



Srinagar

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lyer left out for remaining
three Tests against England;
Kohli unavailable

P|12

DC Srinagar distributes
Aids and Appliances among
persons with special needs

P|3



J&K's 'Future Ready Governance' Is Future Driven, Tech Assisted And Human-Centric: LG Sinha

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, FEB 10: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the 'Sushasan Mahotsav 2024' organized by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini in New Delhi, today.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor highlighted the transformational journey of J&K from misgovernance to good governance under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi after the abrogation of Article 370.

"Good Governance is the key to a Nation's progress. The mantra and the guiding principle of 'Citizen- First' of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has inspired and helped to evolve J&K's new model of Good Governance, which is called 'Future Ready Governance'," the Lt Governor said.

J&K's 'Future Ready Governance' is

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



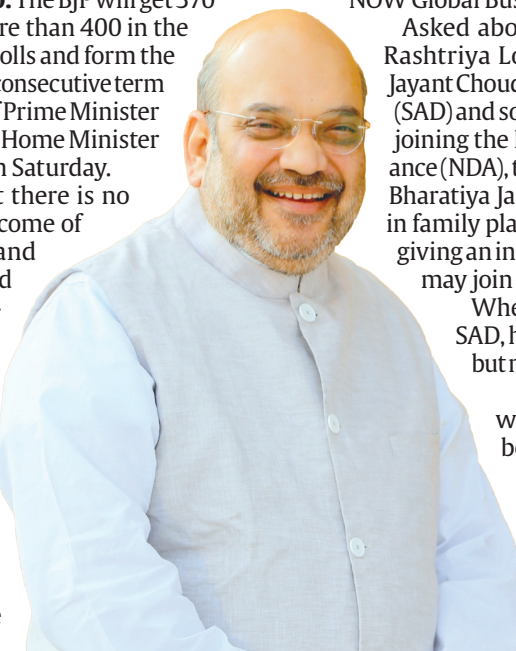
People Will Bless BJP With 370 LS Seats As It Abrogated Article 370; NDA To Get Over 400 Seats: Amit Shah

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, FEB 10: The BJP will get 370 seats and the NDA more than 400 in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls and form the government for a third consecutive term under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said here on Saturday.

Shah asserted that there is no suspense over the outcome of the Lok Sabha polls and even the Congress and other opposition parties have realised that they will again have to sit in the opposition benches.

"We have abrogated Article 370 (of the Constitution, which gave a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir). So we believe that the people of the



country will bless the BJP with 370 seats and the NDA with over 400 seats," Shah said at the ET NOW Global Business Summit 2024.

Asked about the possibility of the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), headed by Jayant Choudhary, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and some other regional parties joining the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the home minister said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) "believes in family planning but not in politics", giving an indication that more parties may join the ruling coalition.

When pressed further on the SAD, he said, "Talks are going on but nothing has been finalised."

Shah said the 2024 polls will not be an election between the NDA and the INDIA opposition bloc, but between development and those who give mere slogans.

Asked about the Bharat Jodo Yatra of

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

Except Srinagar, Night Temperature Rises Slightly In Kashmir

SRINAGAR, FEB 10: Except in Srinagar the night temperature rose slightly in most parts of the valley. The summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, recorded a night temperature of minus 4.9 degrees Celsius, up from minus 4.8 degrees the previous day, the officials said.

The meteorological center in Srinagar, the tourist resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir, was coldest during the night, at -8.6 degrees Celsius against -10.3 °C the previous night.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NIA Raids 15 Locations Across J&K In Terror Funding Case

SRINAGAR, FEB 10: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday raided 15 locations across Jammu and Kashmir as part of its crackdown on the Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), an unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, in a terror funding case.

NIA teams swooped down on the premises of various suspects at five locations in Srinagar, three in Budgam, two in Kulgam, one in Anantnag and four in Jammu, an official statement said. "Incriminating documents and digital devices connected with the activities of JeI and its related Trusts

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

2 drug peddlers arrested in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, FEB 10: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday said to have arrested two drug peddlers in Baramulla and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

"A police party headed by Incharge Police Post Palhallan at a checkpoint established at Tapper near NHW intercepted 02 persons who tried to flee away from the spot but were apprehended tactfully," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

They have been identified as Mohammad Aqib Ganie son of Ghulam Mohammad Ganie resident of Takiya Tapper & Jahangir Ahmad Ganie son of Ghulam Ahmad Ganie resident of

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

DEO/DC Srinagar Reviews Preparedness For Upcoming Election

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEB 10: Deputy Commission (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat who is also the District Election Officer (DEO) Saturday chaired a meeting with all



Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Election Registration Officers (AEROs) and District Election Machinery here at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review the preparations for upcoming General Elections.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Kashmir's houseboat-making maestro struggles amidst ban, legal hurdles

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEB 10: Nazir Kawdari, the skilled artisan behind the renowned 'Crown of Kashmir' Houseboat, finds himself in dire straits due to the ban on new houseboat construction and legal complexities surrounding their renovation.

With a family legacy spanning generations in the craft of houseboat making,



Kawdari, speaking with the news agency—Kashmir

News Observer (KNO)

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Railway Board Chairman Carries Out Inspection Of USBRL Project

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEB 10: Railway Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Jaya Varma Sinha on Saturday carried out an intensive inspection of the USBRL project.

Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager, Northern Railway, Sandeep Gupta, CAO USBRL, Sanjay Gupta, CMD KRCL, V P Singh,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

DGP Takes Cognizance Of "Late Sittings" By Officers Without Task In PHQ

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEB 10: Setting an example of professional policing, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police, R R Swain, has taken cognizance of late sittings after official timings by the officers without task in the Police Headquarters of

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



DM Jammu Cancels 3 Illegal Land Mutations

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEB 10: District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya has cancelled set of three land mutations that were attested in a fraudulent manner, contrary to the provisions of Government Order No. 254-C of 1965.

After taking cognizance of the matter and seeking a status report from the Tehsildar, the order was issued by the DM.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

From law to agriculture, this student has emerged as beacon of hope, inspiration

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, FEB 10: Mian Nazim, a determined law student hailing from the Woder Kachnambal in Ganderbal has defied convention by venturing into the world of agriculture with remarkable success.

His journey from law books to orchard management has not only transformed his own life but has also become a beacon of hope for his community.

Breaking the mold, Nazim transitioned from traditional orchards to embrace the government's Horticulture

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Assembly Elections In J&K Will Take Place Before Sept 2024: Tarun Chugh

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEB 10: BJP National General Secretary and In-Charge J&K Tarun Chugh Saturday said that Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir will be held before September 2024. He however said that it is ECI

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

J&K's 'Future.....

future-driven, tech assisted and human-centric. We have developed a powerful conceptual framework, clearly specifying what each of these 3 terms means, and how they are intrinsically integrated for creating a holistic and futuristic model for Good Governance, he said.

He said the UT Administration has already initiated pilot projects, to work both as Proofs of Concept and as also models for communicating the novel and innovative ideas embedded in the framework.

We are concurrently setting up new adaptive and resilient systems, to develop organizational capacity to deliver precisely and effectively to each citizen, the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor said the Human-Centric element of Future-Ready Governance will have two components. The first will focus on all government employees, with a view to empower and energize them as the lead instrument of transformation. The second will focus on citizens as partners in developing our priorities and working modalities, in sync with their needs and aspirations, he observed.

Addressing the special session on UT of Jammu Kashmir, the Lt Governor shared the reforms and the vision of the Administration to improve policy performance and address future challenges.

Future Ready Governance is not a theoretical concept or a model. For us, this is the beginning of the journey to impact and improve the life of every person in Jammu & Kashmir, he observed.

"We intend to equip ourselves fully to develop "Future-Driven" strategies and will continue to blaze new pathways for this journey," the Lt Governor said.

He said the Administration is looking at scientific tools like Artificial Intelligence & Big Data based Strategic Foresight to be able to visualize evidence and data-based future scenarios.

We are considering the setting up of "Centre for New Age Governance" (CNAAG), for providing necessary knowledge inputs and capacity building support, the Lt Governor observed.

The Lt Governor also paid homage to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Rambhau Mhalgi, and remembered their significant contributions to the nation building.

Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, Vice-Chairman, Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini; Sh Harshvardhan Tripathi, senior Journalist; prominent personalities from diverse fields and members of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini organization were present.

People Will.....

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he said the the Nehru-Gandhi scion has no right to go ahead with such a march as his party was responsible for the country's partition in 1947.

On the timing of a white paper tabled by the government in Parliament, Shah said it was necessary as the country has full right to know what mess the Congress-led United Progressive alliance (UPA) left behind when it lost power in 2014.

"At that time (2014), the economy was in a bad shape. There were scams everywhere. Foreign investment was not coming. Had we taken out a white paper at that time, it would have given a wrong message to the world.

"But after 10 years, our government has revived the economy, brought foreign investment and there is no corruption at all. So it is the right time to publish the white paper," he said.

On the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the home minister said the people of the country believed for 500-550 years that the temple should be built at the place where Lord Ram was born.

"However, due to the politics of appeasement and citing law and order, the construction of the Ram temple was not allowed," he said.

On the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), Shah said the law, enacted in 2019, will be implemented before the Lok Sabha polls after issuing the rules in this regard.

"Our Muslim brothers are being misled and instigated (against the CAA). The CAA is only meant to give citizenship to those who came to India after facing persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. It is not for snatching anyone's Indian citizenship," he said.

On a Uniform Civil Code, Shah said it is a constitutional agenda, signed by the country's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and others.

"But the Congress had ignored it due to appeasement. The enforcement of the UCC in Uttarakhand is a social change. It

will be discussed on all forums and face legal scrutiny. A secular country cannot have religion-based civil codes," he said. (Agencies)

DEO/DC Srinagar.....

At the outset, the DEO/DC Srinagar held a detailed discussion with the Officers present in the meeting and illustrated the various important aspects of the Election process mainly aimed at ensuring smooth and peaceful general elections in Srinagar District.

During the meeting, the roles of AROs/EROs and AEROs of all 08 Assembly Constituencies and other Election related machinery in smooth conduct of the elections were discussed in detail.

The DEO held deliberations with regard to polling stations/locations, assured minimum facilities available at polling stations, resource availability/ manpower, logistics, transport plan, communication plan, training to the polling staff, EVM management plan, management of postal ballots, nomination of Sectoral and Zonal Magistrates and establishment of help-desks and information desks. The meeting also discussed material management plan, location of the distribution and collection centres in threadbare.

Speaking on occasion. The DC/DEO stresses upon the Officers to prepare meticulous Election Management Plan of each Assembly Constituency in order to ensure that all electorates participate in the election process in large numbers in a hassle free manner.

DC/DEO directed the officers to conduct physical verification of each and every polling station/ location to ensure the availability of all assured minimum facilities, so as to ensure that no voter or poll staff faces any kind of difficulty during elections.

He emphasised upon the concerned officers to put in place all the necessary arrangements as per guidelines of ECI.

The DEO also laid special thrust on increasing voter turnout through Polling Station/AC Level SVEEP Program in the District.

The DEO also asked the Officers to go for technological upgradation/ training of the poll staff with respect to the IT interventions launched by the ECI.

Earlier, the DC/DEO was informed that 748531 voters including 375221 male and 373286 electors are registered in Srinagar District in 8 Assembly Constituencies viz 19-Hazratbal, 20-Khanyar, 21-Habbakadal, 22-Lal-Chowk, 23-Chanapora, 24-Zadibal, 25-Eidgah 26-Central Shalteng.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ARO/ERO- Zadibal), Dr Khalid Hussain Malik, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ARO/ERO- Hazratbal), Syed Ahmad Kataria, Deputy District Election Officer, Nazia Hassan, Other AROs/EROs , AEROS and other concerned from District Election Authority were present in the meeting.

Kashmir's houseboat.....

said that before the ban and the COVID-19 pandemic, his livelihood thrived. However, the current scenario has left him grappling for work amidst government restrictions and legal impediments in the renovation process.

"Before the ban, especially in the 1990s, business was booming, sustaining our livelihoods. I have been in this profession for over 40 years, following in the footsteps of my father and ancestors. However, with the ban and bureaucratic hurdles hindering renovation efforts, including prolonged court proceedings, we now find ourselves struggling to make ends meet," Kawdari lamented.

He said that crafting a new houseboat typically takes around a year and entails a huge financial investment. "But since the ban, we don't even remember the time when we made the last houseboat," he said.

Regarding renovation work, Nazir said that even after obtaining legal permissions from the court, the Lakes and Conservation authorities disrupt their operations.

"The condition is such that I won't teach my son or anyone else about this houseboat making as I myself am struggling for work," he said.

About his son's livelihood, Kawdari revealed that his son is currently involved in the tourism sector and is faring better financially.

The ban on new houseboat construction and stringent regulations on renovation stems from pollution concerns, dating back to the late '90s during the tenure of the Farooq Abdullah-led administration.

"Recently, after a lot of legal battles, the renovation was allowed in extreme burning or damage cases, that too after the proper permission from the court and other authorities," he said.

One of the houseboat owners in Dal Lake told KNO that many people came to

them, talking about relief and other things, but nothing has happened to date.

"When my houseboat was burning, everyone was there to watch the scene, but no one from the administration or anyone else has come to me till now," another houseboat owner, wishing anonymity, said.

Assembly.....

who has take final call on its schedule. Chugh told KNS that BJP is ready for elections and wants Assembly elections in the Union Territory at the earliest. He said that though Election Commission of India has to take final call on election schedule, but it is already decided that elections will take place before September 2024.

He said after August 5, 2019 the J&K has started the journey of peace, prosperity and development. "Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi the BJP government has empowered people of J&K in every respect. The ignored sections of the society have been roped in reserved category, who erstwhile faced lots of cruelty at the hands of regional political parties. They used deprived sections of the society for their vote bank, but PM Modi reformed the structure and brought them to fore," Chugh said.

Railway Board.....

PCE NR, U C Joshi, PCOM NR and Sanjay Sahu, Divisional Railway Manager Firozpur and other senior officers of USBRL Project were present during the inspection.

Sinha commenced his inspection from Katra to Tunnel No. T-33 (old T-1) and conducted Motor Trolly inspection, followed by an intensive on foot inspection of ongoing critical work of Tunnel T-33.

She appreciated the good work being done by the project team under the extremely challenging geological conditions and advised them to follow all safety protocols.

The Railway Board Chairman directed the project authorities to take all possible measures to expedite the completion of balance works so that Katra-Reasi section can be linked, said Deepak Kumar, Chief Public Relations Officer.

He said that the CEO continued the motor trolley inspection Tunnel T-34 (old T-2) onwards through Anji Bridge, Reasi Station, Bakkal Station, Chenab Bridge right up to Dugga railway station inspecting track, E&M, S&T and RE works and expressed satisfaction regarding the quality and progress of these works.

Sinha reviewed the progress of the USBRL project at Chenab Bridge site with the officials of NR, KRCL and IRCON.

She expressed satisfaction at the pace of works and directed the project authorities to closely monitor all balance works especially Tunnel T-1 and Sawalkote yard works to ensure that there are no delays, the CPRO said. In spite of all types of geological, topographical and meteorological challenges, work on the remaining portion is in full swing, he added.

"Every day, Indian Railway is edging closer to connecting Kashmir Valley to the rest of the Railway network," the Board Chairman said. (UNI)

DGP Takes.....

Jammu and Srinagar.

In a circular issued by the Police Headquarters (Jammu/Srinagar), DGP R R Swain has cleared that no official who does not have work or has work that he or she thinks can be easily handled the next day or the day after because of the flexibility of the time limit or deadline shall sit late, even for a minute, and it applies to all officers irrespective of ranks.

As per the circular, the DGP stated, "It has come to my knowledge that many officers in PHQ have expressed anxiety regarding late sittings and the inconvenience thereof."

"It is unfortunate that officers have been sitting late on their own, even when they have no work. The feedback is that many are doing it out of deference to their senior, who is yet to leave the office," read the circular.

It further reads that the situation warrants absolute clarity: no official who does not have work or has work that he or she thinks can be easily handled the next day or the day after because of the flexibility of the time limit or deadline shall sit late, even for a minute, and it applies to all officers irrespective of ranks.

"The only exception can be if an officer has been specifically asked by his superior to stay on to complete a time-bound task. All officers are sincerely advised to be very careful and extremely selective in asking their juniors to sit late," the order read.

It further stated that the guiding principle and deciding question for the late sitting officer should be, "Would some junior's sitting late help in any way in expediting the work that he or she is handling and for which he or she is sitting late?"

"All supervisory officers, irrespective of their position in the hierarchy, shall be sensitive about the work-life balance of their juniors," the J&K Police Chief said in a circular.

The circular, however, read that to clarify, as for the DGP, the schedule and roster of the personal staff have been carefully designed to give relief on a rotational and roster basis, adding that "other senior officers may like to emulate and devise their own mechanisms."

Meanwhile, the cognizance taken by DGP Swain is welcomed and appreciated by the officers. (UNI)

DM Jammu.....

According to the order, the land mutations were related to Khasra No. 118, 210 and 210-Min in village Dhami, Tehsil Nagrota, where ownership rights were conferred to three persons under the Government Order No. 254-C of 1965, which was meant for the rehabilitation of displaced families of 1947, 1965 and 1971.

The perusal of the revenue records revealed that the land in question was recorded as State Land with the kind of soil as 'Gair Mumkin Passi', i.e. non-agricultural land, and hence did not fall under the provision of the said order. Moreover, the land under Khasra No. 210-Min was under the Forest Department Land.

Pertinently, the parties who were accorded the ownership rights were summoned by the DM for a hearing, but they failed to appear.

After careful scrutiny of the revenue records and examination of the report submitted by the Tehsildar, the DM concluded that the impugned mutations were illegal and fraudulent, and thus cancelled.

Tehsildar Nagrota was directed to correct the relevant records and submit an action taken report within two days. He is also required to share the names of the delinquent officials who entered the impugned mutations in an illegal manner for further necessary action.

From law to.....

Development Program (HDP) in 2021, leveraging the scheme's 50% subsidy to catapult his orchard into a flourishing enterprise.

He shared with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) his strategic planning and unwavering determination that led to the expansion of his orchard to an impressive 11-kanal HDP orchard.

In just the first year of operation, Nazim's orchard yielded substantial returns, generating 4 lakh rupees from 6 kanals alone. However, his success transcends monetary gains, as Nazim emphasized his commitment to empowering his community by providing employment opportunities. By hiring and compensating two individuals, he not only elevated their standard of living but also contributed to combating unemployment in the region.

Nazim attributes much of his inspiration to Mian Naqashband, whose mentorship instilled in him the confidence to thrive in the agricultural sector. Looking ahead, Nazim envisions further expansion of his orchard while exploring innovative and sustainable

farming techniques. He firmly believes that entrepreneurship holds the key to addressing unemployment woes and encourages aspiring young entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams relentlessly.

The remarkable journey of Nazim serves as a testament to the transformative power of motivation, dedication, and a commitment to social impact. His story resonates as a shining example of how ordinary individuals can achieve extraordinary success while uplifting their communities along the way.

Except Srinagar.....

The ski resort of Gulmarg in the north recorded a minimum temperature of -7.0 degrees Celsius against -9.0°C the previous night.

Qazigund—the gateway town to the valley—in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 5.8 degrees Celsius, against -6.4°C the previous night.

Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 4.4 degrees Celsius last night, the MeT said.

MeT said the night temperature in Jammu was 7.3, Katra 6.1, Batote 3.9, Bhaderwah minus 2.2, and Banihal 1.8 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The weather is likely to remain dry till February 17.

"There can be occasional cloudy weather on February 14," the weatherman has predicted.

After a prolonged dry spell, Kashmir received decent snow and rain last week. After the recent snow spell, Kashmir has been witnessing mostly sunny days, and the daytime temperatures have been 2 to 4 degrees above normal. On Friday, the daytime temperature was 11.5 degrees Celsius, which was 2.3 notches above normal. (UNI)

NIA Raids 15.....

in J&K were seized during the extensive searches, which also led to the recovery of over 20 lakh rupees in cash," it added.

NIA investigations in the case, registered on February 5, 2021, have so far revealed that Jel and its members have continued to promote terrorist and secessionist activities in J&K even after the outfit was proscribed under UA(P) Act in February 2019.

"Operatives of the banned organisation had been collecting funds through donations from within India and abroad," NIA said.

As per NIA investigations, the funds were collected mainly in the form of Zakat, Mowda and Bait-ul-Mal, purported to promote charity and other welfare activities, such as health and education, but were instead being used for carrying out violent and secessionist activities

It was further found that the funds raised by Jel were also being channelled to other proscribed terrorist organisations, such as Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) etc, through well organised networks of Jel cadres. Jel was also engaged in motivating impressionable youth and recruiting new members (Rukuns) in J&K to further its nefarious and secessionist activities.

NIA had earlier chargesheeted four accused persons in the case, in which investigations are continuing. (UNI)

2 drug peddlers.....

Rengi. During search, 3 Kgs of Cannabis Powder was recovered from their possession. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody.

Accordingly, police said that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station and investigation has been initiated.

"We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law," police said.

Delegation of KCF, Kreeri Visits residence of M A Bhat

Condoles the Sad Demise of his Father Ab Majeed Bhat

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA FEB 09 : A delegation of Kruhen Cultural Forum Muradabad Kreeri today visited the residence of Muhammad Amin Bhat, president of Adbi Markaz Kamaaz to condole the sad demise of his father, Abdul Majeed Bhat.

Delegation led by it Chief Patron Syed Sad ud din Saidi comprised of Noted Poets Fayaz Tilgami, Syed Sharief Hussain Qadri, Syed Abdul Hameed Nadin Bukhari. Editor in Chief of daily Headlines Today Jahangir Bukhari also accompanied the delegation to the residence of MA Bhat. Ijtimai Fatehaa was offered under the leadership of Saidi Sahib in which a sizable number of people present at that time participated and



prayed for the peace to the departed soul. The deceased was also father of Rafiq Ahmed Bhat, proprietor of

leading advertising agency of kashmir valley, Raqia Advertising. The delegation expressed soli-

darity with the bereaved family in general and MA Bhat and Rafiq Ahmed Bhat in particular.

DC Srinagar distributes Aids and Appliances among persons with special needs

Lays emphasis on holding such camps to help beneficiaries to cope up in their daily life

SRINAGAR, FEB 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, distributed appropriate Aids and appliances to Persons With Special Needs (PWSN) here in a programme on Saturday.

The programme was organized by PM Divyasha Kendra in collaboration with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) at Zila Sainik Bhawan Srinagar.

After distributing Aids and Appliances among needy persons, the Deputy Commissioner, who is also the president Zila Sainik Board appreciated the efforts of the Zila Sainik Bhawan Srinagar and ALIMCO.

The DC emphasized that such camps greatly help the beneficiaries to cope up in their daily life and should go a long way to



help them to achieve life goals. He also impressed that such camps should be organized more

often in the district.

The DC also congratulated the organizers for the initiative and assured that the District Administration will extend every possible help to children with special needs.

During the camp needed persons were provided with aids and appliances including Wheel-chairs, Smart Cane, Hearing aids, Crutches and Motorised Battery Operated Tricycle etc.

Earlier, the Experts from Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) gave demonstrations regarding use of appliances.

General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar, District Social Welfare Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Officers from Zila Sainik Board, representatives of ALIMCO and others were present on the occasion.

Handicrafts & Handloom Deptt Kickstarts Exhibitions at Emporium Building & Zero Bridge

SRINAGAR, FEB 10: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, today inaugurated an exhibition at the Government Arts Emporium in Srinagar.

The special exhibition, organized by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir, aims to spotlight the remarkable craftsmanship of Padma Shri awardee Ghulam Nabi Dar and UT Level Awardee Riyaz Ahmad Khan, honoring their recent accolades.

Ghulam Nabi Dar, a renowned master craftsman from Srinagar, was recently bestowed with the Padma Shri for his exceptional contributions to wood carving, while Riyaz Ahmad Khan was recognized with the J&K UT Level Award for his exemplary service to the Paper Machie craft.

The opening reception attracted a large audience, with visitors relishing the artistic displays and interacting with the talented artists themselves.



Showcases were masterpieces unmatched in their craftsmanship. Both awardees have garnered acclaim over the years, receiving recognition at both the state and national levels.

In his address to the audience, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted how the event celebrates the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the city, expressing delight at the turnout and stressing the importance of supporting local artists.

The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir has been committed to bringing art and crafts into open-air settings through its 'Know Your Artisan' initiative, following Srinagar's acknowledgment as UNESCO's Creative City in Craft and Folk Art.

The department also inaugurated a two-day exhibition cum sales event at Zero Bridge Rajbagh Srinagar from February 10th, 2024.

The event organized by Assistant Director Handicrafts/Handloom Srinagar aims to support local artisans and raise awareness about the richness of the valley's indigenous handicrafts. Enthusiastic participation was witnessed from 12 local artisans, who showcased a diverse range of handicraft products.

Speaking at the event, the Director of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir reiterated the department's commitment to providing a platform for local artisans to showcase their talents and boost sales.

Such initiatives, he emphasized, play a crucial role in preserving the legacy of handicrafts and providing exposure and livelihood support to local artisans.

The department plans to organize many more such exhibitions throughout the valley to connect artisans with both local and global markets.

PULWAMA'S SONZWATER RESIDENTS DEMAND POTABLE WATER

PULWAMA, FEB 10: Residents of Sonzwatter village in Pulwama district have demanded potable water in the area.

The residents of the area told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the area has been facing a water crisis for a long time now but no steps are being taken in this regard.

They said that since years the residents of the area have been facing inconvenience due to unavailability of potable water in the area.

Muzzafar Ahmed, a local, said that they have been consuming contaminated water for years as they don't have access to potable water yet.

He said that the government on the one hand is putting emphasis on sanitation while on the other hand the government has failed in providing potable water to people.

Mohammad Shafi, another local said that the government had earlier started a water pump but that was later left midway giving locals a very tough time.

Locals said that they have brought this issue in notice of higher ups several times but to no avail.

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti department Pulwama Nisar Ahmad told news agency Kashmir News Observer KNO that they had explored a tube well in the area but chemical contamination was found in it due to which they are unable to provide water to the area.

He said that Deputy Commissioner Pulwama is providing funds under capex funds in the coming financial year and residents will very soon get potable water.

For hundreds of shopkeepers, street vendors, Hazratbal shrine continues to be 'a major source of livelihood'

'Huge rush of devotees at the shrine on Mehraj-e-Alam, Eid-e-Meelad un Nabi (SAW), other special occasions help shopkeepers, vendors keep their business alive'

Srinagar, Feb 10: Every year, special occasions like Mehraj-e-Alam, Eid-e-Meelad-un-Nabi (SAW) besides the Urs of four Khalifa's of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) help hundreds of shopkeepers and street vendors outside the revered shrine of Hazratbal, Srinagar, keep their businesses thriving.

The revered shrine of Hazratbal is a great hope for not just the shopkeepers, street vendors but their family members including children as well.

"Though market is slow but thanks to Almighty, we earn profits and feed our families including our children well," said Nazir Ahmed Bhat, a shopkeeper outside the Hazratbal shrine.

He told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that market in the vicinity of the shrine offers a variety of products, including paper machine items, clothes, toys, crockery, religious books, and edibles.

"Whenever there are large gatherings at the shrine, our business blooms," said Mushaq Pattan, who runs the clothing business.

Abid Patthan, who oversees the market, mentioned that usually, the area is bustling with activity, but over the past few years, there has been a



noticeable change.

"People from various backgrounds visit here, especially during major events, and engage in a lot of shopping, which helps both vendors and shopkeepers earn a living," he said. "I am confident that once summer approaches, business will pick up. We are not discouraged by the current lower or moderate turnover as we understand that every business goes through its highs and lows," he added.

Mushaq Ahmed Dar, a vendor, mentioned that during special occasions, each of them earns a minimum profit of Rs 15,000-20,000 a day.

"Winters in Kashmir pose challenges for people like us. The market slows down, but once summer arrives, we experience a significant increase in footfall," Dar told KNO. "The shrine attracts thousands of visitors throughout the year," he added.

News Rebuttal

JAMMU, FEB 10: Reacting sharply to the news item, "Nearly 80% of Schools lack enough Subject Teachers" published in the section of paper, dated 9th Feb 2024, School Education Department Jammu and Kashmir, has refuted the claim and statistics given in the news item. It is clarified that, by the department that, there are 18723 Govt. Schools in Jammu and Kashmir as on date, out of which, 8966 are Primary Schools, 7228 are Upper Primary, 1741 High Schools and 788 HSS Schools. 97116 Teachers have been placed in the Govt. Schools of Jammu and Kashmir, for teaching from the Pre-Primary to the Sr. secondary classes.

As per the recruitment made in the Schools, through Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board and RET Scheme of the Govt., No subject specific teachers have been recruited or engaged. These are all general line Teachers which are capable of teaching Mathematics, Science, SST and Languages in the Schools.

The Pupil Teacher Ratio in case of Primary School is 1:13, Upper Primary Schools is 1:9, in Secondary School it is 1:14 and at HSS level it is 1:30, compared to PTR of 26, 19, 17 and 27 at the Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Sr. Second-

ary respectively at the National level. There were some Schools in the Jammu and Kashmir, which were having single teacher but J&K was among the few States/UT to implement the School Complex system policy as mandated under NEP 2020. Under the Guidelines issued for School Complex System, 762 School Complexes have been formed in the UT of J&K and rationalization of Teachers has been made at different level, to ensure that, No single Teacher School exists in the UT.

The Unified District Information System (UDISE) for School Education launched by the Ministry of the School Education, has the fields of Science, Maths, SST and Language Teachers in the Schools, as such the Data is filled by the Teachers from the School Level to ensure the compliances and the data of the updated UDISE reflects the availability of more than 90% teachers in Upper Primary Schools, in all the subjects, though they are competent and qualified to teach the subjects other than those reflected against them. As such, It is clarified that, there is no dearth of Teachers in the Upper Primary Schools to teach any specific Subjects. However, the subject specific teachers are recruited at Higher Secondary Level and there was a deficiency of

those Subject specific teachers in the beginning of the academic year 2023-24. In order to address that, the Govt. has engaged 1496 Cluster Resource Coordinators, who are subject specific and have been deployed in the remote School, where there was shortage of Teachers. It is further added that, the Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir is spending almost 18 Crores every year to strengthen the Libraries and the Library books have been provided in all the 18723 Schools from primary to Sr. Secondary level, for making student knowledge enriched about the general awareness, environment and other Health & hygienic Conditions, as envisaged in the Library Guidelines. Efforts are also made to construct the special Library rooms, where the same doesn't exist and 617 are library rooms are under construction in different schools. Presently, Libraries have been established in all the Schools as per the space availability.

As per UDISE, 10104 schools are without concrete ramps for which efforts are being made to construct the Concrete ramps, in phased manner. Temporary Ramps in the leftover aschools, have been placed and functional. Recently, funds amounting, to Rs 2.62 Crores have also been released for construction of Ramps

in Schools. Moreover, the schools where Children with Special Needs are enrolled, have been given priority for the construction of ramps.

Similarly, 8339 Schools, which had availability of Land has play ground facility. Further, funding is being provided in case of Schools, having space for playground, for its proper development. However, in order to ensure that, the Children have access to the Sports facilities, where Play ground facility could not be developed due to lack of Land availability, the Govt. has developed Play ground in every Panchayat, where students of the schools also enjoys sports activities. Moreover, 100 Model Play Grounds with cost of Rs. 20.00 Crores are being developed, under Samagra Shiksha, besides this no. of Play Grounds, have been taken up under Capex grants.

The School Education Department has also recently conducted Annual Transfer Drive, where in more than, 13000 Teachers were transferred on the basis of Zone formation as per the Transfer Policy. The transfers were made through online mechanism in a very Transparent manner and Teachers have been posted in the schools, keeping students and enrolment in the schools as primary focus. Further, the School Education Department is commit-

ted to enhance the competency of the Teachers and lot of stress is being laid on the trainings of teachers for their orientation to improve the learning outcomes of the students. Capacity building programmes/ workshops/ Orientation/ Training Programme under TTAP, in 2023-24 stand attended by more than 40000 Teachers, wherein their orientation has been done.

The 17% increase in the Enrolment in 2022-23 is tantamount to the improvement of the basic amenities in the Schools. The Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir, is committed to revamp the overall education system of the Union Territory and in the recent years more than, 3500 Civil works have been completed under Samagra Shiksha and equal no. of works are under execution at different stages. Similarly, under UT Capex, more than 2000 works are under execution and no. of works have been completed. Model Kindergartens are being developed. Infrastructure has been improved in the Schools, as on the date, 92% Schools are having own Buildings. Furthermore, for the year 2024-25, the department of school education and literacy Gol has approved mega plan of Rs. 1665 Crores for the holistic development of the children studying in the School of the Jammu and Kashmir.

Residents of Karihama, Kupwara aghast at unmaintained road to Polytechnic College

KUPWARA, FEB 10: Residents of Karihama in north Kashmir's Kupwara district have expressed resentment against the authorities for "poor maintenance" of the road leading to their area and the Polytechnic College.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), aggrieved residents said they face many challenges by the slippery and unmaintained road.

Residents said elderly people and patients in particular are struggling to pass through the hazardous road conditions, which have become a safety concern for everyone.

They said despite repeated pleas to the concerned authorities, particularly the R&B Department, no concrete step was taken to maintain the road.

"We have reached out to the authorities multiple times and urged them to address the road's maintenance issues. However, apart from assurances, no concrete action has been taken thus far. We have also stressed the need for widening the road to facilitate the general public," said Altaf Ahmad, a local. Residents said two important institutions including Polytechnic College and Higher Secondary School are functioning there.

They said the drainage facilities are exacerbating the hardships for patients, elderly and students. Vehicles struggle to ply on the slippery road surface, especially during inclement weather conditions such as rain and snow, they added. A student from the Polytechnic College, wishing anonymity, stressed the need for urgent maintenance of the road. "We need to attend college regularly and appear for exams without interruption. However, this road is full of challenges with slippery conditions," he said.

Residents have appealed to the Lieutenant Governor-led administration to prioritise the issue and direct the concerned department to take immediate action for the welfare and convenience of the general public.

Phase-1 computerization & distribution of essential hardware systems completed in all PACs of Budgam

DC Budgam inspects status of computerization of PACs in the district

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 10: The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo today visited various Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), and inspected computerization and availability of computer hardware given to the PACS.

Among other PACS, the DC also inspected MPSC Bemina, MPSC Sheikhpora, and MPSC Budgam and reviewed their functioning as Common Service Centres (CSCs) in the district.

Later, the DC also interacted with a gathering of PACS members at an awareness programme at Commu-

nity Hall Budgam and encouraged them for coordinating and tying up with National level and established cooperatives.

Addressing, the members of the PACS, the DC exhorted the members to create model PACS that can serve as examples for other cooperatives in the district.

He also emphasised on learning from leading cooperatives in India like Amul, the largest milk producer in the world.

He assured every possible assistance to the PACS from the side of district administration and urged them to avail the various incentives of the Cooperative Department such as computerization of PACS, establishment



of Jan Aushadi Kendras etc.

DC Budgam said that our cooperative societies must work with great energy and enthusiasm and compete

as well as coordinate with National level societies.

The DC said that the completion of phase-1 computerization of all the 54

PACS in Budgam is a moment of achievement for the district as all our 54 PACS are being mapped and connected with other 63000 PACS of our country.

DC urged local enterprises to use innovative and creative vision to strengthen their Cooperatives and explore vast opportunities in Dairy, Agriculture and other fields for better prospects in the district.

He also appealed to members of PACS to explore expertise from counterparts in other states and enhance their skills and work execution during awareness programmes.

The members were also addressed by the Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies Budgam, Abida Nabi, who

briefed them about the various initiatives of the Cooperative Department like Computerization of PACS, establishment of Jan Aushadi Kendras, functioning of PACS as CSCS etc.

She said that the computerization of PACS will enable them to access online banking, digital records, and e-governance services.

The PACS members were also addressed by the Deputy General Manager of NABARD Budgam, Junaid Hakeem, who informed them about the support and guidance provided by NABARD to the cooperatives. He said that NABARD is committed to promoting and strengthening the cooperative sector in the state.

DC Kupwara reviews revenue matters in officers meeting

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, Feb 10: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, Saturday chaired a Revenue Officers meeting at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here to review the revenue matters.

At the outset, ACR Kupwara, Irfan Bahadur appraised the chair, regarding functioning of the revenue department and the performance of the officers through a detailed PowerPoint presentation.

The DC reviewed all agenda points including Digitization of Jamabandies, their Quality Check, submission of quality check certificates by Tehsildars, digitization of cadastral maps and their Geo-referencing, verification of scanned records, usage of land retrieved, identification of land patches under land grants rules.

DC also reviewed generation and distribution of pass books both physically and electronically, Usage of CUG BSNL SIMs allotted to Patwaris and Girdawars, status of revenue court cases, Migrant Grievances Portal, relief cases of fire incidents, status of PSGA and E-Service.

The DC while stressing for better service delivery, directed the officers and field functionaries for improving their performance and ensuring sticking to the timeline.

While reviewing the status of Jamabandies and quality check, DC directed Tehsildars and NTs to person-



ally check the quality of Jamabandies.

DC directed the District Level team to check the quality of Jamabandies of Bomhama, Kupwara, Langate and Sogam.

While reviewing the schedule of reading of Jamabandies, in public, village wise, DC directed Tehsildars to share the schedule for this activity with DIO, afresh, for wider publicity.

DC set a deadline of 07 days for quality check of scanned records.

While reviewing the status of fencing of evacuated land, the Deputy Commissioner asked revenue Officers to send the proposal for fencing of evacuated land under convergence with MGNREGA.

While reviving the land grant rules, DC directed Tehsildars to identify state land patches at Nowgam, Rishwadi, Bomhama, Sogam, Kralpora and Teetwal. Tehsildars were direct-

ed to identify good patches of land and send the proposals accordingly.

DC sought details regarding CUG BSNL Sims allotted to revenue Officers and officials and directed all the concerned not to switch off the CUG Numbers at any point of time.

DC said that Strict action against those Patwaris will be initiated who switch off their CUG Numbers.

DC further directed the Tehsildars to upload all interim orders and offline orders on the RCCMS portal and all correspondence should come through e-office.

DC directed to constitute an IT committee who will check the quality of rejections.

DC stressed for disposal of all grievances and PSGA cases within the timeline.

DC directed Tehsildars to pursue the reports of fire incidents.

HP&M Deptt organises awareness Camp on PMFME at Nowgam, Srinagar

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 10: One-Day Awareness Program on Centrally Sponsored "Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)" was today organised by Horticulture Planning & Marketing Department at Nowgam Srinagar.

The awareness programme was organised by Area Marketing Officer, District Nodal Officer PMFME Scheme district Srinagar.

PRIs, Bakery Unit Holders of the area, educated unemployed youth, progressive farmers entrepreneurs interested in upgrading their existing units or setting up of new units vehemently attended the awareness camp. The members of (DLSC) of PMFME scheme were also present.

Experts from allied Departments deliberated upon the schemes pertaining to the Horticulture Sector in detail. Marketing Inspector, Shabir Mufti apprised audience about Micro-food Processing Sector in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and need to integrate the existing unorganized Micro-food Processing Units of the district.

He said that in order to accomplish the objective of Self-Reliant India (Aatma Nirbar Bharat), the Ministry of Food Processing Industries launched the PMFME scheme to provide financial, technical and marketing support to upgrade the existing micro-food processing units or establish new units thereby integrating around 2 lac micro-food processing enterprises in the unorganized sector with formal supply chain.

The different formalities of the project under the said scheme like financial assistance, technical knowledge, preparation of DPRS were discussed in threadbare with the participants. The educated unemployed youth were urged to set up their own micro-food processing units and avail credit linked subsidy of 35% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs 10.00 lac per unit and interest subvention of 3% available under the scheme.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my registration certificate (RC) of My vehicle SUMO bearing registration no JK05 9862 Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She contact with ARTO BANDIPORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

NAME.....GH MOHAMMAD WANI
S/O...MOHAMMAD SULTAN WANI
R/O ... SUMBAL WARTIPORA
DSTT..BANDIPORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I informed to general public that my wife namely SHAMEEMA AKHTER W/O SHER MOHAMMAD MAGRAY R/O KREERI has died on 31/01/2024... 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....SHER MOHAMMAD MAGRAY
H/OSHAMEEMA AKHTER
R/O..... KAREWA KREERI BLOCK ...WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughter AAYAT JAN her Date of Birth has been wrongly written as 28/08/2015 in school record while her correct Date of Birth is 24/08/2015 which needs to be corrected ..if anybody has any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her objection in the office of GOVT MIDDLE SCHOOL UDIPORA SHAHOORA within a period of seven days from the date publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

NAMEMOHSIN ABBAS
F/O. AAYAT JAN
R/OPANZGAM
TEHSIL.....AWANTIPORA PULWAMA
ZONE.....TAHAB

Pipping ceremony held at DPO Ganderbal

■ HT News Network

Ganderbal February 10: Piping ceremony of recently promoted officers was held during an impressive ceremonial function at District Police Office Ganderbal.

SSP Ganderbal Shri Sandeep Gupta-IPS accompanied by Addl. SP Ganderbal Shri Malik Aijaz-JKPS pinned rank to the newly promoted Superintendent of Police Shri Muzaffar Jan-JKPS and Gh Hassan-JKPS of J&K Police at District Police Office Ganderbal.

SSP Ganderbal congratulated the newly promoted officers and advised them to continue doing work with more enthusiasm, zeal and zest and highest degree of dedication. SSP Ganderbal later wished the newly promoted officers' good luck in future. The promoted officers pledged to work with zeal and enthusiasm in future also and ensured better public services. Moreover, other Police officers were also present on the said occasion. SSP Ganderbal congratulated the newly promoted officers and advised them to continue doing work with more enthusiasm, zeal and zest and highest degree of dedication.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughter's name in School record has been wrongly written as HAREEMA AKHTER while her correct name is AREEBA AKHTER which needs to be corrected ..if anybody has any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of Govt primary shool Waripora Bala within a period of seven days from the date publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

NAMEFAROOQ AHMAD MIR
S/O ABDUL AHAD MIR
F/O. AREEBA AKHTER
R/O ...WARIPORA BALA KREERI

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of ARSALAN ALI WAZA S/O ALI MOHAMMAD WAZA R/O FRASTHAR Tehsil Kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 30/07/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at S.D.H Kreeri for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
1ST CLASS KREERI

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of NUSRAT RAYEES D/O RAYEES AHMAD BHAT R/O HAIL Tehsil Kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 03/04/2014 and event has been shown to be occurred at S.D.H Kreeri for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
1ST CLASS KREERI

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora

E tendering NIT No. 31/RnB/Kralpora of 2023-24 Dated:- 07-02-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, railways and other state/central governments for the following works:

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of T.Doc. (In Rupees)	E/ Money(In Rupees)	Time of completion	Date and time of opening	Class of Contractor	Major Head
1.	Repairs Renovation of Rest House Kralpora	4.95	200/-	9910	20 days	17-02-2024 (12:00 Noon)	Dee	M&R

Position of AAA/ TS: Accorded
Position of funds: Available
No: Div-KRLP/1526-40
Date:07-02-2024

- The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](#) on the dates listed below:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	07.02.2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08.02.2024(5:00 PM) to 22.02.2024 (4:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	08.02.2024(5:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	22.02.2024(4:00PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	23.02.2024 (12:00Noon) In the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora.

- Bids must be accompanied with Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora (tender inviting authority). Treasury Challan must be written boldly and clearly with Name of Work, Name of the Contractor along with Contact No, NIT No and Serial No of Work on NIT(if any).
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% of the allotted Cost at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
Note: Geo-tagged Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided by the successful bidder/Contractor whenever asked by the department.
- All other Conditions shall remain same as per the NIT No. 03/RnB/Kralpora of 2023-24 issued under No. Div-KRLP/195-209 dated 14-10-2023 and PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)
- Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.

DIPK-16224/23
Date: Feb 10 2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Kralpora

DC Poonch discusses finalization of MGNREGA Convergence Plan 2024-25

■ HT News Network

POONCH, FEBRUARY 10: Deputy Commissioner Yasin M. Choudhary chaired a meeting to discuss the MGNREGA Convergence Plan for the upcoming financial year 2024-25 here today.

Additional District Development Commissioner Poonch, Sandesh Kumar Sharma, Assistant Commissioner Development, Shafiq Mir, CEO PDA, Dr. Mohd. Tanvir, POICDS, Khalid Hussain Wafa, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr. Younis, IWMP, Naheem Un Nissa Bhatti, Xen REW, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Ashish Mahajan besides AEE REW attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on exploring opportunities for convergence among various departments to optimize resource utilization and enhance the effectiveness of developmental initiatives.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held to assess and



strategize the convergence of departmental plans with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to align their next year's plans with MGNREGA projects. He emphasized that in areas where there is a shortage of funds, convergence with MGNREGA should be prioritized to ensure the

completion of projects.

The DC asked the concerned departments to expedite the finalization of the convergence plan, setting a timeline of two days for its completion.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the significance of MGNREGA in providing employment opportunities, promoting rural livelihoods, and fostering sustainable development.

HT - NEWS

DDC Chairman Doda flags off Farmers' Training Tour

■ HT News Network

DODA FEBRUARY 10: District Development Council Chairman, Dhananther Singh Kotwal, on Saturday flagged off a farmers' training tour to Ramban under the ATMA scheme.

Organized by the district horticulture department, this initiative aims to impart latest agricultural techniques and promote skill development among local farmers.

The farmers' training tour, facilitated by the horticulture department, offers valuable insights and practical knowledge to participants. Through hands-on learning experiences, farmers receive training on modern agricultural techniques, crop management,



and the latest horticultural practices. Such initiatives play a crucial role in empowering farmers with the necessary skills and knowledge to improve crop yields and enhance agricultural productivity.

The flag-off ceremony witnessed the presence of various key officials from the district administration

and horticulture department. Their participation underscores the collaborative efforts between government agencies to support and uplift the agricultural sector. By providing farmers with access to training opportunities and resources, such initiatives contribute to the overall socio-economic

development of the region.

By investing in farmers' training and skill development, the district horticulture department aims to foster sustainable agricultural practices and boost rural livelihoods. Through continuous education and capacity-building programs, local farmers are empowered to adopt innovative techniques and adapt to changing agricultural trends. Ultimately, such initiatives contribute to the holistic development of the agricultural sector and the prosperity of farming communities in the region. The flag-off ceremony witnessed the presence of various key officials from the district administration and horticulture department.

Gulabgarh-Machail Road mishap DC Kishtwar grieved over tragic accident at Hakoo

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 10: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav has expressed sympathies with the bereaved family members of those who lost their lives in the tragic accident that occurred at Hakoo on the Gulabgarh Machail road, this evening.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the departed souls, and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families in this difficult time. May God grant peace to the departed souls and strength to their loved ones" the conveyed.

Dr. Devansh Yadav also earnestly prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the accident.

The entire community stands united in support, and every possible assistance is being provided by the District Administration Kishtwar, local administration, and the Red Cross Society.

As per the latest update regarding the Machail Padder accident, it has been reported that out of total 15 individuals on board, 3 people have lost their lives, while 12 others have sustained injuries.

Injured are currently receiving treatment at GMC Jammu and District Hospital Kishtwar. The district administration is closely monitoring the situation and providing all necessary support to the affected individuals and their families. Injured are currently receiving treatment at GMC Jammu and District Hospital Kishtwar. The district administration is closely monitoring the situation and providing all necessary support to the affected individuals and their families.

DC Reasi inaugurates Skill Training Program under PM Vishwakarma scheme

■ HT News Network

REASI, FEBRUARY 10: In a significant move towards promotion of employment opportunities among local youth, District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan, on Saturday inaugurated a skill training program in tailoring here at the Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) under the PM Vishwakarma scheme.

The program, designed to impart 5 day Basic Skill Training to the inaugural batch comprising 30 trainees, marks the commencement of a valuable initiative aimed at enhancing vocational skills and empowering individuals in the tailoring trade.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of General Manager District Industry Centre, Mohd. Anwar Banday, Prin-



cipal of Polytechnic Reasi, Superintendent ITI, master trainers, and all enrolled trainees.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the collaborative endeavors of various line departments in effectively implementing the PM Vishwakarma

scheme across the district. He highlighted the scheme's potential to uplift artisans by equipping them with innovative skills conducive to sustainable livelihoods, thereby fostering economic growth within the district. The DC reiterated Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's vision of skill development for all individuals, urging students to capitalize on the benefits offered by the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in conjunction with their academic pursuits. Furthermore, he revealed that the district administration of Reasi has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IIT Jammu, introducing a two-month course aimed at enhancing vocational skills among the youth.

Encouraging the trainees, the DC urged them to leverage the available facilities at ITI to their fullest potential during the skill training period, emphasizing the significance of acquiring practical expertise in tailoring. Encouraging the trainees, the DC urged them to leverage the available facilities at ITI to their fullest potential during the skill training period, emphasizing the significance.

Dir H&H inaugurates Exhibition at Zero Bridge, Rajbagh

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 10 An "Awareness Camp Cum Exhibition " was inaugurated at Zero Bridge, Rajbagh Srinagar, by the Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir, Mehmood Ahmad Shah today in presence of the Dy. Director Handicrafts (Trgs), Assistant Director Handicrafts & Handloom, Srinagar and Publicity Cum Exhibition Officer, Kashmir.

Over 10 stalls have been set up, creating an immersive experience for visitors to engage directly with the talented artisans. This unique setup allows patrons to witness the artistry first-hand and purchase one-of-a-kind crafts directly from the creators.

Speaking on the occasion, Mehmood Ahmad Shah emphasized on the crucial role of promoting handicrafts in the region. He spoke passionately about the empowerment of artisans in Kashmir, highlighting the need to preserve and uplift the rich heritage-of traditional crafts.

DM Jammu cancels three illegal land mutations, orders inquiry

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 10: District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya has cancelled set of three land mutations that were attested in a fraudulent manner, contrary to the provisions of Government Order No. 254-C of 1965.

After taking cognisance of the matter and seeking a status report from the Tehsildar, the order was issued by the DM.

According to the order, the land mutations were related to Khasra No. 118, 210 and 210-Min in village Dhami, Tehsil Nagrota, where ownership rights were conferred to three persons under the Government Order No. 254-C of 1965, which was meant for the rehabilitation of displaced families of 1947, 1965 and 1971.

The perusal of the revenue records revealed that the land in question was recorded as State Land with the kind of soil as 'Gair Mumkin Passi', i.e. non-agricultural land, and hence did not fall under the provision of the said order. Moreover, the land under Khasra No. 210-Min was under the Forest Department Land.

MVD organises road safety awareness events at different locations in Doda district

■ HT News Network

DODA, FEBRUARY 10: The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) today organized a series of road safety awareness events as part of the ongoing National Road Safety Month campaign.

The campaign aimed to raise awareness among drivers and operators about their role and responsibilities on the road.

Special emphasis was placed on avoiding overloading, mobile phone usage while driving, over speeding and the importance of retroreflective tapes. Additionally, pedestrians' safety was highlighted through counseling sessions. The road safety event was



orchestrated under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh, demonstrating the district administration's commitment to promote road safety.

ARTO Doda, Rajesh Gupta, supervised the events, ensuring smooth execution. Such initiatives align with the objectives of National Road Safety Month, emphasizing the importance of

safe driving practices and reducing road accidents.

Given the challenges of hilly terrain like Doda, road safety becomes even more critical.

The event addressed specific challenges faced in such regions, such as navigating steep slopes and sharp turns.

The Drivers were educated on the importance of adapting to driving behavior apt to mountainous terrain, including maintaining appropriate speeds and adhering to traffic regulations.

Furthermore, a special enforcement drive focused on the significance of speed limiting devices and their role in saving lives.

By ensuring vehicles comply with speed limits.

Special Camps held across Ramban district for Panchayat Electoral Roll Revision

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 10: Under the directives of District Panchayat Election Officer, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, a team of election officials, led by Deputy District Election Officer, Lal Chand, conducted visits to Special Camps held at various panchayats across the district today. The primary objective of these special camps was to facilitate the registration of eligible voters in the Panchayat E-Roll and to bridge any existing gaps between the mother roll and Panchayat electoral rolls. The revision process for the Panchayat Electoral Roll commenced on

January 15 and will continue till February 12, 2024. During this period, new voters as well as those who have been left out have the opportunity to enroll by submitting Form PER-2A through their respective Panchayat Electoral Booth Officers (PEBOs). During the inspection of polling station locations, the PEBOs were urged to ensure the completion and accuracy of the electoral roll by conducting door-to-door visits and maintaining population registers of their respective areas.

During the scheduled Special camps, PEBOs, along with Booth Level Officers (BLOs), will be available at their designated polling stations with sufficient forms.

Kala Kendra will be developed as Cultural hub of Jammu : Principal Secretary Culture

■ HT News Network

Jammu 10th of Feb 2023 Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, today visited Kala Kendra here and took stock of its functioning. During the visit, he had an extensive round of exhibition halls, archive sections and other blocks of the complex and inspected the working. He asked the Secretary, Kala Kendra Society to devise an activity calendar to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary Kala Kendra Society has briefed the Principal Secretary, Culture, about the functioning of the institution and highlighted its role in preserving and promoting age old art and pristine cultural heritage of Jammu region. The Principal Secretary was given a detailed briefing on the activities and programs being conducted by Kala Kendra for the promotion and



preservation of art and culture in the region.

The Principal Secretary asked him for proper landscaping, repairing and renovation of different sections of the building. While inspecting different sections of the institution, the Principal Secretary praised the staff and artists for their hard work and dedication in promoting the diverse cultural heritage of the region. He emphasized on the importance of preserving the traditional art forms for the

larger interest of the posterity.

Interacting with the officers, Suresh Kumar Gupta highlighted that Kala Kendra is a prestigious institution playing a pivotal role in promoting the rich and diverse culture of Jammu region. He impressed upon the management of Kala Kendra for optimal utilization of this prestigious institution by holding handicrafts, handloom and photo exhibitions on a regular basis.

Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages Bharat Singh, Mohd Rafi Director Libraries and Research J&K, Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Raj Kumar Katoch, Additional secretary JKAA-CL Sanjeev Rana, staff of Kala Kendra was also attended the meeting at Kala Kendra.

Speaking on other aspects of the institution, the Principal Secretary asked the Secretary JKAA-CL, Director Libraries and Director archives to strengthen this institution with activities.

EDITORIAL

Environmental Catastrophe

The recent tragic incident at Mansar Lake, where over 2,000 fish perished, has sent shockwaves through the community and raised serious concerns about the environmental significance of Kashmir's water bodies.

This catastrophic event not only signals a dire threat to the local ecosystem but also underscores the urgent need for robust environmental conservation measures.

Mansar Lake, nestled amidst picturesque surroundings, has long been hailed for its ecological richness and cultural importance. It serves as a vital habitat for diverse aquatic species and contributes to the region's biodiversity. However, the mass mortality of fish in such large numbers paints a grim picture of environmental degradation and underscores the vulnerability of Kashmir's fragile ecosystems.

The residents' panic is justified as they witness firsthand the alarming consequences of unchecked pollution and habitat destruction. The sudden demise of thousands of fish not only disrupts the delicate balance of the lake's ecosystem but also poses a threat to the livelihoods of those dependent on its resources for sustenance.

This incident demands immediate attention from environmental authorities and underscores the pressing need for comprehensive measures to safeguard the region's natural heritage. Effective pollution control measures, stringent regulations on waste disposal, and community involvement in conservation efforts are imperative to prevent further degradation of Kashmir's water bodies.

Furthermore, this unfortunate event serves as a wake-up call for heightened awareness and collective action to mitigate the impacts of climate change and human activities on the environment. It is a reminder that the protection of our natural resources is not just a moral imperative but also essential for the well-being of present and future generations.

In the face of this environmental crisis, concerted efforts must be made to address the root causes of pollution and degradation, and proactive steps must be taken to restore and preserve the pristine beauty and ecological integrity of Mansar Lake and other vulnerable ecosystems in Kashmir. Only through sustained commitment and collaboration can we ensure a sustainable future for our planet and all its inhabitants.

J&K's Fragile Environment



■ By MooL Raj

In the shadow of seismic vulnerability, Jammu and Kashmir grapples with a growing environmental crisis. Rampant construction and disregard for natural resources amplify the region's susceptibility to disasters.

Cease the wanton destruction of vital ecosystems, including water bodies, orchards, mountains, agricultural fields, and forests. Despite the perilous classification of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in seismic Zones IV and V, rendering the region highly susceptible to earthquakes, construction activities persist in delicate areas. The collective memory seems to have blurred the recollection of the powerful 7.6 magnitude earthquake that shook J&K on October 8, 2005, leaving widespread devastation in its wake.

Jammu and Kashmir's distinctive topography makes it inherently prone to an array of natural disasters, from earthquakes and floods to landslides and the increasingly erratic climate patterns of recent times. Environmentalists argue that the majority of these calamities are direct consequences of reckless developmental pursuits and the unchecked vandalism of natural resources, including water bodies, orchards, agricultural fields, mountains, and forests. Furthermore, the intensification of human activities is accelerating the alarming rate of glacier melting in the region.

Despite witnessing the disruptive consequences of poorly executed developmental projects on fragile ecosystems, there appears to be a glaring lack of learning from past mistakes. Humanity seems indifferent to the toll on nature, which, in turn, responds with vengeance in the form of natural disasters.

A poignant example is the catastrophic flooding that engulfed J&K on September 7, 2014. Excessive rainfall in higher elevations led to the overflow of the Jhelum, Chenab, and Tawi basins,



resulting in devastating floods. The floodwaters, estimated at about 120,000 cusecs, surpassed the carrying capacity of the Jhelum by five times during this calamitous event.

Environmentalists contend that human-induced factors, rather than purely natural ones, contribute significantly to such floods. Unregulated constructions in the floodplains of the Jhelum over several decades have compromised the wetlands' ability to act as natural reservoirs, exacerbating the impact of flooding. Wetlands like Hokersar, Bemina, Narakara, Batamaloo numbal, Rakh-e-arth, Anchar lake, and Gilsar have suffered degradation due to encroachment and rapid urbanization, affecting their capacity to absorb floodwaters.

Similarly, the unchecked encroachment on flood channels and wetlands, which could serve as crucial defenses against floods, further highlights the disregard for nature's warning signs. The blame for floods, therefore, extends beyond nature to the passive complicity of human beings.

The vulnerability of J&K to natural disasters, especially earthquakes, is exemplified by the seismic Zones IV and V classification. Nevertheless, ongoing constructions in delicate areas persist, overshadowing the memory of the devastating 7.6 magnitude earthquake of October 8, 2005. As a resident of Doda, I emphasize that this region, with its unique geoclimatic conditions, is particularly fragile, having experi-

enced nine earthquakes within 60 hours in August of the previous year. The mountainous Doda district, housing massive dams like Dul Hasti and Baglihar, is inherently prone to natural disasters.

Amidst numerous hydropower projects in the Chenab region, it becomes imperative to establish and enforce stringent policy guidelines to mitigate damage to the fragile environment. Unscientific developmental activities, such as deforestation, improper road construction, terracing, and encroachment on steep hill slopes, have significantly heightened the risk of landslides in this geologically young and unstable region. The ongoing four-lane Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri highway project exemplifies the short-sighted approach to development. Fruit-bearing trees and other vegetation are being indiscriminately felled, impacting the region's biodiversity. The destruction of the famous tree-line along the Srinagar-Baramulla highway, once a major tourist attraction, underscores the need for more sustainable development practices.

The loss of trees is not only irreversible but also represents a substantial and irreparable damage to the environment. Despite the ongoing climate fluctuations in J&K, marked by heavy snowfall, unseasonal rain, and heatwaves, there is a palpable lack of foresight in development projects. The retreat of glaciers like Kolahai, Thajiwass, Hoksar, Nehnar, and Shishram is

emblematic of the escalating impact of climate change on the region. Doda, a hotspot for earthquakes, faces an uphill battle against unscientific development. From massive dams to hydropower projects, the region stands on the brink of environmental disaster, urging stringent policies and eco-friendly interventions.

While the Union Environment Ministry and the J&K government have taken steps, such as formulating Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for disaster management plans and eco-fragility studies, the implementation remains selective. These SOPs should be universally applied throughout J&K to safeguard against further environmental degradation. Recognizing the urgent need for reforestation, Union Home Minister Amit Shah rightly emphasized that environmental protection hinges on extensive tree planting. A tree planted today, he noted, would provide oxygen for future generations, countering the escalating threat of pollution and ozone layer depletion. There is an immediate imperative for sustainable development practices. Conducting Environment Impact Assessments before embarking on projects could prevent further harm to the environment. The time to act is now, for the sake of the fragile ecosystems and the future generations that depend on them.

The author is a columnist and freelance writer

"Beyond Words: Exploring the Silence of Extraordinary Experiences"



■ Aubaid Ahmad Akhoo

In the intricate weave of human existence, a profound sense of solitude engulfs those who have weathered the tempests of extraordinary experiences. It transcends the mere challenges faced; it's about grappling with the isolating silence that emerges when these profound tales resist easy sharing, leaving human empathy struggling to plumb the depths of such narratives.

"Ibn e Maryam Hua Kare Koi Mere Dukh Ki Dava Kare Koi"
"Son of Mary, Let there be one. If only someone would cure my pain."

These poignant lines by an esteemed poet Mirza Ghalib capture the essence of the isolation felt by those navigating extraordinary journeys. The invocation of the Son of Mary signifies a plea for divine intervention or the emergence of someone capable of understanding and alleviating the pain that comes with such unique experiences.

Within the realm of empathy, cognitive understanding dominates—a knowledge-based approach where the mind dissects emotions by drawing parallels to personal experiences. While noble, this falls



short of genuine empathy, an emotional resonance that transcends comparison.

Consider the person handed a prognosis of limited time by their doctors. No matter how one contemplates this situation, the seismic shift from life to death cannot be truly felt without living it, evoking an existential tremor that eludes the empathetic observer.

Picture an individual emerging from two decades of incarceration, standing on the precipice of freedom. The quivering uncertainty, the struggle to integrate back into a life now foreign, and the insidious

force of institutionalization lingering like a shadow—these are layers of experience that elude understanding without direct encounter.

The struggle intensifies for those grappling with the aftermath of loss: a lost limb, a debilitating disability, or the heart-wrenching grief of losing a child. The depth of these experiences creates an impenetrable solitude, a space where true understanding becomes elusive.

"Bak Raha Hon Junoon Main Kya Kya Kuch Kuch Na Samjhe Khuda Kare Koi"

"Babbling in frenzy, I do not know what am I saying, May the lord grant that no one would understand anything."

People who carry the weight of extreme experiences often find themselves in a world that fails to comprehend the nuances of their journey. The challenge is not merely the experiences themselves but the profound inability to share them adequately, deepening their sense of isolation.

Reducing the significance of these experiences, attempting to simplify them as a coping mechanism for our own empa-

thetic limitations, only exacerbates the wounds. It is a disservice to gloss over the intricacies of these unique narratives.

"Kya Sufi-O-Mullah Ko Khabar Mere Junoon Ki Un Ka Sar-E-Daman Bhi Abhi Chaak Nahin Hai"

"How can the priest and monk assess the height of craze that I possess? still sound the bells of robes they wear, which have no rifts and know no tear."

This couplet by Allama Iqbal adds depth to the discussion, highlighting the inability of conventional wisdom or religious authority to grasp the intensity of one's fervor or suffering. It underscores the notion that extraordinary experiences often lie beyond the comprehension of those who have not lived through them, further emphasizing the isolation felt by individuals navigating such journeys.

Tailpiece : In a society grappling with the complexities of human existence, a genuine empathetic revolution is called for. Let us strive to acknowledge the uniqueness and intricacies of each person's journey. Only then can we hope to build bridges over the isolating chasms created by extreme experiences, fostering a collective understanding that transcends the limitations of mere cognitive empathy. It is in this empathetic embrace that we truly connect, weaving a more compassionate fabric into the diverse tapestry of humanity.

About the Author:
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■ Sahil Manzoor

Kashmir valley has different faces throughout the year. During winters the Kashmir valley looks whitish. The lofty snow-clad mountains look so charming and enhance the beauty of Kashmir valley. Winters are quite special in Kashmir as during this period tourists come from all over the world to see snowfall. Snow is the soul of Kashmir during winters. Without snow Kashmir looks deserted like no doubt Kashmir has no alternative throughout the globe. But snow enhances the beauty of Kashmir and has great and beneficial benefits. Even though these days literate or illiterate people know the value of snow, understand the importance of environmental related changes, climatic conditions, and know the severity of prolonged

drought. So every Kashmiri prays and wishes for the fresh snowfall.

Why is snow important in Kashmir?

Literally snow is the solid form of water. Countries that lie in the northern parts of the world receive snowfall. In Kashmir there are several rivers like lidder river in Pahalgam, Shaliganag in Doodhpathri, doodhganga in yousmarg, and waterfalls. The main source of all these rivers, canals are the glaciers. Glaciers are the snow covered mountains that cater water to rivers, for drinking purposes, and keeps the surrounding during summers cold and charming. Snow keeps the soil moisture and has immense benefits.

Best season of snowfall in kashmir.

From the arrival of winters to mid chilai kalan, snowfall might play an important role. snowfall should happen in the starting of January then it keeps for a long time. The harsh cold season starts from the 21st of December to 31 of January. But we should never lose our hopes. The Almighty has the best plans for humanity and knows what is better and what is not. So we are predicting things, discussing them as per the scientific facts and ect. Snow is not important only in winters. Snow plays a great role in Kashmir for all the four seasons. So snow has great importance and attracts thousands of tourists.

From the arrival of winters to mid chilai kalan, snowfall might play an important role. snowfall should happen in the starting of January then it keeps for a longer time. The harsh cold season starts from the 21st of December to 31 of January. But we should never lose our hopes

Spring: During spring looks like lush green, flowers everywhere in the gardens look so winsome. Spring starts from 21st of March to 21st of June. During spring Tulip gardens is one of the immense attractions for the local tourists and from all over the world. Mughal gardens like nishat, Shalimar, harvan, p a r i

mahal, chesh ma shahi, botanical gardens look mesmerising, lavishing, charming, and sensuous. We still have lost nothing. Let's pray together and I hope almighty Allah will bless us with favourable and beneficial snowfall that we have been waiting for the last couple of months. Prays are so valuable and powerful we should never lose hope and hope for the best results. I hope we will see fresh snowfall soon. Snow covers the whole surface in Kashmir and looks like it is painted with white.

For the last couple of decades the impact of environmental related issues can be observed in Kashmir valley as. Like increase in temperature, more rainfall during June and July. Dryness in winters, now less rainfall in March and April. This is quite alarming and we have to keep things in consideration that we have preserved all the natural treasures like forests in a very good position. Forests play a necessary role in climate. When there are adequate forests we have good and favourable seasons.

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My School Time Memory- Wooden Slate And Takhti



■ Mool Raj

Despite facing challenges and fluctuations over the years, Takhti in Schools was once a thriving tradition. (TAKHTI) the traditional wooden slate children used to carry upto school either in bag Or hand was an indispensable tool to improve their learning as well as writing skill. It boasts eye hand coordination and writing concentration. It was an economical and affordable for every kid enrolled in the school. Those days of schooling was absolutely mesmerizing and jubliance. Takhti served as profound benefits. Teachers in school used to check its writing quality and negative reinforcement for those whose writing is not legible. It was essential that takhti look clean and freshly written.

"Mashaq" is a Kashmiri word for takhti (wooden slate). Mohjendro depicting the use of takhti and history dates from the period of Indus Valley Civilization and use of takhti and indicating indus valley people knew the writing skill. It is a wooden plank about the size of cutting board with same thickness and children use to write on it with "Narou Qalam Or twig" during the initial years of schooling. No doubt there was stiff competition in schools- teachers used to appreciate and encourage those whose takhti looks clean both in writing and maintenance. Competition among students remains there as soon as the morning assembly comes to an end.

Takhti purely is an effective tool not only students to improve writing skill, but also reduces the defect known as dysgraphia. Sharing my nostalgic when I was reading in Govt Middle School Panjsoo Distt and Tehsil Doda We used to go school in groups and reach almost an hour before school timings. There we assemble with class fellows and check each ones takhti (wooden slate) and



notice which ones look clean and freshly written. It was actually the teachers fears that we used to have during those days. No one dares to cross or play before teachers even after schooling/class is over.

I recall my experience that when we attend the morning assembly and during the time few teachers namely ShBhagat Ram from Trown, Sh Dev Raj, Sh Mahant Ram and Sh Nath Ram and many more inspects in the lines of morning assembly in order to check hull juice hands we felt goosebumps, and sweating comes out automatically weather my uniform is not up to date, or I slowly pronounce the words of prayer or my takhti is not legible written. We secretly rubbing our hands with saliva to dimen the colour of hull juice. Such was the fear and respect of our teachers.

As soon as the morning assembly comes to an ended An announcement is made by teachers all those students who remained absent in previous day were asked to stand up and explain the cause of his or her absence. Teachers have begun the checking process, a sort of fear looms whether teacher might pick out and made to stand in guilty row. Those standing in the guilty row, have bent to cock form and lashed on the back with long and hard twig. By the time checking process is completed and we are asked to move one by one to our respective classrooms.

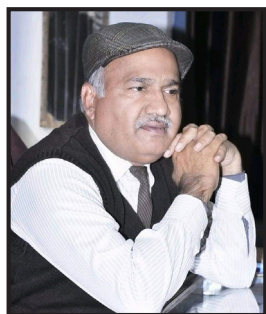
Meanwhile we were asked to clean our takhtis and prepare them for writing again in the next day. Preparing and erasing the takhti was a tedious job. The cotton cloth mixture with blacksoot and water was rubbed on both sides followed by drying in sun. Once dried both sides are shinned rubbing them by bottle bottom or cup brims. Such was the charm and competition among us during those days.

Back in memories, during my school days no one dares to enter the school without having takhti in his hand. It was not costly but the poorest of poor could afford it easily. It is durable, manageable and easy to handle. Takhti doesn't only help in improving writing but it also improves vocabulary. The pen we use to write was called "Naroue kalam" which was sharpened with knife and dipped in the ink bottle and then writing on takhti becomes possible.

To put in succinct, tradition of takhti is fast becoming the rare sight in our valley. If present generation is being appraised about the same they would hardly believe. With the advent of technology and modern tools have badly ruled out the tradition of writing by hand. This tradition is rapidly dwindling and copy paste becomes modern trend of writing. We desperately need to revive this tradition.

The author is a columnist and freelance writer

Management Education covers a General set of Core Areas



■ Vijay GarG

The intricate balance between practical demands of commercial relevance and scholarly aspirations within management education reflects the ever-changing nature of academia

A lot of management text and advice is common-sensical. It is common sense if one agrees that the basic objective of management is a propulsion of commercial interest. That this proposition may itself be in doubt is another matter altogether. There is no substantial reason to see commerce as the domain of all management activities. If the purpose of management efforts is business management, then to some extent, it can become an extenuative logic because, at least, the assumption there is to focus on the optimization of business.

However, there is business and business; manufacturing can be a business but has a veneer of its own. It does not cover the business of ideas, and the business of ideas can be a specialization of its own, especially when it comes to being focused on education, financial exchanges, the exchange of news, and indeed exchange of money in stock exchanges. Thus, it is that business management has many forms of focus and interest. To cover all of it is difficult in a simple MBA program spread over 1200 to 1300 contact hours.

This kind of super specialisation or focus is difficult to achieve. Thus, it is that management education covers a general set of what could be called core areas and then specialisations of a more focused variety.

The lay of the land is so far to create specializations in finance, marketing, and the like; the emphasis on sectors such as Agriculture or Research & Development

is yet to gather its range and depth. This is not going to come easy because to create a curriculum, one needs reading material. The reading material is often in the form of books or publications in journals, and this requires research. It also requires a forum for publication, which is in the form of print. Unless there is a definite market for these journals or magazines they cannot survive. Has the touchstone of journals or magazines, like much else, also become commercial?

However, what is commercially relevant may not always be intellectually feasible. Hence, there is a contradiction, if not a hiatus.

Be that as it may, it delays the creation of a critical mass of material, which in its own right is worth publishing, disseminating and preserving. The touchstone again becomes commercial. It is therefore not unusual to find colleges taking a lesser interest in non-commercial areas than in activities that have a commercial overlay. This is not usual, but by the same token, it is not in the best interest of pursuing a scholarly interest.

In fact, it may be arguable that scholastic interest is an endeavour in its own right and is indeed the heart of an educational institution. To sustain this focus requires funds and research orientation.

The problem with finding funds or this sort of effort is, of course, the problem of justifying the return on those funds. A one-to-one correlation in such matters is difficult to establish, and it is even more difficult to create a climate of justifying this as a scholastic effort, which is the foundation of any good educational institution.

It is difficult to argue that worldwide, well-established academic institutions invest a substantial amount of resources in creating this research climate, and their global recognition as institutions of distinction is rooted in precisely this kind of environment. Such contradictions are common in life.

It is natural to envy the distinctiveness of others, but the same kind of ease does not accompany recognizing what it takes to create that kind of distinctiveness.

Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist malout

"In this 500-year struggle, many kings, people, saints, and nihangs have struggled. You have seen our 30-year struggle, which is fresh.

Imran Khan, Nawaz Sharif, Bilawal Bhutto Fight In Pak's Game Of Thrones

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Pakistan faces days of political horse-trading after the final few election results released today showed no clear majority. Independent candidates loyal to jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan showed a strong performance.

Here's your 10-point cheatsheet to this big story

But after long delays in results that prompted further allegations the military had engaged in vote-rigging, the army-backed Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) declared victory as the party with the largest number of seats. However, to form a government, the party founded by the three-time former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will be forced to cut deals with rivals and independents.

The PPP, whose popularity is largely limited to its Sindh heartland, also did better than expected, with leader Bilawal Bhutto Zardari saying early results were



"very encouraging". The PML-N and PPP joined forces with minor parties to boot Khan from office in April 2022 after his PTI had won a slender majority in the 2018 election.

"We don't have enough of a majority to run the government ourselves, therefore

we invite the other parties and candidates who have been successful to work with us," Mr Sharif said at his party headquarters in Lahore.

Imran Khan yesterday claimed victory in the general election in an audio-visual message created using artificial intelligence

and shared on his X social media account. Imran Khan heads the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

The PTI had defied a months-long crack-down that crippled campaigning and forced their candidates to run as independents with a combined showing in Thursday's election that still challenged their chief rivals.

Imran Khan also rejected rival Nawaz Sharif's earlier claim to victory. Khan called on his supporters to celebrate a win that was achieved despite what he calls a crack-down on his party.

A slow counting process showed independents had won at least 99 seats -- 88 of them loyal to Khan -- by Saturday morning.

PML-N took 71 and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) snapped up 53, with 15 of the elected 266-seat National Assembly still to be announced. Minor parties between them shared 27 seats -- including the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), which took 17 -- that are likely to be of great interest to PTI in coming days.

Israel Deploys AI-Enabled Military Tech For 1st Time In Gaza

■ HT News Network

Israel's army has deployed some AI-enabled military technology in combat for the first time in Gaza, raising fears about the use of autonomous weapons in modern warfare.

The army has hinted at what the new tech is being used for, with spokesman Daniel Hagari saying last month that Israel's forces were operating "above and underground simultaneously".

A senior defence official told AFP the tech was destroying enemy drones and mapping Hamas's vast tunnel network in Gaza.

New defence technologies including artificial intelligence-powered gun-sights and robotic drones form a bright spot in an otherwise dire period for Israel's tech industry.

The sector accounted for 18 percent of GDP in 2022,



forms of defence tech, Mary Wareham, an arms expert at Human Rights Watch, told AFP.

"Now we're facing the worst possible situation of death and suffering that we're seeing today -- some of that is being brought about by the new tech," she said.

More than 150 countries in December backed a UN resolution identifying "serious challenges and concerns" in new military tech, including "artificial intelligence and autonomy in weapons systems."

Hamas on October 7 launched an unprecedented attack on Israel, resulting in the deaths of about 1,160 people in Israel, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures. Hamas also seized around 250 hostages, and Israel says some 132 remain in Gaza including at least 29 believed to have been killed.

White House Calls Report Flagging Biden Age Concerns A Political Hit-Job

■ HT News Network

Washington: The White House launched a fierce pushback Friday against a brutal special counsel report portraying Joe Biden as elderly and forgetful, describing it as a political hit-job on the president in an election year. US Vice President Kamala Harris called the stinging report "politically motivated" while White House spokesman Ian Sams branded it "gratuitous and inappropriate" as they sought to call its impartiality into question. Biden refused to answer questions on the report as he hosted German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in the Oval Office for talks on Ukraine Friday, but the night before he responded furiously to the report's findings. The investigation cleared the 81-year-old Democrat of illegally retaining classified documents in his home and garage -- but damningly branded him as a "well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory." Biden's supporters and aides rushed to defend him on Friday on an issue he's long been vulnerable on as he bids for reelection in November, most likely against Republican Donald Trump. "The way that the president's demeanor in that report was characterized could not be more wrong on the facts and (was) clearly politically



motivated," Harris said when asked about the report. In a rambling address Friday to a National Rifle Association event, the 77-year-old Trump said of Biden's mental state: "I don't think he knows he's alive." "Gratuitous and inappropriate"

With questions swirling about Biden's mental acuity, the spotlight is also on Harris as she would be first in line to succeed as president should he resign or be incapacitated. Both Biden and Harris are suffering from low approval ratings as they campaign for another four years in the White House. The White House strategy appeared to be to start directly targeting special counsel Robert Hur, a Republican who was appointed by then-president Trump to be US attorney for the District of Maryland in 2017.

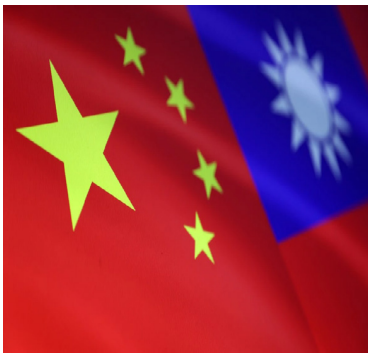
Record 8 Chinese Balloons Detected Around Taiwan, 2 Flying Over Island

■ HT News Network

Taipei: A record eight Chinese balloons have been detected around Taiwan, with two directly flying over the island, Taipei's defence ministry said Saturday.

The ministry said the balloons were spotted on Friday, the day before the start of the Lunar New Year holiday, at an altitude of 15,000 feet (4,572 metres) to 38,000 feet.

It was the highest number detected since the ministry started regularly releasing data on balloon sightings in December. China claims democratic Taiwan as its own territory and has never renounced the use of force to bring the self-ruled island under its control. Beijing has ramped



up military pressure in recent years, and deploys warplanes and naval vessels around the island on a nearly daily basis. In February last year, Taiwan's military alerted aviation authorities after spotting a balloon floating in the island's airspace but did not say where the balloon came

from or provide a detailed location.

The latest balloon sightings came after Taiwan's presidential election last month, which was won by the ruling Democratic Progressive Party's Lai Ching-te, who Beijing regards as a "separatist".

China warned ahead of the vote that a win by Lai would bring "war and decline" to Taiwan.

But it did not send an oversized number of warplanes and naval vessels in the election's immediate aftermath. Since the January 13 vote, the largest incursions included 33 Chinese warplanes detected around Taiwan, according to Taipei. The largest number of warplanes China has sent during a 24-hour window came in September, when Taiwan recorded 103 Chinese aircraft around the island.

Hamas Warns Israeli Rafah Op May Cause "Tens Of Thousands" Casualties

■ HT News Network

Hamas on Saturday warned that there could be "tens of thousands" of dead and injured if the Israeli military attacked Rafah, in the far south of the Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu this week said he had ordered troops to prepare to go in to the city, crowded with displaced Palestinians, as it hunts down those responsible for the deadly October 7 attacks on southern Israel. The announcement has prompted concern from foreign governments including the United States and aid agencies grappling with a growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza as a result of the war. Hamas said in a statement that any military action would have catastrophic repercussions that "may lead to tens of thousands of martyrs and injured if Rafah... is invaded". The Palestinian Hamas group that controls the Gaza Strip said it would hold "the American administration, international community and the Israeli occupation" responsible if that happened. Rafah, on Gaza's southern border with Egypt, has become a last refuge for civilians fleeing a relentless Israeli bombing campaign elsewhere in the Gaza Strip.

US Has Expanded Partnership With India In "Unprecedented Ways": White House

■ HT News Network

Washington: The execution of Indo-Pacific Strategy has made the United States and the key region more secure and more prosperous, and expanded the bilateral partnership with India in unprecedented ways, the White House said Friday.

Addressing the media on the second anniversary of the launch of the landmark foreign policy strategy of the Biden administration, Adrienne Watson, a spokesperson for the National Security Council of the White House, said "The United States has never been in a stronger position in the Indo-Pacific".

"Over the past two years, we have made historic progress in advancing an Indo-Pacific that is free and open, connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient. Thanks to President Biden's leadership, the United States has never been in a stronger position in the Indo-Pacific," she said.

In the two years since the launch of the Indo-Pacific Strategy, the US has reinvested and revitalized its alliances and partnerships and taken them to new heights, Watson said.

"We have deepened and elevated alliances with Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Australia, the Philippines, and Thailand. We upgraded our bilateral relationships with Vietnam and Indonesia, and our partnership with ASEAN. We have expanded our partnership with India in unprecedented ways. We have surged our efforts in the Pacific, including with two historic summits for Pacific Island leaders at the White House and the establishment of the Partners of the Blue Pacific," she said.

President Biden hosted the historic US-Japan-South Korea trilateral summit at Camp David to open a new chapter in this important partnership, she said.

Under his leadership, the US has elevated the Quad with Australia, India, and Japan to a leader-level summit and has delivered concrete results for the Indo-Pacific region, from vaccines to maritime domain awareness to scholarships for students, she said.

"And three of the four Official State Visits President Biden has hosted were with leaders of Indo-Pacific countries: the Republic of Korea, India, and Australia. This year, the President will welcome Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan. We have also undertaken historic cooperation between the United States, Japan, and the Philippines," Watson said.

2 Killed After Private Jet Crashes Onto Florida Highway

■ HT News Network

Miami: Two people were killed Friday when a private jet lost its engines and crashed onto a highway in Florida, authorities said.

Five people were aboard the Bombardier Challenger 600 when it went down about 3:15 pm (2015 GMT) on Interstate 75 near the small city of Naples, the Federal Aviation Administration said on X, formerly Twitter.

Two minutes before the plane was scheduled to land at Naples Municipal Airport, the pilot radioed air traffic control to say "he had lost both engines and requested an emergency landing," airport spokesperson Robin King told AFP in a statement.

"The air traffic controller immediately cleared the aircraft to land when the pilot declared that he would not make it to the runway ... (and) attempted a landing on I-75." Three people survived the crash, King said. The two victims died on impact, the Collier County Sheriff's Office confirmed. It was not known if the plane hit any cars on the highway. Images broadcast on local media showed the burning wreckage of the plane on the side of the highway, setting off black plumes of smoke. It had departed from Ohio State University Airport, King said. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the crash.

British PM Rishi Sunak Paid More Than 500,000 Pounds In Tax Last Year

■ HT News Network

London: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak paid 508,000 pounds (\$641,000) in tax in the last financial year after income from his investments dwarfed his official salary, a report by his accountants showed on Friday. Sunak is the wealthiest prime minister in British history through a combination of his past career in financial services and the family fortune of his wife, whose father founded the Indian IT services company Infosys. The three-page published summary is the second time that Sunak has published details of his tax affairs since he became prime minister in 2022.

The figures show that Sunak made 139,000 pounds from his salary as a member of parliament, finance minister and prime minister between April 2022 and March 2023, and 2.1 million pounds from investments.

Of his income from investments, 1.8 million pounds came from capital gains, up from 1.6 million pounds a year earlier. About 70% of the total tax paid by Sunak was due to capital gains tax on the profit made from sales of investments such as stocks. Although Sunak does not have an obligation to provide details of his income, he agreed to do so to provide more transparency about his personal finances.

Imran Khan's Party Claims Victory In 170 Seats, Vows To Form Government: Report

■ HT News Network

In a major political development, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has claimed that it has won 170 out of 265 National Assembly seats and is set to form an alliance with Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM), Pakistan-based The Nation reported on Saturday.

This comes even though the counting for the polls is underway and the independent candidates mostly backed by the PTI, have clinched victory on 100 seats.

PTI leader Barrister Gohar Khan alleged

that there was an attempt to "shape" the seats won by PTI into defeat. He also called on the party workers to protest outside the offices of Returning Officers (RO) tomorrow, where results got 'delayed', Dawn reported. Speaking to reporters on Saturday, he claimed that the PTI has won 170 National Assembly seats out of the 265 where elections were held.

"We claim with great certitude that right now, the PTI has achieved a lead on 170 seats of the National Assembly," Khan said. "Out of these, 94 are those that the ECP is admitting and has issued Form-47 (provisional results)." Gohar Khan further said



that 22 seats -- including three of Islamabad, four of Sindh and the rest of Punjab -- were those where, according to Form-45, the PTI had won but were "converted to a defeat". He alleged that there was an "apparent attempt to shape the winning seats of the PTI into defeats." Notably, Imran Khan was disqualified from contesting the elections due to criminal convictions. The electoral symbol of the PTI was also taken away by the ECP, in a ruling later backed by the Pakistan Supreme court. As a result, the PTI leaders and supporters contested as independent candidates, Dawn reported.

DC Kupwara reviews measures for implementation of COTPA-2003

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 10: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of District Level Coordination Committee for National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) to review the measures for implementation of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA)-2003. Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure strict implementation of the provisions of COTPA Act in letter and



spirit to ensure elimination of use of tobacco products especially from public places across the district. She asked the concerned officers for installation of mandatory signages at

prominent places like bus stands, schools, government and private offices to raise awareness about the prohibition and ill effects of tobacco use. On the occasion, Chief

Medical Officer Kupwara, Dr. Ramzan gave a detailed powerpoint presentation regarding various measures put in place by different departments for regulation of NTCP and COTPA. He informed the meeting that 142 challans have been imposed on violators in the district, realizing an amount of Rs.18550. He also informed that 68 Counseling Sessions and 43 workshops have been conducted in the district to raise awareness among the people against ill effects of Tobacco products.

BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 10: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting to review the progress of works under MNREGA, PMAY-G, District Capex / ADP and PM-Vishwakarma at a conference of DC office here. During the meeting, the DC was informed that a total of 14126 candidates have registered to avail the benefits of PM- Vishwakarma Scheme across panchayats and urban areas of the district while 2367 candidates have been approved under various trades to



undergo a training in collaboration with skill development department. The DC directed the concerned executing department to collaborate and start the training for the approved cases by 15th of this month. Providing an update about PM NREGA progress, the ACD informed the meeting

that against a budget of 15.76 lacs workdays have been allocated for 16.14 lacs which amounts for 102% of the total allocation. About PMAY-G progress in the district, it was given out that for the financial year 2023-24, against a target of 4265 units, a total of 4213 were sanctioned while the first

installment of funding have been released to 3929 cases. The DC while reviewing the work directed the the concerned department to allocate to work-days under PM NREGA for the construction work of houses under PMAY-G. Meanwhile, the meeting was informed that under the district capex budget a total of 1590 works were allocated for FY 2023-24 at an estimated budget of Rs.60.78 Crore while 1435 works have been taken up and 891 have been completed. It was also mentioned that rest of the taken-up works would be completed by the year end.

DC Kulgam chairs public darbar at Qaimoo, listens to issues of people for early redressal,

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM FEBRUARY, 10: Continuing the endeavour to reach out to people and to provide governance at doorsteps of people, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited Qaimoo where he held public grievances redressal camp.

The programme witnessed overwhelming response of people from Redwani, Qaimoo, Hawoori Wanpora, Ashmuji and other villages who apprised the DC about their issue and grievances for early redressal.

Delegation from Redwani demanded establishment of fire services station, Widening of Kawaki Bazar Road, installation of Solar lights from Yaripora stop to Ziyarat Shareef Qaimoo.

Civil society members from Qaimoo demanded establishment of ITI



College, veterinary Centre, Treasury office, upgradation of girls high school and projected various other demands.

People also demanded for generation of Postal Pincode for the area and also demanded posting of gynecologists in local

hospital.

Auqaf Committee members, Traders Association also participated in this grievance redressal camp and put forth issues and demands of the area. Delegation of Ashmuji demanded development and

extension of Playfield, upgradation of school at Cheki Ashmuji.

All the issues were listened to by the DC and some of the issues of immediate nature were redressed on the spot.

Other issues and demands were noted for further action as per feasibility and norms.

While addressing on the occasion the DC said that administration is committed for holistic development of all areas.

He also urged people to actively participate in Gram Sabhas to prioritize developmental works of their areas so the funds can get properly utilized for the larger interest of people.

The DC also informed the people that for collection and proper disposal of waste, hooper service has been introduced for villages and sought cooperation of people in making the Kulgam district clean and beautiful.

ADDC Bandipora flags off Students for Skiing Expedition at Gulmarg

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 10: In an effort to promote adventure sports and skill development among the youth, the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Bhat today flagged off a group of students from Bandipora district for 10-day skiing course at Gulmarg.

The flag off ceremony was attended by DYSSO Bandipora Nazir Ahmad Bhat besides officials of Youth Service and Sports department.

The initiative, organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports Jammu and Kashmir, aims to provide young enthusiasts with a platform to explore and hone their skiing abilities amidst the picturesque slopes of Gulmarg, renowned for its world-class skiing facilities.

During the flag off ceremony, ADDC Mohammad Ashraf Bhat interacted with the participating students, encouraging them to avail this unique opportunity for skill development and represent the district with memorable experience.

Govt. Polytechnic for Women Srinagar organized an awareness program for prospective beneficiaries of Vishwakarma Scheme.

■ HT News Network

Srinagar :-The program aimed at individuals who have applied for different trades under the Vishwakarma Scheme had its core purpose in informing participants about the benefits and opportunities the scheme offers. Er. Mohammad Shafi Bhat, the Principal of GWP Srinagar, inaugurated the event, setting the tone for an insightful and beneficial session. Hakim Mohammad Ilyas, the Incharge of the Vishwakarma Scheme GWPs, delivered a detailed presentation, explaining the broader objectives of the scheme. Launched in late 2023 by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), the Vishwakarma Scheme aims to empower ordinary artisans and craftsmen to become entrepreneurs. Ilyas highlighted the significance of



the 5-day training followed by a 15-day program, emphasizing that it serves as a stepping stone for participants to acquire skills, literacy, and recognition of prior learning (RPL). Recognition of Prior Learning involves assessing an indi-

vidual's existing skills, knowledge, and experiences gained through formal, non-formal, or informal learning.

Upon completing the course, certified Vishwakarma individuals become eligible for hassle-free bank

loans of up to 3 lakhs to establish their own businesses. They are also registered under the Government E-Market (GeM) and can participate in various government tenders, availing bank loans as needed. This holistic approach aims to elevate skilled individuals to a level at par with the educated section of society.

The participants expressed happiness and enthusiasm during the program, showing a keen interest in contributing to the brighter future of a Skilled India. Such initiatives play a crucial role in empowering individuals, fostering entrepreneurship, and contributing to the overall growth of a skilled workforce. The positive response from participants indicates the potential success of the Vishwakarma Scheme in creating avenues for economic growth and sustainable livelihoods.

DC Baramulla distributed Relief Cheques among Boniyar accident Victims

■ HT News Network

BONIYAR, FEBRUARY 10: The Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa visited Boniyar to extend support to the victim families of a recent accident in the Boniyar area. The DC accompanied by SDM Uri and SDPO distributed relief cheques worth rupees 55 lacs among the affected individuals and families. On the occasion, DC expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor (LG) of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the timely sanction of relief funds. The swift action taken by the LG facilitated the immediate provision of assistance to the affected individuals and families.

Expressing solidarity with the victims, the DC assured them that the government is fully committed to providing all possible assistance during this difficult time. The relief checks aim to alleviate the immediate financial burden caused by the unfortunate incident. In addition to the financial support, the DC emphasized the importance of ongoing



efforts to enhance safety measures on the roads to prevent future accidents. The government remains dedicated to ensuring the well-being and safety of all residents, and measures will be taken to address any underlying issues contributing to such incidents. The visit underscored the government's proactive approach in responding to emergencies and providing timely support to affected communities. The DC reiterated the government's commitment to standing by the people of Boniyar and offered condolences to the families affected by the accident.

DC Bandipora visits Upper Stretches of Bandipora-Gurez Road, Assesses Snow Clearance Operations

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 10: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Shakeel Ul Rehman on Saturday visited upper stretches of Bandipora Gurez Road to take on spot assessment of ongoing snow clearance operations. ADC Umar Shafi and other officers, accompanied the DC during the visit.

During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner expressed satisfaction on the snow clearance work as it was noted that the operation is going on in full-swing both from Gurez as well as Bandipora sides. Around 2.5 kms are cleared on a daily basis from each side. Shakeel Ul Rehman said that the administration is fully committed to ensure safe and hassle free travel on Bandipora-Gurez road, and once the road is made traffic worthy, the movement of vehicles shall be regulated from both sides with proper safety measures.

He said that the visit is aimed to conduct a thorough review of snow clearance mea-



sures and to expedite the opening of Bandipora-Gurez road for vehicular traffic adding that only 15 km stretch is pending for clearance, which is expected to be cleared in the next few days subject to fair weather conditions.

The DC further said that both men and the machinery from BRO and MED are on job to ensure minimum disruption and restoration of the traffic on this stretch.

Gurez-Bandipora road was closed for vehicular traffic recently in view of heavy snowfall en route, and at present, the travel of people and medical emergencies are being facilitated through chopper services.

SSP Ganderbal chairs crime review meeting held at DPO Ganderbal

■ HT News Network

Ganderbal February 10: SSP Ganderbal Shri Sandeep Gupta-IPS today chaired a crime review meeting at conference Hall of DPO Ganderbal. During the meeting, the status of under investigation cases related to ULAP(A), NDPS Act and Crime against women & children were reviewed.

Addressing the officers, SSP Ganderbal said that the Investigation officers, SHO's and supervisory officers must take all the measures to improve investigation and disposal of cases. He directed that the quality of investigation and disposal of these cases needs improvement and stressed upon them to adopt the latest techniques and standard operating practices which would bring better results in investigation process.

The meeting was attended by Addl. SP Ganderbal Shri Malik Aijaz-JKPS, SDPO Kangan Shri Muzaffar Jan-JKPS, DySP Hqrs Ganderbal Shri Gh Hassan-JKPS, DySP DARDPL Ganderbal Shri Nazir Ahmad and SHO's /In-charges, Investigation officers of Police Stations & Police Posts.

National Road Safety Month 2024: Multiple Events Held in Anantnag

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 10: The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Anantnag in collaboration with the Health and Medical department and Traffic Department Rural, Anantnag today organised a Medical and Health Check up camp at Sumo Stand Kokernag to celebrate 34th National Road Safety Month-2024.

Speaking on the occasion, DySP Traffic Mohammad Idrees said that apart from free medical check up to the drivers the aim of the programme was to sensitise the driver community about safe and disciplined driving.

The officials from the Health and Medical department conducted an eye check up of the commercial vehicle drivers.

The MVD officials and Traffic Department also spread road safety awareness among the general commuters by felicitating them with Certificates of appreciation and Red Roses for traffic violators. Later, a grievance camp was also organised in which a large number of transporters from various subdivision and civil society members apprised the MVD officials about their grievances. Demands like plying of transport till late night and desist from charging extra fare and overloading of passengers were kept before the officials. The officials ensured speedy redressal of these grievances.

Drug Control Department conducts inspection of medical establishments, pharmacies

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY, 10:- Drug Control Department, Shopian under the supervision of Assistant Drug Controller Pulwama/Shopian carried out surprise inspections today in various areas of Shopian district including Memender, Narwaw, Vehil and kachdoora, Shopian town and other areas.

During the drive more than twenty inspections were conducted and operation of five medical establishments were disallowed on spot for violating different conditions of licences, viz non- maintenance of proper records and non-installation of CCTV camera etc.

During the drive, the samples of various fast moving brands were lifted for testing & analysis. Further the chemists were directed to adhere to the norms and directions issued by the department from time to time in letter and spirit. Chemists in the area were also impressed upon to maintain the records of all the scheduled medicines properly as per the prescribed norms and were asked to keep proper vigil on every suspicious person and ensure that scheduled medicines are dispensed on prescriptions of registered practitioners only. Chemists in the area were also impressed upon to maintain the records of all the scheduled medicines properly as per the prescribed norms and were asked to keep proper vigil on every suspicious person and ensure that scheduled medicines are dispensed on prescriptions of registered practitioners only.

Shaleen Kabra presides over mega public outreach programme at Dudu

Asks officers to resolve public issues, concerns on priority

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 10: As part of UT administration's public outreach initiative, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, today presided over a mega public outreach programme at Dudu panchayat, Udhampur.

The event served as a platform for addressing grievances and demands raised by the local populace.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from DDC members, former PRI members and the general public representing various regions.

Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Saloni Rai, Mission Director, JJM, Dr. G N Itoo, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti, Chief Engineer I&FC Department, Manoj Gupta, SSP, Joginder Singh, Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghan Sham Singh, DDC member Latti-Marothi, Pinky Devi, DDC member Narsoor,



Subash Chander and other senior officers were present in the programme.

Different government departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Health, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Social Welfare, Handicraft, Handloom and others had set up awareness stalls regarding their respective schemes.

The Additional Chief Secretary along with Deputy Commissioner inspected the stalls and interacted with the officers and reviewed progress on their schemes on

ground.

During interaction with the public and former PRI members, several issues and demands were raised, including opening of a Kendriya Vidyalaya School in Dudu, construction of roads, forest clearance, establishment of PHE guest house, infrastructure development for religious sites, staff shortages in educational and health institutions and recruitment drives for youth employment.

Appreciating the natural beauty and tourism potential of the

region, Shaleen Kabra emphasized the need for sustainable development and transparent recruitment processes to address the demands effectively. He acknowledged the efforts of the local community in maintaining cleanliness and assured them of the government's commitment towards resolving their grievances promptly.

ACS reiterated government's dedication towards ensuring access to basic facilities and services for all citizens, emphasizing the importance of schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission in providing clean water connections to every household. He underscored the role of local communities and water committees in ensuring the quality and maintenance of water resources at the village level.

The primary objective of the public outreach programme was to address day-to-day issues faced by the public and facilitate implementation of centrally sponsored schemes at the grassroots level.

Secretary Health visits GMC Baramulla Emphasizes on effectiveness of healthcare delivery, patient care

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 10: Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today visited Government Medical College (GMC) and associated Hospital Baramulla and inspected the healthcare facilities besides assessing patient care status there.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, accompanied the Secretary.

During the visit, the Secretary visited different departments of GMC to take first hand appraisal of the facilities available and efficiency of the service delivery.

Dr. Abid Rasheed inspected Wards, Operation Theatres, Outdoor Patients Department (OPD), Resident Rooms, Sanitary Blocks, testing



centers and other healthcare units.

He had a comprehensive evaluation of the emergency block, assessing patient care, inflow of patients, management practices, health interventions, security measures and related areas for optimal operational efficiency and patient well-being within the emergency department.

The Secretary issued

on-the-spot directions to the concerned authorities for upholding impeccable standards of hygiene and cleanliness in GMC premises. He emphasised the significance of optimizing patient flow management in both outpatient and inpatient departments, aiming to enhance the overall efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare delivery and total patient care.

DC Rajouri takes comprehensive review of RDD Sector works, schemes

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 10: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhatagat today conducted a comprehensive review of the Rural Development Department (RDD) sector works and schemes here at a meeting. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took the detailed review of the progress made under District Capex Budget, SSY, ABDP, APDP, MGNREGA, PMAY and Awas Plus, border bunkers etc.

While taking the review of the progress under the District Capex Budget the meeting was informed that a staggering 2897 out of 3015 works have been successfully completed, reflecting a robust execution of planned projects. Under Samridh Seema



Yojana (SSY), 180 out of 324 works have been completed, while under APDP, out of 42 works, 20 works have been completed. Similarly, under ABDP, out of 24 works, 17 works have been completed.

A key highlight of the review pertains to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), where an impressive 23,47,399 man-days have been generated to date.

While taking note of the progress of border bunkers, it was informed that out of 1892 bunkers, the work on 1603 bunkers have been completed.

Regarding the progress made under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Awas Plus which have been pivotal in addressing housing needs in the district, the meeting was told that out of 62,341 houses sanctioned, 36,810 houses have been completed.

RDD Secretary emphasises on convergent planning under CSSs in Samba

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, FEBRUARY 10: In a bid to assess progress on ongoing schemes and finalise outline for Rural Development Planning in Samba district, Secretary Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, on Saturday underscored the critical need for enhanced convergence with different departments, particularly agriculture and allied sectors.

Dr Shahid, while chairing a meeting here conducted a comprehensive review of various initiatives and projects aimed at bolstering rural infrastructure and livelihood opportunities, through sectoral convergence.

The agenda encompassed a wide array of issues including advancements made under flagship



schemes like MGNREGA and PMAY (G), the current status of rural sanitation initiatives, door-to-door waste collection and timely disbursement of wages. Additionally, the meeting assesses progress achieved under ABPS, Project UNNATI, Geo-tagging of assets, Food Grains storage units, and the District Convergence Plan of MGNREGA. Besides, Aadhar seeding,

Amrit Sarovars, UT Capex review, SBM (G) and IWMP were also discussed in detail. Emphasizing the importance of livelihood generation and sustainable operation and maintenance of assets, the Secretary called for concerted efforts in these areas. The Secretary highlighted the significance of forward linkages in door-to-door waste collection and stressed the need

of expediting the construction of Panchayat Ghars. Timely payment of wages emerged as a crucial aspect, with Dr Shahid emphasizing its pivotal role in ensuring the effectiveness of rural development initiatives. He advocated innovation and a futuristic approach in creation of rural infrastructure.

He directed the Block Development Officers (BDOs) to conduct monthly convergence meetings with other stakeholders to foster collaboration and synergy in implementation. The Secretary also inspected the ongoing works at the DDC building in Samba and visited the model Panchayat Palli in Bari-Brahmana block. Earlier, a detailed presentation was made by the Deputy Commissioner, Abhishek Sharma, highlighting performance of the district on Key Performance Indicators of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Special crime wing crime Branch Jammu presents charge-sheet in a fraud and Cheating case

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 10: Special Crime Wing - Crime Branch Jammu has presented 604 pages charge-sheet in the Court, Munsif R.S. Pura against three persons accused in a fraud and cheating case.

The charge-sheet has been filed against accused persons - (1) Sonu Gupta S/o Niranjn Dass Gupta R/o Chak Aslam Tehsil R.S Pura District Jammu, (2) Gourav Gupta S/o Late Puran Chand R/o Ward No. 10, Tehsil RS Pura and District Jammu and (3) Shashi Gupta S/o Niranjn Dass Gupta R/o Chak Aslam Tehsil R.S Pura District Jammu in case FIR No.233/2019 U/S 420, 120-B IPC

P/SRS Pura being investigated by inspector Rajesh Kumar Verma I/O of Special Crime Wing, Crime Branch Jammu under overall supervision of Sandeep Kumar Mehta SSP, Spl Crime Wing Crime Branch Jammu for their involvement in cheating and duping the innocent farmers.

As per Crime branch Jammu, a written complaint was lodged by the complainant namely Tirath Singh S/o Sh. Sant Singh R/o Karan Bagh Tehsil Gadi Garh District Jammu against the 3 accused persons for cheating and duping the innocent farmers of their harvest and hard earned money. The accused persons collected bulk of paddy and wheat from local farmers promising them of hand-

some profit but did not even pay the actual cost of the same, thereby swindling the money worth crores of rupees.

Upon this complaint, a case FIR No. 233/2019 U/S 420 IPC was registered in Police Station R.S Pura Jammu. Later on the investigation of the case was transferred to Crime Branch Jammu by PHQ J&K Jammu. During the course of investigation, it was found that the accused persons were running three firms jointly namely (1) M/s Ashoka Traders at Chack Asram R.S Pura Jammu in the name of accused person Sonu Gupta S/o Niranjn Dass Gupta R/o Chak Asram Tehsil RS Pura District Jammu, (2) M/s Rakesh Rice Mill, R/o Pindi Sarocha, R.S

Pura, Jammu, in the name of proprietor Sonu Gupta S/o Niranjn Dass Gupta and one Puran Chand who is the father of accused Gourav Gupta. (3) M/s international cattle feed @Sona Feed at Village Jindalehar, R.S Pura, Jammu, registered in the name of sonu Gupta s/o Niranjn Dass Gupta and Puran Chand who is the father of accused Gourav Gupta. Puran Chand s/o Late Niranjn Dass was not actively involved in the business due to health reasons and due to prolonged illness, he died in 2018. The third accused namely Shashi Gupta was an employee of J&K bank, thus no firm was registered in his name, but he was actively involved in the said business as evident from statements.

MVD organises Health Checkup cum Awareness Camp at Ramban

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 10: As part of the ongoing 'Road Safety Month' campaign, the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, today organized a health check-up cum awareness camp for drivers and conductors here at general Bus Stand.

The initiative aimed to promote the health and well-being of drivers and conductors, recognizing their pivotal role in ensuring road safety.

A team of doctors from District Hospital provided

free health check-ups and eye examinations to the principal stakeholders, including drivers and conductors.

The event was graced by the presence of Senior Superintendent of Police, Traffic, NHW Ramban, Rohit Baskotra, Additional District Development Commissioner, Roshan Lal, ACR Harpal Singh, Dy. DEO Lal Chand, ARTO Samrinder Singh, Dy. SP Iftikhar Ahmed, Tehsildar, Deep Kumar, CEO MC Ramban, Sudarshan Singh, and various other concerned officers.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Traffic, emphasized the importance of adhering to traffic rules

and regulations, urging participants to follow the Motor Vehicle Act and Rules diligently. He stressed the significance of avoiding speeding, using mobile phones while driving, improper overtaking, and illegal parking.

In his address, the Additional District Development Commissioner highlighted the crucial link between health and driving, emphasizing the importance of maintaining good health to ensure adherence to road safety measures.

An interactive session provided an opportunity to drivers, conductors, and officers from civil and police administration to engage in

ADDC reviews progress of work on mega developmental projects, implementation of Central schemes in Kishtwar District

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 10: In a proactive move towards fostering development in the district, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kishtwar, Ghulam Rasool today led a pivotal introductory meeting with Officers of key line department and executing agencies. The primary focus of the meeting was the comprehensive review of the implementation status of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), progress under the District Capex Budget, and Iconic projects in the district. During the meeting, ADDC Kishtwar introduced the officers and officials present, setting the stage for collaborative efforts. Emphasizing the need for 100% saturation of CSS in the district, he underscored the significance of ensuring the efficient utilization of centrally sponsored resources for maximum impact. In a detailed review of



the Capex Budget progress, the ADDC stressed the importance of completing ongoing projects within specified timelines. He urged a balanced financial progress aligned with tangible achievements and emphasized the paramount need for maintaining high-quality standards across various sectors. The chair also scrutinized the pace of various iconic projects in the district, highlighting their vital role in public utility. ADDC Kishtwar directed executing agencies to adhere strictly to timelines, ensuring the timely completion of these projects. The meeting was attended by PO ICDS Dr Rishi Kumar Sharma, Joint Director Planning Mohd Iqbal, DYSSO Kishtwar Kharti Lal Sharma, Ex En PWD, Ex En Jal Shakti, Ex En PDD besides representatives of various departments.

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Social Welfare Department organises Training cum Awareness Program at Gool

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 10: The Social Welfare Department today hosted a Training cum Awareness Program in Gool as part of Mission Vatsalya to boost child protection efforts.

The aim was to educate everyone about Mission Vatsalya Guidelines, the role of CWC, JJB, and CCLs, ensuring better child protection measures.

Sub Divisional Magistrate,

Gool, Pawan Goswami presided over the function and DDC Member, Sakshi Mohammad Choudhary was guest of honor.

Former PRIs, Numberdars, Chowkidars, Anganwadi Workers, Asha workers and officials of ICDS, RDD and Revenue Department also attended the function.

Speaking on the occasion, the SDM highlighted the significance of such training programs for creating awareness and fostering a collective approach. He under-

scored the essential role played by collaborative efforts in ensuring the safety and well-being of children.

In his address, District Child Protection Officer, Rahul Gupta, highlighted the need for collective action in addressing child protection issues.

Representatives from different departments also participated, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of guidelines to safeguard children's welfare.

The five-match Test series against England currently stands at 1-1. The third Test starts on February 15 in Rajkot, before the teams move to Ranchi for the fourth game from February 23. The fifth and final Test will be played in Dharamsala from March 7.

