok Sabha has already passed the bill. As per the statement of objects and reasons of the bill, the legislation will ensure justice to the OBCs of Jammu and Kashmir for the first time after 75 years of independence.

The Rajya Sabha also passed the Constitution (J&K) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Constitution (J&K) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill,

The Constitution (J&K) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 seeks to add Valmiki community in the list of Scheduled Castes in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir had recommended for inclusion of Valmiki community as a synonym of Chura, Bhangi, Balmiki and Mehtar communities in the list of scheduled castes.

The Constitution (J&K) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023 proposes to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989 to include the Gadda Brahmin, Koli, Paddari Tribe and Pahari Ethnic Group in the list of Scheduled Tribes in I&K.

A government release had earlier this week said that inclusion of these communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Jammu and Kashmir will have absolutely no impact on the current level of reservations available to the existing Scheduled Tribe communities such as Gujjars and Bakarwals.

"They will continue to get reservations like before," it said.

The bills had earlier been passed by Lok

Sabha. (UNI) 96.88 Crore.....

After a months-long intensive Special Summary Revision 2024 exercise and ahead of the General Elections 2024, the Election Commission of India has published the electoral rolls in all States/UTs across the country with reference to January 1, 2024, as the

qualifying date. "This also included the successful compleand Kashmir and Assam, following the delimitation of constituencies. The endeavour, undertaken with meticulous planning, coordination and participation of political parties has yielded noteworthy achievements in terms of inclusivity, health and purity of the electoral rolls," the EC stated.

Meanwhile, the gender ratio has increased from 940 in 2023 to 948 in 2024, the poll panel said.

The Commission has put special emphasis on the purity and health of the Electoral Roll along with disclosures and transparency in the revision of electoral rolls.

It may be recalled that Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, in first, held a press conference at Pune during the launch of the Special Summary Revision Exercise in November 2022.

He explained in detail the various tasks involved in the revision of electoral rolls along with the participation of political parties at every stage.

Moreover, it is noteworthy that there is an increase in female voter registrations, exemplifying a concerted effort towards gender parity and inclusivity within the electoral framework.

"The Electoral Roll gender ratio has surged positively, indicating the growing role of women in shaping the democratic fabric of the nation. Over 2.63 crore new electors have been included in the electoral roll, out of which around 1.41 crore are female electors which surpassed the newly enrolled male voters (~ 1.22 crore) by over 15 per cent," it poll body said.

Special endeavours have been undertaken to achieve 100 per cent registration of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG), making the electoral rolls the most inclusive to date, it added.

According to the Election Commission, after thorough house-to-house verification, names of 1,65,76,654 deceased, permanently shifted, and duplicate electors have been deleted from the electoral rolls.

"This comprehensive cleanup ensures the integrity and purity of the electoral process. It includes 67,82,642 dead voters, 75,11,128 permanently shifted/absent voters and 22,05,685 duplicate voters," it added. (Agen-

Rajya Sabha.....

(Amendment) Bill, 2024; and the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 were passed by the Lok Sabha earlier this week.

The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, moved by Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, seeks to provide reservation to OBCs in local bodies in the Union

Currently, there is no provision for reservation of seats for OBCs in panchayats and municipalities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, moved by Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar, adds Valmiki community as a synonym of Chura, Balmiki, Bhangi, and Mehtar communities in the list of Scheduled Castes in Jammu and Kashmir.

The bill seeks to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order of 1956, which lists the castes deemed to be Scheduled Castes in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs & Agriculture and Farmer Welfare moved the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 that seeks to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order of 1989 to create separate lists for Scheduled Tribes for Jammu and Kashmir, and

 $The \, Constitution \, (Jammu \, and \, Kashmir) \, Sched$ uled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 seeks to add four communities — Gadda Brahmin, Koli, Paddari Tribe, and Pahari Ethnic Group — to the list of Scheduled Tribes in Jammu and Kashmir.

Thereafter, discussion for consideration and passage of the three proposed legislations ensued simultaneously in the Upper House.

Before the bills were moved, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar announced the government's decision to award Bharat Ratna to former prime ministers Chaudhary Charan Singh and PV Narasimha Rao and agriculture scientist M S Swaminathan.

He said it is an honour to announce the prestigious award to the aforementioned personalities for their contributions to the respective fields.

"When Bharat Ratna is given it is an honour not only for the person but the entire nation," Dhankhar said.

He further said it is a matter of satisfaction and joy for every Indian.

The government had earlier announced the country's highest civilian honour for L K Advani and Karpoori Thakur.

Rajya Sabha.....

held by the Union Public Service Commission, the Staff Selection Commission, the Railways, banking recruitment examinations and all computer-based examinations conducted by the National Testing Agency.

The Bill has already been passed by the Lok Sabha after an extensive discussion on 6th Febru-

"We have a stake in the country's youth, who form the majority 70% of the country's population. Their contribution is imperative for nation-building over the next two decades in the making of tion of the revision of electoral rolls in Jammu Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat," he

Stating that the Bill is the first of its kind in the history of Indian Parliament, Dr Jitendra Singh this legislation seeks to address a very recent phenomenon affecting the youth. Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always placed youth at a very high priority, he said.

Participating in the debate, Senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh said, the Bill deals with a subject in the Concurrent List and called for its extension to States. Dr Jitendra Singh countered Digvijay Singh by reminding him that at one time Education used to be a part of State list and the then Congress Govt had changed it over to Concur-

Speaking on the issue, Prakash Javadekar, BJP said that the National Testing Agency was a crucial step in the direction to check malpractices in

P. Wilson, DMK; Sandeep Kumar Pathak, AAP; Muzibulla Khan, BJD; Dr V. Sivadasan, CPI(M); Dr Amee Yajnik, Congress; Dr Dinesh Sharma, BJP; Sandosh Kumar P., CPI & Dr Fauzia Khan, NCP also participated in the debate.

Replying to the debate, Dr Jitendra Singh said the Bill will ensure more transparency and time-

bound selection process and provide level-playing field. Government will encourage the States to adopt the Bill.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the last ten years of Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India's economy has gone "from Fragile 5 to Top 5". In the Global Innovation Index, we ranked 81 in 2014, we have jumped 41 places, today we are No. 40 in the world, he said

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India today has the 3rd largest Startup Ecosystem globally. From just about 350 StartUps in the year 2014, after PM Modi gave the clarion call 'StartUp India, Stand Up India' from the ramparts of the Red Fort in his Independence Day address and rolled out the special StartUp scheme in 2016, today we have over 1,30,000 Startups, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, four-five years back, we had just one Startup in the Space sector, today we have 190 private Space Startups after opening up of the sector. There has been an investment of over Rs.1,000 crore by private Space Startups in the current financial year from April to December

The S&T Minister said India today is ranked in the top 5 Manufacturing countries of the world. In Biotech, we had just 50 Startups, today we have 6,000 BioTech Startups, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Modi Government has initiated several youth-centric provisions and schemes in the last ten years, such as ensuring transparency and providing equal opportunity and level-playing field in recruitments and high-

Dr Jitendra Singh said, PM Modi took a major initiative in 2014 by scrapping the rule of attestation of documents by a Gazetted Officer and introducing self-attestation, saying that we have trust in our own youth. Later, interviews were scrapped in Government recruitment and higher education to curb favouritism and nepotism.

The DoPT Minister said, transparency and fairness has also been ensured by introducing online exams by UPSC, SSC and other recruitment agencies and the entire selection process has been reduced from one-to-two years to 6-7 months. With the vision and direction of PM Modi, the process of Rozgar Melas was introduced so that vacancies could be filled in bulk, -50,000 to 60,000 (and even) 1 lakh appointment letters being issued together, - 45 stations across the country getting connected.

"The level of the merit of the new appointees has gone up," he said.

The future of our youth up to 40 years of age, who comprise 70% of our population, is at stake, who are stakeholders in the Viksit Bharat of 2047,"

J&K Police bids.....

J&K, Shri R.R Swain, was attended by R.K. Goyal FC (ACS) Home Department J&K, Lt. Gen. Naveen Sachdeva, AVSM, SM, GOC 16 Corps, ADs-GP Shri S.J.M Gillani, Shri Vijay Kumar, Shri Anand Jain, Maj. Genl. Sameer Srivastava, VSM, GOC 10 Inf. Div., Maj. Gen. Gourav Rishi, SC, SM, GOC 25 Inf. Div., Maj. Genl. Upkar Chander, GOC CIF (D), Maj. Gen. Manish Gupta, VSM, GOC CIF (R), IGP (Hqrs) PHQ Shri B.S Tuti, and a galaxy of officers from Police and Army.

Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM, while speaking on the occasion referred to the special relation between Police and army and said that there is unwavering trust between the two organizations. He said when you have 'trust' then every issue gets settled. He said that because of cooperation between the two there has been huge success in operations against the militants. He shared that he has been serving in the army for 40 years now and during this period, he had the opportunity to work with various police forces across the country and this synergy between the I&K Police and the army is unparalleled.

The Lieutenant General went on to express his hope that the cooperation between the J&K Police and the army would continue and flourish, allowing for more quantifiable outputs in the future.

As Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi PVSM, AVSM, moves on to his new role as the Vice Chief of Army Staff, he assured his unwavering support for the J&K Police in the future.

R.K Goyal FC (ACS), Home department J&K in his address spoke about the qualities of head and heart of the outgoing Lieutenant General and wished him good luck for the future. He said that in the tenure of Lieutenant General Dwivedi the civil-military relations remained excellent.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director General of Police J&K expressed his gratitude to Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi for his cooperation and support during his tenure in Jammu and Kashmir. Shri R.R Swain praised the highly decorated officer for his exceptional service, describing him not only as a professional soldier par excellence but also as a human being one could connect, communicate, share thoughts, and draw inspira-

Discussing the strong bond of trust and support that Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi had cultivated with the Jammu and Kashmir Police during his posting in the region, R.R Swain said that the outgoing General will be missed. He expressed hope that the synergy and cooperation that exists between the J&K Police and the army would continue in the future, and the law enforcement agencies will maintain their collaborations and work towards the betterment of the region and its people. He wished the Lieutenant General good luck for the future assignments.

On the occasion Lieutenant General decorated ADGP Jammu Zone Anand Jain and IGP (POS) PHQ, Shri B.S Tuti with the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Disc for their excellent services. Also, as a gesture of great bonding between the two organisations mementoes were exchanged between the officers. R.K Goyal FC (ACS), Home also presented a memento to the outgoing officer.

Arms, Ammunition.....

arms and ammunition like IEDs, pistol, pistol magazine, live ammunition and other incriminating electronic items were recovered." A police statement said.

Police said Najar further revealed that Abdul ameel Larah of Sopore was also involved in similar kind of subversive activities.

"Subsequently, search was conducted at his residence by joint parties of Sopore police, Army and CRPF during which arms and ammunition like Pistol, Pistol Magazine, Pistol Rounds, and other incriminating electronic items and documents were recovered," they said.

Both the accused have been arrested and the investigation has been set into motion, police said. (UNI)

Fake rice.....

suspicious conditions. During the search of apprehended persons and vehicles used by accused persons for commission of crime, 30 Bundles of Rs 50000 each, which constitutes a total Rs 1500000 fake currency Notes of (Children Bank) & total cash of Rs 56600 (Indian currency) were recovered & seized on spot.

Moreover, It is pertinent to mention that 05 vehicles used in the commission of the crime have also been seized on the spot, bearing Registration. No's JK15-4533 (Alto- K10), JK18B-2652 (Baleno), JK18D-3543 (Alto-K10), JK01AU-5420 (I-20) & PB01A-9585 (Etios) and the identity of 12 accused persons is disclosed as Riyaz Ahmad Mir S/O Ghulam Ahmad Mir R/O Kijpara Kangan, Ghulam Nabi Malik S/O Mohd Abdullah Malik R/O Lari Preng, Arshid Ahmad Wani S/O Mohd Akbar Wani R/O Hajan Bandipora, Mohd Zubair S/O Abdul Aziz Bijran R/O Babanagri Wangat, Zahoor Ahmad Salro S/O Mohd Rafiq R/O Shopian Bungam, Abaas Ahmad Sofi S/O Abdul Salam Sofi R/O Shopian, Bungam, Bilal Ahmad Sofi S/O Abdul Salam Sofi R/O Shopian Bunpora, Faroze Ahmad Thokar S/O Ali Mohd Thokar R/O Mastpora Keller Shopian, Raja Rameez S/O Abdul Rashid Shah R/O Kulgam, Ishfaq Ahmad Wani S/O Mohd Akbar Wani R/O Hajan Bandipora, Zubair Ahmad Bijran S/O Ghulam Hassan Bijran R/O Poshkar Kangan and Khurshid Ahmad Mir S/O Fayaz Ahmad Mir R/O Kijpara.

In this regard, Case FIR No. 08/2024 under relevant sections of law was registered at PS Kangan & further investigation is in progress.

The Prompt action by Ganderbal Police has been appluaded by the general public. The efforts of J&K Police in curbing social crimes shall continue in future & we assure general public to eliminate such evils & menaces from the society and people are requested to refrain from illegal activities and inform Police about such crimes.

Woman slipped.....

canal and taken to a nearby hospital for medico-legal formalities.

A case under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Gund, and further investigation has been initiated in this regard," said the official.

EESL inks MOUs worth INR 500 crores with State Bodies and Industry Partners for Energy Efficiency at India Energy Week 2024

NEW DELHI, FEB 09: Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of Public Sector Undertakings under the administration of the Ministry of Power has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) valued at INR 500 crores with key state bodies and industry partners at the India Energy Week 2024. The focus of the MoUs signed during the event is to formulate a framework for longstanding collaboration in key areas of energy effi-

Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh (LAH-DC), and Vidhya Pratishthan have partnered with EESL. The exchanged MoUs, worth INR 300 crores and INR 200 crores respectively, during the event, focus on crucial aspects of energy efficiency, including lighting, clean cooking, space heating, renewables, e-mobility, cooling, and consultancy.

These agreements lay the foundation for executing projects that implement energy-efficient measures across various facilities, regions, and communities. The MoU with LAHDC includes space heating solutions across various locations in the Union Territory of Ladakh, using innovative heat pump technology. This is a followup to the recent signing of the company's MoU for the distribution of 2000 induction cookstoves

in Ladakh, which demonstrates EESL's commitment to comprehensive energy solutions in the region.

Mr. Vishal Kapoor, Chief Executive Officer, EESL, said, "At the India Energy Week 2024, this joint association between EESL and our esteemed partner organizations marks a strategic step forward in our collective pursuit of energy efficiency and sustainability. Through these partnerships, we are setting the groundwork for transformative projects that will significantly contribute to India's journey towards an energy-efficient future. In line with the vision set forth by the G20 Presidency and COP'28, this collaborative initiative aims to propel India towards its ambitious carbon neutrality goals."

India Energy Week is India's largest and only all-encompassing energy exhibition and conference, bringing together the entire energy value chain. EESL actively participated in the event, showcasing its remarkable programmes and initiatives aimed at revolutionizing the energy sector and fostering sustainable development. The EESL booth featured cutting-edge energy-efficient appliances, including the induction cookstoves, rechargeable inverter bulb, 9-watt 3-star LED Bulb, e-bicycles, 5-Star rated BLDC ceiling fan, super-efficient air conditioners, and tube lights.



Sheetal Nanda spearheads public darbar at Samba Fort; Emphasizes time bound redressal of public issues

HT News Network

19TH CHEADLINES

ΓODAY

SAMBA, FEBRUARY 9: Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Sheetal Nanda, spearheaded a public darbar at Samba Fort to facilitate direct communication with the local community for resolving their issues and concerns.

The event witnessed the locals actively participating and projecting their developmental issues while seeking speedy redressal of the same.

The delegations, comprising former BDC members, former PRIs, social workers and community representatives, presented a memorandum of demands and grievances, covering a wide range of developmental and infrastructural issues concerning their respective

The issues inter alia included repair of building in Rakh-Ambtali Panchayat, illegal mining, adequate water supply, timely release of land compensation in Chak Jhangi and shortage of linemen and sweepers besides immediate provisioning of tents during rainy season, improved road connectivity in Sumb Block particularly in Goran and Karad areas, installation of transformers in Ghagwal, desilting of canals and upgradation of healthcare facilities in PHC Sumb, Sangwali Mandi, development of Goran as tourist spot and measures to control the burgeoning stray animal popu-



Besides, issues like road con-

struction in Ward 6 Kheri Man- di, construction of road over

bridge in Gurha Slathia, parking facilities in Vijaypur, nallah construction in Ward 2 and 11 of Kehli mandi and establishment of essential services such as veterinary offices in Daini area, animal shelters and controlling the drug menace and bovine smuggling in the district.

In response to the public concerns, Sheetal Nanda issued onthe-spot directions to the concerned officials to ensure a time bound approach towards resolving public issues. She stated that all the genuine demands will be projected to the concerned departments and assured the public of timely resolution of their demands.

Later, the Commissioner Secretary distributed Babycare kits among the newborn girl children.Senior Superintendent of Police, Vinay Kumar Sharma, Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Singh, PO ICDS, Dr Subhash, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Suresh Chander Sharma, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Kusum Chib, Sub Divisional Magistrate Ghagwal, Sunaina Saini and other senior officers of district administration were present on the occasion. In response to the public concerns, Sheetal Nanda issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officials to ensure a time bound approach towards resolving public issues. She stated that all the genuine demands will be projected to the concerned departments and assured the public of timely resolution of their demands.

Bhupinder Kumar chairs public outreach, grievances redressal camp at Sersundwan

HT News Network

REASI, FEBRUARY 9: Secretary, Public Works Department, Bhupinder Kumar, today chaired a public outreach cum grievances redressal camp at Government High School, Sersundwan in Bhomag.

The primary objective of the camp was to foster direct engagement betweenthe public and government officials with emphasis on resolving grievances and concerns of the locals.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhupinder Kumar reaffirmed LG government's commitment towards ensuring that every area within the region is connected with roads. He elaborated the transformative impact of projects like the World Highest Chenab Bridge, which not only enhanced connectivity but also bolstered tourism fosteringeconomic growth in the region. He assured that efforts are underway to provide road connectivity in the unattended habita-

tions, ensuring no community is left behind in the journey towards progress.

The Secretary urged upon the people to collaborate with government departments to expedite development initiatives. He encouraged residents to avail benefit of various schemes sponsored by both the central and UT administrations. He reassured the public that all genuine grievances and demands would be accorded priority and addressed effectively.

He exhorted upon women fraternity to establish home stays near the world's

raise their income. He emphasized the potential for self-income generation through such ventures, highlighting the importance of community engagement and entrepre-

> Chairperson District Development Council, Saraf Singh Nag, emphasized the importance of resolving issues timely in ensuring effective development.

Issues raised by the participants, during the camp, inter alia included construction of Dak Banglows, up-gradation of schools and school buildings, water highest Chenab Bridge to scarcity, road connectivity,

promotion of Sersundwan as tourism village, initiation of RTC bus services, fresh surveys for PMAY and BPL, acceleration of work on bridge over Anji and clearance of pending road compensations, monkey men-

The local community apprised the Secretary regarding severe water scarcity issues stemming from the ongoing construction of railway tunnels in the area.

On the occasion, various departments installed their stalls, showcasing a diverse range of central and UT government schemes.

Speaking on the occasion, District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, underscored the significance of efficient water management, acknowledging the challenges faced by the area in this regard. He outlined plans to alleviate water scarcity by diverting water from tunnels with the collaborative efforts of railway and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) department.

MVD Anantnag gifts Road Safety Mugs & Appreciation certificates to disciplined drivers

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 09: In a novel attempt to motivate the citizens to adhere to the traffic rules, Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Anantnag officials in collaboration with Traffic department distributed Appreciation certificates and Mugs depicting road safety message to disciplined drivers and also felicitated the traffic violators with Red Roses. The drive was conducted as part of the National Road Safety Month 2024.

During the campaign, MVD officials and traffic personnel after catching violators, mainly without helmet riders and drivers without seat belts, took them road side and handed them Red Roses and requested them to wear helmets and follow traffic safety rules for their own safety and for the safety of their family.

اطلاععام

journey mart tour and travel مِعِوْرا يِندُوُل بِنام pahlagambotkoot کی رشنیش محکمه تورازم پهلگام مین کرانی مطلوب ہے اگرکش شخص کو کو بی اعتراض ہوتو سات دن کے اندراندر مستثدُّ دير كثر پهلگام ياانس كوفن نمبر 01936243224 پر دابطه کرے بعدٌ معاد گزرنے کو پی اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from ANWAR JAVAID S/O JAVAID AHMAD GANAIE R/O JEHANGIRPORA Tehsil Wagoora Distt. Baramulla for issuance of Birth/Death certificate in favour of his/her Son/Daughter. ANWAR JAVAID Father/Mother namely JAVAID AHMAD GANAIE having verified the date of birth 01/04/2020.. event has been shown to be occured at S.D.H Kreeri .In this connection if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office or Tehsildar kreeri/ wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine.

> **REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH** (Block development Office Wagoora)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

 $This \, of fice \, is \, in \, receipt \, of \, representation \, from \, HAIQA\, BASHIR$ D/O BASHIR AHMAD WANI R/O DARWA WAGOORA Tehsil Wagoora Distt. Baramulla for issuance of Birth/Death certificate in favour of his/her Son/Daughter. HAIQA BASHIR Father/Mother namely BASHIR AHMAD WANI having verified the date of birth 03/03/2022. event has been shown to be occured at S.D.H Kreeri .In this connection if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office or Tehsildar kreeri/ wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine.

> **REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH** (Block development Office Wagoora)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of

delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from AASIFA JAVAID D/O JAVAID AHMAD GANAIE R/O JEHANGIRPORA Tehsil Wagoora Distt. Baramulla for issuance of Birth/Death certificate in favour of his/her Son/Daughter. AASIFA JAVAID Father/Mother namely JAVAID AHMAD GANAIE having verified the date of birth 05/05/2015.. event has been shown to be occured at S.D.H Kreeri .In this connection .

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office or Tehsildar kreeri/ wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

> **REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH** (Block development Office Wagoora)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS &

DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of

delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from ASLAM AVAID S/O JAVAID AHMAD GANAIE R/O JEHANGIRPORA Tehsil Wagoora Distt, Baramulla for issuance of Birth/ Death certificate in favour of his/her Son/Daughter. ASLAM JAVAID Father/Mother namely JAVAID AHMAD GANAIE having verified the date of birth 20/04/2018.. event has been shown to be occured at S.D.H Kreeri .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office or Tehsildar kreeri/ wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine.

> **REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH** (Block development Office Wagoora)

PUBLIC NOTICE

MY NAME IS WRONGLY MENTIONED IN DATE OF BRITH CERTIFICATE AS MOHAMMAD ARHAAN INSTEAD OF MOHAMMAD

NOW I AM APPLYING FOR ITS CORRECTION, IF ANYBODY HAS ANY OBJECTION IN THIS REGARD HE/SHE MAY CONTACT S M C SRINAGAR WITHIN 7 DAYS FROM THE PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE AFTER THAT NO OBJECTION WILL BE ENTER-

> NAME:-MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN FATHERS NAME:-FIRDOOS AHMED KANJAL MOTHERS NAME :-YAQOOT SHABNUM R/O:- JAWALAPORA BUDGAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my ROUTE PERMAT of My vehicle Sume Victa bearing registration no JK05B 5989 Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She contact with ARTO SOPORE within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

> Name....JAVID AHMAD WAZA S/O..GH OADIR WAZA R/O... FrASTHAR KREERI Dstt..BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I informed to general public that wife namely KHATIJI BEGEM W/O GH AHMAD MIR R/O KREERI has died on 06/04/2022... Now I am applying for her death certificate. If anybody have any objection in this regard He/she may file his /her objection in the BDO office WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

> NAME....GH AHMAD MIR H/OKHATIJI BEGUM R/O..... KREERI **BLOCK...WAGOORA DISTT....BARAMULLA**

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS &

DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from SADAF JAN D/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD WANI R/O DARWAFRASTWARI Tehsil Wagoora Distt. Baramulla for issuance of Birth/Death certificate in favour of his/her Son/Daughter. SADAF JAN Father Mother namely GHULAM MOHAMMAD WANI having verified the date of birth 30/08/2022. event has been shown to be occured at S.D.H Kreeri .In this connection if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office or Tehsildar kreeri/ wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine.

> **REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH** (Block development Office Wagoora)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS &

DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of

delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

 $This \, of fice \, is \, in \, receipt \, of \, representation \, from \, TARIQAHMAD$ SHEIKH S/O ANDÛL AHÂD SHEIKH R/O WALRAMAN Tehsil Wagoora Distt. Baramulla for issuance of Birth/Death certificate in favour of his/her Son/Daughter, TARIO AHMAD SHEIKH Father/Mother namely ABDUL AHAD SHEIKH having verified the date of birth 04/06/1980 event has been shown to be occured at S.D.H Kreeri .In this connection if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office or Tehsildar kreeri/ wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine.

> **REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH** (Block development Office Wagoora)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I informed to general public that my daughter NAME ON Adhaar Card has been Wrongly Entertained as ALISHBA MANZOOR Instead of ZOHA MANZOOR.

If anybody having any objection in this regard He/ She contact with Concerned authrty within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

> NAME...MANZOOR AHMAD BAJARD F/O.... ZOHA MANZOOR R/O....GAGAL DISTT.....KUPWARA

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & **DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA**

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from AATIFA ASHIQ S/O ASHIQ HUSSAIN PARRAY R/O KOHLINA Tehsil Wagoora Distt. Baramulla for issuance of Birth/ Death certificate in favour of his/her Son/Daughter. AATIFA ASHIQ Father/Mother namely ASHIQ HUSSAIN PARRAY having verified the date of birth 12/10/2022 event has been shown to be occured at S.D.H Kreeri .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office or Tehsildar kreeri/ wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine.

> **REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH** (BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAGOORA)

PUBLICATIONHEADLINES

Srinagar's Startling Vegetable Market Disparity

In Srinagar, where the vibrant tapestry of markets usually enchants locals and tourists alike, a disheartening trend has emerged that has left consumers bewildered and dismayed. The issue at hand is the glaring disparity in vegetable prices among grocers within an astonishingly close radius of no more than 200 meters. Such drastic variations in prices have sparked outrage among consumers, exposing a concerning lack of transparency and fairness in the local market dynamics.

The heart of any market lies in its ability to offer equitable access to goods and services for all members of the community. However, the current state of Srinagar's vegetable markets stands in stark contrast to this principle. It is disconcerting to witness how within mere footsteps, the prices of essential vegetables can fluctuate dramatically, leaving consumers feeling exploited and disenchanted.

The repercussions of this price variation extend far beyond mere inconvenience. For many households, especially those with limited financial resources, such disparities directly impact their ability to afford nutritious meals and maintain a decent standard of living. Moreover, the lack of consistency in pricing undermines consumer trust and fosters an environment of uncertainty and disillusionment.

Addressing this issue requires concerted efforts from various stakeholders, including local authorities, market vendors, and consumer advocacy groups. Regulatory measures must be implemented to ensure fair pricing practices and prevent unscrupulous profiteering. Additionally, initiatives aimed at enhancing market transparency and promoting consumer education are paramount to empowering individuals to make informed purchasing decisions.

Moreover, fostering a culture of accountability and ethical conduct within the market ecosystem is imperative to restoring consumer confidence and revitalizing Srinagar's vibrant marketplaces. It is essential to recognize that a fair and accessible market is not only a fundamental economic principle but also a cornerstone of social justice and community well-being.

Residents as well as consumers, must collectively strive towards a market environment where fairness, integrity, and affordability prevail. Only through concerted action and unwavering commitment can we ensure that our markets truly serve the interests of all members of our community

India's transformation under the great leadership of Shri Narender Modi



Syed Irfan Hashmi

The leadership of Narendra Modi in India has been a subject of diverse opinions. Since taking office as Prime Minister in 2014, Narinder Modi has implemented various policies and initiatives aimed at transforming different aspects of the country. Some of the key areas where his leadership has had an impact include:

1. Economic Reforms:

The Modi government has launched several initiatives to boost economic growth, such as the "Make in India" and "Digital India" campaigns. The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has aimed to streamline the tax system and improve ease of doing business.

2. Infrastructure Development:

The government has focused on developing infrastructure, including the construction of roads, highways, and the expansion of the railway network. The "Smart Cities Mission" was launched to modernize urban infrastructure and improve the quality of life in cities.

3. Foreign Policy:

Modi has sought to enhance India's global standing through active diplomacy and international engagement. Initiatives such as "Act East Policy" and "Neighborhood First Policy" have aimed at strengthening relationships with neighboring countries and enhancing India's influence in the Asia-Pacific region.

4. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:

The cleanliness campaign aimed at improving sanitation and hygiene has been a significant initiative under Modi's leadership.



5. Digital Initiatives:

The government has focused on promoting digital literacy and expanding access to digital services, such as the "Digital India" campaign and the push for digital payments.

6. Social Welfare Schemes:

The government has introduced various social welfare schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, and Ayushman Bharat, aimed at financial inclusion, clean cooking fuel, and healthcare for the underprivileged.

Narendra Modi's leadership as Prime Minister of India has been marked by a number of ambitious initiatives and reforms aimed at trans $forming various \, aspects \, of \, the \, country.$ The government has launched programs to address issues such as infra-

structure development, economic growth, digital innovation, sanitation, technology, Education and social welfare. These initiatives have been designed to propel India towards the status of a developed and progressive nation. While there have been initiatives and policies that have been praised for their potential to bring about positive changes.

The concept of India becoming a superpower is a complex and multifaceted topic. As of my last knowledge update in September 2021, India has made significant progress in various fields under the leadership of Narendra Modi, and it possesses many attributes that are important for a country aspiring to be a global power. These include a large and rapidly growing economy, a young and increasingly educated population, a vibrant democracy, a diverse and innovative culture, and a

growing influence in regional and global affairs.

While these initiatives have the potential to contribute to India's development and progress, it's important to note that the country still faces significant challenges in areas such as poverty, education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, and social inequality. The success of these initiatives and the overall transformation of India into a developed and progressive nation will depend on their effective implementation, as well as the ability to address these ongoing challenges. Everyone needs to come forward to support in making India as next global superpower.

Article written by Socio political Activist / Freelancer Journalist, Email at: irfan.hashmi. syed@gmail.com

U-turn from the road of death



Aadil Ghulam Bhat

An inscription of Shah Jahan's diwan-I khas about Kashmir in Delhi stated: "If there is Paradise on Earth, it is here, it is here, it is here". Beautiful Kashmir in the August of 2019 was surrounded in gloom and doubt. Moments after Article 370 was repealed, the valley was silent. The residents were suddenly cut off from the rest of the world as all internet and mobile connectivity was turned off. The previously bustling streets were now eerily quiet, evoking sad reflections on days gone by. As the days turned into weeks, and the weeks into months, the lockdown continued, bringing up memories of the difficult year 2016 in Kashmir. People's emotions were permanently altered by the events of that year, which left a permanent reminder of the numerous lives lost, frustrated people, fearful mindset, hopes dashed, and tears poured on the bloodstained streets.

The hartal continued, casting a pall over the Kashmir valley as the days turned into weeks. My mom's eyes reflected a mix of perplexity and concern, and I could see it written all over her face. She continued to be blind to the political difficulties that gripped the region and the complicated issues of Article 370. Her innate comprehension of the

issue, however, did not change. Her sorrow, "Meh basan hartal gasseh baye–The hartal is going long," resounded in my head like a

Even though she didn't fully understand the biggerpicture, she had an unwavering sense of the seriousness of the issue.

We didn't know where we were going in $those first few \, days, so \, we \, just \, kind \, of \, walked$ about. The constant presence of uniformed soldiers was a sobering reminder of the tense atmosphere around the state. Disturbingly, the sight of armoured vehicles driving through the streets became the norm.

My mom, on the other hand, never gave up. She had trust that would not be shaken because she had endured adversity before. Her voice had an undercurrent of dread, but her will would not be broken. She seemed to be angry, "Cxe chui neh shayad behit lagan garreh—why don't you stay at home, don't you know about the red alert". Maybe now is the time for perseverance," as if she were in a state of panic.

The future of our family's finances was hanging on a thread. My father, a diligent man who drove a goods carrier "Tipper", had his job suddenly eliminated. The shutdown's gloomy shadow had fallen upon us, and we were not immune to its effects. Our family was undermuch more stress. We were one of the many families in Kashmir that relied significantly on daily salaries but were suddenly forced to face an uncertain future. The situation was heavy, and it threatened to crush our spirits.

We were all assembled on the sixteenth day of the lockdown when my cousin's voice rang out: "Ho abu-g chu duty gomut, payii che neh kate chu garkin chu tension— My father is on duty and we had not communicated, our family is very is in tension." The

family is concerned because Father is still away on duty. He was in the forest service and by relationship he is my my uncle.

My cousin's resolve one day compelled me to set out into the night in an effort to return his father to the family. As part of his job, he had to travel to a forested area high in the highlands of Manzgam, in the Kulgam district. We got in his car and drove off into the darkness, the motor humming quietly. It was getting close to midnight as we slowly made our way around the streets. Our spirits werelinked with a gleam of hope as the journey began pleasantly. The darkness engulfed us, taking in the air's rumblings of unease.We kept on driving, following the well-worn paths that we knew would lead us to our final destination. Damhal, a tehsil with the wounds of strife, appeared on the horizon as if a spectral memory were inscribed there. The town's core was marked by a burned-out shell, a sad reminder of the riots that had shaken the area in 2016. It was the local police station, destroyed by arsonists who felt their anger needed an outlet.

As the fog engulfed the road and reduced visibility, we were taken aback by the appearance of police barriers. We were startled and slammed on the brakes, the screaming of the tyres adding to the mounting anxiety. In a matter of seconds, we were encircled by the piercing brilliance of flashlights and the chill of metal firearms. As we were compelled to kneel on the hard concrete road, the world around us began to blur. A terrible reminder of the precariousness of life was the pressure of the rifles on our necks, backs, and chests. It was a terrifying brush with death that brought home how quickly life's precious possessions may be taken from us. To keep my faith strong, I clung to the words of "Aayat-ul-Kursi" as I whispered them to myself

at that dreadful time. But the 0 cops, motivated by prejudice and suspicion, beat us up and slapped us again and again. They accused us ofbeing terrorists because of our young age and looks, and they became violent as a result of their own faulty reasoning. It is a sad reality that in times of war and upheaval, innocent people sometimes fall prey to false allegations. Retrieving a parent who is serving the state from the high, forested mountains is an admirable gesture of love and responsibility to one's family. It is in no way comparable to acts of terrorism. The event we experienced brought home how unfair things can get when prejudice and fear cloud people's perceptions. It's proof that we must act with compassion, awareness, and respect for the rights and dignity of every person. No one, regardless of their background, beliefs, or line of work, deserves to be treated so brutally. The police eventually cleared us after an inquiry, but we still had to make it past an Army camp. We, however, were far from done. The prospect of having to make our way through an Army camp was a huge source of anxiety. The situation was tight, and there were severe limitations on freedom of movement. It appeared improbable that we would be allowed passage, which added further stress to an already taxing

journey. We made it to the base camp. The soldiers of the Indian Army surprised us by treating us with unusual respect. Despite their reprimand, they made us feel secure and took down our details. Their deeds demonstrated a dedication to fairness and an openness to finding the truth. While they painstakingly took down our names, arrival time, and car's number plate. It had been planned that way to guarantee responsibility and safety.

They questioned me in an effort to get

answers that would ultimately decide our fate. The troops saw through our pretences and accepted our story of innocence and a justifiable need to reconnect with loved ones. After they finished asking questions, we were allowed to proceed. Our time spent interacting with the Indian Army will forever shape our journey. It was a powerful demonstration of the resilience of the human spirit in the face of hardship. Their deeds demonstrated a dedication to fairness and an ability to separate fact from bias.

We must keep speaking out against this wrongdoing and demanding truth, justice, and responsibility. We need to fight against harmful preconceptions and develop a community that respects every person for who they are.

Rather of continuing down the path to destruction, this initiative seeks to educate people about the destructive effects of war and the vital role that overcoming prejudice and appreciating diversity play in creating a more equitable and compassionate society. And we truly made U-turn from the road of death.

ABOUT AUTHOR:

Poet, author, and novelist Aadil Ghulam Bhat is from Kulgam in Jammu & Kashmir and is renowned for his vivid and engrossing creative creations. Bhat,

who has a Bachelor of Science from Kashmir University, writes with a keen awareness of his surroundings and the vibrant cultural history of Kashmir. His writing spins compelling stories that dig into the human mind, while his poetry examines topics of love, nature, and spirituality. Bhat is now recognised as a rising star in the field of writing thanks to his skill in the literary world. Ph: no. +91 7051672115, E mail. adilgulambhat@

gmail.com. Pin code: 192231 India (j&k).

DC Rajouri approves 244 cases under **Holistic Agriculture Development Program**

HT News Network

HEADLINES

RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 09: **Deputy Commissioner** Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat today presided over a significant meeting and approved 244 cases under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) including 166 under the Agriculture and 78 cases under the Animal Husbandry sector. The meeting focused on evaluating the progress made in achieving the objectives of the program and informing farmers about the innovative interventions that have been made.

The HADP is an ambitious initiative aimed at establishing a sustainable and profitable agricultural ecosystem. Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat emphasized the overarch-



ing goal of the program which is to empower local farmers by equipping them with knowledge and tools that can significantly enhance their productivity and profitability. Simultaneously, the HADP seeks to contribute to the overall growth of the agricultural sector.

One of the key features of the HADP is its provision of a platform for farmers to engage with experts from the Agricultural and allied departments. This engagement allows farmers to seek expert guidance on various

aspects of farming, enabling

them to improve their agri-

cultural practices. By

adopting such a multifac-

eted approach, the HADP

aims to elevate agricul-

tural productivity, enhance

livelihoods, and make substantial contributions to the region's broader economic growth.

The enthusia stic embrace of the HADP by the district administration and the active involvement of various stakeholders position Rajouri as a role model for sustainable and prosperous agricultural practices. With the unwavering commitment of the district administration and the support of concerned officers such as the agricultural sector in Rajouri is poised to thrive. This growth will benefit not only the farmers but also the larger community.

Overall, the meeting showcased the dedicated efforts of the district administration in ensuring that the benefits of the HADP reach the intended beneficiaries.

DC Doda reviews progress on **NABARD Projects**

HT News Network

DODA FEBRUARY 9: **Deputy Commissioner** Doda, Harvinder Singh, led a comprehensive meeting to assess the progress of NABARD funded projects coming up across the district.

Held in the Mini Hall of the DC office complex in Doda, the meeting focused on construction works, particularly roads and irrigation systems, funded by NABARD.

Key officials and officers attended the meeting, including ADCs, SE R&B Circle Doda, SDMs from Thathri, Gandoh, and Assar, CMO Doda, CAO, XEN from PWD (R&B), and District Manager NABARD.

During the meeting, dis-



cussions centered on the status of ongoing projects, with particular attention to the execution of works and the timely submission of bills and project informa-

The DC stressed the importance of completing the execution works on time and directed officials to ensure prompt submis-

sion of bills. It was noted that there are 13 sanctioned projects under NAB-ARD, primarily focusing on road connectivity under

the R&B department. Looking ahead, the DC instructed the SDMs to conduct review meetings to assess NABARD projects in their respective areas and emphasized the need

for monthly meetings to expedite project progress.

Additionally, three new projects under NABARD have been approved for the district this year. With a total of 37 projects under NABARD, including 13 yet to be grounded, the DC underscored the importance of adhering to stipulated timelines for project commencement.

In line with ensuring public welfare and infrastructure development, discussions included the establishment of a testing lab for Rajmaash quality testing across the district.

The DC instructed officials to identify suitable land for the lab's construction. Furthermore, the involvement of SDMs in developmental works was encouraged.

Road Safety Awareness Campaign conducted by MVD Doda on NH244

■ HT News Network

DODA, FEBRUARY 09: Under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, and the supervision of ARTO Doda Rajesh Gupta, a road safety awareness drive was conducted on NH244, here the other day. The campaign focused on passengers traveling in buses and minibuses. They were educated about safe travel practices and asked to closely monitor vehicle operators' driving behavior.

As part of the ongoing National Road Safety Month, pamphlets containing vital information on road safety measures and precautions were distributed among the passengers. The initiative underscores the importance of promoting responsible driving habits among both drivers and passengers to reduce the risk of accidents and ensure safer journeys.

The ARTO emphasized the significance of proactive measures in enhancing road safety, stating that such initiatives play a pivotal role in reducing road accidents and fatalities. He urged both commuters and drivers to adhere to traffic regulations and exercise caution while on the road.

The collaborative effort between local authorities and transportation officials reflects a commitment to fostering a culture of road safety and responsible travel within the community. With continued awareness campaigns and enforcement efforts, the aim is to create a safer road environment for all travelers on NH244 and beyond.

Poonch Administration organises Free Seminar on UPSC/JKAS preparation strategy

HT News Network

POONCH, FEBRUARY 09: District Administration Poonch, in collaboration with Chanakya IAS Academy, Jammu organised a free seminar aimed at guiding aspirants on how to prepare for the All India Civil Services and Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services (JKAS) examinations.

The Director of CHANAKYA IAS Academy, extended heartfelt gratitude to Deputy Commissioner Yasin M. Choudhary for extending a gracious invitation to the academy to conduct a seminar in the picturesque district of

Principal SKC Degree College Poonch, Dr. Jasbir Singh, Principal Degree College Mendhar, Dr. Mohd. Azam, Prof. Fateh Mohd. Abassi from Degree College



surankote, besides other professors from GDC Poonch and students from Degree College Mendhar, Surankote and Poonch attended the seminar.

Principal SKC Degree College Poonch, DR. Jasbir Singh highlighted the achievements of former student of the Institution Prasenieet Kour who cracked UPSC, showcasing the remarkable success story as an inspiration to aspiring civil servants.

The proceedings of the program were skillfully conducted by Dr. Shamim Banday professor from SKC Degree college Poonch.

The event, held at SKC Government Degree Col-

The Deputy Commissioner graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Additionally, Prasanjeet Kour (IAS) and Zahoor Khawaja (JKAS) were also present as the distinguished Guests of Honour.

The speakers Prasanjeet Kour(IAS) and Zahoor Khawaja (JKAS) highlight their personal journeys, recounting the opportunities and successes they have experienced in their career. They also delivered informative sessions on effective strategies and techniques for preparing for the IAS and JKAS examinations.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of these prestigious examinations and encouraged the youth to embark on a journey of preparation for IAS/JKAS and other competitive exams. He emphasized the potential of these examinations to shape a bright and promising future for the aspirants.

CAHO clarifies on sale of **R2B Vaccine in Doda**

HT News Network

DODA, FEBRUARY 09: The Department of Animal Husbandry, Doda has issued clarification on the sale of R2B vaccine at Govt. Poultry farm cum Hatchery Doda on February 3, 2024. Following a thorough investigation conducted by a committee constituted by Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. Mayan Ud Din Gures, , it has been concluded that the allegations raised by a section of media were entirely baseless.

"The committee's findings, outlined in a detailed report, indicated that the Poultry birds were indeed sold to the public on February 3, 2024. The sale included the issuance of R2B vaccine along with poultry birds. Media personnel emerged from the crowd during the sale and demanded documents such as challan, causing confusion among the staff. Staff members, unaware of the media's presence, initially mistook them for regular beneficiaries, leading to a misunderstanding. Amidst this confusion, a misunderstanding arose regarding the pricing of the R2B vaccine. The media alleged that poultry staff charged higher rates for the vaccine, which was promptly refuted by the staff. The actual price of a vial of R2B vaccine is Rs. 10, and each farmer was provided two vials for Rs. 20 upon request" a statement stated. It further stated that "The misunderstanding arose from the media's misinterpretation of the pricing, mistaking the cost of one vial for Rs. 20."

The department further said "Upon careful examination, it has been established that there was no misconduct on the part of the poultry staff. Once the staff became aware of the presence of media personnel.

Road Safety awareness event held at Trial Ground **Bhaderwah**

HT News Network

DODA, FEBRUARY 9: The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Doda, on the direction of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and under the supervision of ARTO Rajesh Gupta on Friday, organized a road safety awareness campaign in Trial Ground Bhaderwah. The event took place at the Bhaderwah trial ground, as part of the ongoing celebration of National Road Safety Month. The initiative aimed to educate the general public and new driving license (DL) seekers about road safety measures.

During the event, an oath on road safety was administered by the Motor Vehicles Department, with the participation of new DL seekers, the driving community, and MVD officials. The ceremony emphasized the importance of adhering to road safety guidelines and precautions. Large banners promoting road safety were prominently displayed, drawing a significant crowd of local residents and drivers from the community.

Excavator among 07 Vehicles involved in illegal mining seized in Kathua

HT News Network

KATHUA, FEBRUARY 09: A team of geology and mining department, led by District Mineral Officer (DMO), Rajinder Singh seized seven vehicles including an excavator for indulging in illegal mining here today.

As per the department, four vehicles were seized at Gandial and Bhagtali for transporting minerals without e-challans, one each at Lakhanpur and Taraf Tajwal and the excavator was seized from Sahar Khad areas for illegal excavation in late night hours. The quantity of raw mineral and documents of seized vehicles were also verified by the officials of the mining department and accordingly seizure memos were issued to the violators as per the extant rules. The DMO also informed that a total of 10 excavators and 150 vehicles involved in illegal mining and illegal transportation have been penalized from various locations of the district in the last two and half months during day and night operations.

SWD Udhampur organises Day-long training cum awareness program on Juvenile Justice

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 09: Social Welfare Department Udhampur today organized a one-day Training cum Awareness Program on the Juvenile Justice Act under the Mission Vatsalya

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, graced the occasion as the chief guest, while Senior Superintendent of Police, Joginder Singh, was the guest of honour. DIO (Info) Rajinder Digra, Deputy Sp HQ, ALC Pradyot Gupta, CEO Geetu Bangotra were special guests and District Social Welfare Officer Kanika Gupta presided over the program.



During her address, DC highlighted the significance of such training programs in creating awareness and fostering a collective approach. She underscored the essential role played by col $laborative\,efforts\,in\,ensuring\,the$ safety and well-being of children within the community. The DC emphasized that the primary objective of the program was to enlighten stakeholders about the Mission Vatsalya Guidelines,

ensuring a comprehensive understanding and implementation of child protection and welfare measures.The event witnessed the participation of various stakeholders including Resource person Yaseen, CWC Chairperson Sandeep Kour, CWC member Shairaz Hadayat, Hari Krishan Manager Child Helpline who educated the audience about child rights and various provisions under [] act 2015.

Walkathon organised to promote Road safety habits among students

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 09: As part of ongoing National Road Safety Month, an impressive Walkathon was held today to promote road safety awareness among the stu-

The walkathon was flagged off by RTO Jammu Pankaj Bhagotra in presence of CEO Jammu, Jagdeep Padha witnessing participation of students of Government Higher Secondary School Domana.

Speaking on the occasion, the RTO Jammu said that every year Lakhs of people fall victim to rash driving and it is important to realize the significance of imbibing

road safety habits in day today life to save lives. "We want to reduce the number of accidents by over 50% and for that, it is important to create awareness on road safety among locals," said the RTO Jammu.The CEO asked the school administration concerned to conduct regular awareness programmers, mock drills, to motivate students to encourage their friends and family members.

Earlier also an awareness camp to sensitize drivers for road safety was also organized at Driving Trial Test Ground Nagrota Jammu.

Among others ARTO Hq. Rehana Tabassam, Principal Govt. Hr. Sec. School Domana, Staff Members and students are present on

Divisional Level Sensitization Workshop on Tobacco Control hosted in Govt Hospital G-Nagar

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 09: A Divisional Level Sensitization Workshop on Tobacco Control was today organised for key Stakeholders by State Tobacco Control Cell, Directorate of Health Services, Jammu here in the Government Hospital Gandhinagar.

The workshop was held under the supervision of the Director Health Services Jammu, Dr Rakesh Mangotra.

The event was held under the aegis of National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) with technical support from Vital Strategies India New Delhi. Several Officers from diverse departments such as School Education, Police, Higher Education, Food



and Drug Administration, Drug Controller, Health attended the workshop. Participants were enlightened regarding Epidemiology of Tobacco use and overview of NTCP,

including implementation of Tobacco Free **Educational Institutions Guidelines and** various provisions of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003(COTPA-2003)

and the Prohibition of E-Cigarettes Act (PECA2019).Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Deputy Director Dentistry, extended a warm welcome to all attendees and encouraged them to take full advantage of this opportunity to educate themselves about their roles and responsibilities in Tobacco Control.

The Nodal Officer from the Directorate of Health Services presented the progress of the National Tobacco Control Programme in Jammu Division and a detailed presentation on ToFEI Guidelines. It was informed that the Programme has been extended to all the districts. Tobacco Cessation Centres have been set up in all District Hospitals throughout the Division, where trained Psychologists/Counsellors will assist individuals in quitting tobacco.

Divisive politics is DNA of Congress: Rana

■ HT News Network

PUBLICATION HEADLINES

JAMMU FEBRUARY 9- Lashing out at the Congress for its divisive politics, Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today said the north-south narrative generated in sheer desperation over losing ground across the country is not new as the so-called grand old party has already bruised the national psyche by encouraging and promoting separatism in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The nation is still grappling with the historic blunders of the Congress and Jammu and Kashmir has been the worst victim and sufferer of its wrong policies", Mr Rana said while interacting with deputations and individuals during his weekly public hearing at the BJP headquarters at Trikuta Nagar here today along with Shalinder Vaid, Additional Protocol Secretary, BJP.

He said the Congress is reaping the fruits of its evil deeds and facing political turmoil due to historic blunders and the time has come to make the party redundant. He exuded confidence that the nationalistic and pragmatic policies of the BJP will lead to Congress Mukt Bharat.

Mr Rana said that Jammu and Kashmir has hugely suffered under the Congress and the rule by the parties supported by it for over seven decades. The misgovernance coupled with nepotism and corruption had pushed the erstwhile state to wall, which is why it has been lagging in development and economic empowerment. Now that the Yashasvi Prime Minister Narendra Modi has initiated path breaking steps to transform the Union Territory into Naya Jammu and Kashmir, the people are feeling difference for the first time and are hopeful about being equal partners in the country's process of growth, he added.

"As if J&K turmoil was not enough, the Congress is now plaguing the country with sinister north-



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south divide in a vain bid to seek relevance in the Indian politics", he said, hoping that the people will foil all these machinations by breaking free from the shackles of division and embrace diversity as a source of strength and resilience in spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas that has emerged as a huge factor for steering the nation towards holistic development and progress. The dividends are already discernible with India emerging as the fifth economic global power and set to be third in the row during the third term of the BJP government led by Mr Narendra Modi. This has been possible due to sustained and tireless efforts during the past ten years, he added.

Mr Devender Rana slammed the Congress for germinating a feeling of separation among the compatriots in the southern states thus posing threat to the unity and integrity of this great nation. It is high time that the people recognize

the detrimental impact of the North-South divide perpetuated by the Congress in India, which has actually been responsible for regional disparities and widening the gap between the states to further its nefarious political agenda, he added.

Mr Rana also listened to the individual and collective problems of the people, revolving around road connectivity, power and drinking water supply, utility services, and similar other issues. He assured that these will be taken up at the appropriate level for earnest redressal. He said the Congress is reaping the fruits of its evil deeds and facing political turmoil due to historic blunders and the time has come to make the party redundant. He exuded confidence that the nationalistic and pragmatic policies of the BJP will lead to Congress Mukt Bharat. Mr Rana said that Jammu and Kashmir has hugely suffered under the Congress and the rule by the parties supported by it for over seven decades.

"Bringing Laws To Make Social Media Accountable": Minister On Deepfakes

HT News Network

New Delhi: The government is bringing laws and is taking other steps to make social media platforms more accountable for any slanderous content posted on their platforms, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

The minister, who was responding to supplementaries during question hour, said the government is amending intermediary rules for social media to tackle the menace of misinformation and deep fake."Yes, we are amending the intermediary rules. The reason for that is the deep fake issues have come up in a very big way," the minister told the house.

He added, "With the spread of misinformation and deep fakes, we must take strict and urgent action to ensure that this menace is removed. So we are amending the intermediary rules. We are coming up with provisions where there is a significant responsibility bestowed on the social media platforms so that they can detect deep fakes, they can detect misinformation and take early action."

He said most of the social media platforms are already moderating a lot of content and these sites are no longer a pure platform they were 30 years back, Entire global regulatory body is reaching a kind of a consensus on the matter, Vaishnaw said, and urged the members of the house too to develop some sort of consensus on the need for more responsibility from social media portals for what they allow on their platforms."We are creating an institutional framework for the digital economy. That institutional framework has three parts - first is having a new set of legisla-



tions. The Telecom bill has been passed by this house, the personal digital data protection bill has been passed by this house, and another bill is in the works.

"The rules and regulations and the entire implementation mechanism is being converted to a totally digital mechanism. We are also working very closely with almost every stakeholder to make sure that our internet is safe, it is trusted and it is delivering what is intended," the minister said. In reply to another supplementary by Rajeev Shukla (Congress) on the misuse of social media and the difficulty one faces in getting removed slanderous posts, Vaishnaw reiterated that the social media platforms will have to take responsibility.

Shukla had earlier said gangs were duping people through social media, freedom of expression was being curtailed there, and there was no accountability for slanderous posts. The minister said there needs to be a consensus in the Upper House as well on forging a mechanism to force social media platforms to remove fake or slanderous material. He also acknowledged the positive impact social media has on the society.

Mizoram, Assam Agree to Resolve Inter-State Border Dispute

■ HT News Network

Aizawl: Mizoram and Assam on Friday agreed to make joint efforts to resolve the long pending inter-state border dispute, an official statement said here. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday morning invited his Mizoram counterpart Lalduhoma, who is currently in Guwahati, over a meal and both leaders discussed the border issue.

During the meeting, Mr Lalduhoma and Mr Sarma agreed to make collective efforts to resolve the border dispute between the two northeastern states, it said. Both leaders also agreed to maintain peace along the borders as long as the two neighbouring states hold border talks, it said.



Mr Sarma told Mr Lalduhoma that he will send the minister in charge of border to Mizoram when the ongoing budget session of the Assam assembly is over. Three Mizoram districts -Aizawl, Kolasib and Mamit - share a 164.6 km long border with Assam's Cachar, Karimganj and Hailankandi districts The border dispute between the two neighbouring states is a long-standing issue, which mainly stemmed from two colonial demarcations. Mizoram claims that 509 square miles area of the inner line reserved forest, notified in 1875 under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) 1873, falls within its territory. Assam, on the other hand, regarded the border shown in a map prepared by the Survey of India in 1933 as its constitutional boundary.

Vast areas within the inner line reserved forest now fall under Assam. Similarly, a certain extent of the area, as per the 1933 demarcation, is now on the Mizoram side. There is no ground demarcation of boundaries between the two states.

India emerging as new hub for aerospace manufacturing

Airbus A220 doors to be manufactured by Bengaluru firm

■ HT News Network

New Delhi:The aerospace manufacturing in India is fast gathering momentum with improving infrastructure and government thrust. Many private companies have made rapid strides in developing India as a preferred destination for aero structures, components, sub-assemblies and complex system assemblies. Leading global Original Equipment Manufacturers have established Joint Ventures in India for the manufacturing of aerospace related parts and assemblies which find their way into many commercial and defence aircraft and helicopters.

The newest addition being the leading Aircraft manufacturer Airbus joining hands with Bengaluru based Dynamatic Technologies to manufacture all doors for the single aisle A220 family aircraft in India. This contract not only marks a significant milestone, but also showcases the success of the Make in India initiative.

success of the Make in India initiative.
Under the agreement, Dynamatic
Technologies will manufacture and
assemble the cargo, passenger, and
service doors along with the overwing emergency exit doors for the
A220 family aircraft (eight doors per
aircraft). Aircraft doors are critical
structures, incorporating advanced
technologies to meet the stringent

requirements for safety and overall

AIRBUSA220-300

This is the second contract for doors, awarded by Airbus to an Indian supplier. Earlier in 2023, Airbus gave the contract for the manufacturing of bulk and cargo doors of the A320 Family to Tata Advanced Systems Ltd.

Today, every Airbus commercial aircraft and every Airbus helicopter has critical technologies and systems designed, manufactured, and maintained in India. Airbus in partnership with local manufacturers supports nearly 10,000 jobs in India. By 2025, this number is likely to rise to about 15,000 and the company is expected to double its procurement from India from US\$ 750 mn to US\$ 1.5 bn.

With a range of up to 3,600 nauti-

ing capacity ranging from 100 to 160 passengers, A220 is ideally suited for India's UDAN scheme, aimed at enhancing regional connectivity and promoting economic growth across the nation.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Ivoti-

cal miles (6,700 kilometers) and seat-

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyoti-raditya Scindia has hailed the partnership stating "India is steadily becoming a destination for aerospace manufacturing across the world. The largest order for the aircraft doors to Dynamatic Technologies is a great moment for Prime Minister's Make in India, Make for the World resolve." The Minister further said the pro-business policies of the government are helping India become a more and more prominent aerospace manufacturing country.

Provident Fund Body Restricts Paytm Payments Bank Transactions From Feb 23

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Provident Fund Body Restricts Paytm Payments Bank Transactions From Feb 23

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) will not accept claims made via Paytm Payments Bank accounts from February 23.

The move comes after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), last week, imposed restrictions on the payment bank due to persistent irregularities.

The RBI directed Paytm Payments

Bank to stop accepting new deposits in its accounts or digital wallets from March.

Citing the government order, a report by news agency Reuters stated that EPFO has asked its officers to refrain from accepting claims linked with accounts in Paytm Payments Bank.

The government order stated, "All the field offices are advised to refrain from accepting claims associated with bank accounts in Paytm Payments Bank Limited...A video publicity

should be initiated to raise awareness about this change."

Back in November last year, the EPFO had allowed Paytm Payments Bank to settle claims. Notably, the EPFO has a corpus of over 18 trillion rupees (\$216.89 billion), covering nearly 300 million workers.

In a bid to avoid any disruption in their Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) corpus, all subscribers must update their bank account details.

Let's take a look at how you can update your bank account details:

COVID-19 Virus Mutated 223 Times, Variants Not Deadly Now: Health Minister

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The COV-ID-19 virus has mutated 223 times globally and its harmful effects have come down substantially over time, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in Lok Sabha on Friday.

He also said that COV-ID-19 will continue to remain like influenza and its present variants are not deadly."When a virus gets mutated over 100 times, its harmful effects get reduced. Covid also got mutated. So far, the Covid virus has mutated 223 times," he said



during the Question Hour.
He said that like influenza, which hits people once or twice a year, "Covid is with us and will remain.""Covid sub-variants are not that deadly and

there are no negative effects," he said.Mr Mandaviya said health is such an issue where all stakeholders and countries should come together and work. "We have seen the positive results during the pandemic when we worked together," he said.

The Minister said India has a robust medicine production infrastructure and the world has recognised that. "We are now the producer of 70 per cent of HIV/ AIDS medicines in the world. Similarly, we produce many medicines which the world considers as good," he said. Speaker Om Birla said when he was travelling in Africa, he saw the demand for Indian medicines and the people's admiration for them due to their effects.

"Google Pay, Phone Pe Ticking Time Bombs": Supriya Sule In Lok Sabha

HT News Network

New Delhi: Supriya Sule, an MP of the Nationalist Congress Party - Sharadchandra Pawar, on Friday alleged that apps like Google Pay and Phone Pe are "two ticking time bombs" and sought to know what steps the government is taking to check money laundering.

Participating in a discussion on 'The White Paper on Indian economy' in Lok Sabha, Ms Sule said whatever happened in Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) is "very alarming" and is almost like money laundering.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last month directed PPBL to stop accepting deposits or top-ups in customer accounts, wallets, FASTags and other instruments after February 29.

The RBI said persistent non-com-



pliance by Paytm with regulatory guidelines despite nudges over a period of time ultimately led to stern action against the fintech.

"Google Pay, Phone Pe are two ticking time bombs. BHIM app is hardly used while Google Pay and Phone Pe apps are used (widely). What is the government doing on digital or cashless economy?" Sule said.

JMM leader Vijay Kumar Hansdak accused the government of misusing ED, CBI and Income Tax against opposition MPs.

Mr Hansdak said a white paper should be brought on the misuse of central agencies.

"Their (BJP) government is running because of ED. Otherwise, they won't be able to win elections," Mr Hansdak, who represents the Rajmahal constituency of Jharkhand in the Lok Sabha, said.

BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal said the corruption seen in the 10 years of UPA government was unprecedented. During UPA's tenure, people would take loans and forget about returning it, he said.

Participating in the debate, Asadudin Owaisi (AIMIM) said the white paper is more rhetoric than substance.

Secretary YSS conducts Public Darbar; Assesses public grievances, demands Exhorts public to judiciously use electricity, pay bills timely

HT News Network

HEADLINES

CODAVoice To The Voice

KULGAM, FEBRUARY 09: Secretary Youth Services & Sports (YSS), Sarmad Hafeez, today visited Kulgam and chaired a public darbar under the ambitious public outreach cum grievances redressal programme of the government.

The public delegations from Devsar, DHPora, Behibagh, Kund, Qaimoo, Pahloo, Frisal and other areas and blocks participated in the camp and raised their issues and concerns. Their demands and grievances included development of children park at Pahloo, construction of flood protection bund at Pahloo sports stadium, 24×7 operational CT-Scan and USG section at District Hospital Kulgam, widening of Chogalpora Aharbal road, construction of Doori bypass at D.H.Pora, special transport service for students from Laroo to degree college, construction of Aamnoo Shurat Road, construction of new bridge at Brazloo and related

A delegation of specially abled persons demanded establishment of Rehabilitation Centres for them.

Other delegations who also participated included Fruit & Traders Association, members from Awkaaf Committee



Kulgam who also projected their demands and issues. While responding to the demands of people with regard to streamlining the power scenario in the district, Sarmad Hafeez instructed the KPDCL to ensure power supply as per schedule. He also urged upon people to pay power dues in time and make judicious use of electricity.

He also stressed upon the officers to make the people aware about the schemes of their departments so that they avail maximum benefit of these schemes.

Sarmad Hafeez assured the participants that all the demands and grievances will be taken up with the concerned quarters for appropriate action. He also encouraged the public for their active participation, emphasizing the dedication and sincerity of officers in addressing genuine public grievances within specified time frame.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner, Athar Aamir Khan, highlighted the objective of these programmes besides presenting an overview of the district development pro-

ADDC, Showkat Ahmad Rather, DPO, ARDas, ADC, Vigar Ahmed Giri and other officers from district administration besides prominent citizens were present during the camp.

Hundrends participated in Nimazi jinaza of Ab Majeed Zargar father of Dr Nazir Ah **Zargar**

Aashiq Hussain



Kreeri,09 Feb (HT) Father of Dr Nazir Ah Zargar and Tariq Ah Zargar Ab Majeed Zarger alias (Maje Touth) passed away at his residence Kreeri baramulla after briefillness. His last rites was performed at Muradabad Kreeri baramulla in which hundreds participated. The demise of Ab Majeed Zargarbhas been wifely mourned various, Social religious orginizations have condoled with the bereaved family. BJP leader GM Sofi, Members of Civil society Kreeri Media persons of Various Print and electronic media visited Ab Majeed Zargar's residence Teachers forum president Tahir Ah Sofi condoles the said . demise of Ab Majeed Zargar In a condolence message sofi expressed shock and grief over the sad demise of father of Dr Nazir Ah Zargar Tariq Ahmad Sofi prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the berieved family to bear this loss. Patron of Kruhen Cultural Forum Kreeri Syed Sad ud din Saidi, has condoled the sad demise and expressed solidarity with the bereaved.

BJP leader GM Sofi express heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved family especially with Dr Nazir Ah Zargar and Tariq Ah Zargar.

Headlines Today chief Jahangir Bukhari,also expressed grief over this irreparable loss and prayed for the peace to the departed soul. UT Spokesperson Teachers Forum Javid Ahmad hat expresses shock and sorrow shows solidarity In a statement issued to it's media wing Chief spokesperson UT Teachers forum Javid bhat expresses shock and sorrow on the sad demise of Ab Majeed Zargar. The deceased is also grandfather of Mohd Arif Zargar and Ab Rouf Zargar.

Five injured in road accident on Sgr-Kup Highway at Tutigund crossing

DR.AB QAYOOM



Handwara Feb 09: Five persons were injured in a road accident that took place on Kupwara-Srinagar highway near the crossing of village Wadpora area of sub-District Handwara in North Kashmir's Kupwara district Friday afternoon.

An official told HEADLINESTODAY that two vehicles under registration no.DL1OCF7147 and PB05Y 4287(Alto)had a head-on collision on the highway near the crossing of village Wadhpora in Handwara resulting in the injuries to five persons. He said,oon after the accident Police and the locals carried out a rescue operation and shifted the injured to a hospital for medical aid. He identified the injured as Gowhar Ah Mir, S/o Mohd Ashraf R/o Magalpora, Zamrooda Begum Tariq Ahmad Magray Kandi, Aazim Tariq S/o Tariq Ahmad Magray R/o Kandi, Huzaif Tariq S/o Tariq Ahmad Magray and Arhan Tariq The official said that the injured were shifted to a nearby district hospital in Handwara where from One were referred to GMC Baramulla for specialised treatment as their condition is said to be critical and others are stable. Meanwhile a police official has confirmed the incident and said that a case has been registered in this regard.

Ramban: Roshan Lal, **Harpal Singh assume** offices as ADDC, ACR

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 09: Roshan Lal, today assumed the office as the Additional District Development Commissioner, Ramban. Concurrently, S. Harpal Singh, also took charge as the Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, Ramban. Their appointment marks a new chapter in the administration of Ramban district. The incoming officials were warmly welcomed by the officers and officials of the District Administration, signifying a smooth transition and fostering a spirit of collaboration.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: DC inaugurates month long Self-defence **Training program for Girls at Kishtwar**

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 09: Aimed at empowering the girls, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyan campaign touched new heights in district Kishtwar as Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav on Friday inaugurated a month-long self-defense training program for girls aged 14-18 years.The training program, encompassing martial arts and Taekwondo has been hosted in the Sports Club of the CRPF52nd Battalion HQ by the District Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with the District Youth Services and Sports Department, under the auspices of District Administration Kishtwar, led by Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav.

The inaugural ceremony of the month-long training



programme witnessed the presence of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav as the chief guest and CO 52nd Bn CRPF Parma Shivan as the Guest of Honour.District Social Welfare Officer Zubair Ahmed Lone, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Kharati Lal Sharma and Mohinder Kumar Second-in- Command 52nd Battalion CRPF were the special guests.

TSWO Kishtwar Rajesh Sharma, Cultural incharge Awani Sen, TSWO Paddar Chetna Sharma, Staff of OSC, DHEW and Kishtwar Academy for Martial Arts (KAMA) besides girl participants also remained

present on the occasion. The welcome address was delivered by DSWO Zubair Ahmed Lone, providing insights into various government-sponsored schemes for women and the girl child under the Social Welfare Department

besides throwing light.

SARAS AAJEEVIKA Jammu 2.0: Exhibition showcasing Rural Indian Art, Culture starting from Feb 10

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 09: Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) is going to host SARAS AAJEEVIKA Jammu 2.0, an exceptional exhibition highlighting the diverse and vibrant art and culture of rural India. The extraordinary event will take place at the Vibrant Aquaplex crown Bahu Fort from 10th February onwards.

Building upon the success of the previous chapter, this second edition of SARAS AAJEEVIKA promises an even greater celebration of India's rich cultural heri-

SARAS A A JEVIKA Jammu 2.0 features an impressive showcase of 60 unique stalls, with participants from outside the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. These stalls will display a fusion of products from various regions of India, providing visitors with a true representation of the country's artistry and

craftsmanship. With a strong commitment to promoting financial independence, the mela also serves as a platform for empowering self-help group(SHG) members supported by the DAY NRLM from across states such as Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Kerala, UP, Bihar, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and others. These members will exhibit and sell their products, demonstrating their skills and entrepreneurial spirit.

At SARAS AAJEEVIKA Jammu 2.0, visitors can immerse themselves in a plethora of handicrafts, handloom products, and delectable culinary delights from different parts of India. Each stall is meticulously managed by confident and empowered women SHG members, offering a wide range of products that cater to diverse tastes and prefer-

The mela offers a wide range of unique products, including handicraft & handloom items, herbal products, and jewelry from different states. Visitors can also enjoy local delicacies and admire beautifully crafted baskets.

The mela will feature an array of local delicacies such as picanuts from Poonch, hygienic dry apricots, saffron, honey, and walnuts from Kashmir, as well as handcrafted and paper machine items from Budgam and Srinagar . SARAS AAJEVIKA Jammu 2.0 truly encompasses the breadth of India's cultural heritage.

DC Poonch reviews scheme wise progress of **Aspirational Block Development Program**

HT News Network

POONCH, FEBRUARY 09: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary on Friday reviewed the scheme wise progress made under the Aspirational Block Development Programme here at a meeting held in the conference hall of the DC office.

The meeting was attended by Additional District **Development Commis**sioner, Program Officer ICDS, ACP, Chief Medical Officer, District Information Officer, Chief Education Officer., Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District



Lead Bank Manager, Xen's and other concerned.

The DC reviewed the progress made under the programme in the identified areas that required improvement. He directed concerned departments to take necessary steps to improve the indicators and

achieve the targets. The meeting also discussed the physical progress of ongoing works being executed

other departments. He also stressed the importance of channelizing resources towards the

by RDD, PWD, Agriculture,

Education, Health and

modernization and overall development of Aspirational Blocks.

In addition to the Aspirational Block Development Programme, the DC reviewed the implementation of the dairy development scheme in the Aspirational Block Mankote.

The chair was informed by the officers of the concerned departments about the ongoing activities and progress thereof. The DC stressed on promotion of integrated farming and promotion of animal rearing for diversifying the economic activities, adding that the need of the hour is to increase farmers' income by such interventions.

Development of BSNL Infrastructure in GP/BHQs reviewed at Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 9: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex regarding development of BSNL infrastructure in GP/BHQs, involving officers from the line departments.

During the meeting, Sanjeev Chopra delivered a com $prehensive Power Point \, presentation \, \overline{o}ut lining \, the \, process$ and progress of optical fiber laying in villages and Panchayats across the district under the Government of India initiative. He highlighted infrastructural issues identified during the Bharatnet phase-III survey in the District Udhampur, noting that the survey has been successfully completed. The DC emphasized the inclusion of government establishments, including Patwari khana and Panchayat ghars, under this Union Government's initiative. She urged inter-departmental coordination to ensure the effective implementation of the scheme. The DC emphasized the inclusion of government establishments, including Patwari khana and Panchayat ghars, under this Union Government's initiative. She urged inter-departmental coordination.

J&K Bank opens Easy Banking Unit at Surinsar

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 09: Continuing its mission of providing convenient banking services to the people of remote areas, J&K Bank today operationalised an Easy Banking Unit (EBU) at Surinsar in Jammu. The EBU will provide the basic facilities of banking like cash deposit, cash withdrawal, account openings etc. to the people of

The Bank's General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar e-inaugurated the EBU Surinsar in the presence of Zonal Head (Jammu) Rajesh Dubey, Cluster Heads with elected public representatives of the area, prominent persons and local residents present in good numbers



at the base Branch Tootan-Di-Khui.

Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Head reiterated the Bank's commitment citing its contribution in rendering world class banking facilities to the people

irrespective of their location and status. He said, "We will continue to expand as well as deepen our footprint to serve the people belonging to different geographies by extending the latest banking facilities

and financial services to their nearest possible destinations. The EBU at Surinsar will go a long way in helping the people of the area in meeting their daily banking needs."

While seeking support from the public, the GM assured them that the outlet will make every effort to meet the expectations of the people of the area.

People present at the base branch Tootandi-Khui expressed their gratitude to the Bank management for opening an EBU in their area. "The EBU will definitely enhance the bonding of the people with the J&K bank", they said. Pertinently, it was a long outstanding demand of the people of the area which is being developed as an upcoming destination spot and is a major attraction for the tourists because of the shimmering Surinsar Lake.

CMYK

CHEADLINES



NEWDELHI: Australia captain on Saturday and take the ODI Alyssa Healy believes losses like the one they suffered against South Africa can be good for a team that has gone through some significant changes, but has backed them as still "a really good cricket side" as the multi-format series gets set for

a potentially grandstand finish. South Africa's historic first ODI win over the home side on Wednesday followed their first-ever victory over Australia across formats intheT20I series. If they win again series, the multi-format scoreline would be 6-6 heading into next week's Test at the WACA.

Australia have now lost three matches across formats this season after also being turned over by WestIndies in a T20I at North Sydney Oval when Hayley Matthews produced one of the all-time great innings in a record chase.

In Wednesday's ODI they crashed to 71 for 8 on a pitch spiced up by a steady drizzle - having

earlier dropped five chances in the field-although Healy insisted they still believed they could win from that position.

"It's plain and simple: you can't afford to be sloppy and not adapt as quickly as we needed to," Healy said. "We've proven that over the summer, that when we've let ourselves down, even a little bit, in all three facets we are getting punished. Tomorrow's a great opportunity to come out here and be really clinical and perform the way

"We are still a really good cricket side, we showed in Adelaide how good we can be, just got to turn up tomorrow and do the same thing then do it repeatedly for long periods of time."

South Africa, who missed the chance of a series win in the T20Is, are hopeful of taking their opportunity this time.

"There was a period of time where cricket was really challenging for this group. We've had a lot of success over the last five or six years, yes, but there's been plenty of times within that that this group has been challenged"

"It is definitely not done," allrounder Eliz-Mari Marx said. "There's one game to play and I think it's all to play for. If we as a team can stick to what we did the previous match, we can go and win the series."

Australia have undergone significant personnel changes in the last 18 months with Meg Lanning and Rachael Haynes retiring and coach Matthew Mott moving on to take the England men's whiteball job.

Plenty of success has continued to follow with the gold medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and another T20 World Cup title in South Africa last year. They retained the Ashes in England, though they had to settle for a points draw across the three formats as they lost both the ODI and

This IPL season is crucial for every player: Chahar

CHENNAI: India international and Chennai Super Kings seamer Deepak Chahar, who has been preparing in earnest for the upcoming Indian Premier League season, is aware that a good performance in the tournament would result in a ticket for the T20 World Cup in June.

Speaking on the sidelines of event where Etihad airways was announced as official sponsor for CSK, Chahar said that this season will be crucial for everyone as it seems clear that the performance will be taken into account for India selection of the T20 World Cup that is scheduled to



be played in United States of America and West Indies. "It's an important IPL for everyone because this is the first time everyone knows the Indian team will be decided based on the performance of the IPL. You know the set-up — these are the players they are going to look for. Whoever performs well in this IPL will get the chance.

To be fit and to perform and to give the 100%...I'm always someone who gives 100% and there's a lot of time for the World Cup. Personally, I see what's next — that's 22nd March. So, I'm preparing for that and let's see what happens," said the 31-year-old.

The senior CSK seamer, who missed the T20Is against South Africa and Afghanistan because his father was unwell, insists that family responsibility too is important for a cricketer. "I'd say family comes first. If there's a family emergency, you don't think about anything else.

When you face a situation like this, you don't think about what's going to happen next. When I came out of that situation, I could think about what next I can do. When anyone sees me play the next time, they should be thinking: 'he's an improved cricketer'."

Mukesh Choudhary, Rajvardhan H, Simarjeet Singh were the other players who were present at the event.

I worry England may become a team who do all the great work only to not win much: Michael Vaughan

LONDON: Former skipper Michael Vaughan is worried England will become a side that doesn't win much despite putting in the hard yards, adding that the team's batting unit needs to strike a balance between playing aggressive and traditional cricket to succeed in India.

Since adopting the 'Bazball' approach, England have enjoyed a good run but the same no-holdsbarred approach has also cost them several matches and series, including the Ashes last year.

"England have become a difficult team to criticise too much because they are so good to watch. Every game they play has us all absolutely gripped, and they have improved massively under Ben Stokes," Vaughan wrote in his coulmn for 'The Telegraph'.

"However, I do worry that they might become a team who do all this great work only to not actually win very much. They didn't win the Ashes when they should have done and now they have let India back into a series when they still have a load of big names, including Virat Kohli, to come back."

England had taken a 1-0 lead in the five-match series in India but Ben Stokes and his men let the hosts draw parity in the second Test as all their batters, barring Zak Crawley, were unable to get big

"England will not win the series if they bat the way they did in Visakhapatnam. I actually think the batsmen need to take a leaf out of the bowlers' book. With ball in hand, they have been quite traditional at times, aggressive at others, and they have gone up and down the gears in terms of how attacking their fields have been."

England had pulled off a dramatic 28-run win in the series opener on the back of vice-captain Ollie Pope's epic second-innings knock of 196 and left-arm spinner Tom Hartley's seven-wicket haul in the second innings.

The young spinners have been fantastic but, for me, James Anderson's brilliant performance shows that they have to get another seamer, probably Ollie Robinson, in the side with him.

"The batsmen, meanwhile, look like they only have one way to play. They are in fifth gear from ball one. I don't mind some of them playing like that because they are better for it.

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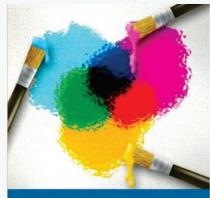
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