



Rich Cultural Heritage of J&K Will be Showcased During 2-Day Festival: LG Sinha

450 Artists from across the UT are participating in the Fest organised by All J&K Folk Artists' Association, JKAACL, Sangeet Natak Akademi and North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala

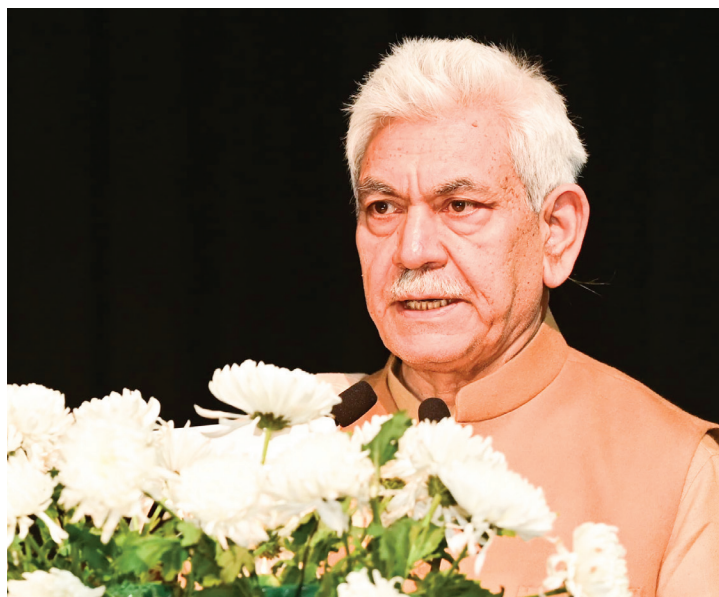
■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEB 15: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated the two-day Cultural Festival 'New J&K-New Hope' at Abhinav Theatre Jammu, today.

The Lt Governor lauded the joint endeavour of All J&K Folk Artists' Association, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi and North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala to showcase the rich musical heritage and folk art legacy of Jammu Kashmir Union Territory.

Jammu Kashmir is the confluence of art, literature, wisdom and culture. This land is blessed with extremely talented people who

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LG Attends Annual-Day Function Of Sant Hare Ram Dass Public School, Mandal

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEB 15: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the Annual-day function of Sant Hare Ram Dass Public School at Mandal, today.

The Lt Governor appreciated the school run by Shri Shiv Mandir Nyas Trust for its significant contribution in education, society's welfare, integration and solidarity. He congratulated the school administration, teachers and students on the occasion.

The Lt Governor impressed upon the teaching

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

LS Poll: PM Modi to kickstart election campaign at Jammu's M A Stadium on February 20

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEB 15: Ahead of Lok Sabha poll scheduled for April-May this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will kickstart the election campaign with a public rally



at Maulana Azad Stadium here on February 20.

The venue for the rally however, is put under siege and tight security arrangements are made around it.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

DGP RR Swain To Hear Public Grievances At Baramulla On Feb 17

JAMMU, FEB 15: This is to notify the public that the DGP's Public Grievances Redressal/Interaction programme is scheduled to be held on February 17, 2024 (Saturday) 3 p.m. at District Police Lines, Baramulla. The grievance/interaction programme is exclusively for the residents of Baramulla District.

To participate in the programme, individuals with grievances related to police services should visit the District Police Line (DPL) to register at the help desk established for the purpose. People who wish to bring their grievances to the attention of DGP

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ACB Registers Disproportionate Assets Case

JAMMU, FEB 15: Anti Corruption Bureau registered FIRs against Ameet Kumar Koul, Inspector(S) and Head Constable Rajinder Kumar Sharma regarding the allegations of possessing of disproportionate assets.

FIR No.01/2024 u/s 13(1) (b) of PC Act 1988 against Inspector (S) Ameet Kumar Koul has been registered in PS Central Branch of ACB Jammu based on the outcome of a Secret Verification with regard to the allegation that the officer is in possession of disproportionate assets to the known source of his income.

FIR No.02/2024 u/s 13(1)(b) r/w 13(2) of PC Act 1 has been registered in

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Militant Associates Held In Kupwara

SRINAGAR, FEB 15: A militant associate was arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, police said on Thursday.

The arrest was made by a joint naka laid by Kupwara Police, Army's 28 RR, and the CRPF's 162 battalion at Gundmacher Bridge.

"During naka checking, a suspicious movement of one person carrying a white-colored bag who was coming from Lalpora towards Gundmacher was observed. Acting swiftly, the police party and security forces apprehended him tactfully as the said person tried to flee from the spot," a police statement said.

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Div Com Kashmir For Comprehensive Transport Plan For City

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEB 15: For the convenience of general public, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bid-



huri today directed Officers of Smart City, SRTC and RTO Kashmir besides private transporters to chalk out a comprehensive plan for city to facilitate general public and to frame timetable so the buses shall be available on time at Bus-stops.

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Kashmir Braces up For Moderate to Heavy Rain, Snowfall from 18th Feb

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEB 15: The night temperature at most places in Kashmir continues to settle below freezing, even as Kashmir is bracing up for possible heavy rain and snowfall from Monday.

An official said a couple of moderate-to-intense Western Disturbances (WD) are most likely to affect J&K

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



Modi's Governance Reforms Helped Indian Economy Through Huge Savings: Dr Jitendra

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, FEB 15: Governance reforms under Prime Minister Narendra Modi have helped the Indian economy through huge savings.

Technology is being widely used to

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

2 Non-Locals' Killing: Search On In Water Body By Police For Cell Phone Of Main Accused

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEB 15: Days after a local militant and the main accused was arrested for his alleged involvement in the killing of two workers from Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir Police along with Indian Navy's elite marine commando MARCOS launched a search operation in the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



Secretary School Education Reviews Department's Functioning In Kashmir Division

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEB 15: Secretary School Education, Dr. Piyush Singla, today convened a review meeting regarding functioning of the department with emphasis on ensuring requisite arrangements in place for re-opening of schools and upcoming examinations in Kashmir division.

Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. Tassaduq Hussain Mir briefed the meeting about the arrangements being made by the department for the upcoming examinations, re-opening of schools and present scenario of functioning of the department.

The Secretary issued strict instructions to the concerned officials to ensure that



all arrangements for reopening of schools are made efficiently besides preparations for upcoming examinations are done in time. He impressed upon all the Chief



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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

2-Day Festival.....

have united the society and made tremendous contribution in national integration through their art, the Lt Governor observed.

We are proud of our artists like Padam Shri recipient Folk Artist Sh Romalo Ram who are promoting the folk art and cultural heritage of Jammu Kashmir, he said.

The Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to provide the platform and necessary handholding to the young and budding artists of the Union Territory.

He also congratulated the artists for their enthralling performances on the occasion.

A total of 450 artists from different parts of Jammu Kashmir are participating in the Cultural Festival.

Sh Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Sh Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary JKAACL; Sh Gulzar Bhat, Chairman All J&K Folk Artists' Association, senior officials, renowned artists and youth in large number were present.

LG Attends.....

community to promote the values and ideals of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and mentor the younger generation to discharge their duty towards the society and the nation.

He said the educational reforms, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, have upgraded the teaching methodologies and provided more freedom to nurture young generation.

It is also our shared responsibility to ensure the implementation of National Education Policy in true letter and spirit, the Lt Governor further added.

Shri Hare Ram Dass ji Maharaj, while speaking on the occasion, reiterated the commitment of Sant Hare Ram Dass Public School and Shri Shiv Mandir Nyas Trust to provide values-based education to the students for their holistic development.

The Lt Governor felicitated the students who excelled in academics and diverse fields, and also planted a tree sapling in the school premises to mark the occasion.

Former Legislators; ex-PMI members; religious heads, members of school management and Shri Shiv Mandir Nyas Trust, teachers, students and parents were present.

LS Poll: PM.....

All sports activities are also temporarily suspended in the Stadium.

Sources in the BJP said that the Prime Minister will be addressing a mega public rally on February 20 at Jammu's M A Stadium having a seating capacity of around 25,000 spectators.

Sources revealed that the Modi will also be inaugurating a series of development projects including All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Vijaypur in Samba, the highest Railway Bridge, linking Kashmir with rest of the country this year, in Reasi district, Devika Rejuvenation project at Udhampur, IIM Jammu and Shahpur Kandi Redevelopment Plan in Kathua.

"The Prime Minister will be e-inaugurating these projects," adding party sources said that e-foundation stones of various other development works in Jammu and Kashmir will also be laid by the Prime Minister.

They said that before his scheduled Jammu rally and other programmes, Modi is also expected to meet the party's J&K cadre at New Delhi on February 17-18 during a two-day Working Group meeting.

"A Two-day national convention is to be convened in Bharat Mandapam on February 17-18, coinciding with the upcoming Lok Sabha election which will be inaugurated by BJP National President J P Nadda and concludes with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's closing address," they said.

The sources said that Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir could boost BJP's prospects in the Union Territory ahead of Lok Sabha election as the party is eyeing three seats.

BJP for two consecutive terms in 2014 and 2019 won two Lok Sabha seats from Jammu region.

Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh won the Udhampur-Kathua seat and Jugal Kishore Sharma won Jammu-Poonch seat in the last two Lok Sabha polls.

"The party this time is eyeing third seat Anantnag-Poonch-Rajouri which has a large number of Pahari votes to whom the Government accorded ST status in the just concluded Parliament session," said a BJP leader.

Meanwhile tight security is in place for the smooth conduct of the Prime Minister's rally.

All vehicles passing nearby the venue—located in the heart of Jammu city—are being frisked and special check posts are installed along the River Tawi bank—adjacent to the M A Stadium.

"Security forces are on alert and are

maintaining vigil around the venue while barricades are also erected and the entrants at the venue are being allowed to move only after complete frisking," said a senior police official. (UNI)

Div Com Kashmir.....

The Div Com passed these directions in a meeting convened to listen to the demands/issues/grievances of transporters of Kashmir, here.

The meeting was attended by CEO, Smart City Limited/VC SDA/ Commissioner SMC, Dr Owais Ahmad; MD SRTC; RTO Kashmir; SSP Traffic City; SSP Rural and Representatives of various Transport Associations.

Speaking on the occasion, Div Com asked transporters to upgrade their services and coordinate with the officers of Smart City, SRTC & RTO Kashmir and ensure their vehicles ply till late in evening on all routes.

The transporters apprised the meeting about different grievances and issues faced by them. They demanded a comprehensive Transport Policy for UT and regulation of unregistered service providers and a policy for E-Rickshaw Autos.

On the occasion, Div Com enjoined RTO Kashmir to take lead to frame a detailed plan and a timetable in consultation with other stakeholders. He said that passengers should be aware about the time of arrival and departure of buses at any stop in City.

He emphasized on private transporters to come forward and take part in water transportation which shall help in minimizing traffic congestion.

Braces For.....

and adjoining areas from Saturday afternoon onwards.

Meteorological Centre Srinagar said under the influence of WD, an extended wet spell from February 17 night onwards till February 21 afternoon is most likely to cause moderate rain and snow at many places over J&K and adjoining areas.

The main activity of the WD is likely to occur on February 19–20.

During this period, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain or snow at most places, including plains and lower reaches, with the possibility of heavy snowfall over the middle and higher reaches of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Badgam, Shopian, and Kulgam districts, the MeT office said.

It said that there is a possibility of light to moderate snow at many places till the afternoon or late afternoon and gradual improvement thereafter on February 21.

A significant drop in daytime temperature is also expected during the period, it said.

An independent weather observer, Faizan Arif, said a strong WD is going to affect Jammu and Kashmir from the night or morning of Sunday onwards, and under its influence, moderate to heavy rain and snow are expected in the region.

Initially, there can be rain only on the plains, which can transform into snow later on February 18 or 19.

"There is uncertainty about whether it will continuously snow in the plains as temperatures may again rise on February 19 afternoon. However, for higher reaches, it is going to dump heavy to very heavy snowfall till February 20," he said, adding that "over 5 feet of snow accumulations can also happen in a few areas."

He predicted the total amount of snow accumulation at Sadhna Top in north Kashmir's Kupwara district may be 10–12 feet and is likely to get closed for a long time now. A similar situation is expected for Razdan Pass in Bandipora district and Sinthan Pass in Kishtwar district of Jammu division.

For plains, if snow occurs and accumulates, it will be slightly denser and have the potential to cause damage.

The wet weather may cause landslides and shooting stones over the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway between February 18–21.

Meanwhile, the MeT office said the minimum temperature during the intervening nights of Wednesday and Thursday in Srinagar settled at -3.0°C for the second consecutive day. It was 4.0°C below normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway had a low of -2.0°C, while the picnic spot of Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of -0.2°C for the second consecutive day on Thursday.

The night temperature at Pahalgam dropped by a few notches and recorded a low of -5.4°C against -5.2°C. It was 1.0°C below normal for the tourist hot spot in south Kashmir.

Kupwara recorded a low of -3.3°C against -3.4°C, and it was 3.1°C below normal for the frontier north Kashmir district.

The minimum temperature at Gulmarg further improved and settled at -3.2°C against the -4.2°C recorded on Wednesday, and it was 3.6°C above normal for the famous ski resort of north Kashmir. (UNI)

SIA Carries.....

During the operation, incriminating material and documents such as identity cards, bank documents, identity cards, and registers besides digital devices like mobile phones and computers were seized from various HR consultancies, a statement from SIA said.

The case pertains to the illegal trafficking of foreign nationals into the Indian Territory, particularly from Myanmar and Bangladesh.

"Investigations reveal that vulnerable foreign nationals are trafficked to India under the guise of employment opportunities. Upon their transportation to Jammu and Kashmir, they are sold to fake and illegal human resource agencies/consultancies, who further exploit them under the garb of job opportunities such as domestic helpers, maids, and babysitters, often leading to sexual exploitation," the statement said.

It added that this nefarious scheme is part of a broader conspiracy hatched by international terrorist organizations, in connivance with notorious trans-border human traffickers.

"These groups facilitate the infiltration of foreign nationals across international borders, concealing their original identities with forged Indian documents with an ultimate aim is to establish sleeper cells to aid, execute, or facilitate terrorist acts in the UT of J&K," the statement said.

The SIA said the seized material will be meticulously examined so that all the accused persons are identified and brought to book.

"Today's search operation marks the continuous pursuit of SIA in dismantling the terror ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir and unfurling the sinister agendas of international terrorist organizations operating in the region," the statement added. (UNI)

Modi's Governance.....

result in savings and in delivery of utilities as well as services to the public.

This was stated by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh while addressing the participants of the 'Special Capacity Building Programme for Senior Civil Servants of Sri Lanka' here today.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, adopting Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) has resulted in saving of Rs.1 lakh crore by removing middlemen and also saved millions of poor households from starvation during the Covid Pandemic.

Besides, the Government also saved Rs.65,000 crore through the Government e-marketplace (GeM) portal.

Quoting PM Modi's recent speech where he stated that Governance is his government's top priority, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the governance reforms of the last 10 years under PM Modi have gone beyond the realms of mere governance by improving the work culture as well as providing an optimum working environment, while at the same time resulting in far reaching socio-economic benefits in the long run.

Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Neighbours First" policy and similarities in culture as well as the people to people ties that both the countries share.

The hallmark of 10 years of Governance transformation under PM Modi has been Transparency, Accountability, and time-bound Delivery of services with the use of technology wherever required, he said.

The Union Minister reiterated PM Modi's vision of 'Minimum Government Maximum Governance' highlighting the government's women centric initiatives such as giving Maternity leave even in case of a Still Birth. Referring to the recent amendment to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, the union minister said the Government under PM Modi has zero tolerance on Corruption and Terrorism.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the 'Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances' (DARPG) has emerged as a nodal department.

As reforms evolved over the years, the best practices and success stories have been followed by other countries such as South Africa and the United Kingdom, he said.

Highlighting progress of DARPG, the DoPT Minister said that CPGRAMS is among the best grievance redressal mechanisms across the world, having over 95 percent redressal. Human Interface has been introduced for public feedback after disposal of grievances and reduced litigations through technology means. Besides, Face Recognition Technology is being used for the first time in issuing Digital Life Certificates to ensure Pensions to genuine beneficiaries, he said.

Secretary DARPG and Director General NCGG, V. Shrinivas, while giving opening remarks, highlighted that NCGG has conducted several capacity building programmes for Sri Lankan Civil servants but this is the 1st high-level CBC programme of senior level civil servants of Sri Lanka.

Head of Sri Lankan delegation, Anura Disanayake, who is Secretary to the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, recalled the official visit of Sri Lankan President on 21st July last year and expressed their interest in inspiration from India's economic growth under PM Modi and help revive Sri Lanka's public sector by learning and adopting India's best practices and success stories. The delegation also appreciated India's progress in implementation of Digital services and institutions such as Lokpal and Central Vigilance Corruption in curbing corruption.

2 Non-Locals.....

water body in Srinagar to trace his cellphone and other incriminating materials which he had thrown, officials said.

Two days ago, J&K Police said that they arrested Aadil Manzoor Langoo, a resident of Srinagar, who was involved in the February 7 killings of two Punjabi migrant workers — Amritpal Singh and Rohit Masi. Police had said a pistol that was used by him to commit the crime was also recovered.

However, during further questioning, Aadil revealed to the investigators that he had thrown his cellphone and other incriminating materials into a water body at two places along the Ali Jan Road in Srinagar after the attack, official sources said.

"It was on this revelation that the searches were launched by Police and MARCOS in the water body to trace his mobile and other incriminating materials," the sources said, adding, that "this material was important for further investigation in the case."

After the arrest, Additional Director General of Police, Vijay Kumar had said Aadil had been radicalised online by Pakistan-based handlers.

"If you dig Aadil Manzoor's background, neither he nor his family has no previous background (of militancy). He was motivated and radicalised through social media by Pakistani handlers," Kumar told reporters in Srinagar on Tuesday.

Kumar claimed Aadil used to regularly pray at the mosque and had leanings towards the Ahli Hadees sect of Islam. (UNI)

Secretary.....

Education Officers to complete rationalization of teaching staff to ensure equitable pupil teacher ratio at par with NEP 2020 besides strengthening of Cluster System. He also emphasized on execution of pending works for completion at the earliest.

He directed the Chief Education Officers to expedite the process of holding DPC meetings at various levels and provide latest vacancy position of all cadres at the earliest. He asked

the officers to pay attention on resolving HR related issues and ensure that the staff do not have to face stagnation.

Dr. Piyush Singla also instructed the officers to ask the school administrators under their respective jurisdiction to ensure that any of the basic facilities, if rendered non-functional during winters, be repaired and restored before reopening of the schools. He directed the CEOs, Nodal Officers for SVEEP, to ensure availability of minimum assured facilities in all schools keeping in view the upcoming parliamentary elections. He asked the teaching fraternity to focus on student centered learning, enhancing teaching skills through training programmes, use of latest technology, fostering effective parent-teacher partnership, creating a supportive learning environment, encouraging continuous assessment and feedback, emphasizing mental health and providing necessary resources to further streamline the education system.

The Secretary emphasized upon all stakeholders to work in a coordinated manner to further improve education standards in the district for larger interest of the society.

Later, Dr Piyush Singla visited Pulwama and inaugurated AAGAZ Lab in Government High School Pahoo.

He also visited Mehjoor Memorial Higher Secondary School Pulwama and distributed regularization orders in favour of Contingent Paid Workers there.

Dr Piyush Singla also interacted with the staff and the students of the institutions and discussed about the academic environment of the schools.

The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary SED, Deputy Secretary SED, Personnel Officer DSEK, Chief Accounts Officer, DSEK and all Chief Education Officers of Kashmir division besides other senior officers of the department.

DGP RR Swain.....

J&K should submit a written application containing complete details including that of a working mobile number.

It is reiterated that the DGP's Public Grievance Redressal programme is exclusively for addressing concerns related to Police services. It does not include matters concerning the recruitment of Special Police Officers (SPOs) or general transfers so please be informed that grievances pertaining to these specific areas will not be entertained during the grievance redressal programme.

ACB Registers.....

PS ACB Jammu against Head Constable Rajinder Kumar Sharma based on the outcome of an Enquiry conducted into the allegations that the official has raised disproportionate assets to the known source of his income.

During the course of Investigation, searches were conducted in the residential houses of both the officials and business establishments of HC Rajinder Kumar Sharma. During searches some incriminating documents and valuables have been seized and taken for investigation purpose.

Further investigation of both the cases is going on.

Militant Associates....

During preliminary questioning, the arrested disclosed his name as Rafeeq Ahmad Ganie of Lalpora Sheikhpora, they said.

Police said during the search of the bag, a pistol, a magazine, ten pistol rounds, and two hand grenades were recovered.

The said person was arrested on the spot.

A case under sections 7/25 A Act, 13, 18, 23, and 39 ULA (P) was registered at Police Station Lalpora, and an investigation was set into motion. (UNI)

Monitor progress on River Morphology studies on daily basis: CEO ERA asks officers

SRINAGAR: Chief Executive Officer, Jammu and Kashmir Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA), Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar, today asked the officers to effectively monitor progress on Jhelum and Tawi river basin morphological studies being undertaken as part of World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project on daily basis to ensure earliest completion of critical studies.

Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar said this while chairing a meeting held to review progress on ongoing World Bank funded JTRFP at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar here today

She gave instructions for close monitoring of progress of work on all the remaining under execution sub-projects under JTRFP particularly the flagship sub-projects of construction of Emergency Operations Centre at Ompura, Budgam, construction of Additional Hospital block at Bone and Joints Hospital, Barzulla and construction of extension block at Lal Ded Hospital, Srinagar. Director, Technical, JTRFP, Gurcharan Singh, while giving details

regarding preparation of feasibility and detailed project report for flood mitigation and comprehensive river management measures for Jhelum river basin, informed that the concerned stakeholders had asked for some clarifications which have been incorporated in the model and final observations from Central Water Commission are awaited. With regard to preparation of feasibility and detailed project report for flood mitigation and comprehensive river management of Tawi basin, he said that some clarifications have been raised by the concerned stakeholders which have been incorporated and further a joint site visit was conducted with the I&FC Jammu for on spot inspection.

The CEO asked the Director Technical, JTRFP, to closely follow up both the studies with the I&FC Department so that both the studies are finalised and completed at earliest.

Dr Sehrish was informed that progress of work on upgradation of 47 dewatering stations in Srinagar city is in progress with work already

completed on 40 stations while as work on remaining stations is underway. She asked the Director, Technical, JTRFP to follow-up all impediments hindering progress of work on the sub-project and concerned PIU be asked to give firm date for the completion of the sub-project.

Nodal officer for construction of additional hospital building at Bone and Joints hospital, Barzulla informed that work on the sub-project is at the advanced stage. He said that estimates for construction of corridor from existing hospital to new block and other additional works has been submitted to World Bank for approval.

Dr. Sehrish asked Director, Technical, and JTRFP to personally follow-up the matter with World Bank and other stakeholders to ensure the work on the sub-project is not affected and continues unhindered. It was also informed that work on construction of state of art EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) at Ompura Budgam is underway and designs for some mechanical components have been submitted to World bank for

approval.

Nodal officer for various sub-projects being executed by J&KERA as PIU (project implementation unit) in Kashmir Division informed that work on Hamray-Sultanpora road sub-project has been completed and project handed over to R&B. Besides, work on the construction of Waghama-Bijbehara road sub-project is underway with excavation and construction of diversion in progress. The CEO directed the concerned nodal officer to ensure that work on the said sub-project is completed by June, 2024. With regard to progress on various bridge sub-projects being executed by J&KERA in Kashmir division, it was informed by the concerned nodal officer that work on construction of Rohmoo bridge in Pulwama, is in full swing with one deck slab already laid and preparation for laying of 2nd deck slab presently underway along with the construction of approaches. Further, work on construction of approaches and pedestal for the bearings on Trenz bridge is in progress.

Custodian General inspects evacuee properties in Kashmir division; Asks officers to act swiftly against encroachments

SRINAGAR, FEB 15: Custodian General J&K, Rishpal Singh, conducted extensive tour of evacuee property assets and land situated at Peerbagh, Hyderpora, Sanath Nagar, Panthachowk, Boulevard, Kathidarwaza Rainawari and other places of Kashmir division.

Deputy Custodian (HQ), Custodian Evacuee Property Kashmir, Assistant Engineer E P Department Kashmir along with field staff accompanied the Custodian General J&K.

During the visit of Evacuee property flats, Convention Centres and marriage halls and shopping complex Hyderpora Srinagar, various delegations of tenants met the Custodian General with their demands and issues. The Custodian General redressed some of the issues on the spot while directing the Custodian Kashmir for redressal

of other genuine demands of the tenants within shortest possible time.

The Custodian General also convened a review meeting with officers of Evacuee Property Department Kashmir.

The Custodian General assessed different aspects of functioning of Evacuee Property Department Kashmir besides reviewing the action taken on decisions taken in the previous meetings. He expressed satisfaction over remarkable achievements including reconciliation of figures of notified evacuee land in due consultation with Revenue Department in Kashmir division and retrieval of big chunk of evacuee land. He asked the officers and officials to act swiftly on receiving reports of encroachment of evacuee land in collaboration with Revenue and Police department.



ments.

The Custodian General also asked the Deputy Custodians to liaise up with district administration for proper management and safeguarding of the evacuee property. He asked for identifying the evacuee land which is potentially viable for commercial purposes including other lands which can be fenced with installation of sign boards to avoid any further encroachment. He said that the land not viable for departmental use should put to e-auction for which the department has already developed e-auction portal and subsequent constitution of auction committee by the government for auction of Evacuee Property.

Meanwhile, a group of employees met the Custodian General and demanded conduct of Departmental Promotion Committee meeting which has not been conducted since 2017.

The Custodian General assured them that he will take up the matter with the administrative department for early finalization of recruitment rules of the department, so that the genuine demands of the employees for promotion to the next higher grade are acceded to keeping in view their seniority, integrity and performance.

Later, the Custodian General emphasized the need of scanning of all records pertaining to the department up to ending February 2024 besides asking for completion of geo tagging of all the Evacuee Property within 15 days. He also emphasized skill development of the employees on priority through skill enhancement sessions and other orientation programmes.

Saurabh Bhagat chairs meeting on solarization of govt buildings

SRINAGAR, FEB 15: Commissioner Secretary Science & Technology, Saurabh Bhagat, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to discuss strategy regarding saturation of Solar Rooftop on Government Buildings of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Executive Director, NHPC, Managing Director, JPDC, Managing Director, KPDC, Managing Director, JKSPDC, CEO, JAKEDA, Managing Director, Regional Electrification Corporation J&K, Nodal Officers nominated by the Administrative Departments and other senior officers.

Emphasizing the importance of maximizing adoption and utilisation of solar energy in the Union Territory, the Commissioner Secretary said that all the allied departments and agencies should provide full support in successful implementation of this flagship programme. He said that all the departments have to be fully integrated into this initiative and explore the possibilities besides assessing the feasibility and potential of each government building. He further said that the solar energy, being both clean and cost-effective, aligns perfectly with J&K's energy goals.

He asked the officers to immediately start survey of central government buildings in both the divisions and share the data with the NHPC. He further asked them to identify all the buildings fit for installation of the solar rooftops.

It was informed in the meeting that it is envisaged that 100% government buildings in the UT are to be covered under the rooftop Solar Programme. Regarding the number of government buildings department wise, it was appraised that the department has identified 10 large departments.

Among them education department has 14000 buildings followed by Rural Development Department, Home, Health & Medical Education, PDD Jal Shakti, Social Welfare Tourism and Higher education.

Addressing the nodal officers of the respective departments, the Commissioner Secretary said that they should frame a clear roadmap and action plan regarding adoption of the system to ensure implementation of the scheme as per its guidelines. He asked each of the department to provide the information like list of their buildings along with sanctioned connected load, shadow free rooftop space, geo-coordinates and other relevant details about such structures here.

The Commissioner Secretary said that all the newly constructed government buildings should have mandatory solar rooftops and the same should reflect in the DPRs.

One-day J&K Apple Conclave on 'Sustainable Innovations for Apple Growers of Kashmir' held at Srinagar

Jt. Director Horticulture urges farming community to avail benefits under various programmes

SRINAGAR, FEB 15: A one day J&K Apple Conclave was today organized by Confederation of Indian Industry on the theme of 'Sustainable Innovations for Apple Growers of Kashmir,' here.

Joint Director Horticulture Kashmir, Zahoor Ahmad Bhat participated in the conclave.

During the proceedings of the programme various vital and important deliberations were made in technical sections on supply chain, food processing, integrated nutrition practices,

crop protection, use of high end technology as a tool to enhance the yield manifold and to take the quality to national and international standards.

Zahoor Ahmad Bhat in his session deliberated upon the profitable high-end yield-oriented farming practices and the conservation of traditional varieties of Apple being cultivated in Kashmir for decades.

Present day farming is technological driven, therefore use of modern-day techniques in our farm field has become imperative



and indispensable, he said.

The Department of Horticulture has introduced game changing schemes and policies to take the fruit industry to newer heights, added Bhat.

He said the farming community must come forward to avail benefits being available with the department under various programmes.

The session was also addressed by the Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-K and other technical experts and representatives of the corporate industry.

DC Srinagar reviews progress and implementation of different schemes under Agriculture and allied sectors

SRINAGAR, FEB 14: In order to review the implementation of different schemes and progress achieved in Agriculture and allied sectors meant for overall development of farmers in District, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here today at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the achievements made by Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries in implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the District.

During the meeting, the DC was given first hand appraisal by the concerned District/Sectoral Officers through PowerPoint presentations highlighting the progress made and targets achieved so far in implementation of different Centrally sponsored schemes under Agriculture and allied sectors. Speaking on the occasion, the DC asked the officers to work with added zeal and dedication to ensure the benefits of all schemes under agriculture and allied sectors are percolated to the target population. He enjoined upon them to reach out to the target population by activating field functionaries to complete the



process of identification of beneficiaries in their respective zones.

The DC further asked the Officers to set a baseline for targets so that achievements are evaluated periodically for overall betterment of farm operating families in the District.

The DC laid emphasis on efficient and effective functioning of the portals designated for registration of beneficiaries to ensure proper implementation of schemes.

With regard to the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the District, the DC asked the officers to give special focus on HADP. He said that the HADP initiative is a major step towards creating a sustainable and profitable agricultural ecosystem. He said the programme aims to empower farmers with knowledge and tools that can help them enhance their productivity and profitability while also contributing to the overall growth of the agriculture sector.

The DC further said that the programme also provides a platform to the farmers to interact with experts from the Agricultural and allied Departments and seek their advice on various aspects of farming, besides enhancing agricultural productivity, improve livelihoods, and contribute to the overall economic growth.

Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, the meeting was attended by General Manager DIC, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, DFO Urban, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, Assistant Director Fisheries, Lead District Manager and Officers from Cooperatives, SKUAST, HP&MC, KVK, Sheep Husbandry, Sericulture.

Former NC Minister Joins BJP In Jammu

JAMMU, FEB 15: In a major boost to the BJP ahead of parliamentary elections, former Jammu and Kashmir minister and prominent Pahari leader Mushtaq Ahmad Shah Bukhari joined the party here on Thursday.

Bukhari, a two-time former MLA from Surankote in Poonch district, had resigned from the National Conference in February 2022 after an argument with party president Farooq Abdullah over granting Scheduled Tribe status to Pahari-speaking people.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina, along with other party leaders, welcomed Bukhari and hundreds of his supporters, including former bureaucrat G M Khuwaja and retired senior superintendent of police Shabir Geelani, into the party fold at the party headquarters here.

"I have kept my promise of joining a party which fulfils our long-pending demand of ST status. I am thankful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Raina for doing justice with Paharis who have struggled for 40 long years for the ST status," Bukhari told reporters.

The BJP-led central government recently added four communities — Gadda Brahmin, Koli, Paddari Tribe and Pahari Ethnic group — to the list of Scheduled Tribes in Jammu and Kashmir.

After resigning from the NC, the former minister had said his statement at a function that "we will not hesitate in supporting any party which will help the community in achieving its demand of ST status did not go down well with the NC leadership and I was asked for an explanation." He claimed that he had a "heated argument" with Abdullah over the issue and submitted his resignation from the basic membership of the party after walking out of the meeting.

Raina said, "Bukhari is not only a political stalwart but a spiritual personality having a lot of influence on people (of his community) in both Jammu and Kashmir. His joining BJP will further strengthen the party at the grassroots level." He claimed a wave in Jammu and Kashmir in favour of the BJP and the prime minister who had provided justice to all sections of society who were deprived of their rights for the past 70 years.

"In the coming days, you will see more political stalwarts joining BJP and there will be only one party left in Jammu and Kashmir," he said, adding that the lotus — the BJP's poll symbol — will bloom not only in Dal Lake but in the entire landscape in Kashmir.

COMPLETE PROJECT WORKS AT CRITICAL JUNCTIONS FOR OPTIMIZATION OF TRAFFIC MOBILITY: DIV COM TO SSCL

SRINAGAR, FEB 15: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today convened a meeting of officers to explore ways for ensuring continuous traffic mobility at critical junctions to avoid time consuming Traffic Jams at Jehangir Chowk, Batamalo, Sangar Mall and Ram Munshi Bagh Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by CEO, Srinagar Smart City Limited; Dr Owais Ahmad; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi ud Din Bhat; SSP Traffic Srinagar; Chief Engineer SSCL; SE, PWD (R&B) and other officers. The meeting held threadbare discussion for reducing the traffic jam at Jehangir Chowk by optimizing

traffic mobility at the junction.

The meeting also held discussion to remove the encroachment on the road by three wheelers at road curvatures and measures to address the same issue.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed the concerned to complete the beautification and developmental work at Jehangir

Chowk. He also instructed for usage of traffic signals at roundabouts for pedestrian crossings.

He also directed the concerned executing department to expedite the work at Batamalo, besides he instructed usage of bollard barriers for traffic diversion at Batamalo Junction. Similarly, regarding Sanger Mall, Div

Com issued the direction for free-left movement of vehicles and widening of narrow corner sides.

Moreover, the meeting discussed operation of Intelligent Multimodal Traffic Surveillance (IMTS) cameras, traffic lights at Maisuma, width of road at U-Turn points and other developmental projects.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from: NUZHAT BEGUM W/O FERDOUS AHMAD GANAIE R/O, NOWPORA Tehsil Kreeri District Baramulla for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of her daughter namely :HAFSA FIRDOUS D/O FIRDOUS AHMAD GANAIE whose D.O.B as per documents is 27/11/2020 & event shown to be occurred at SDH Kreeri.In this connection if anyone have any objection in the registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office or Tehsildar Kreeri/Wagoora /BDO office Wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH

(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAGOORA)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from: ABDUL RASHID SOFI R/O, MANAGAM Tehsil Wagoora District Baramulla for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of my daughter namely : HAIQA RASHID D/O ABDUL RASHID SOFI whose D.O.B as per documents is 01/06/2010 & event shown to be occurred at home .In this connection if anyone have any objection in the registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office or Tehsildar Kreeri/ Wagoora /BDO office Wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH

(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAGOORA)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It's to inform the general public through this notice that one electric connection under Installation no: 0208020005110 stands registered in the name of Ghulam Mohammad Mir, S/O Mohd Sultan Mir R/O Frestabal Pampore Needs to be changed in the name of Rafiqa /D/O Ghulam Mohammad Mir R/O Zampa Kadal Chattaabal at PDD division Pampore, Pulwama. Anyone who has any objection to the said the change of title should report to the PDD division within 7 days from the publishing of this notice. Failing which, no objection would be entertained.

NAME:- RAFIQA

D/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD MIR

R/O ZAMPA KADAL CHATTAABAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

It's to inform the general public through the medium of this notice that a water connection with PHE division Pampore, Pulwama stands registered under the title and name of Shahina Parveen D/O Gh Mohd Mir under PHE installation no. PPC NO 45. The said title is to be changed in the name of Rafiqa D/O Gh. Mohd Mir R/O Zampa Kadal Chattabal Anyone who has the objection in this regard should record his objection at PHE division Pampore, Pulwama, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Following which no objection would be entertained.

NAME:- RAFIQA

D/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD MIR

R/O ZAMPA KADAL CHATTAABAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

I informed to general public that my Daughter IFRA JAAN Her Date of birth (DOB) is 08/02/2016..and INSHA JAAN her date of Birth is 29/03/2020 ...Now I am applying for her date of birth certificates (DOB) 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...IRSHAD AHMAD KATARI

F/O.... IQRA JAN&INSHA JAAN

R/O.....CHANDOOSA BLOCK..... WAGOORA

SAD DEMISE



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Mohammad Rafiq Khan, son of Mohammad Maqbool Khan, resident of Buchwara, Dalgate, who left for heavenly abode on Thursday, 15 February 2024.Fateh Khawani will be held on Sunday, 18 February 2024, at 10:00 AM at their ancestral graveyard, Malfatunn, Karfali Mohalla.May Allah grant highest place in Jannah to the departed soul.

Bereaved: Khan Family

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from:ZAHIDA BEGUM W/O ABDUL AHAD KUMAR R/O, CHANDOOSA FAQIRBAGH Tehsil Wagoora District Baramulla for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of his son namely : MOHAM-MAD AMAN KUMAR S/O ABDUL AHAD KUMAR whose D.O.B as per documents is 28/06/2022 & event shown to be occurred at (SDH) kreeri In this connection if anyone have any objection in the registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office or Tehsildar Kreeri/ Wagoora /BDO office Wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH

(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAGOORA)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from: MASOODA BEGUM W/O NASEER AHMAD MIR R/O, MIRANGUND NOWPORA JAGIR Tehsil BARAMULLA District Baramulla for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of my daughter namely : FATIMA NASEER D/O NASEER AHMAD MIR whose D.O.B as per documents is 22/10/2022 & event shown to be occurred at SDH Kreeri.In this connection if anyone have any objection in the registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office or Tehsildar Kreeri/Wagoora /BDO office Wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH

(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAGOORA)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from: MARIYAM BEGUM W/O JAVID IQBAL DAR R/O, SALOOSA Tehsil Kreeri District Baramulla for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of my daughter namely : HURAIN GUL D/O JAVID IQBAL DAR whose D.O.B as per documents is 11/04/2018& event shown to be occurred at SDH Kreeri.In this connection if anyone have any objection in the registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office or Tehsildar Kreeri/Wagoora /BDO office Wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH

(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAGOORA)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from: NUZHAT BEGUM W/O FERDOUS AHMAD GANAIE R/O, NOWPORA Tehsil Kreeri District Baramulla for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of her daughter namely :MARIYA FIRDOUS D/O FIRDOUS AHMAD GANAIE whose D.O.B as per documents is 30/08/2015 & event shown to be occurred at SDH Kreeri.In this connection if anyone have any objection in the registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office or Tehsildar Kreeri/Wagoora /BDO office Wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH

(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAGOORA)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on name MAHDA JOO S/O ...ABDULLAH R/O SHIRPORA GAVGARUN ...Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040005773 wants to be registered on my name MANZOOR AHMAD SOFI S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD SOFI R/O SHIRPORA GAVGARUN ..If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

NAME....MANZOOR AHMAD SOFI

S/O ...GHULAM MOHAMMAD SOFI

R/O .. SHIRPORA GAVGARUN

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are opening a tours and travel agency namely, “Whispering Winds of Kashmir”. Anyone having objection with the above mentioned name can contact me through my numbers. Kindly contact me within the period of seven days from the date of publication.

NAME: BURHAN-UD-DIN MALIK & FAHEEM UL NABI

91037 02172

7006318200

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from: RAJA BEGUM W/O ABDUL AHAD SHEIKH R/O, WALRAMAN Tehsil Kreeri District Baramulla for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of his son namely : TARIQ AHMAD SHEIKH S/O ABDUL AHAD SHEIKH whose D.O.B as per documents is 04/06/1980 & event shown to be occurred at home In this connection if anyone have any objection in the registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office or Tehsildar Kreeri/Wagoora /BDO office Wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH

(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAGOORA)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from: ULFAT BEGUM W/O NAYEEM MAQBOOL KHAN R/O, DOLIPORA Tehsil Kreeri District Baramulla for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of his son namely : MOHAMMAD IBAAD KHAN S/O NAYEEM MAQBOOL KHAN whose D.O.B as per documents is 04/03/2021 & event shown to be occurred at SDH Kreeri.In this connection if anyone have any objection in the registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office or Tehsildar Kreeri/Wagoora /BDO office Wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH

(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAGOORA)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from: NASREENA BEGUM W/O HABIBULLAH SHEIKH R/O, DODBUGH Tehsil Wagoora District Baramulla for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of his son namely : JAHANGIR AHMAD SHEIKH S/O HABIBULLAH SHEIKH whose D.O.B as per documents is 10/10/1992 & event shown to be occurred at home In this connection if anyone have any objection in the registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office or Tehsildar Kreeri/Wagoora /BDO office Wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS

(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAGOORA)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer

(R&B) Division Bandipora.

CORRIGENDUM

Subject:-

1. Construction of 01 No Prefabricated Hut for Govt. Degree College Patushay Bandipora of size 60'x 40' HUT NO. (1)

2. Construction of 01 No Prefabricated Hut for Govt. Degree College Patushay Bandipora of size 80 x 40 HUT

NO. 2

3. Construction of 01 No Prefabricated Hut for Govt. Degree College Patushay Bandipora of size 62-5 x 40 HUT

NO.3

Ref:- e-NIT No.119/ET/R&B/Bandipora of 2023-24 Dated:- 25-01-2024.

The bid submission end date of above mentioned works advertised vide this office e-NIT No. referred above is hereby extended up-to **21-02-2024 at 4:00 PM and the same will be opened on 22-02-2024 at 10:30 AM** in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora. (Tender Receiving Authority).

All other terms and conditions of the said NIT shall remain unchanged.

DIPK-16495/23

Dated:- 15-02-2024.

Sd/=

Executive Engineer

R&B Division Bandipora.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer Quality Control & Procurement Division,HMT, Srinagar

Short term e-NIT

No.: PHE/QC&PD/ 83 of 2023-24/ e-Tender

Dated: 14-02-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (UT), e-tenders in two cover system are invited from registered and experienced Mechanical Contractors/Firms/Automotive Workshop Holders for execution of the following Works:

S. No	Name of the work	Tender document Fee (Rs)	Estimated cost	Time of Completion	Tender validity
1	Modification/Repairs to the departmental vehicles bearing registration Nos. (CIAZ) JK01AQ-1724 and (Eicher Goods Truck HGV) bearing registration Nos. JK01P- 1921 of QC&P Division HMT Srinagar.	200-	279570	10 days	90 days

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), set of www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below: **Schedule of Critical Dates/Information.**

1	Date of Inviting Tender	
2	Clarification Period	14-02-2024 (4.00PM) to 18-02-2024(11.00AM)
4	Documents Downloading Period	14-02-2024 (10PM) to 19-02-2024(12.00PM)
6	On Line Document Submission Period.	14-02-2024 (12.00PM) to 20-02-2024(01.00PM)
8	Date of opening of Cover. 1st.	21-02-2024(03.00PM)
9	Tender Document Receiving Authority	Executive Engineer PHE Jal Shakti QC&P Division Srinagar.
10	Tender Inviting Office	Executive Engineer PHE Jal Shakti QC&P Division Srinagar.
11	Document Fee	Rs200/-In the shape of treasury Challan(Head 0215 – Revenue & Miscellaneous)/ e-transfer to J&K Bank A/c No:0005010100005110/FSC: JAKAOCHINAR.
12	Earnest Money	Rs.6000/= In shape of CDR/FDR payable to Executive Engineer PHE QC&PD, Zainakote Srinagar.
13	Bid Opening Authority	Executive Engineer PHE Jal Shakti QC&P Division Srinagar.

A. The Cover-I shall contain:-

- Scanned copy of Tender Document fee in the shape of Treasury receipt / e-Challan / e-Receipt
- Scanned copies of the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR.
- Scanned copy of GSTIN Registration Certificate along with Clearance Certificate/ GSTR-3B of the latest quarter as applicable.
- Contractors Registration Certificate.
- Scanned copy of PAN card.
- Scanned copies of the Annexure "A", "B" duly accepted/signed.
- The tenderer/s shall have to submit in the shape of affidavit that the tenderer:-
 - Has not been black listed by the Government or any other organization for failure to any dues.
 - Has not been adjudged by any court of law of the land as insolvent or was/were not facing any/ under any arbitration proceedings in any court of law for any offence involving moral turpitude or any criminal activities etc.
 - Was and is not detained under any provisions of preventive law of the land.
 - The documents submitted by me are correct in all respects.

B. Cover Second (2nd)

The cover-II shall contain Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. Financial bid will not be accepted in physical form.

DIPK-16487/23

Date: Feb 15 2024

Sd/=

Executive Engineer,

QC&PD PHE Jal Shakti

HMT Srinagar



tution entrusted with the task of 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 regular basis. Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Bharat Singh, Director Libraries and Research J&K, Mohammad Rafi, Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums , Raj Kumar Katoch, Additional Secretary |KAACL, Sanjeev Rana, staff of Kala Kendra were also present in the meeting. Speaking on other aspects of the institution, the Principal Secretary asked the Secretary |KAACL, Director Libraries and Director archives to further intensify activities being conducted in the Academy. Earlier, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary Kala Kendra Society, briefed the Principal Secretary about the functioning of the institution and highlighted its role in preserving and promoting age old art and pristine cultural heritage of Jammu region.

EDITORIAL

Embracing Unity and Devotion

Friday, the holiest day in Islam, marks a sacred occasion for Muslims worldwide as they gather in congregational prayers, embracing a tradition deeply rooted in spiritual significance and communal unity.

The communal observance of Friday prayers, known as Jumu'ah, symbolizes the collective devotion and solidarity among Muslims, transcending geographical boundaries and cultural differences.

At the heart of Friday prayers lies the essence of communal worship. Muslims view Jumu'ah as a religious obligation but also as a spiritual rejuvenation. Gathering at mosques, believers partake in sermons, wisdom, and foster a sense of belonging and moral upliftment within the community.

Moreover, Friday prayers serve as a reminder of the spiritual fulfillment and demands of daily life. The nature of Jumu'ah unity of the Muslim community underscores the importance of individual differences and brotherhood. Beyond its spiritual dimensions, Friday prayers also hold socio-political significance, serving as a platform for fostering social cohesion and addressing contemporary issues facing the Muslim community. Imams often use the platform of Jumu'ah to address pertinent issues, promote social justice, and advocate for positive change within society.

As the world navigates through diverse challenges, the observance of Friday prayers stands as a beacon of hope and resilience, offering solace, guidance, and collective strength to Muslims worldwide. In embracing the tradition of congregational worship, believers reaffirm their commitment to faith, community, and the pursuit of righteousness, embodying the timeless values of Islam in an ever-changing world.

HT FRIDAY COMPASS

Empowering Women in Jammu & Kashmir:

A Transformative Journey

■ RM Bhat

Recognizing Women's Crucial Role in Development, Peace and Stability

As India strides towards progress and development, acknowledging the vital role women play becomes imperative. In the intricate tapestry of Kashmir, the empowerment of women emerges as a pivotal force for positive change. Women constitute 47% of the total population in J&K. This significant portion of the population must contribute to development, becoming professionals in various fields and contributing significantly to the nation-building process.

The Effect of Conflict

The journey of women in regions like Jammu and Kashmir has been marred by the long-standing conflict, significantly affecting their lives. Kashmiri society has traditionally placed women in important roles in the societal hierarchy. The advent of fundamentalism, militancy and terrorism brought about severe challenges, including limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Women faced discrimination, violence, and harassment, creating a dire situation.

Kashmir has a history of protest politics, wherein women have been prominently involved. Over time, women in Kashmir have been misled and subjected to mistreatment on the streets. Certain opportunistic factions manipulated them into taking to the roads and staging sit-ins as part of a calculated strategy. Despite their genuine intention to promote stability and advocate for it within their communities, they have been led astray to support secessionist ideologies. According to Swati Parashar, women have played a pivotal role as a support network for militants. She asserts that they provided care and protection to militants, conveying messages and transporting arms. Despite a society traditionally characterized by Sufi values, younger women, influenced by fundamentalists, romanticized the rebellious "angry young man" in pseudo-military attire. The acceptance of armed masculinity became ingrained in a society historically associated with peaceful Sufi principles (Source: "Gender, Jihad, and Jingoism," Swati Parashar, 2011, p. 438).

Despite these challenges, the resilience and courage of women in Jammu and Kashmir have been remarkable, with a notable increase in women's participation in various fields.



A Shift Towards Peace and Stability

Post the decline of terrorism and abrogation of Article 370, the region has witnessed a significant shift. The focus on peace and stability, coupled with various initiatives, has fostered an environment conducive to the resurgence of women to their rightful place. The government, under the leadership of Manoj Sinha, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, has taken deliberate and positive steps to address the issues faced by women.

In the complex terrain of Jammu & Kashmir, the government has implemented measures to improve the security situation for women, strengthening law-and-order machinery and increasing police patrolling in vulnerable areas. Skill development training and initiatives to promote women's entrepreneurship have been rolled out, aiming to bridge the gender gap and create a more inclusive society.

Gender Sensitization Initiatives

The government's commitment to gender sensitization and awareness is evident through initiatives led by the LG. Sensitizing young boys and men on gender equality and women's rights is a crucial step towards creating a more inclusive and safe society. The impact of these initiatives on women's empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir has been substantial.

Education: A Cornerstone for Empowerment

In the field of education, several initiatives have been introduced to improve women's opportunities and accessibility. The partnership among the Indian Army, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), and the National Integrity Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO) in the "Super 50" program, catering to both engineering and medical aspirants, has produced impressive outcomes. The recently announced results for NEET UG 2023 showcased an outstanding performance by girl students. Among the 157 participants in the NEET examination, 128 students, comprising 74 girls and 54 boys, successfully qualified for this national-level pre-medical entrance test. Commending HPCL and the Indian Army for this achievement, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri expressed his appreciation in a tweet.

Beyond Academia : Skill development

The empowerment of women in Jammu and Kashmir extends beyond academic achievements. The "Mission Youth" initiative, encompassing livelihood generation, education, recreational and social engagement, counselling, and rehabilitation, has witnessed significant participation. More than 74,771 youths have joined Youth Clubs across 20 districts, provid-

ing them with opportunities to make meaningful contributions to society.

The "J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission" has not only created entrepreneurs but has also contributed to the economic independence of women, providing them with a sustainable source of income. Training in skills such as handicrafts, tailoring, and food processing, coupled with seed capital and marketing support, has empowered over 2,000 women entrepreneurs in the region.

Noteworthy Appointments: Fostering Gender Equality

Noteworthy instances in the landscape of gender inclusivity include the appointment of a woman Vice Chancellor at Kashmir University, a woman Secretary in the Sports Council, the election of a woman Chairperson in JK Haj Committee, and other significant positions. Such appointments mark a pivotal stride towards fostering gender equality and inclusiveness in the region.

A Vision for an Inclusive Future

While these achievements signify progress, it is important to acknowledge that challenges persist. Limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, coupled with gender-based violence and abuse, continue to be issues that need concerted efforts. The journey towards gender equality and women's empowerment is ongoing, requiring sustained and expanded initiatives.

A society that values and respects its women is a society that thrives and prospers, and the transformative initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir are steering the region towards such an inclusive future. Kashmir is at the cusp of transitioning from a terrorism-troubled society to a vibrant and flourishing one. Empowerment of women is integral to the region's progress and development. The multifaceted initiatives, spanning education, entrepreneurship, and social engagement, reflect a holistic approach towards creating an environment where women can thrive and contribute positively. The government's commitment, coupled with collaborative efforts from the civil society, army, and corporate social responsibility, has yielded tangible results. This also helps in maintaining peace and stability in the region at this critical juncture. As the region navigates its developmental trajectory, sustaining and expanding these efforts is crucial to ensuring that women in Kashmir have equal access to opportunities.

Overcoming Challenges: Common Obstacles Faced by Students Studying Abroad and How to Tackle Them



■ Jaswinder Pal Sharma

Studying abroad is an enriching experience that offers students the opportunity to broaden their horizons, immerse themselves in new cultures, and gain valuable skills.

However, along with the excitement and adventure, studying abroad can also present various challenges. From language barriers to homesickness, navigating unfamiliar environments to academic adjustments, students often encounter obstacles that require resilience and adaptation.

In this article, we'll explore some common challenges faced by students studying abroad and provide practical strategies for overcoming them.

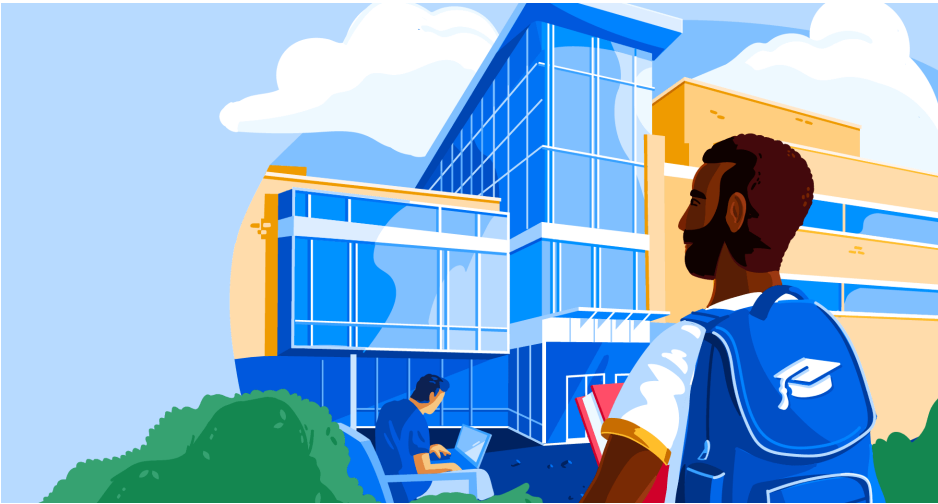
1. Language Barriers:

One of the most significant challenges for students studying abroad is language barriers. Whether it's struggling to communicate with locals, comprehend lectures

in a different language, or complete assignments in a foreign tongue, language proficiency can be a daunting obstacle. To tackle this challenge, students can: Take language courses: Many universities offer language courses specifically designed for international students. Taking these classes can improve language skills and build confidence. Practice regularly: Immersing oneself in the local language through daily interactions, such as conversations with native speakers, reading newspapers, or watching TV shows, can accelerate language learning. Utilize language apps and resources: Apps like Duolingo, Rosetta Stone, or language exchange platforms can supplement formal language classes and provide additional practice opportunities.

2. Cultural Adjustment:

Adapting to a new cultural environment can be overwhelming for students studying abroad. Differences in social norms, customs, and communication styles may lead to culture shock and feelings of isolation. To navigate cultural adjustment, students can: Keep an open mind: Embrace cultural differences with curiosity and respect. Be willing to learn about and appreciate the customs and traditions of the host country. Seek support: Connect with other international students, join cultural clubs or organizations, and participate in cultural exchange events to build a sense of community and belonging. Explore the host country: Immerse yourself in local activities, festivals, and cuisine to better understand



the culture and foster cultural competence.

3. Homesickness:

Being away from home and loved ones can trigger feelings of homesickness and loneliness among students studying abroad. To cope with homesickness, students can: Stay connected: Maintain regular communication with friends and family through video calls, messages, and social media platforms. Create a support network: Build relationships with fellow students, roommates, or local residents who can offer companionship and emotional support. Stay busy: Engage in activities and hobbies that bring joy and fulfillment, such as exploring the host city, joining clubs or sports teams, or volunteering in the community.

4. Academic Challenges:

Adapting to a new academic environment, different teaching styles, and rigorous coursework can be challenging for students studying abroad. To excel academically, students can: Communicate with professors: Seek clarification on assignments, expectations, and course materials to ensure a clear understanding of academic requirements. Develop time management skills: Create a study schedule, prioritize tasks, and allocate sufficient time for studying, attending classes, and participating in extracurricular activities. Utilize academic resources: Take advantage of tutoring services, writing centers, and academic workshops offered by the university to enhance learning and

improve academic performance.

5. Financial Concerns:

Managing finances while studying abroad can be a source of stress for many students.

To alleviate financial concerns, students can:

Create a budget: Track expenses, prioritize spending, and identify areas where costs can be reduced to ensure financial stability throughout the study abroad experience.

Research scholarships and grants: Explore scholarship opportunities, grants, and financial aid programs available for international students to help offset the cost of tuition, housing, and living expenses.

Seek part-time employment: Consider part-time work or internships to supplement income and gain valuable work experience while studying abroad. In conclusion, studying abroad presents students with a multitude of challenges, ranging from language barriers to homesickness, cultural adjustment, academic pressures, and financial concerns.

However, with resilience, determination, and the right strategies, these obstacles can be overcome. By embracing new experiences, seeking support, and actively engaging in the host culture, students can transform challenges into opportunities for personal growth, cultural enrichment, and academic success.

SS Master, Gsss Hakuwala Sri Muktsar Sahib, 79860-27454

Mental Health Crisis Among NEET Aspirants: A Call for Compassion and Support



■ Md. Basit

The recent surge in suicides among NEET aspirants has undoubtedly ignited a nationwide alarm, shedding light on the profound and longstanding issues embedded within our education system. Despite the remarkable strides made since India's independence, particularly in sectors like education with the establishment of esteemed institutions like the IITs and IIMs, we find ourselves grappling with formidable challenges, especially in the realm of medical education. The allure of a career in medicine, with its promise of financial stability and social prestige, has precipitated a cutthroat competition among aspirants, epitomized by the daunting NEET entrance exam. The harsh reality remains that out of the approximately 20,00,000 students who appeared for NEET UG in 2023, only a meager 90,000 seats are available for MBBS across India, spanning private, semi-government, and government colleges. This glaring mismatch between demand and availability has created an atmosphere rife with pressure and stress for students.

The repercussions of this intense pressure are starkly evident in the distressing rise in suicide cases among NEET aspirants. According to the latest NCRB reports, 13,044 students took their lives in 2022, a trend that demands immediate and urgent attention. Kota, a city renowned for its coaching institutes, experienced an alarming 60% surge in suicidal cases post-pandemic, serving as a stark reminder of the gravity of the situation. The underlying causes of this epidemic of stress and despair among NEET aspirants are complex and multifaceted. Firstly, the lack of personalized interaction in coaching institutes leaves students feeling isolated and unable to address their personal struggles or seek emotional support. Moreover, the weight

of parental expectations, coupled with financial burdens, exacerbates the psychological toll on students. The relentless cycle of mock tests and academic pressures only serves to compound their stress, often driving some towards unhealthy coping mechanisms like drug addiction.

Efforts have been made by the government and district administration to alleviate the crisis. Initiatives such as the HOPE helpline and the "manodharan" platform aim to provide much-needed psychological support to students, teachers, and parents. Coaching institutes and hostel owners have also implemented measures such as regular motivational sessions and enhanced safety precautions to address the mental well-being of students. However, the true perpetrators behind this epidemic extend beyond mere administrative measures. Fueled by parental expectations and societal norms, a culture of relentless competition and societal pressure perpetuates a toxic environment for aspiring students. Parents, in their relentless pursuit of their children's success, often overlook their individual interests and well-being, inadvertently contributing to their distress.

To combat this crisis, a concerted and collective effort is imperative. Parents must prioritize their children's mental health and aspirations over societal expectations, fostering an environment of understanding and support. Education institutions should prioritize students' well-being alongside academic excellence, providing avenues for emotional expression and support. Society at large must recognize the unique challenges faced by students and offer empathy and encouragement rather than judgment. Ultimately, the path forward lies in fostering a culture of compassion, understanding, and support within our education system and society at large. By acknowledging the individual needs and aspirations of each student, we can cultivate an environment where every aspiring doctor or engineer can thrive, liberated from the suffocating shadow of despair. As the Quran aptly reminds us, "Undoubtedly, along with hardship, there is ease" - a message of hope that resonates profoundly in these trying times.

In delving deeper into this crisis, it becomes apparent that the challenges faced by NEET aspirants extend far beyond the realm of academic competition. These young minds, grappling with the weight of societal expectations and



familial pressures, find themselves navigating treacherous waters as they strive for success in the fiercely competitive world of medical education.

The allure of a career in medicine, with its promise of financial stability and social prestige, has drawn countless aspirants into its fold, fueling an intense and cutthroat competition epitomized by the rigorous NEET entrance exam. Yet, beneath the veneer of opportunity lies a harsh reality: the demand for medical seats far outweighs the available supply. With only a fraction of applicants

securing coveted spots in MBBS programs across the country, the road to a medical career is fraught with uncertainty and despair for many. This stark reality has manifested in a troubling trend of suicides among NEET aspirants, casting a shadow over the hopes and dreams of countless young individuals. The latest NCRB reports paint a grim picture, revealing that thousands of students have succumbed to the immense pressure and stress associated with the pursuit of a medical education. In Kota, a city renowned for its coaching

institutes, the situation has reached a critical point, with a staggering 60% surge in suicidal cases observed in the wake of the pandemic. At the heart of this crisis lies a complex web of factors contributing to the mental anguish and despair experienced by NEET aspirants. The impersonal nature of coaching institutes, where students often feel isolated and unsupported, exacerbates feelings of loneliness and helplessness. Coupled with the weight of parental expectations and financial burdens, many students find themselves trapped in a vicious cycle of stress and anxiety, with no respite in sight. While efforts have been made by the government and district administration to address the crisis, the root causes of this epidemic run deep. A culture of relentless competition and societal pressure, fueled by parental expectations and societal norms, perpetuates a toxic environment for aspiring students. Parents, driven by a desire for their children's success, often fail to recognize the toll that their expectations and demands take on their children's mental health, inadvertently contributing to their distress.

To truly combat this crisis, a holistic and collaborative approach is needed. Parents must prioritize their children's well-being over societal expectations, fostering an environment of understanding and support. Educational institutions must recognize the importance of mental health and well-being, providing students with the resources and support they need to thrive. Society at large must acknowledge the unique challenges faced by NEET aspirants and offer empathy and encouragement in place of judgment and criticism. Ultimately, the path forward lies in fostering a culture of compassion, understanding, and support within our education system and society at large. By prioritizing the mental health and well-being of our youth, we can create a future where every aspiring doctor or engineer could thrive and succeed, free from the burden of despair and hopelessness. As the Quran reminds us, "Undoubtedly, along with hardship, there is ease" - a message of hope that serves as a guiding light in these dark and challenging times.

About the Author
Md. Basit Sha is the NEET aspirant and has completed his senior Secondary education at AMU.

Student And Education -The Relationship In Dwindle



■ By Mool Raj

Education, the needful and necessary process of learning, nurturing, supplying and receiving systematic knowledge of things which one need to sustain and survive in this universe of deep conscience, Education, the prerequisite tool enlightening the process for success, growth and ascendancy with prosperity. Education, A reform in taking and racking up the challenges, the winds and hardships that life throws upon us with the solutions.

Veteran Poet Dr. Iqbal poets exalts Education as precursor to Success, fame and achievements

Coming upon Schooling, Now-a-days is an arduous and tiring job for the hapless child who always and ever gets crushed under the roots of stress, failed hope as by the mismanagement.

Few years or a decade ago, the schools were a center of joy, hope and happiness. It was an activity of ecstasy-free from back breaking burdens. The Education system was a couple of books and little home work. Students were a good time to play and cheer happily. There was no competition at all and students were careless both about careers and their course. Still they moved and we got the great personalities like Albert Einstein, Isaac Newton, Stephen

Hawking. Some socio-political giants like Ali Mohammed Jinnah, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr Sir Mohammad Iqbal (R.A.) and others.

Our Jammu and Kashmir in much of turmoil and conflict had given eminent religious souls to world in form of Sheikh-ul-Alam, Lal Ded, Bul Bul Shah Kashmiri, Mufti Molvi Ameen shopyani and many others, courtesy to Education.

Things have changed now. Children are loaded with responsibilities and put to forceful activity from day ist. They are deprived of their babyhood and minor age.

At much small age of 2 or 3 years old they are put in schools. At the age of 6 or 7, they are demanded to study up-to 3 hours at home. Such tiny school students are forced to understand complex grammatical rules, solve mathematical problems, computer science and tough general knowledge with the broad social science concepts. I was astonished to see a 2nd class student with the concept of photosynthesis. Because of this excessive non-sense home work, they are deprived of their babyhood, playing and cheering and much needed essential Sleep requirements. They are mostly fed on junk foods and unhealthy food items, which retards them both mentally and physically. A delicate child can't hold the burden, he is laden with. Preferably the child cum student himself defines to be a ladder. How much toll could they weigh on shoulders, please go through their delicacy and happy hood. Generation gap and similar situations have arisen by this now. The system has become like, every school wanted to show ascendancy of the positions bagged.

I have now been in service of Higher School Education for ten year now and both an sensible witness and social human, I experienced that majority, even greater

majority of Students have now started ignoring and bunking classes because of this unpleasant new education system. A roll of 250 to 300 student classroom is marking with daily 7 to 8 students. Despite counseling of experts and mentors, the curse on our little student generation is their heavy school bags with much of overweight books that is a definite cruelty causing them severe health problems day by day. Weight of school bags is increasing and not decreasing at any rate, our school children have turned slaves of educational system where commission of booksellers and teachers making their bags heavier and heavier.

There is no scope of creativity, imagination, ingenuity, inspiration and critical analysis. These children got no time to think except rote learning and homework. The system emboldens and promotes them with memorization and rote learning concept. The little children didn't get any time to ponder freely or think openly. This is an open oppression on them. We have kept them on method of cramming and memorizing selection of books is totally a hallucination and horror. Many companies are producing stuff in name of books and their is no to ask them the level against the children, Schools and teachers get their commissions



to choose the book publishing companies. It is a large misconception we are doing for our younger generation. In fact it has become a disastrous disease among people that much difficult books mean informative and higher standard of learning. Alas!!

It is a delusion that burdensome and difficult books are prescribed. Children's of today are more sensitive than those a few decades before (unconscious children). The extra burden and deprivation of liberty builds pressure on them. Then the children feel their life in despondency, desolation, loneliness, failure and deprivation. Then what we can get are suicidal cases and drug addicts cum

chain and there should be no doubt but we should be ready and obvious for such disaster.

Parents and guardians are aware of this kind of bad Education system, but feel helpless and they have ceded

to it. No parent feels a need to go against the school system as political potential of schools will send his/her ward back to home with called off admission, with the school's fame unharmed. The alternative of Government schools is not a good approach as they are completely at lack of proper facilitated functionary. It is a desperate situation for everyone for every member of the society. We

are not establishing a good and adequate system for our next generations which they shall have to face individually and unintentionally.

One more nightmare is we have put our children on continuous coaching system. It is a chief troublesome now a days in our society. It becomes important for a student to attend the coaching classes even at the rate of her or his school. It has turned a fashion for Kashmiri students to attend tuition classes than Schools. By this A student loses his or her much precious time, playing time and school life thus fails to overlook the challenges of life as all-round development is possible only in school life. Also tuition concept has made Student's mind such that he or she feels it unable to clear their examinations without coaching classes.

Luckily, we are not incapable, the things are in our hands, they have not yet uncontrolled. We can change the situation provided we are willing to take an interest in it, in the overall development of children. We need to think sincerely about this for our coming up future. Stress upon them for grades for social status is a kind of suppression on them, which need to be think of. All these developments should be thoroughly applied like a necessity.

At last, I want to allure the civil society members, Teachers, Parents and councilors to fathom and assess the situation and emerge out of this state and special efforts should be made for them at this depressing and discouraging state. They are requested to come forward in order to address this problem very strongly before we may go deep into the sea and lost our future generation too.

The author is a columnist and freelance writer

2 Key Issues Took Centre Stage As Court Struck Down Electoral Bonds Scheme

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has declared the Electoral bond Scheme – launched in 2018 with much fanfare – as unconstitutional on several counts. They violate people's right to information and Article 14 of the Constitution guaranteeing equality. They also infringe on the principle of free and fair elections as stipulated in the constitution, the court argued.

The Electoral Bond Scheme was launched in 2018 after a series of amendments to financial rules in 2016 and 2017. The petitioners had argued that their effect was to enable political parties to not disclose the contributions received through electoral bonds, allow companies to make unlimited funding and not disclose the details of contributions made in any form.

The petitions filed on the matter had asked the court to resolve two issues: -- Whether amendments violate the Right to Information under Article 19(1)(a) and whether unlimited corporate funding violates principles of free and fair elections. Answering in the affirmative, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said two judgments -- one by him and one by Justice Sanjeev Khanna, who was part of the five-judge constitution bench -- had



arrived the same conclusion, though their reasonings were slightly different.

While Indian election system involves secret ballot, the cloak of anonymity cannot be extended to political donations above the 2000 threshold, the court said. This is because for voters, information about funding of political parties is essential for making electoral choices. "Political contributors get access... this access leads to policy making... because of the nexus between money and voting. Financial supports to political parties can lead to quid pro quo arrangement," Justice Chandrachud said, meaning corporate funding of political parties can include quid pro quo in terms of policy making -- so policies

can be tweaked to favour the donors. "Courts have maintained that the citizens have right to hold the government to account. Crucial aspect of expansion of right to information is that it is not confined to state affairs but also includes information necessary for participatory democracy," the Chief Justice added. The lack of information also violates the rights of shareholders of a donor company.

The field is further skewed as only the voters are left in the dark about the donors, since there is no rule that stops the donor from informing the party about the donations. The curbing of the right to information cannot be defended in the name of public interest -- weeding out black money as the Centre

had argued -- the court said, pointing out that "public interest" is not among the very few instances the Constitution has allowed such a violation.

That short list includes a threat to the sovereignty and integrity of India; the security of the State; friendly relations with foreign states; public order; decency or morality; contempt of court; defamation and incitement to an offence. There are other methods of curbing black money, the court said.

The top court also criticised the legal provision that allowed unlimited political contribution, saying it allowed companies with deep pockets to influence policy. It also encouraged loss-making companies to throw their hat in the ring by contributing through shell companies. On the whole, "The deletion of the proviso to Section 182(1) of the Companies Act permitting unlimited corporate contributions to political parties is arbitrary and violative of Article 14 (pf the Constitution that guarantees the Right to Equality)," the judgment read.

The court also pointed out that the while Article 324 of the Constitution puts the Election Commission in charge of the entire electoral process, it is not the sole duty of the election body to secure the "purity and integrity of the electoral process".

PM Modi Concludes Visit To Qatar After Meeting Top Leadership

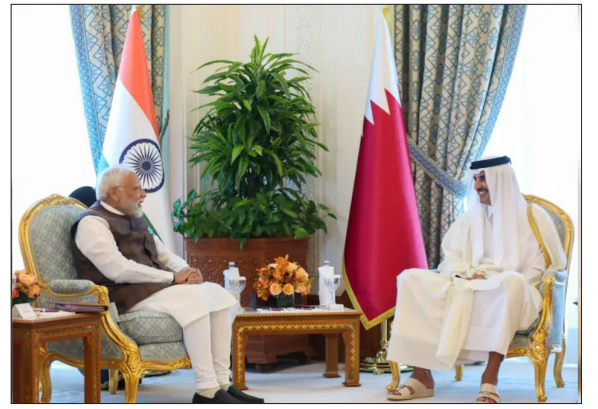
■ HT News Network

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday concluded his visit to Qatar which he said has added "new vigour" to the bilateral friendship and underlined that India looks forward to scaling up cooperation with the Gulf nation in key sectors like trade, investment, technology and culture.

PM Modi's visit was significant as it came a week after Qatar released eight Indian nationals, who were sentenced to death after being arrested here in August 2022.

During his less than 24-hours visit, his second since 2014, PM Modi held wide-ranging talks with the Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, primarily focusing on significantly expanding India-Qatar ties in areas of trade, energy, investment and new technology.

"My visit to Qatar has added new vigour to the India-Qatar friendship. India looks forward to scaling up cooperation in key sectors relating to trade, investment, technology and culture. I thank the Government and people of



Qatar for their hospitality," PM Modi posted on his official X handle along with a 1:24 minute video wrap of his engagements in the Gulf country. Had a wonderful meeting with HH Sheikh@TamimBinHamad. We reviewed the full range of India-Qatar relations and discussed ways to deepen cooperation across various sectors. Our nations also look forward to collaborating in futuristic sectors which will benefit our planet," he posted on X along with the photos of the meeting.

Prime Minister Modi also met Father Amir, Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani in Doha earlier in the day. "Prime Minister congratulated Father Amir on his visionary leadership that paved the way for Qatar's develop-

ment over the past decades. The two leaders held discussions on India-Qatar relations," Ministry of External Affairs said. The prime minister also invited Emir Hamad Al-Thani to visit India, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra told reporters. Earlier, Modi had late on Wednesday reached Doha after a whirlwind tour of UAE, where he addressed a well-attended Indian community event, the prestigious World Governments Summit, and also inaugurated UAE's first Hindu stone temple among other engagements. Prime Minister Modi also met Father Amir, Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani in Doha earlier in the day. "Prime Minister congratulated Father Amir on his visionary leadership that paved the way.

Mimi Chakraborty Resigns As Trinamool MP: "Differences With Local Leaders"

■ HT News Network

Actor and MP Mimi Chakraborty has offered to step down and submitted her resignation to West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, but it has not been accepted yet. The MP from Jadavpur says she has differences with the local Trinamool leadership. She has said that the Chief Minister assured her that she will take care of the issues.

"I had a dream for Jadavpur, but I faced a lot of hurdles. It is very easy to malign a person when he or she comes from a film background, saying that he or she does not work," she said.

"I don't understand the nitty-gritty of politics. When I reached out to people, I think it might not have gone down well with a lot of people or may be some of them," the actor MP added. A popular filmstar in Bengal, she was elected from Jadavpur in 2019

on a Trinamool Congress ticket. She had defeated political heavyweights -- the BJP's Anupam Hazra and the CPM's Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya.

Ms Chakraborty's move comes at a time when another actor MP from Bengal, Nusrat Jahan, is drawing fire over her silence on the allegations of sexual harassment against Trinamool leaders in Sandeshkhali. The BJP has targeted the Basirhat MP over photos of her Valentine's Day celebration with partner and actor Yash Dasgupta.

Mahua Moitra Summoned By Probe Agency In Foreign Exchange Violation Case

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: In fresh trouble for Trinamool Congress leader and expelled Lok Sabha MP Mahua Moitra, the Enforcement Directorate has summoned her for questioning in an alleged foreign exchange violation case.

The summons have been issued in connection with violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act and Ms Moitra has been asked to appear at the agency's office in New Delhi on Monday.

The Trinamool leader was expelled from the Lok Sabha in December last year based on an Ethics Committee report on the alleged 'cash-for-query' charges against her. She had challenged the expulsion in the



Supreme Court, where her petition is currently pending. Ms Moitra was accused of taking bribes, including 2 crore in cash and "luxury gifts", from businessman Darshan Hiranandani for asking questions in Parliament that were critical of the Narendra Modi government. She was also accused of sharing her email ID as a Member of

Parliament as well as her login details to the parliamentary website to enable Mr Hiranandani to post the questions directly. The Trinamool leader had vehemently denied the bribery charges but admitted that she had shared her credentials which, she had claimed, was a common practice. Ms Moitra is being investigated by the CBI as

well, which is conducting a preliminary enquiry into the allegations against her on the directions of the Lokpal. Under a preliminary enquiry, the agency cannot arrest an accused or conduct searches, but it can seek information, examine documents and also question the Trinamool leader. Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had claimed that Ms Moitra's expulsion was a blatant act of "vendetta politics" by the BJP, a party that has been the focal point of the fiery leader's attacks. "This is vendetta politics of BJP. They killed democracy. It is injustice. Mahua will win the battle. The people will give a befitting reply to the BJP. They will be defeated in the next election," Ms Banerjee had said.

Ajit Pawar's Faction Real NCP, Can't Disqualify Its MLAs: Maharashtra Speaker

■ HT News Network

Mumbai: Maharashtra Speaker Rahul Narwekar on Thursday referred to last week's Election Commission order -- recognising Ajit Pawar as the leader of the 'real Nationalist Congress Party' -- and rejected petitions seeking disqualification of MLAs who rebelled against Sharad Pawar last year, triggering a split and a battle for control of the NCP.

Mr Narwekar said the MLAs who joined Ajit Pawar in rebelling against his uncle -- and allied with the BJP and a similar breakaway faction of the Shiv Sena -- to form a new government, could not be disqualified simply because they had questioned the latter. This, he said, was only "internal dissent" and could not amount to



defection, which would have invited disqualification.

"Party leadership cannot use (the) Tenth Schedule of the Constitution (which deals with anti-defection provisions) to stifle dissent of large numbers of members by threatening to disqualify them," he said.

The sequence of events preceding the split were due to dissent within the undivided NCP, he added.

Mr Narwekar also took note of the "overwhelming" support Ajit Pawar's camp had at the time of the division, and said, "I hold, therefore, that (the) Ajit Pawar-led NCP is the real political party... has the legislative majority (and) this is undisputed," he said, "All petitions seeking disqualification are rejected." Also therefore, decisions of the Ajit Pawar faction are the "will of the NCP", he ruled. The Supreme Court last month gave Mr Narwekar till February 15 to decide on disqualification petitions against MLAs affiliated to Ajit Pawar's group.

Before the split the NCP had 53 MLAs. After the dust settled, 41 sided with Ajit Pawar, leaving 12 with Sharad Pawar as he tried to re-assert control over the party he helped found in 1999, and has since led.

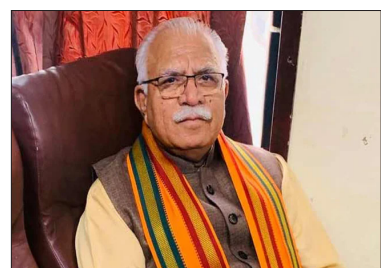
"We Have Objection To Farmers' Method", Says Haryana Chief Minister

■ HT News Network

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday criticised the "method" adopted by farmers to press their demands, saying they are trying to march to Delhi like an army on the offensive.

He said the farmers are moving with tractor-trolleys, earth-movers and ration for a year -- just like an army.

"We have an objection to their method," Mr Khattar said on the farmers' call for going to Delhi. "We do not have any objection to them going to Delhi. There are trains, buses and their own vehicles. But a tractor is not a mode of transport. It is an agricultural equipment." Farmers from Punjab are camping at the Shambhu and



Khanauri border points seeking to march towards Delhi to press the Centre to accept their demands. The farmer leaders have said they will not make any fresh attempt to move towards the national capital till the meeting is held, asserting that the next course of action will be decided on the basis of the Centre's proposals.

Mr Khattar also referred to the farmers' previous agitation against

the now-repealed farm laws and said how they camped at Tikri and Singhu borders for a year and causes hardships to many people. "Even today, there are several videos of people appealing that they (farmers) should be stopped as their businesses will suffer," said Mr Khattar, responding to a question on the farmers' call for 'Dilli Chalo'. "We have an objection to their (farmers) method," said Mr Khattar on farmers' call for going to Delhi.

Mr Khattar said everybody has democratic right to visit the national capital. "But how to proceed, what is the motive? These things must be kept in mind." To a question on Thursday's meeting between the three union ministers and farmer leaders in Chandigarh, Mr Khattar said he is hopeful that some way.

Numbers To Win 1, BJP-JDS Alliance Fields 2 Candidates For Rajya Sabha Polls

■ HT News Network

Bengaluru: The Rajya Sabha election scene in Karnataka has heated up with the BJP-Janata Dal (Secular) combine fielding its second candidate, even though the alliance has the strength to win only one out of the four seats.

The biennial election to fill four vacancies from Karnataka in the Rajya Sabha, by the elected Members of the Legislative Assembly, is scheduled for February 27.

The ruling Congress, whose strength is 135 in the 224-member Assembly, along with the support of Darshan Puttanaiah from Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha, and two Independents is expected to retain the three seats.

The BJP and JDS with 66 and 19 members, respectively, are in a position to together win one seat.

According to official sources, each candidate has to get 45 votes to win, if there are only four candidates in the fray, but in the case of more candidates, then preference votes kick in.

The Congress has fielded Ajay Maken, Syed Naseer Hussain and GC Chandrasekhar as party candidates, and all of them filed their nominations on Thursday, accompanied by Chief



Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and AICC General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala.

Former MLC Narayana Bandage, who is the BJP candidate, also filed his nomination accompanied by state BJP President BY Vijayendra and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka among others. They were joined by JD(S) president and former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy.

In a surprise move, JDS leader and former Rajya Sabha Member D Kupendra Reddy too filed a nomination today, necessitating a contest. He was accompanied by Mr Kumaraswamy, mr Vijayendra and Mr Ashoka. The

election has been necessitated to fill four Rajya Sabha seats from the state that are becoming vacant due to the retirement of Union Minister Rajeev Chandrashekar from BJP, and Congress' Chandrashekar, L Hanumanthaiah and Mr Hussein, on April 2, after the expiry of their six-year term. In a surprise move, JDS leader and former Rajya Sabha Member D Kupendra Reddy too filed a nomination today, necessitating a contest. He was accompanied by Mr Kumaraswamy, mr Vijayendra and Mr Ashoka. The election has been necessitated to fill four Rajya Sabha seats from the state that are becoming vacant due to the retirement of Union Minister Rajeev Chandrashekar from BJP.

At a public rally in Shopian's Kanji Ular, Apni Party President promises a brighter future for J&K and its people

Solace for our emotional grievances and solutions to our problems will come from New Delhi: Altaf Bukhari

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, February 15: Reaffirming his unwavering conviction regarding Jammu and Kashmir's relationship with the rest of the country, Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Thursday, said, "The undeniable reality is that Jammu and Kashmir was destined to be an integral part of India in 1947, and it will continue to be so."

But, he said that the centre has "hurt the sentiments of the people of Jammu and Kashmir over and over again, especially on August 5, 2019, by unilaterally abrogating Article 370 and 35A." However, he blamed the traditional political parties and their leaders for the abrogation of these articles, saying, "Those who held power over

the past seven decades should have taken measures to ensure the permanence of these significant constitutional provisions."

Mr. Bukhari made these remarks today while addressing a public rally at Kunji Ular in the Wachi..Zaina Pora constituency in South Kashmir's Shopian district. The residents and party cadre warmly welcomed him and other leaders upon their arrival at the rally venue. According to a party statement, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari while addressing the rally urged people to stop being scapegoat of the emotional sloganeering employed by the traditional political parties and their leaders. He said, "The emotional slogans and misleading narratives by the traditional political parties have yielded nothing for you, except for leading



lakhs of our youth either into jails or graveyards. It is your responsibility to prevent these ruthless politicians from further political exploitation. You must understand that undeniable reality that Jammu and Kashmir was destined to be part of India in 1947, and it will always remain so." He went on to say, "We have received numerous wounds from the centre, but still, I strongly believe that the solace for our emotional griev-

ances and solutions to our problems will come from New Delhi itself." He committed that the Apni Party, upon receiving the public mandate, will ensure that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are provided with all the rights guaranteed to citizens by the constitution of the country. He said, "I assure you that the Apni Party will never disappoint you. We will ensure that the constitutionally guaranteed rights are restored to the people, and we will protect these rights to the fullest extent of our strength." Taking a dig at the traditional political parties, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "The centre would not have succeeded in harming the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir if local politicians had not supported them in causing such damage. It was the respon-

sibility of the leaders, in whom the people placed their trust, to safeguard our interests." "Why did these leaders not make any attempt to make Article 370 and 35A permanent even after they held power for years and decades in Jammu and Kashmir?" he asked. "Rather than safeguarding the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, these leaders kept them occupied with false promises and misleading narratives to serve their personal and political interests," he added. Reiterating his demand in support of Jamaat-e-Islami J&K, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "I advocate for Jamaat-e-Islami to be permitted to fulfill its religious duties toward society because I firmly believe that our young generation requires the guidance of religious leaders.

Adv Gh Nabi Khan elected as president for Bar Association Handwara

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

Handwara, Feb. 15: The 85 lawyers out of total 86 casted their vote on Thursday to elect the new body of Jammu and Kashmir Bar Association Handwara. The elections for 04 posts were held peacefully in which 85- lawyers participated. Voting was held from 10AM and 2:30PM, in which Two advocates contesting for the post of president, Two for vice-president, Two for joint secretary, and Two for treasurer.

Adv Gulam Nabi Khan and Adv Nadeem Majeed Dar are in the fray for the post of president. While for the post of Vice President Adv Rafi Afzal and Adv Mir Irfan, for the post of Joint Secretary Adv Shakoor Ah Bhat, Adv Owais Majeed Malik and Adv Wahid Bashir, Adv Bilal Ahmad Malik for the post



of treasurer and, Adv Sajad Ah Hajam Unopposed candidate selected as General secretary. A total of 85 votes were cast by the Bar members out of 86. At the end of the counting held today, Advocate Gulam Nabi Khan received 47 votes, Adv Rafi Afzal won vice-presidential election by 43 votes and Advocate Owais Majeed Malik won the post of Joint Secretary by the margin of 55 votes and For the post of treasurer Adv Wahid Bashir won by 58 votes.

On the occasion, senior advocates of Bar Association Handwara thanked all the members of Bar Association Handwara for their active support and participation in general and in particular to Election office team for conducting smooth and fair elections and completing the process successfully in a transparent manner. Meanwhile, advocate fraternity Handwara congratulated the elected president and other elected body of Bar Association Handwara.

Piyush Singla presents regularization orders to Contingent Paid Workers

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, FEBRUARY 15: In recognition to valuable contribution of Contingent Paid Workers (CPWs) towards education, Secretary Education Department, Dr. Piyush Singla, today presented 70 regularization orders to these workers at Government Boys Higher Secondary Pulwama during his visit to the district.

Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom and other senior officers were present on the occasion. These regularization orders are a formal acknowledgment of the hard work and dedication exhibited by the contingent paid workers of the district. With this regularization, the government aims to provide job security and stability to these individuals, fostering a conducive and supportive work envi-



ronment for them." "This regularization is a testament to government's commitment towards valuing the contribution of all staff members within the education sector," stated Dr. Piyush Singla. The initiative aligns with the government's broader vision of improving the working conditions and opportunities for all individuals involved in the education sector. By prioritizing the welfare of contingent paid workers, the government aims to create a supportive

and inclusive environment that encourages excellence and commitment", maintained the Secretary. Dr. Singla emphasised the equity in education with special focus on disadvantaged sections of society. He reiterated the rationalisation of teaching faculty so that skewed pupil-teacher ratio especially in far off areas is addressed. Earlier, Dr. Singla accompanied by Director School Education Kashmir, Dr Tasaduq Husain Mir, visited the synthetic hockey turf.

DC Pulwama chairs District Consultative Committee Meeting

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, FEBRUARY 15: The District Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting was Thursday convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom with a particular focus on Annual Credit Plan for 2024-25, based on Potential Linked Plan by NABARD.

The meeting provided a platform for key stakeholders to deliberate on strategies to promote economic growth and development through the effective implementation of the Annual Credit Plan.



The amount allotted for the priority sector under credit plan (2024-2025) was approved for Rs. 3120.65 crores as compared to last year plan (2023-2024) of Rs. 2831 crores which is an increase of around 10%.

During the meeting, significant discussions were held to outline the action

plan under the Rural Self Employment Training Institute. This underscored the importance of enhancing skill development and vocational training within rural areas, aiming to empower individuals and create sustainable opportunities for economic self-sufficiency.

Dr. Basharat emphasized

the significance of these initiatives, highlighting their potential to spur economic progress and foster inclusive development across the district. The proactive approach demonstrated by local leadership reflects a commitment to addressing the diverse economic needs of the community.

In line with the broader objective of promoting economic empowerment and financial inclusion, the discussions further focused on the identification of key areas requiring targeted interventions to catalyze growth and development.

The active participation of various stakeholders,

Ashok Bhan writes to Amit Shah, urges him to address complexities of Kashmir

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 15 (KNS): Senior advocate and Supreme Court lawyer Ashok Bhan Thursday appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to address the complexities of Kashmir, and that the Kashmir Policy and Strategy Group stands ready to support initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting a shared vision of peace and prosperity for all Kashmiris. "The intricacies of the Jammu and Kashmir issue have long been veiled by a dense fog of distorted historical narratives, self-serving myths, and conflicting political interests. Yet, amidst this complexity, the current government has demonstrated a sincere commitment to fostering an environment conducive to peace and progress, aiming to break the cycle of violence perpetuated by adversaries," Ashok Bhan in a letter to Home Minister said. He said that analysts specializing in Kashmir affairs have lauded the government's policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism, coupled with initiatives for economic empowerment and extensive development efforts. "As we approach the assembly elections, the prospect of restoring legitimate democracy.

DC Bandipora reviews progress of Jal Shakti & I&FC works Ensure completion of all works within the set timeline: Shakeel Ul Rehman

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 15: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman Rather today convened a meeting to conduct a comprehensive review of the Jal Shakti and Irrigation and Flood Control Departments to assess their performance and identify areas for improvement.

The meeting discussed different programmes and heads operational in I&FC including AIBP, UT CAPEX, NABARD, District CAPEX, M&R, UNTIED and PRI Grants besides physical and financial progress of Works of Jal Shakti

ti Department including JJM.

It was given out that under District Capex-irrigation Sector Bandipora, 100 percent work has been completed for spot treatment of Jinder Khul, restoration of Aragam Khul and construction of lining wall on Gadder Khul at Ajar.

Reviewing the physical and financial progress of the works taken up under NHPC funded projects, the meeting was informed that expenditure of 129.55 cr has been made out of 134.87 cr project cost.

The officers apprised the chair that work on the majority of projects has been completed and is near completion for the rest of the projects.



It was informed that in Gurez Sub Division, 100 percent work has been completed for WSS Sheikhpora, WSS Sudi Kilshay, Refuji Ist, Check Beyant,

Mazgund Ist, Gratnallah Badugam, Sardaab, Gulshanpora, Baduaab Agnikoot, and WSS New Colony Dawar.

The DC, on the occasion, emphasized coordination among relevant agencies and stakeholders for timely completion of projects.

He asked the concerned to remove bottlenecks and ensure completion of all works within the set timeline.

The meeting was attended by CPO Bandipora Mohd Maqbool, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti/ I&FC Bandipora Mohd Mutayib, Executive Engineer I&FC Sumbal Fida Hussain, Executive Engineer R&B Mohd Assadullah and other concerned.

Illegal Mining of Minerals: Police seizes 07 vehicles, arrests 06 drivers in Baramulla

■ HT News Network

Baramulla February 15: Cracking a whip on illegal mining of minerals at Wagoora, Hardaboora, Tarhama, Khanpora & Ferozpora Baramulla, Police in Baramulla seized seven vehicles (two tractors & five tippers) and arrested six drivers. Police initiated the action under the supervision of SDPO Tangmarg, DySP Hqrs Baramulla & SDPO Kreeri assisted by SHO PS Tangmarg, SHO PS Kunzer, SHO PS Baramulla & IC PP Wagoora. Police seized 02 Tractors, 05 Tippers & arrested 6 drivers identified as Irshad Ahmad Bhat son of Abdul Ahad resident of Chanpora Wagoora, Mohd Iqbal Shah son of Abdul Hameed, Mohd Rafiq Shah son of Mohd Akram, both residents of Takiya Gonipora, Asif Ahmad Tantray son of Manzoor Ahmad resident of Zoogiyar, Tariq Ahmad Dar son of Gh Mohd Khan resident of Jalsheeri & Mohd Rafiq Khan son of Gh Mohd Khan resident of Kanispora. One of the drivers of the seized tractor at Ferozpora Tangmarg managed to flee from the spot and efforts are on to nab him.

The drivers alongwith their vehicles were found involved in illegal extraction/ transportation of minerals and accordingly cases under relevant sections of law were registered in Police Station Tangmarg, Kunzer, Baramulla & Kreeri and investigations have been taken up.

DM Udhampur orders closure of Hotels, Banquet Hall under prevention & Control of Pollution Act

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 15: District Magistrate Udhampur Saloni Rai, has ordered closure of 4 hotels and a Banquet Halls for violation of pollution control norms. In accordance to the directive from the J&K PCB, and with the approval of the competent authority, the DM invoked section 33(A) of the Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974, and section 31(A) of the Air Prevention and control of pollution Act 1981 Act, read with section 5 of environment protection Act, 1986 against 5 hotels and a banquet hall, including Hotel Singh Axis, Hotel Singh Shine, Banquet Hall Sangam Palace Chopra Shop, Hotel Oasis and Hotel Devika within the jurisdiction of Udhampur District.

A team of officials involving the Revenue, Police, and PCB led by Tehsildar Udhampur, Jai Singh and Tehsildar Chenani, Pankaj Singh Bahu enforced the closure of the identified establishments.

The joint team not only facilitated the shutdown of the mentioned establishments but also provided guidance to the hotel owners, urging strict adherence to the guidelines outlined by the PCB. This action aims to ensure environmental compliance and control pollution in the region.

GCW Parade celebrates Basant Panchami

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 15: P.G Department of Music and Cultural Committee of Government College for Women Parade Ground organizes a special program to mark the celebration of Basant Panchmi, the Other Day. The event organized to celebrate the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchmi featured a plethora of activities aimed at generating awareness among students about the rich culture of India.

On the occasion, the College Principal Dr S.P Sarswat congratulated all the staff and students and emphasized the importance of festivals.

The Students of the Music Department presented compositions in Raag Bahar and Basant evoking spiritual ambience. Students also recited poems. The event hosted by Dr Jasmeet Kour, HOD Music was attended by the staff and students.

Youth J&K Peoples Conference Reacts to Farooq Abdullah's Statement

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, 15 Feb (KNS): Mudasir Karim, President of Youth J&K Peoples Conference, has issued a statement in response to recent developments regarding Farooq Abdullah's remarks on the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a tweet earlier today, Mudasir Karim expressed his views on Farooq Abdullah's decision to steer the National Conference away from any pre-poll alliances in J&K. He emphasized the significance of this move, highlighting its implications for the PAGD / INDI bloc. Karim described it as a "spectacular anticlimax" to the ongoing political drama, indicating his skepticism towards the alliances from the outset.

Furthermore, Karim addressed Farooq Abdullah's mention of the possibility of aligning with the NDA, labeling it as another surprising twist in the political narrative of the region.

In his statement, Karim stated, "The twists and turns of this political party never cease to amaze. It takes all my strength not to say, 'I told you so!'" (KNS).

DC Kulgam reviews status of various works projects

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, FEBRUARY 15: In order to review status of various work projects including newly approved work projects of Kawaki Bazar Bridge, Hallan Chiranbal Road, Brazloo NH444 bridge etc, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a meeting of officers at mini-secretariat, here. During the meeting, the DC was informed that Bid opening date for Kawaki Bazar is 19th of this month



and the estimated cost of the project is 16.20 crore. Keeping in view the importance of the bridge the DC instructed the concerned officers to reduce the completion timeline of Kawaki Bazar Bridge to 6 months and start work on it from

1st of March 2024. The chair was also informed that Hallan-Chiranbal road has been approved under NAB-ARD RIDF with an approved cost of 8.88 crore and TS is pending. Status of Brazloo bridge and other newly works was also reviewed

by the DC and he instructed to start work on all these works projects from March 1st, and mobilize men and machinery in double shift mode to ensure time-bound completion of all these works. The DC during the meeting also reviewed progress made in development of industrial estates at Ashmuji, Chekpura Bemidra. The meeting was attended by JD-Planning, Zahid Sajjad, GMDIC Bashir Ahmad and Executive Engineers from R&B, Tehsildars and other concerned.

■ HT News Network

DC Kupwara presides over Valedictory function of National Road Safety Month-2024



KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 15: A valedictory function of National Road safety Month-2024 was today organized by the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) in collaboration with Transporters Welfare Associations at Town Hall Kupwara. The function was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan. District Information Officer Kupwara, Iftikhar Naseem, ARTO Kupwara, Anees Ahmad Wani, District Transport Incharge Kup-

wara, Chairman, Western Bus Association Kashmir, Mohammad Shafi Mir, President Sumo Stand, Showkat Ahmad Mir and other heads of Transport associations were present on the occasion. Addressing the impressive gathering,

the DC, who is also Chairperson, District Road Safety Committee, urged drivers to adhere to the road safety rules. She said that the main objective behind observing Road Safety Month is to raise mass awareness about safety and security of road

users and to minimize the numbers of death and injuries caused due to various road accidents. The DC congratulated the Motor Vehicles Department and Transport Associations for their efforts for holding maximum awareness/ events during the Road Safety Month. She said that the transport sector is a vibrant sector which plays a crucial role in providing employment opportunities and generating revenue. It serves as a cornerstone for economic activity and development. Elaborating on road safety aspects, DC said that drivers.

Coordination meeting of Civil Admin & Police held at Ganderbal DC calls for proactive coordination for addressing development, law & order issues

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 15: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir, today presided over a coordination meeting involving the civil administration and Police officers at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

The DC emphasized on ensuring proactive coordination between the police and civil administration for implementing the whole of government approach to both development and law and order issues.

Earlier, the meeting began with an in-depth discussion on various pressing matters, including illegal construction, illicit mining, encroachments, drug de-addiction activities, and the installation of CCTV cameras.

Shyambir underscored the importance of a comprehensive, whole-of-government approach to tackle these issues effectively.



In a joint effort to combat illegal construction activities, Tehsildars received firm directives to enhance field inspections. The SSP sought police assistance during encroachment drives to ensure the enforcement of regulations.

The status of CCTV camera installation in the district was reviewed, with the DC instructing Tehsildars and police to conduct joint surveys to ensure comprehensive coverage.

To address the issue of illegal mining, the District Min-

eral officer was directed to seize vehicles engaged in such activities. Additionally, Tehsildars and police officials were tasked with closely monitoring illegal mining by obtaining permission details, route maps, and dumping yard information.

The DC urged Tehsildars to engage with Civil Society members, including senior citizens and eminent individuals, to gather regular feedback on any unlawful matters within their jurisdictions.

The meeting also delved into election preparations, covering the nomination of Sector Magistrates, Zonal Magistrates, Flying Squads, and vulnerability assessments of polling stations. Discussions included the SVEEP Plan and other related arrangements to ensure a smooth and transparent electoral process.

The coordination meeting exemplified the commitment of the Ganderbal administration and police force to work together proactively, fostering a safer and more developed environment for the people of the district.

■ HT News Network

Registration Deptt organizes CBP/ Training session on e-Stamping

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 15: In order to educate stakeholders on e-stamping system, its security features, and enhance understanding and promote efficient use of e-stamping system, the Registration Department today organized training and interactive sessions for its staff in collaboration with Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL).

The training programme was organized at Revenue Training Institute, Bemina Srinagar on the directions of the IGR, J&K, and was attended by AIGR Kashmir, Sub Registrars of Kashmir Division and their staff.

The e-stamping aims to enhance transparency, prevent paper and process related fraudulent practices, provide secure and reliable collection mechanism, stop the leakage of government revenues and store information in electronic form.

The technical experts from SCHIL gave detailed presentations on the steps involved in operation/usage of the e-stamping system, dos and don'ts of the process and trouble-shooting tips to ensure on-spot resolution of any technical glitches and errors.

Speaking on the occasion, AIGR Kashmir, Reyaz Ahnrad Wani, specifically stressed upon the participants to make use of this opportunity to clear all their doubts and misconceptions for a hassle-free, easy and efficient registration process.

He also threw light on the initiatives which have either been taken or are in the pipeline for a more transparent and citizen-friendly registration.

Social Welfare Dept. Baramulla organizes mega Awareness Camp on Drug Abuse

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 15: In an endeavour to empower the community against drug abuse menace, a mega awareness camp/workshop was today organized by District Social Welfare Department under National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDR) at Dak Bunglow Baramulla. The workshop was presided by District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Sajad Ahmad and was attended by Deputy Chief Education Officer, Senior Professor GDC Baramulla, Prof. Tariq Ahamd Chalko, Project Coordinator Child Protection Helpline, Nazir Ahmad, other officers, senior citizens, members from civil society, students from Govt. Polytechnic Baramulla and children from orphanage homes. Speaking on the occasion, the DSWO underscored that the purpose of organizing these events is to generate awareness among the masses, especially youth about the ill effects of drug abuse so that they can live drug free lives and contribute meaningfully for the betterment of the society.

NIESBUD concludes 21-day Entrepreneurship Development Training Program at Pulwama

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, FEBRUARY 15: The National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Bank today concluded a highly successful 21-day training program on entrepreneurship development in Pulwama. On the occasion, all 50 participants were awarded certificates in recognition of their completion of the program. The comprehensive training program, aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and equipping participants with essential skills and knowledge, covered a wide range of topics including business planning, marketing strategies, financial management, and legal aspects of entrepreneurship. Participants engaged in interactive sessions, practical exercises, and case studies, gaining valuable insights and practical tools to embark on their entrepreneurial journey. Following a rigorous evaluation process, 21 participants have been selected on the basis of their outstanding performance to proceed to the next stage of handholding. This further course will provide personalized guidance and support to help these budding entrepreneurs translate their ideas into successful ventures. The handholding process will focus on refining business plans, providing mentorship, facilitating access to resources, and addressing specific challenges faced by the participants.

"We are thrilled to witness the culmination of the 21-day training program and congratulate all participants on their dedication and commitment," said Ajiaz Ahmad Mir, Coordinator NIESBUD.

Director Sericulture undertakes surprise inspection of various Offices, Mulberry Nurseries & Farms

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 15: Director Sericulture J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat today conducted a surprise visit to various offices, mulberry nurseries, and farms in South Kashmir.

The surprise inspection was aimed at ensuring the efficiency and optimal functioning of the department, focusing on key aspects viz. employee attendance, office infrastructure and the overall maintenance of departmental assets.

During the visit, Director Sericulture while checking the attendance of employees, emphasized the importance of punctuality and dedication of employees towards their official duties, besides, the need of concerted efforts for dissemination of awareness about various sericulture activities, schemes, facilities and other sericulture practices among farmers and youth of J&K.



He inspected office buildings, mulberry nurseries, and farms to assess the condition of the facilities and identify areas for improvement. He directed the officers to complete all the developmental projects well in time and work on mission mode to achieve all the targets envisioned in Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). He also directed them to share their technical expertise among the silkworm rearing community and youth in the Skill Development Training Programmes started by the

department under capacity building initiative.

The Director exhorted upon the officers and the field functionaries/officials of the department to work in a coordinated manner with silkworm rearers and youth to assist them in enhancing their income generation through silkworm rearing and other associated activities vis-à-vis sericulture sector.

He also stressed upon the officers and employees to adopt a proactive approach and will not leave any stone unturned for achieving bumper and

double crop in the upcoming rearing season.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director informed that any liability on account of incentives provided to silkworm rearers/ farmers by the department will be cleared shortly. Moreover, the Director reiterated his commitment to foster exceptional growth in the sericulture sector in J&K, so that the silkworm rearing communities living in the far flung areas across J&K will thrive and prosper leaps and bounds. The Director exhorted upon the officers and the field functionaries/ officials of the department to work in a coordinated manner with silkworm rearers and youth to assist them in enhancing their income generation through silkworm rearing and other associated activities vis-à-vis sericulture sector. He also stressed upon the officers and employees to adopt a proactive approach and will not leave any stone unturned for achieving bumper.

Horticulture Deptt organizes Farmers Awareness/ Training programme under ATMA at Budgam

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 15: Horticulture Department Budgam today organized one day farmers awareness cum training programme under Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme.

The event witnessed active participation from farmers across the district, reflecting their keen interest in adopting modern agricultural practices and enhancing their farming capabilities.

The programme was meticulously designed to empower farmers with the latest insights and techniques, featuring a comprehensive agenda aimed at addressing various aspects of Horticulture sustainability and productivity.

Horticulture Development Officers and experts from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra Budgam delivered enlightening sessions covering a wide array of topics, including crop management, integrated pest management, soil health enhancement, and the adoption of innovative technologies.



During the programme, interactive field visit was also facilitated for the farmers to give them practical demonstrations and hands-on training, enabling them to gain firsthand experience in implementing advanced agricultural techniques effectively.

The interactive question and answer sessions facilitated meaningful discussions, allowing farmers to seek clarification on doubts and exchange valuable insights with experts and fellow practitioners.

Participants were provided with informative pamphlets, booklets, and educational resources containing valuable guidelines and best practices for sustainable agriculture.

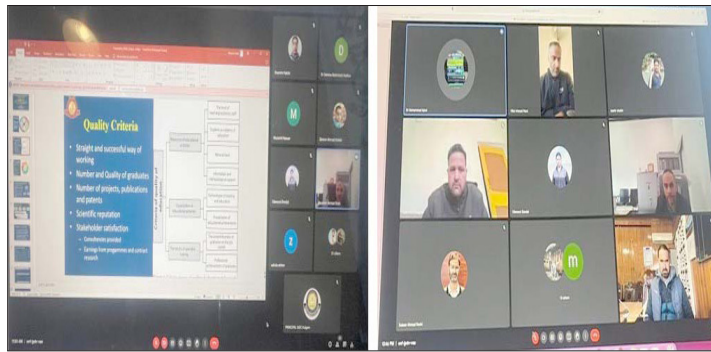
GDC Kulgam organizes Webinar on 'Major reforms in Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions'

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, FEBRUARY 15: An illustrative and enlightening webinar covering the recently released "Major reforms in Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions" by NAAC was conducted by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Government Degree College (GDC) Kulgam under the aegis of VIKSIT BHARAT @2024.

The webinar was organised for the colleges of UT of J&K to understand the importance of NAAC accreditation for colleges and newly introduced Binary and Maturity Based Graded Accreditation systems.

More than 150 participants from diverse Higher Education Institutes from UT of Jammu and Kashmir



besides other institutes from across the country attended the event. Amongst the participants from all over the country included the noted luminaries, academicians, principals of various colleges, faculty members, Scientists, Research scholars and students.

Principal of the college, Prof. Syed Eazaz Hussain Rizvi in his address

highlighted the significance of NAAC accreditation for colleges and unveiled the steps taken by the institution in this direction.

The invited speaker on the occasion, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Shah, Director, Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance, University of Kashmir gave a detailed presentation on the theme with his outlook

and considerate knowledge on the theme covering all aspects of the NAAC accreditation.

His presentation focused on the importance of NAAC accreditation for colleges, besides presenting a detailed analysis of the new NAAC reforms in Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions.

Coordinator IQAC, GDC Kulgam, Dr. Gowhar Hamid Dar highlighted the achievements of the institution since its establishment in 2004. He further put in the picture of progress made by the college and IQAC cell post accreditation and also detailed out the plan of action to be carried for the future.

The theme was discussed in detail by the attendees and all the issues and aspects related to the theme were talked through in depth.



Rohit, Jadeja and Sarfaraz make it India's day

RAJKOT: Rohit Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja made classical Test match hundreds while debutant Sarfaraz Khan announced his arrival on the big stage with a fluent half-century as India reached 326 for five at stumps on day one of the third Test against England here on Thursday.

With India reduced to 33 for three inside the first hour of play, Rohit (131 off 196) and Jadeja (110 batting off 212) steered the ship through choppy waters with a 204-run partnership.

After the pair was separated, Sarfaraz (62 off 66) scored the joint fastest

fifty by an Indian on debut to push India past the 300-run mark.

Jadeja was batting with nightwatchman Kuldeep Yadav (1 batting) at close of play.

In batting friendly conditions, the home team will be looking get near the 500-run mark on day two.

For England, fast bowler Mark Wood (3/69) vindicated his selection as England's second pacer with a two-wicket burst in the morning, accounting for Yashasvi Jaiswal (10) and Shubman Gill (0), while spinner Tom Hartley (1/81) got the better of Rajat Patidar (5) to leave

India tottering.

Jaiswal was caught in the slips by Joe Root while Gill looked susceptible against the moving ball.

After beating Gill on the inside edge, Wood found an outside edge to send back India's No. 3 for a nine-ball duck.

Patidar was outdone by a ball from Hartley that neither spun sharply nor bounced unevenly but seemed to have slowed off the surface.

Patidar was unable to control his shot as the ball simply ballooned towards short cover for a regulation catch.

The pressure on the Indian camp was

palpable and the team management opted for a safer route by holding Sarfaraz back and promote Jadeja at No.5 a spot where he has batted at in only five out of his 70 Tests yet.

What transpired after the first hour calmed all the nerves in the dressing room as senior pros Rohit and Jadeja recorded only the third double-century partnership for India against England in 135 Tests.

With 204 runs for the fourth wicket, Rohit and Jadeja joined the esteemed company of Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly (249 vs England at Leeds in

August 2002) and Vijay Hazare and Vijay Manjrekar (222 vs England at Leeds in June 1952) for having put on more than 200 against the Englishmen.

It was also the highest partnership between Rohit and Jadeja in an under-transition Indian side as well as their second in triple figures, having put on 100 for the sixth wicket against New Zealand at Kanpur in September 2016.

As if he had saved his best in the series for this day, Rohit was unhurried and completely assured in the middle, producing a knock that was in complete contrast of his recent approach.

Healy's 99 and Brown's five wickets headline Australia's dominance

SYDNEY: Australia's quicks defied searing heat at the WACA to tear through an inexperienced South Africa badly missing Marizanne Kapp before captain Alyssa Healy fell agonisingly short of a maiden Test century late on day one.

A tiring Healy, who had been on the field for almost the entire day, was dismissed for 99 when she succumbed to the offspin of debutant Delmi Tucker and was caught and bowled.

But Australia are well on top in the historic first Test between the countries and lead by 175 runs at stumps.

South Africa were routed for just 76 in their lowest ever Test score after being bowled out in 31.2 overs. But they hit back when quick Masabata Klaas produced a spectacular new-ball spell to leave Australia reeling at 12 for 3 in reply.

South Africa's attack were unable to keep up the pressure in 42-degree heat as Healy combined with Beth Mooney in a 155-run partnership to regain Australia's ascendancy.

Healy combined with Annabel Sutherland, who took advantage of a wilting South Africa with an unbeaten half-century as the shadows crept onto the ground.

South Africa's bid for an upset victory to square the multi-format series appears forlorn after a disastrous start to the four-day match.

Playing only their second Test match in a decade, fielding four debutants, South Africa were rocked when Kapp was ruled out due to illness.

A rattled South Africa were unable to cope with the discipline of Australia's quicks, who targeted a dangerous back of a length to devastating effect. South Africa's inexperience against the red-ball, with their XI combining for just seven Tests, was apparent as they fell tamely to loose strokes. Their



batters were undone by minimal foot work and too often slashed at deliveries outside the off-stump.

Vindicating Healy's bold decision to bowl first amid fierce heat, speedster Darcie Brown claimed her first Test five-wicket haul while Sutherland and Tahlia McGrath also starred on a green-tinged surface offering movement and bounce. The dominance of the quicks meant that Healy did not have to call upon Australia's trio of frontline spinners, including Sophie Molineux playing in her first international match in more than two years.

There had been intrigue over the surface, used for the first time this season, but fittingly, in the first men's or women's Test match played at the WACA since December 2017, pace-bowling dominated.

Having won back her spot after missing Australia's last Test in India,

Brown steamed in and created a chance almost immediately when opener Anneke Bosch was dropped at third slip by Mooney.

But she was worked over by a fiery Brown as a Kapp-less South Africa desperately needed captain Laura Wolvaardt to overcome her sluggish form on the tour. She was unable to capitalise on a drop from a diving Healy to fall on the next delivery to Brown, who finished a spectacular opening spell with 2 for 5 from five overs.

South Africa appeared to be rallying when Sune Luus and Tazmin Brits dug in to defy Australia for 12 overs. Brits, however, was unable to turnover the strike and crawled to 5 off 48 balls before succumbing lbw to Sutherland in a decision that was overturned on DRS. Tucker had a horror debut when she chopped onto her stumps first ball as South Africa spiralled.

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