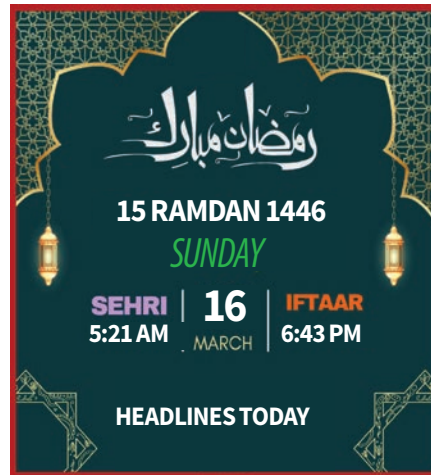




Div Com Kashmir reviews implementation, disposal of PMEGP, J&K REGP cases through KVIB

P|08



No Deadline For Cabinet Sub-Committee on Reservation: J&K Govt

■ 5.26 lakh certificates issued under ST/SC category in Jammu in past 2 years, 67 thousand in Kashmir

■ 27 thousand certificates issued under EWS category in Jammu, 2 thousand in Kashmir

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 15: The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Saturday said it has not set-up any deadline for the cabinet-sub-committee (CSC) constituted by it to examine the reservation rules.

In a written response to question of Peoples Conference MLA Sajad Gani Lone, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), minister in-charge Social Welfare Sakina Itoo informed the House that no specific timeline has been fixed for submitting of the report by CSC. "The Cabinet Sub Committee stands constituted vide Government order No. 2061- JKGDAD



of 2024, dated 10.12. 2024 to examine the grievances

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Reservation Issue...

■ Cabinet Sub Committee given 6 month deadline to complete its report: CM Omar Abdullah

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday clarified that the Cabinet Sub-Committee

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Sajad Lone Slams 'Irrational' Reservation Policy, Calls It A 'Shocker'

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 15, :: Peoples Conference chairman Sajad Gani Lone has strongly criticized the existing reservation policy in Jammu and Kashmir, terming it heavily skewed against the Kashmiri-speaking population. Expressing his

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



NEP-2020 implemented in all colleges of J&K: Sakeena Itoo

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 15: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, informed the Legislative Assembly that the Higher Education department has suc-

cessfully implemented the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 in all Government Degree Colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Javid Riyaz in Legislative Assembly today.

The Minister informed the House that the colleges of J&K are already offering job-oriented and skill-based courses to enhance students' employability and practical learning. She apprised that the Business Management programs are

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

J&K Deputy CM Slams BJP for Neglecting Darbar Move Tradition, Jammu's Economy Suffered Due to Darbar Move Suspension

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 15. : Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Saturday lashed out at the BJP, questioning its dedication to the region and accusing the party of neglecting the long-standing Darbar Move tradition during its tenure.



While talking to reporters in Jammu, Choudhary highlighted that while the National Conference has always ensured equal treatment for Jammu and Kashmir, the BJP failed to revive the biannual shifting of government offices over the past decade. "If they truly cared for Jammu, why didn't they implement the Darbar Move in the last ten years? The National Conference has always upheld justice for Jammu," he remarked.

The Darbar Move, a century-old practice dating back to the era of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, involves the shifting of government offices between Srinagar and Jammu to maintain regional balance. From May to October, the administration operates from Srinagar, while during the winter months, it functions from Jammu.

Choudhary stressed that the suspension of the Darbar Move has adversely affected businesses in Jammu. "Had the Darbar Move continued, Jammu's economy would have flourished. It was under National Conference governments that Jammu received its due share. Now, BJP leaders claim discrimination against Jammu, but these statements are merely aimed at grabbing attention," he added.

TURN ON.....PAGE

NEWS BRIEF

Drug peddler arrested in Kulgam: Police

KULGAM MARCH 15, :: In a persistent effort to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, Police on Saturday said to have arrested a drug peddler in Kulgam and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

A Police party of police post Mir-bazar during patrolling at Furrah near railway bridge intercepted one person carrying a bag and roaming in suspicious condition. After checking, 2.1 kgs of Grinded Charas powder like substance filled in the said bag was recovered from possession,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Wall Collapses at JLNH Hospital Parking, Several Vehicles Damaged

SRINAGAR, MAR 15: A wall collapsed at the parking area of JLNH Hospital in Srinagar's Rainawari on Saturday, causing damage to several vehicles.

Eyewitnesses told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that the collapse occurred due to continuous rainfall, which had weakened the structure. "There was a loud crash, and within moments, the wall crumbled, damaging several parked vehicles," said a hospital visitor.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Multi-Level Parking in Srinagar Springs Leaks, Raises Questions on Engineering Failure

SRINAGAR, MAR 15: The multi-level parking facility at the erstwhile State Motor Garages (SMG) in Srinagar's Press Enclave has turned into a glaring example of engineering failure, as heavy rains have exposed multiple leaks, resulting in waterlogging across all four floors.

Inaugurated in 2021 at a cost of Rs 26.92 crore, the parking facility was constructed under the centrally sponsored Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme, meant to enhance urban infrastructure. However, just a few years

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Nominations for Padma Awards-2026 begins

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI MARCH 15: Nominations/recommendations for the Padma Awards-2026 to be announced on the occasion of Republic Day, 2026 have started on 15th March, 2025. The last date for nominations for Padma Awards is 31st July, 2025. The nominations/recommendations for Padma Awards will only be received online on the Rashtriya

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Higher reaches of Kashmir valley witnessed snowfall, Rain across Plains.

Snow recharge water bodies, weather to improve today

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 15, Srinagar, March 15, ANB: Passenger vehicles are plying smoothly from both sides on Jammu Srinagar highway. According to News Service, Associated News Bureau, ANB: However, HMVs plying from Srinagar towards Jammu. Commuters are advised to follow lane discipline, overtaking will cause congestion. Pas-



sengers are advised to undertake journey on

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

PM e-Bus Sewa: CS chairs maiden UTLSC meeting to oversee arrival of 200 new e-buses

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 15: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired the maiden meeting of recently constituted UT Level Steering Committee (UTLSC) to take stock of the measures taken, so far, by the Housing & Urban Development Department to receive 200 more e-buses under PM e-Bus Sewa for both Jammu and Srinagar cities.

Other members of the committee who participated in the meeting included Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, H&UD; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/



Jammu; Secretary, Transport; MD, JPDCL; CEO, SSCL/JSLC besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary took notice of the requirement of modalities and infrastructure to be raised to operate these buses in the twin

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Govt focusing on consolidation of existing healthcare facilities: Sakeena Itoo

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 15: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed the Legislative Assembly that the government is working on consolidation of existing healthcare facilities rather than creating and constructing new infrastructure.

The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Mushtaq Ahmad



Guroo in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed the house that in compliance to Government Order

No: 628-HME of 2016 dated: 03-12-2016, NTPHC Barzuilla was relocated to MMC Sanat Nagar Srinagar along with assets and manpower where it is presently functional. She added that the working hours of the Centre are in line with the other institutions i.e from 10.00 AM to 4.30 PM.

She informed that the MMC Sanat Nagar is functioning with G+1 structure and presently OPD and

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

SRM Welkin Sopore Denies Transport to Class 3rd-Student, Parent Appeals for Action; School Refutes Allegations

■ DR. AB QAYOOM

SOPORE, MAR, 15: A dispute has emerged at SRM Welkin Educational Trust, Sopore, after a parent alleged that the school administration denied transport services to his son despite full payment of fees. The school, however, has strongly refuted these claims.

Syed Tajamul Bukhari, the father of Class 3rd-student Syed Burhan ul Haq, claimed that his son was suddenly barred from using the school transport service after the winter break, even though all dues had been cleared. "My child has been studying at SRM Wel-



kin since 2019. Despite making timely payments, he was denied access to school transport without any justification. The bus driver refused to let him board, citing school instructions," Bukhari stated.

Expressing concern over the alleged violation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, Bukhari has submitted complaints to the Fee Fixation & Regulation Committee (FFRC), Chief Education Officer (CEO) Baramulla, and the Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK). However, he claims no action has

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

SOPORE

been taken so far.
"I urge the authorities, including the Lieutenant Governor and the Education Minister, to intervene. No child should suffer due to arbitrary decisions by private schools," he added.
Meanwhile, the school administration has denied all allegations. SRM Welkin Sopore's administrator, Baseema G., dismissed Bukhari's claims, calling them baseless.
"These accusations have no factual basis. Official records and CCTV footage confirm that the student has not been denied transport unjustly. Bukhari has a history of making complaints and has not adhered to the guidelines of the school and DSEK," she stated.
Despite multiple attempts, Director of School Education Kashmir, G.N. Itoo, could not be reached for comments.
The matter has now drawn attention from education authorities, and stakeholders are urging a thorough investigation to ensure transparency and justice.

RESERVATION

projected by a section of aspirants for various posts regarding reservation rules. However, no specific timeline has been fixed for submitting the report," the minister said.
Lone had asked whether a six-month timeline has been granted to the ministerial panel for submitting the report.
Headed by Sakina Ittoo, the panel comprises minister for PHE, Irrigation & Flood Control Javed Rana and Minister for Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma.
The Minister also informed the House that 5, 26,605 certificates under the scheduled tribe and scheduled caste categories have been issued in Jammu region since April 01, 2023 and 79813 in Kashmir.
According to the details, 67172 SC certificates and 4, 59,493 ST certificates have been issued in Jammu during this period, whereas 79813 ST certificates have been issued in Kashmir.
The government also disclosed that 2198 villages in Jammu are benefitted under Actual Line of Control (ALC, International Border (IB) and Reserved Backward Area (RBA) categories in Jammu region since April 01, 2023 and 1245 in Kashmir.

Of these 2198 villages in Jammu, 268 have been declared as ALC, 551 International Border and 1379 Reserved Backward Area.
In Kashmir Valley, as per the reply, 16 villages fall under ALC category and 1229 under RBA category.
The government also revealed that 27420 certificates under Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) have been issued in Jammu region and mere 2273 in Kashmir region, the minister disclosed—(KNO)

CM

constituted to examine the complicated issue of reservations in recruitment has been given a 6-month deadline to complete its report.
As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Chief Minister had to clear the air after the government in a written response in the J&K Assembly stated that "no specific timeline has been fixed for submitting the report" by the Cabinet Sub-Committee constituted to examine grievances regarding reservation rules."
The Chief Minister took to the X and wrote: "The timeline was set by me after I met with a concerned group of job aspirants. This timeline, however, was not in the initial order setting up the sub-committee. That oversight will be corrected but rest-assured the committee is working to complete its task in the set timeframe."

Earlier, Member Parliament Syed Agha Ruhullah Mehdi expressed shock at the government's reply in the assembly. "I hope this line saying 'no specific timeline has been fixed for submitting the report' in the reply is some clerical error or some miscommunication between the department and the Chief Minister's office. CM J&K should clarify this" Ruhullah wrote on X, as per KNO.
"If it is not, then it is a blatant lie and betrayal with the students who raised the issue with their elected government and showed faith and trust in the word and response given to them," he wrote further.
"There can't be a political catastrophe bigger than this when an elected government deceives its people. I didn't speak on this matter after the students got the assurance from the CM last time because I was expecting the government to do its job in the given time as they had assured. But this response has shocked me. I will not sit quiet on this. I will pick the matter from where I left it after the assurance given to the students," Ruhullah wrote.
"I hope the government gives some clarity on this matter and assures us that this reply is a result of some mistake not a deliberate blatant lie," he added—(KNO)

DYCM

He reiterated that the National Conference remains committed to the region's development and has always ensured fair treatment.

SNOW

day time and avoid unnecessary halts between Ramban and Banihal as there is apprehension of landslide/shooting stones. However, SSG road/Bhaderwah-Chamba Road/Mughal road/ Sinthan road are still closed. Plains of Kupwara district are also experiencing rainfall, with higher reaches of Kupwara district including Sadna pass, Farkyan Top and Z Gali of Machil, Kamkadee, Bungas, Budhnumbal, and Jumbund are receiving snowfall. Around 1 foot of fresh snowfall has accumulated at high altitude areas.
All border roads including Chowkibal-Tangdar, Keran and Machil roads are closed for vehicular movement.
Plains of Kupwara are experiencing rainfall, with higher reaches Sadna pass, Farkyan Top and Z Gali of Machil, Kamkadee, Bungas, Budhnumbal, and Jumbund also receiving light snowfall.
Chowkibal-Tangdar, road is open for vehicular movement but to prevent accidents on slippery road, vehicles those with anti-skid chains shall be allowed by administration to ply on Chowkibal Tangdar road.
While as Keran and Machil roads are closed for vehicular movement.
Snowfall continues in the upper reaches and Gurez Valley, while heavy rainfall persists in the plains of District Bandipora.
The Bandipora-Gurez road remains closed for vehicular traffic.
All schools in Bandipora district will remain closed today also.

AWARDS

Puraskar Portal (<https://awards.gov.in>).
The Padma Awards, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri, are amongst the highest civilian awards of the country. Instituted in 1954, these Awards are announced on the occasion of the Republic Day every year. The Award seeks to recognize 'work of distinction' and is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements/service in all fields/disciplines, such as Art, Literature and Education, Sports, Medicine, Social Work, Science and Engineering, Public Affairs, Civil Service, Trade and Industry etc. All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these Awards. Government servants including those working with PSUs, except Doctors and Scientists, are not eligible for Padma Awards.
The Government is committed to transform Padma Awards into "People's Padma". All citizens are, therefore, requested to make nominations/recommendations, including self-nomination. Concerted efforts may be made to identify talented persons whose excellence and achievements really deserve to be recognized from amongst women, weaker sections of the society, SCs & STs, divyang persons and who are doing selfless service to the society.
The nominations/recommendations should contain all relevant details specified in the format available on the above said Portal, including a citation in narrative form (maximum 800 words), clearly bringing out the distinguished and exceptional achievements/service of the person recommended in her/his respective field/discipline.
Details in this regard are also available under the heading 'Awards and Medals' on the website of Ministry of Home Affairs (<https://mha.gov.in>) and on the Padma Awards Portal (<https://padmaawards.gov.in>). The statutes and rules relating to these awards are available on the website with the link <https://padmaawards.gov.in/AboutAwards.aspx>

ITOO

immunization facility is being provided in the ground floor of the building, with the first floor of the building housing Youth rehabilitation and Mental Healthcare facility.
The Minister further said that as of now J&K is working on consolidation of the existing health facilities of around 4000 health institutes at various levels (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary). She informed that J&K is one of the top runners among large States/UTs in health institution density in the country, adding that these calculations worked as per the report published in 2023 by MoHFW, GoI.
She highlighted that J&K has a health institution for every 3500 souls against an average of 6000 souls at national level.
The Minister further informed the House that government has plans for future creations/upgradations as of now and same will be worked out once the austerity measures in terms of Government Order No. 10-F of 2025 dated 11.01.2025 imposed by the Finance Department are withdrawn and critical gaps as per IPHS, if any, are assessed.

CS

cities of Jammu and Srinagar. He enquired about the costs to be incurred on development of the depots, charging stations and those to be made as operational expenditure to run this public transport system on per kilometre basis daily.

Dulloo further asked about the kind of infrastructure and quantum of expenses to be covered under the central assistance. He advised for exploring all the options to secure funding for the operation of these buses besides the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to assuage some burden of expenses from the local government.
He also examined the plans of the Department for establishment of depots for these buses at Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu and Bemina in Srinagar. He advised the Finance Department to examine the requirement of funds for operation of these vehicles so that the same is made available to the Department.
The Chief Secretary emphasised speedy completion of formalities like opening of bank accounts and making undertakings by the Finance and H&UDD for seamless progress on this scheme in J&K.
Earlier, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh D.Vaidya, also gave his inferences about the operation of these buses. He made out that the costs as per preliminary estimates could be around Rs 42 crore per year on their operation based upon the experience of running similar other vehicles in Jammu and Srinagar.

On the occasion, Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur, apprised the meeting that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for development of the "Depot Infrastructure" costing Rs 16.72 crore and for "Behind the Meter Power Infrastructure" including 6.6-megawatt substation worth Rs 8.51 crore stands prepared for Jammu.
Similarly, SSCL has also prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for development of the "Depot Development" costing Rs 14.50 crore and KPDCL has prepared DPR for "Behind the Meter Power Infrastructure" worth Rs 5.78 crore.

It was added that these DPRs had been prepared in accordance to the scheme regulations and all of them stands approved by the Central Steering Committee (GoI) to be taken up for execution here.
Giving details about the scheme, CEO, JSCL, Devansh Yadav, informed the meeting that the department is going to secure a fleet of 25 number of 12 m buses and 75 units of 7m buses for Jammu. He added that 20 number of 12 m buses and 80 units of 9 m buses are going to be secured for Srinagar under PM e-Bus Sewa scheme.
It was further added that a Central Assistance (CA) for the operation of e-Buses on the PPP model in urban areas will be provided on a per kilometer (km) basis for 10 years or up to March 2037, whichever is earlier.
The rates of assistance would be Rs 24/Km for 12m, Rs 22/Km for 9m and Rs 20/Km for 7m buses. Additionally, 100% central assistance for creation of 'Behind-the-meter Power' infrastructure and 90% for depot infrastructure, up to Rs 20 crore to be incurred on the ground.
Moreover, it was divulged that the total operational cost of this fleet in Jammu would be around Rs 628 crore with a subsidy amount of Rs 158 crore and earnings of nearly Rs 167 crore. Similarly, the costs estimated for Srinagar came up to Rs 686 crore with Rs 177 crore to be received as subsidy and Rs 167 crore as earnings over a period of 10 years thereby leaving a revenue gap of Rs 625 crore to be funded by the UT over this decade.

KULGAM

a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).
He has been identified as Shahid Manzoor son of Manzoor Ahmad Ganie resident of Furrh. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.
Accordingly, a case under FIR number 36/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Qazigund and further investigation is going on.
Police affirms its steadfast commitment of eliminating drug peddling in the district with the full might of law—(KNO)

WALL

The affected vehicle owners expressed outrage over the incident, blaming poor maintenance and structural negligence for the collapse. "This could have been a disaster if anyone was inside a vehicle at that moment. Authorities need to take such issues seriously before a tragedy occurs," said an aggrieved car owner.
Officials from the hospital administration and local authorities reached the spot to assess the damage.
With persistent rains continuing to lash the Valley, concerns are rising over the stability of other aging structures. Locals have urged authorities to conduct safety audits to prevent further incidents.

PARKING

after its completion, its inability to withstand rainfall has raised serious concerns about the quality of work executed by the engineers and the construction agency.
The project was carried out by Construction Engineers, the same firm responsible for notable structures such as Sangarmal and

J&K Bank buildings. But its failure to deliver a rainproof parking facility has left commuters fuming. Several vehicle owners who park on the ramps expressed their disappointment, citing the inconvenience caused by persistent waterlogging.
"There will be a flood-like situation inside the parking if the rain continues," said a local shopkeeper to the news agency Kashmir News Trust, highlighting the deteriorating condition of the structure.
The Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), which operates the facility, had planned for it to accommodate 467 four-wheelers and 132 two-wheelers at a time. However, the current state of the parking raises serious doubts about its durability and the oversight of engineers involved in its design and construction.
Commuters have demanded immediate action against the construction agency, holding it responsible for the substandard work that has turned a crucial public utility into a leaking mess. [KNT] [Photograph Attached]

NEP

being offered in various colleges in J&K but Artificial Intelligence as a separate program has not been introduced as yet as the subject is new and developing area of learning.
She further said that Artificial Intelligence is taught as part of curriculum of Computer Applications.

SAJAD

dismay over what he described as a "shocker," Lone argued that the extent of loss suffered by Kashmir in terms of quotas is far greater than previously anticipated.
Addressing concerns over regional disparities in the issuance of category certificates, Lone revealed that the distribution of reservations is overwhelmingly tilted in favor of Jammu. According to him, data since April 1, 2023, clearly indicates an alarming imbalance. While the Scheduled Caste (SC) category saw 67,112 certificates issued exclusively in Jammu, Kashmir received none. The situation is similar for the International Border (IB) category, where all 551 certificates were granted to Jammu, leaving Kashmir entirely excluded.
He further pointed out that Scheduled Tribe (ST) reservations, despite being meant for a marginalized community, have also been disproportionately allocated. Of the total ST certificates issued, Jammu secured 4,59,493, whereas Kashmir was given only 79,813, making up a mere 14.7% of the total. Similarly, in the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category, 92.3% of the certificates were distributed in Jammu, while Kashmir received only 7.7%. The same disparity exists across other reserved categories, including Actual Line of Control (ALC) and Reserved Backward Areas (RBA).
Lone contended that the reservation system appears to be structurally rigged against the people of Kashmir, particularly the Kashmiri-speaking population. Even within the ST category, those residing in Kashmir have been put at a disadvantage, receiving only a fraction of the benefits compared to their counterparts in Jammu. He noted that although the figures for the RBA category seem relatively close, when adjusted for population differences, Kashmir still emerges as the loser. With Kashmir's population being approximately seven percent higher than Jammu's, Lone argued that the numbers should have reflected a proportionate distribution, which is clearly not the case.
Raising further concerns, the Peoples Conference chairman criticized the delay in addressing these grievances. He recalled that the government had set up a committee on December 10, 2024, to examine these issues. However, despite an initial assurance that the panel would submit its report within six months, there is still no clear timeline for its findings.
Calling for immediate corrective measures, Lone stressed that the existing reservation policy must be revisited to ensure justice and fair representation for all communities. His remarks are expected to spark further debate over the reservation framework in Jammu and Kashmir, with political and social groups likely to take a stand on the matter in the coming days. [KNT]

HOUSE PASSES

The Deputy Chief Minister said the department receives funding from three main sources; Centrally Sponsored Schemes like PMGSY and CRIF, NABARD Loan Assistance and UT Sector Funding for roads and bridges. "Through PMGSY, which started in 2001, we have successfully connected 2,132 out of 2,140 identified villages, laying down 17,585 km of roads and constructing 210 bridges at an investment of 10,939 crore. The remaining work will be completed by 2025-26. Under PMGSY Phase II and III, we have upgraded 1,927 km of roads and constructed 9 bridges, while the remaining 505 km of roads and 64 bridges will be completed soon", he elaborated.

rated.
To further strengthen the rural connectivity, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the Government of India has approved PMGSY-4 (2024-29), which will connect habitations with 250+ population as per the 2011 Census. This included special provisions for tribal-majority villages and Aspirational Districts. "A survey conducted through advanced technology has identified 2,508 road alignments and we are actively preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to secure approval for over 1,000 new projects in 2025-26", he added.
"Under the CRIF scheme, 294 projects worth 4,337 crore have been sanctioned by the Ministry for Road Transport and Highways, out of which, 194 have been completed including crucial road links like Koteranka-Khawas, Magam-Beeru and Khanabal-Pahalgalam roads. Several important bridges are also under construction including 2,000-meter bridge over River Chenab at Indri Pattan Pargwal, a 270-meter bridge at Ramban and a 445 meter bridge over River Ujh at Jothana" the Deputy Chief Minister maintained.
While referring to NABARD, the Deputy Chief Minister said that it remains an essential source of funding for rural road and bridge construction. Currently, 1,098 projects have been sanctioned under NABARD and 213 projects have already been completed in 2024-25, marking the highest ever achievement for the department in a single year, he added.
"The macadamization and resurfacing of roads remain a priority under UT Sector Funding. In 2024-25, we have already blacktopped 3,251 km of roads including 1,610 km of roads in cities and towns, with a final target of 4,000 km. Alongside roads, bridges are equally important for connectivity and 153 bridges are under construction with a total cost of 569 crore. So far, 83 bridges have been completed including the Gundbal Foot Bridge in Srinagar, Akhal Bridge in Kangana and Najwal Samba Bridge, with several others including Qamarwari Bridge in Srinagar which is nearing completion" the Deputy Chief Minister informed the House.
"The department is not only focusing on construction but also implementing modern reforms to improve efficiency and quality. The introduction of an Online Management & Payment System has enabled real-time project monitoring and direct contractor payments, reducing delays and increasing transparency" he added. The J&K PWD Manual 2021 has been updated after several decades to include the latest engineering practices, he maintained.
"The Road Maintenance Policy 2021 ensures timely upkeep, preventing early deterioration of roads. A Two-Tier Quality Control Mechanism has been introduced for strict monitoring and third-party inspections are now mandatory for all major projects", the Deputy Chief Minister said. He added that the Macadamization and Defect Liability Enforcement ensures that contractors are accountable for maintaining roads for a specific period after construction. Additionally, the J&K Road Gazette-2022 has documented all roads systematically and Online Contractor Registration has been implemented for better transparency.
To attract businesses, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the government has introduced 14 policies and schemes that provide financial support, tax benefits and land for industries. "A major initiative, the New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS) 2021, was launched with 28,400 crore to help industries set up and grow. This scheme offers investment incentives, tax relief and interest support. The response has been positive—971 industrial units have been approved, bringing in 10,471 crore of investment and creating 51,897 jobs" he added.
"Jammu and Kashmir's industries are mainly driven by small and medium enterprises which provide highest employment in the region. There are 7.10 lakh MSMEs in J&K, of which, 4.47 lakh have been registered on the Udyam Portal. This sector contributes 8% to economy of J&K and employs 90% of the people working in the industrial sector. Supporting MSMEs further will help create more local jobs and boost the economy", he maintained.
To provide more space for industries, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the government is building 46 new industrial estates in addition to the 64 existing ones. These estates will be ready from March 2025 onwards and will bring more businesses and jobs to J&K. He said that land for 15,994 additional industrial plots has also been identified for future development.
Referring to investment in industries, the Deputy Chief Minister said that in 2023-24, investments worth 3,389 crore were made creating 1,46,317 jobs, which is a 57% increase from the previous year. He added that in 2024-25, 381 new units have started production, adding 3,887 crore of investment and 10,715 more jobs. Over the past five years, 2,031 industrial units have started operations, bringing in 10,516 crore and employing 65,982 people, he elaborated.
He said that the Single Window Portal, where businesses can apply for approvals online, has received 8,537 applications, so far, proposing 1.69 lakh crore in investments





Budget Session 2025:Legislators raise issues of public importance during Zero Hour

Ministers not obligated to reply Zero Hour questions: Speaker

HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 15: During Zero Hour in the ongoing Assembly session of Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather, clarified that, as per established rules, the Ministers cannot be asked to provide impromptu responses to issues raised by the MLAs without prior notice.He stated that without prior intimation, the concerned Ministers would be unable to present their positions on such matters.The session witnessed several pressing public issues being highlighted by the MLAs.Dr. Narinder Singh Raina, MLA RS Pura, sought House's attention towards the notices served to 39 shopkeepers in Satwari for their relocation due to construction of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway. He was joined by MLAs Vikram Randhawa and Sham Lal Sharma in demanding withdrawal of the notices until the affected shopkeepers are rehabilitated as per government assurances.Dr. Bharat Bhushan, MLA Kathua, raised concerns over increasing accidental deaths in Kathua due to over speeding dumpers carrying construction material. He urged that these vehicles should be restricted from plying through town's interiors to prevent further loss of lives.The issue of road blockages due to incessant rains and snowfall was one of the major



issues brought up by MLAs Sajad Shaheen, Javaid Mirchal and Qaisar Jamsheed Lone. They highlighted the plight of residents in remote areas such as MahuMangit, Gool, and Neel in Banihal, as well as Machil and Karnah in Kupwara district, who are facing hardships due to road closures. They urged for immediate measures to restore connectivity to these hilly regions. They also demanded quality power supply to these areas especially during sehri and Iftar timings.Senior Assembly member, Ghulam

Ahmad Mir demanded an extension in the deadline for those constructing houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in remote areas. He maintained that the people whose land falls under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) are unable to meet the current deadline of March 31, 2025, and should be granted a sympathetic extension, considering their tribal and economically weaker backgrounds.MLA Bijbehara, Dr. Bashir Veeri, called for initiating the settlement of villages in Anantnag to facilitate modernization and updating of revenue records. He also pressed for immediate posting of Patwaris in his constituency, as people are facing difficulties in obtaining revenue extracts necessary for securing credit amid the sowing season in the Valley.Later, MLA Habbakadal, Shamima Firdous, raised the issue of electricity curtailments to several consumers in her area who failed to pay fines being charged by the concerned Department. She demanded giving sympathetic consideration to their pleas in view of the holy month of Ramadhan and restoring their power connections till they pay their bills.MLA Chenani, Balwant Singh Mankotia, also raised an issue regarding a bridge declared unsafe in his constituency due to which one lakh population is being affected. He demanded for release of funds for undertaking the necessary repairs so that the people of vicinity would get relief.

365 Medical Officers posted in remote areas to augment healthcare facilities: Sakeena Itoo

HT News Network

Jammu, March 14, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed the House that the government is making every effort to ensure healthcare services are provided across all areas of J&K.The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Mir Mohammad Fayaz.She added that this is evident from the recent appointment of 365 medical officers, who have been posted to remote and underserved areas facing doctor shortages.The Minister said that the Health and Medical Education department does not encourage attachments of doctors, instead, it is making every effort to ensure healthcare services are provided in all areas of J&K including far-flung and underserved regions. The Minister further also informed the house that some deployments are being made due to compelling personal circumstances of the doctor, mostly on health grounds. She added that such adjustments are done with consideration for the well-being of doctors while still contributing towards the overall healthcare system. Minister said that the Health and Medical Education department does not encourage attachments of doctors, instead, it is making every effort to ensure healthcare services are provided in all areas of J&K including far-flung and underserved regions.The Minister further also informed the house that some deployments are being made due to compelling personal circumstances of the doctor, mostly on health grounds. She added that such adjustments are done with consideration for the well-being of doctors while still contributing towards.

Work cost revised to Rs 164.90 cr for completion of GMC Doda: Sakeena Itoo

HT News Network

Jammu, March 14 Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today said that the cost of civil works at Government Medical College Doda has been revised from Rs. 139.00 crore to Rs. 164.90 crore for completion of the balance works. The Minister was replying to a question raised by Sajjad Shaheen in the Legislative Assembly. Sharing details, the Minister informed that out of total Rs 189 crore approved and released under both Centre and UT share, an amount of Rs. 183.95 crore has been utilised on civil and machinery equipment components till March- 2024. She informed that during the current financial year, an amount of Rs. 9.50 crore has been earmarked under Capex Budget 2024-25, against which Rs. 7.60 crore have been released and Rs. 1.65 crore have been incurred. She said that in order to improve the doctor-patient ratio and to give a fillip to the available medical services at secondary and tertiary level of treatment, the Ministry for Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Establishment of new Med-



ical Colleges attached with existing referral/District Hospitals" sanctioned establishment of 05 new Medical Colleges at Anantnag, Baramulla, Doda, Kathua and Rajouri. The Minister said that GMC Doda has infrastructure and staff in place, to function smoothly. However, as in the case of any new Medical College, there is room for further improvement. With regard to staff, the Minister said that all vacant faculty posts stand referred to the JKPS for advertisement and selection of suitable candidates Besides, faculty is being engaged on academic arrangement to meet the shortfall, if any. The Minister said

Consultants/ Senior Consultants of Health Gazetted Services are also being deputed to GMC Doda on standard terms and conditions of deputation for utilization of their services in various Departments. Further, recruitment to vacant Non-Gazetted posts in respect of GMC Doda is under consideration. Regarding the total sanctioned strength of both teaching and non-teaching staff, she informed that out of 267 gazetted category posts; 144 are in position and 123 are vacant, in non-gazetted category; of 432 sanctioned strength 306 are in position and 126 are vacant and in MTS category; of 117 sanctioned strength 70 are in position and 47 posts are vacant. The Minister said that two CT Scan Machines, One functional Fibroscan machine (Echosens 630) are functional in AH, GMC DODA. She further informed that the GMC Doda intends to start PG / MD/MS courses in broad specialties from Academic year 2027-28. Moreover, DNB courses are being offered in the disciplines of Medicine, Surgery, Obst and Gynae, Paediatrics and Orthopaedics in GMC Doda. Shakti Raj Parihar and Mehraj Malik raised supplementaries.

9.58 lakh self-employment opportunities generated since 2021: Javed Ahmad Dar

11,526 vacancies filled by JKPS, JKSSB during past two years

HT News Network

Jammu, Mar 14: Minister for Agriculture Production, Javed Ahmad Dar, said that a total of 9.58 lakh self-employment/livelihood opportunities have been generated through schemes like Mumkin, Tejaswani, PMEGP, REGP etc. upto January 2025 in the past four years in J&K.The Minister was replying on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to a question raised by Mubarak Gul in the Legislative Assembly. The Minister said that the unemployment rate has not increased drastically in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir since 2019 which stood at 6.7% in the year 2019-20 to 6.1% in the year 2023-24. He informed that 11,526 selections have been made by the JKPS and JKSSB while 45688 private employment avenues have been generated in the industrial sector during the past two financial years. Besides, under MGNREGA, 3.01 crore person days have been generated upto January 2025 which provided employment to 8.07 lakh households. The Minister informed that the government has launched schemes like Mumkin, Tejaswani, Spurring Entrepre-



neurship, PARVAZ, Tourist Village Development Program and alike initiatives under the Mission Youth program.The Minister informed that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has initiated Mission YUVA for self-employment and entrepreneurship to identify, support and empower 5 lakh identified potential entrepreneurs through a structured and tech-enabled approach. He said that the key goals of the initiative are to create over 1,37,000 new enterprises across sectors and gener-

ate more than 4,25,000 employment opportunities over the program's 5 years. The Minister said that during the past four years 246 Job Fairs were conducted in which 4893 placements were made by 2760 companies and 6640 candidates were recommended for skill training. He said in order to address the unemployment, the government has taken many initiatives including upgradation of Government Industrial Training Institutes through Public Private Partnership (PPP), Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE), establishment of CIIT at Government Polytechnic Jammu and Government Polytechnic, Baramulla in collaboration with Tata Technologies. He further informed that 3342, 3048, 1331, 7851 youth have been trained under CTDP, B2V4, PMKVY and Women SHGs respectively.The Minister said that, out of 4429 enrolled candidates, 3249 candidates have been certified under SANKALP. He added that the government is smoothly and successfully implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes PMKVY and SANKALP. He said that the Union Government has also approved continuation of the Skill India Programme (SIP) until 2026, with a total budget of Rs 8,800 crore.

Budget Session 2025
Question Hour in LA

Keran emerging as new tourist destination: Javed Dar

HT News Network

Jammu MARCH 15 Minister for Agriculture Production, Javed Ahmad Dar, today said that the Keran area in Kupwara district has recently emerged as a new tourist destination, where Rs 93.91 lakh tourism infrastructural development works have been undertaken. The Minister was replying on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to a question raised by Mir Saifullah in the Legislative Assembly. He said that the Tourism Department has undertaken development works under the Capex Budget during the financial year 2024-25 for upgradation of Keran as an off-beat destination. The Minister informed that the works taken up included shelter sheds/gazebo, public conveniences, signage, benches, lighting, selfie points, hiking trails, children recreation zone for facilitation of tourists. Besides, the Tourism Department is constructing a two bed-room hut at Keran. He said that the Keran area has recently emerged as a new tourist destination and a large number of tourists have visited Keran during the last two years.

Hiranagar to be covered under RTC's fleet once augmented: Satish Sharma

HT News Network

Jammu MARCH 15 :Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma, today informed the House that the government is committed to cover all uncovered areas and provide seamless public transport services to the people in Jammu and Kashmir. The Minister was replying to a question raised by Advocate Vijay Kumar in the Legislative Assembly. He said that JKRTC is in process of augmenting the new fleet of buses and when it is augmented, due share of buses to Hiranagar Constituency shall be allocated. He said that the fleet of e-buses available with the Corporation is only meant for City Operation as the said buses have only capacity to run on short distance routes covering a distance of 80 km to 90 Km once they are fully charge. He informed the House, that at present, JKRTC operates following bus services in Kathua district including Hiranagar constituency are Jammu-Hiranagar-Pathankot, Jammu-Pathankot-Udhampur and Jammu-Bani-Lowang.

No PHC sanctioned for Anzwalla Anantnag: Sakeena Itoo

HT News Network

Jammu MARCH 15: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed the House that PHC has not been sanctioned for village Anzwalla of Anantnag district. The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Peerzada Mohd Sayeed in the Legislative Assembly. The Minister informed the house that the Village Anzwalla doesn't qualify for establishment of PHC as the village has less population and the minimum population for establishing a PHC is 2000. She further informed the house that there is a Sub-Centre, presently functional at Anzwalla Anantnag.

Rs 2083 cr earmarked for flood management of River Jhelum, tributaries: Jal Shakti Minister

HT News Network

Jammu MARCH 15: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javid Ahmad Rana, said that an amount of Rs. 2083 crore has been earmarked for flood management of River Jhelum and its tributaries under PMDP package of 2015 after September 2014 deluge. The Minister, who was replying to a question raised by Farooq Ahmad Shah, informed that the carrying capacity of river Jhelum has been enhanced from 31800 cusecs to 41000 cusecs in Srinagar Reach. The Minister said that the DPRs for flood management were subsequently framed for implementation in two phases, Phase I and Phase II for short term and long term flood measures. He further informed that Phase-I was approved for Rs.399.29 crore in 2015-16 by the Ministry for Water Resources (MOWR) and is nearing completion where as Phase II (Part-A only) was approved by MOWR in March 2022 for an estimated cost of Rs. 1623.43 crore with the objective to mitigate flood threat of 60,000 cusecs on river Jhelum. The Minister said that the project is under execution and Rs. 114.293 crore from Central Assistance have been spent on it. He added that a total of 30 bank protection works are being executed under this project, out of which, 29 have been tendered and 16 are complete. The progress of these works is 80% in aggregate.He informed that DPR of "Comprehensive Flood Management works on River Jhelum and its tributaries- Phase-II".

EDITORIAL

Act against medicos who prefer private practice to government services

The Directorate of Health Services Kashmir wasted no time in ordering a probe after a photograph of a dog sitting on the chair of a medico at Sub District Hospital (SDH) Chadoora in Central Kashmir's Budgam district went viral on the social media. The department of health came in for sharp criticism from the people with the masses posing a simple question as how could the dog enter the hospital premises.

The photo aptly describes the state of healthcare in the government sector in Jammu & Kashmir. Since SDH Chadoora is one of the model hospitals not only in Budgam district but across Kashmir it was quite natural that the appearance of the dog on the doctor's chair would invite diatribe from the people in general. The hospital administration needs to be taken to task over the issue and it must be ensured that action in the strongest possible mode is taken against the guilty.

People across the valley have been complaining of mismanagement at the health institutions in the government sector. Many of them complain that the medicos are not punctual with respect to their duties in the government hospitals and other health institutions. These people say that the doctors spend more time at the private clinics rather than at the health institutions where they are posted. This may be a generalized statement but the truth of the matter is that the majority of the doctors are not serious towards their services.

There are complaints that in the Srinagar district the doctors posted in the government sector usually leave their places well before the scheduled departure time and after that they can be found only at their private clinics. A famous pulmonologist of Kashmir has broken all the records since he is available at his clinic right till midnight. At times this famous doctor sees the patients well past midnight and as such he goes to sleep for just a few hours since he has to go to the chest diseases hospital next morning.

The issue of private practice resonated in the legislative assembly as the legislator from Kupwara Mir Mohammad Fayaz said that doctors are available at the government hospitals and other health institutions for just two or three hours. The government needs to take up this matter seriously and stern action should be taken against the medicos who are seen flouting rules and regulations while attending to their clinics at the cost of their government job.

Does an Entry in Shamilat Survey Number Confer Property Rights to an Individual?

MOHD AMIN MIR
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The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir has unequivocally directed that Shamilat land, particularly those designated for cattle grazing (Kaacharai) and other public purposes, as well as state land unlawfully occupied in various forms, must be immediately reclaimed.

This land is meant exclusively for the common good and is intended for the development of schools, government institutions, playgrounds, and other essential public infrastructure.

Historical and Legal Background

More than a hundred years ago, during the land settlement process, these lands were recorded under the term "Shri Sarkar Dulatmand", which translates to "Our Wealthy Government". This designation signified that the government had ample land to fulfil the collective needs of its people, ensuring that no private ownership claims could arise over these lands.

As per legal and constitutional obligations, it is the responsibility of the state to safeguard and maintain its land assets. If, at any point, it is discovered that government land has been illegally encroached upon, the state holds the undisputed right to reclaim it.

In earlier decades, there was a prevailing sense of fear and caution among the people, as they were aware that any attempt to encroach upon government land would likely result in strict legal action. However, in the past thirty years, this fear has gradually diminished, leading to massive encroachments on these public lands.

Encroachments and Their Growing Scale



Initially, small-scale illegal occupations took place, where individuals merely fenced off portions of the land, planted trees, or used it for personal agricultural purposes. However, over time, these encroachments escalated into full-scale residential constructions, followed by commercial buildings on these government-designated lands.

This unlawful occupation has not been limited to any one class of society.

Poor and underprivileged individuals have constructed homes on these lands, hoping for eventual legal validation of their possession.

Wealthy and influential people, on the other hand, have taken advantage of legal loopholes and administrative negligence to claim large portions of land for their business ventures, private properties, and other unauthorised purposes.

State's Response and Legal Provisions

The Revenue Department has been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring and protecting these lands.

As part of its legal authority, the government has the right to reclaim these lands, regardless of how long they have been occupied.

Although a special provision exists that allows for land

exchange (mutation) under certain circumstances, it applies only to specific cases with strict legal scrutiny.

Long-term illegal possession does not, in any way, establish legal ownership rights.

The state is now aggressively working to restore these lands, as the deadline for the retrieval process approaches. Revenue officials have been issuing notices, conducting surveys, and taking action against encroachers at an accelerated pace.

Every day, statements are being released by the authorities, detailing how much land has been retrieved, and how much remains under illegal occupation. Some revenue officials have even assured that all encroachments will be eliminated within the given timeframe.

While this initiative is commendable, it is equally important that the government ensures that its efforts are backed by facts and proper execution, rather than merely issuing statements that do not translate into effective action.

Official Directives and Public Misconceptions

The Revenue Department has repeatedly instructed that all unauthorized entries recorded under Section 4 lands must be removed from land records. Additionally, all

relevant survey numbers must be marked with red ink to indicate their legal status as government property.

However, many people continue to believe that their names appearing in old land records or Jamabandis serve as proof of their ownership.

This is a misconception that needs to be addressed urgently.

Even though some official orders have been implemented in land records, many people still falsely assume that their long-standing possession of Shamilat land gives them permanent property rights. Despite several assurances from mid-level revenue officers, these orders have not yet been fully incorporated into digitised records, which has further contributed to confusion among the people.

It is now imperative that the government takes immediate action to ensure that all incorrect land entries are permanently deleted.

Understanding Section 4 and Section 5 of Shamilat Land

One of the primary reasons for the confusion surrounding Shamilat land is the distinction between Section 4 and Section 5 lands.

Section 4 Shamilat Land is considered state land, meant strictly for public use. It cannot be sold, mortgaged, or claimed as private property, even if an individual or family has occupied it for decades.

Section 5 Shamilat Land, on the other hand, is recognized as proprietary land, meaning it can be legally owned, sold, or mortgaged under specific conditions.

Many people falsely assume that all Shamilat lands fall under Section 5, which allows for private ownership. However, most Shamilat lands in villages actually fall under

Section 4, making them state property by law.

To resolve this ongoing confusion, it is the responsibility of the Revenue Department to publicly clarify the legal distinction between Section 4 and Section 5 land. This will ensure that people clearly understand which parts of Shamilat land belong to the government and which can be legally owned.

Conclusion: No Private Ownership in Section 4 Shamilat Lands

In summary, an entry in a Shamilat survey number does not confer ownership rights upon an individual.

The government has now launched a serious initiative to eliminate all unauthorized entries from land records and reclaim illegally occupied Shamilat lands.

Simply having one's name recorded in old Jamabandis does not establish legal ownership.

Unauthorised possession, no matter how long it has lasted, does not grant property rights.

The only legal way to acquire such land is through a formal, government-sanctioned exchange (mutation) process.

The state retains absolute ownership of all Section 4 Shamilat lands and possesses the full authority to repossess them at any time. Those who have illegally occupied these lands, whether rich or poor, should prepare for legal action, as the government is now actively reclaiming what rightfully belongs to the public.

Before making any claim over Shamilat land, people should thoroughly understand the law, their rights, and the consequences of illegal encroachment.

Think before you act. The law is clear—Shamilat land under Section 4 is, and always will be, government property.

Educating mind without educating heart is no education at all!

DR. REYAZ AHMAD

Aristotle's assertion that "educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all" underscores the importance of holistic learning. Education should not be limited to intellectual development; it must also cultivate character, ethics, and emotional intelligence. Without moral and emotional growth, knowledge alone can be dangerous or ineffective.

The Limits of Purely Intellectual Education

Modern education systems often emphasize technical knowledge, analytical skills, and cognitive abilities. Students are trained to solve complex equations, analyze historical events, and master scientific theories. However, if education stops at intellectual development, it risks creating individuals who are knowledgeable but lack empathy, ethics, or a sense of social responsibility. A brilliant mind without a moral compass can lead to exploitation, dishonesty, and unethical behavior.

For example, in history, figures like Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin were highly intelligent and strategic leaders, but their lack of ethical grounding led to immense suffering. Conversely, leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela combined intellect with compassion, using their knowledge to promote peace and justice.



Albert Einstein once said, "Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death, but wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it." This highlights the idea that true education extends beyond acquiring facts—it involves developing moral wisdom and ethical judgment.

The Role of Emotional and Moral Education

Educating the heart involves fostering empathy, kindness, integrity, and emotional resilience. These qualities help individuals build meaningful relationships, contribute positively to society, and navigate life's challenges with wisdom. Emotional intelligence—the ability to understand and manage emotions—is just as crucial as intellectual ability.

Consider a corporate scenario where two managers possess equal technical expertise. One is highly skilled but indifferent to his employees' well-being, leading to a toxic work envi-

ronment. The other balances competence with empathy, motivating employees and fostering collaboration. The latter's approach creates long-term success, demonstrating that emotional intelligence is essential in leadership.

The Dalai Lama supports this notion, stating, "When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts." This reinforces the importance of emotional intelligence in personal and societal well-being.

Schools should integrate lessons on empathy, ethical decision-making, and emotional well-being into their curricula to ensure that students develop into well-rounded individuals. Programs like social-emotional learning (SEL), which teaches students how to manage emotions, resolve conflicts, and practice kindness, have been shown to improve both academic performance and personal development.

The Real Purpose of Education

True education should prepare individuals to contribute positively to society. It should teach students not only how to think but also how to act with integrity. A well-educated person is not merely one who excels academically but one who possesses wisdom, compassion, and a sense of duty toward others. By integrating intellectual and moral education, we create individuals who use their

knowledge for the betterment of society.

For instance, doctors who combine medical expertise with empathy provide better patient care. A physician who simply diagnoses and prescribes medicine without considering a patient's emotional state may miss important aspects of treatment. On the other hand, a doctor who listens, empathizes, and offers reassurance improves both patient outcomes and trust in healthcare.

Martin Luther King Jr. once stated, "Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education." This perfectly captures the balance between academic knowledge and moral development necessary for a just society.

Conclusion

Aristotle's words remain profoundly relevant today. A well-educated individual is not just a repository of facts but a person of character. Schools, parents, and societies must recognize the importance of nurturing both the mind and the heart to ensure that education fulfils its true purpose—not just creating intelligent individuals, but good ones. By fostering both intellectual and emotional growth, we build a society where knowledge serves humanity rather than merely advancing personal gain.

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RAMADAN – MORE THAN JUST FASTING!

FAIZAAN BASHIR

It feels as if we started fasting yesterday—more than a week has passed. Another week (or another day), and we are halfway through it. Another two weeks (or another two days), and we are done with it. But what, apart from fasting and restraining ourselves from what we do on non-Ramadan days, symbolizes the thirty days of Parhezgari?

Ramadan allows us to connect with our deeper selves: this month comes as the best opportunity to reflect on what constitutes a human being on the inside: to identify both the good and the bad aspects underlying the human psyche. It means to divorce from what's known (conscious) and dive deep into the unknown (unconscious) and discover our personalities, tendencies, and inhibitions and organize them and act accordingly.

Ramadan allows us to mitigate evils otherwise permeated, at least on this part of the globe: this one is connected to the aforementioned point. Once we have discovered ourselves wholly and done a coalition of opposite forces within us (an option to do bad and good), we expand our horizons and consider other people's standpoints. More maturity, that's. For instance, we won't feel the urge to passively look down upon people who share differing views on a certain subject, with us knowing that they, too, are personalities—with their own share of personality-induced associations. The more we get to this stage of comprehensive understanding and its implementa-

tion thereof, the more we stand the chance of reducing day-to-day human-induced trivial evils.

Ramadan (read 30 days, and not three days) offers us enough time to work on ourselves: This one is connected to the first and second paragraphs mentioned above. Having spent a whole eleven months of minimum self-inspection, we might fall prey to the difficulty of straightening ourselves out initially during this month, but this doesn't translate into the impossibility of growing sufficient familiarity with inner selves. With continued sustenance of self-reflection for the whole month, we could stand a chance of being substantially different on the end day of the month, thereby positively impacting the rest of the months to come. Patience and courage, that's what we should cling to.

Ramadan finally allows us to meditate on the finitude of life: it makes us realize the ephemeral nature of life, if attended to properly. That said, it also has us develop compassion for fellow human beings. At deathbed, we best realize (I feel) the futility of accumulating more wealth than we. There's no better feeling than helping a fellow human being with whatever they're satisfied with. This is not to say that we are not helping them (last time someone offered me enough Gyaan that was partially coated with smart words); this is to say that we really help them—out of love, heart, and soul. Sans mentioning monotonous, outdated, and pompous words like Khairaat or charity. These reek of amour propre.

May God shower blessings on us!



Tipping In Kashmir: Essential Or Optional? When And Whom To Tip!

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In the fabric of societal ethics, certain practices stand out not just as nuisances but as malignant tumours eating away at the core values we profess to uphold. Among these, the insidious trio of tipping, greasing hands, and chai—though seemingly innocuous—harbour within them the seeds of moral corruption. It’s imperative to recognize their detrimental effects and collectively strive to eradicate them from our social tapestry. The normalization of fraud and corruption in India, particularly through practices like baksheesh, greasing palms, and chai, has reached a point where it is no longer just a social ill but a moral crisis. This essay delves into the roots of this moral decline, explores how Indians perceive it, and examines the ethical implications of tipping, especially in the context of Ramadan, a holy month meant for self-reflection and spiritual growth.

The Normalization of Fraud and Corruption in Society India

Fraud and corruption have become so normalized in India that they are often dismissed as “the way things work.” From small-scale bribes to large-scale embezzlement, the practice of greasing palms has infiltrated every level of society. Whether it’s a government official demanding a bribe to expedite paperwork, a traffic cop expecting chai money to overlook a violation, or a courier delivery boy asking for Iftar kharche (breakfast expenditure during Ramadan), the line between right and wrong has been blurred.

People of the sub-continent have a complex relationship with corruption. On one hand, there is widespread resentment toward systemic corruption, especially when it involves high-profile scandals or political malfeasance. On the other hand, many Indians participate in petty corruption, justifying it as a necessary evil to navigate a broken system. This duality reflects a deep-seated cynicism and a lack of faith in institutions. The question is not just why corruption is so normalized but why it is so readily accepted.

The Ethical Dilemma of Tipping

Essential or Optional? Tipping, or baksheesh, is a practice sadly deeply embedded in traditionally modest God Fearing Kashmiri culture. While it is often framed as a gesture of gratitude, it has morphed into an expectation, sometimes even a demand. The courier delivery boy asking for Iftar kharche during Ramadan is a case in point. Ramadan is a time for fasting, prayer, and self-improvement, yet here is an individual exploiting the sanctity of the occasion to solicit unearned money. This is not just a moral decline; it is a betrayal of the values Ramadan seeks to instill.

Tipping in our land is a grey area. While it is customary to tip service staff in restaurants, hotels, and taxis, the practice has extended to situations where it is neither warranted nor appropriate. For instance, why should a bank employee demand chai money to process a bounced cheque? Why should a government official ask for a bribe to issue a death certificate? These are not tips; they



are extortion.

The Islamic Perspective on Gift-Giving and Bribery

Islam provides a clear framework for distinguishing between permissible gift-giving and haram (forbidden) bribery. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) warned against accepting gifts that influence decision-making or compromise integrity. In the context of tipping, if a worker is already being paid for their services, accepting additional money as a tip can be considered haram, especially if it leads to favoritism or negligence in duty. The courier delivery boy asking for Iftar kharche is not just engaging in an unethical practice; he is also violat-

ing Islamic principles. Ramadan is a time to purify one’s soul and seek forgiveness, not to exploit others for personal gain. The act of demanding a tip during this holy month is a stark reminder of how far we have strayed from our moral compass.

The Cultural Context of Baksheesh and Chai

Baksheesh and chai are euphemisms for bribery that reflect the cultural nuances of corruption in India. These terms soften the harsh reality of what is essentially a moral failing. When a government official asks for chai money, they are not asking for a cup of tea; they are demanding a bribe. When a delivery boy asks for Iftar kharche, he is

not seeking breakfast expenses; he is exploiting a religious occasion for personal gain.

The cultural acceptance of these practices is deeply troubling. It perpetuates a cycle of corruption where everyone, from the highest echelons of power to the lowest rungs of society, is complicit. This normalization of corruption is not just a legal or economic issue; it is a moral crisis that undermines the very foundation of our society.

The Moral Imperative to Eradicate Corruption

Institutions must be held accountable for their actions. This includes fostering a culture of accountability through independent oversight bodies, transparent

reporting mechanisms, and a commitment to ethical conduct at all levels. Awareness campaigns can help citizens understand the ethical implications of corruption and empower them to resist it. This includes teaching children the value of integrity and the importance of earning money through honest means.:

Say No to the Normalization of Corruption

As individuals, we must refuse to participate in corrupt practices, even if they seem minor or inconsequential. This includes saying no to tipping in inappropriate situations and reporting instances of bribery or extortion.

Avoid Tipping to Bend the Rules

In some tourist-heavy areas, or strict no-entry zones like hospitals you might be tempted to tip to gain access to restricted areas or to skip long lines, or to get extra service. This not only violates local regulations but also undermines the integrity of the sites and more importantly sometimes, this might not be the safest way. Offering money to cross the rules is classified as bribing. Be careful NOT TO engage in any such act!

Resist Tipping out of Obligation

In many touristy places, visitors are expected to tip no matter what. But tipping should be a reward for exceptional service, not a compulsion. DO NOT tip such service providers as you’ll be unconsciously encouraging them to keep up with the low-quality service for hefty prices!

Don’t Tip out of Pity

While it’s natural to feel compassionate towards those in less fortunate circumstances, tipping out of pity can foster dependency and reduce self-reliance.

Conclusion: A Call to Action

The menace of tipping, greasing hands, baksheesh, and chai represents a moral corruption that undermines the very fabric of society. To combat this scourge, we must collectively reject these practices and work towards a more just, equitable, and ethical world. It’s not just a matter of personal choice but a moral imperative that requires concerted action at all levels of society.

The courier delivery boy asking for Iftar kharche during Ramadan is a symptom of a larger problem. It is a reminder that we have normalized corruption to the point where it infiltrates even our most sacred occasions. Ramadan is a time for reflection, repentance, and renewal. Let us use this holy month to reflect on our actions, repent for our wrongdoings, and renew our commitment to ethical conduct. Only then can we build a future where integrity, fairness, and meritocracy prevail over corruption and cronyism.

‘When in Rome, Do as the Romans Do’ but when in a land like Kashmir, what do I do?”The choice is ours. Will we continue to turn a blind eye to the moral decline around us, or will we take a stand and say, “Enough is enough”? The time to act is now.

The writer is a surgeon at Mubarak Hospital and a member of GCC - Group of Concerned Citizens. He writes on social, moral and religious issues.

Learn to Be Happy with What You Have



AUBAID AHMAD AKHOON
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Life moves like a gust of wind—unseen, unstoppable. We run alongside it, believing we are in control, yet we are merely passengers in time’s grand design. In our relentless pursuit of success, recognition, and a future that always seems just within reach, we often fail to notice the present slipping away.

Mornings turn into nights, weeks into years, and before we realize it, the hands of the clock have moved too far ahead. We plan for tomorrow, invest in dreams, and chase fleeting desires, assuming there will always be time for love, laughter, and peace. But does time ever wait?

The late Anwar Sadeed, a renowned Pakistani critic, researcher, and columnist, beautifully captured this truth in his couplet:

"Sail-e-zaman mein doob gaye mashhoor-e-zamana log,
Waqt ke munsif ne kab rakha qaa'im un ka naam."

"The tide of time has drowned even the greatest of names.

When has time’s judgment ever kept their legacy intact?"

The tide of time spares no one—kings, poets, warriors. Once celebrated, now forgotten. Their names, once etched in history, now fade like whispers in the wind. What, then, truly remains? Not wealth, for gold loses its luster. Not power, for thrones crumble into dust.

What endures are the moments of kindness we shared, the love we selflessly gave, and the righteous deeds we performed—those that continue to benefit others, becoming our eternal legacy, our sadaqah jariyah.

Yet, in our relentless pursuit of success, we mistake motion for progress, forgetting that life is not measured by the milestones we reach but by the moments we cherish. We chase distant dreams, blind to the beauty already surrounding us—the rustling of leaves whispering secrets to the wind, the silent comfort of a loved one’s presence, the peace found in a whispered prayer. True fulfillment lies not in the relentless race for more but in the quiet embrace of what is already ours.

Another poet beautifully expressed this sentiment:

"Haasil-e-zindagi hasrat ke siwa kuch bhi nahi,

Ye kiya nahi, woh hua nahi,
ye mila nahi, woh raha nahi."

"The essence of life is nothing but longing—

What wasn’t done, what didn’t happen, what wasn’t gained, what was left behind."

How often do we count our losses instead of cherishing what we have? We mourn unfulfilled dreams, unsaid words, and untaken roads. But do we ever pause to appreciate the love we received, the small joys we lived, and the peace we found in quiet moments?

Live Now, Before Time Moves On

Why do we always believe happiness is waiting for us in the future?

We tell ourselves:

"Once I have more money, I’ll be happy."

"Once I get my dream job, I’ll find peace."

But what if that one day

never comes? What if, in waiting for the perfect moment, we lose the only moments that truly mattered?

This endless pursuit of desires is nothing new. The great Ghalib already captured this reality in his timeless couplet:

"Hazonon hvahishen aisi ki har hvahish pe dam nikle,

Bahut nikle mire arman lekin phir bhi kam nikle."

"A thousand desires, each so intense that it could take my last breath away,

Many were fulfilled, yet too few compared to those that remain."

No matter how much we achieve, our hearts always long for more. We chase after dreams, forgetting to cherish what is already in our hands. But true fulfillment is not in accumulating more—it is in appreciating the beauty of the present moment. Life is happening now. Not in some distant future, not in the memories of the past, but in this exact moment—the laughter of a loved one, the gentle breeze on our face, the warmth of a hug, the beauty of the sky. These little things, often ignored, are the real treasures of life.

Fly High, But Keep Your Feet on the Ground

Soar with grace, embrace the sky,

Yet dust we are, and dust we lie.

Ambitions and dreams are important, but not at the cost of losing yourself. Chase your goals, but don’t forget to cherish what you already have. No matter how high we fly, we must remember that one day, we will return to the same earth.

So why let ego and pride consume us? Why not walk with humility and gratitude?

Why not focus on love, kindness, and the things that truly matter?

Time Invested in Relationships Is Never Wasted

We often take our relationships for granted, assuming people will always be there. We prioritize work over family, phone screens over real conversations, and status over emotions. But when time takes these people away from us, we realize too late that we should have given them more of ourselves.

Give time to your loved ones. Listen when they speak. Hold their hands while you can. Apologize before it’s too late. Love them fully, without conditions. Because once they are gone, no amount of regret can bring them back.

Gratitude: The Secret to a Fulfilled Life

Fate gives us what is meant for us, and no force in the world can change that. But are we grateful for what we have? Or do we always focus on what’s missing?

Instead of constantly wanting more, let’s appreciate what’s already in front of us. Let’s stop living in what ifs and somedays and start embracing what is.

Life is not about counting the years—it’s about making the years count. There’s a difference between merely surviving and truly living.

So, before life slips away, pause.

Take a deep breath. Look around. Feel this moment. Live it—because once it’s gone, it will never come back.

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoo is a distinguished Educational Columnist, Motivational Speaker, and Associate Editor of the weekly educational publication Education Quill.

Addressing the Inequity in Teacher Postings in J&K

BILAL AHMAD PARRAY

The education system in Jammu and Kashmir is currently facing a significant imbalance in the posting and workload of teachers, particularly between those working in Government Higher Secondary Schools and those posted in Government Middle and Primary Schools. This disparity has created a sense of injustice among competent teachers who have been working tirelessly at the middle school level for the past 10-12 years without any opportunity for transfer or promotion to Higher Secondary or High Schools.

Workload disparity between middle schools and higher secondary schools: Teachers posted in Middle Schools are required to teach at least 6-7 classes per day, often handling multiple subjects and managing a heavy workload. In contrast, Teachers and Masters posted in Higher Secondary Schools are delivering only 1-2 classes per day. This stark difference in workload is unfair and demotivating for Teachers in Middle Schools who are putting in more effort without being given the opportunity to work in higher-level institutions.

The School Education Department of J&K needs to address this issue by introducing a balanced transfer policy. Teachers with postgraduate qualifications, who have been serving in Middle Schools for over a decade, deserve a chance to work in High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools. However, what has been observed is that whenever transfers take place, Higher Secondary Teachers are simply moved from one Higher Secondary School to another, while Middle School Teachers are rarely considered for such postings. This system is unjust and must be corrected.

Unfair Advantage in Office Postings: Another issue contributing to this imbalance is the prolonged posting of certain teachers in ZEO (Zonal Education Office) and CEO (Chief Education Office) offices under different schemes, such as the Cultural Wing or as Nodal Officers. Some teachers have been enjoying these office-based assignments for the last 6-7 years without rotation. This has created a situation where a handful of teachers have

essentially monopolized these privileged positions, denying other qualified teachers the opportunity to contribute in these roles. This problem is especially prevalent in District Kupwara, where the same teachers have held these assignments for years.

It is essential that the department implements a fair rotation policy, ensuring that teachers working in office-based roles are sent back to schools and other capable teachers are given a chance to serve in these positions. Change is the law of nature, and the system must reflect this principle by allowing fair and transparent transfer and promotion opportunities for all teachers.

A Personal Perspective: I was appointed to the department in 2015 and have been continuously working in middle schools since then. Despite my dedication and qualifications, I have never been given the opportunity to work in a High School or Higher Secondary School. This is not just my story – many competent teachers in J&K are facing the same challenge. The heavy workload in Middle Schools, combined with the lack of career advancement, is causing frustration and dissatisfaction among hard-working teachers.

Need for a Paradigm Shift

The School Education Department of J&K needs to collect data on teachers who have been continuously posted in Higher Secondary and High Schools and consider transferring them to Middle or Primary schools. This will create a balanced work environment and ensure that experienced Middle School teachers are given opportunities to teach at Higher Levels. Similarly, teachers who have held office-based roles for extended periods should be rotated to schools, giving others a fair chance to serve in such capacities.

The current system has allowed a select group of teachers to benefit from comfortable postings while overburdening others. It is high time for the School Education Department to introduce a balanced transfer and promotion policy to ensure that all teachers have equal opportunities and a fair distribution of workload. Only then can the education system in J&K function effectively and fairly for both teachers and students.



Chinar Day Celebrations: Forest deptt launches plantation drive; Javed Rana plants Chinar sapling at Civil Secretariat

HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 15: With an aim to preserve the heritage value of Chinars, the Forest Department today launched a Chinar plantation drive within the Civil Secretariat premises, Jammu.

Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment Javed Ahmad Rana, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Commissioner Secretary, Sheetal Nanda and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Suresh Kumar Gupta, planted chinar saplings on the occasion.

Pertinently, the Chinar Day is being celebrated every year on 15th of March throughout

the UT of Jammu and Kashmir with plantation drives held at specific locations till the season of plantation.

Javed Rana, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted the importance of Chinar as a heritage tree and termed it as the indicator of rich plant biodiversity with tremendous environmental benefits. He said that Chinar is a historic tree which symbolises our cultural identity and heritage. He urged the public to plant more and more Chinar trees. He directed the officers to take all necessary steps to conserve and preserve the existing plants.

Maintaining that Chinar is an asset of Kashmir that



attracts tourists and enhances the beauty of the landscape, the Minister said that there is

a need to promote its plantation at suitable locations. The Minister appreciated the

collaborative efforts of Forest Department & J&K FRI, for promotion of Chinar trees in

Jammu and Kashmir. He said that steps like Geotagging of Chinars in Kashmir Valley, Chinar QR codes, Vegetative Multiplication Garden (VMG) of Chinar at Srinagar will go a long way in preservation and conservation of our treasured heritage.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, lauded the initiative taken by Forest Department under which it has identified 28560 Chinar Trees in J&K and each of the identified tree has been geotagged with digital QR enabled scannable plate that contains 25 tree attributes.

Sheetal Nanda and Suresh Kumar Gupta stressed that the plantation drive is necessary for creating awareness among

the people about the importance of Chinar trees.

The department has targeted planting of 1000 Chinar trees on the occasion of Chinar Day throughout J&K.

Chinar saplings are being distributed free of cost in all the districts of the UT, to all who are interested in planting this tree. Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, lauded the initiative taken by Forest Department under which it has identified 28560 Chinar Trees in J&K and each of the identified tree has been geotagged with digital QR enabled scannable plate that contains 25 tree attributes.

Sheetal Nanda and Suresh Kumar Gupta stressed that the plantation drive is necessary.

JK Judicial Academy, e-Committee SCI organise refresher program

HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 15: The J&K Judicial Academy in collaboration with e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, today organized one day refresher programme for the Court staff and N-step Training (ECT_6_2024 & ECT_8_2024) for administrative heads, Court Managers, Nazarat, Record Keepers, Process Servers from the Subordinate Courts of Jammu Province at J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur, Jammu.

The first technical session was chaired by Anoop Sharma, Registrar Computer (IT), High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who gave an introduction to e-Courts Project via PowerPoint Presentation. He educated them about the digital e-initiatives and management tools under e-Courts Project. He discussed the Case Information System (CIS) and National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). He also highlighted the advantages of display boards and their usage in daily court



proceedings. He added that NSTEP (National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summonses.

The learned resource person delved upon the importance of e-filing, e-Courts services Portal and Process of e-filing. He stated that e-filing allows to submit court documents electronically, which saves time and paper.

Rajeev Gupta, Senior System Officer, Jammu and Anupam Wangoo, System Officer, Reasi, jointly conducted the second technical session.

They provided a practical demonstration on CIS,

NSTEP, ICJS and various submodules of CIS, highlighting their applications in court operations. Additionally, they explained the use of email in court proceedings, including how to send documents and sum-

mons electronically. The session concluded with an interactive question and answer segment, where the participants discussed CIS and other related modules.

Subject: Grant of registration of the paying Guest house/ Home stay under the name and style " Himalayan Foothills Paying Guest House/Home Stay" Situated at Shalimar new friends colony Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I Farooq Ahmad Mir S/o: Gulam Nabi Mir R/o: Mir Mohallah A, Abi Karpura Srinagar. Intends to apply in the office of Prescribed Authority of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/Home Stay under the Name & Style "Himalayan Foothills Paying Guest House/Home Stay" Situated at near Shalimar New Friends Colony Srinagar. under Tourist trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attest photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner Concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as HomeStay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the Concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age and Photograph self attested by owner, photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, aadhar card. Now before my case is processed for registration by the prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley. Objections received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules as per merit.

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص وعام کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے مجھے ہونٹل

Snow Touch کی رجسٹریشن محکمہ ٹورازم پہلگام میں کرانی مطلوب ہے اگر کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر اسسٹنڈ ٹورازم پہلگام کے دفتر میں پیش کرے بعد از معاد کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا

المستہر

سبیر احمد تاپہ ولد غلام نبی تاپہ

ساکن لاری پور اپہلگام کسمی

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص وعام کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے مجھے ہونٹل

Ashian Flower کی رجسٹریشن محکمہ ٹورازم پہلگام میں کرانی مطلوب ہے اگر کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر اسسٹنڈ ٹورازم پہلگام کے دفتر میں پیش کرے بعد از معاد کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا

المستہر

نذیر احمد میر ولد غلام محمد میر

ساکن لاری پور اپہلگام کسمی

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of GH MOHI UD DIN MALIK S/O GHULAM QADIR MALIK R/O WAGILA Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 07/10/2017 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 Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of AISHA BINTI HASSAN D/O GH HASSAN SHEIKH R/O HAIL Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 05/10/2021 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 Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of ANAYAT JAVID S/O JAVID AHMAD BHAT R/O HAIL Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 31/08/2020 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 Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ANANTNAG (MC) has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of AAMINA ISHAQ S/O MOHD ISHAQ NAZKOO R/O KAWARIGAM Tehsil ANANTNAG Distt. ANANTNAG with verified the date of Birth, as 13/03/2025 and event has been to be occurred at Home .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of said registration shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertain

Executive Magistrate
1st Class ANANTNAG

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of ZAHIRA JAN S/O SHAMAS UD DIN. BHAT R/O HAIL Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 20/06/2021 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 Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

My son's name has been wrongly written as MOIZ MUSHTAQ S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD MIR in date of Birth certificate while his correct name is MUEEZ MUSHTAQ S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD MIR which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her objection in the office of BDO PATTAN within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name.....MUSHTAQ AHMAD MIR
F/O MUEEZ MUSHTAQ
R/O PUSNAG BLACK PATTAN

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Azi Beagum W/O Noor Mohammad Najaral R/O Rampora Chattabal want to correct my name in Aadhar Card which has been wrongly entered as Azra Banoo W/O Noor Mohammad Najaral instead of Azi Beagum W/O Noor Mohammad Najaral. Now correction required if anybody has any objection may contact concern Aadhar Centre Jammu/ Srinagar or Concern Authorities within 7 days.

Name:-Azi Beagum

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHAMMAD WASEEM S/O FAROOQ AHMAD BHAT R/O SALOOSA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 09/03 /2008 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 Birth 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 has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of FATIMA AHAD D/O ABDUL AHAD MIR R/O DOLIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 03/07 /2014 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 Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER PULWAMA

E-mail on: cmopulwama786@gmail.com

Subject:- Tentative Seniority List of Jr. Assistant District Cadre Pulwama. Reference: Administrative Department's letter Circular No.15-HME of 2024, dated: 24.06.2024, read with DHSK Letter No: Est/V/NG/796/6018-50, dated: 03.07.2024.

NOTICE

The Tentative Seniority List of Jr. Assistants , District Pulwama, has been framed /issued vide this Office No: CMO-Pul/Sen-Jr. Asstt/26/ 8328-35 dated: 12-02-2025, in reference to the communication(s) under reference.

Now by virtue of this Notice, it is hereby informed that said Seniority List (Jr. Assistants) , which is subject to objections (if any) , has been circulated among all DDO's and also circulated on Official whatsapp group(s) for information of all concerned.

In case of any Official is aggrieved with his/her Seniority Position, he/she may route his/her objection/representation , through his/her controlling Officer, with documentary evidence, to this Office, within five (05) days from the date of publication of this Notice, after which no objection/ representation shall be entertained.

Sd/-

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER,
PULWAMA

DIPK-13087/24

Dated: 15/03/2025



Director IIM Inaugurates Seven Days Advanced Entrepreneurship Skill Development Program at Srinagar

■ HT News Network

Srinagar: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIM) Jammu, in collaboration with the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), inaugurated a seven-day Advanced Entrepreneurship Skill Development Program (A-ESDP) today at its IIM Srinagar Branch. The workshop, co-sponsored by CSIR's Integrated Skill Initiatives, aims to foster innovation and self-reliance among farmers and youth through training in medicinal plants, mushroom cultivation, honey production, and crop diversification.

The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIM Jammu spoke about burgeoning culture of agri-startups and entrepreneurship. He underscored the program's alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and doubling farmers' income. In his address, Dr. Ahmed emphasized the transformative potential of crop diversification in agriculture, citing IIM's pioneering work in lavender cultivation under the Aroma Mission. "Lavender farming in Jammu and Kashmir has become a success story, empowering farmers and boosting agri-startups. Crop diversification through medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) not only enhances income but also builds climate resilience and sustainability," he remarked. Dr. Ahmed also highlighted initiatives under Viksit Bharat, urging



participants to leverage scientific advancements to drive rural entrepreneurship. Dr. Ahmed emphasized the government's pivotal role in fostering innovation through initiatives like Startup India and the Aroma Mission. "India is witnessing a revolution in agri-startups, fueled by policy support, technological advancements, and a young, dynamic workforce. From cultivation to value addition, waste-to-wealth technologies, and post-harvest management, agro-innovation is reshaping rural economies," he stated.

Dr. O.P. Sharma, IFS (Retd.) and former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), graced the event as Chief Guest. He elaborated on Jammu and Kashmir's rich biodiversity, stressing its role in nurturing aromatic and medicinal plants. "The region's unique flora and fauna are invaluable assets for developing sustainable enterprises in herbal products and eco-tourism," Dr. Sharma stated. He encouraged participants to explore biodiversity-based ventures to address global demand for natural products. Mr. Surinder Singh, DGM of NABARD, as Guest of Honour, outlined financial schemes and support mechanisms available for startups and entrepreneurs. He detailed NABARD's initiatives, such as the Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centre (ACABC) scheme, and urged youth to utilize these resources to scale their ventures. "NABARD is committed to providing technical and financial backing to innovative agri-startups, ensuring they thrive."

Nailing Posters on Chinara Trees in Kupwara: A Threat to Heritage Trees DC Kupwara Assures Strict Action Against Violators

■ HT News Network

Kupwara, Mar, 15: Even as the district administration celebrated Chinara Day with much enthusiasm, highlighting the cultural and ecological significance of the majestic Chinara tree, environmentalists have raised alarm over a growing menace—posters and flex boards being nailed onto Chinara trunks across Kupwara district. In various areas like Kulangam, Baripora, Chotipora, Handwara, Sagipora, Unisoo, Langate, and Ganapora, locals report that the practice of nailing advertisements, posters, and banners onto Chinara trees is rampant, causing serious damage to these heritage trees. Environmental experts warn that such actions harm the vascular system of trees, making them vulnerable to diseases and pests, and in severe cases, may even lead to their death. A senior



the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir had issued directives (Letter No. Div-com/2018/149-61/2018) imposing a blanket ban on nailing posters and flex boards onto Chinara trees. The Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar had also taken similar steps through Order No. 06 of 2018 to ensure that all such illegal installations were removed under the J&K Preservation of Specified Trees Act, 1969. Legal experts emphasize that the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Act of 1980 strictly prohibits damaging or destroying trees without prior permission. However, enforcement of these laws remains weak, allowing violations to continue unchecked.

Div Com Kashmir reviews implementation, disposal of PMEGP, J&K REGP cases through KVIB Enjoins banks to facilitate applicants, bring down rejections

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MARCH 15: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today reviewed Bank & District Wise performance under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (J&K REGP) in a meeting held at Sanat Ghar Bemina.

The meeting, organized by J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board Kashmir Division Srinagar was attended by Ashutosh Sareen, General Manager Government Sponsored Schemes J&K Bank Srinagar; DGM SBI, GDM UTLBC, MD J&K State Cooperative Bank, Director RSETI, Various Cluster heads of J&K Bank, Lead District Managers from various Districts, Divisional Officer J&K KVIB KD and all District Officers of KVIB Kashmir Division.

The meeting was informed that during the last three years 25864 units have been established against the assigned targets of 7372 units involving margin money of Rs 554.19 Crores against the target of Rs 183.64 Crores, thereby envisaging employment opportunities for 2,01,702 persons.

Besides, during the current year, J&K KVIB has sponsored 11,111 cases against the target of 2507 units. While against the sponsorship affected by J&K KVIB in Kashmir Division, banks have sanctioned 6347 cases involving a Margin Money outlay of Rs 122.33 Crores, thereby envisaging generation of employment opportunities for 49,798 persons.

Speaking on the occasion, Div Com stated that there has been tremendous response to the employment and micro industries schemes being implemented by J&K KVIB. He lauded the officers of J&K KVIB for their dedication and excellent performance and felicitated the role of J&K Bank.



Police distributes uniform kits to underprivileged students in Pulwama

■ HT News Network

Pulwama March 15: Continuing its commitment to community welfare, Police in Pulwama distributed full uniform kits to tribal students of Government Upper Primary School, Aditrag Sangerwani under the Civic Action Programme 2024-25.

The initiative was aimed at supporting students from underprivileged backgrounds by providing them with essential school uniforms, fostering a sense of belonging and encouragement towards education. The event was attended by SSP Pulwama Ms. P.D. Nitya-IPS and DySP DAR, who interacted with the students and motivated them to excel in their studies.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Pulwama emphasized the importance of education in shaping the future of young minds and assured continued support from Police in similar welfare initiatives. The initiative was well received by students, teachers, and parents, who appreciated the police department's efforts in promoting education and community engagement.

Police remain dedicated to bridging the gap between law enforcement and the public through such outreach programs, reinforcing its commitment to serving society beyond policing duties. More such initiatives will be undertaken in the future to uplift and support the weaker sections of the community.

Police seizes 800 litres of illicit Kerosene in Kulgam; 03 arrested

■ Farooq Rather

Kulgam March 15: In a significant crackdown on illegal activities, Police in Kulgam recovered illicit kerosene in the jurisdiction of Police Station Kulgam and arrested three accused persons involved in the commission of crime. Acting on specific information about selling of kerosene oil in black market at Arreh and Shalipora, Kulgam. The police parties headed by SHO Police Station Kulgam along with Executive Magistrate conducted search in the said villages and recovered 500 and 300 Liters of Illicit Kerosene from the possession of Tariq Ahmad Dar son of Bashir Ahmad Dar resident of Shalipora, Ishfaq Ahmad Wani son of Ali Mohd Wani resident of Arreh and Mohd Lateef Khan resident of Sungai Danmar, Srinagar. The accused person involved in the commission of crime have been arrested on the spot. Accordingly, cases vide FIR No. 12 & 21/2025 under relevant sections of law have been registered in Police Station Kulgam and investigation is in progress. Preliminary investigation reveals that the accused were selling the Kerosene oil illegally in black market.

Chief Justice visits District Court Complex, Anantnag

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, MARCH 15: Chief Justice High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Tashi Rabstan, today visited the District Court Complex, Anantnag. Principal District and Sessions Judge, Anantnag, Tahir Khurshid Raina, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Fakhurdin Hamid and Senior Superintendent of Police Anantnag, G V Sundee Chakravathy were present on the occasion. On his arrival, the Chief Justice was accorded guard of honor. The Chief Justice interacted with the members of District Bar Association, Anantnag, addressing their concerns and assuring them of swift action regarding construction of the new court complex.



assured their full cooperation in ensuring smooth execution of the project. Another key issue discussed during the visit was the requirement for a full-time NDPS Judge in Anantnag. Recognizing the increasing number of specialized cases necessitating exclusive jurisdiction, the Chief Justice assured that necessary steps would be taken to facilitate the appointment of a dedicated NDPS Judge for the district. Later, the Chief Justice held a meeting with the judicial officers of Anantnag including Principal District & Sessions Judge, Tahir Khurshid Raina and his team comprising Additional District & Sessions Judge, Masarat Roohi, Special Judge UAPA, Manzoor Ahmad Khan, Secretary DLSA, Fozia Paul, Chief Judicial Magistrate.

Acknowledging the urgent need for a modern judicial facility, the Chief Justice emphasized that the new complex would be equipped with spacious courtrooms, dedicated chambers for the judicial officers and advocates, waiting areas for litigants, digital case management systems and enhanced security infrastructure. The Deputy Commissioner and SSP Anantnag

Health First: IIS Srinagar Organizes Free Health Check-Up And Preventive Healthcare Awareness Program For Students

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, 15 Mar, 2025: The International Islamic School (IIS) Peerbagh, Srinagar conducted a health camp for its students, focusing on early detection of asthma through portable spirometry. The initiative, aimed at promoting student well-being, included free health check-ups, consultations with medical professionals and awareness sessions on maintaining a healthy lifestyle, followed with the awareness program held in school campus. The highlight of the camp was an "Asthma Screening in School-Going Children Using Portable Spirometry." Spirometry is a non-invasive diagnostic tool that helps in detecting asthma, a prevalent but often undiagnosed respiratory allergic illness in children. The screening was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Riyaz Ahmad Malik, Head of the Department of Pediatrics at SKIMS MCH and performed by Dr. Bhavana Chandawat, a postgraduate scholar in the Department of Pediatrics at SKIMS Soura. Dr. Bhavana said, "Asthma often goes unnoticed in children, leading to severe health complications later. Through this screening program at International Islamic School, we aim to detect the condition early using portable spirometry, a non-invasive test that assesses lung function." She emphasized the importance of such initiatives, stating, "Many children suffer from undiagnosed asthma, as frequent coughing and respiratory issues are often overlooked. Regular screenings in schools can ensure timely diagnosis and intervention, allowing children to lead healthier lives." Dr. Bhavana expressed her gratitude to the school management, teachers and students for their support, adding,

DC Budgam inaugurates newly upgraded Sheikh-ul-Alam Centre for Skill Development Highlights its dual role as Public Awareness Hub & Skill Development Centre

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, MARCH 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo, today inaugurated the newly upgraded Sheikh-ul-Alam Centre for Skill Development at the district headquarters Budgam. On the occasion, DC lauded the concerned agencies for high-quality work with timely completion of upgradation, renovation and repair work. Labroo highlighted the upgraded Centre's dual purpose—serving both as a public awareness hub and a Skill Development Training Centre. The upgradation work included upgrading of the exterior building, installation of state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment, improved seating, enhanced lighting, modern interior design accessibility ramps for specially-abled citizens, steel railings etc. He said the upgrad-



ed centre is equipped with necessary facilities for skill development programs. He also said the center aims to empower youth and create employment opportunities in the district through job fairs, skill development

courses, internship schemes etc. During his visit, the DC inspected the hall's infrastructure, including the public address system and expressed satisfaction with the completed work. He also emphasized the district administration's commitment for providing accessibility and sustainability, noting that all public offices at Budgam Headquarters are now being equipped with ramps for specially-abled individuals. Additionally, 96 public offices will have solar panel roofing for enhanced power supply, and rain water harvesting facilities which have been installed at the district headquarters, will be extended to other public buildings in Budgam very soon. He stated that the district administration is committed to community engagement, youth empowerment, and sustainable development while ensuring that all public offices in Budgam are accessible to every citizen of the district. Among others,



Div Com Kashmir visits Bemina Grid Station, SLDC; reviews overall power scenario

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MARCH 15: In view of inclement weather and holy month of Ramadhan, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today visited Bemina Power Grid Station and Sub Load Distribution Centre (SLDC) to inspect overall power scenario, load monitoring and distribution system.

At SLDC, he reviewed division and district-wise details of power load and consumption and instructed for efficient allocation to minimize disruptions.

On the occasion, he was briefed regarding the current demand, supply and consumption of electricity.

Meanwhile, Div Com enjoined officers at Grid Station to ensure smooth



operation of all the feeders for reliable electricity to the general public especially in peak hours of Sehri and Ifari.

He also directed restoration of service lines within the stipulated timelines in case of disruptions caused by prevailing weather.

Besides, Div Com also directed for the deployment of dedicated teams at the control room to monitor the overall scenario and asked them to

respond immediately to any exigency. He also directed restoration of service lines within the stipulated timelines in case of disruptions caused by prevailing weather.

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■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, MARCH 15: Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Panditpori today chaired council meeting in the meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here to review the progress of various developmental projects under District CAPEX Budget 2024-25.

Vice-Chairman, District Development Council, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir; ADC Kupwara, M Rofiq Rehman; Members of District Development Council, besides, District and Sectoral Officers attended the meeting.

At the outset, the CPO Kupwara, presented a detailed overview of the ongoing and completed projects under District



CAPEX Budget 2024-25 including sectors like Minor Irrigation, R&B, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Youth Services & Sports, Health, PHE, NFB, United Grants, ADF (DDC/BDC/PR/ grants) and Samridhi Seema Yojna.

The meeting was informed that total approved outlay 2024-25

involves 67907.37 lakh, and funds released as on date is Rs.50630.33 lakh and expenditure till date is Rs.39846.77 lakh which is 78.70%. The chairman took a detailed review of the physical and financial status of works taken up under the District Capex schemes and other sectors.

During the meeting,

council members projected various issues of their respective constituencies.

After reviewing the sector wise progress of the works, the Chairman impressed upon district level Officers of all departments to speed up the pace of ongoing development projects, keeping in view the less time available in the closure of the current financial year.

The Chairman enjoined upon the officers to work with greater coordination and zeal to finish the targets within the timeframe.

On the occasion, the Vice Chairman, District Development Council also asked the officers to put in their best efforts for timely completion of works for optimum utilization of funds under different schemes.

DLSA Bandipora observes 'World Consumer Rights Day'

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, MARCH 15: As per Action Plan for the year 2025 and Calendar of Activities for the month of March, 2025, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora in collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Committee Sumbal today organized a legal awareness programme on 'World Consumer Rights Day' at Court Complex Sumbal.

The event was held under the chairmanship of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman DLSA Bandipora and under the guidance of Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun, Secretary DLSA Bandipora.

DLSA Bandipora reflects on the critical role consumers play in shaping fair, ethical, and sustainable markets. This year's theme, 'Empowering Consumers for a Safer, Fairer Future,' highlights the ongoing need to protect consumer rights in an era of rapid technological advancement, global supply chains, and growing concerns about data privacy, product safety



and environmental sustainability.

On the occasion, PLVs delivered lectures regarding consumer rights. The speakers highlighted that under the provisions as envisaged in the legislature, rights are being bestowed upon the consumers so that they are not ditched or cheated. A consumer has a right to question the quality of things, price, tag etc. from the shopkeeper while making purchases ensuring that customers are not duped and compelled to purchase substandard items.

DC Budgam takes reviews progress under District Capex

Also takes stock of progress on removal of legacy waste & special cleanliness drives in rural areas

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, MARCH 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo, today chaired a review meeting of Rural Development department Budgam to assess the progress made in implementation of District Capex, legacy waste removal & special cleanliness drives in all rural areas of the district.

During the meeting, the DC took a comprehensive review of awareness camps organised in rural areas regarding PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Scheme, wherein he also took stock of online registration of beneficiaries block wise in the district.

He highlighted the numerous benefits of the initiative and directed the BDOs to intensify their public awareness campaigns while stressing on the importance of mass outreach.

On the occasion, DC also



reviewed the physical and financial progress of Capex budget allocated block-wise. He directed all the concerned officers to complete the remaining work physically and financially.

He stressed BDOs to complete

the pending works vigorously and to induce extra efforts to achieve the desired results.

Additionally, the DC conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing legacy waste removal efforts across the district. He

assessed the progress made under the waste management plan and directed officials to expedite the removal process.

He also emphasised the need for sustainable waste disposal practices and encouraged community participation to maintain hygiene in villages.

The DC stressed officials to ensure proper waste segregation and disposal mechanisms to prevent future accumulation. He also directed them to remain committed towards enhancing sanitation facilities.

Besides, General Manager DIC Budgam, CPO, ACD, ACP, Executive Engineer REW, all BDOs attended the meeting. The DC stressed officials to ensure proper waste segregation and disposal mechanisms to prevent future accumulation. He also directed them to remain committed towards enhancing sanitation facilities.

DHSK orders probe on viral video regarding SDH Chadoora Committee to examine negligence as well as set-up or edited video angle to defame Hospital

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, MARCH 15: In connection with a video that has gone viral on social media regarding alleged negligence at SDH Chadoora, in Budgam district, the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir has ordered an inquiry into the incident to ascertain the fact and take the guilty to task.

As per an official handout issued here, it has been given out that a committee has been constituted that will conduct in-depth analysis of electronic records, CCTV footage, duty rosters and conduct interviews of patients and staff members to ascertain the facts, fix responsibility on any errors of omission or commission, and recommend appropriate necessary action to ensure that such incidents do not recur in the



future. Further it has been made clear that the

inquiry committee will also examine the possibility that the video was deliberately set-up or edited to defame a busy Government Hospital by some vested interests who have made earlier attempts to defame Government Hospitals and mislead patients and the public, as happened in the case of SDH Bijbehara and CHC Pattan where orchestrated/fake videos were uploaded on social media. In such a case the committee will recommend action under the relevant sections of the law against the perpetrators of such nefarious attempts, if any, the statement read.

Directorate of Health Services Kashmir remains steadfast and completely committed to the highest standards of professionalism and will not tolerate any laxity at any level, a statement issued by the DHSK said.

Secretary DLSA B'gam conducts review meeting with PLVs, other functionaries of DLSA & TLSC

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, MARCH 14: As part of calendar of activities, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, under the Aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority today organised a review meeting of PLVs and other functionaries of DLSA and TLSCs of District Budgam at ADR Centre DLSA Budgam.

The review was held under the guidance of Hon'ble Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority and Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary of J&K Legal Services Authority under the chairmanship of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman DLSA (Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge) Budgam and supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam.

The meeting chaired by Secretary DLSA, aimed to assess the effectiveness of the current Legal Services programmes, identifying the challenges in the implementation to ensure coordination amongst PLVs, Tehsil Legal Services Committees and other functionaries of DLSA to streamline Legal Aid Services and to receive feedback and share best practices for improving Legal Aid and increasing public awareness of Legal Services available in the district.

To enhance the work culture, Secretary DLSA stressed the need to further strengthen the bond amongst the PLVs, officials and other functionaries of this institution for the betterment of this institution in general and for the benefit of Legal Aid seekers in particular.

DC Srinagar reviews implementation of COTPA

Directs strict enforcement of the Act around all City Colleges, Schools as part of (ToFFEI) initiative

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MARCH 15: To review the implementation and enforcement of Cigarette and Other Tobacco Product Act (COTPA) in the District, a meeting of District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) was today held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex.

At the outset, DC directed the Officers and other stakeholders to ensure strict compliance to Cigarette and Other Tobacco Product Act (COTPA) around all educational institutions including schools and colleges as a part of Tobacco-Free Educational

Institutions (ToFFEI) initiative.

The DC further directed for conducting inspections by the heads of institutions of all City colleges and schools to check the implementation of Cigarette and Other Tobacco Product Act (COTPA) around the institutions as per the laid guidelines to save young generations.

On the occasion, Dr Bilal emphasized the urgent need for a comprehensive approach to combat use of tobacco products in the district. He said that tobacco use is a major public health concern that requires coordinated efforts from all sectors of society.

The DC further emphasized that we must ensure that our educational institutions are free from tobacco



influence, and this begins with the implementation of the Tobacco-Free

Educational Institutions (ToFFEI) initiative. He stressed the importance

of vendor regulation and coordinated approach by all stakeholders, including law enforcement, health officials, and the community, to ensure compliance and reduce the availability of tobacco products.

He also stressed the need for regular enforcement drives and continuous awareness campaigns at all levels to educate the public about the dangers of tobacco use.

The DC underscored that the use of technological interventions is pivotal in ensuring effective implementation of the COTPA to take action against the violators as per the Act.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria; Superintendent of Police, Umar Shah; Officers of all

line Departments and representatives of various NGOs. On the occasion, Dr Bilal emphasized the urgent need for a comprehensive approach to combat use of tobacco products in the district. He said that tobacco use is a major public health concern that requires coordinated efforts from all sectors of society.

The DC further emphasized that we must ensure that our educational institutions are free from tobacco influence, and this begins with the implementation of the Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (ToFFEI) initiative. He stressed the importance of vendor regulation and coordinated approach by all stakeholders, including law enforcement, health officials, and the community.





Incessant Rains: DC Srinagar tours various City areas

Visits important installations; inspects measures to combat water logging in low lying areas and major roads

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MARCH 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Saturday undertook a tour of various City areas to take on spot assessment of the situation arisen due to incessant rains from the last couple of days in the district and the measures taken to combat water logging in low lying areas and major roads.

The DC, who is also the Chairman District Disaster Management Authority, visited various areas of the City viz. TRC, Aramwari Rajbagh, Airport Road, Humhama, Barzulla I.G Road, and other adjoining areas. He also inspected important installations and took stock of the progress of storm water drainage in low lying areas of the City.



On the occasion, DC directed the concerned Officers for immediate compliance

with regard to the measures to be taken for combating any inconvenience to the

public and providing timely assistance to them.

The Officers were also directed to put in place all requisite men and machinery at vulnerable spots, besides taking measures for water logging of inundated low lying areas. DC asked the concerned to ensure that all dewatering and pumping stations are operational particularly at essential installations including hospitals, Power stations, besides in inner habitations, lanes and by-lanes.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by the Chief Planning Officer, senior Officers from Irrigation & Flood Control, City Drainage, R&B, SMC, UEED and other Departments. During the visit, the DC was accompanied by the Chief Planning Officer, senior Officers from Irrigation & Flood Control, City Drainage, R&B, SMC, UEED and other Departments.

District admin B'la conducts interaction/ Orientation session for YUVA Doots

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, MARCH 15: District Administration Baramulla in collaboration with the Employment Department today organized an interaction cum orientation program with YUVA Doots under Mission YUVA at Dak Bungalow Baramulla.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina presided over the session.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC Baramulla highlighted the important role of YUVA Doots in guiding and motivating potential entrepreneurs at the grassroots level.

He said that the identification of over 58,000 potential entrepreneurs during the baseline survey conducted in January 2025 reflects the district's strong entrepreneurial spirit. He stressed that the YUVA Doots will act as key facilitators in linking these entrepreneurs with the necessary resources and support.

Dr. Raina further informed that one Single District Business Unit (SDBU) at the district level and six Block level Handholding and Development Support (BHDS) units at the sub-divisional level have been established to strengthen the institutional framework of Mission YUVA. He assured full support from the administration in ensuring the success of the initiative.

The session focused on engaging with the YUVA Doots.

A full-fledged training program will be conducted to equip them with the necessary skills to guide the identified entrepreneurs effectively.

Commissioner SMC inspects Dewatering Operations in Srinagar

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MARCH 15:

In a proactive measure to address water logging issues caused by continuous heavy rainfall, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed today conducted an extensive inspection of dewatering operations across various neighborhoods in Srinagar.

During the visit, Dr. Owais assessed the efficiency of the ongoing dewatering efforts and engaged with field staff to review the operational strategies being implemented. He personally inspected several vulnerable hotspots and permanent dewatering stations, ensuring that all necessary measures were in place to mitigate water logging.



The Commissioner also observed the deployment of advanced Mobile Pumping Units and the functionality of permanent dewatering stations, which play a crucial role in managing urban flooding.

Additionally, he monitored the dewatering through the SCADA system, a technological tool used

for real-time monitoring and management of drainage infrastructure.

Commending the diligent efforts of the ground teams, Dr. Owais emphasized the importance of maintaining a coordinated response during adverse weather conditions. He also urged the public to refrain from disposing of waste

into drainage networks, as blockages lead to severe water logging and urban flooding.

For any emergency or SOS situations, residents are encouraged to contact the SMC's 24x7 Control Room

He was accompanied by the Superintending Engineer (SE) Drainage Circle, Executive Engineers, and other senior officials of SMC. The Commissioner also observed the deployment of advanced Mobile Pumping Units and the functionality of permanent dewatering stations, which play a crucial role in managing urban flooding.

Additionally, he monitored the dewatering through the SCADA system, a technological tool used for real-time monitoring and management of drainage infrastructure.

MLA reviews functioning of Health Sector in Rajouri

HT News Network

RAJOURI, MARCH 15: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Rajouri Iftikhar Ahmed today conducted a comprehensive review of the functioning of the Health Department at a meeting held today here in the Conference Hall of PWD Dak Bungalow.

The MLA assessed the status of the healthcare services, including inpatient and outpatient departments (IPD, OPD), major and minor surgeries, institutional deliveries, laboratory tests, ultrasounds, X-rays, ECGs, blood transfusions, CT scans, and cataract surgeries. He took stock of the newly constructed 180-bedded additional building at



GMC&AH and directed the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) to ensure its timely handover to the Health Department. To address the issue of staff shortages, he called for a rationalized deployment of personnel to enhance service delivery.

Emphasizing the significance of voluntary blood donation, the MLA instructed the Health Department to launch mass awareness cam-

paigns and organize blood donation camps in Doongi, Dhangri, Chowdary Nar, and Kot-edhera after Ramadan. He also reviewed the functioning of Jan Aus-hadhi Kendras and directed for proper visibility of available medicines to facilitate patients. Key infrastructure issues were also discussed, including the handover of newly constructed hostels for resident doctors, instal-

lation of public toilets within hospital premises, demarcation of hospital land, and installation of solar street lights.

Later, the MLA chaired a meeting of the Rogi Kalyan Samiti, wherein he reviewed the functioning of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and directed officials to take effective measures to enhance healthcare services at the grassroots level. Commending the Health Department for its prompt response to the Badhaal incident, the MLA reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening the healthcare sector. He urged the officials to work with dedication and ensure seamless healthcare services for the people of Rajouri.

DDMA Poonch issues Travel advisory amid rain, snow forecast

HT News Network

POONCH, MARCH 15: In view of the inclement weather forecast by Meteorological Centre Srinagar from 15th to 16th March, 2025, the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has advised the public to avoid unnecessary travel and follow the safety guidelines during this period for their safety.

"The general public is advised to minimize movement on the National Highway (NH144A) on 15th and 16th March 2025 and to follow safety guidelines while travelling. The risk of landslides, mudslides, and stone shooting from BG to Poonch stretch increases during adverse weather conditions and the general public's cooperation is essential to ensure safety during this weather advisory period," a DDMA handout stated.

Further, Revenue, PWD (R&B), Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Mechanical Engineering Department, PMGSY, JPDCL, Jal Shakti (PHE), BRO and Health & Medical and all other line departments have been directed to stay alert and make all necessary logistical arrangements during this period.

The District Emergency Control Room (DEOC) Poonch will remain operational 24x7 to address any emergency calls or assistance needed. The Contact No. of DEOC: 01965-220888.



Speaker chairs BAC meeting, discusses calendar for ongoing budget session settings

HT News Network

JAMMU MARCH 15: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today chaired a meeting of Business Advisory Committee (BAC) here today.

Threadbare discussion was held on provisional calendar issued for the ongoing Budget Session 2025.

The Legislators, including, Sunil Kumar Sharma (Leader of Opposition) Ali Mohammad Sagar, Mubarak Gul, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, Gulam Ahmad, Mir Mohammad Fayaz and Choudhary Mohammad Akram attended the meeting and gave their valuable suggestions for making the current Assembly Budget session more fruitful and result oriented in largest interest of the general public.

Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandit and other senior officers of Assembly Secretariat also attended the meeting.

DC reviews implementation of Forest Rights Act in Poonch

HT News Network

POONCH, MARCH 15: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a meeting here today to discuss the issues related to the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in the district.

The meeting was attended by ACP Rakesh Kumar, Sub Divisional Magistrate and officials from the Forest Department.

The meeting explored key strategies to streamline the approval process for forest rights, ensuring that the community can effectively benefit from the provisions of the Act.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of smooth and timely processing of FRA cases, directing all concerned officers to prioritize these efforts.

Moreover, the Deputy Commissioner instructed concerned officials to raise awareness about the Forest Rights Act among the people, enabling them to claim their rights. This move aims to empower forest-dwelling communities to exercise their rights under the Act.

The Forest Rights Act, enacted in 2006, recognizes the rights of forest-dwelling communities.

Major crackdown launched against illegal mining in Samba

HT News Network

SAMBA, MARCH 15: The Department of Geology & Mining Samba launched a comprehensive enforcement operation targeting illegal mining activities across the region, resulting in substantial penalties and seizures.

Led by the District Mineral Officer, Shiv Kumar Sharma, the vigorous anti-mining campaign identified and took action against 24 illegal operations, including stone crushers, mineral dealers, and unauthorized mining vehicles. The operation has already recovered 7.50 lakh in penalties from offenders.

"This enforcement action will continue to protect our natural resources and ensure that all mining activities comply with established regulations," said District Mineral Officer, Samba.

The enforcement drive specifically targeted 3 stone crushers operating illegally in Bein Nallah, 4 unauthorized Mineral Dealer Licenses near Basanter, 2 illegal overburden dumps in Supwal and Kangwala areas, 1 unauthorized gypsum dump in Rai Morh, 14 vehicles engaged in illegal mineral transportation across various district locations

Saturation of HADP initiatives, establishment of Kisan Khidmat Ghars reviewed in Samba

HT News Network

SAMBA, MARCH 15: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Champa Devi today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation and progress achieved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the establishment of Kisan Khidmat Ghars Phase-2 in the District. Chief Agriculture Officer S. Madan Gopal Singh presented a detailed update on HADP advancements and KKG establishment.

Yoth Services Deptt., I&PR Baramulla mourn PET Altaf Hussain Najar's demise

A mentor to students, inspiration to youth; Colleagues remember his role in sports promotion in distt.

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, MARCH 15: Information Department Baramulla and District Youth Services and Sports (YS&S) Baramulla have expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Altaf Hussain Najar, a well-known and dedicated Physical Education Teacher from

Baramulla. A condolence meeting was held at the office of Information Department Baramulla with District Information Officer (DIO) Baramulla, Iftakhar Naseem in chair. During the meeting, staff members paid rich tributes to Altaf Hussain Najar for his valuable contributions to physical education and shared their heartfelt condolences with the bereaved family.

Later, the DIO Baramulla, accompanied by the staff of the Information Department Baramulla visited his home and expressed their condolences and support to the family. They prayed for his soul to rest in peace and assured the family of their support during this difficult time.

Meanwhile, District Youth Services & Sports Officer Zahoor Ahmad Wani, along with the

entire YSS team, including PELs, PEMs, PETs, and Rehbar-e-Khel Teachers also visited the home of the departed and extended their heartfelt condolences to the grieving family.

Altaf Hussain Najar was a mentor to many students and an inspiration to his colleagues. His dedication to promoting sports and encouraging young people to stay active has left a lasting impact on the community. His

positive influence and commitment to his work will always be remembered. Meanwhile, District Youth Services & Sports Officer Zahoor Ahmad Wani, along with the entire YSS team, including PELs, PEMs, PETs, and Rehbar-e-Khel Teachers also visited the home of the departed and extended their heartfelt condolences to the grieving family.





U.S. mulls new travel bans against over 40 countries: media reports

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, MAR 15

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump is mulling new travel bans against 43 countries, including a possible pause of processing visa applications from Afghanistan, Iran and Syria, U.S. media reported Friday.

U.S. diplomatic and security officials have drafted a list of the countries targeted, with varied travel bans for three categories, according to the report by The New York Times.

Under the new plan, a full ban on entry is suggested against 11 countries



including Afghanistan, Cuba, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen. Meanwhile, it denies the entry on immigrant or tourist visa of nationals from Belarus, Eritrea, Haiti, Laos, Myan-

mar and Pakistan among other countries.

Travelers from countries like Angola, Benin, or Cambodia will be affected if their government fails to seriously improve the practices the U.S. side

says are deficient within 60 days, according to the report.

The report said the list was drafted by the State Department several weeks ago, with changes to be made possibly before being submitted to the White House, citing anonymous sources.

Trump signed an executive order after taking office on Jan. 20, requiring the State Department to produce within 60 days such a list of countries "for which vetting and screening information is so deficient as to warrant a partial or full suspension on the admission of nationals from those countries."

Rahul Gandhi behind Karnataka's religion-based reservation: alleges BJP

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAR 15

The BJP on Saturday launched a sharp attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, alleging that the latter is responsible for the Karnataka government's decision to grant 4 percent reservation for Muslim contractors in government tenders.

"They are not learning their lesson even after losing multiple times. This reservation in Karnataka has been extended at the patronage of Rahul Gandhi. Siddaramaiah does not have the courage or the political capital to announce this on his own," Senior BJP leader



Ravi Shankar Prasad said while addressing a press conference here.

Prasad, who is BJP MP from Bihar, accused the former Congress President of pushing the Siddaramaiah-led government into implementing the move as part of "competitive votebank politics."

"Rahul Gandhi thinks he can lead with this divisive politics of appeasement. The new standards the Congress is setting in vote-bank politics are harmful to the nation," he asserted.

Lashing out at the Congress, Prasad further stated, "The BJP is against this, and we will keep opposing it. Religion-based reservation is not permissible under the Indian Constitution. Reservation on government contracts is completely unconstitutional. It can be allowed on the basis of social backwardness, but it is not permissible to provide it directly to a religious community."

The Senior BJP leader

also emphasised the broader political ramifications of the decision, stating, "This issue is of Karnataka, but it has nationwide implications. This also signals the mentality of Congress and Rahul Gandhi. The Karnataka Government, under his influence, has publicly announced a 4% reservation for Muslim contractors in government tenders. Such a move undermines the constitutional framework of reservations."

The BJP has vowed to challenge the decision through legal and political means, with party leaders indicating they would explore all available democratic options.

Telangana CM challenges KCR to discuss Krishna water dispute in Assembly

AGENCIES

HYDERABAD, MAR 15

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday challenged former Chief Minister and BRS Chief K Chandrashekar Rao to discuss the Krishna water dispute in the Assembly.

Replying to the motion of thanks to the Governor's address, the Chief Minister criticised KCR for his poor attendance in the house, noting that despite receiving a salary of Rs 54.84 lakh as an MLA, KCR has attended only two Assembly sessions so far.

Revanth Reddy recalled that KCR once claimed he would transform Rayalaseema into a prosperous "border of gems" after enjoying prawn soup at actress Roja's house in AP. He criticised the BRS Chief for betraying the people of Palamuru, who had supported him politically.

He claimed that Telangana's interests were compromised regarding Krishna water rights, blaming the former Chief Minister for increasing the capacity of the Pothireddypadu head regulator while serving as a Union Minister.

Reddy further alleged



that water intended for Jurala was diverted through Srisaillam backwaters for the sake of commissions. He also claimed that no major project work was undertaken during KCR's tenure, and criticised BRS leaders for showing insensitivity regarding the recent SLBC tunnel accident.

The CM said BRS leaders were focused on political theatrics rather than the state's future.

Responding to criticism from KTR and Harish Rao for his (CM) remarks that Chandrashekar Rao would be sent to the mortuary from the stretcher he was already sent, he wished KCR a long life.

The Chief Minister accused the previous BRS government of disregarding democratic values, citing the 2022 budget ses-

sion, which started without a Governor's speech. He condemned the BRS for disrespecting the woman Governor and reiterated that the Congress government is committed to upholding constitutional principles.

While Revanth Reddy was addressing the Assembly, BRS MLAs staged a walkout from the house in protest against his comments on KCR, declaring they would not listen to remarks they deemed inappropriate.

Reacting to the BRS walkout, Revanth Reddy warned that if BRS leaders continued this behaviour, they would face political oblivion in the upcoming elections.

He highlighted the Congress government's achievements, stating that over Rs 20,000 crore farm

loans had been waived in the first year. He assured that all farmers would receive the 'Rythu Bharosa' benefit by March 31, and landless agricultural labourers would be provided support through 'Indiramma's Aathmeeya Bharosa.'

The CM announced that the government will procure all grains from farmers, adding that poor farmers were given a bonus of Rs 500 per quintal.

Reddy criticised the previous government for siding with millers and claimed that despite water scarcity in the Kaleshwaram project, Telangana achieved record paddy yields.

On Telangana's rights, Revanth vowed to visit Delhi not just 30 times, but 300 times if necessary, to secure the state's rightful funds. He stressed that his efforts were for Telangana's welfare and questioned the BRS for criticising his discussion with the Prime Minister.

The Chief Minister stated that despite his efforts, Telangana continues to face discrimination from the Centre, emphasising his commitment to fighting for the state's interests.

Chandrayaan-3 bags credit for first-ever in-situ measurement of Lunar Surface, revealing insights about harbouring water-ice on Moon

AGENCIES

CHENNAI, MAR 15

India's Chandrayaan-3 ChaSTE payload onboard Vikram Lander has taken the credit for the first-ever in-situ measurement of the temperature of the Moon's surface, down to a depth of ten centimetres, at the Southern higher latitude.

So far, the temperature measurements from the subsurface of the Moon by the Apollo 15 and 17 missions focussed to a larger depth of few meters, but direct measurement of temperatures within the topmost fluffy layer is not available.

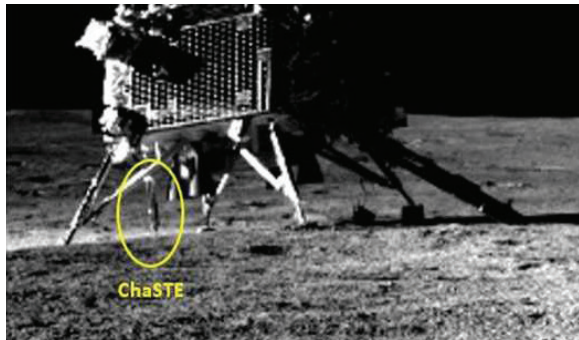
However, in order to assess the propagation of the solar heat flux down to the lower layers of the Moon's soil, one needs to probe first few centimetres down the Moon's surface (the epi-layer), which is exactly the unique feat achieved by the ChaSTE payload in Chandrayaan-3, the third Lunar Mission, onboard the Vikram Lander.

That too, strategically measured near a high latitude in the Southern polar region of the Moon for the first time and marks a major progress in lunar science, as well as harnessing of lunar resources at those latitudes in future, ISRO said in an update.

ChaSTE observations from Chandrayaan-3, carried out for a significant fraction of a lunar day, revealed that the Moon's surface temperatures show a significant spatial variability at metre scales at high latitudes, unlike at the equatorial regions.

To elaborate on the scientific importance of this discovery, only Apollo 15 and 17 missions have provided the in-situ data and merely for the equatorial regions of the Moon, while global surface temperatures have been mapped through remote sensing.

No in-situ measure-



ment was, so far, available from polar regions of the Moon, until the Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) experiment onboard Chandrayaan-3's Vikram Lander investigated the temperature profile and thermophysical properties within the top 10 cm of the lunar surface at a high latitude south polar landing location.

After the Vikram lander has achieved soft landing at the Shiv Shakti point on the Moon, ChaSTE probe was deployed and successfully penetrated into the lunar soil to carryout measurements for the entire duration of the mission.

ChaSTE in-situ measurements were carried out for a significant fraction of a lunar day (8 AM - 4 PM Local time at the Moon) i.e. approximately 10 Earth days (i.e. from 24 Aug. - 2 Sept. 2023) at an interval of about a second.

A team of scientists from Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad; Space Physics Laboratory-Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (SPL-VSSC), and ISRO, have reported these first-ever in-situ temperatures up to a depth of 10 cm inside the lunar surface near the southern polar region of the Moon at 69.37° S. These temperatures were measured with ten numbers of temperature sensors, mounted along the length of a probe, at different distances.

The Moon's surface thermal environment is among the most extreme

of any planetary body in the solar system. Lunar near surface temperature and thermophysics are essential parameters that not only dictate the stability of water-ice/volatiles, but also important for lunar geology and geophysics, resource exploration, mission safety and establishing sustainable long-term habitats on the Moon. Using 3-D Model calculations based on ChaSTE measurements, a relationship between the local slope and expected surface peak temperature was derived to assess the possibility of water-ice stability within the region.

An important outcome of these simulations is that the high latitude sites with local slope higher than 14° towards pole might offer similar environment as polar sites for accumulation of water ice at shallow depths of few 10s of centimetres.

These locations could be promising sites for future lunar exploration and habitation. Such sites are not only scientifically interesting but also pose less technical challenges for exploration in comparison with regions closer to the poles of the Moon.

ChaSTE experiment is jointly developed by Space Physics Laboratory (SPL) and Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad with the help of various entities of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram and Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad.

This result has both sci-

entific and technological significance. Knowing how heat propagates through the Moon's top layer of soil, just within the first few centimeters, is really important for understanding the depth of influence of surface heat.

Because the Moon has no air, this layer gets super-hot and super-cold, which changes how it acts.

By understanding how well the surface layer conducts heat and how much heat it can hold, as done by ChaSTE, scientists can figure out how heat moves around, predict temperatures below the surface, and see how sunlight interacts with the Moon.

This would also help engineers to find subsurface locations with benign thermal environment and design safe places to plan future trips and live on the Moon. In addition to this, knowing how the soil responds to heat tells us how meteoroids and solar wind changed the Moon's surface over time, giving us a better idea of its unique environment.

These measurements will also complement and supplement the remote sensing based global temperature measurements, while the finer in situ probing helps to look for any embedded water-ice within the Moon's subsurface from the local temperature signature. This important result will also help refining our understanding about the energy balance at the Moon, by considering the solar heat forcing, re-radiation of the heat by the Moon's surface, and absorption of the heat.

This is another important aspect that help planning scientific measurements for the future lunar missions.

These results are reported in Nature Communications Earth and Environment published on 6 March 2025.

Indian student gets visa cancelled for pro-Palestine protests, 'self-deports' to India

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI, MAR 15

An Indian student who was part of the pro-Palestine protests at Columbia University had her visa revoked by the Trump administration for "advocating violence and terrorism". The student "self-deported" on March 11 to return to India, the Department of Homeland Security said. Ranjani Srinivasan, an Indian national, entered the

United States on a F-1 student visa as doctoral student in Urban Planning at Columbia University.

"Srinivasan was involved in activities supporting Hamas, a terrorist organization. On March 5, 2025, the Department of State revoked her visa."

"The Department of Homeland Security has obtained video footage of her using the CBP Home App to self-deport on March 11," it said.

"Secretary of Home-

land Security Kristi Noem announced that one of the Columbia students who had her student visa revoked for advocating for violence and terrorism self-deported using the CBP Home App".

Another student Leqaa Kordia, a Palestinian from West Bank, was arrested by ICE HSI Newark officers for overstaying her expired F-1 student visa. Her visa terminated on January 26, 2022, for lack of attendance. Previously, in April 2024 Kordia

was arrested for her involvement in pro-Hamas protests at Columbia University in New York City.

Secretary Noem said: "It is a privilege to be granted a visa to live and study in the United States of America. When you advocate for violence and terrorism that privilege should be revoked, and you should not be in this country. I am glad to see one of the Columbia University terrorist sympathizers use the CBP Home app to self-deport."

ISRO develops C-32 cryogenic propulsion system: Dr Narayanan

AGENCIES

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MAR 15

In a major milestone for India's space programme, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully developed the C-32 cryogenic propulsion system, reinforcing the country's capabilities in advanced space technology.

The achievement comes alongside ISRO's successful demonstration of docking and undocking technology, placing India in an elite group alongside the United States, Russia, China, and SpaceX.

Announcing the breakthrough, ISRO Chairman V Narayanan told reporters here on Saturday that the C-32 stage,

powered by a 20-ton thrust cryogenic engine, marks a significant advancement in India's human spaceflight and deep-space exploration capabilities. Designed for prolonged operational efficiency, the system was successfully tested using an indigenous nozzle protection mechanism, allowing for extended test durations—an innovation critical

for future heavy-lift missions. "This is yet another critical milestone in our journey towards self-reliance in space technology. Cryogenic propulsion was once denied to India, but today, we have successfully developed and tested three cryogenic stages, including the C-32, demonstrating our capability to push the boundaries of space exploration," Dr Narayanan said.

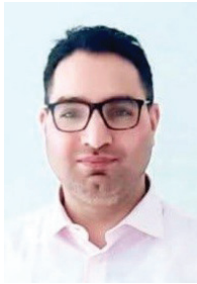
In addition, ISRO's successful docking and undocking demonstration, conducted on January 16, places India among the few nations to have mastered this complex technology. The 125 simulations carried out before the actual attempt ensured that the undocking process succeeded on the very first attempt at 9.21 am,

further strengthening India's credentials in space docking technology—an area where SpaceX has made significant advancements in recent years.

"This achievement will be crucial for India's future space missions, including the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme, and strengthens our position as a spacefaring nation," Dr Narayanan added.

With dedicated efforts from ISRO scientists, industrial partners, and academic collaborators, India is rapidly progressing towards its goal of becoming a global leader in space technology, in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make the country a developed nation by 2047, he said.

EPIDEMIC OF DIABETES



DR TASADUK HUSSAIN ITTOO
FELLOW, INTERNATIONAL
DIABETES
FEDERATION(BELGIUM)

Diabetes is emerging as a global epidemic. As per a report from World Health Organization(WHO), the number of people with diabetes rose from 108 million in 1980 to 422 million in 2014. In 2019, diabetes was the ninth leading cause of death with an estimated 1.5 million deaths directly caused by diabetes. Moreover, the prevalence has been found to be rising more rapidly in low and middle-income countries.

As per a report published in Lancet in 2014, India houses over 61 million diabetics and the forecast is that there will be 100 million diabetics by 2030. China is the world capital for diabetes with India a close second. More than 70 per cent of middle aged Indians will suffer with non-insulin dependent diabetes during their lifetime. India contributes nearly one-sixth to the global disease burden of 422 million.

Though diabetes is caused by a complex interaction of genetic and lifestyle factors, the most obvious reason for this increase is the rising levels of obesity due to frenetic lifestyle changes among Indians. According to the same paper published in Lancet, the number of men in India with obesity increased from 0.4 million in 1975 to 9.8 million in 2014; and from 0.8 million to 20 million women during the same period. Moreover, in 2014 there were 3.7 million severely obese women in the country.

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 pancre-



as 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 creatinine 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.

Moreover, 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 healthcare - 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.

More to say, 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.

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HT-HEALTH

AGENCIES NEW DELHI

Rural communities are at high risk of potentially life-threatening scrub typhus infections, according to a study by researchers from the Christian Medical College (CMC) Vellore released on Thursday.

Scrub typhus is a potentially life-threatening infection caused by the bacterium *Orientia tsutsugamushi*, which belongs to the rickettsia family. It is spread to humans through the bite of infected larval mites or chiggers.

The study of 32,000 people in rural areas of Tamil Nadu, shows scrub typhus to be a leading yet under-recognised cause of hospitalisations for fever.

The study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, conducted in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), found a high



incidence of scrub typhus across the two-year study period, with almost 10 per cent of the population infected annually.

Most of these infections were asymptomatic, but of those who were infected, between 8 per cent and 15 per cent developed a fever that often required hospitalisation and intensive care due to severe infection.

"After Covid, scrub typhus was the most important cause of fever in our study, accounting for almost 30 per cent of fever hospitalisations," said lead author Carol Devamani,

MD in Community Medicine based at CMC Vellore.

"Despite cases being very common and treatable, scrub typhus is often overlooked as a possible cause when patients present with a fever. Diagnostic tests are available at major hospitals but not in the community," she added.

Symptoms of scrub typhus include fever, headache, body aches, and rash. These usually begin around 10 days after infection. The tissue around chigger bites will also typically turn black, which can aid doctors with diagnosis.

If left untreated, severe illness from scrub typhus infection can lead to acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), shock, meningitis, and kidney failure, which can be fatal.

Cases can be treated using the antibiotics doxycycline and azithromycin but there is currently no vaccine to prevent infection.

During the study, five people died from scrub typhus-associated complications.

The researchers said that under-reporting of fever is an important limitation of the study.

"Our study highlights a need to inform communities about the possible dangers of scrub typhus infection, and to improve diagnostic capabilities in the community for timely treatment. Only by doing so will we reduce the number of unnecessary hospitalisations and fatal cases," Devamani said.

Common diabetes drug price slashed in India due to generic versions

AGENCIES NEW DELHI

The price of commonly used diabetes drug empagliflozin has been slashed by almost one-tenth, with the entry of its generic versions in the market.

Developed by German pharma giant Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) empagliflozin, it is sold under the name Jardiance. It is an oral medication that helps control blood sugar in patients with type 2 diabetes.

The drug which costs around Rs 60 per tablet, will now be sold for Rs 5.5 per tablet. It comes as drugmakers Mankind, Alkem, Glenmark launched generic versions of empagliflozin.

In a statement, Mankind Pharma said that its Empagliflozin will now be sold at Rs 5.49 per tablet for the 10 mg variant and Rs 9.90 per tablet for the 25 mg variant.



"We are ensuring that cost is no longer a barrier to access," said Rajeev Juneja, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Mankind Pharma.

Alkem has launched the drug under the brand name Empanorm at nearly 80 per cent less than the cost of innovator products.

"With a patient-centric approach, Alkem has introduced anti-counterfeit security band on the pack of Empanorm, as well as comprehensive patient education information, including basic details on

diabetes management in Hindi and English with infographics, and QR codes that provide prescribing information and additional patient education information on diabetes, heart failure, and chronic kidney disease in 11 languages," Alkem said in a statement.

Mumbai-based Glenmark Pharmaceuticals has also introduced a generic drug of Empagliflozin under the brand name Glempa (Empagliflozin 10/25 mg), along with its fixed-dose combinations

Glempa-L (Empagliflozin 10/25 mg + Linagliptin 5 mg) and Glempa-M (Empagliflozin 12.5 mg + Metformin 500/1000 mg).

"The launch of Glempa range reinforces this commitment by providing a comprehensive and affordable solution that empowers healthcare professionals and patients to manage type 2 diabetes with established cardiovascular disease more effectively," said Alok Malik, President and Head of India Formulations Business, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals.

India is known as the diabetes capital of the world with over 10 crore people diagnosed with the lifestyle disease, as per the Indian Council of Medical Research-India Diabetes (ICMR INDIAB) study in 2023.

Lowering the cost of anti-diabetes medicines may be a crucial step in tackling the disease burden.

Indian biotech startups grew from 50 in 2014 to 8,531 in 2023: Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES NEW DELHI

The number of biotech startups in the country has grown from 50 in 2014 to 8,531 in 2023, said Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ministry of Science and Technology on Wednesday.

Singh said this in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today citing the India Bio-Economy Report (IBER) 2024.

The number of biotech startups grew steadily from just 50 (2014) to 732 (2015) to 1,022 (2016) to 1,732 (2017), 2,662 (2018), 3,397 (2019), and 4,237 (2020).

It grew even through the Covid-19 pandemic years -- in 2021 the number of startups stood at 5,365, jumping to 6,755 in 2022 and 8,531 in 2023, the report showed.

Singh informed that to nurture and strengthen the start-up ecosystem in the country with a focus



on the biotech sector, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) established the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) in 2012.

BIRAC serves as an interface agency addressing nationally relevant product development needs. It follows and aligns its activities in line with the National Policies announced by the Government from time to time.

BIRAC supports the biotech start-up ecosystem by establishing bio-incubators through various

funding schemes, which include Equity Funding Schemes, Amrit Grand Challenge, and BioE3 Policy among others. It has to date "established 95 centres", Singh said.

"BIRAC schemes and programmes are regularly assessed internally and updated in line with the evolving needs of the ecosystem. New programmes are launched as and when required. BIRAC also partners with several national and international agencies ensuring continuous support for the biotech start-

up ecosystem," the MoS said.

The DBT has recently launched the BioE3 policy with the approval of the Cabinet for the development of bio-based products through the setting up of BioEnablers that include Bio-Artificial Intelligence (Bio-AI) hubs, bio-foundries, and biomanufacturing hubs across the country.

DBT and BIRAC announced a joint call inviting proposals for setting up 'BioEnablers - Bio-foundries and Biomanufacturing Hubs', in both academia and industry.

"From over 253 applications, 24 projects on bio-foundries and biomanufacturing hubs have been recommended for support," Singh said. These are being established across the country with a two-year duration.

Further plans for setting up bio-AI hubs and biomanufacturing facilities are also under process, he added.

Australian man becomes world-1st to live with durable artificial heart for over 100 days

AGENCIES NEW DELHI

In a first, an Australian man has become the first in the world to live with a durable total artificial heart implant -- made of titanium -- for more than 100 days, and to be discharged from hospital.

The implant of a BiVACOR total artificial heart -- the first in Australia and sixth in the world has been -- "an unmitigated clinical success," according to a statement on Wednesday by St Vincent's Hospital, Monash University, and BiVACOR -- the US-Australian company which developed the device.

The patient in his 40s, who declined to be identified, was experiencing severe heart failure. He underwent a six-hour procedure for the implant of an artificial heart on November 22, 2024, at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney.

The man lived with the device for 105 days before receiving a donor heart



transplant in early March. "At 105 days, it is the longest period in the world for a BiVACOR total artificial heart patient between obtaining their implant and then receiving their donor heart transplant," the statement said.

The first BiVACOR total artificial heart implant took place in July 2024 at the Texas Heart Institute in the US.

Since then, four more implants have taken place in the US, with the longest time between implant and transplant being 27 days.

BiVACOR's artificial

heart implant is the world's first implantable rotary blood pump. It uses magnetic levitation technology as a complete replacement for a human heart. It is designed as a bridge to keep patients alive until a donor heart transplant becomes available. The device comprise a Mini-Pump, that is implanted inside the hearts of patients who currently have no other option for treating their heart failure symptoms; and a new type of Left Ventricle Assist Device (LVAD) that is implanted next to

a natural heart to help it pump. Even as more than 23 million people worldwide suffer from heart failure, and only 6,000 will receive a donor heart, this artificial heart has the potential to "transform heart failure treatment", said Professor Chris Hayward, a cardiologist at St. Vincent's Hospital Sydney.

"Within the next decade we will see the artificial heart becoming the alternative for patients who are unable to wait for a donor heart or when a donor heart is simply not available," Hayward said.



Pakistan T20I captain Salman Agha keen to lead young squad against New Zealand

UNI
CHRISTCHURCH, MAR 15

After a disappointing outing in the Champions Trophy 2025, Pakistan now head to New Zealand for a white-ball tour featuring five T20Is and three One-Day Internationals.

With the T20 World Cup scheduled for next year and the Asia Cup set to take place later this year, Pakistan have opted for a young T20I squad led by newly-appointed captain Salman Ali Agha.

Pakistan will be without Saim Ayub and Fakhar Zaman due to injury, but they have included three uncapped players - Abdul Samad, Hasan Nawaz and Mohammad Ali - who earned call-ups to the national side after impressing in recent



domestic events.

Speaking about the squad ahead of the series, Agha said, as stated via PCB, "We have some young players in the side, and it is an opportunity for them to showcase their talent at the international level after performing well in domestic cricket."

Agha, who led Pakistan to a 2-1 series win against Zimbabwe in his debut series as captain,

expressed confidence ahead of the New Zealand tour, an ICC report said.

"The team's preparations are going well, and we will try to produce better results in New Zealand," he said.

In 44 T20I matches between the two sides, Pakistan hold the edge with 23 wins, while New Zealand have won 19 encounters. The last time they faced each other in a

T20I series was in 2024, just before the T20 World Cup, which ended in a 2-2 stalemate.

T20I Squad - Salman Ali Agha (c), Shadab Khan, Abdul Samad, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Hasan Nawaz, Jahandad Khan, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Haris, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Omair Bin Yousaf, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Sufyan Moqim and Usman Khan.

ODI Squad: Mohammad Rizwan (c), Salman Ali Agha, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Akif Javed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Imam-ul-Haq, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Irfan Niazi, Naseem Shah, Sufiyan Muqem, Tayyab Tahir.

Injured Neymar replaced by Endrick in Brazil squad

UNI
RIO DE JANEIRO, MAR 15

Brazil have called up teenage forward Endrick to replace Neymar for this month's World Cup qualifiers after the Santos attacker picked up a muscle injury.

Neymar was due to make his Selecao return after a 17-month absence because of a knee injury which he sustained against Uruguay in October 2023.

But the 33-year-old has now had a further setback, ruling him out of the qualifiers against Colombia and Argentina, the BBC reported.

"The return seemed so close, but unfortunately I won't be able to wear the most important jersey in the world for the moment," he wrote on Instagram.

"We had long conversations and everyone knows of my desire to return, but we agreed that it's best not



to take any risks and prepare as best as possible to completely eradicate the injury."

Following a difficult spell at Saudi Pro League side Al-Hilal, Neymar moved back to boyhood club Santos in January and has scored three goals and provided three assists in seven appearances in the Brazilian top flight.

Only Cafu (142) has more caps for Brazil than Neymar (128) - who is his country's record scorer

with 79 goals, two more than Pele.

Brazil head coach Dorival Jr has also called up Lyon goalkeeper Lucas Perri for Manchester City's Ederson and Flamengo defender Alex Sandro to replace team-mate Danilo.

Endrick, 18, has made 28 appearances for Real Madrid across all competitions this season, scoring six goals.

He has made 13 senior appearances for Brazil and scored three goals.

Depay returns to Netherlands squad for Nations League clash with Spain

UNI
THE HAGUE, MAR 15

Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman on Friday called up Corinthians striker Memphis Depay for the forthcoming Nations League quarterfinals against Spain on March 20 and 23.

For the 31-year-old Depay, it means a return to the squad after eight months. On July 10 last year he played his last match for his country in the semifinals of Euro 2024 against England.

After his transfer to Brazilian club Corinthians in September last year he had not received a call-up. Depay so far has 98 caps behind his name for 'Oranje'. He is on 46 goals, only four behind Robin van Persie, the current all-time goal scorer for the Netherlands with 50 goals.



Compared to the preliminary squad of two weeks ago, Manchester City defender Nathan Ake and Internazionale defender Stefan de Vrij were dropped due to injuries.

Manchester United defender Matthijs de Ligt therefore received a call-up, although he was not on the preliminary list. Ajax player Kenneth Taylor returned to the squad after almost two years.

The 22-year-old mid-

fielder played his last of four matches for the national team on March 24, 2023 against France (4-0 loss). The Netherlands will play Spain in the quarterfinals of the Nations League on March 20 in Rotterdam and on March 23 in Valencia.

The winner meets Croatia or France in the semifinals on June 5.

Following is the Netherlands squad for Nations League quarterfinals: Goalkeepers: Bart Verbruggen

(Brighton & Hove Albion), Mark Flekken (Brentford), Nick Olij (Sparta Rotterdam) Defenders: Matthijs de Ligt (Manchester United), Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool), Denzel Dumfries (Internazionale), Jeremie Frimpong (Bayer 04 Leverkusen), Lutsharel Geertruida (RB Leipzig), Jorrel Hato (Ajax), Jurrien Timber (Arsenal), Jan Paul van Hecke (Brighton & Hove Albion) Midfielders: Frenkie de Jong (FC Barcelona), Teun Koopmeiners (Juventus), Tijjani Reijnders (AC Milan), Kenneth Taylor (Ajax), Jerdy Schouten (PSV), Ryan Gravenberch (Liverpool), Justin Kluivert (AFC Bournemouth) Forwards: Brian Brobbey (Ajax), Cody Gakpo (Liverpool), Noa Lang (PSV), Donyell Malen (Aston Villa), Memphis Depay (Corinthians), Xavi Simons (RB Leipzig).

Liverpool stun Man Utd to seal first WSL win at Anfield

UNI
LONDON, MAR 15

Liverpool stunned Manchester United at Anfield to dent their rivals' slim Women's Super League title hopes.

Olivia Smith's brilliant solo goal shocked the visitors, who had dominated possession, before Fuka Nagano added a quickfire second for the hosts on the stroke of half-time.

United, who had won seven straight league games, struggled to recover and Liverpool came out after the break with more purpose, buoyed by the home crowd, the BBC reported.

Indian Super League announces dates for 2024-25 Season Playoffs

UNI
MUMBAI, MAR 15

The Indian Super League (ISL) on Saturday announced the dates for the 2024-25 Playoffs with the League stage concluding on March 12.

The Knockouts will be played on March 29 and 30, followed by the two-legged Semi-finals on April 2-3 & 6-7.

The much-anticipated Final of the 2024-25 season will be played on April 12.

Mohun Bagan SG created history by clinching the League Shield for the second season in a row, becoming the first team in the competition to do so. Along with Mohun Bagan SG, FC Goa (2nd), Bengaluru FC (3rd), NorthEast United FC (4th), Jamshedpur FC (5th) & Mumbai City FC (6th) all confirmed their spots in the Playoffs.

In the Playoffs, the



teams ranked third to sixth will battle it out in two single-legged Knockout matches to determine the opponents for Mohun

Bagan SG and FC Goa, who make it directly to the Semi-finals.

The Semi-finals will be played in a home and away

format with the winners over the two legs playing the Final on April 12 at the home of the higher-ranked team in the League Table.

Playoffs Schedule:
29th March: Knockout 1 - Bengaluru FC (home) vs Mumbai City FC

30th March: Knockout 2 - NorthEast United FC (home) vs Jamshedpur FC

2nd April: Semi-final 1 (First leg) - Winner of Knockout 1 (home) vs FC Goa

3rd April : Semi-final 2 (First leg) - Winner of Knockout 2 (home) vs Mohun Bagan SG

6th April : Semi-final 1 (Second leg) - FC Goa (home) vs Winner of Knockout 1

7th April : Semi-final 2 (Second leg) - Mohun Bagan SG (home) vs Winner of Knockout 2

12th April : Final - Winner of Semi-final 1 vs Winner of Semi-final 2.

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Printed at : LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS, Radio Colony Gund Hassibhat Lawaipora Srinagar -190017, Gen. Manager - SHEIKH MUSHTAQ AHMAD - Cell No - 9697071471,

Editorial Section- 7006846797, Multimedia Section-9419008414, Advertisement Section - 9697071471, RNI NO- JKENG/2011/39231