

District Development Council reviews pace of development activities in Kishtwar

DC discusses Action Plan with stakeholder departments, BSF authorities in Kathua



FROM THE PARLIAMENT

J&K reports 645 Mumps cases in 2- years: Gol

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 04: Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav on Tuesday said that J&K has recorded 645 cases of Mumps, a contagious viral disease, over the past two years. Jadhav, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), informed the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

28 lost lives, 1,069 houses damaged in J&K disasters since last year: Gol

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 04: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded substantial damage due to hydro-meteorological disasters during the year 2024-25, with 28 human lives lost, 73 cattle perished and 1,069 houses or huts damaged during the period. A cropped area of 0.02 lakh hectares was affected, the data presented in

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

J&K among 13 States, UTs without exclusive women jails in India: MHA

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 04: Jammu and Kashmir is one of 13 States and Union Territories across India that does not have an exclusive women's jail, latest government data revealed here on Tuesday. According to data presented by the Minister of State (MoS) in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay

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Cervical cancer cases rise by 11.5% in J&K over 5 years: Centre

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 04: Jammu and Kashmir has reported a total of 3,468 cervical cancer cases over the past five years, a data presented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the Parliament reveals. The year-wise breakdown shows an increase in cases,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

Body of woman found dead under mysterious circumstances in Katra

HT News Network

Jammu, Feb 04:- The body of a woman was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Katra area of Jammu division on Tuesday. Police sources told news agency JKNS that the body of a woman was found under suspicious circumstances near Raghunath temple in Katra. The woman identified as Meenakshi Devi, daughter of Kuldeep Kumar, resident of Sul, Katra. The local people informed the police, the woman was taken to Katra CHC where the doctor declared her

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Jammu Police Rescue Two Kidnapped Girls, Arrest Non-Local Accused

HT News Network

Jammu, Jammu Police have successfully solved two separate kidnapping cases, rescuing both victims and arresting the accused, who are non-locals. In the first case, reported on January 19, 2025, a 16/17-year-old girl was allegedly kidnapped from her home in Jammu by Sonu Kumar from Uttar Pradesh, currently residing in Jammu. A complaint was filed at Police Station Domana, leading to FIR No. 20/2025 under Section 137(2) BNS. The second incident occurred on January 31,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

PC, PDP accuse NC Govt of endorsing Aug 5 2019 changes

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 04: Peoples Conference and Peoples Democratic Party on Tuesday accused the National Conference Government in Jammu and Kashmir of endorsing August 5, 2019 (abrogation of J&K's special status) changes. Peoples Conference chairman Sajad Gani Lone and PDP legislator, Waheed Para, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reacted sharply over proposed deletion of references to J&K

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Amit Shah cuts short J&K security review meet to attend PM's reply in Parliament
 LG Sinha, Chief Secy, DGP; Army, paramilitary top brass in Delhi
 Meeting rescheduled for today

HT News Network

New Delhi, Feb 04: Union Home Minister Amit Shah had to cut short the J&K security review meeting on Tuesday, sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). They said that the meeting has been rescheduled and will be held on Wednesday at 10:30 am in the Parliament as many issues have to be discussed. "The Union Home Minister had to cut short the meeting to be present in the Parliament to attend the Prime Minister's reply," sources said.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



J&K Budget 2025-26: CM Omar Abdullah to Hold Consultations with MLAs Over Priority-Sector Works
 To Interact with MLAs of 4 Districts Today

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 04: In a significant move, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also the Minister in-charge of the Finance Department, is holding pre-budget consultations with members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and District Development Council (DDC) chairpersons from Wednesday. Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that ahead of the Union Territory's budget, Omar

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



Ghulam Nabi Azad goes missing from J&K's political arena

Democratic Progressive Azad Party faces existential crisis post-election defeat

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 04: The Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), founded by former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Union Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad,



is facing an uncertain future following its crushing defeat in the recent assembly elections. The party's activities, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) have come to a standstill

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Gol misleading nation on Kashmir security situation: JKPCC President Urges Govt to come clear on business rules

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 04: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra on Tuesday strongly criticised the Government of India (GoI) over its security claims in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that the ground situation 'contradicts' official narratives.

Speaking to the media in Srinagar, Karra, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) pointed out the 'recent incidents in both Kash-



mir and Jammu', which, he said, have exposed the Centre's 'misleading' claims. "The government must seriously

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Srinagar's water transport project set to sail soon

Tender re-issued, bid evaluation underway for Jhelum, Dal Lake transport service: Officials

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 04: The much-anticipated water transport system in Srinagar is under evaluation and is expected to be operational soon, officials from Smart City Srinagar said on Tuesday. An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the evaluation of

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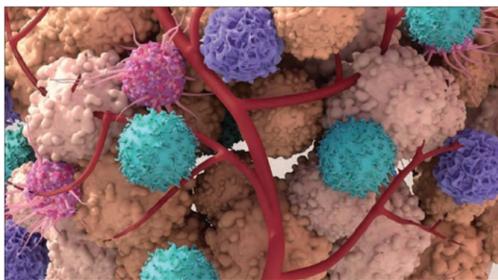


World Cancer Day: Shifting lifestyles linked to rising cancer cases, say doctors

'50% of cancers preventable through healthy habits; advancements in treatment offer new hope'

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 04: Cancer continues to emerge as a global health challenge, with Jammu and Kashmir witnessing an alarming surge in cases. Leading oncologists across the Union Territory have expressed deep concern over the rising numbers and called for preventive measures, lifestyle modifications and increased public awareness. Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Zahoor Ahmad, a



renowned oncologist at SKIMS Soura, said that cancer has become a widespread concern, with almost every family being affected directly or indirectly. "Cancer is emerging as a life-

style disease, spreading rapidly in regions where populations are shifting towards urban living. This shift is marked by increased caloric intake, consumption of ultra-processed foods, reduced physical activity, and exposure to agricultural chemicals like fertilisers and pesticides," he said. Dr Zahoor said that nearly 40-50% of cancers are potentially preventable through simple lifestyle changes such as quitting smoking, maintaining a balanced diet, regular

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

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After Omar takes potshot on INDIA bloc, Dr Farooq says alliance intact

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 05: National Conference (NC) President, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday said that the INDIA bloc is intact and will remain so in the future.

The statement was made by him just a day after his son and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reiterated his call for 'strategy shift' in the INDIA bloc in a time-bound manner, failing which the purpose of the alliance will be defeated.

Dr Farooq while speaking to the media persons, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer



(KNO), said that the INDIA bloc is doing absolutely fine and will keep doing good in the future as well. Pertinently, Omar Abdul-

lah on Monday underscored the need for the INDIA bloc to have a structured discussion on its future strategy, cautioning that internal

rifts could harm its larger goal.

It's in place to mention here that in January this year when Omar had stated that the constituents of the alliance were treading different paths, Dr Farooq Abdullah had put his weight behind the INDIA bloc saying,

"The alliance is not just about contesting elections. It is about strengthening India and eliminating hatred. Those who believe this alliance exists only for parliamentary elections are mistaken. The alliance is permanent -- it is for every day and every moment."—(KNO)

J&K's NDPS arrests surge by over 70% from 2019 to 2024

Minimal arrests in Ladakh, convictions remain low

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 04 (KNO): From 2019 to 2024, a total of 13,186 arrests were made in Jammu and Kashmir under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, while only four convictions were recorded during the same period.

According to the data provided by the Ministry of State (MoS) for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, in response to a question in the Lok Sabha, arrests in Ladakh were minimal, with

only 11 cases reported between 2021 and 2022, and no convictions since 2019.

"The arrests in J&K saw a steady increase in the first five years, with 1,700 arrests in 2019, 1,769 in 2020, 2,217 in 2021, 2,755 in 2022, and 3,072 in 2023. However, the number of arrests dropped to 1,673 in 2024 (till date). As for convictions, J&K reported a total of 4 convictions during the same period. There was 1 conviction in 2019, no convictions in 2020, followed by 1 conviction each

in 2021 and 2022. No convictions were recorded in 2023, but 1 conviction was made in 2024," the reply reads.

The data indicated that the number of arrests in J&K increased by more than 70% from 2019 to 2024.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has established a 4-tier Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism to improve coordination between central and state drug law enforcement agencies. An NCORD portal has been developed to provide com-

prehensive information on drug law enforcement, including data on narco-offenders, legal information, and state initiatives, it added.

Following the 5th Apex Level Committee meeting of NCORD, each state and union territory has set up an Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), headed by an ADG/IG-level police officer, to act as the NCORD Secretariat and ensure compliance with decisions taken during NCORD meetings, the MoS said.

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

MUMPS

Parliament that the region saw 450 and 95 cases in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

The Minister said that the Union Territory of Ladakh, which had no recorded cases of Mumps in previous years, reported 111 cases in 2024.

Despite the rising number of cases, no deaths have been reported in J&K or elsewhere in India during this period.

Pertinently, Mumps is a contagious viral disease and can be prevented through the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine. However, the government has clarified that Mumps vaccination is not currently part of India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP), which covers 12 other preventable diseases—(KNO)

28 LIVES

the Lok Sabha by Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai reads.

"As per the National Policy on Disaster Management (NPD), the primary responsibility for disaster management, including the disbursement of relief assistance at the ground level, lies with the respective State Governments," he said.

"In the wake of natural calamities, State Governments undertake relief measures using the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), which is already at their disposal, in accordance with the Government of India's approved items and norms," he added.

He said that the Central Government supplements these efforts by providing logistical and financial support. "Additional financial assistance is extended from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for disasters of a severe nature," following a detailed assessment by an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT)," he added—(KNO)

WOMENS JAIL

Kumar, in the Lok Sabha, Jammu & Kashmir, along with several other States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, and others, lacks dedicated facilities for incarcerating female prisoners.

Across India, there are 34 exclusive women's jails, with some states like Rajasthan (7), Tamil Nadu (5), and Kerala (3) having more developed infrastructure to accommodate female prisoners. However, several regions still rely on general jails to house both male and female prisoners, raising concerns about safety, security, and the overall conditions for women detainees.

"The respective State Governments/UT Administrations are responsible for prison management and the welfare of women inmates and their children," he said.

However, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) supports these efforts by issuing guidelines. As per MHA, children of female prisoners should be provided education, healthcare, food, shelter, and recreational facilities. The MHA has also circulated the Model Prison Manual 2016, which includes provisions for the care of children living with women inmates—(KNO)

CANCER

with 656 in 2019, 676 in 2020, 694 in 2021, 712 in 2022, and 732 in 2023.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the cases increased from 656 in 2019 to 732 in 2023, reflecting a year-on-year rise. Specifically, the number of cases grew by 3.05% from 656 in 2019 to 676 in 2020, 2.66% from 676 to 694 in 2021, 2.59% from 694 to 712 in 2022, and 2.81% from 712 to 732 in 2023.

This rise aligns with a national trend attributed to factors such as an aging population, improved life expectancy, greater awareness, and advances in diagnostic technology. In

response, the government has taken measures to make cancer treatment more affordable, including price caps on scheduled cancer drugs, reduced customs duties, and discounts on anticancer medications through the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

The government also offers financial assistance through initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), which covers health insurance of Rs 5 lakh per family annually. Additionally, cancer treatment is available at various healthcare facilities, including district hospitals and specialized centers like AIIMS, with AMRIT Pharmacy stores providing cancer drugs at lower prices. Awareness campaigns on prevention and early detection are also being conducted nationwide—(KNO)

SHAH

The security review meeting was called after an ex-serviceman was killed, his wife and niece injured in a terror attack in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Monday.

Sources told KNO that J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Atal Duloo, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabbhat, top officers of Army, paramilitary forces and intelligence agencies had arrived in New Delhi for the meeting which remained inconclusive and would be held tomorrow.

The officers, according to the sources, were to brief the Union Home Minister about the prevailing situation in J&K and ongoing operations against the terrorists.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has been reiterating that terrorists and their supporters have to be dealt with an iron fist to make J&K terror free.

The MHA has maintained that the policy of zero-tolerance towards terrorism needs to be implemented firmly to make Jammu and Kashmir a terror free region.

The meeting on Wednesday, according to the sources, will also discuss the implementation of the Area Domination Plan and Zero Terror Plan.

It may be recalled that during the last security review meeting held in December last year, the Union Home Minister had directed all security agencies to continue working in a coordinated manner to eliminate terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the official data accessed by the KNO, Jammu and Kashmir in January 2025 recorded the lowest number of killings over the past two decades, with just 3 fatalities—1 security force personnel and 2 terrorists.

The authorities have been maintaining that there has been a significant decline in terrorist incidents, infiltration and recruitment of youth in terrorist organisations.

The heightened security vigilance in the Union Territory has contributed to maintaining law and order stability. "The Union Home Ministry has passed clear instructions to prevent any civilian or security forces personnel killings and has ordered large-scale operations against terrorists."—(KNO)

WATER TRANSPORT

bids is currently underway and that the work will commence shortly.

"We had earlier floated the tender, but a little response was received. Now, the tender has been reissued, and we are hopeful that the project will take off soon," the official said.

The water transport system is a flagship project of Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), aimed at reviving water-based public transportation in the city.

Earlier today, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, chaired meetings to review the selection of an agency for operating water transport services in River Jhelum and Dal Lake. "He directed SSCL officials to finalize routes, set fare structures,

and expedite the tendering process."

Moreover, in June 2024, officials said the flagship project under SSCL, which aims to provide an alternate mode of public transport in Srinagar City and revive water transport after three decades, is in the last stage of its tendering process and would take at least three to four months to complete.

They said, on completion of the tendering process, they will finally be able to procure modern motorised boats and other equipment to start the water transport on selected routes. Initially, procure 25 boats from the successful bidder and start the water transport facility from River Jhelum and Dal Lake in the first phase.

It is now important to mention, the evaluation of bids is again underway and the work will commence shortly, after its completion—(KNO)

AZAD

, with Azad himself maintaining an unusual silence and absence from the political scene in Jammu and Kashmir.

Party insiders told KNO that since the party's poor electoral performance, there has been no official statement from Azad, nor any reflection on the results. His only visit to Jammu since the elections was to pay condolences on the demise of some leaders. "Beyond that, he has not engaged in any political activity in the region. This has left party leaders demoralized and isolated, with no clear direction on the way forward," says a senior DPAP functionary.

Meanwhile, major political parties like the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress, National Conference (NC), and People's Democratic Party (PDP) are actively holding meetings, strengthening organizational structures, and preparing for upcoming panchayat and civic elections. In contrast, DPAP has neither convened meetings nor initiated any strategies for future political engagements.

Ghulam Nabi Azad launched DPAP on September 26, 2022, after breaking away from the Congress. His early political engagements involved frequent visits to Jammu and Kashmir, where he held large public gatherings, often highlighting the need for assembly elections in the region.

As a veteran politician, he consistently highlighted his tenure's achievements while in the Congress. However, his momentum dwindled following the announcement of assembly elections. During the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, DPAP fielded three candidates, all of whom suffered heavy defeats. In the subsequent assembly elections, 22 candidates, including Azad's close aides, contested under the party's banner but faced a complete rout. Azad himself fell ill before the elections, which hindered his campaign efforts. The magnitude of the defeat has now raised serious questions about the party's survival. Adding to DPAP's woes, two key figures—GM Saroori and Jugal Kishore—deserted the party midway through the elections to contest as independents, only to face defeat. Now, they too are waiting to see how the political situation unfolds before making their next move—(KNO)

JKPCC

think about how to address the real situation and present the truth to the country," he said. Referring to recent security-related incidents, Karra stated that they were a reflection of the widening gap between Gol's claims and the actual conditions in Jammu and Kashmir. "These claims are not just inaccurate but misleading," he added.

On the issue of business rules and governance in J&K, Karra stressed the need for clarity. "Until the confusion over business rules is resolved, the biggest casualties will be the common people, especially the poor, who are left running from pillar to post in government offices," he said.

Asked about PDP and Sajjad Lone's stance

that approving business rules would mean refusing the August 5, 2019 changes, Karra refused to comment, saying, "That is his stand. I cannot comment on that."

On electoral processes, he acknowledged concerns about manipulation but stressed that every state has different electoral dynamics. "For instance, after elections in Haryana and Maharashtra, unexpected situations arose, including the shocking claim of 75 lakh votes being cast in just an hour, which Congress is now taking up with the Election Commission of India," he said.

Commenting on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the USA, Karra took a jibe, saying, "He is going as an uninvited guest, and we shall see how he is received there."

Asked about the current take by the Congress party after extending the support to the government led by National Conference, Karra said that the sole purpose of supporting the government was to keep the BJP 'out' of the power corridors and that they were 'successful' in doing that—(KNO)

WORLD CANCER DAY

physical activity and reducing the intake of processed foods.

Despite growing awareness about cancer and its treatment, he said many myths and misconceptions still prevail. "These myths can only be dispelled through proper education and counselling," he added.

According to Dr Zahoor, advancements in cancer treatment are ushering in a new era of precision medicine. "With cutting-edge research uncovering the molecular profiles of tumours, treatments can now be tailored to individual patient characteristics. This approach minimizes side effects, avoids ineffective therapies, and maximises treatment benefits," he explained. Dr Ashraf Ashai, an oncologist at GMC Anantnag, said the rising number of cancer cases is partly due to increased awareness and improved diagnostic capabilities.

"Cancer is no longer a death sentence if detected and treated early. One-third of cancers are preventable through lifestyle modifications, another third are curable with early intervention, and for the remaining cases, palliative care can significantly improve the quality of life," he said.

Doctors identified food adulteration, consumption of packaged and pre-cooked foods, smoked foods, highly processed red meats and foods high in salt and nitrosamines—such as salted tea and pickles—as contributing factors to increased cancer risk.

To mitigate these risks, they recommend fresh, unprocessed foods, fruits rich in antioxidants (apples, pears, berries), folate-rich and cruciferous vegetables, high turmeric and ginger consumption, and eggs and fibre-rich diets. Despite the increasing incidence, there is optimism in the medical community due to the availability of quality treatment options, including chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and targeted therapies. Continuous improvements in healthcare infrastructure are also enhancing patient care in the region.

Data from the Union Health Ministry reveals that between 2019 and 2022, Jammu and Kashmir reported 51,577 cancer cases, with 35,623 deaths during the same period. A 2012 study by SKIMS attributed the rise in cancer cases to dietary habits, lifestyle choices, and the consumption of high-salt foods.

Healthcare professionals are urging the public to adopt conscious lifestyle modifications, prioritize early detection through regular screenings, and seek timely medical intervention to combat the growing threat of cancer. "Cancer may be a formidable foe, but with awareness, prevention, and advancements in treatment, it's a battle we can win," Dr Zahoor concluded—(KNO)

WOMEN

dead. Meanwhile police have taken cogni-

zance and started investigation.—(JKNS)

POLICE

2025, when a 24-year-old woman was abducted by Md. Asfak from Jharkhand. A case was registered at Police Post Pouni Chak under FIR No. 28/2025 (Section 366 IPC).

Special police teams traced the victims outside J&K, safely recovered them, and arrested the accused. Both girls have been reunited with their families, and further investigations are ongoing. [KNT] where the doctor declared her dead.

Meanwhile police have taken cognizance and started investigation.—(JKNS)

PDP

Constitution in business rules.

PC chairman and MLA Handwara, Sajad Lone wrote on X: "Endorsement of draft proposal prepared by Assembly secretariat regarding Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House will be the most explicit and unforgivable ratification of August 5, 2019 changes."

"It will effectively end once and for all any scope for legal challenge to 5 August changes, in the future. While we dreamt of an unambiguous resolution by the new assembly rejecting 5 August 2019, and that becoming a reference point in any future legal challenge—now we have a shocker," he wrote.

"The same Assembly is being used to bury any such chances of legal challenges in the future. The present assembly reflecting the will of people of J and K, will now be remembered as the endorser not the rejector of August 5 2019," he added.

"The Assembly which we thought will be the voice of people of J and K is now a shameless rubber stamp of the perpetrators of August 5. The ruling NC led government purposely constituted a Committee which had 6 NC members and 2 BJP members. There was no one from the Kashmir based opposition parties or MLAs," Lone wrote.

"This committee endorses all changes made on 5 August 2019. By virtue of this draft—they even take away references to J&K Constitution and bills governing permanent residents from the Rules. Such a cruel joke at the expense of people of Kashmir," he said.

"Let me briefly summarise the NC BJP covert agreement to endorse and normalise 5 August 2019. First they script the context. NC starts the "all are BJP" discourse. Second, the BJP mysteriously behaves in a manner which endorses that discourse. The discourse is strengthened and then elections are announced. While the people of J and K to some extent subscribe to the "all others are BJP" discourse, the agencies led by a retired old war horse in uninterrupted engagement with the NC from the last 3 years, ensures total compliance of the agencies in favour of NC," he wrote. "This 42 seat lottery is a gift in order to endorse. The NC is the master endorser of all the changes that Delhi had brought in. Remember the older gifts in lieu of endorsements. 1975 gift of government with no MLAs

CM

Abdullah has decided to hold consultations with all MLAs, DDC chairpersons, and deputy commissioners. To begin with, the CM will hold consultations with MLAs of four districts each on Wednesday and Thursday. "He will hold consultations with MLAs and DDC chairpersons of Anantnag, Budgam, Kathua, and Samba districts tomorrow and will hold similar meetings with legislators of Baramulla, Kulgam, Ramban, and Udhampur on Thursday," a minister, wishing to remain anonymous, said. He said these meetings are aimed at making the budget more inclusive and participatory. "These meetings are held to get inputs from MLAs about priority-sector works and ensure that the needs and aspirations of the people are reflected in the budget," he said.



DC Srinagar reviews implementation of action plan for Electronic, Biomedical, Plastic Waste Management

Asks departments to take proactive measures for environment protection as per NGT guidelines

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 04: To review the implementation of action plan for management of E-Waste, Biomedical Waste & Plastic Waste in District, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Planning Officer, SDM West, SDM East, Secretary SMC, Chief Medical Officer, Officers of Pollution Control Committee, Deputy Contoller Enforcement Legal Metrology, Chief Enforcement Officer, SMC, Divisional Forest Officer, all Tehsildars, all Block Development Officers, Field Inspector and other concerned. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner discussed threadbare various matter including implementation of Action plan for E-Waste, Biomedical Waste & Plastic Waste Management, rules, violations, capacity building of officials, members



of District Level Committee to oversee the implementation of the E-Waste, Biomedical Waste & Plastic Waste Manage-

ment. On the occasion, the DC issued directions to all the members of DLC to submit the

action taken report as per the guidelines of National Green Tribunal(NGT). DC also instructed for conducting inspections of the places to ensure proper management of E-Waste, Biomedical Waste and Plastic Waste in the District. He also stressed on ensuring no single use plastic below 120 microns is used in the District. He instructed to intensify the enforcement activities and making earnest efforts to check and seize banned polythene, if found to be not in conformity with the existing rules. DC also asked the officers to ensure proper monitoring of collection and disposal of single use plastic and other kind of Wastes in their respective jurisdictions. Bhat underscored that environment protection is pivotal in the interest of our future generations, and urged upon all to contribute for better and healthy future for next generations and protect bio diversity. During the meeting, Chief Medical officer was stressed upon ensuring proper disposal of biomedical waste in all health institutions of the District.

World Cancer Day Observed at Lal Ded Hospital

HT News Network

Srinagar, February 04: Under the patronage of Prof Dr Iffat Hassan Principal/Dean Govt Medical College Srinagar, World Cancer Day was commemorated at Lal Ded Hospital by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, with a dedicated awareness program. The event aimed to educate attendees on cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment strategies, aligning with this year's theme, "United by Unique." Prof. Dr. Masuma Rizvi, Head of the Department (HOD), Obstetrics and Gynaecology, GMC Srinagar, delivered an insightful session on cancer risk factors, preventive measures, and the importance of early diagnosis. She emphasized the critical role of regular screenings, lifestyle modifications, and timely medical interventions in reducing cancer-related mortality. Dr. Maimoona Gul, Deputy Medical Superintendent, Lal Ded Hospital, commended the collective dedication of the hospital staff in upholding Lal Ded Hospital's reputation as a premier healthcare institution. She highlighted the invaluable contributions of both medical and non-medical personnel in ensuring the highest standards of patient care. The event was attended by Prof Dr Samina Sultana, Prof Dr Shaylla Mir, Casualty Medical Officers (CMOs), Resident Medical Officers (RMOs), medical officers, paramedical staff, ministerial and administrative personnel, sanitary workers, patients, caregivers, and other distinguished guests. Their participation underscored the collective commitment of the medical community to strengthening cancer care services and enhancing patient support. The World Cancer Day commemoration at Lal Ded Hospital reaffirmed the institution's dedication to raising cancer awareness, promoting early detection, and advancing patient care. The event concluded with a pledge from all participants to continue their mission of delivering high-quality healthcare and working towards a cancer-free future.

Dir Agri Kashmir inaugurates seminar on "Scientific Beekeeping"

HT News Network



Srinagar, February 04: A two days seminar on "Scientific Beekeeping" being organised by Agriculture Production and Farmer's Welfare Department Kashmir was inaugurated by Director Agriculture Kashmir Mohammad Ilyas Khateeb today at Kashmir Haat Srinagar. The two days seminar is sponsored by National Bee Board Under National Bee Keeping and Honey Mission (NBHM). The seminar was attended by Beekeepers, Farmers, Stakeholders, Students and Unemployed youth. While addressing the event Dir said that the program is aimed to promote latest trends and technologies in the field of apiculture besides financial assistance schemes for farmers. He highlighted the significance of beekeeping in enhancing the farm productivity and sustenance of rural livelihoods. On the occasion, farmers were informed about financial incentives, including 80% subsidy on beekeeping units, aimed at bolstering the sector in the region. The program will continue tomorrow with training sessions on colony management, honey harvesting and disease prevention techniques for the participants.

DC Srinagar reviews progress on operationalization of Rehabilitation & Counseling Centre, Sanat Nagar

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of senior Health Officials here to review the progress on the operationalization of the Rehabilitation and Counseling Centre for youth affected by substance abuse established at Sanat Nagar. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Syed Ahmad Kataria, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Chief Medical officer, Dr Tahir Sajad, District Social Welfare Officer Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chief Education Officer, Ms. Sha-beena, Incharge Drug De-Addiction Centre GMC, Dr. Yasir Rather, and other senior Officers. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed review of the



progress towards making the Centre fully functional and operational. He finalized the requirements of manpower, paramedical staff, security and sanitation, baseline investigation labs, and other essential materials for the centre to make it functional as soon as possible.

On the occasion, the DC stressed the importance of ensuring proper functioning and utilization of the centre in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, Health Department, and IMHANS to achieve the intended goals. He emphasized that the

purpose of the Rehabilitation and Counselling Centre is to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to youth affected by substance abuse and facilitate their reintegration into society. DC directed the officers to take the necessary steps to operationalize the OPD facility at the Centre at the earliest, enabling immediate rehabilitation and counseling services for substance abuse victims. Pertinent to mention that, the rehabilitation & Counselling facility for victims of substance abuse at Sanat Nagar is, in addition, to the facilities available at SMHS Hospital, IMHAANS and JVC Hospital to provide rehabilitation and counselling services for substance abuse victims. DC directed the officers to take the necessary steps to operationalize the OPD facility at the Centre at the earliest, enabling immediate rehabilitation and counseling.

Forest Division Anantnag distributes plants under "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam" campaign

HT News Network

Srinagar, February 04: Forest Division Anantnag has started a novel plantation drive by carrying a plant distribution programme "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam Campaign" among senior women citizens of Anantnag Forest Division. The campaign aims to raise awareness about the importance of trees and to promote environmental conservation. A door to door campaign was started from Utersoo block of Anantnag Forest Division wherein potted plants were distributed among elderly ladies. The initiative is part of Prime Minister's Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Campaign which is being held across the country. The Divisional Forest Officer Anantnag Forest Division informed that under the campaign around 2 lac plants will be planted in the Division and also the distribution will be carried in all Ranges of the Division. DFO informed that the campaign has been well-received by the public and people have come forward to participate in the programme and plant trees in the name of their mothers. The Forest Division is hopeful that the campaign will help to increase the green cover in the region and to create a more sustainable environment.

Govt intensifies drive against sale of unlabelled machine-made carpets

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 04 - In response to growing complaints from buyers and tourists about the sale of machine-made carpets from outside the region being falsely marketed as authentic Kashmiri hand-made carpets, the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, has further intensified its crackdown on unscrupulous carpet sellers. Several counterfeit products were confiscated and stern warnings were issued to errant dealers to ensure compliance with Quality Control standards. In a press statement issued here today, a spokesperson from the Department said that this action follows recent reports in local dailies highlighting the influx of machine-made Turkish and Iranian



carpets being sold under the guise of genuine Kashmiri hand-knotted carpets. "The enforcement wing of the Quality Control Division conducted a comprehensive inspection of several wholesale carpet dealers in Srinagar and this exercise shall continue," he added. During the inspection, the team discovered stocks of Turkish and Iranian carpets, some of which were unlabelled or partially labelled. Such practices

mislead consumers about the origin and nature of the products, constituting a violation of fair-trade practices, he stated, adding that the dealers found in violation of the Tourist Trade and Quality Control Acts will be issued warnings and advised to ensure all products are properly labelled as per prescribed specifications. "This includes clearly distinguishing between the machine-made carpets and authentic Kashmir

hand-knotted carpets," he added. The Handicrafts and Handloom Department has reiterated its commitment to maintaining transparency and safeguarding consumer interests. Regular inspections will continue to ensure compliance and protect the reputation of genuine Kashmiri hand-made carpets, which are an integral part of the region's rich cultural heritage. The spokesman further emphasized Department's commitment in upholding the integrity of Kashmir's handicrafts sector. "All stakeholders are urged to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations governing the industry. Any deviations or malpractices will be met with stringent actions to protect the interests of genuine artisans and preserve the authenticity of Kashmir's heritage."

Animal Husbandry Deptt dispels misconceptions regarding Pet Health Management in Kashmir

HT News Network

Srinagar, February 04: Following concerns raised by a clipped segment from a recent local social media podcast featuring Dr. S. Altaf Gilani, Superintendent of the Central Veterinary Hospital, the Animal Husbandry Department has issued a clarification regarding pet health and management in the Kashmir Valley to dispel misconceptions and provide accurate information to pet owners. AHD maintains that increasing trend of pet ownership in the region necessitates greater public awareness of responsible pet management including a clear understanding of the responsibilities associated with pet ownership and a commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of animals. The department empha-



sizes the critical importance of mandatory deworming and vaccination for pets, the department said in a clarification issued today. These preventative measures are essential for safeguarding animal health and preventing zoonotic diseases—those transmissible from animals to humans, the department said in clarification. Maintaining hygiene

through regular grooming, cleanliness, and veterinary check-ups is also crucial for both animal and public health. "Highlighting the "One Health" concept, recognizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. Responsible pet management and proper veterinary care contribute to a healthier community. The One Health approach

encourages collaboration across sectors, including veterinary medicine, public health, and environmental science, to address health challenges comprehensively." Dr. Anwar Hussain Nagoo, Media Liaison Officer, along with officers from the Central Veterinary Hospital, reiterated the importance of pet owners staying informed about best practices in pet care. This knowledge is vital for mitigating risks associated with zoonotic diseases and fostering a safe environment for both animals and the community. The department assures the public that pets are safe to keep when mandatory guidelines from the Animal Husbandry Department are followed. This knowledge is vital for mitigating risks associated with zoonotic diseases and fostering a safe environment for both animals.

EDITORIAL

Take punitive action against errant dealers to protect genuine Kashmiri products

The Department of Handicrafts & Handloom has embarked upon a mission to protect the genuine Kashmiri hand-made products. It is due to this reason only that the checking squads of the department have carried out raids on different shops selling fake products in the name of Kashmir. The sole aim of such a drive is to expose the people selling machine made products in the name of genuine Kashmiri hand-made products. This step is going to safeguard the interests of genuine sellers of Kashmiri hand-made products.

It would be in place to mention here that the concerned department has been receiving complaints from the buyers and tourists about the sale of machine-made carpets from outside the region. Even though these products have come from outside they are being falsely marketed and sold as authentic Kashmiri handmade products. The department has intensified its crackdown on unscrupulous carpet sellers and as such action has been taken against the people selling machine made carpets in the name of genuine Kashmiri carpets.

Several counterfeit products have been confiscated by the department and stern warning has been issued to errant dealers. These people have been asked to ensure compliance with quality control standards. Over the years there has been an influx of machine-made Turkish and Iranian carpets being sold under the guise of genuine Kashmiri hand-knotted carpets. The department has discovered stocks of Turkish and Iranian carpets, some of which were unlabelled or partially labelled.

This is not for the first time that the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom has received complaints against unscrupulous elements involved in sale of machine made products and classifying them as genuine hand-made Kashmiri products. In the past action was taken against such people but time and again there seems to be a revival of unethical practices. Ethics have no meaning for people carrying out unethical practices and at the end of the day they are concerned about the money earned by them.

Not to talk of the distant areas, these unscrupulous elements are seen roaming in the city centre while trying their best to woo the tourists. Touts could be seen in the Lal Chowk and adjacent areas and their sole aim is to woo the tourists who are seen moving around. These people deceive the tourists and try their best to motivate them to buy the fake products being sold in the name of genuine Kashmiri hand-made products.

Shrinking Agricultural Land in Kashmir: A Looming Crisis for Future Generations



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Kashmir's Agricultural Identity Under Threat

For centuries, agriculture has been the lifeblood of Kashmir, sustaining generations with its fertile lands and abundant produce. The valley's lush paddy fields, flourishing apple orchards, and world-famous saffron farms have defined its economic and cultural landscape. However, this agrarian legacy is now under serious threat.

The rapid loss of agricultural land due to uncontrolled urbanization, infrastructure development, and changing socio-economic trends has raised alarms about Kashmir's food security, employment, and environmental sustainability.

Startling Statistics: A Dangerous Trend

Recent reports from the J&K Directorate of Economics and Statistics paint a worrying picture:

Agricultural land in Kashmir has shrunk from 1.37 lakh hectares in 2000 to just over 1.2 lakh hectares in 2023.

Every year, approximately 1,500-2,000 hectares of farmland are lost to non-agricultural use.

Satellite imagery confirms that over the past two decades, prime agricultural zones have reduced by 20-25%.

At this rate, Kashmir



could soon reach a tipping point where it can no longer produce enough food for its population, making the region entirely dependent on imports.

The Driving Forces Behind Land Depletion

1. Urban Expansion: A Silent Land Grab

The rapid growth of cities like Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, and Pulwama has resulted in massive encroachment on farmlands. As real estate demand surges, developers are purchasing agricultural land and converting it into residential colonies, shopping malls, and commercial complexes.

Weak zoning regulations allow this transformation to occur unchecked, leading to irreversible loss of fertile land. Farmers, facing economic hardship, often sell their land for quick financial relief, further accelerating the crisis.

2. Infrastructure Projects: Development at a Cost

While modern infrastructure is crucial for economic progress, it is coming at the cost of Kash-

mir's agricultural future.

The Srinagar Ring Road project, Banihal-Srinagar railway expansion, and multiple industrial zones have displaced large swathes of farmland.

Once a field is paved over, its soil loses fertility permanently, making it impossible to reclaim for cultivation.

3. Farming Becoming Less Attractive

Agriculture in Kashmir is facing a generational shift. Young people are moving away from farming due to:

Low profitability: Rising costs of seeds, fertilizers, and labor make farming less viable.

Uncertain markets: Farmers struggle with fluctuating prices and poor access to larger markets.

Lack of government support: Subsidies and incentives for farming remain inadequate.

With fewer farmers to continue traditional practices, more agricultural land is being abandoned or sold off.

4. Climate Change: A Growing Challenge
Erratic weather pat-

terns, shifting monsoons, and declining snowfall are making farming increasingly difficult.

Soil degradation, water shortages, and increased pest infestations are further reducing the viability of agriculture.

As farming becomes riskier, more people are choosing construction and commercial ventures over cultivation.

The Consequences: What's at Stake?

1. Food Security Crisis
Kashmir has historically been self-sufficient in staple crops. However, with shrinking farmland:

The region is now importing rice, vegetables, and pulses from other states.

Food prices are rising, making basic commodities unaffordable for many.

A major supply chain disruption could lead to a severe food shortage.

2. Unemployment and Economic Instability

Agriculture employs a significant portion of Kashmir's workforce. As farmland disappears:

Thousands of farming-dependent jobs are at risk.

Supporting industries (seed suppliers, transporters, and laborers) will suffer financial losses.

Rural migration to cities will increase unemployment and put additional pressure on urban infrastructure.

3. Environmental Damage and Biodiversity Loss

The conversion of farmland into urban spaces disrupts ecosystems.

Deforestation, soil erosion, and depletion of groundwater are accelerating.

Wildlife habitats are being destroyed, leading to a decline in biodiversity.

Extreme weather events such as floods and droughts are becoming more frequent due to reduced green cover.

4. Loss of Kashmir's Cultural Heritage

Agriculture in Kashmir is more than just an economic activity—it is a way of life, passed down through generations.

Traditional farming techniques, local seed varieties, and community-based practices are disappearing.

The loss of agriculture could permanently alter Kashmir's rural identity.

Urgent Action Needed: How to Reverse the Trend
If this crisis is to be averted, immediate intervention is necessary.

Enforce Strict Land Use Policies: The government must implement and strictly enforce zoning laws to prevent unauthorized conversion of farmland.

Provide Incentives for Farmers: Farming should be made financially viable through better subsidies, modern irrigation systems, and guaranteed market access.

Promote Sustainable

Development: Infrastructure projects should be planned with minimal damage to agricultural zones. Smart urban planning can help strike a balance.

Raise Awareness: Communities must be educated about the long-term consequences of selling farmland and encouraged to adopt sustainable farming methods.

Encourage Agro-Tech and Innovation: Adoption of high-yield seeds, greenhouse farming, and precision agriculture can help boost productivity and make farming profitable again.

The Time to Act is Now
The shrinking agricultural land in Kashmir is more than just an economic issue—it is a crisis that threatens the future of the region. Without immediate and decisive action, Kashmir risks losing its agrarian identity, becoming entirely food-dependent, and facing severe socio-economic consequences.

If we do not act today, future generations will inherit a valley where farmland is a thing of the past, replaced by concrete jungles, food insecurity, and environmental degradation. The choice is ours to make—do we protect our agricultural heritage, or do we let it vanish forever?

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4. Field Reports from Local Farmers & Agricultural Experts

The Miracle of Lord Buddha

SIDHARTH P K
(WRITER/TEACHER)

Buddha is touched and felt all over the universe in grace and various forms of enlighten. Buddha is the awakening to the human thought, his message lies in the present, in past and in today's

future. As Lord Buddha said his kingdom is peace and there prevails absolute harmony. That notion makes Buddha a spiritual genius who gave India a new meaning of divinity. The light that still has no blink. Buddha's path is the justification to man's sorrow and his truth.

The developed state of consciousness is the focus of his teachings. His story is the story of an enlightened India, where man is identified not with the beast nor brute, but as with the relation of truth. He said to humanity, you are the reason to your sorrow and the liberation of

the worldly, with material, life chants one with spiritual duty and goal. Buddha is a great teacher, whose teachings are plain and simple in its aspect and life. He treats with wisdom.

In the eight-fold path, as Buddha brought, he sets an eight direction in life, to surrender the

delusion of pain, sorrow. Buddhism is the prevailing truth that is identified with the grace of human life. Buddha's are everywhere, where there is a plant, a light in darkness, my lord you are there. Lord Buddha offered India a new path, a new culture, a new form of conscious-

ness. The truth shall set you free of all sadness. Buddha's compilation is evident from various sources of his oral transmission.

In light, in dark, in sorrow (dukka), Buddha is there for India. Buddhism doesn't deny anyone; it adopts the life as a blessing to be.

Bilal Ahmad Lone: A Traveler of True Love, A Beacon of Literature and Sincerity



MOHAMMAD ARAFAT WANI

The onset of any societal or intellectual change is always ignited by the struggle and tireless efforts of a few remarkable individuals. These are the people who illuminate the world with their existence, whose presence is not just a blessing, but their thoughts and actions serve as a lamp, spreading light in the darkest of times. Bilal Ahmad Lone is one such personality, who holds a unique position not only through his academic journey but also through

the depth of his poetry, humanitarianism, and spirituality. His work, like his character, not only brings peace to hearts but also provides a spiritual solace.

Family Background and Educational Journey

Bilal Ahmad Lone hails from an academic, religious, and cultural family, a lineage that holds a prominent place in the promotion of knowledge and literature. From a young age, Bilal demonstrated intellectual growth, recognizing the importance of education, and expanded his learning accordingly. After obtaining his M.A. and B.Ed degrees, he devoted himself to the noble profession of teaching, where he not only imparted academic knowledge but also played a role in shaping the ethics and character of his students.

Association with Literature

and the Identity of Bilal Qasir

Bilal Ahmad Lone's poetry carries a depth and delicacy that resonates with the heart and mind of the reader. Known by the pen name Bilal Qasir, his poetry is not just a play of words but a truthful and impactful narrative that introduces its audience to realities, loves, and messages of spirituality. His verses mirror the states of the soul, where mysticism, knowledge, and divine love emanate. The ghazals of Bilal Qasir echo the heartbeat of his soul, where every word reflects the reality of life, the pain of passed moments, and a unique portrayal of love.

Divine Remembrance and Spiritual Connection

One of the most defining characteristics of Bilal Ahmad Lone is his constant engagement with the remembrance of God and



the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). His poetry reflects his deep spirituality and faith. In his verses, one can sense his immense love and reverence for Allah and His Messenger (PBUH). While one side of his poetry speaks of the transient nature of the world and the frailty of humanity, the other side conveys a message of turning towards Allah's love and guidance. In his ghazals, the themes

of truth, faith, and love for humanity are profoundly present.

Humanitarianism and Reformist Nature

Along with the spiritual depth in Bilal Ahmad Lone's poetry, there is also a strong message of humanitarianism. His life's mission is not solely focused on personal peace or worldly success but extends much further to work for the welfare of others. His ghazals convey a reformist nature and a compassionate message for humanity. Bilal has always emphasized the importance of love, peace, brotherhood, and unity within his circle, and his poetry clearly reflects the image of a kind and virtuous soul.

The Impact of Bilal Ahmad Lone's Poetry

The impact and charm of Bilal Ahmad Lone's poetry lies in the sentences and

words of his verses. Each word and couplet in his ghazals reflects profound thought and philosophy, prompting every reader to reflect upon their own existence.

Ghazal No. 1:

Your heart is lost in your assumptions

And you are lost in the infinite sky.

I saw you within myself
Where did you disappear in the heavens?

Even from the soul, your connection is lost

Why did you lose yourself in mere flesh and bone?
Thus, you will lose to me

For my arrow has been lost in the bow.

The secret of both companions is the world

Man is lost in between them.

In search of identity,
Qasir, you are

Lost only within your

own family.

Bilal Qasir Ghazal No. 2:

Such weariness shakes my body

But still, I come to rest at your feet.

Inside me, something speaks louder

Let someone silence this silence.

Where everyone was engrossed in their happiness

I, too, shed some tears.

Facing a generation of Pharaohs

May a staff of Moses come and save us.

The world humiliates and degrades

It is foolish to give your heart to it.

When one day, all will turn to dust

Why do we try to build ourselves into a mountain?

Loneliness has nurtured me

Where can Qasir gather a gathering?

Conclusion

Bilal Ahmad Lone is a beacon that not only illuminates his immediate environment with his light but whose poetry and the values of his life serve as a guiding torch for the whole world. His verses are not only a testament to his spirituality and love for the Divine but also carry a message of humanity, love, and sincerity. The poetry of Bilal Qasir contains a unique kind of truth and reality that introduces every reader to their own essence, and his words echo a timeless love that resides in the heart forever.

(Note: **Mohammad Arfat Wani**, a passionate writer, social activist, and medical student, hails from **Kuchmulla Tral**. His email address is **wania6817@gmail.com**)

Nation needs humble and benevolent professionals



SAHIL MANZOOR
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Hate belongs to materialistic and mean people. Kindness is naturally inherited: Such people rule the world "sahil manzoor" Education has no any other alternative in any part of the world. Education provides us opportunities to open the doors of success in any desirous field. In past the trend was quite different regarding education. Like very less people acquires 10+2 or graduation having master's degree in any discipline was not every ones cup tea. When a student matriculate in his/her first attempt considered as brilliant and the parents celebrate in a very traditional way. One thing we have to get into our minds that education is still on priority in any community but corporate sector has diverted the minds of young people as they think acquiring highest degrees in any discipline in for none use. As in corporate sector people have great opportunities like they can try anywhere and can earn more than handsome earnings. But we never forget that what we have from needle to giant space-ships is only because of education. Education has no boundaries, no limits, no barriers, no distances, and no hurdles any one can acquire and change the fate of any nation, community.

When you are qualified in any stream than things are not hard and impossible for you, education opens our mind, opens the doors, and shows us the righteous and best path for our good future. In past acquiring education was hard and students wondering and covered kilometres to learn from subject specific teachers

that exercise wasted their precious hours while reaching to tuition centres. This futile exercise is still going on but students have changed their learning processes. Today students know that they achieve their goals at their homes as today we available technology we can learn great and important concepts at our home.

Responsibility of qualified people?

Almighty bestowed us with blessing of education, we are qualified, and we know things in a very better and effective way. So we have keep in our minds that we have serve what we have achieved so far and open the open the doors of success for everyone. There are people who have very little earning they too have dreams, they have their life goals but due to non-availability fee, books, and others things they quit and regret for their lifetime. Actually government provide all the facilities those who show their interests in any field like in medicines, in teaching, in engineering, in research so that they serve their nation as they have utilise the sources of common people while pursuing their dignified degrees. Never compare money for every noble cause there are doctors who are taking minimum Rs 200 to Rs 500 hundred from poor patients at their clinics for just checking up them for 10 minutes for poor patients Rs 400 Rs 500 hundreds is huge and they can, I think Rs 50 is enough as doctors who have blessed and bestowed by almighty should serve poor people for no fee.

All we want to become rich and influential personalities no one cares for the needy people. In our country we need humble and benevolent teachers, doctors, engineers who helps the nation to uplift all the downtrodden communities and provide them basic facilities on affordable charges.

Every veterans is a hero by himself as he in his lifetime has only done something for the Nation as and when the call of duty wanted him!

BY M S NAZKI

Veterans: Once they were all like us because they believed in one fact of life: To try is to invite uncertainty. Where confidence goes, success usually follows! Today they have gone old but the spirit in them never dies! In this world where monetary benefits that count a soldier whether retired or on verge of retirement will always say, When you go home, tell them of us, and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today!

The nicest veterans... the kindest and funniest ones, the ones who hated war the most, were the ones who'd really fought!

But Indian Army Veterans have a huge history and they include the ladies too and trust us they believed in just one thing: 'Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause.'

One lady once told me, 'born with a silver spoon in his mouth, he was going out with a rifle in his hand!' 'Shame, isn't it? That we only like our heroes out in the street when they are looking their best and their uniforms are 'spit and polished,' and not when they're showing us the wounds they suffered on our behalf.'

This is a tribute to our veterans but the story does not start here, it starts from World War-I in the last century!

A small compilation that will definitely bring tears to your eyes!

It's 100 years and much more since the armistice of 11 November 1918 ended what was once called "the war to end all wars". But there are still many untold stories about the Indian Army from the conflict - personal accounts that show how global the war was, and how extraordinary Indian experiences were.

Arsala Khan: Of all the Indian troops who fought between 1914 and 1918 - there were four times as many as those from Australian, New Zealand,



Canada, South Africa and the Caribbean combined - Arsal Khan of the 57th Wilde's Rifles was the first to go into battle. He led the troops of the first Indian company to enter the British trenches on the western front, in Belgium on the night of 22 October 1914. Arsal Khan went on to serve until 1918, in France, Egypt, German East Africa and India. Then, in the summer of 1919, he represented his regiment in London at the official Indian victory parade. With a thousand other Indian veterans, he marched past the city's greatest war monument, the Cenotaph, where many of them broke into tears.

Amar Singh: World War One's great Western writers - from Wilfred Owen and Winston Churchill to Siegfried Sassoon and many more - have long been among the most famous. But there was one writer in the Indian Army who wrote something perhaps even more extraordinary: Captain Amar Singh penned what is possibly the world's longest diary. Spanning 89 volumes from the 1890s to the 1940s, Singh's incredible diary covers his experience of the war from India to the western front and Britain, and on to the Iraq front, with his troopship dodging German U-boats in the Mediterranean along the way. Singh finished the war back in India, where in 1917 his wife, Rasal, gave birth at their home in Rajasthan to their daughter Ratan. The baby girl was their sixth child and the first to survive disease in infancy, giving them new hope for a happy post-war family life.

Awal Nur: Awal Nur (centre) belonged to the most famous Indian Army regiment of 1914-18, Queen Victoria's Own Corps of Guides. He served in Belgium, France and East Africa from 1914 to 1917, and he was wounded three times. But his most extraordinary exploit was on His Majesty's secret service. Nur was one of 16 Indian soldiers specially

chosen to join British officers on a secret Indian Army mission into Soviet Central Asia in early 1918. On the direct orders of London, the mission's goal was to stop Soviet resources in Central Asia from reaching the Germans by railway and the Caspian Sea. Nur's adventures as a secret agent took him across the Himalayas on a yak, before he worked tirelessly with other officers to frustrate enemy plans and escape capture.

Mir Dast: Mir Dast was the older brother of Mir Mast, a deserter and German secret agent. Dast was more like his brother than meets the eye: he also deserted. He sailed for France in 1914, four months after his brother. It's not known if they saw one another there. Yet it's unlikely as they served in different divisions, places and battles on the western front. In April 1915, Dast won the Victoria Cross for his actions in Ypres under chemical attack. The Germans had released poisonous chlorine gas from trench cylinders in yellow-green clouds that rolled on the breeze over the attacking Indian troops. "I inhaled the gas, say, for eight or ten seconds," Mir Dast estimated, "It brought water from my eyes and nose." Yet he fought on, rescuing wounded comrades and carrying them back to the British trenches into the night. In August 1915, the medal was pinned to Dast's chest by King George V in

front of a special audience in a hospital in England. Dast returned to India in early 1916 to recuperate from wounds inflicted by the gas as well as other battles. When he returned to duty with his regiment in 1917, he was a war hero celebrated in the Indian media. Yet Dast decided to quit the British service that year. He did so by joining his brother on the roll of deserters, an inconvenient truth the British covered up. Legend, which views Dast as ultra-loyal and his brother, Mast, as disloyal, has it that Mast won the Iron Cross, the German honour for military service. But this is a myth - he, in fact, won a medal for diplomatic service, the German Order of the Red Eagle.

Pratap Singh: Pratap Singh, an aristocratic officer of the Jodhpur Lancers, had an incomparable mix of energy, professionalism and charm. He was 73 years old when he went to war in 1914, becoming the oldest soldier in the British trenches on the western front. But he was still young at heart. An indefatigable socialite, Singh would take leave of his regiment in France to dine with the powerful and famous - the list included French President Raymond Poincaré, the French Army's Commander-in-Chief Joseph Joffre, King Albert I of Belgium and the British Royal family. Singh's two teenage sons, Hanut and

Sagat, joined him in the trenches also as officers of the Jodhpur Lancers. He took them with him when the Lancers moved to the Middle East in 1918, and they served together in Egypt, Jordan and Palestine. Singh's performance was astounding in September 1918 in Palestine at the Battle of Megiddo - the Indian Army's crowning battlefield achievement against the Turks to confirm the Ottoman Empire's downfall. Aged 74, he stayed in the saddle for 24 hours among charging horsemen on the offensive. Yet this feat proved too much even for him; he had to retire sick. But within weeks Singh was back on his feet pleading to represent India at the Paris Peace Conference. "Of all the soldier princes of India, I think I am the only soldier who has stuck to his post at the front throughout the war," he wrote to King George V to make his case. The British did not grant him his wish, leaving him to rue the punitive Treaty of Versailles imposed on Germany in 1919. "Politically, it was a mistake," he wrote at the time. "I am sure the Germans would not rest without taking revenge some day."

They were all legends but perhaps forgotten now! The ones mentioned above set examples for others to follow as the baton crossed hands from one to another as the generations passed by!

All these veterans have left their imprints on sands of time and have just the great memoirs to live with till the time they live! We as a Nation should salute them as they did something great for the Nation! The greatest of all was that they guarded the frontiers of the Nation as we slept in peace! Every veteran is a hero by himself as he in his lifetime has only done something for the Nation as and when the call of duty wanted him! Great men who still walk around with their heads held straight and chin up! Do not forget the great smile on the face which is still bright!

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'Nipun Bharat' moving towards better understanding of language and reading

PRIYANKA SAURABH

The Ministry of Education launched the Nipun Bharat Programme 2021, a national initiative for proficiency in reading with comprehension and arithmetic to ensure that every child in the country acquires basic literacy and arithmetic comprehension by the end of Grade 3 by 2026-2027. The Nipun Bharat Mission has been launched under the aegis of the centrally sponsored Samagra Shiksha Yojana; it will focus on providing access and retaining students in the basic years of schooling, building teacher capacity, tracking each child's progress towards learning outcomes, and developing high-quality and diverse student and teacher resources/learn-

ing materials. The recent Annual Status of Education Report provides a ray of hope by revealing significant improvement in basic learning outcomes, especially in Grade III. This development is partly due to the Government of India's concerted efforts to improve educational quality, in which the Nipun Bharat Mission is playing a key role.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 established the framework for promoting foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN). It emphasized early childhood education as a critical component of holistic educational development. Nipun Bharat Mission: A Game Changer The National Initiative for Reading, Comprehension, and Numeracy (NIPUNA) Bharat, launched in 2021,

is a mission of the Ministry of Education. Nipun Bharat aims to improve the reading, writing, and arithmetic skills of children aged 3 to 9 years. The components of Nipun Bharat are Improve your oral language listening comprehension, vocabulary, and conversational abilities. Learn to read written words by learning the relationship between symbols and sounds. Learn basic numeracy to use simple math ideas to solve everyday situations. Plans for Nipun Bharat implementation are made by the state and union territory administrations.

To understand learning levels, the National Council of Educational Research and Training carries out basic learning research. Nipun Bharat's features include interesting curric-

ulum and teaching-learning resources that cost Rs 500 per child. It gives each teacher Rs 150 for resource material and Rs 5,000 for courses aimed at enhancing their capacity. It gives states Rs 10 to Rs 20 lakh for student assessment and between Rs 25 lakh and Rs 1 crore for state and district-level project man-

agement units. According to stories of the impact of the Nipun Bharat Abhiyan, teachers use songs to make mathematics more interesting. For example, the recent Annual Status of Education Report 2024 states that Grade III pupils have improved their reading skills (24% to 34%) and subtraction skills (29% to 41%).

Young readers like Shragtika Ghosh are examples of how the adoption of vibrant and relevant workbooks has improved literacy outcomes in Odisha. Mathematics is taught through songs by primary school teacher Ravi Sharma. As they learn numbers, they chant the slogan, "Ek-do thala lo, teen-char chalo bazaar." Shragtika Ghosh, a second grader, can now read Odia books with confidence. Colorful and relevant workbooks enhance core literacy. Nipun is essential, but it has some difficulties. After initial academic progress, many children struggle in later classes. Marginalized children often enter school lacking basic competencies. Nipun Bharat took four years to deliver results.

Its impact will be greater if it is extended to 2030. It is important to invest in early childhood education (ECE) and provide learning support to classes III-V.

As they move on to more complex ideas, many children still struggle with basic education. Lack of early preparation creates additional barriers for marginalized communities. As the four-year journey of Nipun Bharat shows, systemic change requires sustained efforts. To have a more profound and lasting impact, Nipun Bharat 2.0 is being extended to 2030. Expand to grades III-V to bridge the knowledge gap between higher-order and basic skills, improve preschool instruction, and prioritize early childhood education to increase student readiness for primary school.

The results demonstrate that progress is possible with the right resources and policies. The goal of expanding Nipun Bharat is to transform lives, not just increase numbers. India has a chance to guarantee high-quality education for all children and set a worldwide standard in basic education by committing immediately to Nipun Bharat 2.0.

The Nipun Bharat program has resulted in a remarkable improvement in the language, writing, learning, and reading skills of each child. It aims to teach National Initiative Proficiency in Comprehension and Numeracy to Class 3 primary school children.

Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist.

Sakeena Itoo addresses conference 'Mission Cancer – J&K's Fight against Cancer in the coming Decade' at GMC Jammu

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 04: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today remarked that the present Government led by Omar Abdullah is committed to provide all possible assistance to cancer patients with creation of best advanced facilities in both the State Cancer Institutes at Jammu and Srinagar.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing a day long conference "Mission Cancer – J&K's Fight Against Cancer in the coming Decade"

at Government Medical College here. The conference was organised by GMC Jammu in collaboration with 'BCPBF-The Cancer Foundation' and 'Friends of GMC Jammu', to commemorate the World Cancer day.

Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah; Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Director SKIMS, Dr. Ashraf Ganai; Principal GMC Jammu, Dr. Ashotush Gupta; noted Oncologist of J&K, Dr. Sameer Kaul; Director ASCOMS Jammu, Deans of different specialities, HoDs, doctors and researchers besides large number of medical and para-



medical students were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo emphasised the urgent need for a multi-faceted approach to tackle the rising incidences of cancer in Jammu and Kashmir. She highlighted the significance of early detection, advanced treatment infrastructure and public awareness, in reducing the burden of cancer.

"Cancer is not just a medical challenge; it is a social and economic crisis that affects thousands of families across J&K. We must work collectively to enhance screening programs, promote preventive healthcare, and ensure equitable access to modern treatment facilities

across urban and rural areas for all patients," Sakeena maintained.

She also lauded the efforts of healthcare professionals, doctors and paramedics, acknowledging their role in changing the healthcare landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. She called for greater government support, increased funding for cancer research and expansion of palliative care services.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Farooq Abdullah spoke about the role of medical professionals for the society. He highlighted that the medical is very noble profession which touches numerous lives.

Weekly Block Diwas DC listens to people's issues at Marwah

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 04: As part of the District Administration's extensive public outreach initiative, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan convened the weekly Block Diwas camp at the far-flung Sub-Division Marwah to address public grievances and assess developmental needs.

A large number of locals, including prominent citizens, participated in the event and apprised the DC of various issues concerning infrastructure, health, education, road connectivity, communication, and electricity. Specific concerns were raised regarding fair-weather roads, healthcare services, and public transport.



Listening attentively to public grievances, the DC resolved several issues on-the-spot and directed the concerned officers to ensure prompt redressal of the remaining matters. He assured the people that the functioning of government offices in Marwah would be streamlined, with strict action against erring officials and necessary steps taken to address staff shortages.

The DC instructed SDM

Marwah to ensure punctuality of government employees through regular monitoring and strict vigilance. Additionally, he directed XEn PMGSY to expedite the road construction in the region and complete it within the stipulated time frame to alleviate public hardships.

Emphasizing road and mobile connectivity as top priorities, the DC assured the people that all necessary steps would be taken

to improve these essential services.

During the event, a pledge was also taken against drug abuse and criminal activities, reinforcing the administration's commitment to a crime-free and drug-free society.

A deputation of young girls demanded skill development training, and the DC issued on-the-spot instructions for the opening of training centers.

The issues of the PMAY survey also came under discussion and the DC ordered BDO that no eligible person shall be left out from the survey.

For BPL ration cards, the DC asked the AD, FCS&CA to include eligible persons, such as daily-rated and casual laborers, if their income is below the ceiling limit.

DC reviews implementation of HADP credit-linked schemes in Udhampur

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 04: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai convened a meeting with officers from various line

departments and representatives of banking institutions here today to review the implementation of credit-linked schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Pro-

gramme. The meeting, held at Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex, focused on assessing the performance matrix, sanctioning and disbursement status of cases under HADP in the

district. The DC directed all concerned departments and banks to ensure maximum outreach, covering every farmer and farming family in the district under these schemes.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR PAHALGAM
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer PAHALGAM) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of BARIQ AHMAD KHATANA S/O MOHAMMAD QASIM KHATANA R/O GOJRAN BATAKOTE BATAKOTE Tehsil ANANTNAG Distt. ANANTNAG having verified the date of Birth as 20/12/2016 and event has been shown to today be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class PAHALGAM

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR PAHALGAM
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer PAHALGAM) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of FAISAL HAMEED BHAT S/O ABDUL HAMEED BHAT R/O SRICHEN Tehsil ANANTNAG Distt. ANANTNAG having verified the date of Birth as 10/03/2013 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class PAHALGAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, AAYAT ZEHRA, daughter of Muzaffar Hussain Sofi, holder of Indian Passport No. SG1063855592019, issued by Republic Of India on 28/06/2019, hereby notify that my correct Date of Birth is 16/10/2015 instead of 14/09/2013 mentioned in my passport. Any person having any objection to this correction may please contact me at Garipora Bemina within Six Days after this notice.

Muzaffar Hussain Sofi
F/o: Aayat Zehra
Cell No: 7006722518

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHAMMADA BANO S/O GH HYDER PANDITH R/O AUTHOORA RSHOPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 02/04/1979 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my RC Of My vechile Scooty Bearing Registration No JK04F- 8918 some where at home... Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he may contact ARTO Budgam within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name... Gulzar Ahmad Bhat
S/O Abdul Aziz Bhat
R/O Yarikah Budgam Khansahib

PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughter's name has been wrongly written as WANI ANABIA D/O LATEEF AHMAD WANI while my correct name is ANABIA LATEEF D/O LATEEF AHMAD WANI R/O DARWA FRESTWARI which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the office of BDO WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name... ANABIA LATEEF
S/O... LATEEF AHMAD WANI
R/O DARWA FRESTWARI

Govt. Of Jammu & Kashmir (U.T)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION VAILOO
FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No.86/814352 of R&B/Vailoo /2024-2025/e-tendering/ DATED:04/02/2025
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Approved Amount (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.in Form of Treasury challen / Receipt (in Rs)	Earnest Money (2% of Adv.Cost) (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Project Intending Department	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account
1	Secondary ACR at Govt. HS Krad	17.527	800	35054	60 Days	Education	BEE/CEE Class	PAB
2	Construction of ACR at MS CI Dass	10.361	600	20722	60 Days	Education	BEE/CEE/DE PAB E Class	PAB

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

S. No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04.02.2025
1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04.02.2025
2.	Period of Downloading of bidder documents.	From 04.02.2025 04.00 pm
3.	Bid submission Start Date	From 04.02.2025 04.00 pm
4.	Bid Submission End Date	To 11.02.2025 04.00 pm
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	12.02.2025 at 10.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailoo

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/ challan remitted in Head-0059 and Earnest Money for 2% of Advertised Cost in shape of CDR/ FDR only. Pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division vailoo (tender receiving authority) (Name of work or ENIT no. and Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury receipt/ challan (The date of Treasury receipt/Challan should be between the date of start of bid end Bid submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Vailoo (Tendering Inviting Authority). 5% Performance Security of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/ FDR by the Successful bidder. Minimum of Two bids are necessary to decide L-1 bidder in case of Contractors.

The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of allotted cost as performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 07 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of defective liability period of the work.

The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security.

Only those contractors are eligible for taking part in the bidding process whose contractor registration card is enrolled online on the JKPWDOMS portal.

The Advertiser is not inclusive of GST@18%. The bidder has to quote the rate exclusive of GST.

Security Deposit shall be deposited by the contractor within 10 days of issuance of LOI, failing which the concerned tender **issuing authority shall forfeit the EMD and recommend contractor for blacklisting and issue a fresh tender forthwith.**

The contractor shall initiate the work within 10 days of entering into the agreement, failing which the undersigned shall terminate the contract and issue a fresh tender after imposing penalties viz forfeit security/LD as per T&C of the Bid document and recommend contractor for blacklisting.

The work shall be completed by the concerned contractor as per the timeline stipulated in the bid document/agreement, failing which action shall be initiated against contractor by forfeiting EMD and shall be recommended for blacklisting.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division vailoo (tender receiving authority).

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-
Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

The intending bidders should write the name of work / serial No. of NIT and item No. on the Treasury receipt / challan while uploading their bids. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

DIPK-11543/24
Date: Feb 4 2025

-Sd/-
Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Vailoo

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of SADDAM HUSSAIN PARRAY D/O ALTAF HUSSAIN PARRAY R/O HAIL JAGIR Tehsil KHOEI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 21/07/2016 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHAMMAD HUSMAN PARRAY D/O AILAZ SHAFI PARRAY R/O HYGAM Tehsil KHOEI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 06/05/2021 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KRREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of HANIFA BEGUM W/O ABDUL QAYOUM THOKER R/O KALANTRA BALA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 13/04/1962 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of ABIHAHAFEEZ D/O HAFEEZULLAH KHAN R/O KALANTRA BALA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 11/10/2023 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KRREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of HASHIM RAMZAN S/O MOHAMMAD RAMZAN KHAN R/O SALOOSA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 01/04/2017 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR WAGOORA
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of GH MOHD GANIE S/O LASSI GANIE R/O WAGOORA Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Death as 01/04/1964 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class WAGOORA

DC Pulwama reviews progress of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission

HT News Network

Pulwama, February 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Pulwama Dr. Basharat Qayoom today conducted an extensive review of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in District Pulwama.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of borewells under various schemes linked to JJM, Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance (WQMS) and various Water Supply Schemes (WSS).

Emphasizing the impor-



ance of timely execution, the DC urged the teams to ensure the completion of all ongoing projects by or before March 2025.

The meeting focused on achieving the Har Ghar Jal

certification, reinforcing provision of safe and sustainable water access to every household.

The Executive Engineers from JSD Pulwama and Awantipora informed that

out of the total 25 and 21 borewells in their respective areas, 18 and 17 schemes have been successfully completed.

Additionally, the DC was informed that the Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage has a pending completion of less than 13%, reflecting significant progress in the initiative.

Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division South Awantipora also briefed regarding the status of electro-mechanical works and the installation of electric substations.

DC Shopian inaugurates 2-day seminar on Bee Keeping

HT News Network

Shopian, February 04: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today inaugurated a two-day seminar on bee-keeping at Meeting Hall, Mini-Secretariat, which is being organised by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shopian.

The Seminar highlighted the significance of Bee-keeping in enhancing agricultural productivity through pollination besides offering additional income



sources such as honey, wax and breeding stock.

Speaking on the occasion, DC urged concerned officers to ensure the benefits of all the schemes for apiculture development

including HADP reach to the potential farmers.

He also assured full support for initiatives that encourage sustainable apiculture and rural entrepreneurship.

Experts on the occasion, emphasized on creating awareness and providing training in bee-keeping to youth & farmers for sustainable agriculture and economic development.

ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, CAO, Farooq Ahmad, KVK head, Zaffar Ahmed, concerned officers and officials besides progressive farmers attended the programme. ADC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, CAO, Farooq Ahmad, KVK head, Zaffar Ahmed, concerned officers and officials besides progressive farmers attended the programme.

Registration date for CUKashmir's PG admissions extended

HT News Network

Ganderbal, Feb 4: The registration deadline for admission to various Post-Graduate (PG) programmes offered by the Central University of Kashmir, through the Common University Entrance Test (CUET-PG) 2025, conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) has been extended.

As per the revised schedule, the online application process, initially set to close on February 1, 2025, has been extended until February 8, 2025 (11:50 PM). Similarly, the deadline for the final fee transaction is now February 9, 2025, and the correction window for application particulars will be open from February 10 to February 12, 2025.

The PG programmes include: M.Tech Computer Science & Engineering, M.A. English, M.A. Urdu, M.Com, M.A. Mass Communication & Journalism, M.A. Economics, M.A. Political Science, LL.M, M.Ed., Integrated B.Ed.-M.Ed, M.P.Ed, M.A. Islamic Studies, M.Sc. Botany, M.Sc. Chemistry, M.Sc. Zoology (Lateral Entry), M.Sc. Biotechnology (Lateral Entry), M.Sc. Physics (Lateral Entry) and M.Sc. Mathematics (Lateral Entry). For queries, candidates can contact the Directorate of Admissions at 9469147277 or 7889593153 during office hours.

IGNOU Extends Fresh Admissions and Re-Registration Deadline to 15th February 2025

HT News Network

Srinagar, February 04, 2025: The Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the last date for fresh admissions and re-registration for the ongoing academic session to 15th February 2025.

This extension aims to accommodate learners who were unable to complete their admission formalities within the earlier deadline. This year, IGNOU has introduced Four-Year Undergraduate Programmes (FYUP) in disciplines such as Commerce, Economics, History, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology, Anthropology, Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu, Social Work, Philosophy, Biochemistry, and Facilities and Service Management. Prospective students can choose from a network of study centres across the Kashmir Valley, including government degree colleges, SKIMS, NIELIT, Composite Regional Centre Srinagar, Kashmir University, and centres in the Union Territories of Kargil and Ladakh. The Regional Centre Srinagar also serves as a special study centre for programmes not available at other Learner Support Centres.

For students interested in information technology-based programmes like BCA, MCA, and MSCIS, NIELIT Srinagar is available as a study centre. NIELIT will also provide mentorship and training programs to support entrepreneurship among students in the IT and electronics sector.

Dr. A. H. Rizvi, Regional Director of IGNOU, stated that the extension of the admission and re-registration deadlines ensures that more learners can access educational opportunities.

In addition to fresh admissions, the last date for re-registration for January 2025 has been extended to 15th February 2025 for all programmes offered in ODL (Open and Distance Learning) and online modes. Students are encouraged to complete their re-registration for the 2nd or 3rd year of their programmes promptly. Dr. Rizvi added. Prospective students and learners can visit the official IGNOU website at ignou.ac.in or the Regional Centre Srinagar's website at rcsrinagar.ignou.ac.in for further details.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of key Centrally Sponsored Schemes

Farooq Rather

the left out households so that all eligible beneficiaries are covered



Kulgam, February 04: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a comprehensive meeting with officers from various departments to review the progress made under several key centrally sponsored schemes and programmes.

During the meeting, he reviewed Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), Mission Indradanush, PM -JAY, PM- UJWALA, PM-Sawa-Nidhi, PM-Mutru Vandana Yojana, PM-Vishwa Karma, PM- Mudra, PM-Poshan and KCC.

On the occasion, DC emphasized for achieving 100% saturation in all the schemes and programmes.

He directed the officers to meet the weekly targets to reach out

by the end of February. While reviewing the progress of schemes, he interacted with the beneficiaries to know their on ground experience regarding the implementation of scheme in the district.

The importance of inter-departmental collaboration, timely reporting, and rigorous monitoring was also underlined to ensure efficient implementation and to meet the desired outcomes.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Zahid Sajjad, Assistant Commissioner Development Syed Naseer, District Programme Officer, General Manager DIC, CEO, CHO, CAO, Executive Engineer of Jalal Shakti, AD CAPD, AD Handloom and other officers from various departments.

DC Ganderbal discusses action plan for SANJY-2025

HT News Network

Ganderbal, FEBRUARY 04: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a high-level meeting in the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat to discuss the comprehensive action plan for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2025.

The meeting commenced with a review of the action plan submitted by concerned departments, with a strong emphasis on enhancing the quality of services and infrastructure.

Discussions revolved around key focus areas, including improvements in health services, sanitation, flood protection measures, parking facilities, mobile connectivity, transport services, contingency plans, and other vital infrastructure to ensure a seamless Yatra experience for



pilgrims.

Heads of Departments provided updates on their respective preparations and ongoing projects related to SANJY-2025. The DDC underscored the importance of submitting finalized work plans timely, to enable the timely execution of development works critical to the successful

conduct of the Yatra.

Officers shared their insights and experiences from the previous year's Yatra, contributing valuable suggestions to further enhance the services provided to pilgrims.

The DDC assured immediate redressal of the issues raised by officers and issued specific directions

to concerned departments to address them promptly.

The meeting was attended by SSP Ganderbal, Ragav S, Additional Deputy Commissioner Gulzar Ahmad, DFO Sindh Forest Division, SDM Kangan, Executive Engineers from various departments, and officers from other line departments.

Langate Holds Candlelight March to Condemn Killing of Retired Army Jawan in Kulgam

DR. AB QAYOOM

Langate, Feb. 04: In A heartfelt display of unity and condemnation against terrorism, the people of Langate held a candlelight march on Monday evening to protest the brutal killing of a retired Army jawan in Kulgam, South Kashmir. The march, attended by a large number of residents, was a tribute to the fallen soldier and a call for peace in the region. The candle light march was organized by civil society members, trade and transport bodies, youth forums, social activists, and students, this march began from Main Chowk Langate, with participants holding candles and banners, raising their voices against the ongoing violence. The demonstrators expressed their grief, anger, and solidarity, demanding an end to senseless killings that



continue to disrupt lives and families.

"The barbaric killing is an affront to humanity," said a local youth while speaking to the media, echoing the collective sentiment of the

crowd. Many participants called for justice and emphasized the need for peace and security in the region. The march also served as an acknowledgment of the efforts of security forces

and the administration in maintaining law and order despite growing challenges. "The administration and security forces are working tirelessly to protect the people," a participant remarked, urging the community to support measures aimed at curbing terrorism.

The demonstration concluded at the historical public park of Langate, where a solemn tribute was paid to the slain soldier. A moment of silence was observed as the residents stood united against the cycle of violence, reaffirming their collective aspiration for a terror-free and peaceful Kashmir. This candlelight march was a powerful message of resilience and unity, reflecting Langate's firm stance against terrorism and its unwavering hope for a future where innocent lives are no longer lost to brutality.

DC Kupwara chairs DDMA meeting 26 cases approved for relief under SDRF norms



HT News Network

KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 4: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan who is also Chairperson, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the cases pertaining to property damage in the district.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure submission of joint assessment report of damaged infrastructure in their jurisdiction within a weeks' time

and also ascertain the reason of the incident and duly mention it in the report so that relief is disbursed among the affected families without any delay.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed case wise review of all the claims pertaining to property and livestock damages in the district. During the meeting, a total of 27 cases relating to the landslide/flood, earthquake and fire incidents were put forth for discussion, out of which 26 cases were approved for grant of relief under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms and 1 case was deferred for revision. The meeting was attended by ADC Kupwara, ACR, Tehsildars and other concerned officers.

DC Reasi approves activity calendar for Int'l Year of Cooperatives-2025

HT News Network

REASI, FEBRUARY 04: Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik convened a meeting of the District Cooperative Development Committee to approve the calendar of activ-

ities for the International Year of Cooperatives 2025, themed "Cooperatives Build a Better World."

The Deputy Commissioner held discussions with committee members regarding the proposed calendar, which includes organizing Sehkar



Mela, awareness camps, plantation drives, and debate competitions in schools and colleges in collaboration with different departments.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the implementation of decisions taken in Joint Working Committee

meetings, the progress of the world's largest Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector, and an overall evaluation of the cooperative department's functioning in the district.

A detailed presentation on the department's working

was given by Deputy Registrar Cooperative Bhawani Attri. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of these initiatives in strengthening the cooperative movement and increasing public participation.

CS for adopting multi-pronged strategy to optimise tourism potential of Jammu

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 4: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of all the stakeholders including tourism players from Jammu to seek their suggestions for optimal utilisation of tourism potential of this region especially in the wake of nearly one crore pilgrims visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine (SMVDS) in Katra.

Those who attended the meeting included Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Tourism; Secretary, PWD; CEO, SMVDSB; DC, Jammu; DC, Reasi; MD, JKTDC; Director Tourism, Jammu and other officers of the Department.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary sought sug-



gestions from the representatives of hoteliers, transporters and other tourism players about the ways and means to attract these pilgrims coming to this shrine to other religious or tourism destinations spread across the region.

Dulloo said that the tourism players too had a role to play in promoting places in and around Jammu. He suggested them to come up with concrete suggestions and plans for each of the

destination. He advised them to frame two, three or four day packages based upon the potential and intensity of each place.

He further asked them to look into a mix of activities in each package inclusive of spiritual, eco-tourism, leisure, cuisine, culture and adventurous aspects. He enjoined upon them to offer several baskets along with Shri Vaishno Devi Yatra so that people are able to choose as per their choice

and inclination.

The Chief Secretary also urged them to look for creation of a lot of promotional content as we have different success stories to guide us. He maintained that the continuous uploading of content over social media besides other promotional campaigns is definitely going to bear fruits over time.

He committed that the government would extend all kind of support to realise the objectives. He added that a plan for each season should be ready for joint promotion of the same with active support of the Tourism Department.

Dulloo also underscored the need for having better infrastructure and amenities at all these sites. He told them that the government

DC Rajouri reviews implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission Stresses timeline completion, contractors' accountability

HT News Network

RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 04 Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes in the district. He emphasized the need to adhere to the prescribed timelines for scheme completion and directed concerned officers to expedite the execution of works.

Taking a firm stance on accountability, the Deputy Commissioner ordered the blacklisting of defaulting contractors and instructed officials to impose penalties as per the terms and conditions of the contract.

He also directed Junior Engineers (JEs) to conduct regular site visits to ensure the quality and timely execution of projects.

The review also covered the electro-mechanical components of completed schemes, with DC seeking updates on their operational status.



During the meeting, he interacted with contractors, who shared insights into the challenges faced during the execution of works.

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma reiterated the administration's commitment to ensuring the successful implementation of JJM, thereby providing safe and reliable drinking water to the residents of

Rajouri.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer PHE, Executive Engineer JPDC, Executive Engineer R&B, representatives from the Quality Control & Planning Division (QC&PD), the District Project Management Unit (DPMU) team, and the Third-Party Inspection (TPI) team of Rajouri.

Sunil Sharma raises concern over rising crime in Jammu with Lt. Governor

HT News Network

JAMMU:-Jammu and Kashmir BJP General Secretary & Leader of Opposition, Sunil Sharma, has raised serious concerns over the increasing crime rate in Jammu, urging Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, to take immediate action to ensure public safety.

Sunil Sharma had called on the LG to discuss the prevailing situation in the UT, Jammu in particular regarding spurt in incidents of thefts, murders, robbery.

Sunil Sharma stressed that the growing law and order problem is causing fear among residents and called for enhanced policing, stricter enforcement of laws, and effective initiatives to curb criminal



activities in Jammu.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve a secure environment. Rising crime not only threatens public safety but also impacts tourism and economic development," Sunil stated. He urged the administration to increase police patrolling, set up special task forces, and leverage technology such as CCTV surveillance to deter criminals.

Sunil also emphasized the need for stronger mea-

sures against the drug menace, which is affecting the youth. He called for rehabilitation programmes, awareness campaigns, and stringent action against drug peddlers to tackle the crisis.

Sunil reaffirmed his party's commitment to work with authorities to ensure a safer and more prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. He urged citizens to remain vigilant and cooperate with law enforcement agencies.

Udhampur hosting Resham Kissan Mela on Feb 8 Director Sericulture reviews arrangements

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 04: Director Sericulture Department J&K Ajaz Ahmad Bhat today chaired a meeting at the Directorate of Sericulture Development Department, Camp Office, Jammu, to review the preparations and arrangements for the upcoming Resham Kissan Mela, scheduled to be held on 8th February, 2025 in District Udhampur.

The Resham Kissan Mela is being organized with the objective of disseminating awareness among Silkworm Rearers and farmers about the latest advancements in the field, offering them a platform to gain firsthand knowledge from experts and scientists from the Central Silk Board and the Department of Sericulture. The event will feature exhibitions, live demonstrations, and stalls showcasing various sericulture products, ensuring a comprehensive learning



experience for all attendees.

During the meeting, the Director emphasized the need for effective coordination and meticulous planning to make the event a success. He directed the officers to put in place all arrangements in the Kissan Mela and ensure adequate

logistics, technical sessions, and farmer interactions, to maximize the benefits for the farming community. The Resham Kissan Mela aims to educate and empower Silkworm Rearers, Farmers, youth and women folk by introducing them to modern technologies, sci-

entific rearing techniques, and sustainable sericulture practices. Experts from the field will provide hands-on training and guidance on improving productivity and quality in sericulture.

A special highlight of the mela will be the felicitation of progressive sericulture farmers, recognizing their contributions and achievements in the sector. The event will also serve as a networking opportunity for farmers, industry stakeholders, and experts, fostering knowledge exchange and skill enhancement. The Sericulture Department cordially invites all stakeholders, including Silkworm farmers, youth, women, agricultural experts, and the general public, to actively participate in the Resham Kissan Mela. This initiative aligns with the department's vision of promoting sericulture as a viable and sustainable livelihood option in the region.

Handwara Police Organizes Grand Public Darbar in Langate to Address Public Concerns

DR. AB QAYOOM

Langate, Feb. 04: In a significant public outreach initiative, Handwara Police organized a Grand Public Darbar at the Langate Municipal Town Hall, marking the first such event since 2018. The event, held under the leadership of SSP Handwara Mushtaq Ahmad Chowdhary (KPS), witnessed a massive turnout, including members of the civil society, traders, and the general public.

The event was attended by ASP Handwara, SDPO, SHO Handwara, DO Langate, and other senior officers. Hundreds of people from across the Langate block participated, engaging in constructive dialogue with the police leader-



ship. During the darbar, prominent figures such as Traders' President Lateef Ahmad Ganie, civil society members, former Municipal Committee Chairman, and Auqaf Committee representatives raised several key issues. The discussions primarily revolved around drug abuse control, water scarcity in

various villages, and concerns of shopkeepers affected by new road developments near Jamia Masjid Shareef Langate. The Traders' Union President emphasized that they fully support developmental projects but sought a grace period for rehabilitation before road expansion proceeds.

In his address, SSP Handwara reaffirmed the police's commitment to serving the public. He assured that all grievances would be addressed promptly, directing his officers to work diligently for the welfare of society. He also urged the community, including civil society, Auqaf Committees, transporters, and traders, to actively participate in the fight against drug abuse. The public appreciated the proactive approach of Handwara Police in combating drug abuse and tackling social issues, lauding their dedication to maintaining law and order. The initiative was seen as a vital step in strengthening police-public relations and fostering a collaborative approach to community welfare.

HDFC Bank Parivartan Start-Up Grants to support over 50 start-ups with Rs 20 crore in FY25

HT News Network

Srinagar: HDFC Bank announced the launch of the eighth edition of its flagship Parivartan Start-up Grants programme. This year, 15+ incubators and accelerators have been selected and onboarded to support 50-60 start-ups working in the social impact space. The program will award grants of up to 50 lakh to selected start-ups, with a total programme budget of 20 crore.

IIT Madras, IIM Ahmedabad Ventures, Villgro, ICAR Pusa Krishi, IIT Guwahati Bionest, ASPIRE - University of Hyderabad, IIM-Calcutta Innovation Park, i-Hub Gujarat, Kerala Start-Up Mission, IFMR Catalyst AIC are among the incubators already shortlisted this year.

Over the next few months, these incubators will invite applications from social entrepreneurs across India. This initiative will culminate in a series of "Demo Day" events, showcasing start-ups to the Bank, investors, corporates, and media, ensuring

greater visibility and opportunities for these ventures.

In line with HDFC Bank's commitment to sustainable development and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, the programme will focus on AI for Social Good, Climate Innovation, Financial Inclusion, Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Economy, Education and Livelihood Enhancement and Gender Diversity and Inclusion.

Selected start-ups will represent diverse regions of India, including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana and North-East region states.

"Our Parivartan Start-up Grants programme is a testament to our commitment to fostering innovation and addressing critical societal needs. By nurturing social start-ups that are implementing solutions aimed at achieving SDG targets, we aim to support the creation of sustainable, inclusive solutions for communities across India," said Kaizad Bharucha, DMD, HDFC Bank.

Labour Commissioner visits ESI Dispensary Digiana Takes stock of facilities available for Insured Persons

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 04: Labour Commissioner J&K, Charandeep Singh Tuesday visited the ESI Dispensary Digiana, Jammu, to take stock of its overall functioning and delivery of healthcare services to Insured Persons (IPs).

During the inspection, the Labour Commissioner reviewed the Dhanwantri module, highlighting its role in streamlining healthcare services for beneficiaries. Dhanwantri module is

a Hospital Information System (HIS) to improve patient care and hospital operations. It helps doctors write prescriptions and manage patient records digitally.

On the occasion, the Labour Commissioner also interacted with Insured Persons (IPs) to understand the challenges faced by workers and assess the quality of services being provided to them. He took stock of the overall functioning of the dispensary and directed officials to expedite Medical Reimbursement Claims (MRCs) and



ensure timely procurement of essential drugs to improve patient care.

Emphasizing the importance of efficient healthcare delivery, the Labour Commissioner urged the staff to make the dispensary more vibrant and service-oriented, ensuring that all IPs receive the healthcare facilities they are entitled to. He reiterated the government's commitment to workers' welfare and called upon officials to uphold the objectives of the ESI Scheme in the Union Territory. The Labour Commissioner also

directed the staff to take immediate corrective measures for improving sanitation. On the occasion, the Labour Commissioner also interacted with Insured Persons (IPs) to understand the challenges faced by workers and assess the quality of services being provided to them. He took stock of the overall functioning of the dispensary and directed officials to expedite Medical Reimbursement Claims (MRCs) and ensure timely procurement of essential drugs to improve patient care.

DC Poonch reviews progress of Capex Budget works; Issues 3 CLU permissions

HT News Network

POONCH, FEBRUARY 04: District Development Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial progress under the District Capex Budget for 2024-25. The meeting assessed the detailed status of the ongoing projects and initiatives.

Block Development Officers (BDOs) participated virtually, providing comprehensive updates on their respective block-wise works under the District Development Council (DDC), Block Development Council (BDC), and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI). They reported on constructed and unconstructed projects, as well as those deemed non-feasible.

During the discussions, the Deputy Commissioner asked BDOs to commence pending works promptly, urging them to increase expenditure to ensure projects



are completed at the earliest. He also directed concerned officers to take necessary measures for timely execution, reinforcing the importance of maximizing fund utilization.

Executive Engineers provided detailed briefings on their respective projects to the Deputy Commissioner. Each engineer

presented an overview of the progress, challenges, and future plans for their ongoing works. The discussions included an assessment of completed projects, as well as those currently in progress.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed executive engineers to optimize the allocated funds, enabling the completion of

more projects within the set time frame.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Medical Superintendent, Executive Engineer of Ground Water, and Executive Engineers of PWD Surankote and Mendhar, who joined through virtual mode. Additionally, the Executive Engineer of PWD Poonch, Executive Engineer of JPDCL Poonch, Chief Executive Officer of the Municipality, and representatives from the Education and Sports Department, along with other concerned officers were also present.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner chaired another meeting to assess and dispose of permissions related to Change of Land Use (CLU) in the district.

After thorough deliberations, 3 cases were approved, 4 were reverted, 1 was rejected, and 2 cases were deferred for further consideration.

GCW Parade hosts awareness lecture on Wetland Conservation

HT News Network



JAMMU, FEBRUARY 04: Department of Botany, Government College for Women Parade Ground today organized a one day lecture for the students on the topic "Wetland: Threats and Conservation" to commemorate Wetland Day. The event was organized under the guidance and supervision of Principal of the college, Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo. As many as 60 students actively participated in this interactive programme. The resource person for the event was Ashwani Kumar Mittal, SFS, DFO, Urban Forestry Jammu. He sensitized the students about the relevance of wetlands and various threats faced by the wetlands today. He also stressed upon the different strategies to protect wetlands from pollution and their sustainable development. The event culminated with a plantation drive in which Ashwani Kumar Mittal, Dr. Ritu Magotra, HOD English, Dr. Rajesh Kant, HOD Chemistry, Prof. Ghanjit Singh planted saplings in the college premises. The faculty members of the department were also present in the plantation drive. The whole programme was coordinated by Prof. Aasia Rashid Bhat, Incharge HOD Botany. The proceedings of the event were carried out by Prof. Usha Devi and the formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Sukhwinder Kaur.

DD Jammu presents Coffee Table Book to DEO Doda

HT News Network

DODA, FEBRUARY 04: The Doordarshan (DD) Jammu team today presented a Coffee Table Book to District Election Officer Harvinder Singh at the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Doda.

Deputy Commissioner, who also serves as the District Election Officer, appreciated the efforts of DD Jammu for highlighting the importance of elections and voter awareness campaigns. He acknowledged that DD Jammu not only covers election-related events but also organises voter awareness programs in remote areas for the tribal community, playing a crucial role in promoting democratic participation.

The District Election Officer also praised the efforts of DD Jammu's Deputy Director, under whose guidance the team has done a tremendous job in executing voter awareness initiatives and election coverage effectively.

GDC Vijaypur organises Inter-College Quiz Competition

HT News Network

SAMBA, FEBRUARY 05: Department of Education under the aegis of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Government Degree College Vijaypur observed National Cancer Awareness Day by organising an online quiz on the theme "United by Unique".

More than 60 students from different colleges of Jammu and Kashmir participated in the competition, conducted through Google forms. The participants received e-certificates. The aim of organizing the competition was to make students aware that every experience with cancer is unique and it will take all of us, united, to create a world where we look beyond the disease and see the person before the patient.

The competition was organized under the guidance of the esteemed Principal of the college Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Verma. She articulated that 'Cancer' is more than just a medical diagnosis-it's a deeply personal matter.

DLTFC approves 75 loan cases under JKREGP in Doda

HT News Network

DODA, FEBRUARY 04: A meeting of the District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) on Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) was held today under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner Harvinder Singh to review and approve loan cases under the scheme.

The meeting was attended by District Program Officer, S. Parmjeet Singh; CPO Manesh Kumar Manhas; District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Qazi; ALC Nehal Pandit; ARTO Sheetal Sharma; Zonal Manager JK Bank, representatives from the District Industries Centre (DIC), Employment Department, SBI, J&K Bank, Polytechnic College, and other concerned departments.



At the outset, the District Officer briefed the committee about the JKREGP scheme and shared a list of 97

applicants received through the JKREGP online portal. The Committee scrutinized all cases, and 75 applicants, who were present, were interviewed regarding their proposed business ventures.

After careful evaluation, the Committee approved 75 loan applications, paving the way for aspiring entrepreneurs to start their businesses under the JKREGP scheme. The approved applicants will receive financial assistance to establish their ventures, promoting self-employment and economic growth in the district.

The DDC emphasized the importance of the scheme in generating employment opportunities and urged beneficiaries to utilize the financial support effectively. The meeting concluded with a commitment to continue supporting local entrepreneurs and fostering economic development in the region.

Orientation programme on HADP held for Ex-Servicemen at SAR Institute-Ramban

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 04: A one-day orientation programme on the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was organized for Ex-Servicemen today by the Department of Agriculture Jammu here at Baba Jitto, Kisan Kendra, Talab Tillo.

The event was graced by Maj Gen Goverdhan Singh Jamwal (Retd.), Chairman of JAK Ex-Servicemen Cooperative Store Ltd, as the Chief Guest. The programme was presided over by Director Agriculture Jammu S. Arvinder Singh Reen and attended by Joint Director Agriculture (Extension/SLUB) Satish Sharma; Lt Gen Dr. Rakesh Sharma (Retd.); Chairman JKDCL & UAMMCL Vikrant Dogra; Brigadier Dr. Vijay Sagar Dheman (Retd.); Deputy Director (Central) Dr. Ashwani Sharma; Deputy Director (Trainings) Alok Pandotra, and other senior officials.

The orientation programme aimed to familiarize Ex-Servicemen with the objectives and benefits of the HADP projects, which focus on sustainable agricultural practices. Technical Officer HADP Raj Kumar gave a detailed presentation on the various HADP projects and their potential to uplift farming communities.

Several key topics were covered by experts, including Dr. Aman Jyoti Sharma, Agriculture Chemist. He highlighted the importance of Mini/Village-level Soil Testing Labs and the judicious use of chemical fertilizers for better crop production. Assistant Entomologist Rajesh Verma discussed HADP Project No. 6 - Promotion of Apiculture, emphasizing the economic potential of beekeeping and honey production while SMS-III Kewal Sharma spoke on the potential of Mushroom Cultivation as a profitable agricultural venture for farmers and Ex-Servicemen.

District Development Council reviews pace of development activities in Kishtwar

DDC Chairperson stresses on interdepartmental coordination to meet set targets

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 04: The Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kishtwar, Pooja Thakur, today presided over the Quarterly General Council Meeting at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, Kishtwar.

At the outset, CEO General Council/ADDC Pawan Kotwal extended a warm welcome to all council members and outlined the objectives of the meeting.

During the session, the council was briefed on the Action Taken Report (ATR) regarding grievances raised in the previous General Council Meeting. Officers from the relevant line departments provided updates on the progress made in addressing these concerns.

It was reported that the majority of grievances have been resolved, while efforts were underway to address



the remaining issues within a stipulated time frame.

The Chairperson conducted a comprehensive review of the sector-wise physical and financial progress of projects under the District Capex Plan, Area Development Plan, MGN-REGA, PMAY-G, Awaas Plus 2.0 Survey and RGSA for FY 2024-25.

Additionally, block-specific issues and concerns related to various departments, including PHE, Health, JPDCL, Education, and PWD, were highlighted by DDC members, who called for their immediate resolution.

These matters were duly noted by the CEO General Council for forwarding to the concerned departments for necessary intervention. The Chairperson instructed the concerned officers to take prompt action to resolve the highlighted issues.

She also emphasized the need for executing agencies to accelerate the implementation of ongoing developmental projects and ensure their completion within the FY 2024-25 framework.

Furthermore, she urged the implementing agencies to deploy sufficient

resources and manpower to achieve the set targets.

The DDC Chairperson also raised several issues, including the construction of a Community Hall at Suid Dachan, the installation of a 63 KVA transformer at the Tehsil office building in Sounder, Lopara Khul, installation of Solar lights as per plan, execution of water augmentation schemes under JJM and electricity connectivity to residents of Thumbola Pular. She also called for the expedited construction of Huri Bridge and Suid Bridge. Additionally, she directed the concerned PWD authorities to submit documentation related to surveys of various PMGSY roads.

She stressed the importance of interdepartmental coordination to eliminate bottlenecks hindering developmental works and to ensure seamless project execution.

Cultivation of fallow land along Hiranagar Border on the anvil DC discusses Action Plan with stakeholder departments, BSF authorities

HT News Network

KATHUA, FEBRUARY 04: A high-level meeting was convened today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas here in his office chamber to discuss the action plan for encouraging cultivation on unfarmed land along the International Border in Hiranagar sector. The meeting was attended by CPO Ranjit Thakur; Chief Agriculture Officer Sanjeev Rai; Tehsildar Marheen, Lekh Raj and the officials from the Border Security Force (BSF).

The discussions focused on utilizing large tracts of



uncultivated land near the border. It was decided that the BSF and District Administration would extend technical assistance and provide necessary support to enable farmers to cultivate suitable crops in the area.

To ensure seamless agricultural activities, Tehsildar Marheen has been assigned the responsibility of formulating a practical

schedule for the smooth and hassle-free movement of farmers who have land across the fence near the zero line.

Emphasizing the importance of selecting appropriate crops, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas stressed the need for options that would be beneficial to farmers while ensuring that BSF's operational requirements

remain uncompromised. He also directed the Chief Agriculture Officer to engage all beneficiary farmers in the process to make the initiative inclusive and effective.

The BSF authorities assured full cooperation in facilitating the cultivation process so that farmers can reap the benefits of their land, which has remained vacant for years.

Pertinently, the District Administration, with the support of the BSF, has already taken significant steps to revive agricultural activities in border areas, contributing to economic upliftment and food security for the farming community.

Upgrading of Govt Hatchery among several AHD projects coming up in Udhampur

MD Dairy Development conducts on-site inspection, meets IDD, HADP beneficiaries

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 04: Mission Director Dairy Development, Narinder Singh Bali conducted an extensive tour of Udhampur District today.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr Sanjay Gupta and other concerned accompanied the Mission Director. An awareness camp was organized at CFC Chenani which was attended by members of SHGs, Pashu Sakhis, A-Help, Krishi Sakhi and farmers. The beneficiary-oriented schemes were



explained and all were motivated to avail benefits of Government schemes to start their own ventures and generate employment for themselves and others. Addressing the gathering, the MD Dairy Development made the public

every possible help by the government for new entrepreneurs. During the tour, the MD visited a farm in village Champari of a beneficiary who availed benefit under IDDS and HADP schemes. He interacted with the beneficiaries and further motivated him. He also inspected several installations of the Animal Husbandry Department like Artificial Breeding Station Kallar, Disease Investigation Lab, District Veterinary Hospital and reviewed their working. The MD also visited Government Hatchery at Kallar and took review.

Telangana CM presents social, economic, employment, education, political, and caste survey 2024 report in Assembly

AGENCIES

HYDERABAD, FEB 4 (UNI)

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy presented the Social, Economic, Employment, Education, Political, and Caste Survey 2024 report in the Assembly on Tuesday.

In his statement in the House, the Chief Minister emphasised the lack of reliable data on weaker sections in the country, which has created challenges in implementing reservations.

"Since 1931, the number of weaker sections has not been determined in India. Their figures have not been included in the population census either. This gap has made policy formulation difficult," he said.

Revanth Reddy recalled that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had pledged to conduct a caste census during the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Keeping that promise, the new government passed a resolution in the Assembly to conduct the survey immediately after coming to power.

"We have now completed the caste census and presented the report in the House today. Enumerators collected detailed data from every village and thanda in a structured manner. Each unit of 150 households was assigned an enumerator to ensure accuracy. A total of 76,000 data entry operators worked tirelessly for 36 days to prepare this report," the Chief Minister stated.

SC seeks fresh status report from Delhi police on 1984 Anti-Sikh Riot Appeals

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 4 (UNI)

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a fresh status report from the Delhi Police regarding appeals against acquittals in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, and expressed concern over the failure to challenge the Delhi High Court's refusal to reopen several cases. A bench led by Justice Abhay S. Oka questioned the inaction, remarking, "We find from the report that the high court has dismissed several cases. You (Delhi Police) have not challenged it here. A large number of cases are there. You take instructions."

The court was reviewing a status report filed by the Centre and the Delhi Police last month. The report, which was not available during the previous hearing on January 27, revealed that only two special leave petitions (SLPs) had been filed, despite the Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by Justice (Retd.) SN Dingra recommended appeals in eight cases.

SC upholds relief for landowners in NHA Cases

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 4 (UNI)

In a significant judgment, the Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed pleas filed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) seeking clarification that the Court's 2019 ruling in Union of India v Tarsem Singh on grant of solatium and interest to aggrieved landowners should apply prospectively.

A bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan stated that granting such clarification would defeat the very relief intended by Tarsem Singh. The bench emphasized that modifying the ruling would undermine the doctrine of finality in judicial decisions and delay justice for land-



owners.

"The ultimate outcome of Tarsem Singh relates to granting solatium and interest to aggrieved landowners whose lands were acquired between 1997 and 2015. Modifying or clarifying it would amount to evading responsibility and delaying a settled issue," the bench observed.

In the landmark 2019 Tarsem Singh case, the

Supreme Court declared Section 3J of the National Highways Act, 1956, unconstitutional to the extent it excluded solatium and interest payable under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, for land acquisitions by NHA.

The judgment ensured that solatium and interest provisions under Sections 23(1A), 23(2), and 28 of the Land Acquisition Act applied to acquisitions under the NH Act.

NHA later sought clarification on whether this ruling would apply prospectively to avoid reopening cases where compensation determinations had attained finality.

Rejecting NHA's plea, the Court underscored the need to eliminate discrimination between landowners whose

properties were acquired by NHA between 1997 and 2015 and those whose lands were acquired post-2015.

"When a provision is declared unconstitutional, disparity affecting a select group must be rectified, particularly when it strikes at the core of Article 14," the bench noted. The Court also dismissed concerns about the financial burden of Rs. 100 crores raised by NHA, stating that the cost would ultimately be borne by commuters and not project proponents under the public-private partnership model.

The Court finally directed the competent authority to compute the solatium and interest payable to landowners under the Tarsem Singh case.

Bhutan King participates in Maha Kumbh, takes holy dip, participates in rituals



AGENCIES

LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI, FEB 4 (UNI)

Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, who is in India to participate in the Maha Kumbh, on Tuesday took a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The Bhutan King,

after bathing in the river, also participated in holy rituals on the banks of the river, to the accompaniment of chants of Vedic hymns.

King Jigme Khesar was also seen rowing a large houseboat alongside the UP CM Adityanath, and also feeding the river birds. He also performed the holy aarti of the river.

Will not tolerate graft in farm sector: Chouhan in LS

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 4 (UNI)

Asserting that the government is committed towards the welfare of farmers and would not tolerate any irregularities, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday warned of strict action against those involved in corruption. Replying to a question raised by NCP-SP member from Baramati Supriya Sule during the Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, Chouhan said that payments are being made to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana without any delay.

Sule said the Maharashtra Agriculture Minister had on record made a statement that



there had been Rs 500 cr corruption in the PM Fasal Bima Yojana. And an MLA of the ruling party had corrected the corruption amount as Rs 5,000 cr.

"I want to know whether the Maharashtra minister has informed about the corrup-

tion to the Union government and whether you will order an investigation into the matter," she said. The Minister, while responding to the member's allegation, said he was not aware about the matter as was being informed by the member.

Akhilesh Yadav demands all party meeting on Maha Kumbh stampede

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 4 (UNI)

Samajwadi Party National President and Kannauj MP Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday slammed the Central government over the stampede in Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj and demanded an all party meeting to ascertain the "root cause" of the incident.

Participating in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address in the Lok Sabha, Yadav said "When the government is continuously giving the budget figures, it also should give the figures of those who died in Maha Kumbh. I demand an all-party meeting should be called to give clarification about



the arrangements for Maha Kumbh".

According to the figures provided by the Uttar Pradesh government, 30 people were killed and 60 injured in the stampede that occurred during the Mauni Amavasya at the Mahakumbh on January 29. The SP National President

also demanded strict action against those who are behind the stampede.

He said the figures for the deaths in Maha Kumbh accident, treatment of injured, availability of medicines, doctors, food, water, transport should be presented in the Parliament.

SCO Secretary General on India visit, to meet with EAM Jaishankar

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 4 (UNI)

Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Nurlan Yermekbayev, who is on his first official visit to India, will be holding talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today.

Yermekbayev, who arrived in the wee hours of Tuesday, will also hold talks with Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh at Hyderabad House on Thursday. He will later deliver a lecture at Sapru House. The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson said in a post on X:

"Warm welcome to Mr. Nurlan Yermekbayev, Secretary-



General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), on his first official visit to India.

"This visit underscores our commitment to enhancing regional cooperation, security, and trade & economic development."

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is an inter-governmental organization of now nine member countries - India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Iran.

SU-57, F-35A vie for India's attention at Aero India

AGENCIES

BENGALURU, FEB 4 (UNI)

The stage is set for a historic showdown at Aero India 2025, as two of the world's most advanced fighter jets - Russia's SU-57 Felon and the USA's F-35A Lightning II - prepare to battle for India's future Air Force fleet.

In the wake of China's unveiling of its sixth-generation fighter jet, India is under mounting pressure to modernise its air combat capabilities, and this competition could determine which fighter will lead the charge in fortifying India's aerial defences.

At the heart of this fierce rivalry is the SU-57 Felon, a fifth-generation stealth fighter developed by Russia. With its cutting-edge design, advanced avionics, and formidable fire-



power, the SU-57 has earned global recognition as one of the most sophisticated aircraft in the skies.

For Aero India 2025, Russia is pulling out all the stops, offering the SU-57 to India at a reduced price. The generous offer comes as part of Russia's strategy to strengthen diplomatic ties with India, while providing amuch-need-

ed upgrade to the country's ageing fleet. The SU-57's sleek profile, multi-role capabilities, and long-range strike potential make it an attractive option for the Indian Air Force.

However, the competition is anything but one-sided. For the second consecutive year, the F-35A Lightning II will make a return to Aero India, following its successful debut

at the 2023 event.

The F-35A, renowned for its unrivalled stealth capabilities, cutting-edge sensors, and versatility, is already a favourite in the global market. The aircraft's potential to conduct multi-role missions and its ability to penetrate the most heavily defended airspace make it a compelling candidate for India's modernisation efforts.

The F-35A's design and technological advancements are a testament to American aerospace superiority, and its successful track record in combat situations further enhances its appeal.

India's decision on which fighter jet to choose will not be easy. The stakes are high, and Aero India 2025 will serve as the battleground for a competition that will shape the future of the Indian Air Force.

Bombay HC grants bail to accused in Pandemic Khichdi scam

AGENCIES

MUMBAI, FEB 4 (UNI)

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted bail to Suraj Chavan, a Shiv Sena (UBT) functionary who was arrested early last year for his alleged role in a purported Rs 6.37 crore scam related to the distribution of khichdi among migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Justice Milind Jadhav, while granting bail, directed that the accused be released on a provisional cash bail of Rs 1 lakh immediately, Chavan has been permitted to provide one or two sureties of the same amount within four weeks from his release.

Granting the conditional



trial and not to take unnecessary adjournments during the same.

As per ED, Chavan was suspected to have been involved in financial irregularities linked to the distribution of "Khichdi" by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to migrant workers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The ED said Chavan was arrested as he failed to explain the links and did not cooperate in the probe.

In his bail plea, Chavan had told the court that the central agency had a pick-and-choose policy, as the owner of the company Force One Multi Services, who got the work orders, was not arrested despite having more influence.

Himachal gets Rs 2,716 Cr for Railway expansion in 2025-26 Budget: Minister

AGENCIES

SHIMLA, FEB 4 (UNI)

To boost railway infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh, the Central Government has allocated Rs 2,716 crore for the state in the 2025-26 Railway Budget.

The announcement was made by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw during a virtual press conference last evening, where he outlined the key allocations and projects aimed at enhancing connectivity and passenger facilities in the hill state.

The budget reflects a marginal increase of Rs 18 crore compared to the previous year's allocation of Rs 2,698 crore. The funds will be uti-



lised for the expansion and modernisation of railway infrastructure, including the completion of ongoing projects and the upgrading of key railway stations.

Four major railway stations in Himachal Pradesh—Amb-Andaura, Baijnath-Paprola,

Palampur, and Shimla—will be upgraded under the Amrit Station scheme at a cost of Rs 45.5 crore.

These upgrades are expected to significantly improve passenger amenities and provide a more comfortable travel experience. The work on these

stations is set to commence soon, marking a new phase of development for the state's railway network.

Himachal Pradesh, despite its challenging terrain, has seen steady progress in railway infrastructure over the past decade. Since 2014, the state has added 16.5 kilometers of new railway tracks, and four major railway projects are currently underway.

These projects involve the laying of 255 kilometers of new tracks, with an estimated expenditure of Rs 13,163 crore. Additionally, 24 rail flyovers and underbridges have been constructed during this period, improving connectivity and reducing travel time.

Lower cholesterol linked to shift to plant-based meat alternatives

Plant-based meat alternatives mimic aspects of meat but are made of plants. A systematic review and meta-analysis published in The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition examined how plant-based meat alternatives impact aspects of cardiometabolic health.

The findings suggest that switching out meat for plant-based meat alternatives for 8 weeks or less may help lower total cholesterol by approximately 6% and low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, also known as “bad” cholesterol, by approximately 12% in adults without cardiovascular disease.

The authors conclude that using plant-based meat alternatives might help people transition to plant-based diets but that researchers need to conduct long-term studies to truly examine the cardiometabolic effects of plant-based meat alternatives.

How does switching to plant-based meat alternatives support cardiometabolic health?

Recent data suggest that consuming more plant and less animal protein could help lower the risk for cardiovascular disease and coronary heart disease.

The current review notes that there has been recent interest in eating less meat and switching to more plant-

based foods for health and environmental reasons. As this research notes, plant-based meat alternatives “are designed to mimic the appearance, aroma, flavor, texture, and other eating experiences of meat and meat products.”

Plant-based meat alternatives have varying nutritional value; many are considered ultra-processed foods. However, this label can also be applied to many meat products.

For this analysis, researchers wanted to focus on data from randomized controlled trials to look at the impact of plant-based meat alternatives on cardiometabolic parameters in adults without cardiovascular diseases.

Researchers used several databases to identify relevant studies. They excluded studies that focused on traditional plant-based meat alternatives like tofu, which are minimally processed meat replacements and “not designed to resemble meat.”

They also excluded studies that used insect-based meat alternatives or cultured meat. They did include mycoprotein products, a meat alternative derived from high-protein fungi.

Researchers assessed the studies for risk of bias in five different domains. The final review included data from eight publications covering seven randomized controlled



trials. In all, they were able to look at data from 369 adults.

The studies compared diets with plant-based meat alternatives to typical diets with animal-based meat consumption. Researchers conducted meta-analyses when four or more studies examined the same health outcome.

Researchers identified three factors primarily affected by plant-based meat alternative consumption: total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, and weight. LDL cholesterol is often called “bad” cholesterol, as it can increase the risk of heart disease and stroke.

The results suggest that switching out meat for plant-based meat alternatives for eight weeks or less may help lower cholesterol by 6.6% and LDL cholesterol by 12.1%.

Overall, the intervention of plant-based meat alternatives only reduced weight by 1%, so it did not reach a level of clinically significant weight loss.

Additionally, the weight loss reductions were only observed in two randomized controlled trials that had overweight participants. Researchers did not observe a difference in weight among participants who had normal body mass indexes.

Researchers did not observe effects on HDL “good” cholesterol, triglycerides, blood pressure, or concentrations of fasting blood sugar.

How do mushroom-derived meat alternatives affect cholesterol?

Sensitivity analyses looking at just mycoprotein-based substitutes, which are derived

from mushrooms, found that mycoprotein-based foods appeared to significantly help reduce total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol.

Researchers note that mycoprotein products tend to have higher levels of fiber, lower saturated fat, and higher unsaturated fat than other plant-based meat alternatives.

Ching Jian, PhD, a researcher fellow at the Human Microbiome Research Program, University of Helsinki in Finland, with a background in gut microbiota, metagenomics, dietary interventions, and functional foods, who was not involved in this review, told Medical News Today that it was “well-conducted and provides much-needed insights into the health effects of plant-based meat alternatives, particularly

regarding cholesterol levels.”

What further research on plant-based meat alternatives do we need?

Since this review looked at the short-term use of plant-based meat alternatives, it cannot speak to the potential long-term effects.

For example, researchers acknowledge that the short time frame may have been inadequate to evaluate the long-term effects of plant-based meat alternatives on other risk factors, such as blood sugar.

There is a possibility that the trials were not “adequately powered to detect statistically significant differences in cardiometabolic disease risk factors.”

These data focused on adults who did not have cardiovascular diseases, so the findings may not be generalizable to other groups. Additionally, the trials were only out of three countries, so data from other countries may be useful in future research.

Thirdly, the research included a small number of trials, and these trials had fairly small sample sizes.

There was also a small number of studies included in the meta-analyses, and researchers did not conduct any meta-regression or publication bias analyses. The authors were also not able to conduct meta-analyses on

certain variables like insulin because of the lack of available data.

Manufacturers of plant-based meat alternatives funded seven of the eight publications, which could lead to bias in the results. Researchers were unable to do a conflict of interest sensitivity analysis because of the small number of studies.

Researchers further identified varying levels of bias risk among the publications, and three were identified as having a high bias risk. The main struggle with bias was because double-blinding was not possible with the intervention.

There was also variety regarding the nutrient profiles of the plant-based meat alternatives. The authors noted that plant-based meat alternatives may not all have the same effects on cardiovascular parameters.

The authors acknowledged that what meat the substitute is replacing may influence the cardiometabolic effects and that the effect on weight loss may differ based on the study population.

It is important to note that all the included studies had limitations and were different from one another. More research may be required to look at various cardiometabolic factors and how plant-based meat alternatives may affect them.

Moderate-intensity exercise could help suppress hunger

Moderate-intensity exercise appears to have resulted in a reduction of appetite in people with overweight and obesity in a new study conducted by researchers from Iran and Australia.

While this may disappoint those who hope they can eat more because they exercise, the good news is that the reduction in hunger may make achieving weight-loss goals a bit easier.

The study – which appears in the journal *Physiological Reports* – found that proteins associated with appetite suppression increased immediately following an hour-long exercise session, at the same time that a reduction of an appetite-stimulating hormone was observed. The peptides are produced by muscles during physical exertion.

The appetite inhibitors that increased in levels were the cytokine protein interleukin 6 (IL-6) and the hormone-like protein irisin, while levels of the hormone neuropeptide Y (NPY), the stimulant, fell.

The researchers also tracked the responses to exercise of interleukin 7 (IL-7) and leptin, but saw no notable changes in their levels due to exercise.

Study participants were also questioned by the researchers, and reported reduced sensations of hunger after exercise.

The study, conducted in Iran, involved eleven males with obesity who were metabolically healthy, non-smokers, taking no medication, and living inactive lifestyles as defined by the International Physical Activity Questionnaire.

All participated in two randomized crossover trials separated by at least seven days. The four-hour trials – which included meals and measurement-taking – were identical except that one included a 60-minute bicycling exercise period and the other a rest period instead. This exercise-less trial was used as a control.

Exercise linked to appetite suppression

According to the authors of the study, until recently, much appetite research has focused on hormonal influences. This has now changed, with a greater appreciation of myokines, cytokines, adipokines, and in



particular, peptides as potentially important factors in appetite.

This is underscored by the popularity of GLP-1 drugs such as Wegovy and Ozempic, which mimic the glucagon-like peptide-1 hormone, which helps control hunger.

Mir Ali, MD, a board-certified general surgeon, bariatric surgeon and medical director of Memorial-Care Surgical Weight Loss Center at Orange Coast Medical Center in Fountain Valley, CA, who was not involved in this study, told Medical News Today he was “not surprised by the findings from this study” because “there are complex interactions of many hormones to induce hunger or satiety.”

“Although this study was a small sample,” Ali noted, “it does show that we do not have a full understanding of this aspect of obesity.”

In turn, Ali pointed out that “the appetite suppressive effect reported in this study seems to be much less than what patients report with GLP-1 medications.”

“Some data,” Anderson noted, “has shown that post-exercise appetite suppression may be blunted in individuals with obesity, while others have shown similar responses between those who are obese and lean.”

Nonetheless, it is a complicated situation, she said. “Due to the wide

variability in protocols – meal status (whether they are fasted or ate food beforehand), exercise mode, duration, and intensity – it is difficult to form a consensus.”

Exercise offers subtle boost for weight management

The authors of the study suggest that exercise may be viewed as yet another means of appetite-control for people with overweight or obesity. It is, of course, a healthful idea in any event.

“Unfortunately,” opined Ali, “most of my patients do not report feeling less hungry after exercise, and indeed feel they can eat more because they have exercised.”

“Although there are many factors that are involved in whether an individual is hungry or not,” said Anderson, “exercise may be a tool to acutely suppress appetite and may aid in weight loss/management programs.”

“One thing that people may take away from this study is that people should try to listen to the signals the body is sending them,” Ali emphasized.

“If after exercise, they feel less hungry, then they should try to eat less. In my experience, people tend to ignore these types of subtle signals,” he reported.

Some bacteria in the mouth may play a role in memory loss and dementia

As people age, their memory and thinking skills naturally decline. Approximately 15% of older adults experience mild cognitive impairment, a major risk factor for dementia and other forms of dementia such as Alzheimer’s disease.

Since cognitive decline and dementia are growing public health concerns, scientists are working to better understand the risk factors and find ways to reduce them. One emerging area of research suggests that oral health may play a role in brain health.

Now, a new study suggests that the bacteria living in the mouth may influence cognitive function as people age, with some harmful bacteria possibly contributing to the development of dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.

The findings were published in the journal *PNAS Nexus*.

Diet affects the oral microbiome

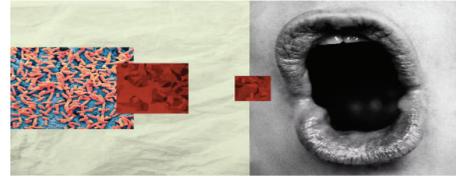
In this study, researchers analyzed the oral microbiome of 115 individuals, including 55 with mild cognitive impairment.

Some participants carried the apolipoprotein E4 (APOE4) allele, which is linked to an increased risk of cognitive decline and Alzheimer’s disease.

Within the mild cognitive impairment group, a higher abundance of *Neisseria* bacteria was associated with better executive function and visual attention.

Among healthy individuals, *Neisseria* was linked to stronger working memory.

The presence of *Porphyromonas* bacteria was a key predictor of mild cognitive impairment, while *Prevotella* intermedia was linked to APOE4-



carrier status.

The researchers noted that diet influences the oral microbiome, with nitrate-rich diets – such as the Mediterranean diet and the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) diet – supporting bacteria that are beneficial for cognitive function.

Diet supports bacteria that are good for cognitive function

James Giordano, Ph.D., Pellegrino Center Professor, Departments of Neurology and Biochemistry at the Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, DC, not involved in the study, spoke to Medical News Today.

“This study was well-conceived and -conducted, and built upon extant research that has fortified a link both between the gut microbiome and brain function, and the role of the oral microbiome and health,” Giordano explained.

“Specifically, the authors demonstrated that the presence of particular species of oral microbiome flora appear to be instrumental to circulatory and cerebral production of the gaseous neuromodulating chemical nitric oxide (NO),” Giordano said.

“NO has been shown to affect cerebrovascular tone and to regulate the intracellular signaling processes crucial for neural functions, inclusive of those operative in cognitive processing. NO has also been shown to exert protective effects against neuroinflammatory processes operative in loss of neural function that is

contributory to cognitive impairment,” he continued.

Poor oral health, gum disease may be implicated in dementia

Gum disease, or periodontitis, has been linked to poorer cognitive function. Researchers believe this connection may be due to the presence of harmful bacteria in the mouth, such as *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, *Treponema denticola*, and *Prevotella intermedia*.

These bacteria contribute to gum disease by causing inflammation and damage, but they may also affect the brain in ways that increase the risk of cognitive decline.

One way oral bacteria may influence brain health is by entering the bloodstream when there is damage in the mouth, such as bleeding gums.

Once in the blood, these bacteria can travel to the brain, especially in people with Alzheimer’s, as the blood-brain barrier – the protective shield that normally keeps harmful substances out – becomes more porous in the disease.

In fact, bacteria linked to oral infections have been found in the brain fluid of people with brain infections, and *P. gingivalis* has been detected in the brains of Alzheimer’s patients.

Oral bacteria may also influence inflammatory pathways

Another possible way that oral bacteria could contribute to cognitive decline is through their

effect on the immune system.

These bacteria in the mouth can damage its protective barrier, making it easier for harmful substances to get into the bloodstream.

This can lead to inflammation that spreads throughout the body.

Long-term inflammation has been connected to brain aging and memory problems, meaning these bacteria might affect more than just oral health.

These findings highlight the importance of maintaining good oral hygiene, not just for healthy teeth and gums but also for long-term brain health.

How to support the oral microbiome

Giordano pointed out that “these findings strengthen evidence that oral health and maintenance of key species of the oral microbiome are instrumental for brain health.”

“[T]hese findings suggest that re-establishment or supplementation of a dominant population of particular species of oral microflora may be beneficial to mitigating neuroinflammation and sustaining neuro-cognitive functions,” he said.

Jennifer Bramen, PhD, senior research scientist and director of neuroimaging at the Pacific Neuroscience Institute in Santa Monica, CA, who was also not involved in the study, explained that incorporating nitrate-rich foods into your diet can benefit the oral microbiome.

In conclusion, Giordano added that “this study offers promise both for sampling the flora of the oral microbiome as putative predictive biomarkers of brain health, and fortifying the beneficial species of oral microbiome flora to maintain brain health and function.”

Jonathan Anthony stuns Olympians to win gold

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, FEB 4 (UND)

In a remarkable display of talent and composure, fifteen-year-old shooting sensation Jonathan Anthony defeated a field of Olympians to clinch the gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event at the National Games in Uttarakhand.

The Karnataka prodigy, in only his second appearance at a senior national event, finished with a score of 240.7, narrowly edging out Services' Ravinder Singh (240.3) and Gurpreet Singh (220.1), who took silver and bronze respectively.

"I can't believe this," said an overwhelmed Anthony after the competition. "To win gold, especially against shooters who have represented India at the highest level, is just a dream come true. Today was my day, and I'm incredibly proud of how everything came together."

Anthony's triumph was all the more impressive given the quality of opponents he faced, including Tokyo Olympian Saurabh Choudhary.

The qualifying round saw both Anthony and Choudhary shoot identical scores of 578, with each scoring inner 10s, but it was Anthony's superior final series that saw him edge past the Youth Olympic champion and multiple World Cup medalist. Choudhary, who has a wealth of international



experience, had to settle for fifth place.

The final also featured Paris 2024 bronze medallist Sarabjot Singh, another Olympian with a decorated resume. However, it was the young Anthony who maintained his composure under pressure, ultimately securing the gold and becoming the youngest-ever National Games champion in the men's 10m air pistol event. Sarabjot Singh finished in fourth place with a score of 198.4.

"I've always looked up to shooters like Saurabh and Sarabjot," said Anthony. "It's surreal to be standing alongside them as the winner today. This victory means so much more because I had to beat some of the best shooters in the country."

While the men's 10m air pistol event provided an exhilarating climax, the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event also featured stellar performances. Olympian Sift Kaur

Samra delivered a commanding performance, securing the gold for Punjab with a score of 461.2. Her staminate Anjum Moudgil bagged silver with 458.7, while Telangana's Surabhi Bhardwaj Rapole earned bronze with 448.8.

For Samra, the victory marked a personal triumph. "This feels like a comeback after the Olympics," said Samra.

"I didn't take a break and kept training. Winning gold today feels extra special, and I'm pleased with how I executed my routine and focused on the small details that made the difference. It's wonderful to share the podium with Anjum, who's an incredible shooter."

The National Games, 2025, showcased India's rising potential in shooting, with young talent like Jonathan Anthony making a bold statement on the national stage by upstaging seasoned Olympians.

Karnataka star Desinghu breaks national record

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, FEB 4 (UND)

Karnataka's rising star, Dhinidhi Desinghu, etched her name in the history books by setting a new national record in the women's 400m freestyle event at the National Games 2025 in Uttarakhand on Monday.

The 14-year-old, who represented India at the Paris Olympics, clocked an impressive 4:24.60 at the Manaskhand Tarantal in Golapur, breaking the previous national record of 4:24.70 held by Hashika Ramachandra from last year's senior nationals. Dhinidhi also shattered the meet record of



4:27.93, previously held by Delhi's Bhavya Sachdeva.

Dhinidhi's remarkable performance didn't stop there. She teamed up with Srihari

Nataraj, Akash Mani, and Nina Venkatesh to clinch gold in the mixed 4x100m freestyle relay, finishing in 3:41.03.

This victory took Dhinidhi's medal tally to an impressive nine at the National Games, including five golds. Her medal haul also includes a silver in the 50m butterfly and a bronze in the 4x100m medley relay.

Earlier in the week, Dhinidhi had a sensational outing, winning three gold medals in one day. She triumphed in the 200m freestyle with a time of 2:03.24, the 100m butterfly in 1:03.62, and the women's 4x100m freestyle relay in 4:01.58. Notably, she also

broke her own national record in the 200m freestyle.

In the 4x100m freestyle relay, Dhinidhi was joined by Nina Venkatesh, Shalini R Dixit, and Latiesha Mandana. Her golden run continued with victories in the 50m freestyle (26.96) and the women's 4x200m freestyle relay (8:54.87), alongside Shirin, Shalini Dixit, and Meenakshi Menon. Dhinidhi's dominant performances have not only highlighted her incredible talent but also underscored her growing stature in Indian swimming, setting the stage for even greater accomplishments in the future.

IPL Lucknow owners agree deal for Manchester Originals

AGENCIES
LONDON, FEB 4 (UNI)

Manchester Originals have become the second Hundred franchise to partner with an Indian Premier League team after Lancashire agreed a deal with Lucknow Super Giants, media reports said.

RPSG group, owners of the Super Giants, put a total value of £116m on the Originals in Monday's virtual auction, the BBC reported.

They agreed to take a 70% share in the Originals, meaning Lancashire have become the first host to hand over a controlling stake.

To go with the four deals last week, the sale of shares in five Hundred teams comes to about

£366m, the report said.

RPSG were in the running to buy a stake in London Spirit, only to lose out. In investing in the Originals, they are believed to have beaten off bids connected to IPL sides Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Lancashire chief executive Daniel Gidney had previously been open about the county's desire to partner with an IPL team.

A Lancashire statement said, "We have been very focused on securing a great partner - ideally from the IPL - and RPSG has been our preferred bidder for some time. We are delighted by the outcome and look forward to working together to create an exciting future. Together,

we have a shared ambition to create a very special cricket team for the people of Manchester and the wider North West region."

Lucknow are a new IPL team, formed as part of the league's expansion in 2021. The RPSG group also owns Durban Super Giants in the South Africa T20 league.

Last week, Surrey negotiated a £60m price with the owners of Mumbai Indians for a 49% stake in Oval Invincibles, the county retaining the 51% share given to them by the ECB.

That was followed by three similar deals. Warwickshire agreed a 49% sale of Birmingham Phoenix to Birmingham City owners Knighthead Capital and Glamorgan sold the

same stake in Welsh Fire to IT entrepreneur Sanjay Govil for £40m.

In between, a price of £145m for 49% of Lord's-based London Spirit was agreed between Marylebone Cricket Club and a Silicon Valley consortium led by Nikesh Arora. The size of that deal confounded expectations at the ECB.

Lancashire's deal is different. They have also opted to sell 21% of the 51% in the Originals they were gifted by the ECB, retaining the other 30%.

According to reports, the county will use the proceeds to lower their debt, continue the development of a second ground in Farington, build a new indoor school and improve facilities for members.

Preeti Jhangiani elected Asian ArmWrestling Federation VP

AGENCIES
TASHKENT, FEB 4 (UND)

Preeti Jhangiani, President of the People's ArmWrestling Federation India (PAFI), etched her name in history by becoming the Vice-President of the Asian ArmWrestling Federation.

The announcement was made at the Asian ArmWrestling Federation Congress held here, during the World Arm Wrestling Cup.

In a unanimous vote, Preeti secured the position with the backing of all the countries present at the Congress, marking a significant milestone for the sport in India and Asia.

As a result, she now joins the executive council of the Asian ArmWrestling Federation, a recognition of her tireless efforts to promote the sport across the region.

The Congress was graced by several distinguished dignitaries, including World Arm Wrestling Federation President Assen Hadjitodorov, Asian ArmWrestling Federation President Dheenbek Mukambetov, World Arm Wrestling Federation General Secretary Mircea



Simionescu-Simicel, and Asian ArmWrestling Federation General Secretary Ahmed Aliyev.

Preeti has long been an advocate for the growth of ArmWrestling in India, having worked closely with state governments and sports associations nationwide. Under her leadership, PAFI has successfully organised various state championships and mega matches, in partnership with the Pro Panja League, fostering both the sport's development and its increasing fan base.

Over recent years, ArmWrestling has experienced significant growth, both in terms of professional athletes and fan following. This expansion is

largely attributed to the efforts of PAFI, led by Preeti, whose dedication has earned her the prestigious Vice-President role within the Asian ArmWrestling Federation.

Expressing her excitement about the new position, Preeti said, "Feeling blessed to have this opportunity and represent India at the world stage. I promise to work hard and do everything in my control to ensure India's ArmWrestling community gains even more recognition and popularity. This is a great chance for us to collaborate with other Asian countries and improve the quality of the sport together in the continent."

Kazakhstan Alpine ski team departs for Harbin Asian Winter Games

AGENCIES
ALMATY, FEB 4 (UND)

A send-off ceremony was held for Kazakhstan's national Alpine ski team as they departed from Almaty to Harbin on Monday to participate in the 2025 Asian Winter Games.

Kazakhstan has produced strong alpine skiers who have

competed in various international events, including past Asian Winter Games and the Winter Olympics. The team aims to build on this legacy in Harbin.

"Right now, we are determined to bring home medals," stated head coach, Alexander Kostrov.

"As I see it, I have been preparing for this my entire

life. I approach each competition with the goal of achieving strong results for our country," said athlete Ksenia Berzhnaya.

The 9th Asian Winter Games will be held from February 7 to 14, in Harbin, north-east China's Heilongjiang province. Thirty-four countries and regions are expected to participate in the event.

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