



BUDGET SESSION 2025-26

CM Omar Abdullah chairs pre-budget consultation meetings with various stakeholders

Discusses Pulwama & Reasi budget plans with public representatives

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 7: Continuing with the pre-budget consultations for the third consecutive day, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah engaged in extensive discussions with public representatives and key stakeholders to gain firsthand insights into the issues and developmental priorities of various sectors



TURN ON.....PAGE 02

J&K Govt tells departments to submit money bills for necessary approvals 21 days in advance to Raj Bhavan

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 07: In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has directed departments to submit money bills at least 21 days in advance for necessary approvals

to the Lieutenant Governor's secretariat. Ahead of the budget session, the Department of Justice, Law and Parliamentary Affairs has directed departments to submit money bills for necessary approvals 21 days in advance to Raj Bhavan for LG's recommendation.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Govt to Finalize Guidelines on CDF; Announcement Likely to be Made in Budget

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 7: The Jammu & Kashmir government is in the process of framing guidelines for the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), sources disclosed.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Books only can provide true knowledge: LG Sinha Visits World Book Fair, says digital world has changed perspective of humans

HT News Network

New Delhi, Feb 07: Stating that the digital world has changed the perspective of human beings, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that books only can provide "true knowledge."

Talking to reporters at the sidelines of the World Book Fair here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The digital world has changed



human perspectives. It can provide inspiration, but not true knowledge (gyan). Books

only can provide true knowledge. Youth need to become avid readers if they want to build their lives."

LG Sinha during his visit to the Fair commended the endeavour of National Book Trust, India, under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, for providing an engaging platform to book lovers, publishers and authors.

He has also asked the National Book Trust to regularly organise annual book festivals in

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

J&K govt directs departments, officers to accord priority, protocol to MLAs

Asks officers to deal with them in professional, respectful manner

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 07: Jammu and Kashmir government has instructed all departments and officers to prioritise attending to elected representatives, ensuring proper protocol and cooperation in all



official matters.

In to a circular, a copy of which lies with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), government has directed officers and all department that communications, requests, and grievances raised

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

J&K gets three herbal garden projects worth 7.42 crore, Centre informs Parliament

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 07: The Government of India (GoI) informed Parliament on Friday that Jammu & Kashmir has been sanctioned three herbal garden projects in the past three years.

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

J&K has 55 child care homes, only 2 for special needs children

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 07: Jammu and Kashmir has two Child Care Institutions (CCIs) catering to children with special needs under the Mission Vatsalya scheme. However, no such facility exists in Ladakh, the Union government informed Parliament on Friday.

The information, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), was provided by the Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Savitri Thakur, in response to a parliamentary query on shelter homes for mentally challenged destitute

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

J&K Bank customers aghast as mobile banking app develops 'snag'

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 07: Jammu and Kashmir Bank customers had to face tremendous hardships as the mobile banking has gone for a toss from the last two days, thus leaving the customers to lurch at large. According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Saksham Mission: J&K to get 338, Ladakh 14 upgraded Anganwadis

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 07: The Centre has sanctioned 338 Anganwadi Centres in J&K and 14 in Ladakh for upgradation under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. According to official data

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

MBBS seats in J&K increased from 500-1339 in last one decade: Centre

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 07 (KNO): The MBBS seats in Jammu and Kashmir have increased from 500 to 1339 in the last one decade, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Friday.

Replying to a question by Basavaraj Bomai, the Ministry of State for Health and family Welfare, Anupriya Patil said that in 2014-15, the number of MBBS seats in J&K were 500 while the current



number of MBBS seats in J&K are 1339. The Minister said that as informed by the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

GI Registry assigns new logo to Kashmir carpet to preserve exclusivity

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 07 In a major step aimed at safeguarding the genuineness of Kashmir Crafts and brand promotion, the Geographical Registry, Chennai, has assigned a new logo for the famed Kashmir Hand-Knotted Carpet under its Geographical Indication procedures.

GI logo is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are

due to that origin. In a press release issued here today, Director Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Nowshera, Srinagar, Zubair Ahmad, stated that a fresh registration certificate with new logo has been issued by the Registrar of Geographical Indications, which is the competent authority for assigning such benchmarks. "The new logo will be given wide publicity so that exclusivity of hand-knotted Kashmir carpet is secured and buyers are satisfied with purchasing

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Botched surgery at private hospital in Sopore: After 2 doctors, Govt suspends technician

Investigation on, culprits won't be spared: Official

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 07: Botched up surgery at Hakeem Sonuallah Hospital in Sopore has led to the suspension of two doctors and a technician and further investigations are underway.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)—that the 45 year old woman was admitted in the private hospital for an ear surgery. However, in the absence of the doctor treating her, the procedure was allegedly conducted by another doctor, who mistakenly performed a hysterectomy (removal of the uterus).

Following public outcry, authorities acted swiftly and sealed the hospital's operation theatre, citing serious violations of medical protocols.

Soon after the sealing of the OT the Health and Medical Education Depart-



ment suspended two doctors, Dr. Anjum Nazir, Consultant Gynaecologist, SDH Sopore, and Dr. Tariq Ahmad Dar, Medical Officer (Diploma in Anesthesia), DH Bandipora and barred them from carrying out private practice anywhere in the Union Territory.

On Friday Health and Medical Education Department suspended Ghulam Nabi, theatre technician at Sub District Hospital Sopore. "Pending enquiry into the incident

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

AI based Samadhan 2.0; an interactive platform for disposal of public grievances

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 7: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today dedicated Samadhan 2.0, an interactive AI based platform, with all new features for both public and administration to ensure quality disposal of grievances registered by the citizens on this portal. All the Administrative Heads of various departments besides others were present on the occasion.



The Chief Secretary assessed the upgraded features of this

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NORTH END HOSPITAL
"let actions speak"

Our Services

TOP NOTCH CARDIAC CATH LAB

ALL INTERVENTIONAL & NON INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES

UROLOGICAL PROCEDURES | HD DIGITAL COLPOSCOPY
HIGH END MODULAR THEATERS
STRESS ECHO | TMT | HOLTZER | ECHO
GENERAL & ADVANCED LAPROSCOPIC PROCEDURES
GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICAL PROCEDURES
ORTHOPEDIC PROCEDURES WITH LATEST 7 GEN HF C-ARM
ICU | NICU & CCU | USG HIGH RESOLUTION
UROFLOWMETRY | RGU | RGU/MCU | MEDICAL & SURGICAL EMERGENCY
DIGITAL X-RAY DR-VIEW | LABORATORY

PHARMACY | AMBULANCE SERVICES & CANTEEN

FOR EMERGENCY & APPOINTMENTS CALL:
88995 60554

NHI, Tappar Pattan. email: Northendhospital@gmail.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/share/15qjz2on7mbertid#ww03r

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

CM

and districts. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Education Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Administrative Secretaries of Finance, Social Welfare, Tourism, Industry & Commerce, Youth Services & Sports, Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama and Reasi districts, and heads of various departments, both in person and virtually. Public representatives, including District Development Council (DDC) Chairpersons and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from Pulwama and Reasi districts, raised concerns regarding electricity supply, drinking water schemes, flood management, staffing of schools and hospitals, upgradation of primary health centers, construction of bridges, and the development of new tourist destinations, parks, and parking facilities.

Addressing the participants, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized that these consultations were essential for shaping a budget that truly reflects the aspirations of the people. He acknowledged the pivotal role of public representatives in understanding grassroots-level challenges and assured them that their concerns would be duly considered.

The Chief Minister stated that this budget held special significance as it was the first time in many years that Jammu & Kashmir was preparing its own budget in consultation with public representatives. He stressed that these consultations were an effort to ensure inclusivity in the budgeting process.

"In the past, it was not possible for the Finance Minister of the country to meet with you all and discuss Jammu & Kashmir's specific needs. But after the elections and the formation of our government, we now have the authority to draft our own budget, making these interactions even more crucial," he said.

The Chief Minister noted that over 33 interventions had been made during the session, reflecting the wide range of developmental issues requiring attention. He assured the participants that while it was not possible to address each demand immediately, "nothing that has been said here will be ignored" and that all concerns would be carefully examined during budget formulation.

Touching upon economic growth and industrial development, he stressed the need to support manufacturing, trade, and tourism. He noted the expansion of the railway network, highlighting how connectivity had gradually improved from Pathankot to Jammu, then to Udhampur and Katra, with plans for the train to reach Srinagar this year. However, he said that apprehensions over Jammu's economy must be addressed from the adverse effects of shifting trade patterns, ensuring that the region continues to thrive as a commercial hub.

On tourism, the Chief Minister emphasized that Jammu had immense potential, particularly in religious and pilgrimage tourism. He said, "If marketed and promoted effectively, Jammu province can become India's top destination for religious tourism." He noted that while most visitors come for Mata Vaishno Devi's pilgrimage, efforts must be made to showcase Jammu's other sacred sites, encouraging pilgrims to extend their stay and explore the region's cultural heritage.

He also stressed the importance of sports tourism, stating that discussions were underway for organizing a major sports event in Jammu, similar to the successful Srinagar Marathon. Plans were also in place for the expansion of Jammu Airport, addressing infrastructural challenges to improve connectivity.

The Chief Minister also expressed his support for private education, stating that Jammu & Kashmir should explore legislative frameworks to encourage the establishment of private universities, providing more opportunities for quality higher education.

Concluding his address, he thanked all participants for their valuable inputs, assuring them that their concerns and suggestions would be incorporated into the government's policies and development agenda. "We will try to ensure that your ideas are reflected in our policies and programs. Your time and efforts in this consultation process are truly appreciated," he said.

In a separate pre-budget consultation session, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah met with representatives from various sectors, including industry & trade, tourism, hotel & hospitality, education, social welfare, tribal affairs, youth affairs, and agriculture.

During his interaction, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring that the upcoming J&K Budget reflects the aspirations of the people, incorporating their demands into the government's development agenda.

GOVT

"For proposals requiring the Lieutenant Governor's recommendation under Section 36 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, departments must submit them at least 21 days in advance for necessary approvals," reads the circular issued by the department, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Under the said provision of the Act, any bill or amendment related to taxation, government financial obligations, or appropriation of funds from the consolidated fund can only be introduced in the Legislative Assembly with the prior recommendation of the Lieutenant Governor.

The department underlined that there is a need for timely submission and legal vetting of legislative proposals before their introduction in the House.

"To ensure thorough examination, departments must refer all Bills and other legislative matters to the Department of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs well in advance," the department directed.

The Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has also directed them to adhere to the procedure of introduction of bills as delineated under the Transaction of Business of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Rules, 2019.

The Part-C of the Business Rules outlines the procedure for initiating legislative proposals.

It has also reminded departments that certain Acts require rules and notifications issued under them to be presented before the Legislative Assembly.

"Departments responsible for such laws must ensure these rules and notifications are laid before the House during the Budget Session to comply with legal requirements," it added.

The Department has directed financial commissioners (additional chief secretaries), principal secretaries, commissioners, and secretaries to strictly follow prescribed procedures while handling legislative matters and responding to assembly questions.

"Also, administrative secretaries and heads of departments must be present in the house when matters concerning their departments are discussed," the department said—(KNO)

CDF

Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the Finance Department is working to finalize the guidelines for the utilization of the CDF. "The guidelines will ensure transparency, accountability, and effective utilization of the funds for development works identified by MLAs," sources said.

They said the proposed guidelines are likely to be placed before the cabinet for approval, most likely around the time when the budget for 2025-26 would be tabled in the Assembly. According to sources, the announcement regarding the CDF for MLAs is likely to be made in the budget speech by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also the Minister in-charge of the Finance Department.

"The CDF for MLAs could be somewhere between Rs 3 to Rs 5 crore," they said, adding that MLAs were entitled to a CDF of Rs 3 crore each in the erstwhile state of J&K.

The budget for 2025-26 is likely to be presented between March 04 and March 10 in the Assembly. The budget session of the J&K Assembly will begin on March 03 with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's address to the House—(KNO)

LG

Jammu and Srinagar. After his visit the Lieutenant Governor posted on X: "World Book Fair is the ideal opportunity to promote reading habit, celebrate the contribution of literary communities, keep track of new ideas and invite writers and citizens for cultural exchange and intellectual discourse to expand our horizon."

"A book is the best companion, which offers new ideas and perspectives in our life journey. It is the best medium for thinkers, scientists and spiritualists to preserve and carry forward the wealth of knowledge for the benefit of future generations," he added—(KNO)

MLA

by elected representatives shall be acknowledged and processed in priority.

It further stated officers and officials shall deal with elected representatives in a professional and respectful manner.

The circular added that MLAs be invited to all official functions and meetings organised in their respective jurisdictions, including official visit of any dignitary.

The government urged strict compliance with these instructions to strengthen coordination between administration and elected representatives for effective governance—(KNO)

CS

rechristened public grievance portal, evaluated the prospective outcomes and improvements to be obtained by the people with its introduction. He enjoined upon the developers to incorporate the features such as filters to trickle down grievances based upon their content, area, department, pendency, settlement, gender and timeframe. He also suggested to use AI for identification of similar grievances so that these are clubbed for redressal in a time bound manner.

The Chief Secretary also advised them to

keep this platform open for communication in both ways so that grievances registered are resolved as per the aspirations of the aggrieved. He asked for increasing registrations on this portal so that households of the UT having a smart phone are heard at the appropriate level in the administration.

Dulloo also underscored the need for making this portal a one stop solution for administration to reach out to public. He made out that the urgent messages with respect to essential supplies of power, water, ration etc, advisories regarding health and crops, updates regarding highways, scholarships or jobs should also be notified here for the ease and use of registered citizens.

He directed for giving super access to the concerned administrative heads, Deputy Commissioners and other HoDs of the Departments so that they are able to monitor the process of grievance resolution by having peek into the MIS reports and other AI based tools in order to ensure their quality resolution.

While giving insights about this upgraded portal, Secretary Public Grievances Department, Aijaz Asad, informed the meeting that this portal has been integrated with AI tools to enhance quality of redressal substantially. He gave out that AI based prioritization of grievances based on the description provided by citizens is done to address those grievances related to essential supplies and urgent matters on priority basis.

He also revealed that AI calculates the time elapsed since the grievance was submitted and the days assigned for action. Besides, automatic system generated reminders are sent for timely action on these prioritised matters.

Regarding the registrations, it was divulged that 3,38,872 citizens have registered over the 'JK Samadhan' portal till date with nearly 3,26,000 registrations in the last month itself.

It was added that announcements can be created, targeting all registered citizens in all departments or individual departments based upon the target audience.

A revamped analytical dashboard offers better insights and usability along with GIS based heat maps to know about the predominant areas affected by particular kind of the problem. The system even tracks and displays the average time taken by departments to resolve grievances, aiding in performance analysis for speedy resolution of each grievance registered over the JK Samadhan 2.0 grievance portal.

MBBS

National Medical Commission (NMC), the Government has increased the number of medical colleges and subsequently increased MBBS seats. There is an increase of medical colleges from 404 in 2014 to 780 as of now.

Further, there is an increase of 63,842 MBBS seats from 54,348 in 2014 to 1,18,190 as of now.

"Some of the measures and steps taken by the Government to strengthen the healthcare system in the country according to minister include that Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for establishment of new medical colleges by upgrading district/ referral hospital under which 157 new medical colleges have been approved, out of which 131 are already functional, CSS for strengthening/upgradation of existing State Government/ Central Government medical colleges to increase the number of MBBS (UG) and PG seats, under which support has been provided for increase of 4977 MBBS seats in 83 colleges with an approved cost of Rs 5972.20 Cr, 4058 PG seats in phase-1 in 72 colleges with an approved cost of Rs 1498.43 Cr and 4000 PG seats in phase-II in 65 colleges with an approved cost of Rs. 4478.25 Cr."

"Under 'Upgradation of Government medical colleges by construction of Super Specialty Blocks' component of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), a total of 75 projects have been approved. Under the Central Sector Scheme for setting up of new AIIMS, 22 AIIMS have been approved."

Undergraduate courses have started in 19 of these, DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as teaching faculty to take care of shortage of faculty and Enhancement of age limit for appointment/ extension/ re-employment against posts of teachers/ dean/principal/ director in medical colleges upto 70 years, the reply reads—(KNO)

CENTRE

Ministry of AYUSH, Prataprao Jadhav, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that these projects aim to promote medicinal plant cultivation, boost research, and strengthen the region's traditional medicine ecosystem.

The Government Unani Medical College, Ganderbal, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, and Government College of Education, Jammu, have been selected for this initiative.

Between 2021-22 and 2024-25, the Union Territory (UT) of J&K received rupees 7.42 crore for herbal garden projects. The funding has shown an upward trend over the years, indicating increased government focus on this sector.

In 2021-22, rupees 1.83 crore was allocated, followed by rupees 1.12 crore in 2022-23. The amount increased to rupees 1.48 crore in 2023-24 and reached its highest in 2024-25 at rupees 2.99 crore.

Jammu & Kashmir submitted nine proposals for herbal gardens, of which three were sanctioned, resulting in an approval rate of 33 per cent, the minister said—(KNO)

CHILD CARE

children across the country. According to official data, Jammu and Kashmir has a total of 55 CCIs, out of which two have special units for children with special needs.

Ladakh has seven CCIs but lacks any dedicated facilities for such children. Mission Vatsalya, implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, provides financial assistance to states and Union Territories for the care, protection, and rehabilitation of children in difficult circumstances.

The scheme allows CCIs to set up special units for children with special needs, offering facilities such as special educators, therapists, nurses, and assistive equipment.

The government did not specify whether new special needs shelter homes are planned for Ladakh or additional ones for Jammu and Kashmir in the near future—(KNO)

JK BANK

customers of J&K Bank said that the mobile banking application (MPay) & GPay and Other Digital services are lying defunct from the last two days after the fresh version of the application was updated.

"We have never witnessed such a situation in the past as it is for the two consecutive days that I am not able to use mobile banking," Suhail Ahmad, a businessman from Srinagar said.

He added that the users are not even able to log into it. "We are surprised to see that the authorities concerned don't even bother to fix the error for the betterment of the users," he said.

Another customer informed KNO from Ganderbal, Aqib Rasool that they are being forced to spend a lot of time visiting the banks for their work, which otherwise was possible to be done at home. "We want the concerned authorities to fix the errors at earliest," he said.

Many of the netizens have also expressed their resentment and highlighted their sufferings due to the defunct mobile banking application.

"JK Bank puts digital transaction facilities including mpay, net banking on suspension mode to revert back to withdrawals, cheques, pay in slips for transaction now," a netizen wrote in his Facebook post

"While heading to the petrol pump today, my Gpay & Mpay decided to act up, I had my ID card on hand to make it through! It's very unfortunate that JK Bank doesn't provide us with the necessary facilities," a netizen wrote.

"JK Bank's non-functional services (both Mpay Delight and JK Bank UPI) have failed me for two days, causing repeated embarrassment. Now, while paying my water bill, it disappoints me yet again, two back-to-back embarrassments for J&K Bank. First at the salon when UPI didn't work, and now when I tried sending money to someone, I failed again because the receiver's bank is #JKBank. Despite charging unnecessary and frequent fees, their servers are always down," Gazna-far wrote on X.

SAK

available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the upgraded Saksham Anganwadis will feature LED screens, water purifiers, Poshan Vatika (nutrition gardens), and learning materials to enhance services for children and mothers.

Under the initiative, aimed at improving nutrition and early childhood care services, 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres across India are being modernized, with 50,000 new centers planned over five years.

Also, the government has ordered the upgradation of all mini-Anganwadis to full-fledged centers—(KNO)

J&K Bank customers aghast as mobile banking app develops 'snag'

Raja Syed Rather Srinagar, Feb 07 (KNO): Jammu and Kashmir Bank customers had to face tremendous hardships as the mobile banking has gone for a toss from the last two days, thus leaving the customers to lurch at large.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the customers of J&K Bank said that the mobile banking application (MPay) & GPay and Other Digital services are lying defunct from the last two days after the fresh version of the application was updated.

"We have never witnessed such a situation in the past as it is for the two consecutive days that I am not able to use mobile banking," Suhail Ahmad, a businessman from Srinagar said.

He added that the users are not even able to log into it. "We are surprised to see that the authorities concerned don't even bother

to fix the error for the betterment of the users," he said.

Another customer informed KNO from Ganderbal, Aqib Rasool that they are being forced to spend a lot of time visiting the banks for their work, which otherwise was possible to be done at home. "We want the concerned authorities to fix the errors at earliest," he said.

Many of the netizens have also expressed their resentment and highlighted their sufferings due to the defunct mobile banking application.

"JK Bank puts digital transaction facilities including mpay, net banking on suspension mode to revert back to withdrawals, cheques, pay in slips for transaction now," a netizen wrote in his Facebook post

"While heading to the petrol pump today, my Gpay & Mpay decided to act up, I had my ID card on hand to make it through! It's very unfortunate that JK Bank doesn't provide us with the necessary facilities," a netizen wrote.

"JK Bank's non-functional services (both Mpay Delight and JK Bank UPI) have failed me for two days, causing repeated embarrassment. Now, while paying my water bill, it disappoints me yet again, two back-to-back embarrassments for J&K Bank. First at the salon when UPI didn't work, and now when I tried sending money to someone, I failed again because the receiver's bank is #JKBank. Despite charging unnecessary and frequent fees, their servers are always down," Gazna-far wrote on X.

Local businessmen and officials and transporters appeal to the bank authorities to resolve this issue, or else "we will be forced to switch to a different bank."—(KNO)

GI

genuine hand-made Kashmir carpets," he added.

Kashmir crafts, which have the reputation for being amongst the very best in niche global markets, are in pursuit of securing GI registration for all categories.

Apart from hand-knotted carpet, six other crafts have already been GI registered which include Papier Mache, Kashmir Pashmina, Kani, Sozni, Khatamband and Walnut Wood Carving—(KNO)

SPORE

that occurred on 03.02.2025 at Hakeem Sonaulah Hospital, Sopore and to ensure a fair and impartial investigation while maintaining the integrity of the healthcare system Mr. Ghulam Nabi, theatre technician, SDH Sopore is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect and shall remain attached with Directorate of Health Services, Jammu till further orders," reads an order issued by Health and Medical Education Department, a copy of which lies with KNO.

HOW CAN DOCTOR BE SO NEGLIGENT? A doctor wishing anonymity while talking to KNO said, "Mistakenly removing the uterus of a patient who was supposed to undergo ENT procedure is a clear cut case of medical negligence."

"It's possible that they had to operate two ladies, one by ENT surgeon & other by obstetrician and they may have mixed the two cases," he added.

"The attendants can file a case in the Consumer Court and demand compensation for the loss, ranging from millions to crores from the hospital and the doctor," the medico added.

"Moreover, if there is any threat to the life of the patient, in such a case, said doctor may be jailed for sometime along with his/her licence being cancelled for sometime."

Another doctor said that no one can defend such gross negligence. "This case is not worth defending," he said, adding, "We only defend the cases of alleged medical negligence which are expected complications of procedures/ medicines and where due consent is taken before going for the procedure, for example, if this case was rightly operated for ENT procedure, and patient would have developed complications during the procedure/ anaesthesia which are expected and documented in medical literature, we'd have defended it but in this case it is not possible," he added.

Another doctor said that the patient whose uterus was removed is a 45 year old woman, who is already a mother of two. "Had she been young her entire life would have been ruined. How can a doctor be so negligent?" he said.

People even questioned how a gynecologist was performing an ENT surgery. "How can a gynecologist perform ENT surgery and what is the connection between the two," Aabid Hussain a resident of Sopore said.

He, however, said that when your health is their business these things can happen. "When initially the news about the botched up surgery broke we thought it's a prank. How can a doctor remove a uterus instead of performing ENT surgery? No one could believe it," Hussain added. Several people even questioned the silence of doctors associations who often come in support of medicos whenever there is any allegation of medical negligence.

"Whenever there is clear cut negligence, doctors associations must speak. They should accept that their counterparts have committed a mistake," said an observer.



Div Com reviews preparations for 5th Khelo India winter games

Directs strengthening interdepartmental coordination

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 07: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Friday convened a meeting of officers to review overall preparation for the successful conduct of 5th Edition of Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) to be held at Gulmarg later this month. The mega event of national winter games phase 2nd of KIWG shall commence at winter wonderland Gulmarg from February 22 and shall conclude on February 25. Over one thousand athletes, coaches & officials will participate in the event of national importance.

Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Director Urban Local Bodies, MD JKTDC, Director Health Services Kashmir, CEO Gulmarg Development Authority, SSP Budgam, SSP Baramulla, SSP Traffic, Secretary J&K Sports Council, officers from various depart-



ments including SMC, PHE, KPDC, R&B, MED, Transport, Airport Authority, Cable Car Corporation, Information, Tourism, H&H, NHIDCL, SDRF, CISF, HAWs and other essential departments attended the meeting. While chairing the meeting, Div Com

reviewed multitude of arrangements & preparations including arrival of participants at Srinagar Airport, transportation of participants, accommodation facilities, essential services including electricity, drinking water, sanitation, Mobile Network, critical health services

besides effective coordination among all departments.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com emphasized on close coordination & synergy among all the departments and the appointment of Nodal Officers for different roles, assignments and departments. He instructed effective communication among the stakeholders departments & dissemination of relevant information & directed for strengthening of interdepartmental coordination.

Earlier, Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull presented a detailed Power Point Presentation to inform the meeting regarding comprehensive strategy for successful conduct of KIWG. PPT encompassed all the aspects & nitty-gritty of event including number of participants, officials, supporting staff, sports events, cultural events, accommodation, transportation, promotional activities and other aspects of the game.

BJP MLA R S Pathania Hits Out at NC Leader Aga Ruhulla Over Article 370 Remarks

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 07, ANB: Senior BJP leader and legislator Ranbir Singh Pathania today hit out at Lok Sabha member Aga Syed Ruhulla saying that the NC leader perpetually under an executed plan has tried to spit venom with regard to Article 370 and regard to human rights violation.

According to the Associated News Bureau, Pathania said either the National Conference should come clean or they should take strict disciplinary action against Aga Syed Ruhulla, whose utterances are not only illegal, unfounded, unconstitutional, misplaced, misdirected and misleading.

He said Article 370 tried to create a false and a feigned wall between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country. "The SCs, the STs, females, refugees, were subjected to the worst human rights violation in the Article 370 era," he said. (ANB)

Pulmonologists calls for regulating mobile phone usage to prevent addiction, mental fatigue

HT News Network

Srinagar, Feb 07 (KNO): Renowned pulmonologist Dr Naveed Nazir Shah has called for regulating mobile phone usage, particularly among children and the elderly, to prevent addiction and mental exhaustion. Speaking to the media in Srinagar, Dr Naveed, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), acknowledged the importance of the digital revolution, noting that mobile phones and the internet have become essential for official work, studies, and communication. However, he warned that excessive screen time is leading to addiction, affecting not only children but also retired individuals who spend prolonged hours on their devices.

He highlighted the growing influence of artificial intelligence, saying that an overreliance on AI-driven content is contributing to mental fatigue. Urging parents to monitor their children's screen time, he recommended the use of parental controls to track online activities.

Dr Naveed underlined the importance of balanced mobile usage and called for greater awareness of the potential harms of excessive screen exposure, especially among individuals under 18.

Addressing health concerns specific to Jammu and Kashmir, the noted pulmonologist said that respiratory illnesses are common due to the region's climatic conditions. "Cold and dry air in winter often worsens symptoms such as cough, breathlessness, chest tightness and wheezing, particularly for individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions like asthma, bronchitis, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)," he said. These respiratory issues, Dr Naveed said, are due to multiple factors, including climatic conditions, smoking and high pollen concentrations due to Kashmir's greenery. "During the spring season, pollen levels in the atmosphere rise significantly, leading to a higher incidence of allergic diseases," he said.

With winter coming to an end and spring approaching, Dr Naveed cautioned that allergy-related issues will likely increase. He advised patients to follow their doctor's recommendations carefully, saying that adhering to treatment protocols can help keep symptoms under control and prevent severe complications.

J&K Bank opens New Branch at Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

HT News Network



Srinagar, Feb 07, ANB: Strengthening its footprint further in the rest of the country, J&K Bank today commissioned a new branch at Gomti Nagar, Lucknow.

MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee formally inaugurated the branch in presence of the Bank's Divisional Head (Rest of India) Rajesh Gupta, Zonal Head (Delhi) Suresh Choudhary and Cluster Head (Lucknow) Rajesh Sharma, amid a gathering of Bank's valuable customers, prominent citizens and businessmen from the area.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "With the launch of our Gomti Nagar branch, we reaffirm our commitment to serving the people of Uttar Pradesh with best-in-class banking services. Integrating digital convenience with personalized customer service, this state-of-the-art branch is designed to offer a seamless banking experience."

"And in line with our strategic vision, we look forward to deepening our relationships with businesses and individuals in this vibrant region", he added.

ACS reviews educational scenario of Kashmir division

Emphasis adoption of moral, quality education, innovative methods

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 7: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Education, Shantmanu, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the educational scenario of Kashmir division. While reviewing the steps being taken, the ACS directed the CEOs and ZEOs to ensure that in the coming session, the respective heads in all schools of the valley take extra steps to impart moral education to the children. He said that when we talk about quality education, we should give special attention to the mother tongue along with imparting moral education to the children. Shantmanu emphasized that the current time is an era of Artificial Intelligence (AI), so we cannot imagine quality education unless we provide education to children by adopting innovative methods and innovative tools.

The ACS also emphasised that we cannot enhance the personal devel-



opment of children unless we remove learning gaps through a friendly environment in schools, enhance children's communication skills and strengthen their confidence. Shantmanu directed the officers and school heads to adopt these suggestions at the ground level to see a new change in the education scenario.

Earlier, Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Itoo, while presenting the details of the current educational scenario in the valley, said that the department has prepared a roadmap for providing effective education

to the children for the coming session. The meeting was attended by Director School Education Kashmir, Chief Educational Officers of Kashmir Division and other concerned. While reviewing the steps being taken, the ACS directed the CEOs and ZEOs to ensure that in the coming session, the respective heads in all schools of the valley take extra steps to impart moral education to the children. He said that when we talk about quality education, we should give special attention to the mother tongue along with imparting moral education.

Sugamya Yatra 2025 successfully conducted across J&K

HT News Network

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, February 7: Sugamya Yatra 2025, a landmark initiative to promote accessibility and inclusion for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), was successfully held today across all districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of thousands of men, women and children, both with and without disabilities, demonstrating a collective commitment towards building an accessible and inclusive society.

The Yatra was spearheaded by the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with all District Level Committees on Disability, headed by respective Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and actively supported by



the District Social Welfare Units.

The primary objective of Sugamya Yatra 2025 was to raise mass awareness about accessibility challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities and to sensitize stakeholders about their responsibilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016.

The Yatra focused on sensitising the public and authorities about accessibility rights and obligations,

visiting key public places, including government offices, educational institutions, healthcare centers and tourist spots to assess accessibility, encouraging use of digital tools like the Yes to Access mobile app for real-time data collection and promoting a constructive and collaborative approach towards improving accessibility.

The event was conducted in a peaceful and inclusive manner, ensuring constructive engagement

with local authorities and stakeholders. The participants were encouraged to provide feedback to concerned officials to foster improvements in accessibility across public infrastructure.

The Deputy Commissioners across all districts played a crucial role in coordinating the Yatra, ensuring its smooth execution and mobilising stakeholders, including representatives from the disability sector, civil society organisations and accessibility auditors.

Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Iqbal Lone, while talking with the media, said that successful execution of Sugamya Yatra 2025 marks a significant step towards realising the vision of an inclusive and accessible Jammu & Kashmir, in alignment with national and international commitments on disability rights.

Satish Sharma addresses mammoth gathering at Khour; participates in Guru Ravi Das Jayanti

Reaffirms govt's commitment in resolving people's grievances

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Science & Technology and Information Technology, Satish Sharma, today conducted an extensive tour of Khour and addressed a mammoth gathering there.

The event witnessed a significant turnout of people from various walks of life, highlighting issues ranging from infrastructure development to basic amenities.

Satish Sharma attentively heard the concerns of the attendees and assured them that the issues and concerns raised by them would be taken up with the concerned authorities and addressed promptly.



While addressing the people, the Minister said that he will work with utmost zeal and vigour to bring enhanced development and prosperity in the region. He sought public

cooperation in realising the set development targets.

While emphasising the unwavering commitment of the government towards addressing the pressing issues faced by the com-

mon people, the Minister said under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, we are dedicated to deliver effective governance and ensuring that public grievances are addressed on priority.

The Minister asked the officers of the line departments to put in their sincere efforts in rendering prompt services to the people. He instructed them to work in synergy so that people don't face any kind of inconvenience.

Earlier, Satish Sharma participated in Shobha yatra at Akhnoor organised in connection with 684th Prakash Utsav of Shri Guru Ravi Das's Jayanti.

The Minister, on the occasion, prayed for peace and prosperity for mankind and Jammu and Kashmir in particular.

EDITORIAL

Twin power centres lead to governance deficit in J&K

In his maiden press conference here in Srinagar on January 2 chief minister Omar Abdullah had said that two power centres are not good for governance in the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. More than one month has passed since then and during this time Omar and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha have been at loggerheads on more than one occasion. Both the CM and LG are going opposite on certain issues even though they may claim that everything is hunky dory.

There is no denying the fact that since Jammu & Kashmir is a union territory on date the LG has an upper hand over the chief minister. The same gets visible every now and then and the latest example in this regard is the recent security review meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah at New Delhi earlier this week. While the LG and the chief secretary Atal Dulloo took part in the meeting the chief minister was not invited for the same.

When Jammu & Kashmir used to be a state the chief minister would convene a meeting of unified command as and when needed. It was in this context that Nasir Aslam Wani, the advisor to the chief minister asked the journalists to question LG when they raised queries about the death of two civilians in Baramulla and Kathua districts on Thursday. Whatever be the circumstances it is a bitter truth that two candles of two families have been put out and the family members are at loss as to how to cope up with the situation.

Given the fact that the Omar Abdullah government is almost four months old, the people are waiting for the day when the government would fulfil its pre-poll promises. Since the elected government is waiting for the restoration of statehood to Jammu & Kashmir there is a huge section of the population that believe all the problems would be solved once this development takes place. The delay in restoration of statehood has complicated the problems for the elected government.

There are many people who opine that the credibility of the elected government, National Conference and above all the chief minister has been badly hit since the centre is delaying restoration of statehood to Jammu & Kashmir. Since the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have time and again stated that statehood would be restored to Jammu & Kashmir once an elected government is in place it is high time that this promise is kept.

TACKLING DRUG-RELATED CRIMES IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR: A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY



The rise in drug-related crimes in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is a growing concern that cannot be solely attributed to the police and law enforcement agencies. While the role of these institutions in maintaining law and order is vital, the broader issue requires a multi-faceted approach. The responsibility to combat the increasing prevalence of drugs and associated crimes lies not just with the police but with the government, civil society, and the community as a whole. This article explores the various factors contributing to the drug crisis in J&K, outlines the measures needed to address it, and emphasizes the importance of a collaborative, community-based effort.

THE GROWING THREAT OF DRUGS IN J&K

Jammu and Kashmir, once known for its natural beauty and rich cultural heritage, has been grappling with several socio-economic challenges over the past few decades. The region's turbulent political history, ongoing conflicts, and economic instability have had a profound impact on its social fabric, with young people often caught in the crossfire of these broader issues. The growing drug problem is one of the unfortunate byproducts of these challenges.

Drugs have found their way into the lives of many individuals, especially the youth, contributing to a rise in crimes ranging from petty thefts and robberies

to more severe offenses like violent assaults and trafficking. This, in turn, has placed an additional burden on law enforcement agencies and the judicial system. The increasing dependence on drugs, both illicit and prescription-based, has also led to a rise in addiction-related health problems, further straining the already overburdened healthcare system in J&K.

A MULTI-FACETED APPROACH TO TACKLING DRUG CRIMES: GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES

The government has a crucial role to play in addressing the root causes of drug abuse and its connection to crime. It is essential that the government take the lead in implementing proactive measures to tackle the problem at both the prevention and intervention levels. While law enforcement must continue its efforts to curb the supply of drugs, the government must focus on the demand side of the equation, primarily by offering youth alternatives to drugs and crime.

One of the most effective ways to do this is by providing opportunities for personal development, education, and skill-building. Investment in educational infrastructure and vocational training programs can equip young people with the skills needed to pursue stable, well-paying jobs. A lack of opportunities often leads to frustration, which can make young individuals more susceptible to the allure of drugs or criminal activities. By investing in schools, colleges, and skill development centers, the government can reduce the chances of young people turning to drugs as an escape from their problems.

ENHANCING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A key contributor to the growing drug abuse problem is unemployment. With limited job prospects, many young people in J&K have few options for securing a livelihood. This economic insecurity makes individuals, particularly those from vulnerable backgrounds, more susceptible to the influence of drug dealers and criminals. The government must prioritize the creation of employment opportunities by supporting local industries, promoting entrepreneurship, and establishing job training programs. These measures will not only reduce the temptation to engage in illegal activities but also offer a long-term solution by empowering young people to become self-reliant and contributing members of society.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT THROUGH PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

One of the most promising strategies to address the growing drug problem is engaging young people in productive activities. The government and civil society organizations should focus on creating platforms where the youth can engage in sports, arts, and other recreational activities that promote physical and mental well-being. These activities not only provide a positive outlet for energy but also help build teamwork, leadership skills, and discipline. Sports, in particular, have the potential to be a powerful tool for youth engagement, as they promote physical fitness, mental resilience, and social cohesion.

ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

While the government plays a crucial role, civil society and social organizations must also actively participate in addressing the drug issue. These organizations are often better equipped

to engage directly with local communities, offering support to individuals and families affected by drugs. They can help raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse, provide counseling services, and assist in rehabilitation efforts.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have a unique role in bridging the gap between the government and the community. They can work to identify at-risk individuals and communities, provide them with necessary resources, and advocate for better policies and interventions. Moreover, social organizations can collaborate with local leaders, teachers, and parents to create a more integrated and community-driven approach to combating drug-related crimes.

FAMILY'S ROLE IN PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

The family unit plays a foundational role in shaping the values and behavior of young individuals. Families are often the first line of defense against drug abuse, and their involvement is crucial in both prevention and intervention efforts. Parents should be educated on the signs of drug abuse and the potential risk factors associated with it. Communication within families needs to be strengthened so that young people feel comfortable discussing their problems without fear of judgment or punishment.

At the same time, it is equally important for families to encourage positive habits and healthy lifestyles. This can include promoting hobbies, encouraging academic pursuits, and creating a home environment that fosters open communication, emotional support, and stability. By instilling strong family values, the likelihood of youth turning to drugs and crime can be significantly

reduced.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Raising awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and its connection to criminal activity is another crucial element in tackling this problem. The government, NGOs, and community groups must work together to launch awareness campaigns targeting both the youth and the general public. These campaigns should focus on educating individuals about the physical, emotional, and legal consequences of drug abuse and criminal involvement.

Awareness campaigns can also help in dispelling the myths and misconceptions surrounding drug use. Many young people are unaware of the long-term health risks and social consequences of their actions. By disseminating this information through various platforms, including schools, media outlets, and community centers, society can begin to shift its perception and approach toward drug abuse.

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT FOR LASTING CHANGE

Ultimately, the fight against drug-related crimes in J&K requires a concerted effort from all sectors of society. While the government must take the lead by implementing policies, providing opportunities for youth, and investing in public awareness campaigns, it cannot tackle this issue alone. Civil society, social organizations, and families must collaborate to create a strong, supportive network for those affected by drug abuse. Only through this collective responsibility can J&K overcome the growing menace of drugs and ensure a brighter, safer future for its people.

The exploitation of marginalised section by the elites through the window of religion

YAWAR HAMID

It is well known to us that Religion has historically been a powerful force in shaping societies, guiding moral values and providing spiritual solace. However, in some instances, it has been used by the elite to maintain control over the poor and justify social inequality. By twisting religious teachings to suit their own interests, the wealthy have exploited the faith and devotion of

the impoverished to keep them in subjugation. One of the most common ways religion is manipulated by the elite is through the justification of social hierarchies.

Religious doctrines have often been interpreted to reinforce the status quo, teaching that poverty and inequality are natural or even divinely ordained. For example, the wealthy may argue that suffering on Earth is a test of faith and that the poor will be

rewarded in the afterlife, effectively discouraging them from seeking better living conditions or challenging the system that perpetuates their suffering. In addition, the elite may use religion as a tool to maintain political power. Religious leaders, often aligned with the powerful, preach obedience to authority and acceptance of one's place in society as part of God's will. This encourages the poor to comply with oppressive

systems, further perpetuating their economic and social marginalization.

In many cases, religious institutions may actively support policies that benefit the elite, such as tax exemptions or the protection of wealth, while ignoring the needs of the poor.

Financial exploitation also plays a significant role in this manipulation. Wealthy individuals and religious institutions often pressure the poor to donate money for religious

causes, promising spiritual rewards or blessings in return. This can lead the poor to give up their meager resources, under the illusion that such sacrifices will bring divine favor, while the elites continue to amass wealth.

In conclusion, religion is often distorted by the elite to explain and justify the suffering of the poor, promoting passivity and reinforcing social inequality. This manipulation not only exploits the faith of

the impoverished but also stifles any real hope for change or progress in society. There is a need to comprehend the behaviour of rich people how they the subjugate the poor ones as and perpetuate hegemony everywhere, one must understand the policies of elite people.

Writer is a student of political science at University of Kashmir. hamidyawar360@gmail.com

Mockery of Dogri Language by Akashvani Jammu; Will Dogra's tolerate this



MOHD. YASEEN

The Dogri language, an integral part of India linguistic and cultural heritage, has long been a symbol of the Dogra community's rich traditions. Recognized in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, Dogri deserves institutional support and ethical stewardship to ensure its rightful representation in media and governance. However, recent revelations regarding the recruitment process for the Editorial Executive/Newsreader cum Translator (Dogri) positions at the Regional News Unit (RNU) in

Jammu have raised serious concerns about transparency, fairness, and the overall integrity of the selection process.

Language plays a critical role in shaping identity and preserving cultural heritage. Dogri is not merely a means of communication but an expression of the Dogra community's historical and social legacy. Given the importance of media in language preservation, it is essential that recruitment processes for language-specific positions be conducted with the highest standards of integrity, fairness, and expertise. Any deviation from this standard not only undermines institutional credibility but also endangers the status and recognition of the language itself.

In recent times, Prasar Bharati, India public broadcaster, has come under

scrutiny for various recruitment-related controversies. This latest issue concerning Dogri-language positions at RNU Jammu has further deepened concerns about how regional languages are treated within the national broadcasting framework. The process should have ensured that Dogri experts played a leading role in selection, yet available evidence suggests a troubling lack of linguistic expertise among those responsible for evaluating candidates.

Mohd. Yaseen, a cultural activist and recipient of the National Scholarship and Fellowship from the Ministry of Culture, has formally raised these concerns with the higher authorities of Prasar Bharati by filing a First Appeal of RTI. His appeal highlights alarming irregularities in the recruitment process, casting doubt

on the legitimacy of the selection and posing a serious threat to the dignity of the Dogri language itself.

The written examination process first came under scrutiny when an RTI response revealed that the paper was set by Naseer Ahmed Rather, an IIS officer, with only minimal consultation from Professor Veena Gupta, a highly respected former Dogri professor. While Professor Gupta credentials are beyond question, her limited involvement raises an important concern, why were more Dogri scholars consulted in a process meant to assess proficiency in the language? The Dogri community has several renowned linguists, writers, and academics who could have contributed to a fair and comprehensive evaluation. Their absence from the process reflects an

institutional disregard for linguistic expertise.

Further concerns arise from the composition of the interview panel as per the RTI reply, which included Ghulam Abbas, Director, Central Bureau of Communication, J&K, Vivek Kumar, Deputy Director (Finance), Akashvani, New Delhi, N. Gulshan Raina, Head, RNU Jammu, Sanjay Kumar Saxena, Assistant Director (TM & SO), Prasar Bharati Secretariat, New Delhi, Anil Bhat, Bureau Chief, PTI Jammu, and Jagmohan Sharma, Senior News Reader cum Translator (Dogri) at RNU (contractual employee). One of the most alarming aspects of this panel was the involvement of Jagmohan Sharma, a contractual employee, in conducting voice tests for candidates, a role that should have been handled exclusively by neu-

tral, permanent officials. Yaseen himself recalls that his voice test was conducted by Sharma and Vijay Bajaj, another contractual employee, raising serious procedural concerns. Furthermore, during the interview process, Mohd. Yaseen was only interviewed by Mohd. Abbas and Gulshan Raina, while the other panel members did not participate. This selective involvement further raises doubts about the fairness and impartiality of the evaluation process.

The role of contractual employees in such critical decision-making processes needs to be questioned. While they play a crucial role in Prasar Bharati daily operations, their employment status makes them vulnerable to external pressures. Their involvement in recruitment processes creates a clear conflict of inter-

est, as their own job security depends on the very organization conducting the hiring. This compromises the objectivity and fairness of the selection process.

Beyond irregularities in the written test and interviews, the method of communicating results also raises ethical and procedural concerns. Selected candidates were informed via WhatsApp before an official announcement, leaving non-selected candidates in a state of confusion and reinforcing perceptions of favoritism. For an institution of Prasar Bharati stature, such informal communication methods damage its credibility and erode public trust. Official results should be announced through proper channels to ensure fairness and transparency.

This controversy highlights a larger systemic issue,

the disregard for Dogri and other regional languages in institutional decision-making. The recruitment process should have ensured that Dogri scholars and language experts played a central role. Instead, it appears that non-experts dictated crucial aspects of the selection process, undermining the very purpose of linguistic preservation. If regional languages like Dogri are to survive and thrive, they must be treated with respect in institutional settings. The media plays a crucial role in language promotion, and any compromise in the recruitment of language professionals weakens the position of the language itself. The current controversy is not an isolated case; it is part of a larger trend where regional languages struggle for institutional recognition and fair representation.

RAIYAR-ICH A PICTURESQUE VILLAGE IN DISTRICT BUDGAM



There are ten districts in Kashmir Valley. Every district has its own unique, special, and endowed history, and district Budgam is one of them. The district of Budgam is 12 km from the heart of Srinagar; that's the lal chowk. In the past, most popular areas presently included in Srinagar district were considered in Budgam. So Budgam and Srinagar have been close bounds for decades.

Budgam district is one of the mesmerizing, picturesque districts in Kashmir Valley. Sheikh ul alam (RA) shrine in Charar e Shareef in district Budgam is very special for the district. The district has lavish, sensuous tourist places like Doodhpathri, Sonamarg, Tosamaidan, Sotchal Pathri, Sukhnag, and Tangnar; many more will be explored in the future.

Today in this article I am going to explore the mesmerizing beauty of Raiyar ich.

Raiyar Ich is an emerging village in terms of rapid development. Raiyar-ich is a panchayat Halqa with nine panch wards and beautiful topography.

Raiyar - Ich: Raiyar Ich is a picturesque hamlet and resting place for tourists who come from different corners of the world. Facts to know about the Raiyar-ich. Raiyar comprises of two Kashmiri words, i.e., "Rai" means lost and "Yaar" means friend in the Kashmiri language. So the name had been given to this hamlet, by the mystic Kashmiri Sufi saint, SHEIKH NOOR UD DIN WALI (RA). It's so when he reached the said village from the forests of the Pir Panjal, he sent his friends to different parts of Kashmir to spread Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) teaching, and he managed to start his journey alone towards Dreygam cave. Source: local legend of the village.

Why Raiyar is attractive for the tourists

The village is literally endowed with vast and rich culture covered with lush green forests; during late nights, the crispy wind bestows peace of mind to everyone present in its sur-

roundings. The smoothening sound of the Sukh-Nag River feels like someone touches the guitar and is producing heart-touching music. The people of the village are so innocent and humble, living peacefully with inherited culture. Raiyar is famous for rajma (kidney beans), maize bread, and walnuts.

Sources of income for the locals

It is very fortunate for the locals that Doodhpathri got a place on the tourist map. Doodhpathri is one of the emerging tourist destinations in the Khanshib tehsil and in district Budgam and generates employment for thousands of unemployed local youth.

What locals demand

1. Higher secondary school: As the Raiyar ich becomes the central hub for the adjoining villages, locals demand the graduation of high school Raiyar ich into higher secondary school. The population is underprivileged and can't afford to send their children to Khanshib; they have to spend Rs 50 as fares.

2. A highly equipped sports stadium for the local emerging sports stars.

3. Children park for local children with safe sports equipment.

4. Grazing area for the locals: the population has been grazing cattle for centuries, and most of them are earning their livelihood and boosting the economy of the district.

5. Computer skill centers under centrally sponsored schemes are very important for the local unemployed youth. The youth of the area are desirous of achieving their goals in all the fields, like medicine, teaching, etc.

6. Stay home scheme. All the households of the village should be covered under the stay-home scheme so that they get a chance to earn their livelihood. Benefits under stay-home should be given to all the registered households for further upgrading of their residential houses.

7. Bhatti mohallah, Tangnar road connectivity should take priority: Tangnar Raiyar ich: during harsh winters, tourist flow should be diverted from Bhatti mohallah tangnar vis TRC Tangnar. Tourists can enjoy and may know the culture of the locals of the area, and it becomes a way of earning a cause for the locals.

sahilmanzoor0401@gmail.com

Dr Mohd Yousaf Choudhary, is an outstanding individual, a visionary, genius and a person who is truly noticeable in every way

MSNAZKI

The first time I visited the hospital in Surnakote it was a visit to a friend who always helped the people with medicines as and when they were required by the people sitting and staying right on the Loc where everything looked familiar, terrain, people, kids and the crop grown, on this side or the other it mattered less. But one thing did, I could have never told my men to open up aimlessly. But the same sanity was never shown by individuals from the other side. Why I do not know? Our people used to get injured but we had no reason to hurt the unarmed people the other side. But that day I unleashed a starved machine gun and the barrel of an AGL. The other

side never fired at our men and country men for half a months at our lands when suddenly a message came, that I had been posted out! I did ask a person in the officers mess, Why Sir? He never replied and I began walking down Hill! Arrogance and pride are similar things when a reply has to be given to the enemy. I knew at that time many thought I was ignorant!

But today when I see the avengers going all out and pulverizing the enemy across and the administration working whole hog for the Nation, I think my friend could have not been wrong! Today I would be on the healthcare delivery system in Surnakote An important aspect and it has to be men from the fraternity of doctors who



have to be leading from the front. Dr Mohd Yousaf Choudhary the BMO is doing exactly that! At the moment the people have realized it in Surnakote, that up front saving them are men brave and courageous and behind are men with humility and humanity. As a doctor he had the posture of a soldier.

Every action he took was precise and purposeful. He smiled in the cold and distant way professionals do. No one can ever relax around such expressions. I mean the people. They need a genuine face, preferably a smile, but if not really rather they didn't want someone to fake it. Choudhary, I mean Dr

Mohd Yousaf never does that and neither does his team of doctors

Hell froze over as the bustling virus emerging from When was strangling the humanity and choking the lungs of the civilization. Even touching the friends was considered as dangerous but BMO Surnakote had some great things working in his mind. His first precise orders to his team were that we have all to combine to take on this calamity!

They did in a manner that the same should have been. They went on to aware the people with the great prevalent theorem that just get the human contact off your mindset for the present sake.

Team Surnakote of the UT J&K Health care again

was at work overtime.

Finally one line would summarize it all. As a BMO he has been great, a man of ideas, a smiling genius who loves humanity and a very visible human being who carves out some great invisible trends which augur well for the future of Surnakote!

He is a doctor for many who walked in with a face like a brick. His movements were all sharp and with purpose, he analyzed the chart for a few seconds and looked up with a perfunctory smile flashed for just a moment at the patients. That's what the sick and wounded on beds say about Dr Mohd Yousaf BMO. But they also say that he is a teddy bear who brings smiles to the faces of those who are in distress! Incidentally he has that quality,

UNION BUDGET 2025-26: A BOOST TO THE TEXTILE SECTOR



GIRIRAJ SINGH MINISTER FOR TEXTILES

Indian apparel & textile industry with a size of about US \$ 176 billion, contributes close to 2 per cent to the country's Gross Domestic Product and accounts for about 11 per cent of the manufacturing output. The textile industry is also one of the largest sources of employment generation in the country directly employing over 45 million textile workers. India is the sixth largest exporter of textiles and apparels and has a share of about 4 per cent of the global trade in this segment. The share of textile and apparel (T&A) including handicrafts in India's total merchandise exports is currently about 8 per cent. The sector has perfect alignment with Government's key initiatives like Make in India, Skill India, Women

Empowerment and Rural Youth Employment.

The Budget announced an outlay of Rs. 5,272 crores for the Ministry of Textiles for 2025-26. This was an increase of about 19 per cent over budget estimates of 2024-25 (Rs. 4417.03 crore), and is the highest in recent years. Budget for the Production Linked Investment Scheme for Textiles has been enhanced from Rs.45 crore (BE) in 2024-25 to Rs.1148 crore this year. Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for textiles is being implemented to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities and enhancing exports with an approved financial outlay of Rs 10,683 crore over a five year period. It covers sunrise sectors like the Manmade made Fibre (MMF), MMF apparel and Technical textiles segment, to enable these sectors to achieve size and scale, to become globally competitive.

Union Budget 2025-26 has announced a 'Mission for Cotton Productivity'. This 5-year mission will facilitate significant improvements in productivity and sustainability of



cotton farming, and promote extra-long staple cotton varieties. This mission would be jointly implemented by Ministry of Agriculture & Family Welfare (MoA&FW) and Ministry of Textiles.

National Technical Textiles Mission of Ministry of Textiles focuses on (i) research, innovation and development, (ii) promotion and market development (iii) education and skilling and (iv) export promotion in technical textiles. The Budget has added two more types of shuttle-less looms to the list of fully exempted tex-

tile machinery. Duty on Shuttle less loom Rapier Looms (below 650 meters per minute) and Shuttle less loom Air jet Looms (below 1000 meters per minute) for use in textile industry has been made nil from the existing 7.5%.

Budget announcement to increase Basic Custom Duty rate on knitted fabrics covered by nine tariff lines from "10% or 20%" to "20% or Rs.115 per kg, whichever is higher" will fortify the domestic textile industry by curbing the influx of low-priced imports of knitted fabrics. This measure will encour-

age the use of domestically produced fabrics, boost capacity utilization, and stimulate investments in local manufacturing.

The budget has identified MSMEs as one of the engines, for bringing about transformative reforms in the economy. This gains importance for the textile sector, given that majority of India's textile and apparel production capacity is represented by MSMEs, which account for over 80% of the sector. Provisions like revision in classification criteria for the MSMEs with significant enhancement of credit availability with guarantee cover would help them achieve higher efficiencies of scale, technological upgradation and better access to capital. With the revised classification, now more units will come under MSME.

To further the above agenda, and to give a fillip to the Indian textile industry, a mega event - Bharat Tex 2025, is being organized by 11 major textile industry bodies and supported by the Ministry of Textiles. Bharat Tex 2025 would be one of the largest of events of its kind in

the world both in scale and scope, as it brings the entire textile industry value chain, from raw materials to finished products and including accessories under one single roof. Built around the twin themes of resilient global value chains and textile sustainability - the event focuses on sustainability, innovation, and global collaboration. The main event will be held from February 14-17, 2025 at the Bharat Mandapam and will cover the entire value chain of textiles from raw materials to finished products, while related exhibitions such as accessories, garment machinery, dyes and chemicals and handicrafts, will be held from February 12 to 15, 2025 at the India Expo Centre and Mart Greater Noida. With the enabling policy support in place, efforts would be needed to be further energized to make India Atmanirbhar in the entire raw material value chain, tap more investments, augment its domestic market size and exports, and maintain and enhance its potential for ensuring large-scale livelihood opportunities.

India should solve the problem of illegal migration with sympathy and promptness

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

The deportation of dozens of Indians by the US for being illegal immigrants is neither surprising nor new. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has stepped up its operations, including deportations, to identify, detain, and deport people living in the United States illegally. Indians from Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana are among those who try to enter the United States. Due to lack of jobs and economic hardship, people enter the US illegally through Canada and Mexico. The Indian government is keen to ensure that there are legal migration routes to the United States. What potential impact can US immigration policies have on Indian professionals and students?

The US restrictions do not apply to Indian citizens. These authorized pathways include student and skilled worker H-1B visas. Both the US and India are working to discourage unauthorized immigration, with the number of Indians deported in 2024 rising from 292 in 2021 to 1,529 in 2024. In the United States, there are about 725,000 undocumented Indians. Mostly from Gujarat and Punjab. As of November last year, 20,407 undocumented Indians were either detained in US detention facilities or faced final removal orders.

Will the deportations also have an impact on the United States? Industries such as construction and hospitality that rely on immigrant labor may experience a shortage of

workers. For example, Indian workers contribute substantially to the U.S. IT and services sectors. Mass deportations could put pressure on the U.S. The deportation of thousands of Indians could become a political issue, with opposition parties accusing the government of not providing enough job opportunities at home. It could undoubtedly have an impact on India's political scene. Mass deportations could put pressure on Indo-US relations, especially if the deportees face severe treatment, prompting diplomatic action. The use of military aircraft and allegations of brutal treatment, such as being kept in chains, could stir up anti-US sentiment. There could be political unrest in states such as Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana,



where there are large numbers of deportees. Local governments could be under pressure to provide jobs and assist in reintegration. For those trying to migrate illegally, the Indian government could be forced to enact strict laws against human trafficking organizations and illegal immigration. Widespread repatriation of undocumented migrants may have implications for family financial support,

remittances, and general public opinion about Indian migrants.

The rise in arrests has led many undocumented Indian workers to stay away from public areas. In low-wage industries, detentions at homes and places of employment have put pressure on the economy. Uncertainty still remains over the H-1B visa program, as sponsorship requirements may change. Many Indian stu-

dents fear stricter rules about visa renewal. To protect the rights of legal migrants, India is carefully monitoring the situation. Diplomatic talks with US legislators aim to maintain employment-based immigration policies. The Trump administration has increased the number of people deported under its crackdown on undocumented migrants. 7,250,000 Indians are believed to be living illegally in the US, and 20,407 undocumented Indians have been targeted for deportation. India has agreed to send back undocumented immigrants provided their citizenship is confirmed. Trump has forced countries that refuse to take in deported migrants to comply by imposing tariffs. Although policy changes

are expected regarding the migration of skilled workers, there is no impact on H-1B visa holders.

Implement India-specific economic reforms, increase employment in states with high rates of migration (Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana), and tackle underlying issues such as unemployment and agricultural hardship that drive illegal migration. Launch campaigns to raise awareness about the dangers of illegal immigration, using bilateral agreements with the United States to increase safe and legal pathways for skilled migration. Negotiate favorable visa policies for Indian professionals and students, and collaborate with the U.S. on workforce mobility solutions to guarantee equitable treatment for deportees. Under

President Donald Trump's administration, the United States has stepped up its immigration crackdown, deporting undocumented Indian migrants using military aircraft. The move affects thousands of Indian nationals, as there are an estimated 725,000 undocumented Indians in the U.S. However, India has committed to deporting illegal immigrants after confirming their citizenship in order to secure legitimate migration pathways for professionals and students. During his upcoming visit to the US, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold high-level talks on bilateral trade, immigration, and diplomatic cooperation.

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

JK Govt approves diversion of forest land for 29 Water Supply Schemes

Rana asks for aggressive compensatory afforestation to arrest ecological imbalance

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: Pursuant to clearance of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC), the Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved diversion of more than 10 hectare of forest land for various Water Supply Schemes (WSS) in Doda and Udhampur districts.

The projects mostly pertained to water supply infrastructure projects related to Jal Jeevan Mission for augmentation of water supply schemes in the districts.

Additionally, clearance has been given for diversion of 1.23 hectare of forest land of Social Forestry Division Baramulla for Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri road.

After a high level meeting of Union Forest Minister Bhupender Yadav and JK Forest Minister Javed Rana held last week, MoEFCC moved promptly and expedited Phase-III clearance of the projects on 1st February and accordingly JK Forest Department has approved diversion of requisitioned forest land subject to compensatory afforestation.

It is pertinent to mention that Javed Ahmed Rana, had recently met Union Forest Minister in New Delhi and urged him to expedite the clearance of pending cases under the Forest Conservation Act related to Jal Jeevan Mis-



sion, awaiting Phase-III clearance at the regional office, so that water infrastructure projects in forested areas can be implemented without further delay. The Union Minister had acknowledged the concerns raised and assured full cooperation from the central government.

To expedite completion of Jal Jeevan Mission that aims to provide tap water connection to every household, six projects that have been cleared included Water Supply Schemes Chigla Balota, Chakal, Tikri, Kund, Chatrari besides improvement and augmentation of WSS Lalli.

The other schemes for which approval has been granted for use of forest land included WSS Mand, Kaghote, Jadsarkote, Krimchi, Delhi Chak, Malhar, Katti and Demnote-Radnote in Udhampur Forest Division.

In Doda Forest Division, seven projects that gained clearance included WSSs Hanch Malna, Seel, Tantna, Aul Ugad, Mohalla, Jathali,

and Jotote and three projects in Bhandarwah Forest Division including WSS Thalela, Southa and Puneja. The projects that have been cleared in Ramnagar Forest Division included WSS Balandh, Jandrari.

The Forest (Conservation) Act (FCA) 1980, a crucial law to conserve forests and biodiversity in India, requires obtaining prior clearance from the central government for any project or activity that involves clearing forest land. The Act helps in striking a balance between development and environmental protection by ensuring sustainable use of forest resources.

To prevent ecological imbalance and ensure sustainable growth, the government has initiated Compensatory Afforestation (CA) efforts against the forest diversion proposals and more than 21 hectare of degraded forest land will be covered under CA.

Forest Minister, Javed Rana, while commenting on the development said that the government is

committed to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections and the forest clearance is a step in that direction.

Emphasizing the importance of these projects in addressing the water needs of the twin districts and other areas, he said "the forest clearance for these projects demonstrate our commitment towards fulfilling our objective of complete implementation of JJM in Jammu and Kashmir. We are dedicated to fostering growth in a way that benefits every section of society."

He directed the authorities to undertake aggressive compensatory afforestation to arrest any ecological imbalance, ensuring sustainable growth and infrastructure development.

The Minister highlighted that these projects had been carefully reviewed to ensure compliance with environmental norms, reflecting the government's balanced approach to development and conservation. He also commended the Forest Department and other concerned authorities for their proactive efforts in expediting the clearance process without compromising on environmental conservation.

Javed Rana further stressed the need for timely implementation of these projects and assured.

Javed Rana reviews implementation of JJM in Budgam

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: Jal Shakti Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana, today reviewed the progress on works being executed under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Budgam during an online meeting held here in this regard.

Present in the meeting were Legislators, Ali Muhammad Dar, Shafi Ahmed Wani and Saif Ud Din Bhat besides other concerned.

Addressing the meeting, Javed Rana impressed upon all the officers of Jal Shakti Department to expedite the execution of works under JJM and work in unison for smooth implementation of the ambitious mission in Budgam.

The Minister reviewed the status



of under construction Water Supply Schemes, DPRs, tendering, work allotments of all JJM works and stressed on speedy work completion of all ongoing JJM projects to ensure adequate potable drinking water supply to all households.

He stressed upon the officers to gear up the execution of works without further delay so that the people are facilitated with the piped drink-

ing water. He directed all concerned officials to address any bottlenecks promptly ensuring expeditious completion of ongoing projects.

Javed Rana directed the officials to prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) in consultation with local legislators. He said that being elected representatives of the area, MLAs have a mass reach and officials can take their help in ensuring that each eligible beneficiary is covered under the government schemes.

The Minister said that taking local MLAs into confidence while formulating and implementing the government schemes in the district provides feedback about the ground realities, enabling the government to formulate policies that effectively address the public needs.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN
e-mail:- rmbdivisonshopian@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
CIVIL WORKS
SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (up to Rs. 2.50 Crores)
NIT No: 72/8160-68/SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2024-25 Dated:-07-02-2025
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Item rate/Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of T/Doc (Rs.)	AAA No. Date	TS No. Date
1	Improvement of road from Kaprin to Pandoshan BWO Construction of R-Wall/ B-Wall at different vulnerable spots	3054 (Non-Plan)	4.976	9952/-	DEE	20 Days	200/-	ARD/33/SK Dated:- 26-11-2024.	89-SE/PS of 2024-25 Dated:-29-01-2025.

Position of funds:- Committed.
Project Authority:- Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department South Kashmir.
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:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	07-02-2025
2	Document downloading Start Date.	08-02-2025
3	Document downloading End Date.	14-02-2025
4	Bid submission Start Date.	08-02-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date.	14-02-2025
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	15-02-2025 at 11:00 A.M

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of e-Challan/treasury challan under Major Head 0059 Revenue in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian
Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5%, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. (The Date of EMD (CDR/FDR/BG) should be between the date of start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and the validity at the time of opening of bids shall be for a period of 45 days beyond bid validity of 120 days).
The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder 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 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:-
NOTE: The "sum in dispute" shall refer to the aggregate of all the disputed amounts, both the claim(s) amount plus the counter claim(s) amount. The Payment shall be made strictly as per the available allocation by the AAA authority.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (R&B)
Division Shopian
DIPK-11686/24
Date: Feb 7 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
My name has been wrongly written as GHULAM MOHAMMAD WANI S/O ABDUL REHMAN WANI R/WARIPORA BALA while my correct name is GH MOHD WANI S/O REHM WANI Which needs to be correct if anybody having objection he/she may file his her objection in the office of BDO/TEHSIL OFFICE WAGOORA WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.
Name...GH MOHD WANI
S/O REHM WANI.
R/O WARIPORA BALA

NAME CHANGE
In MY passport bearing Passport no. J6073974 my name is written as Syed Junaid Javid Naqash S/o: Syed Javid Ahmad Naqash.I want to change my name to Syed Junaid Kashani S/o: Syed Javid Ahmad. R/O Degdarhar, Zoonimar Soura Srinagar, J&K.In this regard if anybody has any objection he/she may contact Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.
Name. Syed Junaid Kashani
S/o: Syed Javid Ahmad.
R/O Degdarhar, Zoonimar Soura Srinagar, J&K.

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 hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHAMMAD AFFAN DAR S/O AKHTER HUSSAIN DAR R/O KALANTRA PAYEEN Tehsil KRRERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 08/04/2021 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI 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 entertaine
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 hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of GHULAM FATIMA S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD KHAN R/O VIZER Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Death as 12/01/2022 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 entertaine
Executive Magistrate
1st Class WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE
My son's has been wrongly written as MUZAMIL BHAT S/O SAREER AHMAD BHAT while his correct name is MOHAMMAD MUZAMIL BHAT S/O SAREER AHMAD BHAT R/O MANAGAM Which needs to be correct if anybody having objection he/she may file his her objection in the office of BDO WAGOORA /TEHSIL OFFICE WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained .
Name....SAREER AHMAD BHAT
F/O MOHAMMAD MUZAMIL BHAT
R/O MANAGAM

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 hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of SADDAM HUSSAIN PARRAY D/O ALTAH HUSSAIN PARRAY R/O HAILJAGIR Tehsil KHOIE 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 entertaine
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 KANGAN)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of GHULAM HASSAN PARRAY S/O ABDUL AZIZ PARRAY R/O HADIPORA Tehsil KANGAN Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 04/01/1975 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 entertaine
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 hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of SYED MOHAMMADA SOLIYAH S/O SYED ZUBAIR AHMAD R/O DAHARMUNA Tehsil BUDGAM Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 10/11/2014 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI 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 entertaine
Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

ازدفترنیابت پھلگام
عنوان درخواست منجانب فیاض احمد پٹر ولد عبدالرحمان پٹر ساکنہ لاری پورا پھلگام نسبت ازرائی نیل سیر (وارث جائز) سرٹیفکیٹ اشتہار بمراد آگاہی
ماملہ مندرجہ الصدمہ میں پٹواری مطلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی۔ مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری وڈیٹیو سرٹیفکیٹ ساکنہ ماگرے ختم محمد ماگرے ساکنہ نون پھلگام مورخہ 20/01/2025 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے متوفی اسپسے پچھلے مندرجہ ذیل وارثان جائز چھوڑ گئے
رشتہ برابرتوفی
1. فیاض احمد پٹر پسر
2. ...نمیدہ باؤڈوختر
3. ...الفت باؤڈوختر
4. ...گفتن اختر
5. ...سیرینہ اختر
6. ...تاریق احمد پسر
7. ...فاطمہ باؤڈوختر
اس لوگ نیل (7) افراد پر عمل مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری مندرجہ وارثان جائز کے علاوہ اوکوئی وارثان جائز نہیں ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوکوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ دن کے اندر پیش کرے معاذ کرنے کے بعد کوکوئی عذر یا اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا
نائب تحصیلدار پھلگام

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of the executive engineer (R&B) DivisiOn Gandarbal
Address: Mini-Secretariat Duderhama Gandarbal
Subject:- Construction of Walling & Other allied works at District Hospital Gandarbal.
Reference:- This office NIT No.95 of 2024-25 issued under endorsement No.8527-32
Dated: 03-01-2025.
ADDENDUM
The Additional Performance Security of the successful bidder shall be released upon the Completion of 30% of the Work.
All other terms and conditions of the above mentioned NIT/SBD will remain Un-altered.
DIPK-11712/24 Sd/-
Date:07 Feb 25 Executive Engineer
R&B Division Gandarbal

THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY PULWAMA
Notification
Dated:- 04-02-2025
Subject:-Holding of 1st National Lok-Adalat on 08th March 2025.
As directed by JK Legal Services Authority, vide Calendar / Plan of Action for the month of March 2025, 1st National Lok- Adalat is scheduled to be organized at District Court Complex Pulwama and in subordinate courts of District Pulwama on 08th March 2025 in which all cases pre and post litigation pending before the courts shall be taken up for amicable settlement. The conciliatory, pre-lok Adalat sessions and sittings shall commence from 27-02- 2025 and shall continue till 07-03-2025.
All the Judicial Officers at District Headquarter Pulwama & other Sub- ordinate Judicial Officers are requested to identify the cases to be taken up in the said National Lok-Adalat and the list of such cases be furnished to DLSA Pulwama by or before 05-03-2025.
DIPK-11698/24 Charman
Date:07 Feb 25 District Legal Services Authority
(Pr. District & Sessions Judge)
Pulwama

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AGRICULTURE GANDERBAL (Mini-Secretariat Duderhama)
Subject: Extension in Last Date in Engagement of Krishi Udyami (KU)/Agricultural Entrepreneur in District Gandarbal.
NOTIFICATION
In continuation to this office Order No: CAOG/ESTT/04 OF 2025 Dated: 23-01-2025, the last date for joining for Krishi Udhymis selected during Phase II is hereby extended for further 10 (Ten days) i.e. upto 11-Feb-2025.
DIPK-11697/24 Sd/-
Date:07 Feb 25 (Shahnawaz Ah Shah)
Chief Agriculture
Officer, Gandarbal.

DDC Gandarbal reviews progress under District Capex

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 07: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Gandarbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a high-level meeting to assess the physical and financial progress made under the District Capex Budget 2024-25 here in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Gandarbal. During the meeting, the Chief Planning Officer briefed the DDC on the status of developmental works and financial utilization. He informed that out of a total 1,635 works, 1,574 have been tendered, and 1,491 have been allotted so far. The DDC conducted a department-wise review, covering Rural Development, Health, Education,



R&B, Power Development, Jal Shakti, and Agriculture and allied sectors.

He directed the officers to ensure optimal utilization of funds and complete all approved projects within the stipulated time frame. He further emphasized

the importance of accelerating the pace of ongoing works to prevent any funds from being surrendered. The executing agencies were instructed to meet both physical and financial targets while maintaining quality standards.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, ACP, Executive Engineers from R&B, REW, Jal Shakti, I&FC, BDOs, and other district and sectoral officers.

ARI and Trainings Department Delegation Explores Advanced Printing & Packaging Innovations at PRINTPACK INDIA 2025

HT News Network

GREATER NOIDA, FEBRUARY 6: A high-level delegation led by Dr. Abdul Kabir Dar, Secretary Technical in Administrative Reforms, Inspections, and Trainings (ARI) Department, along with General Managers Govt Press Jammu, Srinagar Purshottam Sharma and Ajay Akhooon, as well as managers and technical experts from Government Ranbir Press Jammu and Government Press Srinagar, participated in PRINTPACK INDIA 2025, held at the India Expo Centre & Mart, Knowledge Park, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Abdul Kabir Dar highlighted the significance of the event, stating: "Our participation in PRINTPACK INDIA 2025 has



been an invaluable opportunity to witness live demonstrations of cutting-edge advancements in the printing and packaging industry. The insights gained from this exhibition will play a crucial role in modernizing government printing infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, enhancing operational efficiency, and adopting sustainable practices." The delegation engaged with leading industry experts, manufacturers, and technology

providers, discussing potential collaborations and strategies to integrate advanced printing technologies into government operations. The visit also facilitated knowledge exchange on automation-driven solutions and sustainable packaging materials, aligning with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir's vision to modernize its printing infrastructure and transition to eco-friendly, high-quality production standards.

PRINTPACK INDIA 2025, organized by the Indian Printing Packaging & Allied Machinery Manufacturers' Association (IPAMA), is among Asia's largest international exhibitions for printing, packaging, digital solutions, and automation. This year's event brought together over 570 exhibitors and visitors from 52 countries, showcasing the latest technologies, innovations, and trends shaping the future of the industry.

The participation of the ARI and Trainings Department at PRINTPACK INDIA 2025 underscores its ongoing commitment of the Department to leveraging cutting-edge technological advancements to improve service delivery, optimize printing operations, and incorporate sustainable, next-generation printing solutions into government workflows.

DC Gandarbal reviews progress of Jal Shakti Department

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Gandarbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting to review the progress of the Jal Shakti Department in the district here today. During the meeting, the DC emphasized the need for intensified efforts to achieve 100% household coverage under the Jal Jeevan Mission, ensuring uninterrupted water supply to residents. He directed officials to expedite the execution of ongoing projects and complete them within the stipulated time frame. A comprehensive review was taken of the works approved under various schemes, including UT CAPEX, District CAPEX, Languishing, and NABARD. Discussions also covered the status of water testing, monitoring mechanisms, and challenges in implementing Water Supply Schemes. Earlier, Executive Engineer of Jal Shakti Department presented a detailed PowerPoint briefing on the physical and financial progress of these projects.

Inferior Material Used in Larwalpora Road Construction, MLA Bandipora Questions Authorities

HT News Network

Bandipora, Feb 7: On the directions of MLA Bandipora, Nizamuddin Bhat, a team from the MLA office visited Larwalpora to inspect the ongoing construction of a vital road connecting the area with the rest of Bandipora. The project, undertaken at an estimated cost of 3.10 crore, is crucial for local connectivity. During the inspection, the team discovered that the material used for construction was of substandard quality, raising serious concerns about the road's durability and safety. Reports suggest that the road is already in poor condition, making it nearly impossible for people to walk on. Taking immediate action, MLA Nizamuddin Bhat raised the issue with PMGSY authorities, including the Executive Engineer (Xen), demanding an explanation for the substandard construction. He urged the concerned department to rectify the issue without delay to prevent further suffering for residents.

DC Baramulla chairs RAC meeting, approves 33 out of 34 cases



HT News Network

BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 07: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting of the Rent Assessment Committee (RAC) to review and finalize rental cases for government offices functioning in private buildings across the district.

During the meeting, a total of 34 cases were taken up for discussion, out of which 33 cases were approved after thorough scrutiny. One case was kept pending for further verification.

DC stressed the importance of fair and transparent assessment of rental agreements while ensuring

that government offices operate in spaces that meet functional requirements. He directed the concerned officials to rationalize rental expenditures, expedite pending cases, and ensure adherence to government norms in the assessment process.

Among others Joint Director Planning, Javed Ahmad, Superintending Engineer, R&B, Chief Agriculture Officer and Senior officers from the Revenue Department, R&B and other concerned departments were present at the meeting. DC further instructed the officers to conduct periodic assessments to optimize resource utilization and maintain financial discipline.

DC Shopian launches Sugamya yatra, emphasised on empowering the PwDs

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today convened a meeting of officers to discuss the accessibility issues related to specially-abled persons and remedial measures as guaranteed under the RPwD Act. The DC reviewed accessibility amenities available in public office and directed concerned officers for inclusivity of PwDs and other vulnerable sections of society.

While speaking on the occasion of commemoration of the International Day of persons with dis-



abilities he emphasized on the need for concerted efforts for inclusive and sustainable future for them.

DC stressed for the creation of a more focused approach towards PwDs and other vulnerable sections of society.

The event featured an awareness of government

welfare schemes aimed at providing support for livelihood generation, skill development and financial assistance to persons with disabilities.

Participants from the specially-abled community also shared their success stories, inspiring others with their achievements. These initiatives reflect

commitment to raise awareness about the challenges faced by persons with disabilities and promoting inclusivity within the community.

ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar, officers/officials, various stakeholders and numerous disabled persons were present.

Deputy Chief Minister joins 108th birthday celebration of Swami Guru Giri Ji Maharaj

HT News Network

NOWSHERA, FEBRUARY 7: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today joined the devotees and followers in celebrating the 108th birth anniversary of Swami Guru Giri Ji Maharaj at Nowshera.

The event was marked by spiritual fervor, prayers and discourses highlighting the teachings and contributions of the revered saint.

On the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister paid rich tributes to Swami Guru



Giri Ji Maharaj, emphasizing his role in spreading the message of peace, harmony and selfless services.

"Swami Guru Giri Ji Maharaj dedicated his life to the welfare of society, promoting spiritual enlightenment

and humanitarian values. His teachings continue to inspire generations," he said. The celebration witnessed the participation of religious scholars, devotees, and local dignitaries. Bhajans and kirtans were performed and special prayers were offered for communal harmony and prosperity. The Deputy Chief Minister also lauded the contributions of the saint in fostering social unity and urged the people to follow his path of righteousness and service to humanity.

HDFC statement on RBI move

HT News Network

Srinagar: Sakshi Gupta, Principal Economist HDFC Bank while reacting to the RBI move said that in the inflation-growth trade-off the RBI tilted towards supporting growth by cutting the policy rate by 25bps today. This decision was underpinned by the governor's emphasis on the "flexibility" in the inflation target framework, a deviation from the previous assertion of reaching the median target of 4% by the central bank. While the policy rate was reduced, the MPC kept the stance unchanged at neutral. This could imply a more cautious approach towards the extent of rate cuts going forward in this rate cutting cycle. The stance also sug-

gests that while the central bank is likely to provide sufficient liquidity - both transient and durable -- to the system, it has abstained from providing a liquidity bonanza. Therefore, lingering pressures on liquidity could weigh on the transmission process for now.

The pressure on liquidity conditions is anticipated to linger on as we move into the end of the month and year-end drags including advance tax outflows weigh in. We expect this to be met by

appropriate liquidity infusion measures including further OMOs, buy/sell swaps and longer duration repos. The RBI showed confidence in the disinflation process, pegging the inflation rate to average at 4.2% in FY26 while growth is projected to be at 6.7%. Aikkkkjm,k

Commissioner Secretary Culture reviews functioning of SRS Library Jammu

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: Commissioner Secretary, Culture, K Ramesh Kumar, during his maiden visit to Shri Ranbir Singh (SRS) Library Kachi Chawni here, emphasized upon enhancement of operations and provision of efficient library services to the users.

Director Libraries & Research J&K; Deputy Director Libraries Jammu; Assistant Director Libraries Jammu and Chief Librarians, District Library Kathua and Doda besides other officials were present.

The Commissioner Secretary undertook an extensive tour of different sections of SRS Library and took stock of facilities being

provided to the public. It was informed that SRS Library Jammu is the first and the premier public library of J&K founded in the year 1879. The library has a collection of nearly 80,000 books in various languages viz. English, Hindi, Urdu, Persian, English, Hindi, Urdu, Persian, Dogri and Sanskrit thereby offering a diverse readership choice. With a Reading Room operational on all working days from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm and on Sundays from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, the library witnesses a daily footfall of 100-150 visitors.

It was further informed that upgradation of SRS Library complex Jammu and provision of internet facility are the deliverables to be completed in 100 days. SRS Library Jammu is in



the final stages of infrastructural/technical upgradation under Smart City Project by the Jammu Municipal Corporation at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.94 Crore. The project envisages

raising the seating capacity to around 180, automation of library in terms of infrastructure, digital issue/return with adequate safeguards, Radio Frequency Identification Device

(RFID) system, CCTV surveillance, 75-unit computers and 25-unit Acs etc. During interaction with the officers and the staff, the Commissioner Secretary stressed upon seeking sug-

gestions from the users regarding further improvement in the functioning of libraries and reading rooms. He issued a slew of instructions for smooth functioning of SRS Library, better cleanliness and hygiene of the complex and provision of better facilities to users. K Ramesh Kumar emphasized the need for concrete steps to maximise the outreach of the library services. He also urged the officers to take necessary steps for return of books from the borrowers. Steps were finalised for commencement of internet services in the libraries across J&K. The Commissioner Secretary highlighted the need for bringing in certain transformative changes to attract the users towards libraries for cultivating

reading habits. During the interaction, the Commissioner Secretary deliberated upon the departmental issues and assured for their time bound redress. The project envisages raising the seating capacity to around 180, automation of library in terms of infrastructure, digital issue/return with adequate safeguards, Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) system, CCTV surveillance, 75-unit computers and 25-unit Acs etc. During interaction with the officers and the staff, the Commissioner Secretary stressed upon seeking suggestions from the users regarding further improvement in the functioning of libraries and reading rooms. He issued a slew of instructions for smooth.

Deputy Chief Minister inaugurates ARTO Camp Office at Nowshera

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: In a significant step towards improving transport related services in border areas, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today inaugurated the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Camp Office at Nowshera.

The initiative aims to provide doorstep services to the people of Nowshera and Sunderbani, who previously had to travel over 80 km to Rajouri for essential transport services.

To ensure efficient service delivery, the newly established camp office will conduct vehicle inspections on every Monday besides Driving trial tests on every Saturday.

This move is expected to greatly benefit the residents, particularly those living near the Line of Control (LoC), by saving time, effort and



travel expenses. The public has widely appreciated this initiative, hailing it as a landmark decision by the government to enhance accessibility to transport services in remote areas.

Speaking on the occasion, the Dy CM emphasized the government's commitment towards decentralizing essential services for welfare of the people. He highlighted that the ARTO Camp Office at Nowshera is a step

towards ensuring ease of access to transport-related facilities, reducing hardships faced by the local population.

Local residents and representatives expressed their gratitude to the administration for this much-needed facility, which will streamline licensing and vehicle registration services while enhancing road safety compliance in the region.

Divisional Commissioner discusses preparations for Maha-Shivratri Mela at Shri Shiv Khori Shrine

Reviews progress of works undertaken for development of holy Shrine

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Chairman, Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, Ramesh Kumar, today discussed the preparations being made for upcoming Maha Shivratri Mela at Shri Shiv Khori Shrine, Ransoo, Reasi.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the status of physical and financial progress of the works undertaken for the development of the Shrine and providing better facilities to the devotees.

The meeting was attended by Director Tourism, Deputy Commissioner Reasi, officials from BRO, JSW and concerned, in person and through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner took a comparative review of the year-wise and month-wise figures of devotees who paid obeisance at the holy shrine and the



arrangements made last year.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner Reasi to make adequate arrangements for the Maha Shivratri Mela 2025, providing fulfilling and spiritual experience to the visiting devotees during the religious event.

Directions were issued to focus on adequate logistics and creating the right atmosphere with proper illu-

mination, maintenance of tracks, sanitation, sitting spaces, water, power supply and queue management system.

The meeting also discussed the required arrangements for Shobha Yatra, Bhajan Sandhya and other religious activities, besides other necessary arrangements along the track for comfortable pilgrimage of the devotees.

Progressive farmer establishes High-Tech Poly House at Bharderwah by availing HADP scheme

DC inaugurates Agri-venture designed for cultivation of Exotic Vegetables

■ HT News Network

DODA, FEBRUARY 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh today inaugurated a state-of-the-art High-Tech Poly House at Panchayat Dhareja, Bharderwah established under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) 2024-25.

This initiative aims to promote cultivation of exotic vegetables under open and protected farming systems.

The Rs. 17.857 lakh project has been established with a 95% subsidy, benefiting Touqir Ahmed, a progressive farmer from the region. The initiative aligns with the administration's commitment to modernizing agriculture and



enhancing farmers' income through technological interventions and sustainable practices.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also launched a plantation drive, planting saplings to promote environmental conservation. He further distributed tree saplings among the locals, encouraging afforestation and green cover expansion in the district.

The event witnessed the participation of Officers and officials from the Agri-

culture, Horticulture, and allied departments, who highlighted the significance of protected cultivation in boosting productivity and ensuring year-round availability of high-value crops.

The DC Doda emphasized the district administration's commitment to supporting farmers with modern infrastructure and schemes under HADP, ensuring sustainable growth in the agriculture sector.

MLA Sham Lal Sharma encourages youth to avail KVIB's lucrative schemes for employment generation

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: Member Legislative Assembly, Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma today presided over an Awareness Camp held at Mishriwala Jammu organised by J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board.

Speaking on the occasion, Sham Lal Sharma stated that promoting entrepreneurship and skill development, especially among women and marginal sections of the society, is a key focus of the government schemes.

While lauding the role of J&K KVIB in employment generation, he underscored the need for conducting more awareness/ sensitization campaigns to disseminate the information about the employment generation schemes and programmes among the local communities. He added that promotion of employment generation schemes



would help in reducing unemployment and poverty. "Through strategic planning, investment and support, the sector can become a major driver of economic activity and livelihood enhancement," he maintained.

Earlier, the Dy. CEO Jammu Division gave detailed presentation on

the modalities involved in implementation of JKREGP and PMEGP. The stakeholders were informed that the aspiring entrepreneurs can apply online for availing the financial assistance under these schemes.

The programme was also attended by senior officers from Board,

Banks, and a large number of aspirant entrepreneurs and educated unemployed youth of the area. Speaking on the occasion, Sham Lal Sharma stated that promoting entrepreneurship and skill development, especially among women and marginal sections of the society, is a key focus of the government schemes.

While lauding the role of J&K KVIB in employment generation, he underscored the need for conducting more awareness/ sensitization campaigns to disseminate the information about the employment generation schemes and programmes among the local communities. He added that promotion of employment generation schemes would help in reducing unemployment and poverty. "Through strategic planning, investment and support, the sector can become a major driver of economic activity and livelihood enhancement.

Director Agriculture Jammu inaugurates Organic Certification Facilitation Centre

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 7: Director Agriculture Jammu S. Arvinder Singh Reen today inaugurated the Divisional Level Organic Certification Facilitation Centre under the Alternate Agriculture System for Sustainability at the Divisional Seed Certification Office, Regional Council PGS-India Jammu Division. Speaking on the occasion, the Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of the newly established facilitation centre. He said the centre would help farmers to get their organic produce certified, ensuring their good marketing opportunities outside Jammu & Kashmir. Furthermore, he men-



tioned that the centre would play a key role in the successful implementation of projects related to organic certification under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

Director A.S Reen also noted that

the centre would provide ongoing training support to ensure the efficient establishment and management of organic clusters. Additionally, he informed that Organic Certification Facilitation Centres at the district level, being set up

across Jammu Division. The facilitation centre will be staffed with Participatory Guarantee System of India (PGS) qualified officers and feature a projector setup for the training of extension officers and staff.

Joint Director Satish Sharma highlighted the convenience that the organic certification facilitation centre would offer to farmers, making it easier for them to certify their organic clusters. He also outlined that every district in Jammu Division has now set up an Organic Farming Management Unit, including PGS Auditors, PGS Facilitators, Quality Managers, and Training staff, to support the organic certification process.

DC Poonch reviews progress of NABARD-RIDF projects

■ HT News Network

POONCH, FEBRUARY 07: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, today chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial progress of the NABARD-RIDF initiatives in the district. The meeting focused on appraisal of infrastructure improvements in underserved areas, emphasizing the importance of timely and quality construction.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed progress of work on roads, issuing strict instructions to the Executive department regarding adherence to construction standards and timeline, stating that any negligence would not be tolerated.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineers to compile and sub-



mit a list of pending dispute cases from respective divisions to his office promptly. He also instructed Sub-Divisional Magistrates to conduct on-site visits to facilitate dispute resolutions.

SDM Mendhar and SDM Surankote participated virtually, providing detailed updates on the ongoing works and also briefed the dispute cases in their respective divisions.

Mission Director reviews implementation of Poshan schemes in Jammu District

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: Mission Director, Mission Poshan J&K Kishori Lal Sharma today chaired a review meeting of District Jammu, focusing on the implementation of Mission Poshan schemes.

The meeting was attended by District Programme Officer Pankaj Kumar Anand, all the CDPOs and Supervisors of Poshan Projects of District Jammu.

At the outset, the District Programme Officer (DPO) gave a detailed presentation on use of Poshan Tracker for effective nutrition services, benefits provided to pregnant and

lactating mothers under PMMVY scheme, benefits provided under Ladli Beti scheme, Provision of Creches, Bal Vidhyalas, Status of Expenditure, Recruitment of Sanginis and Sahayikas etc.

The Mission Director emphasized the need for enhanced efficiency in the distribution of nutrition services, ensuring that benefits reach the most vulnerable sections of society, particularly pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children below six year age.

He asked for giving special attention to streamlining supply chains, improving data monitoring systems, and strengthening interdepartmental coordination to achieve the Mis-



sion goals effectively.

The MD impressed upon all the CDPOs to enhance the registration of beneficiaries under PMMVY, clear all the pending CAS cases, enhance the

registration of left out children from 0-6 years, maximize the registration of beneficiaries under Ladli Beti conduct frequent visits to Anganwadi Centres and ensure timely utilization

of funds under all the Schemes.

The review meeting concluded with a commitment to accelerating efforts towards reinforcing the vision of Mission POSHAN. Mission Director, Mission Poshan J&K Kishori Lal Sharma today chaired a review meeting of District Jammu, focusing on the implementation of Mission Poshan schemes. The meeting was attended by District Programme Officer Pankaj Kumar Anand, all the CDPOs and Supervisors of Poshan Projects of District Jammu.

At the outset, the District Programme Officer (DPO) gave a detailed presentation on use of Poshan Tracker for effective nutrition services, benefits provided to pregnant and

lactating mothers under PMMVY scheme, benefits provided under Ladli Beti scheme, Provision of Creches, Bal Vidhyalas, Status of Expenditure, Recruitment of Sanginis and Sahayikas etc.

The Mission Director emphasized the need for enhanced efficiency in the distribution of nutrition services, ensuring that benefits reach the most vulnerable sections of society, particularly pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children below six year age. He asked for giving special attention to streamlining supply chains, improving data monitoring systems, and strengthening interdepartmental coordination to achieve the Mission goals effectively.

DC reviews implementation of Gati Shakti Sanchar network in District Poonch

HT News Network

POONCH, FEBRUARY 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Poonch, Vikas Kundal, convened a crucial meeting today at the DC Office complex to review the implementation of the Gati Sanchar Portal Network system aimed at centralizing Right of Way (RoW) approvals for infrastructure projects in the district.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including ACD, ACP, XEN PWD, DIO NIC, SDO BSNL and representatives from the revenue department.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Kundal sought a comprehensive update on the progress of various connectivity infrastructure initiatives. He inquired about: Forest Site Status, Land Acquisition Progress and Civil Work Status for USOF 4G Saturation



Project, BharatNet VSAT GP Status, Amended BharatNet Programme, Status of RoW Applications, Electricity Connections for Mobile Towers and other related issues.

Emphasizing the critical need for improved infrastructure connectivity, particularly in remote areas, DC Kundal highlighted that enhanced connectivity is essential for the overall development of the district. He urged all departments to expedite their efforts and collaborate effectively to overcome challenges faced in the implementation of these vital projects.

The GatiShakti Sanchar initiative aims to streamline and enhance infrastructure development by ensuring efficient project approvals and coordination among various stakeholders. The DC reiterated the importance of timely execution to benefit the local population and improve access to services and opportunities.

GDC Sunderbani implements robust mechanism under POSH Act

HT News Network

RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 07: In a significant step towards fostering a safe and inclusive work environment, Government Degree College, Sunderbani has implemented a robust mechanism to prevent sexual harassment of women at the workplace, in accordance with the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013.

As part of this initiative, the institution has established an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) to address grievances related to sexual harassment.

The committee comprises representatives from faculty, staff, and an external expert to ensure impartiality and transparency.

To raise awareness and sensitize employees and students, the institution conducted a workshop today, where the counselors educated attendees on the rights and responsibilities under the law.

Regular training sessions, posters, and an open-door policy have been introduced to encourage reporting and ensure a zero-tolerance approach towards misconduct. The college is committed to implementing strict measures that empower women and ensure a harassment-free environment for all.

SWD Poonch organises Interactive Session cum Prosthetic Aid Distribution Camp

HT News Network

POONCH, FEBRUARY 07: The Social Welfare Department Poonch successfully organized an interactive session cum Prosthetic Aid distribution camp at Surankote today.

The initiative was hosted as part of the Sogamya Bharat Yatra campaign towards addressing the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in the region.

District Social Welfare Officer Wakeel Ahmed Bhat was present at the event and distributed Prosthetic Aids among the beneficiaries. This distribution is part of a broader initiative aimed at enhancing mobility and independence for individuals with disabilities.

The camp is a direct response to the needs of persons with disabilities, showcasing the commitment of the Social Welfare Department to promote inclusivity and support for all members of society.

The Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan stands as a milestone in India's journey towards creating an inclusive and equitable society, where every individual can thrive without barriers. The initiative emphasizes the importance of accessibility and the need for systemic changes to ensure that persons with disabilities are provided with the necessary resources and support.

Awareness event on PM Vishwakarma held at Bhandarwah

HT News Network

BHANDARWAH, FEBRUARY 07: A special awareness camp on the PM Vishwakarma Scheme and other self-employment initiatives of the government was successfully conducted at the Community Hall, Bhandarwah. The event was organized by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) in collaboration with various district-level departments to support artisans and skilled workers.

The programme saw enthusiastic participation from over 300 artisans, trainees from RSETI, and students from ITI Bhandarwah. Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh was the Chief Guest, along with several key officials, including Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhandarwah Sunil Kumar, General Manager DIC Paramjeet Singh and Assistant Directors of MSME DFO Jammu, Rajesh Kumar (IEDS) and D.K. Tyagi. Other government functionaries present included the Director RSETI, District Social Welfare Officer, Tehsildar Bhandarwah, and representatives from banking and employment support agencies. The programme highlighted the benefits of the PM Vishwakarma scheme, which aims to empower artisans by providing skill upgradation training, financial assistance, and toolkits worth up to 15,000. Additionally, collateral-free enterprise development loans of up to 3 lakh were promoted to encourage self-employment.

Samba district hosts "Kalakriti" Skill Development Workshop under National Bamboo Mission

HT News Network

SAMBA, FEBRUARY 07: The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom organized a significant one-day workshop and exhibition "Kalakriti," at the Bamboo Common Facility Centre (CFC) in Block Sumb, marking another milestone in the implementation of the National Bamboo Mission.

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma and Director Handicrafts and Handloom Jammu, Suraj Prakash Rukwal, graced the occasion with their presence. The event, spearheaded by Assistant Director Handicrafts Samba, Ms. Ekshu Sharma, Block Development Officer Nud, Ms. Veronica Raj, focused on skill enhancement and advancing the objectives of the National Bamboo Mission.



National Bamboo Mission aims to boost the bamboo sector by addressing the complete value chain, from cultivation to marketing, while generating employment opportunities, especially in rural areas. The state-of-the-art Bamboo Common

Facility Centre in Sumb, an area renowned for its traditional bamboo craftsmanship, provides artisans with modern machinery and workspace to enhance their craft. This initiative represents a significant step toward preserving and modernizing the region's rich bamboo crafting heritage.

During the event, artisans received certificates and bamboo toolkits from the dignitaries. Both the Deputy Commissioner and Director emphasized the importance of skill development and encouraged artisans to work towards establishing a unique identity for Samba's bamboo crafts in the broader market.

The well-attended event saw participation from numerous artisans and department employees, reflecting the community's strong interest in preserving and advancing this traditional craft.

ADDC Reasi flags off Sugamya Yatra

HT News Network



REASI, FEBRUARY 07: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Reasi Sukhdev Singh Samyal today flagged off the Sugamya Yatra—a unique awareness initiative for Divyangjans on specially designed bikes. The yatra commenced from the DC Office Complex and proceeded to the Bus Stand Reasi, highlighting the importance of accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities. Organized by the Social Welfare Department Reasi under the leadership of District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Sachin Sharma, the yatra aims to sensitize stakeholders about the challenges faced by Divyangjans and their rights under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. This initiative seeks to create mass awareness and encourage collective responsibility toward building a more accessible environment.

ADDC Reasi highlighted that The Sugamya Yatra 2025 focuses on key aspects such as awareness creation, stakeholder mobilization, and the use of digital tools like the "Yes to Access" mobile app. The event saw participation from representatives of the disability sector, local NGOs, accessibility auditors, and government officials.

Field Epidemiology Training Prog in One Health

Directorate of Health Services Jammu concludes 3-Day Second Contact Session

HT News Network

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: The three-day Second Contact Session of the Sector Connect Training Program on Field Epidemiology in One Health (FEPOH) concluded successfully today in Jammu. Organized by the Directorate of Health Services Jammu with the support of the National Health Mission (NHM) J&K and the State Surveillance Unit (SSU), the program focused on strengthening integrated public health response preparedness for emerging zoonotic diseases, climate change, antimicrobial resistance, and biodiversity loss.

Held under the leadership of Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education, J&K, and the supervision of Dr. Rakesh Magotra, Director, Health Services Jammu, the workshop witnessed participation from professionals representing Health, Animal Husbandry, Wildlife, and Food Safety departments from all districts of the Jammu division.

Eminent experts including Dr. Anil Kumar, Principal Advisor, NCDC, New Delhi, and Dr. Sanket Vasant Kulkarni Joint Director, NCDC New Delhi contributed to the program, enriching participants with valuable insights and expertise.



Dr. Harjeet Rai, State Surveillance Officer, Jammu, highlighted that a strong inter-sectoral approach is essential in tackling public health challenges. He emphasized that collaboration between the health, animal, and environmental sectors is key to detecting and responding effectively to emerging zoonotic diseases, environmental health threats, and antimicrobial resistance. He commended the active participation of attendees and stated that by sharing expertise and strengthening coordination, we can effectively manage public health risks and enhance disease surveillance capabilities in the region.

The training comprised technical sessions, case studies, and hands-on exercises to enhance skills in disease surveillance, data management, and

public health communication. Experts from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) led the sessions, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience.

A key highlight of the program was the case presentations by participants from the human, animal, wild life and food safety sectors. These presentations were reviewed by experts, who provided constructive feedback to strengthen the participants' analytical and problem-solving capabilities.

The successful completion of this second contact session of Sector Connect Training Program highlights the dedication of all participating sectors toward a unified and proactive approach to public health challenges.

Warm Clothings Distributed Among Needy By TSWOOI At Bhandarwah

(Diverse Welfare Programs For Marginalised And Needy)

Amir Iqbal Khan

Bhandarwah, February 07: As a step inline with the mission of 'Serving the marginalised section of the society,' The Social Welfare Organisation Of India (TSWOOI) organised a community program in which woolen clothes such as Sweaters, Trousers, Pents, Shirts, jackets etc. besides fruits were distributed among the needy people in Village Malsoo under Sarana Panchayat of additional district Bhandarwah on Friday. The program was organised under the supervision of Zaffar Hussain Wani NGO's Vice President for Jammu and Kashmir. He was accompanied by the district president Shahid Hussain Malik,



Saqib Butt (District vice president) and active volunteers Mool Raj Mishra, Umar Tak, Mohd Yousuf Rather along with prominent persons of the area.

On this occasion, Wani said that the initiative for providing winter clothing to poor and needy sections of the society associated with other activities launched by TSWOOI highlights and reinvigorates the ethical

traditions which serves as a guiding force for the betterment of the humanity. He appealed to the members of TSWOOI to continue with its humanitarian services primarily focusing on the disadvantaged sections of the society. "Our organization stands shoulder to shoulder with the poor for their welfare ever since the organisation has come in to being. We will continue with the present mission in future as well which in fact, is also in keeping with the manifesto of our organization," Wani asserted adding further, "TSWOOI is committed to serving diversely for the welfare of the marginalised sections of the society regardless of religion, caste, color or creed."

M S Nazki honored with the prestigious 'Achiever Award' in the Field of Literature

HT News Network

Jammu: During the Naushera Day celebrations in Rajouri district, M S Nazki was bestowed with the prestigious Achiever Award in the field of Literature by Major General K Mukherjee, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the 25 Infantry Division. The award ceremony, held in Naushera, was a momentous occasion attended by hundreds of civilians, senior officials from the Civil Administration, Army officers, Police personnel, and heads of various organizations.

M S Nazki, a distin-



guished journalist and nominated author, was recognized for his exceptional contributions to literature and his insightful work on defense-related topics. He is the author of the acclaimed book "Indian Army: A Wall of Peace for Borders in Jammu & Kashmir (UT)." His liter-

ary accomplishments reflect not only his writing prowess but also his deep commitment to highlighting the vital role of the Indian Army in maintaining peace and contributing to the development of the region.

Major General K Mukherjee, during the

ceremony, praised M S Nazki as a distinguished author and journalist from Mendhar, noting his significant contributions to the field of defense literature. He acknowledged Nazki's invaluable work in documenting the Indian Army's efforts in the peaceful and progressive development of Jammu & Kashmir. Major General Mukherjee emphasized that Nazki's writings serve as a beacon of knowledge, shedding light on the selfless dedication of the Indian Army while simultaneously advocating for the well-being and progress of the local population.

Lok Sabha takes up discussion on Union Budget

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 7

Lok Sabha on Friday took up the discussion on the Union Budget 2025-26, which was presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on the last Saturday.

Initiating the discussion, Congress MP Dharamveer Gandhi asserted that the "States make India and not the Centre which makes states. This Budget has no proper allocation for states".

The Congress leader alleged that the Union Budget has failed to address the agrarian challenges being faced by the country. Raising concerns over issues of farmers' suicide, Gandhi said it was unfortunate that the farmers are still committing suicides despite ten years rule of NDA government at the Centre.

"MSME sector is not in the focus of the government and the Budget has not taken care of its needs, even quality education in the country is becoming costlier day by day



and it is not affordable for the poor and underprivileged in the country" he said.

Before the discussion, the Opposition also questioned the absence of Finance Minister from the house, citing a convention.

Congress MP KC Venugopal demanded that Nirmala Sitharaman should be present during the discussion on the Budget.

"The Finance Minister who presented the Budget should be present in the house," he said.

In a brief intervention, BJP

MP Anurag Thakur retorted, "MoS Finance is present in the house".

Speaker Om Birla said that there is no such rule that the Minister has to be present during the debate.

"There have been numerous times when debates have taken place in the presence of MoS Finance. I have 25 such examples," the Speaker said.

Shiv Pal Singh of Samajwadi Party also criticised the Budget saying the farmers are not getting appropriate prices for their produce in the country. He also raised the issue

of prices of fertilizers in the country.

Abhishek Banerjee of TMC raised the issue of hike in the prices of LPG cylinders claiming that 1.2 crore households could not refill their cooking gas cylinders.

He questioned the government on the issues related to farmers in the country and alleged that West Bengal has not received enough allocations in the Union Budget.

Participating in the discussion, Rao Rajendra Singh of BJP lauded the Union Budget saying, "It has taken care of the interests of the poor, farmers and women".

The BJP MP said the government has focused on the well being of farmers and taken several initiatives in this direction...adding that the country has been witnessing a consistent rise in direct tax in recent years".

The Budget Session will be held in two parts - between January 31 and February 13 and then from March 10 to April 4.

PM Modi to visit US from Feb 12-13 on invite of President Trump; also visit France for AI Summit

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 7

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be paying a two-day working visit to the US from February 12-13 at the invitation of President Donald Trump, and also to France from February 10-12 at the invitation of President Emmanuel Macron.

During PM Modi's US visit, he will hold bilateral talks with President Trump in restricted and delegation level, and also senior officials of the Trump administration. PM Modi will also interact with business leaders and the Indian community during his US visit.

"This has been one of our strongest partnerships and the PM's visit is in line with our engagement with the new administration," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said at a special briefing here.

He said the US visit is expected to give further impetus and direction to the bilateral relationship.

"During the first Trump administration, PM Modi visited the US in 2017 and 2019. PM Modi was among the first world leaders to call Trump and congratulate him on winning the election. And after the inauguration, he called again, and on that occasion they agreed to meet very soon, and that is the promise that is now unfolding," the FS said.

He said that EAM Jaishankar visited the US as special envoy



of the PM for the inauguration, and the Quad foreign ministers meeting took place then, as well as the first bilateral meeting between EAM and the new US Secretary of State Marc Rubio.

The Defence Ministers and NSAs have also been in touch on both sides.

There is a close rapport between the two leaders from the first term, and there is obvious convergence of interests, with the agenda focused on trade, commerce, defence, technology, counter terrorism, the Indo-Pacific and people to people ties, he said.

The FS said the 5.4 million strong Indian community and the Indian students there strengthen the bonds between the two nations immeasurably.

The PM's visit will give a strong impetus to the relationship. A Joint Statement is to be adopted at the end of the visit, he added.

Ahead of the US trip, PM Modi will visit France from

February 10-12 where he will co-chair the AI Action Summit along with President Emmanuel Macron of France.

While in France, the PM will visit Marseilles along with President Macron, and also Cadarache, where the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor is located, the FS said.

After the AI Summit the two sides will hold bilateral talks. PM Modi and President Macron will address the India-France CEOs Forum and hold talks in restricted and delegation level format.

The two leaders will travel to Marseilles on February 11 evening, where President Macron will host dinner for him.

On February 12 the two leaders will visit the Mazar-gues War Cemetery which is maintained by the Commonwealth, to pay tribute to the Indian soldiers who died fighting during World War I.

The two leaders will jointly inaugurate a new consulate general of India in Marseilles, which will help a number of Indian nationals and PIOs who live and work in south of France, the FS said.

In the final part of the programme, they will visit Cadarache, where the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor is located. India is partner along with some other countries in the project.

Will approach court if EC doesn't provide full list of Maha voters : Rahul

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 7

Alleging manipulation in voters' list of Maharashtra, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday said that Congress will be forced to approach the court if the Election Commission does not provide the full list of voters at the earliest.

Addressing a press conference at the Constitution Club of India here along with NCP-SP leader Supriya Sule and Shiv Sena-UBT leader Sanjay Raut, he alleged, "Between the 2019 Vidhan Sabha election and the 2024 Lok Sabha election, 32 lakh voters were added to Maharashtra's electoral rolls over five years. However, between the 2024 Lok Sabha election and the 2024 Vidhan Sabha election, 39 lakh new voters were added in just five



months".

The former Congress president demanded from the Election Commission the entire voters' list of Maharashtra with names, addresses and pictures.

Gandhi also alleged that "Many voters have been either deleted or transferred as they come from the Dalit, Tribal and minority communities".

"We don't know how many voters have been deleted or where. We only know how

many have been added. And we suspect that the number of deletions is much more than the number of additions," the Rae Bareilly MP added.

Accusing the Election Commission of losing control of the list in Maharashtra, Rahul asked the poll body, "Why did the EC add more voters in Maharashtra in 5 months than it did in 5 years? Why were there more registered voters in Vidhan Sabha 2024 than the entire adult population of Maharashtra?"

The leader of opposition in Lok Sabha also gave an example of Kamthi Assembly Constituency in Maharashtra alleging that 35,000 new voters were added.

He further said that Kamthi Constituency was just an example claiming that there were several constituencies in the state where such discrepan-

cies have been found.

Meanwhile, Sanjay Raut said that the issue put in front of the country is "very important".

"If the Election Commission is not dead then the questions that Rahul Gandhi ji has asked should be answered".

Calling the "39 lakh" voters as floating voters, Raut alleged, "These 39 lakh voters are following a pattern of the BJP as they are floating voters. They will go to all those states where elections are due. Some have come to Delhi, then they will go Bihar and then to Uttar Pradesh".

Supriya Sule too flagged the same concern.

It may be mentioned during the motion of thanks to the President's address, Rahul had also talked about the alleged "discrepancies in the Maharashtra voters' list".

SC upholds Kerala HC directive to register FIRs on sexual exploitation allegations in film industry

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 7

The Supreme Court on Friday declined to interfere with the Kerala High Court's directive to register FIRs based on depositions made before the Justice Hema Committee regarding allegations of sexual exploitation in the Malayalam cinema industry.

A bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Sanjay Karol, and Justice Sandeep Mehta underscored that the police are duty-bound to investigate upon receiving information about a cognizable offence. "Under criminal jurisprudence, there can be no injunction restraining police from proceeding as per the law under Section 173 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)," the bench observed.

The apex court's decision came while dismissing Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) filed by film producer Sajimon Parayil and two actors challenging the Kerala High Court's October 2024 order.

Acknowledging that the Kerala High Court is already overseeing the investigation, the bench

permitted individuals who had deposed before the Justice Hema Committee to approach the High Court if they experienced harassment by the Special Investigation Team (SIT). The court further directed the Kerala High Court to examine whether the FIRs were based on valid materials or registered arbitrarily.

The case originated from the Kerala High Court's directive treating the statements recorded by the Justice Hema Committee as "information" under Section 173 of the BNSS, thereby prompting the SIT to take appropriate action.

Film producer Sajimon Parayil and two actors had contested the directive. One actor contended that her deposition was intended for academic purposes and was based on hearsay, with no intention to trigger criminal proceedings. She also highlighted the reluctance of several women to participate in investigations.

The Supreme Court had reserved its decision on the petitions on January 21 before affirming the Kerala High Court's approach in today's order.

Karnataka HC rejects CBI probe in MUDA case

AGENCIES

BENGALURU, FEB 7 (UND)

The Karnataka High Court on Friday rejected a plea seeking the transfer of the investigation into the alleged Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) land scam, purportedly involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, from the Lokayukta police to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Justice M Nagaprasanna, delivering the verdict, stated that the material on record did not indicate any bias or irregularities in the ongoing Lokayukta probe that warranted intervention by the court for a transfer.

"The investigation does not appear to be partisan, lopsided, or shoddy to necessitate a referral to the CBI for further investigation or reinvestigation. The petition stands dismissed," the court ruled.

The court had earlier reserved its verdict after hearing extensive arguments from all parties concerned. Senior Advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for petitioner Snehamayi Krishna, contended that a suspect or accused has no right to determine the investigating agency. Citing Supreme Court precedents, he argued that in cases

involving high-ranking officials, an independent probe was essential to ensure a fair investigation. He urged the court to transfer the case to the CBI, raising concerns over possible political interference in the Lokayukta investigation.

However, Senior Advocate Dushyant Dave, representing J Devaraju, the original landowner from whom the brother-in-law of CM Siddaramaiah purchased the disputed property, countered the claims. He termed the petition an "abuse of process" and highlighted the delay in the petitioner's approach to the court. Dave also pointed out that the plea was filed within an hour of the Lokayukta police registering an FIR, questioning the petitioner's conduct.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the state government, asserted that the transfer of investigations is ordered only in exceptional cases where the probe is deemed tainted or mala fide. He dismissed the contention that the Lokayukta police, being under the state government, could not conduct an impartial inquiry, noting that by the same logic, the CBI, which functions under the Central government, could also be considered biased.

HC grants Yediyurappa bail, remits POCSO case to trial court

AGENCIES

BENGALURU, FEB 7

The Karnataka High Court on Friday set aside the trial court order taking cognizance of offences alleged against former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa in a case registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

However, the court remitted the matter back to the trial court while maintaining that the investigation and final report remain intact.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, while delivering the verdict, stated, "Petition is allowed in part. Order of taking cognizance stands obliterated. The crime, investigation, and final report remain intact. The matter is remitted back to the trial court. All contentions remain open."

The court further clarified that Yediyurappa is at liberty to avail of legal remedies at the appropriate stage before the competent forum. Additionally, the court granted him anticipatory bail.

The case was based on a complaint filed by the mother of a 17-year-old girl, who alleged that Yediyurappa had sexually assaulted her daughter during a meeting in February 2023 at his residence in Bengaluru. The Sadashivana-gar police registered the case on March 14, 2024, and later



transferred it to the CID for further investigation. The CID re-registered the FIR and subsequently filed a chargesheet against the former CM.

The high court had reserved its judgment on January 17 after hearing extensive arguments from both sides. Senior Advocate CV Nagesh, appearing for Yediyurappa, contended that the presumption under Sections 29 and 30 of the POCSO Act applies only at the trial stage. He further questioned the delay of one and a half months in filing the FIR, asserting that the complainant's conduct required scrutiny.

Nagesh also argued that the prosecution's reliance on presumption was premature at this stage and that Yediyurappa was not given an opportunity under Section 41A of the CrPC before proceeding against him.

On the other hand, Special Public Prosecutor Prof. Ravivarma Kumar contend-

ed that under Section 29 of the POCSO Act, the accused is presumed guilty unless proven otherwise. He highlighted forensic evidence, including an FSL report certifying the authenticity of mobile recordings that allegedly captured conversations between the complainant and the accused.

During the proceedings, the court remarked that the complainant and her daughter had visited Yediyurappa's residence again on February 5, 2024, raising questions about the sequence of events. It noted that evidence gathered by the investigating officer must be thoroughly tested in court.

In response, Nagesh argued that the complainant's repeated visits to the accused's house contradicted her allegations. He further claimed that their visit was intended to seek assistance in an unrelated case and to take photographs with the former CM.

While setting aside the trial court's cognizance order, the high court reiterated that the charges and investigation remain in force. Yediyurappa's plea for anticipatory bail was granted, allowing him to avoid immediate arrest.

The case now returns to the trial court, where all parties will have the opportunity to present their arguments afresh.

Bengal: Three women among 4 killed in explosion at firecracker factory in Kalyani

AGENCIES

KOLKATA, FEB 7 (UND)

At least four people were killed, three of them women, and another woman was burned critically in an explosion at a firecracker factory on Friday in West Bengal's Kalyani area of Nadia district, official sources said

The critically injured woman was admitted to the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital in Kalyani.

The firecracker factory, stated to be illegal, was reduced to ashes on Friday noon.

Sources said all the victims were probably the workers of the illegal firecracker factory.

The factory was located in a densely populated Rathala

under Kalyani municipal ward No 20, where a law enforcement agency from Ranaghat Police station reached for investigation.

Fire Brigade sources said the explosion occurred at around 2:30 pm impacting huge volume flames, which were brought under control within an hour.

Study shows how PM2.5 raises health, economic costs for elderly

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 7

While air pollution is becoming a growing health issue worldwide, a new study focussed on its health and economic costs in the elderly.

The study led by researchers from the University of Tokyo in Japan highlights how fine particulate pollution, or PM2.5 worsens health outcomes, as well as creates significant socioeconomic challenges in regions with ageing populations and limited medical resources.

PM2.5 refers to microscopic particles of pollution small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream, leading to severe respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

The particles are small enough to evade the body's natural defences in the nose and throat, making direct prevention difficult. This becomes especially problematic in elderly populations.

"As we age, our immune systems weaken and our bodies are less able to defend against pollutants. Even moderate exposure can exacerbate pre-existing conditions, leading

to higher hospitalisation rates and premature mortality," said lead author Associate Professor Yin Long.

"Our study provides new insights into impacts of PM2.5 in ageing regions, with a particular focus on the mismatch between those impacts and regional medical resource distribution."

The team focuses on Japan - a country where almost 30 per cent of the population is aged 65 or older. Examining the relationship between PM2.5 exposure, health care disparities, and economic impacts, the team found that elderly people living in rural regions suffer more from PM2.5 pollution.

They also have less comprehensive medical infrastructure than the urban areas, which are much better equipped and staffed. As a result, their economic costs compared to urban regions are higher.

"Many rural areas lack the specialised hospitals and trained professionals needed to treat diseases exacerbated by PM2.5, such as strokes and heart attacks," said Long.



DR. TASADUK HUSSAIN ITOO

Diabetes is one of the diseases that affects the endocrine system. The pancreas produces the hormone insulin. In Type 1 diabetes, the insulin producing cells in the pancreas are destroyed. In Type 2 diabetes, insulin is still produced but the body becomes resistant to it. Almost every organ in the body can be adversely affected with the onset of diabetes. But with regular screening, timely intervention and care, the disease can be kept under check.

The initial symptoms could be excessive thirst, excessive appetite and excessive urination and swelling of feet. Delayed wound healing, frequent infections, nausea, vomiting and weight loss may be other symptoms.

While diabetes cause damage to almost every tissue and organ, the kidney being one of them. If neglected, a person could land into diabetic nephropathy. Serum proteins like albumin in the urine, blood urea and cre-

atinine levels should be checked after every 3 months. Moreover, diabetics should usually limit painkillers. They should watch out for swelling of the feet, extreme fatigue, weakness and breathlessness.

A diabetic should take special care of his feet. Watch out for numbness, foot ulcers and carefully examine spaces between the toes and the soles of the feet. Socks should be washed regularly and one should use footwear, preferably with ankle support. Nails should not be cut too short and sharp edges should be filed. It has been seen that high percentage of amputations are carried out in neuropathic feet with secondary infection, which are potentially preventable.

The eyes of a diabetic also need special attention and care. The retina could get affected, and blood vessels in the eye could leak blood causing diminution of vision with other symptoms including diabetic retinopathy. Diabetes also produces early cataract and in extreme cases, the patient may lose eyesight. So, regular eye check-ups are a must.

There is also a link between depression and diabetes. Research studies have also shown that the chances of developing diabetes was more amongst persons with current depressive and/or anxiety disorders. Some of the newer drugs used in the treatment of mental disorders might increase blood sugar levels. It is now important to monitor all patients on

such drugs for their blood sugar levels.

Diabetics have a higher risk of developing cardiovascular diseases (CVDs). Diabetes causes generalised micro and macro vascular disease, affecting multiple organs. Because of increased production of cholesterol and triglycerides levels as a result of insulin resistance in diabetes, there are increased chances of development of atherosclerosis and narrowing of the heart arteries. More to say, diabetes leads to increased tendency for blood clotting resulting in heart attacks. There is impaired heart cell structure and function, leading to enlarged heart and reduced heart pumping function, a condition known as dilated cardiomyopathy - the condition that may eventually lead to heart failure.

A comprehensive attempt to identify pre-diabetics and intervene to reverse the metabolic abnormality will prevent further increase in the prevalence of diabetes. Preventive health check-up and a year-round management of health and wellness customised to one's health profile and screening in the community are absolutely essential. Diabetes care and services should be augmented at all levels of health-care - to ensure basic access of services to every individual of the society. Coherent efforts must be directed at preventing and delaying the onset of the disease by conducting mass awareness programs and education in the society. Moreover, adopting

healthy lifestyle changes including physical activity and dietary approach besides working on the various modifiable risk factors of diabetes could prove beneficial in prevention of diabetes.

SPECIAL TIPS TO BEAT DIABETES

CUTTING SUGAR AND REFINED CARBS FROM ONE'S DIET: Eating foods high in refined carbs and sugar increases blood sugar levels, which may lead to diabetes over time. Avoiding these foods may help reduce the risk.

WORKING OUT REGULARLY: Performing physical activity on a regular basis can increase insulin secretion and sensitivity, which may help prevent the progression from pre-diabetes to diabetes.

DRINKING WATER AS YOUR PRIMARY BEVERAGE:

Drinking water instead of other beverages may help in regulation of blood sugar and insulin levels, thereby reducing the risk of diabetes.

LOSING WEIGHT IF OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE: Carrying excess weight, particularly in the abdominal area, increases the likelihood of developing diabetes. Losing weight may significantly reduce the risk of diabetes.

QUITTING SMOKING: Smoking is strongly linked to the risk of diabetes, especially in heavy smokers. Quitting has been shown to reduce this risk over time.

FOLLOWING A VERY LOW-CARB DIET: Following a keto-

genic or very-low-carb diet can help keep blood sugar and insulin levels under control, which may protect against diabetes.

AVOIDING LARGE PORTION SIZES: Avoiding large portion sizes can help reduce blood sugar levels and decrease the risk of diabetes.

AVOIDING SEDENTARY BEHAVIORS: Avoiding sedentary behaviours like excessive sitting has been shown to reduce your risk of getting diabetes.

EATING A HIGH-FIBER DIET: Consuming a good fiber source at each meal can help prevent spikes in blood sugar and insulin levels, which may help reduce the risk of developing diabetes.

OPTIMIZING VITAMIN D LEVELS: Consuming foods high in vitamin D or taking supplements can help optimize vitamin D blood levels, which can reduce one's risk of diabetes.

MINIMIZING INTAKE OF PROCESSED FOODS: Minimizing processed foods and focusing on whole foods with protective effects on health may help decrease the risk of diabetes.

DRINKING COFFEE OR TEA: Drinking coffee or tea may help reduce blood sugar levels, increase insulin sensitivity and reduce the risk of diabetes.

TAKING NATURAL HERBS: The herbs like cur cumin increase insulin sensitivity, reduce blood sugar levels and may help prevent diabetes.

Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo is Fellow, International Diabetes Federation(Belgium) drtasadukitoo@gmail.com

Barber-Turned-Ayurvedic Doctor Exposed in Pothkha Baramulla; Ayush Department in Action

UMAR RASHID
BARAMULLA

A shocking case of medical malpractice was exposed today as a local barber, who had shut down his shop, was found illegally practicing as an Ayurvedic and Unani doctor from his home. The individual not only prescribed medicines without proper qualifications but also provided allopathic, Unani, and Ayurvedic drugs, including painkillers like Batnasak Batika, to unsuspecting patients.

In a joint operation led by the Ayush Department and media, a team of five Ayush doctors visited the barber's residence. Upon investigation, it was revealed that he was



prescribing allopathic and Unani medicines to patients without any formal medical training or authorization.

The Ayush Department has issued a strict warn-

ing to the individual and other unqualified practitioners (quacks) operating illegally across Baramulla district. Authorities have also cautioned medical distributors against sup-

plying medicines to unauthorized individuals or unregistered shopkeepers.

Officials emphasized that only those holding a valid certification from the Board of Ayush are permitted to practice Hikmat (traditional healing). They reiterated that possessing such certification allows one to practice Hikmat but does not grant the authority to assume the role of an Ayurvedic or Unani doctor.

The department has vowed to take strict action against anyone found violating these regulations and urged the public to remain vigilant against unqualified practitioners endangering public health.

Dr Tasaduk receives study offer from University of Edinburgh

Kashmir-based medicum noted health columnist Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo has received a study offer from the prestigious University of Edinburgh.

The offer was conferred to Dr Itoo after successful acceptance and approval of the application by the University for a masters degree program in internal medicine.

The doctor will have the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills in their chosen field, potentially leading to improved patient care and outcomes.

The University of Edinburgh is known for its rigorous academic programs, and receiving an offer is a significant achievement.

It is worth noting that



the University of Edinburgh has a reputation for attracting talented students from around the world, including those from India.

The Director of Post-graduate training (PGT) of College of Medicine, has extended her best wishes and compliments to Dr Itoo on receiving such offer.

After amla, moringa, Ayush Ministry to campaign for Shatavari plant to boost health

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

After successful campaigns for medicinal plants such as amla, moringa, giloe, and ashwagandha, Ayush Ministry has launched a new campaign for the Shatavari plant to boost health.

The species-specific campaign titled "Shatavari - For Better Health" was launched by Prataprao Jadhav, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush on Thursday.

Jadhav emphasised the relevance of Shatavari in achieving the Panch Pran Goal outlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2022.

"The Prime Minister envisioned making India

a developed nation by its 100th Independence Day in 2047. As part of this mission, the Shatavari plant has been identified as a key resource for enhancing women's health in India. This aligns with the broader goal of holistic well-being of citizens," Jadhav said.

He also highlighted the significant progress made by the Ministry of Ayush over the last decade and lauded the efforts of the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), for launching this new initiative to promote awareness about Shatavari.

Lauding the previous successful campaigns he said, "These initiatives have contributed to spreading knowledge of the health benefits of medicinal plants across the country".

Can too much 'good' cholesterol increase glaucoma risk?

A new study has found that older adults with too much "good" HDL cholesterol may be at a higher risk of developing glaucoma.

On the flip side, researchers found that people with higher levels of "bad" LDL cholesterol tended to have a lower risk of developing this eye disease.

Researchers estimate that about 80 million people globally live with glaucoma - an eye condition affecting the optic nerve. Trusted Source, resulting in vision loss and possibly blindness, for which there is currently no cure.

Glaucoma is known as "the silent thief of sight" because many times there are no symptoms in the earliest stage of the disease, making it hard to detect.

There are a number of risk factors for glaucoma, including genetics. Trusted Source, age. Trusted Source, and ethnicity, as well as health conditions such as diabetes, migraine. Trusted Source, sleep apnea, high blood pressure, and cardiovascular disease. Trusted Source.

Now, a new study published in the British Journal of Ophthalmology says older adults with too much "good" HDL cholesterol may be at a higher risk of developing glaucoma.

Conversely, researchers found that people with higher levels of "bad" LDL cholesterol tended to have a lower risk of developing the eye condition.

High 'bad' cholesterol linked to 'lower glaucoma risk' or this study, researchers analyzed medical data from more than 400,000 participants between the ages of 40 to 69 in the U.K. Biobank Study.

Participants had the amount of fats in their blood measured, and their health was tracked for an average of 14 years.

Upon analysis, researchers found that study participants with higher amounts of HDL cholesterol in their

blood had an increased risk of developing glaucoma. Scientists reported that participants with the highest levels of HDL cholesterol were 10% more likely to develop glaucoma than those at the lowest levels.

On the other side, researchers discovered study participants with increased amounts of LDL cholesterol, total cholesterol, and triglycerides - a type of fat in the blood - were at a reduced risk for glaucoma.

Scientists found that participants with the highest levels of LDL cholesterol were 8% less likely to develop glaucoma than those with lower levels. That percentage rose to 14% less likely for those with the leading amounts of triglycerides.

The researchers did state that these observations continued among participants older than 55, and no significant association was noticed in those aged 40 to 55.

Understanding risk factors for glaucoma

Medical News Today had the chance to speak with Alexander Solomon, MD, a neuro-ophthalmologist and strabismus surgeon of Pacific Neuroscience Institute at Providence Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, CA, about this study and the importance of finding health concerns that may increase a person's glaucoma risk.

"Glaucoma is the second most common cause of blindness, and unlike cataracts, which are the most common, it is irreversible," Solomon explained. "Because all forms of glaucoma typically impact a patient's peripheral vision first, a patient may have glaucoma for years before they are symptomatic."

"Treatments for glaucoma are directed at slowing disease progression, so catching it and stopping it in its early stages before it becomes symptomatic is key," Solomon continued.

Take caution around research results

Solomon also said that he would take the results of this study with quite a bit of caution because of their determination of the status of their two main associated factors - the definition of glaucoma and participants' lipid levels, which were determined from a single non-fasting blood sample at the beginning of the study.

"The definition of glaucoma here is somewhat suspect, as it must be when you're using a database rather than directly recruiting or interacting with patients," Solomon explained. "It relies on self-reported data and hospital inpatient diagnoses - which may be heavily influenced by self-reporting, given glaucoma would rarely play a significant role in hospital treatment or care - but does not necessitate an ophthalmologist confirming the diagnosis of glaucoma, which would be invaluable."

"(And) these lipid levels can vary by what was recently eaten from day to day, hence why fasting labs are more valuable, let alone long term with treatment or lifestyle changes," he continued. "Simply categorizing people by a single non-fasting test feels like it misses the point of whether or not certain lipid levels increase risk for glaucoma, which is a disease that develops slowly over time in most cases."

Clinical trial needed to confirm findings

MNT also spoke with Yu-Ming Ni, MD, a board certified cardiologist and lipidologist at Memorial-Care Heart and Vascular Institute at Orange Coast Medical Center in Fountain Valley, CA, about this study, who commented he was surprised by its findings.

"At first glance, higher lipids should be associated with worse outcomes overall, including higher rates of glaucoma," Ni explained. "I would think that more good cholesterol (i.e. HDL-C) would be associated with lower rates of glaucoma, and more bad cholesterol (i.e. LDL-C) associated with higher rates of glaucoma. But this was not the case with this study and another large cross-sectional study mentioned in the introduction of the paper."

"Ultimately, the only way to determine if good cholesterol is truly associated with higher rates of glaucoma is to do a clinical trial," Ni said. "You can study a therapy that lowers HDL-C and assess if glaucoma rates are lower. I suspect this type of study will never be done because of the fear of higher rates of heart disease. But it would be wrong to assume that higher HDL would increase your risk of glaucoma without knowing the mechanism or understanding confounding risk factors. Therefore, I'm not making a big deal out of this study, and I will continue to counsel patients that the ideal HDL-C is about 50-60 for men and 60-70 for women," he said.

Satish Sharma declares open "Inter-School Badminton Tournament"



HT NEWS NETWORK
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 7

Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma today declared open the Inter-School Badminton Tournament at IDPS Jammu held under the patronage of Jammu Sahodaya Schools Complex.

Players from 20 CBSE schools of the region are participating in the two day event.

Satish Sharma also inaugurated the IDPS Combat Academy for Martial Arts and Splash Pool for pri-

mary wing, marking a significant milestone in the school's commitment towards fostering health, fitness and wellness among the students.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister extended his best wishes to the participating team from different schools. He asserted that this event is not only a celebration of talent, sportsmanship and dedication, but also the spirit of unity and camaraderie that sports foster among young minds.

The Minister, during his address, encouraged all the

participants to play with enthusiasm and sportsmanship and not only strive for victory but also celebrate the spirit of healthy competition and mutual respect.

Satish Sharma emphasized the importance of sports in shaping young leaders and maintaining a balanced education. He said that sports has the power to unite and inspire. He also praised the school's contributions towards educational landscape of J&K acknowledging its role in nurturing many distinguished individuals over the years.

Tennis: Elena Rybakina through in Abu Dhabi, Watson loses in doubles



AGENCIES
ABU DHABI, FEB 7 (UND)

Defending champion Elena Rybakina progressed to the semi-finals of the Abu Dhabi Open with a 6-2 4-6 7-6 (7-4) victory against Ons Jabeur.

In a rematch of the 2022 Wimbledon final - which Rybakina won - the Kazakh broke twice to claim the opening set in under 30 minutes.

Former world number two Jabeur controlled the second set before the third went to a tie-break after Rybakina failed to convert two match points, the BBC reported.

World number five Rybakina came from behind to win the tie-break and set up a semi-final against Swiss wildcard Belinda Bencic, who beat Marketa Vondrousova 7-5 6-3 on Thursday.

Elsewhere, eighth seed Leylah Fernandez suffered a surprise 7-5 4-6

6-2 loss to world number 51 Ashlyn Krueger, while Britain's Heather Watson and Brazil's Luisa Stefani were beaten by fourth seeds Zhang Shuai and Kristina Mladenovic 5-7 6-2 10-3 in the women's doubles quarter-finals. Shuai and Mladenovic will face another Briton - Olivia Nicholls - and her Australian partner Olivia Gadecki in the last four. Top seeds Jelena Ostapenko and Ellen Perez eased through their quarter-final against Timea Babos and Nicole Melichar-Martinez 6-4 6-4, while Vondrousova and Laura Samsonova beat Makoto Ninomiya and Ulrikke Eikeri 6-4 6-1.

Meanwhile, Australian Open champion Madison Keys has withdrawn from the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships which start on 16 February because of a leg injury. She has not played since beating Aryna Sabalenka to win her first Grand Slam title last month.

Ponting predicts returning Shreyas Iyer to thrive at Champions Trophy



AGENCIES
SYDNEY, FEB 7 (UND)

Australia great Ricky Ponting is surprised Shreyas Iyer is not a walk-up start in India's top six and expects the in-form batter to thrive during the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy.

Iyer was a major factor in India's run to the final at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup on home soil in 2023, with the right-hander amassing 530 runs during the tournament to finish as the seventh leading run-scorer.

But a serious back injury has hampered Iyer in recent times and it was only a late reprieve that allowed the 30-year-old to return to the international fold when he scored an excellent half-century to help propel India to victory in the opening ODI against England in Nagpur on Thursday.

Ponting discussed the return of Iyer with host Sanjana Ganesan on the latest episode of The ICC Review and the former

Australia captain believes the damaging batter can prove a key player for India at the Champions Trophy as he will be suited by the conditions.

"He's got the game that will stand up to the white-ball formats, especially in that part of the world," Ponting said of Iyer, on The ICC Review.

"On those wickets - the slower, lower wickets - he's dynamic on those," Ponting said.

"We know how good a hitter of spin bowling he is and teams tend not to bowl a lot of spin at India, but at some stage it's going to come," he said.

"If Shreyas is out in the middle, then he's as good as anyone. So I'm delighted to see him back in their team," Ponting said.

Ponting has been a long-time admirer of Iyer and this showed during the most recent IPL auction when the new Punjab Kings coach splashed INR 26.75 crore on the hard-hitter to clinch his services for the upcoming tournament.

The Australian legend's show of faith from the auction at the end of last year has already been franked, with Iyer having shown glimpses of his best form at the domestic level with two centuries for Mumbai on either side of the new year.

"I've been a little bit surprised that he's been out of India's side the last couple of years," he said.

"He had a terrific World Cup back in India where he played beautifully in the middle-order and I actually felt then that he'd almost cemented that spot and made that his own," Ponting said.

"Then he had those couple of injuries, obviously injured his back and went out of the side, but his domestic season this year has been brilliant," he said.

"It sort of coincided with what he's done since around (IPL) auction time going forward in domestic cricket, he has been pretty much outstanding," Ponting added.

ICC unveils official song for Champions Trophy 2025 – Jeeto Baazi Khel Ke

AGENCIES
DUBAI, FEB 7 (UND)

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday announced the release of the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 official song, Jeeto Baazi Khel Ke, by renowned singer Atif Aslam.

With 12 days to go until the unmissable ICC Men's Champions Trophy, the release of the song will build further excitement to the 15-match event taking place from February 19 to March 9 in Pakistan and the UAE.

The official song for the event is produced by Abdullah Siddiqui, with lyrics penned by Adnan Dhool and Asfandiyar Asad. The music video is a visual celebration of the diverse culture of Pakistan from the streets to the stadium and represents the love and enjoyment of the game.

The track and music video for 'Jeeto Baazi Khel Ke' is here and the official song is available to fans across popular streaming audio platforms worldwide.

Fans still have an opportunity to get their tickets for the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 by clicking here to purchase online or visiting



physical ticket providers in Pakistan, more information on locations here.

Tickets for the Final, to be played on March 9, will be available for purchase following the conclusion of the first semi-final in Dubai.

The thrilling two-week competition will see the world's top eight teams put it all on the line in 15 intense matches across 19 days, with every match counting in the pursuit of the iconic white jackets.

Lead singer Atif Aslam said, "I am very fond of cricket and I always wanted to be a fast bowler. Having the passion and understanding of the game - I feel connected to the adrenaline of the crowd, their cheers and the feeling of being a fan. I

used to wait for matches in particular the India versus Pakistan game which was always full of emotions and sentimental value. And that is why I am very excited to have been a part of the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 official song."

On the launch of the song, ICC Chief Commercial Officer, Anurag Dahiya said, "Excitement is building ahead of the ICC Men's Champions Trophy and today we are delighted to launch the official event song. With 12 days to go until the start of the event, fans can expect a song that represents the Pakistan identity and a true celebration of the Champions Trophy. We encourage fans to get their tickets now and not miss out."

Pakistan star batter Saim Ayub ruled out of Champions Trophy

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD, FEB 7 (UND)

Pakistan Cricket Board have now shared an update on Ayub's recovery, stating that the batter is 'progressing well' during his rehabilitation in England.

While Ayub will still miss Pakistan's ICC Champions Trophy defence at home, he has not yet been ruled out of the white-ball tour of New Zealand in March.

"His availability for the New Zealand tour will be subject to clearing all fitness tests and medical requirements," the statement from PCB read.

Pakistan are scheduled to play five T20Is and three ODIs between March 16 and April 5.

Ayub had been a major name missing in Pakistan's squad for the upcoming major tournament, an ICC report said.

The 22-year-old, who made his ODI debut last year, quickly solidified his place in the 50-over format, and was instrumental in series wins in Australia and South Africa. As Pakistan registered famous away series wins, Ayub amassed 515 runs at an average of 64.37 from nine innings.

However, an injury sustained while fielding in the deep led to Ayub being ruled out in the middle of the Test series against South Africa.

Increasing business profitability
by reducing printing cost



LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

LUBAAB Printing services means I get my job back on time, always accurate and of the highest quality

When you need a Company that can handle a complex workload, save your money and deliver on time..... leave it to

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS

Also visit us for:
Newspapers & News Magazines

Specialists in:
Non Woven & Paper Bags

Mobile: 9999038812
9419008414

Tel: 0194 2496287

Email: jahangirbukhari@gmail.com

Humhama, Budgam/Srinagar



- Prepress
- Sheet Fed
- Bindery
- Finishing
- Promotions

Our Printing Services

- Flyers
- Posters
- Business Cards
- Envelopes
- Brochures
- Booklets
- Catalogues
- Post Cards
- Presentation folders
- letterheads
- Magazines
- Newsletters
- Raised printing
- Wedding Cards
- Invoices
- Note pad
- Forms
- Labels
- Scratch coupon
- Signs/Banners
- Pen/Caps
- T-Shirts
- Calenders
- Embroidery
- Door Hangers